The British Columbia
Forest Service
Newsletter

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New Code logo unveiled

It's not often that a monthly newsletter gets to break news, but you're seeing it here first: the new Forest Practices Code logo.

Developed over five months by the Kent Allan Group, a Vancouver creative house, the logo will soon appear on stationery, vehicles, uniforms and other Forest Service materials associated with the Forest Practices Code.

Public affairs branch Manager of Visual Communications **Jim Challenger**, who coordinated the project for the Forest Service, described the new look as "conveying professionalism, good management, legal aspects of the Code and enforcement." Shown here in its one-color version, the logo can also be reproduced in three colours: grey, green and black.

Challenger explained one of the challenges in crafting the new look was in trying to find a convergence in the many ways people visualize the Code. Some envision the Code as representing soft environmental themes;

FOREST PRACTICES CODE

others see it as a "get tough" approach to enforcement.

As part of the project, **Kent Allan** interviewed staff from Forest Service headquarters, and regional and district offices, as well as other ministries involved in the administration and implementation of the Code. He then developed a range of options covering the spectrum of people's attitudes toward the Code. Senior staff then narrowed the field of choices to three. These were presented to public focus groups comprising people from urban and rural areas to test reactions and see if each option conveyed the intended qualities.

"As with anything that's artistic, you have divergent opinions," said Challenger. "The one we chose has an enforcement message, but from a legal standpoint rather than a policing standpoint. It was the clear winner. It conveyed the messages we wanted."

A graphics standards users manual depicting proper use of the logo in a wide range of applications is now being completed and will be distributed to all related staff in the spring.

One win does not upset a dynasty

Peter Frew's rink did it! They took possession of the covetted "A" event Holmberg Memorial curling trophy, bouncing Albert Kowalski's team in a contest that went right to the wire.

Frew, Les Husband, Earl Hunt and **Leslie Husband** did a fine job holding **Albert Kowalksi, Ken Shaw, Wayne Flemming** and **Jim Massey** at bay. It took the last rocks of the last end to decide the game.

The 28th-annual bonspiel drew 44 rinks to Kamloops on Feb. 17 - 19. That was fewer than organizers had hoped, but the curling was keen.

To some, the highlight was seeing Kowalski unseated as the hitherto long-standing and undisputed champion. For those who had tried unsuccesfully to topple him in the past, it was a pretty sight indeed.

According to Kowalski, it was an "off day."

"We'll be back next year," he promised. He's done it before, and this scribe doesn't doubt he'll do it again.

Even though he didn't win, Kowalski did some damage along the way, knocking

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Bonspeil

Continued from page 1

The Bedrock 4: Bev Atkins, Carol Harris, Amber Hehring and Linda Alexander.

Lake rink, known as the Bedrock 4, copped the best costume award.

The "best bonspeiler" prize was awarded to **Bob Miller** of Kamloops. Unfortunately, Miller had to have the prize delivered to him in the hospital; the cab he was taking home was broadsided by another vehicle. Miller suffered torn ribs and everyone wishes him a speedy recovery.

Retirees in attendance included **Carl** "the only one who has curled in all provincial bonspiels" **Chantler**, **Brian Collins**, **Bruce Clark**, **Ken Graham** and **Wayne Fleming**, all from the Kamloops region; **Ted McArthur** and **Jack Bailey**, from Nelson; **Stu Hoy** from Cariboo; and **Rai Thomas** from Vancouver. Also seen lurking but not curling was **Gary Ward**, from Prince Rupert.

Congratulations to a great organizing committee: **Bruce Noble** (chair), **Sharon Berkey**, **Ken Westfall**, **Nina Barber**, **Dave Dunstan** and **Jim Massey**. They did an excellent job this year, and have some great ideas to help ensure next year's event is as successful.

And a big thanks to the many sponsors.

— Submitted by Doug Adderley, public affairs branch

Gerry Still's Victoria rink out of contention and winning the Seagull Award.

The bonspiel again captured the kind of competition that **Harold Holmberg** envisaged — where friendly adversaries meet head-to-head on a level playing surface that only curling can provide. Periodically, tempers can flair, but cooler heads soon prevail.

John Cruickshank's rink from McKenzie walked away with the prizes for travelling the furthest, while **Bev Atkins**' Williams

The 1995 bonspeil winners

A Event
Holmberg Memorial Trophy:
(Presented by Brian Collins)

First: Peter Frew

Second: Albert Kowalski

Third: Andy Pakrastins, McKenzie

Fourth: Steve Doubinin, Chilliwack

B Event
Canadian Helicopters Trophy

First: Ken Chantler, Carl Chantler, Graham Seefeldt and Bob Chantler (Merritt)

Second: Sue Bondar, Kamloops

Third: Russ Knutson, Chilliwack

Fourth: Ken Lomas, Kamloops

C Event
Conair Aviation Trophy:

First: Bruce Clark, Brian Collins, Ken Graham and Al Collins (Kamloops)

Second: Darren Halloran, McKenzie

Third: Gary Barber, Kamloops

Fourth: Ed Nedokus, Merritt

D Event
Chemonics Industries Trophy

First: Curt Clarke, Gary Clarke, Hal Reveley and Jim Maxwell (Victoria)

Second: John Donnelly, Vernon

Third: Bev Atkins (Williams Lake)

Fourth: Linda Hames, 100 Mile House

Attention all curlers, past and present

Carl Chantler has been persuaded to start a history of the annual Forest Service bonspeil. He is looking for any stories, photographs or other memorabilia which will help chronicle the event's illustrious past. **Doug Adderley** of public affairs branch has promised to assist. Hopes are the history can be compiled for the big 30th annual 'spiel.

If you know of retirees who have attended the bonspeils, tap them for information. As much written material as possible would be appreciated. Oral recollections on cassette are also welcome.

Please send any submissions to **Ken Chantler** (Carl's son), c/o Merritt forest district. Thanks in advance.

Smokey and Firdy team up for Nanaimo opening

A crowd of 500 turned up for the ceremonies and open house marking the official opening of the Vancouver forest region's new Nanaimo headquarters.

Organizers of the Feb. 10 event, which included a unique ribbon cutting ceremony by Forests Minister **Andrew Petter**, deserve credit for their diligence: the only hitch was convincing delighted guests to leave by the scheduled 6 p.m. closing.

Festivities began at 2:30, when Smokey Bear arrived amidst blaring sirens on the back of a fire truck. Smokey presented Petter with an axe, to "chop" the ribbon and officially open the $9-million, 5,000-square-metre facility.

Master of ceremonies for the event was Regional Manager **Ken Collingwood**. Nanaimo Indian Band Chief **Jerry Brown** welcomed the new office to the Nanaimo area, and **Janna Kumi**, ADM, operations, spoke of the challenges facing staff, including both the benefits and costs of relocating to a new, but unfamiliar area.

Other dignitaries in attendance included Vancouver Island Jobs Commissioner **Don Cochrane**, who shares the building with the Forest Service, and Nanaimo Mayor **Gary Korpan.**

Smokey Bear and Firdy the Tree were on hand to help with the official opening of the Vancouver forest region headquarters . . . and to share a hug with Sue Sigurdson.

Following the opening ceremony, everyone was invited to tour the new office. A number of displays provided information on the Forest Practices Code, Protected Areas Strategy, growth and yield, silviculture, research, timber, revenue, engineering, and protection. An antique Ford Model T pick-up was the centrepiece of a display of Forest Service vehicles, past and present.

Visitors had the opportunity to meet with staff, discuss forest management issues and find out what services are available through the regional office.

For the young and young at heart, face painting, balloons, a coloring contest, Firdy the Tree (a smash hit), tree-shaped cookies and a huge cake decorated with the Forest Service oval and Office of the Jobs Commissioner logo added a festive air to the event.

— Submitted by Krista Burchell, public affairs branch

Rave reviews for Chilliwack forest education

Forest education is popular in Chilliwack, the most populated forest district in the province. Last fall the district office received over 30 requests for presentations in schools, malls, career fairs and parades.

"We're not actively soliciting requests," says **Brenda Cosgrove**, forest health specialist. "If we did we'd be booked solid."

As it is, with strictly word-of-mouth advertising, district staff are stretched to the limit, but still try to fulfill requests — if they can't spare the staff to make a presentation, they'll send an information package.

"It really is a wide audience that we're catering to," Cosgrove says. Primary classes make most of the requests, for presentations on topics such as tree identification, forest enemies (insects) and Smokey Bear. Secondary schools tend to be more interested in forestry careers. Scout troops and seniors groups also ask for presentations.

It's not a one-way street, of course. The district office walls are decorated with drawings and thank-you cards from students, which arrive by the bagful. Teachers write glowing letters of appreciation. One class even sent cookies they had made.

But that's not all. "The main thing is that we like being part of the community," Cosgrove says.

THE B.C. FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER

FOCUS ON DAWSON CREEK FOREST DISTRICT

District plans for backlog reforestation

Dawson Creek forest district will have a backlog reforestation plan in place by the end of this year, in an effort to turn forest areas burned decades ago into productive working status.

Before the advent of modern fire-control practices, this corner of the province was subject to large fires in coniferous forests. Left to regenerate naturally, these areas now comprise about 50,000 hectares of NSR land in the district, says **Lance Ollenberger**, resource officer silviculture.

Surveys are now being done to determine which areas are treatable, and what is required on a site-specific basis.

Approximately 19,000 hectares of the total NSR land is expected to be targeted. These areas can then be added to the AAC for the district. Field work is slated to begin in the spring of 1996.

Reward and recognition improves work environment

Don Kobasiuk (r) and **Rob Pozzabon** enjoy the second annual canoe trip — all part of "R&R" in Dawson Creek.

Does a good bowl of chili improve the work environment? You bet, say Dawson Creek forest district staff after last month's annual chili cook-off, organized by the employee-driven and funded Reward and Recognition (R & R) Committee.

Each district in the Prince George region has one, but Dawson Creek takes its R & R particularly seriously. Well-attended annual events like the chili cook-off, bowling night and a July long-weekend canoe trip, as well as monthly pot-luck lunches and movies, serve to bring people together to relax and chat — and promote a healthy office environment.

The committee's other responsibility is employee awards. "The awards are a way for employees to recognize each other for the work they've done," says **Karen Scriba**, committee chairperson and district clerk.

Every three months, district staff vote in categories such as "above and beyond the call of duty," "best team player" and "outstanding stewardship of our forest and range resources."

Winners receive a pen and pencil set and an engraved plaque. There is also an "Employee of the Year" award, with standards set out by the region.

"The employees have taken it upon themselves to make a better work environment," says District Manager **Bob Brash**. "As a package deal it really does have an impact."

Wapiti cabin rises again

After narrowly escaping fire, then being "chewed to bits" by porcupines, the Wapiti Cabin is once again open for business — in a new, improved version.

Located on the shore of Wapiti Lake, at the midpoint of a 35-kilometre wilderness trail in the Rocky Mountains, the cabin was originally built by a helicopter pilot in the early 1960s. He thought it was the perfect spot for a cabin, and flew his family in for vacations every summer. A family friend who was a priest also used it as a retreat, and built a grotto in a nearby cave.

The spot was perfect, except for one minor detail: it was on Crown Land and illegal. In the mid-70s officials threatened to burn it down, but the Forest Service stepped in and offered to maintain it as a recreational site.

Over the years, porcupines got the better of the plywood structure, and finally rendered it unusable.

Last summer, because of its usefulness as an emergency shelter on a long wilderness trail, the Forest Service decided to replace the cabin. District staff designed and built the new structure, using helicopters to fly in materials, and people volunteered their time.

"There is still some finishing work to be done, but it's ready for business," says district Recreation Officer **Al Rodine**, adding that it's still a perfect place, especially for regional management team meetings.

Dawson Creek forest district staff **Kevin Hanna** (r), **Mark Kusalik** and **Cliff Mckay** (l) work on the restoration of the Wapiti cabin.

Community shows keen interest in FRBC

Forest Renewal BC (FRBC) Chair **Roger Stanyer** attended a public meeting with stakeholders in Dawson Creek last month to discuss the formation of a public advisory group. A formal proposal detailing membership and other terms of reference are now being hammered out.

"People are pleased that FRBC is not going to use a cookie-cutter approach," says **Gerry Gleeson**, interim FRBC coordinator for the district. "Each region can determine the process according to its needs, and the public wants to be part of that process."

The advisory group is expected to include the municipalities, regional district, environment and forest ministries, timber tenure holders, unions, environmental groups, and Northern Lights College.

"An advisory group may slow the FRBC process initially," Gleeson says, "but the benefit will be a wider acceptance of what happens, because it was done with community involvement."

NEWS BRIEFS

TIMBER SUPPLY REVIEW UPDATE

The district is knee-deep in its Timber Supply Review, a long and complex process requiring widespread consultation.

A socio-economic analysis will be released this spring, along with a public discussion paper, and a three-month period for public input. The chief forester will use all of the information to determine both AACs in the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area for the next five years.

NEW MAP EASES BURDEN

A new map is being created by district land information officers to ease the referral and planning process. Bringing together information from many areas — including the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program, the silviculture plan, access maintenance and deactivation plans — the map will provide a true picture of all activities in the district, says **Don Rosen**, resource officer, land information management.

Everything from proposed cut blocks and type of harvest to stand tending and deactivated roads will be shown. The new map will eliminate the problem of obscured data caused by multiple map overlays.

BETTER RELATIONS WITH FIRST NATIONS

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the Forest Service and the Saulteau Band sets the stage for better relations between the two groups. The MOU sets out general guidelines on cooperation, consultation and increased First Nations involvement in the forest sector, with more detailed subsidiary agreements to follow. "There is much more to be done," says District Manager **Bob Brash**, "but it's a good start."

LAND USE CONSENSUS!

The LRMP working group is expected to complete its draft report this fall. To date, the group has divided the district into 11 resource units, each of which is further divided into resource management zones. These in turn are assigned one of six possible designations (from "protected" to "high-intensity resource development").

Although there are about 40 people with widely divergent resource interests in the group, acting Resource Officer Planner **Carl Jahn** says it has been a very cooperative process.

Monthly two-day meetings are open to the public.

WITH AN ENDING LIKE THIS . . .

It must be a "ferry-tale"

When the phone rang shortly after 5 p.m., my first reaction was to ignore it. But something compelled me to interrupt my meeting and pick it up.

The woman on the other end introduced herself as **Kathleen Beatty**, a ticket agent at the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal. Beatty, it seemed, had some nervous travellers on her hands, and we were her only hope.

A Taiwanese woman, en route home via Vancouver and Seattle, had used a washroom at a Forest Service office in downtown Victoria. Not until she arrived at Swartz Bay did she realize she had left behind her wallet containing more than $700 U.S., more money in Canadian and foreign currency, travel identification for her and her sons, and a credit card.

"Could we try to find the wallet and get it to its owner before she left Canada?," Beatty asked on her behalf.

Are we the Forest Service? Are we accustomed to succeeding in the face of adversity?

The description of the building sounded like 1450 Government Street. The duty security guard and I hurried over from 595 Pandora, only to find the washrooms had already been cleaned. The security guard went to track down the cleaning staff and I stumbled across **Greg Grove-White** and **Fred Beinhauer** in the middle of a late meeting.

I explained the situation. "Lost wallet?" said Fred. "There was a message put on the system just before five about a found wallet. I checked my pocket, found it wasn't mine and . . . ."

We logged on to Greg's computer and found the message, sent by **Laura Podgorenko**, manager, support services in ISB. A wallet belonging to **Chan Chun Chun** had been found. I called Kathleen at the Ferries to let her know. Although the wallet had turned up, we still had to track it down. It was already 5:30.

Our luck continued: Laura was home when we called, and told us where to find the wallet. A quick survey of the contents confirmed the woman's ownership. It was 5:45. I called Swartz Bay again, and learned the travellers hadn't yet left for Vancouver. The woman was prepared to return downtown.

I considered the option of having a stranger trying to meet me in downtown Victoria — bad idea — so I delivered the wallet to Swartz Bay. As Chan Chun Chun prepared to board the 7 p.m. sailing, we exchanged Chinese New Year's greetings and shared in the wonder of her good fortune.

"What nice Canadians. I'll be back to Canada," she promised.

This wasn't my first experience of this type and I don't think it will be the last. It's great to work with such a proud agency and to make good things happen.

*And hats off to **Vicki Baleshta**, who found the wallet and immediately turned it in. Her integrity began a highly unlikely string of events that reunited a visitor and her wallet.*

And what luck. Something led the BC Ferries ticket clerk to call my number. Something made me answer the phone. Something led us to Fred, who happened to have seen the e-mail message. And finally, the only person who could tell us where to find the wallet was at home when we called.

*— by **Doug Adderley**, manager, information services, public affairs branch*

Minister tours Prince George

(From right to left) Prince George log sales Project Manager **Bill Dunbar** took Forests Minister **Andrew Petter** and Prince George MLAs **Lois Boone** and **Paul Ramsey** on a recent tour of the Prince George forest district's new log sort yard. (Jeff Elder photo)

"Siberian Exile" for Vernon employee

When Small Business Forester **Jim Smith** took a team of Siberian foresters on a tour of the Vernon forest district last June, he didn't expect the favor to be returned. But three months later, he was winging his way to Siberia on an Aeroflot jet.

Smith's destination was Krasnoyarsk, a city of one million people just north of Mongolia and four hours flying time east of Moscow. Located on the Yensie River, the largest river in Russia, the city was closed to foreigners until recently because of a major plutonium processing plant.

"It was an unusual out-of-province travel request," Smith laughed.

Along with a handful of other foresters from the U.S. and Sweden, Smith had been invited to attend a two-day eco-forestry conference organized by the San Francisco-based Pacific Environment Resource Centre. (The same group sponsored the Siberian foresters' tour of innovative forestry projects in the northwestern U.S. and southern B.C.)

Most of the other participants were Siberian forestry experts looking to change forest management practices in their country.

Smith presented a paper on total resource planning, examining the alternate silviculture systems being used in the Vernon forest district small business program.

The conference was followed by a two-day field trip to the Murma river basin, a trip full of unexpected contrasts, Smith says. The journey itself was almost space-age, with a high-speed hydrofoil taking the participants 200 kilometres up the Yensie River in three hours — including several stops at small villages. When they stepped off the hydrofoil, however, they seemed to be stepping into an earlier era.

Jim Smith (r) and California forester Bill Howe on the Moscow River overlooking the Kremlin.

A large sawmill seemed stuck in the 1930s, Smith said. "It was not advanced technically, and there was a real lack of safety standards, with no hard hats, or shields on the equipment." Women were on the "green chain," doing many of the heavy tasks.

Forest management is aggressive, consisting of progressive clearcutting and replanting very little. "The majority of reforestation is left up to nature," Smith said.

The Murma river basin itself contains a 60,000-hectare untouched forest. Smith was impressed by the beauty of the forest, and the size of the trees: a nice mix of Scotch pine, birch and aspen, and Siberian pine, larch, and spruce. Many of the trees reached 30 metres in height, and a diametre of 50 centimetres.

Siberian forestry experts are hoping to use a dramatically different approach in the management of this forest. They face many obstacles, however, including the breakdown of the country's infrastructure, and the devaluation of the ruble. As well, with people used to being told what to do in a centralized system, it is difficult for them to take the initiative to change things themselves.

Forest management is aggressive, consisting of progressive clearcutting and replanting very little.

But Smith believes chances are good that the Siberians will succeed, despite the obstacles. "If they can do total resource planning, they will go from the dark ages of forestry right to the forefront of modern forestry."

New branch to promote district business

Beginning April 1, regional and district offices will have a new ally in Victoria to help improve program delivery through computer applications.

The all-new business design branch will fill a vital role in the Forest Service: it will integrate and bring cohesion to the use and development of the computer applications that operations division staff rely on in their day-to-day duties.

Details on the new branch's operation — including where it will be calling home — are still being finalized. Watch next issue for more information.

Community Services Fund stars

The people who helped make this year's Forest Service Community Services Fund (CSF) campaign such a great success recently found themselves in the limelight.

Colin Grady, chair of the Victoria CSF committee, attended a March executive meeting to present United Way plaques and decals to a handful of canvassers in recognition of their efforts to encourage participation.

Deputy Minister Gerry Armstrong accepts a United Way plaque from CFS chair Colin Grady. Also pictured are (l. to r.) Auburn Cowman, Eric Meyer, Barb Etherington, Ian Miller, Len Mannix, Holly McGunigle, Peter Fraser and Michael Grist.

The awards are given to canvassers responsible for ministry branches or units that attained high levels of participation. To win a plaque, a group had to have more than 10 members, a 75 per cent participation rate, and an average contribution of at least $80. Decals were awarded to groups that achieved 100 per cent participation.

Accepting the plaque awards for the winning groups were **Gerry Armstrong**, executive; **Michael Grist**, corporate policy and planning; **Barb Etherington**, economics and trade; **Disa Sjoberg**, protection; **Irwin Henderson**, public affairs; and **Ian Miller** and **Peter Fraser**, timber supply section.

Decals were presented to **Holly McGunigle**, responsible for both the forest sector strategy and Forest Practices Code implementation team; **Harry Powell**, audit services; **Barb Etherington**, economics and trade; and **Len Mannix**, information and privacy.

Several Forest Service canvassers also attended a February luncheon in their honor at the Parliament Buildings. Sponsored by the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (PECSF), the organization which spearheads the drive, the luncheon served as an awards ceremony for the government ministries with the highest participation.

Although the Forest Service's contribution marked a substantial improvement over previous years (total donations jumped 22 per cent over 1993 to $65,500), we got edged out for the government-wide awards.

In the category for large ministries, Environment, Lands and Parks won with a 75 per cent participation rate. Agriculture, Fisheries and Food won for medium-size ministries. For small ministries, the Auditor General and the Commision on Resources on Environment tied, both scoring 100 per cent participation.

Maybe next year?

35-year man retires

March 28 will be a milestone in Nursery Service Officer **Jim Sweeten's** life. That's the day he retires from the Forest Service after more than 35 years.

Sweeten joined the Forest Service in 1956 as a summer employee in the surveys division. Five years later, he became a regular employee. Sweeten worked with reforestation in Prince George, then moved to the then-new Surrey Nursery. He finishes his career with the nursery at Green Timbers in Surrey.

During his time with the Forest Service, Sweeten helped implement much of the expansion in inventory and reforestation. Now he's on to Okanagan Falls, where he's building a new home. On behalf of all his colleagues and friends, we wish him well.

*— Submitted by **Drew Brazier**, manager nursery services*

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