



The British Columbia

Forest Service

Newsletter

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Protection wins IPAC gold

The protection program has joined an elite group of public service organizations that have won a top Canadian award. Sponsored by The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) and Coopers and Lybrand, the IPAC Award for Innovative Management recognizes innovation and excellence in public service agencies. Protection beat 83 competitors from across Canada and six finalists to win the gold award. The branch's native unit crew and native fire protection technician programs exemplified the theme of the 1995 competition, "making diversity work."

At a gala luncheon in Vancouver on May 8, protection branch Director **Jim Dunlop**, native unit crew Coordinator **Steve Bachop** and Kamloops Native Prevention Technician **Bruce McLeod** accepted the award on behalf of the branch.

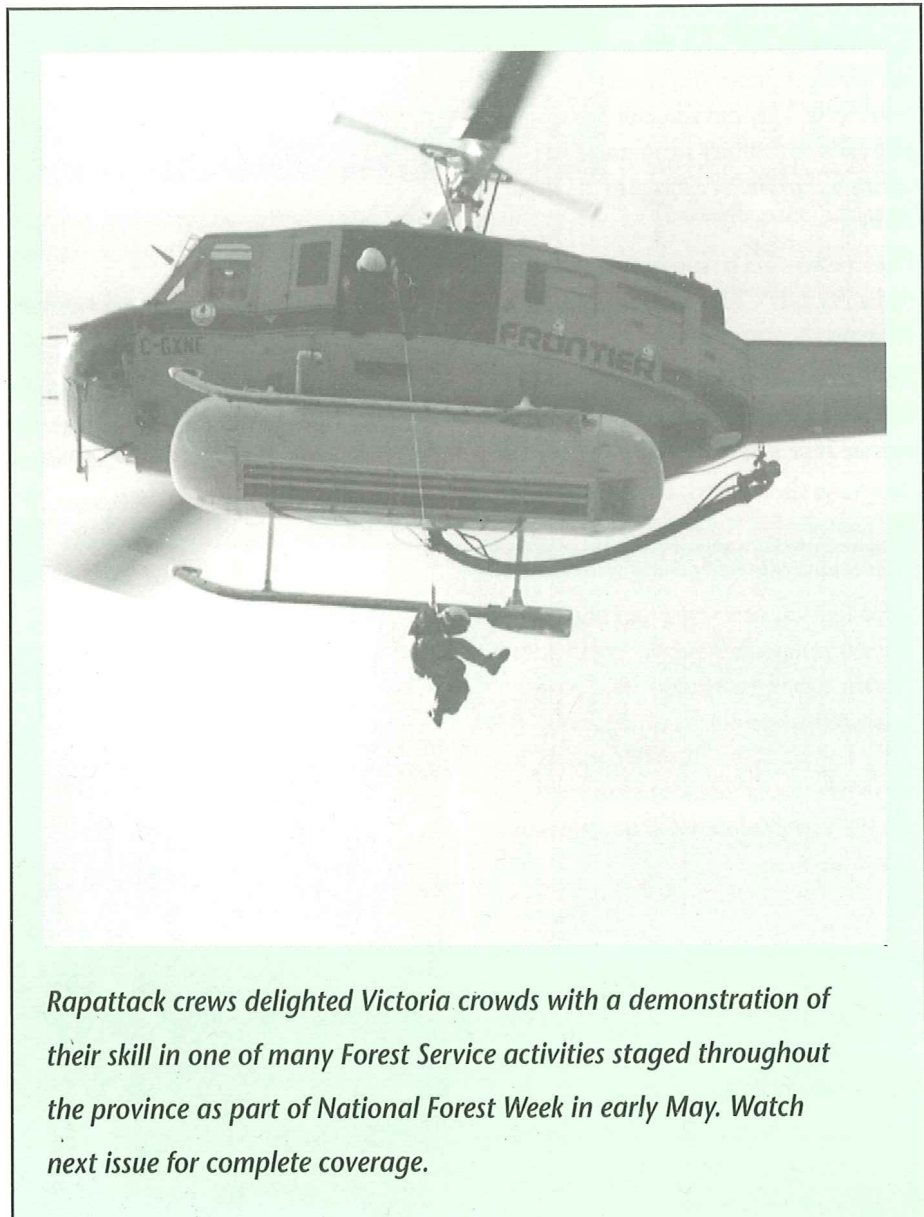
The silver award went to Saskatchewan Telecommunications, and bronze was won by the New Brunswick department of advanced education and labor. The B.C. Ministry of Education gender equity program was among the finalists.

"Since 1991 the protection program has led all other government ministries in the establishment of meaningful training and employment opportunities for First Nations people," said a press release issued by the IPAC awards committee.

"The credit for the award belongs to protection staff throughout the province who were involved in developing native programs and to the participants themselves," said Gary Hartwig, superintendent of fire crews.

Since the native unit crew (NUC) program began in 1991, the number of First Nations people trained and employed as fire fighters has risen to 375.

The fire prevention technician course has been offered in 1993 and 1995 to give NUC personnel an opportunity to pursue
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Rapattack crews delighted Victoria crowds with a demonstration of their skill in one of many Forest Service activities staged throughout the province as part of National Forest Week in early May. Watch next issue for complete coverage.

Forest officers are the law!

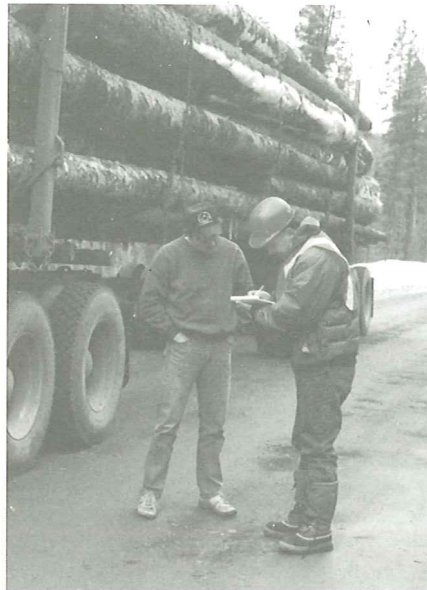
They can pull you over, ask for identification and write you a ticket, but they're not the RCMP.

They're forest officers, empowered by the *Forest Act* to protect the province's forest and range lands. But unless you're a logging truck driver, a logging contractor, or someone else employed in the forest sector, you probably won't be stopped by an officer behind the wheel of a green truck with a B.C. Forest Service logo on the door.

Instead of speeding tickets, forest officers issue warnings and write tickets for things like improper timber marks or lack of proper fire tools. They can also shut down logging operations if they see improper harvesting techniques or damage to the environment.

These powers will be strengthened when the Forest Practices Code comes into full force this June.

Paul Gevatkoff, operations manager for Dawson Creek forest district, would like to increase awareness of the role forest officers



Bruce Henney, resource assistant, enforcement, checks the timber marks on a local rig.

on private land, a timber mark must be used when timber is transported. The timber mark allows the Forest Service to determine the origin of the wood and whether any stumpage is owed.

And as anyone who's seen the number of logging trucks rolling down the road in north-central B.C. can attest, there's a lot of timber on the move. That's because high prices paid for logs have led to more logging on private land, and more timber coming from Alberta.

Gary Radchenko is the enforcement team supervisor for the Dawson Creek forest district. One of his jobs is to remind logging truck drivers to properly mark their loads.

"All logging trucks must have four timber marks, one on each front corner and one on each side of their load, or they will be

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play, particularly on the use of proper timber marks.

"Our job is to enforce the *Forest Act* — one of our tasks is to make sure the Province of B.C. receives the cutting fees owed for timber harvested on Crown land."

Although no stumpage is paid on logs cut

IPAC award; continued from page 1

full-time careers in the protection branch. Participants attend a three-month program at the First Nations Tribal Justice Institute for comprehensive training. Eleven graduates of the 1993 session, now full-time fire prevention technicians, play a vital role in educating their communities and the forest industry.

From left to right: IPAC selection jury chair Nancy Hughes-Anthony, Finance Minister Elizabeth Cull, Kamloops Prevention Technician Bruce McLeod, Native Unit Crew Coordinator Steve Bachop and Protection Program Director Jim Dunlop.



Regions gain important ally with new enforcement branch

Enforcement. It's what gives the law its teeth and it's an essential part of the Forest Practices Code.

And since March, it's also the name of an entirely new branch in the Forest Service. The branch's mandate is ensuring consistency in the way the Code's enforcement provisions are applied, and providing support and advice to program and district staff.

As both a professional forester, a lawyer, and the person responsible for drafting the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and regulations, Trevor Swan was the ideal candidate for the director's job.

"This branch is here to ensure the fair and equitable enforcement of the Code and to ensure that the Code is inherently enforceable," Swan said.

Initially, one of the branch's main functions is to serve as a resource for field staff. Delivery will be "issue driven," based on requests from the field for investigation support or help in administrative or review processes.

"District staff have been given an onerous responsibility, and they're carrying 99 per cent of enforcement," said Swan. "We will have to respond quickly when the need is identified."

But as district staff become more familiar with how the Code works, more branch resources will be devoted to monitoring activities for consistency, trends and indications of shortcomings in the act or regulations.

"Under the Code, district staff have a vast arsenal of tools at their disposal to ensure



Keeping pace with the demands of his new job have left Trevor Swan little time for less important things — like unpacking at his new office.

compliance," Swan said. That opens unprecedented room for staff to remedy infractions, but it also greatly increases their responsibilities.

"The key to enforcement is focusing on the objectives. That means using enforcement provisions to achieve good forest manage-

ment, rather than as a club."

One of the key challenges for the enforcement branch is ensuring consistency across the province.

"Over time, we have to make sure that similar facts lead to similar decisions," Swan explained.

As new legislation, the Code will undoubtedly be tested — both by district staff applying the legislation on a daily basis and by industry. That's where the "inherently enforceable" component of the job comes in.

By monitoring trends, the branch will be able to identify any gaps in the Code and initiate modifications to the legislation if necessary.

"They've amended the *Forest Act* every year for 17 years," Swan said. "They'll amend this one, too."

Career ranger retires

After a 34-year forestry career that took him to a dozen interior forest districts, Harry Doberstein is calling it quits. May 23 will be his last day on the job.

Doberstein joined the Forest Service as dispatcher in Blue River in 1961, and soon after moved to a marking crew in Williams Lake. In 1964, he became an assistant ranger, a position he held in a number of districts until 1977.

After graduating from advanced training in ranger school, Doberstein became

deputy ranger in Cranbrook. In 1980 he took the operations superintendent position in Merritt, where he lived and worked until his retirement.

He plans to remain in Merritt with his wife Betty and two sons.

Merritt district staff will hold a retirement party on June 17. Anyone wishing to attend is invited to call Lisa Racine at 378-8409 or Ellie Brown at 378-8411 for more information.

Heli-logging controls beetles and saves money

Today's high prices for timber and some local innovation have enabled the 100 Mile House forest district to turn a liability into an asset.

For years the district has earned royalties from ground hunter/harvester licensees who salvage blow-down or beetle-infested trees. However, conventional logging methods were not appropriate in remote areas because of environmental concerns or plain economics.

That left the district paying helicopters to harvest infested trees to control the spread of beetles. And if only a few trees were infested district staff would travel to the site, and fall and burn them. Either way, controlling the beetles cost money.

But when timber values started climbing, district staff introduced an aerial hunter licence, which is awarded on a tender system to helicopter logging contractors. Rather than paying to have infested trees removed, the district now receives royalties for the timber.

"Over the past year, helicopters have harvested over 12,000 cubic metres of wood infested with Douglas-fir beetles or mountain pine beetles from about 100 sites," said Don Wright, forest health officer. "The company is paying us to get rid of the beetle problem."

Between royalties and the money previously spent on controlling beetle infestations, the district has saved \$250,000 in the first year. And, according to Wright, the savings will continue.

"As long as the value of wood stays up, we're okay," he said.

The program has also reduced the district's reliance on pesticides and salvages wood that was previously wasted.

The high value of timber pays the 100 Mile House forest district to contract heli-logging operators to remove beetle-infested trees.

LUNCHES BOOST MORALE

The idea came from the finance section, but it spread through the district office like . . . dare we say . . . wildfire.

"We thought these lunches would help build morale," said Sherrie MacPhee, finance services clerk. "After we did the first one, we challenged other sections."

So far, four sections have hosted a monthly luncheon, donating the items and preparing a meal for 35 to 40 people. Lunch guests pay \$2 or \$3 to partake. Proceeds so far have reached \$325.75.

"The finance people are now the

enforcers," said MacPhee. "We make sure it gets done."

The money will be used to buy a barbecue for staff functions and fund other office-related activities.

Financial Services Supervisor Diane Stark has started another fund-raising activity. She stocks a candy jar, and employees are encouraged to help themselves on the honor system. Proceeds will be used to purchase a Christmas hamper for a needy family.

FOCUS ON 100 MILE HOUSE FOREST DISTRICT



Fun day celebrates reorganization

Coping with reorganization doesn't have to be all work, as district employees learned on April 28. To mark the phase-in of the Forest Practices Code, the office held a "fun day."

First the planning section hosted a lunch of barbecued smokies, European wieners and potato salad, easing the hunger pangs of all 40 participants.

Then the games began. To set the tone of team work, three groups faced the challenge of building model cardboard houses. This was followed by a tug-of-war, a cross-cut saw competition and an egg-throwing contest.

Saving the best for last, a band led by District Manager Doug Konkin and staff entertained

Donna LeLacheur tends the barbecue during the district's "fun day," a great way to relieve stress.

the crowd. Strumming a simulated bass fiddle and playing kazoos and washboards, band members challenged the audience to "name those tunes."

"We tried to get people's minds off all the sessions they had been attending on the Forest Practices Code," said

The lakes classification plan expanded to encompass a broader spectrum of resource management guidelines, including Crown land development, access management, fishing and boating regulations and visual sensitivity. The goal is to produce management objectives for each lake.



Lloyd Perepelecta, district services technician. "It was a great way to unwind."

Sheep replace herbicide in brushing trees

A thousand sheep are munching their way through 350 hectares of reseeded timberland, and 100 Mile House district staff are elated.

The sheep eat the vegetation that springs up around newly-planted seedlings, eliminating the need for herbicides.

"The public likes the sheep," said Sam Phillips, resource assistant, silviculture. "If properly managed, they won't eat or trample the seedlings. And they have only a limited affect on forage for other wildlife since they

are only on the lands from June to September."

The sheep's main diet is fireweed, which shades the seedlings in the warmer months and, when pressed down under winter snow, crushes the young trees.

The 100 Mile House district — believed to be the first in the province to use sheep — first introduced them on an experimental basis in 1984. The program has since expanded, and has also been adopted by other districts.

The idea first came from local sheep producers, who were looking for pasture. As range land had already been allocated, the district agreed to experiment with allowing sheep into recently planted cutblocks.

The Ministry of Environment works closely with the district to ensure minimum interaction between the sheep and wildlife, especially grizzly bears. Two shepherds watch over the herd 24 hours a day.

"The future is secure for the use of sheep," said Mark Seilis, silviculture officer.

Mackenzie display wins . . . again



The Mackenzie forest district display impressed the public and the judges.

For the fourth straight year, a display produced by Mackenzie forest district staff has won first prize in its category at a local trade show.

The booth, which featured text, photographs and graphics describing Forest Service operations, was part of Showcase '95, an annual trade show held May 5, 6 and 7 in Mackenzie. Open to all public and private agencies, the show promotes local products and services.

The district display won in the information category, in a field of entries including other government agencies and forest licensees in the district.

Silviculture Officer **Andy Pakrastins** said the display was produced entirely by district staff — unlike the exhibits used by some other government agencies. It included information on silviculture, harvesting, protection, recreation, aboriginal programs and the new woodlot program.

As well as the static displays, the booth provided an ideal venue to show a video on the spruce pine beetle and for a computer game for children. Called Fred's Forest, the game uses simulation to let children try their hand at forest management.

Many people in the district office helped produce the exhibit, but most credit is due to Pakrastins, Native Forestry Officer **Lyle Bonthoux** and Operations Manager **Dave Hargreaves**.

Thoughts are already turning to next year's display. After four wins in a row, exhibitors from other ministries were threatening to mount stiffer competition for 1996.

The law; Continued from page 2

stopped," he explained. And while 99 per cent of truck drivers cooperate, Radchenko also reminds drivers that it is an offence under the *Forest Act* to hinder or obstruct forest officers in their duties.

"We make sure the money owed from cutting Crown timber is collected; we're looking out for the interests of B.C. residents. Stumpage goes into Crown revenue to build schools, highways and hospitals, and to provide services to the public."

As in many districts, Dawson Creek staff hold roadside checkstops each year during the busy logging season. Seven warnings for mismarking and one violation ticket for no timber marks were issued at a March 27 road check conducted by the RCMP, Forest Service and the motor vehicle branch.

Radchenko said the Forest Service is pleased with improvement they've noted in awareness about timber marks. However, the checks will continue.

*— Submitted by Jeff Elder, communications officer,
Prince George forest region*

B.C. hosts UN conference

Prince George will be the first city outside of Europe to host one of the world's leading forestry conferences.

Sponsored by the United Nations, the International Forestry Seminar on Forest Practices is expected to draw 450 delegates for seven days in September.

Co-chaired by Deputy Chief Forester **Bronwen Beedle** and **Elaine Teske** of the Canadian Forest Service, the conference will focus on the challenges of transforming sustainable forest policies into practical forest management.

Papers, group discussions and field trips will examine the relationships between

forest practices and ecological processes, socio-economic aspects of changing forest management, developing and implementing forestry codes, and the relationships between forest practices and policy and science.

Resolutions and recommendations resulting from the event will be presented at the end of the conference, providing practical advice on achieving sustainable forest management.

A limited number of seats are available for Forest Service staff. For more information, contact **Trudy Swaan**, phone (604) 563-8833 or fax (604) 563-3697.

Workshop introduces interior staff to First Nations culture

A cross-cultural workshop held in Lytton introduced staff from several interior forest districts to the Nlaka'pamux cultural, spiritual and traditional way of life.

Hosted by the Lytton First Nations and the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, the February event was designed to make participants more knowledgeable of all aspects of the Nlaka'pamux community. More importantly, it was hoped that the insight gained would help participants come to feel part of the community. Staff from Lillooet, Chilliwack, Merritt and Kamloops forest districts, representatives from several forest companies and members of the Nlaka'pamux Nations communities attended the workshop.

The day began with an opening prayer from an elder of the community, followed by a sage ceremony in which everyone participated. The ceremony involves burning wild sage leaves (sweetgrass is sometimes used when available). Participants use their hands to direct the smoke in a cleansing manner over their entire bodies. This is said to cleanse the mind, heart, body and spirit of negative influences, and leave one open-minded and better able to relate physically and spiritually to positive influences.

A welcome was given by Chief Robert Pasco, chairperson of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, and Chief Byron Spinks of the Lytton First Nations. Forest Service staff and a representative of the forest companies responded, offering gifts of tobacco to the chiefs and elders.



The Coyote Dancers were part of a diverse cultural experience designed to give forest district staff understanding of aboriginal traditions.

The morning's events covered the historical perspective of the Nlaka'pamux people and their language, followed by a presentation on traditional resource management. Then came a magnificently prepared traditional dinner of salmon, deer, herbs, plants, roots and berries, along with everyone's favorite, bannock.

The afternoon involved traditional healing and spiritual well-being, followed by more on past and present resource management. Traditional songs and dances with Terry Aleck and the Coyote Dancers, a group including pre-teen and teenaged youths, followed.

Closing remarks from the chiefs, elders, ministry and industry representatives ended the day.

As expected, there were mixed feelings and evaluations, as reflected in the following comments.

"It was very interesting to hear elders, leaders and artists express their thoughts — that was the highlight for me. Opportunities like that don't come very often. I appreciated the

honesty and conviction that came out in their talks. I also appreciated their emphasis that it is better if we have mutual respect for each other and strive to find ways in which we can all live together, in harmony hopefully."

"I would liked to have seen more of the other band chiefs and elders."

"I learned that different aboriginal people traversed and used the same land."

"I liked the approach and presentation — being able to see, hear, smell and taste the culture."

"I disliked the fact that issues raised were not within the mandate of the Ministry of Forests or industry."

"I found the workshop useful in getting a better awareness of some of the underlying issues and history that affect First Nations people — their attitudes and approaches to issues — both today and into the future. That was mostly what I was hoping to get out of the workshop. I feel that all staff should attend at least one workshop, if not two or more, as it will certainly give them more of an appreciation of First Nations peoples' thinking in general."

Overall, there seems to be consensus that the workshop was a success, and everyone agreed the dinner, songs and dances were exceptional.

— Submitted by Francis Seymour, aboriginal forestry advisor, Kamloops forest district and Shannon Gelean, aboriginal forestry advisor, Lillooet forest district

The 62-day Murray River bridge

It seemed like a bridge too far. In the depths of winter in the frigid northeast, Forest Service engineers and a builder had only two months to complete a new 90-metre span over the Murray River, just south of Tumbler Ridge.

Since 1990, engineers had known the existing structure — which was heavily used by logging trucks, huge Quintette Coal Mines trucks and the public — was quickly reaching the end of its life. Although planning and design for a new bridge proceeded, it took until last December to finalize funding.

That meant the construction had to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. As it happened, that deadline coincided with the two-month window for in-stream work granted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

With the support of Engineering Section Manager Younas Mirza and his staff, Prince George Regional Engineering Officer Vladimir Pasichnyk vowed to complete the



The newly completed Murray River Bridge — just over two months work for a dedicated team of Forest Service engineers and contractors.

project on time and on budget.

Within a month, a contract had been awarded to Ruskin Construction, and on January 31 pile driving began. A continuous stream of phone calls and faxes between the region and Victoria kept things running smoothly. On site, every obstacle was overcome through innovative construction techniques and full-time inspectors who monitored both the construction and the environmental impact.

"During construction there were many hur-

dles requiring strong commitment and decision-making," said Vera Pronker, bridge engineer with the resource tenures and engineering branch.

Warmer than usual weather helped, too. By March 31, the 90-metre steel and concrete bridge was complete and ready for use.

"The players were capable and strongly committed to this project," said Ron Davis, also an engineer with

the resource tenures and engineering branch. "The Forest Service now has a first-rate asset to serve the forest and mining industries and the public."

— Compiled from submissions by Vera Pronker and Ron Davis, resource tenures and engineering branch

Never too proud to admit our foibles

"Forgetting to wear your hats out in the sun, boys?" was the somewhat ominous message on the fax cover sheet.

Being the fearless editors we are, we turned the page:

"We've stood all we can stand, we can't stand no more," was the opening line. It continued:

"Mackenzie is spelled: Capital M, small a, small c, small k, small e, small n, small z, small i, small e.

"And by the way, it's the only town in Canada named after Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the first man to travel coast to coast by land in the year 1793. Our fair town will be celebrating Sir Alexander Mackenzie Days on June 10 and 11."

Thanks for (both) tips. Any Forest Service types looking for another reason to visit that fine part of the province, there it is.

And for our mistake, we apologize to our friends in Mackenzie.

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