



The British Columbia

Forest Service

Newsletter

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A Newsletter for Ministry of Forests' employees

September 1994

Gearing up for Forest Practices Code

With only about two months left before it becomes law, preparations for implementation of the Forest Practices Code are in high gear.

The process began last February, with the formation of a provincial implementation team. Regional coordinators were brought on two months later, and regional implementation teams, consisting of one or two members from each district office, regional office and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, were formed soon after.

The first job of each team has been to develop an implementation strategy for the region.

"Regional strategies will largely be consistent across the province," says **Val Ciapponi**, regional FPC coordinator, Nelson forest region, "but there will be subtle differences from region to region."

The strategies differ slightly because they must take into account differences in geography, organization, industry, and public involvement between regions, Ciapponi says.

In the Cariboo forest region, for example, 600 to 700 existing range-use plans will have to be brought into line with the Code, while in the Nelson forest region, where there is little range-land, an important focus will be the region's 200 watersheds.

With higher field-staff turnover in the northern regions, the Prince Rupert forest region will be paying particular attention to building expertise at the district level.

Another responsibility of the regional implementation teams is communicating all developments to district and regional staff, other ministries, the forest industry and the public. Regular updates are keeping key people in those areas informed.

"Our goal is to get information from headquarters to the field operations as quickly as

possible," says **Doug Kelly**, regional FPC coordinator, Prince Rupert forest region.

Meetings with industry groups are being held to discuss the implementation process.

Industry must meet high-profile standards of the FPC six months after enactment, and be in full compliance within two years.

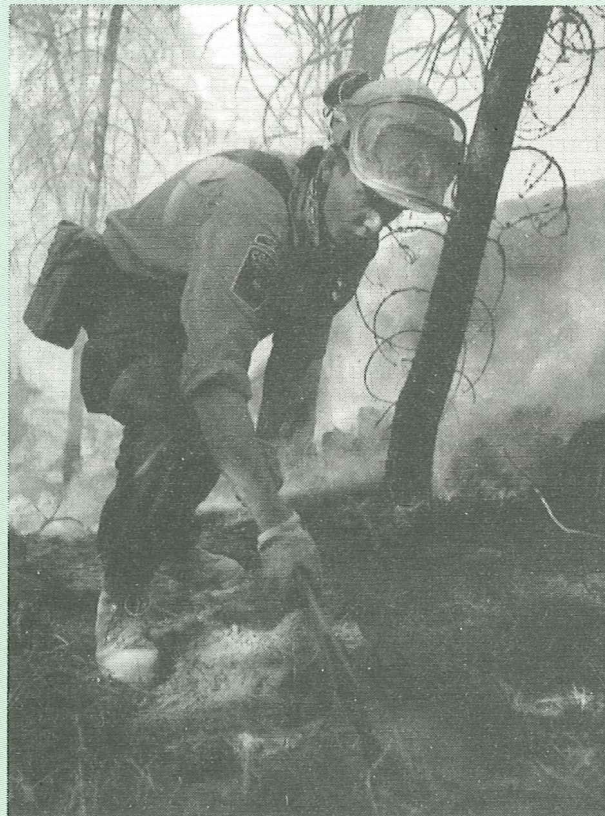
"There's a lot of confusion out there right now," Ciapponi says.

Perhaps the biggest job faced by the regional implementation teams is training. "Everyone

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Chief Forester Appointed

Larry Pedersen has been appointed the new Chief Forester of British Columbia. Watch the next issue of *Forest Service Newsletter* for more information.



With the fire season not yet over, this year is on the verge of entering the record books.

Behind the statistics is the massive mobilization of personnel and resources necessary to combat the blaze — an effort that deserves the recognition and gratitude of all British Columbians. In a tribute to all involved, this issue of The Forest Service Newsletter takes a look at what goes on in the heat of the battle. Stories on pages 4 and 5.

B.C. foresters return to Czech Republic

Two British Columbians recently returned to their former homeland, the Czech Republic, for anniversary celebrations at their alma mater and a forestry conference.

Earlier this summer, **Vlad Pasicnyk**, regional engineering officer, Prince George forest region, and **Vlad Korelus**, a consulting forester based in Victoria, celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Faculty of Forestry and Forest Engineering at the Czech Technical University with former classmates, before attending a conference on sustainable forestry in Prague.

At the conference, which was part of the 17th World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Korelus gave a presentation on "Environmental Forestry Issues in Canada," focusing on problems and solutions in British Columbia. He urged foresters visiting Canada to stop not only in the Ottawa-Toronto-Montreal triangle, but also to come to B.C. Pasicnyk presented a display explaining harvesting and engineering practices in B.C., and other ministry programs including the Forest Practices Code. He also took part in a panel discussion, sharing some of his harvesting and

engineering experience from 16 years in the Forest Service.

Several other Canadians also participated in the conference. **Ralph Roberts**, senior advisor, forestry and conservation, CIDA, addressed world forestry problems in "International Development Cooperation in the Forestry Sector."

Dr. Bruno Boucek, of Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay, Ontario, gave a presentation on "Educational Needs for Foresters and the Public and Sustainable Forestry." **Dr. Miroslav Grandtner**, of Laval

University, chaired and moderated a morning session presented in English and simultaneously translated into Czech. Alberta was represented by **Bobina Widtman**, a forestry graduate from Prague.

The conference was followed by a two-day field trip to forests that are being intensively managed for natural regeneration.

For more information on forestry in the Czech Republic, contact Vlad Korelus, phone/fax 477-9762.

Compiled from articles submitted by Vlad Korelus and Vlad Pasicnyk



Vladimir Pasicnyk (right) and Vlad Korelus flank a Ministry of Forests' display at a forestry conference in the Czech Republic.

Gearing up... cont'd from page 1

has to become a specialist on the Code as well as doing their regular jobs," Kelly says. Awareness workshops have provided district staff with an overview of the FPC. Updating workshops are keeping implementation team members informed of developments. Transition workshops detailing requirements of each stage of the implementation process are being held for district and regional managers.

Training for district resource staff — those who will be carrying most of the implementation workload — is underway.

Regional training teams, comprising a professional trainer and technical experts from the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, are directing the first wave of knowledge training.

It consists of five modules delivered through the B.C. Continuing Studies Network. The FPC modules cover introductory legislation

and operations/managerial legislation, compliance and enforcement, interagency roles and responsibility, strategic and operational planning, and forest management.

Additional training will follow this winter. As enactment approaches, the regions are working closely with each other and the provincial implementation team to make the process as smooth and effective as possible.

"This is definitely a team with a mission," Kelly adds.

Retirement party held for John Cuthbert

Three new golf clubs awaited **John Cuthbert** when he worked his last day with the Forest Service on August 31.

The Arnold Palmer woods with graphite shafts — and a pair of golf shoes — were presented to the retiring chief forester at a party in his honor at the Cowichan Lake research station.

The celebration began with Cuthbert planting a white pine, his favorite species. Trees can only be planted at the research station by those who have worked 25 years in the Forest Service and made a significant contribution to the research program.

An outdoor dinner was followed by several tributes to Cuthbert, including a humorous biographical sketch by master of ceremonies **Mike Brownlee**, acting director, integrated resources section.

Brownlee had dug up many interesting (and highly unlikely) details about Cuthbert, like his secret name, Cussy the Avenger, and his U.B.C. graduation appearance in full Avenger dress. The chief forester graciously played the part.

The evening ended with the presentation of the ministry's gift to Cuthbert. It is expected that the golf equipment is already being put to good use.



"Cussy The Avenger" (aka John Cuthbert) makes his last appearance.

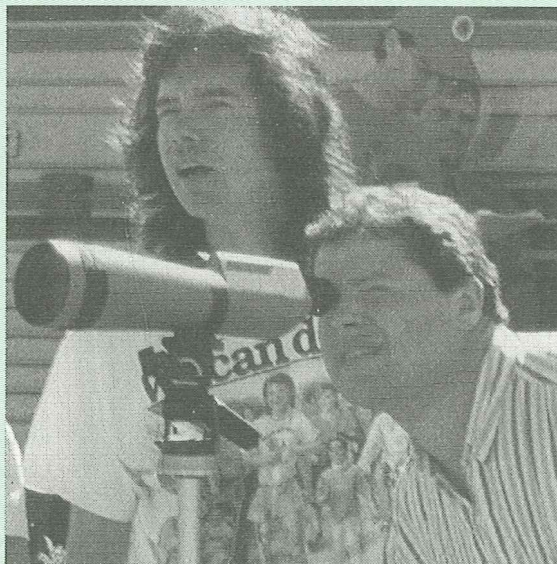
Sites tour is expected to draw large crowd

Inventory specialists from federal, provincial and aboriginal agencies, industry, academia and other interests will gather in Chilliwack October 6 to see first-hand how the province's natural and cultural heritage resources will be inventoried in the future.

A morning of technical overviews will be followed by a bus tour to field plots in the surrounding area.

The event is sponsored by the resources inventory committee, a multi-agency, multi-discipline initiative which is overhauling the standards and methodologies for inventorying B.C.'s natural and cultural heritage resources.

Key benefits of the new inventories will be improved statistical accuracy and the ability to integrate data from a full range of forest values.



Carl Mashon (left), a GIS consultant from Vernon, and resource inventory branch's Jon Aleman watch white pelicans on Alkali Lake during a demonstration of new inventory standards this summer. The next field tour is planned for October 6 near Chilliwack. (Photo by John LeRoy)

For more information contact **Imre Spandli**, resources inventory branch (387-6736), or **Dr. Mike Bonnor** at the Pacific Forestry Centre (363-0769).

Submitted by Bruce Batchelor, communications consultant for resources inventory committee

Partners in Science Awareness grants

The Partners in Science Awareness Program offers grants of up to \$25,000 for projects which will increase public awareness and understanding of science and technology in British Columbia. Deadline for applications is October 31, 1994.

For more information, contact the Ministry of Employment and Investment, science and technology division, phone 387-5027, fax 356-0021, or internet MFuccenecco@galaxy.gov.bc.ca.

Resources management symposium

Resources Management in the 90s, a symposium on land use decision-making processes, will be held October 17 to 19 in Prince George.

The symposium will bring together all affected parties to examine and assess the current interests, principles and external influences guiding these processes. Registration fee is \$175 (general), \$115 (non-profit/First Nations) and \$30 (students).

For more information, call 960-5836 or fax 960-5543.

1994: A fire season that won't soon be forgotten

Extreme fire danger makes season worst since early 80s

With four to six weeks of warm weather left in the fire season, 1994 may be headed for the record books. To date, 3,875 fires have burned 26,166 hectares. The record number of fire starts, set in 1970, is 4,002. The record for number of hectares burned — 483,000 hectares in 1961 — is fortunately out of reach.

Along with the high number of fires, what has made this season extraordinary is the level of fire danger, the highest since the early 1980s. High temperatures and low humidity created extreme conditions. During the Garnet Fire, for example, which burned 5,500 hectares east of Penticton, temperatures reached 40°C and humidity fell to 13 per cent.

When humidity levels are less than the temperature, there is a "crossover effect": the dry air sucks moisture out of the trees and other forest fuels, causing fires to grow much faster and making them much harder to control.

Forest fires are ranked by their burning severity on a scale of one to six, and this year saw many fires ranked five and six, said **Sylvia Pang**, provincial fire information office, protection branch.

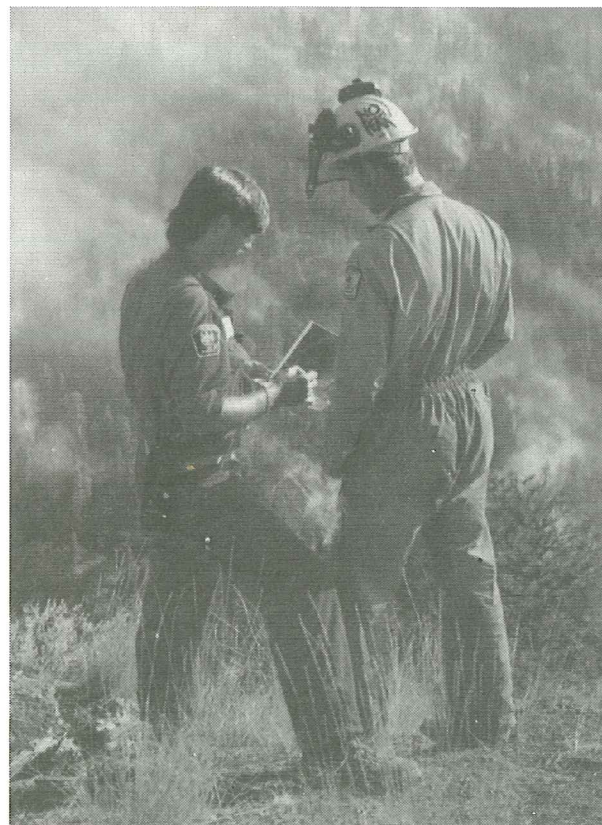
Rank five fires are hard to control because the fire often spreads through treetops, sometimes not even touching the ground. A rank six fire is a blow-up. It has a life of its own, creates its own weather patterns and progresses more than 18 metres per minute.

Add to the heat and dryness a few nights with as many as 21,924 recorded lightning strikes province-wide — starting hundreds of new fires — and you've got a situation.

Complicating things even further was the fact that many of this summer's fires occurred in populated areas, threatening homes, farms and entire communities. Eighteen homes were lost in the Garnet Fire and 3,000 people were evacuated.

"The Garnet Fire was the worst I've ever worked on," said **Jim Mottishaw**, fire prevention/interface-technician, Penticton forest district, and a 15-year firefighting veteran. Extreme heat and dryness were only part of the problem; steep, rocky terrain added to the difficulty.

On a few nights, after working 18 hours as fire boss, Mottishaw could see the flames from his bedroom window. "I lay in bed planning strategies for the next day," he said.



Firefighters plan their next course of action in the Garnet Fire.

Mottishaw's family was later evacuated. To make matters worse, he had to leave them and the fire behind when his overhead team was sent to fight the Frog Fire near Lac La Jeune in the Kamloops forest district. Both Garnet and Frog were rank five fires, and "some of the busiest fire behaviour I've ever seen," Mottishaw added.

Denis Gaudry, resource officer, protection, Penticton forest district, served as incident coordinator for the entire Penticton forest district fire complex. One of the most serious fires in the district was the Kilpoola Lake Fire, which started in the U.S. and spread across the border.

"The fire front was three kilometres wide in open sage and grass, burning rapidly towards a subdivision," he recalled. "We were doing a door-to-door evacuation, and trying to steer the fire away."

Overseeing the action from a helicopter along with Fire Commissioner **Bob Hickey**, Gaudry experienced the roughest flying in his 22-year career, with leaping flames, dense smoke, and high winds generated by the fire itself.

Jim Jones, resource officer, protection, Clearwater forest district, worked as line boss on the Garnet Fire. "With the ever-present danger and the constant challenges of the weather, you could never let your guard down," he said. "After two weeks, it gets your ulcers going."

Things have cooled off, but with 136 fires still burning, the season isn't over yet. "We may still break a record or two," Pang noted.

And the thousands of people who fought the fires, on the ground, in the air and in crowded offices, won't soon forget the summer of 1994.

Rattlesnakes among risks encountered by crews

As if the fires themselves weren't enough, firefighters in the Okanagan had another problem to contend with: rattlesnakes.

"There are lots of them along the fire line," says **Jim Mottishaw**, fire prevention/interface technician, Penticton forest district. "With all the noise from the equipment and helicopters, workers can't hear the rattle."

Two strikes were reported this summer; fortunately they landed on a boot and a pant leg, and didn't result in injury.

But rattlesnakes are only one of the many hazards. Another is the inherent risk of handling firefighting equipment, such as power saws and axes.

Then there are falling trees to worry about. A smouldering fire will burn the roots of a tree, and a breeze could topple the trunk. Unpredictable fire behaviour poses yet another risk: things can change very quickly.

"We always tell the crews to have two escape routes picked out," Mottishaw says.

Usually an escape route will take workers away from the fire, to a road or other place where they can be picked up. But sometimes the safest route may be through the fire, to where all fuel has been consumed.

Firefighters rely on constant weather updates, giving advance warning of wind shifts or crossover effects, to try to stay a step ahead of the fire.

"Safety has got to be number one, especially when we're working in isolated areas," Mottishaw adds.

Teamwork is critical in fire suppression

"The bottom line is that everyone is vital," says **Gene Desnoyers**, resource officer, silviculture, Penticton forest district.

Whether it is a small fire, handled by a three-member initial attack crew, or a project fire involving hundreds of people, every effort counts.

Crews on the Garnet fireline faced long shifts in extremely rough conditions.

"But at the end of a long day, they would go out and build a new helipad," says Desnoyers, who served as a division boss. "They always went the extra mile."

The battle against wildfires doesn't take place only on the ground. People in helicopters and planes transport crews and equipment, scan and map the site, and drop water or retardant. Others look after the camps, providing food, tents and other support. Still others work in offices, handling the administrative tasks.

For a few days during the Cranbrook Mountain Fire in August, **Jessie Lunan**, protection clerk, Cranbrook forest district, worked 8 a.m. to midnight shifts, staffing the radios. With 500 fire personnel, 90

pieces of heavy equipment and 22 helicopters to coordinate, the duty room was crowded and noisy.

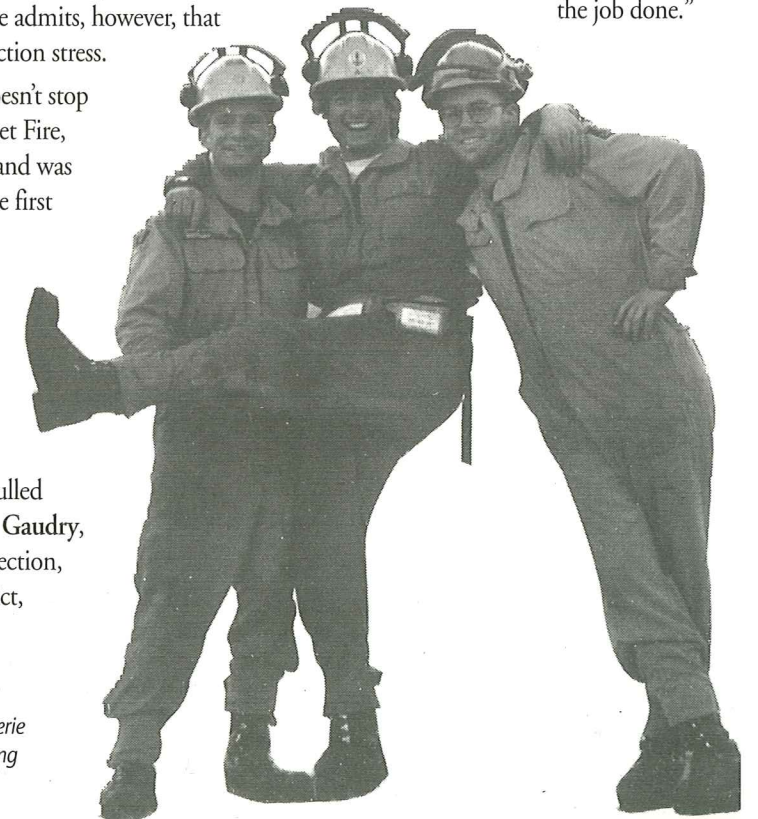
"It was very stressful," Lunan says of her first season on the job. She admits, however, that she enjoys the high-action stress.

But the teamwork doesn't stop there. With the Garnet Fire, a new unified command was put into action for the first time, bringing together the efforts of various other ministries, a wide range of emergency services, utilities and the military.

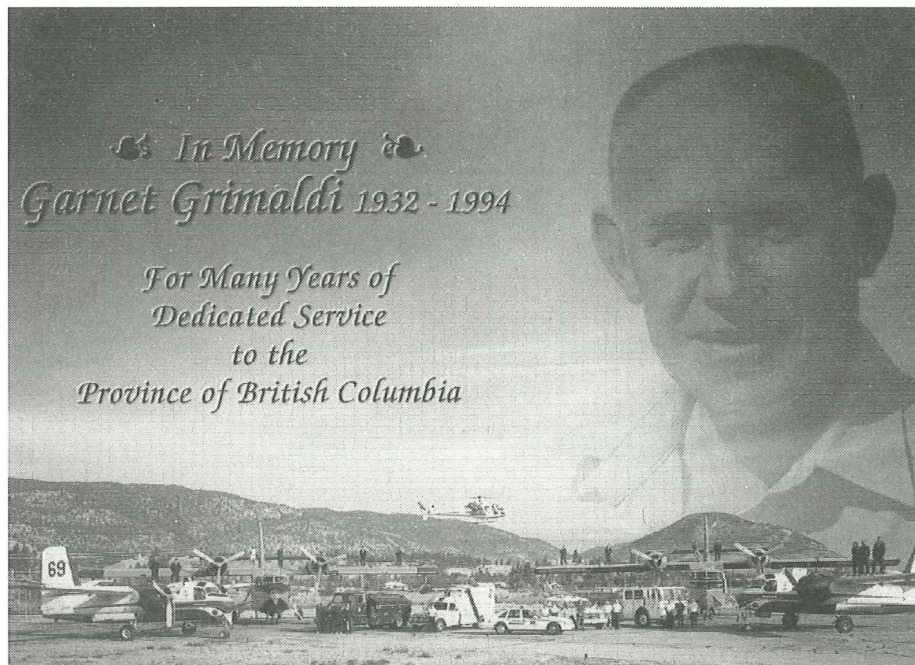
"All of the agencies pulled together," says **Denis Gaudry**, resource officer, protection, Penticton forest district, who coordinated the organization.

Teamwork and camaraderie characterize the firefighting effort.

There was a real sense of ownership, he says, of going beyond jurisdictional responsibilities to help each other. "Everyone just got down and did whatever they had to do to get the job done."



Fire named in memory of former Forest Service firefighter



This photo montage, created by Stuart Bish, pays tribute to Garnet Grimaldi.

Most forest fires are identified with a number and a place name. But this year's biggest fire has been named after one of the Forest Service's most experienced and prominent firefighters. The Garnet Fire, which burned 5,500 hectares east of Penticton, started on the day that Garnet Grimaldi died. Grimaldi, who began his career with the Forest Service in 1950 and retired in 1988, had battled blazes all over B.C., and in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Mexico.

"He was not afraid of doing any component of fire-fighting, from digging fire guards with the crew to overseeing large, complex fires," said Brian Brown, operations manager, Penticton forest district. Even after he retired from the Forest Service,

Grimaldi was often consulted about difficult fires. The Garnet Fire would have been no exception.

"The name gave support to the firefighters themselves, because everybody knew that he had fought forest fires in this area for 35 years."

— Steve Grimaldi

His son, Steve Grimaldi, grew up with firefighting, drawing up fireplans, digging fireguards, and even riding in helicopters with his father as early as age 10. Now manager of international development for the protection branch, the younger

Grimaldi worked as logistics chief on the Garnet Fire for eight days.

"The name gave support to the firefighters themselves, because everybody knew who he was, and knew that he had fought forest fires in this area for 35 years," he said.

"Having a fire named after you would be considered a great honor by protection types," Brown said. "This is an excellent tribute to a highly respected person."

More great ideas earn recognition

Forest Service employees continue to generate cost-saving ideas under the Suggestions Awards Program.

Barry Soderstrom, warehouseperson, Fort St. James forest district, designed a front guard protector for four-wheel all-terrain vehicles for transportation in trucks or trailers.

Fort St. James District Manager Ray Schultz recommended a \$300 award for the idea.

Jan Hill, legal services, Ministry of Attorney General, proposed color-blind-friendly evacuation diagrams. Noting that Hill had identified an inconsistency in important emergency instruction signage, Jim Scobie, manager, occupational health and accident prevention, human resources branch, recommended an award of \$200.

Richard Scharf, stock clerk, Don Brickwood, supervisor, administrative supply/map sales/mail services, Glenn Ellis, mail services messenger, and Kevin Laton, stock clerk, technical and administrative services branch suggested a more efficient method to deliver copy jobs. Dave Gilbert, director, inventory branch, recommended a shared award of \$158.

Maureen Tilbury, financial services supervisor, Duncan forest district, suggested creating a form on OV for submission of forecasts and commitments to finance staff for additions and changes. The idea could generate major cost-savings for all users of Ministry's Accounting and Budgeting System (MABS). Brian Johnston, manager, management services, Duncan forest district, approved an initial award of \$500 with a follow-up review in one year.

Bill Clifford, property negotiator, timber harvesting branch, suggested that instead of copying documents and sending them to the district, the timber harvesting branch

Continued on page 7

"Mucker" Dobin sets Forest Service open record

Heavy rains didn't dampen the spirits of 124 golfers at the 22nd annual British Columbia Forest Service provincial golf tournament held at Williams Lake on September 10 and 11.

The rain obviously didn't bother **Steve Doubinin**, a self-proclaimed "mucker" from Chilliwack forest district who shot a tournament record one under par 70 in Saturday's downpour. Combined with his one over par 72 under Sunday's sunshine, Doubinin's 142 total won the overall low gross title and the Wood-Hamblin trophy. His score was also a tournament record.

Kathy Johnston, spouse of retiree of **Walter Johnston**, was the women's overall low gross champion and winner of the Chemonics plaque. Johnston, a 14 handicapper, shot a 90 and 101 for a total of 191, defeating **Irene Levesque** by four strokes.

Former Kamloops regional manager and 18 handicapper **Tony Robinson** won the Cariboo Spur trophy as the retiree with the lowest score. Robinson shot 89 and 91, edging out **Walter Johnston** (handicap 20) and **Ted McArthur** (21), who both shot two-day totals of 194.

It was a big weekend for the Robinsons.

Dot Robinson, Tony's wife, won the women's overall low net title with a two-day net score of 157 and took home the Conair plaque. Former Cariboo region employee **Levesque** came second, with 159.

Squamish forest district's **Mark Anderson**, a 27 handicapper, shot net scores of 61 and 59 for 120, winning the men's overall low net title and the Northern Mountain Helicopters' plaque. Anderson's nearest competitors were 13 strokes behind.

The race in the Fireflex regional team competition was extremely close. In the team competition, the net scores of three golfers from each region and Victoria are added together.

The end of play Sunday saw a three-way tie for first. Using retrogression, which is a way of counting backward to determine the winner, the final standings were: 1st - Cariboo (428); 2nd - Prince George (428); 3rd - Vancouver (428);

4th - Victoria (442); 5th - Kamloops (451); 6th - Nelson (459); seventh - Prince Rupert (472).

Members of the winning team were

Brian Bentley, Cariboo forest region; **Kingsley Campbell**, Chilcotin forest district; and **Brian McNaughton**, Williams Lake forest district.

The other prize winners were:

	Gross	Net
1st flight	Brian Murphy, Silviculture Branch	Brian McNaughton, Williams Lake Forest District
2nd flight	1. Ed Coombes, former WLFD employee 2. Grant Preston, Chilliwack Forest District 3. Kingsley Campbell, Chilcotin Forest District	1. Norm Rogers, spouse, MacKenzie 2. Wayne Stuckleberger, Prince Rupert Forest Region 3. Jim Snetsinger, Prince Rupert Forest Region
3rd flight	1. Russ Knutson, Chilliwack Forest District 2. Dave Dunsdon, Prince George Forest Region 3. Don Gosnell, Prince Rupert Forest Region	1. Mike Carison, Cariboo Forest Region 2. Ian Morrison, retiree 3. John Hoyrup, Horsefly Forest District
Toppers	1. Fred Baxter, Kamloops Forest Region 2. Brian Kempf, MacKenzie Forest District 3. Larry Pedersen, Prince Rupert Forest Region 4. Bruce Noble, Kamloops Forest Region 5. Stu MacDonald, Squamish Forest District 6. Dean Cartier, MacKenzie Forest District	
Niner's	1. Raymond Getzlaif, Cariboo Forest Region 2. Marj Gill, spouse	

More great ideas continued from page 6

should first make the interpretations by reviewing the documents, entering the interpretations into PCs, and then disseminating the "smart data" to the districts on diskette. **Bob Harding**, director, and **Scott Clark**, manager, administration and technical services, timber harvesting branch, recommended an award of \$1,000. Five hundred dollars have been awarded, with another \$500 being considered by the awards committee.

Port Alberni forest district Receptionist **Tracy Lambrechts** proposed a revised timber mark application form to avoid confusing members of the general public. **Rick Miller**, administrator, forest land use and timber

marks, timber harvesting branch, recommended a \$500 award.

Ann Morrison, inventory update forester, Prince Rupert forest region, suggested that mylar forest cover maps be recycled. In addition to the environmentally-friendly disposal of outdated maps, the ministry would generate revenue. **Tracy Wilson**, cleaning supervisor, British Columbia Building Corporation, recommended an award of \$200, based on annual savings of \$1,428.

An idea to streamline the production of stumpage invoices for the valuation branch earned recognition for branch Billings Clerk **Shurli Jansen**. **Georgina Waitzner**, data ser-

vices administrator, recommended an award of \$1,059, based on time and paper savings. **Bill Howard**, director, valuation branch, approved a \$500 award with another \$559 to be considered by the awards committee.

Prince Rupert forest region Timber Clerk **Sue Wessel's** idea to reduce the paper shuffle — saving time and money — earned her an initial award of \$500. Based on the recommendation by **Rick Miller**, administrator, forest land use and timber marks, timber harvesting branch, the awards committee is considering another \$600.

Contributed by Marilyn Seifert, suggestion awards program coordinator, technical and administrative services branch.

Duncan slow-pitch team wins season championship

The Duncan forest district slow-pitch team won four straight games to emerge victorious the Cowichan Valley Emergency Services Wind Up Tournament.

All eight teams appeared to be evenly matched for the August event, Duncan team spokesperson **Ellie Wall** said. "But tight defense and strong bats helped us come out on top."

Playing the first game against North Cowichan Fire Department, last year's champs and tournament hosts, seemed like a bad omen. But it proved to be a blessing. The team had to play only four games, which proved a key factor in the deciding game when they faced a strong challenge from the Sahtlam Fire Department team.

Tournament highlights included more great pitching from **Lynn Koss**, and a seventh-inning, bases-loaded home run by **Darrell Poets**, which won the third game.



Duncan forest district slow-pitch team. Back row, left to right: Fred Pattenden, Mike Copland, Darren Todd, Scott Haden-luck, Linn Koss, Murray Stach, Linda Lambert. Front row: Warren Hewitt, Darrel Poets, Ellie Wall. Missing from photo: Maureen Tilbury and Ron Poets.

Coastal Forest Site Rehabilitation Workshop

The 1994 coastal forest site rehabilitation workshop will be held October 11 to 13 at Mount Washington.

Road and hillslope restoration techniques, wildlife habitat enhancement, and stream channel and fish habitat restoration will be among the topics covered. The workshop is sponsored by the Vancouver forest region soil conservation committee, watershed restoration program, and Forest Renewal B.C. Registration fee is \$150, or \$180 after September 28.

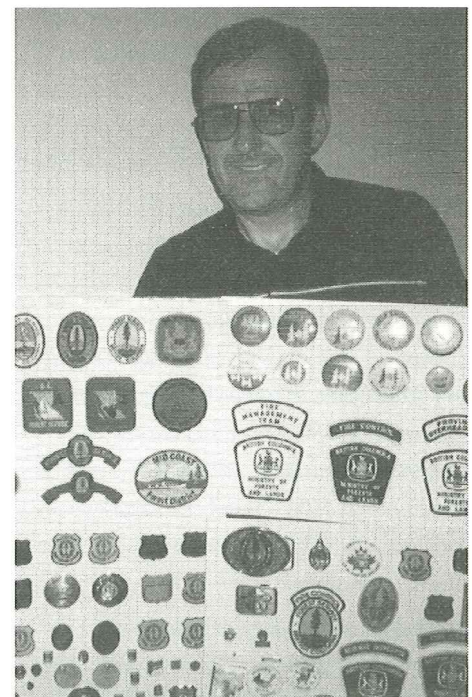
For more information, contact **Tom Molfenter**, B.C. Forestry Continuing Studies Network, 741-2597 or fax 741-2190.

Chilliwack staffer collects Forest Service memorabilia

Ed Neumann collects things. B.C. tokens, for example, like the ones people used to put in their empty milk bottles to pay the milkman for the full bottles he left in exchange. It's not surprising, then, that the 28-year veteran of the Forest Service also collects Forest Service memorabilia: fire warden and forest fire prevention officer badges, safety logo pins, pin backs, and shoulder patches showing Forest Service names, emblems and insignias over the years.

The collection is temporarily arranged on large Styrofoam boards. There are currently five full boards, with enough other items to fill at least two more, says Neumann, a check scaler in the Chilliwack forest district.

Neumann finds most of his treasures in second-hand and antique shops. "But I would gladly trade my duplicates with anyone else who has anything to trade," he said hopefully. Any other collectors out there?



Ed Neumann displays a portion of his Forest Service memorabilia

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