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Forest Service

Newsletter

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June 1995

FOREST RANGER AHOY

Forest Service fleet reunites

A bit of Forest Service history will come to life this July during the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron reunion.

From 1912 to 1984, the Forest Service relied on a small fleet of boats to do its work along the coast. The Forest Service itself built over 100 vessels. Others were acquired and modified for the job, which included timber cruising, inspections, transporting equipment and tree seedlings, and accommodation for inventory and crews.

The largest boat built by the Forest Service, the 48-foot Coast Ranger, was finished in 1966. It was also the last. The fleet reached its peak in the '50s and '60s, when wooden boats were rapidly being replaced by fibre-glass, steel and aluminum hulls — not to mention helicopters. The Forest Service began selling its wooden boats in the 1970s, and by 1984 the fleet was history.

The story would have ended there, but the people who bought the boats knew what they were getting: unique, historic and extremely well maintained wooden vessels.

"The present owners have a real closeness to



Three vessels of the once proud Forest Service fleet. The Poplar III, Hecate Ranger and Oliver Clark II are moored at Prince Rupert in about 1978.

Forest Service history," says Doug Eastman, operations manager, Duncan forest district. "Most of the boats are in excellent condition and some are in original form, right down to the Forest Service grey and white color

scheme." To preserve the history, several owners formed the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron. Their first annual meeting was four years ago. But this year's gathering will

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Forest Service now on the 'Net

The Forest Service has joined the information superhighway. In May the ministry connected a server to the Internet, enabling people around the world to access ministry electronic publications nearly instantly.

The server hosts a Forest Service home page

and various publications. The home page is a screen display which identifies the host and lists topic headings for the available publications.

The user simply clicks on the desired topic heading to open a more detailed list of

materials available under that heading. Once the desired document has been found, it can be opened by clicking on its name.

System upgrades are being phased in this summer to permit all ministry employees to

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Headquarters staff tour Rapattack base

There are two sure signs you're going to have a good day: one, you get to wear jeans to work and two, instead of heading to the office, you're meeting some of your co-workers at the airport — on your way to the Salmon Arm Rapattack base.

Leslie Laird, Maureen Campbell, Lorraine Catney, Susan Stewart, Ron Planden, Charlotte Wardell and Lynn Ogden enjoyed such a day in early May. After the one-hour flight, we were greeted by two of Rapattack's finest: John Davies and Mike Worobey. Once breakfast was out of the way, we gathered together in the meeting room for an informative session with Davies, Worobey and managers Mark Dahlie and Ralph Mohrmann.

The session gave us a grasp on how and when the program started, the extensive mental and physical training involved, and the absolutely unbeatable safety record. No other program can boast such a reputation. It's world renowned, and other countries including the U.S., Chile, Mexico and Australia have all sponsored exchanges to borrow on B.C.'s expertise.

Our day continued with a tour of the equipment room, where our tour guides stressed the importance of respecting and maintaining your gear. Then we went to the rope room, where we were asked to remove our shoes. As the rapeller's lifeline, the ropes are treated with kid gloves. Then off we went to the replica of the inside of a helicopter atop a 60-foot tower. Exercises in this model are the final training stage before Rapattack crews face the real thing.

After lunch — quite a spread, compliments of the camp chef — we toured the office, where the phones ring, the siren sounds the alert and computers closely monitor the helicopters' whereabouts.

We concluded our day by observing the strict routine followed before a rapeller enters or exits the helicopter.

Goodbyes said, we all left feeling that because of the fine men and women of the Rapattack teams, B.C.'s forests are in excellent hands. Thanks for the tour and all your hard work in the months to come.

— Submitted by Lynn Ogden, public affairs branch

Internet, continued from page 1

get on the Internet. By fall, all staff will be able to read ministry documents on the 'Net — and access thousands of other servers and their contents. The electronic format also enables the information to be updated easily, economically and instantly. Led by the technical and administrative services branch and information systems branch, the Forest Service first began exploring the potential of the Internet as a

medium to publish ministry manuals. The project gained momentum with the need to make the Forest Practices Code and its accompanying documentation available to a broad audience.

In addition, the ministry's server contains an introduction to the Forest Service, related legislation, and a message from the minister. More information will be added in coming weeks.

The Fleet;

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be special: organizers planned a public reunion of the rangers and their boats. Forest Ranger Ahoy!, A Celebration of the Men, their Families and their Vessels, will take place at the Vancouver Maritime Museum July 1 to 3.

The event is sponsored by the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron, the Forest History Association of B.C., the Vancouver Maritime Museum and the Forest Service. Organizers hope to attract as many former rangers, crews and engineers as possible.

About 20 decommissioned Forest Service boats — some with their former skippers and crews aboard — will be open for tours and demonstrations. Among them will be the Eva R., built in 1913. Equipment, documents and other memorabilia will be displayed inside the museum. Maritime writers Mike Coney (Forest Ranger, Ahoy!) and Ron Jones (End of Eden) will talk about and sign their books. Festivities will include a buffet and reception.

Organizers also hope to compile information about the boats and their crews for the provincial and Forest Service archives.

"And we are hoping to bring the displays back for additional presentation, perhaps to the Forest Service headquarters or to the Forest Museum in Duncan," says Bob DeBoo, president of the Forest History Association of B.C.

For more information, contact Bill McLachlan at 383-8422. And if you know any old-timers — former rangers, engineers, deckhands, cooks or others who worked on or around the boats — spread the word.

Forest Week makes a splash

Despite everybody's heavy workloads, Forest Service staff still managed to come out and celebrate National Forest Week. Here's a brief description of just a few of the many activities staged by the Forest Service to promote community awareness.

CHILLIWACK

Located just south of Chilliwack and the site of intensive silviculture and recreation, Vedder Mountain was a perfect fit with this year's National Forest Week theme — "Urban Forests: Your Back Yard."

Over three days, Chilliwack forest district staff took 300 children from 18 schools up the mountain to teach them about ecosystems, tree planting, pruning, firefighting, forester's equipment and forestry career opportunities. Staff also organized free bus tours and a mountain bike tour to exhibit silviculture operations.

A display at Cottonwood Mall featured Smokey Bear, a Touch Your Forest kiosk, 10

winners from a staff photo contest (forestry-related, of course) and information on woodlots. Staff also joined Smokey in Chilliwack's Country Living Days parade to promote the special week.

PRINCE RUPERT

Prince Rupert forest region's annual tree-growing contest was a great success again this year, with 29 classes in nine elementary

schools participating. In late January, regional staff provided each class with a tree-growing kit containing lodgepole pine seeds, fertilizer, instructions and a styrofoam block with 72 plug cavities pre-filled with growing media.

On May 3, competitors turned their seedlings in for judging, based on height, diameter, color and cavity fill.

The winners — the Grade 5-6 class at Lake Kathlyn Elementary School — got a trip in a helicopter, courtesy of the Forest Service, Pacific Inland Resources and Canadian Helicopters.

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Children on the Vedder Mountain tour try their hands at digging a fire guard



Inventory specialist turns attention to golf

After 35 years with the Forest Service — all of it in inventory — Imre Spandli, manager, forest resource inventory, retired on June 2.

Spandli left Hungary in 1956 and, along with many of his classmates at Budapest's Sopron School of Forestry, completed his studies at UBC. He joined the Forest Service in 1960, serving as a tallyman at Straw Lake and Smithers.

After working in every corner of the province as assistant supervisor and supervisor of a number of silviculture projects,

Spandli settled in Victoria in 1979 as manager of the statistics and reports section. He became manager of resource inventory and statistical reports in 1988.

Imre was instrumental in the development of the resource inventory in the 1970s.

"It's amazing how well those inventories have stood the test of time," says resources inventory branch Director Dave Gilbert. "And that is in no small part due to the work of Imre and his colleagues." He has also made major contributions to the development of the more detailed and

complex vegetation inventory in the last three years.

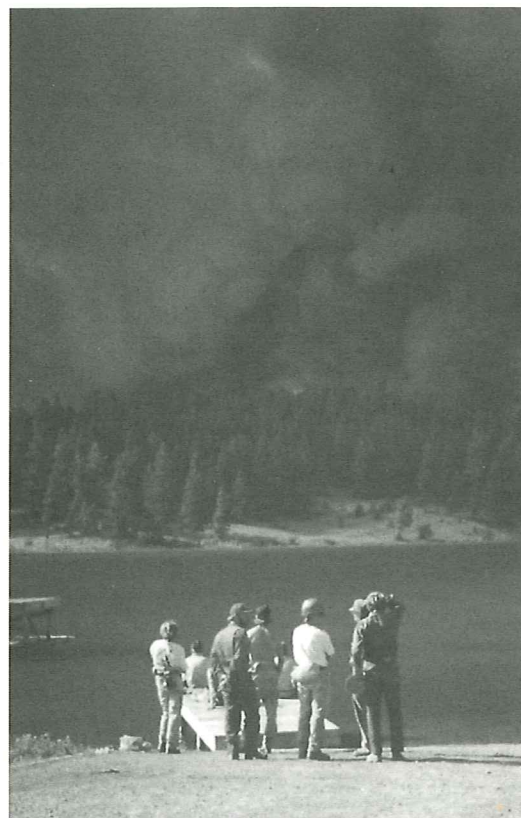
As well, as a supervisor in inventory, the entry point for all professional foresters in the Forest Service, Spandli trained many key people, including Chief Forester Larry Pedersen and Deputy Chief Forester Bronwen Beedle.

At Imre's request, an office afternoon tea was held on June 2 rather than a large retirement party. Knowing of his retirement plans, office staff presented him with a golf bag, along with many fond wishes.

Turning misfortune into opportunity

Invermere forest district has turned misfortune into an opportunity to create an interpretive forest that will benefit the entire community.

Last year, a fire burned 866 hectares within the Lake Enid Demonstration Forest. The burned area also came very close to a popular recreation area on Lake Enid.



It looked like a tragedy in 1994, but district staff have turned the Lake Enid fire into a community education opportunity.

Rather than mourn the loss, district staff saw an opportunity to build a new asset. The resulting rehabilitation plan is the most intensive ever undertaken by the Forest Service, said project coordinator Richard Dominy, district silviculturist. It

calls for replacing the demonstration forest with an interpretive forest encompassing the burn site.

"With the burned area being so close to town, this was seen as a great opportunity," said Dominy.

He also credited the decision to "overwhelming" public interest. When the district offered tours of the fire site last fall, the response surprised everyone. Eager participants wanted to know about the plans for the area, its ecology, how the Forest Service fought the fire and more.

Although the tours have continued ever since, the rehabilitation plan will make it possible for many questions to be answered without the presence of a tour guide.

A 20-hectare research site within walking distance of the Lake Enid recreation area will be used to demonstrate the various treatments used to rehabilitate the fire area. The research site will provide, in effect, a miniature replica of the entire area.

The rehabilitation plan addresses timber salvage, wildlife needs, range use, costs of native and non-native species, and methods of pest control. Other features include converting some fire access roads and guards into trails for mountain bikes.

Throughout development of the plan, public consultation has been a key aspect. District staff hosted a booth at a local trade show to solicit input, and copies of the draft plan have been circulated for comment.

FOCUS INVERMERE FOREST DISTRICT

Like many other districts around the province, Invermere marked National Forest Week with a number of events, including a pancake breakfast to promote forestry awareness.

Technicians Dave Bartlett (r) and Sue Crowley (c) and Financial Services Supervisor Betty Lazette-Bergen pitch in on the grill.



Invermere ahead with total resource plans

A little foresight six years ago has given Invermere district a substantial head start in implementing the provisions of the Forest Practices Code.

Back in 1989 the district began to incorporate many of the same integrated management values that are now required under the code.

"It's been district policy that we approve total resource plans (TRPs) prior to harvesting or road building," said Sharon Robertson, operations manager for resource planning and land information. "We expect the TRPs will fill the code requirements of landscape unit plans."

TRPs address land-use issues and forestry practices for an entire drainage basin and outline

harvesting allowances over 80 to 100 years. They identify which areas will be cut or protected, provide measures to protect habitat and range, and plan for access and visual impacts. "The plans optimize timber harvest and other values," said Robertson.

So far, more than 60 TRPs have been completed, covering two-thirds of the district. The remaining 30 should be completed this year.

Robertson credited the personal conviction of District Manager Serg Pereverzoff, who embraced the principles of integrated resource management when they were still in their infancy. However, she added the district could not have accomplished the results to date with-

Trial to identify strategy to fight root rot

The Invermere forest district is conducting several trials this summer to learn how to restrict the spread of Armillaria root rot.

The trials, to be done on four sample sites, will measure the effect of push-over logging (uprooting the trees) as a means of controlling the spread of the disease. The main concern is the effects of soil disturbance and compaction.

Root rot has been a problem in the district — and many others in the south central and southeast area of the province — for decades. But its seriousness became evident only after researchers noticed its impact on new growth in areas harvested 30 or 40 years ago.

"Root rot has existed for 15,000 years," said Emile Begin, forest health officer. "It's more of a concern now because we are more intensively managing the forest. Logging done 30 to 40 years ago may actually have increased the spread of root rot." "Since 1979 we've been identifying more

of it and realizing the impacts and the need to treat it much more seriously."

Research to date has shown that in an undisturbed forest, root rot typically spreads to surrounding plants at a rate of five to 15 centimetres a year. In areas harvested using traditional methods, the rate increases to as much as three meters a year.

The impacts on forest productivity have also become clear. An uncontaminated site supports 800 to 1,400 trees per hectare, compared to 400 to 800 in afflicted areas. The problem is magnified in volume comparisons: a healthy forest will yield 250 to 400 cubic metres of wood per hectare; root rot infected areas generate only 60 to 200 cubic meters.

Of the district's 200,000 hectares, 50,000 are infected, and the problem is worse in areas that were previously harvested.

From a forest management perspective, that puts the district between a rock and a hard place. Under the provisions of the Forest Practices Code, forest productivity must be maintained. At the same time, planners have to incorporate all resource values — such as wildlife habitat and the overall health of the forest — into all harvesting permits.

"We need to find the balance between an acceptable level of root rot and soil disturbance," said Begin.

Supported by Nelson region research staff and Crestbrook Forest Industries, the district has established four trial areas. Three will be harvested using various methods and one will be left as a control site.

Begin said he hopes to have results on the degree of soil disturbance by fall, to be incorporated into next year's harvesting prescriptions. Long-term impacts — reforestation, mortality and productivity — will not become clear for 10 to 15 years.

National Forest Week

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A cash prize of \$75 went to the Bulkley Valley Christian School Grade 2 class, while the Walnut Park Elementary School Grade 3 class claimed \$50 for third.

CAMPBELL RIVER

People turned out in droves for their free cedar seedlings at the Comox Town Hall — courtesy of the Campbell River forest district.

The district provides more trees each year (3,000 this year), but it's never enough, says

100 MILE HOUSE

District staff transformed the local curling rink into a meandering discovery trail, complete with trees and 18 interactive displays contributed by the district and other local organizations.

For three days, local school children and the community checked out everything from rainbow trout fry in a large fish-tank to an exhibit on how to plant trees. There was even a Jeopardy game, with teams answering forestry trivia questions for prizes.

tractors, who volunteered their time to plant a cutblock and donated the proceeds. They also joined forces to help all Grade 5 students in the district with their annual tree-planting effort.

FORT NELSON

District staff treated 1,000 school children — almost a quarter of the town's population — to a hike through the 300-hectare Fort Nelson community forest. Hotdogs, cookies and Smokey Bear greeted the children at the end of the 45-minute walk.

The focus was on ecosystems and on the importance of managing the forest. And if accompanying the groups of 25 children from Grades 7 and under wasn't enough for the brave forest officers, they also faced some challenging questions, such as "What about tree diseases?"

"We've been trying to get out into the community more, to get people to see the whole picture, and forests as more than just places for logging," says **Annette Bailey**, land information management operator. "It's working. They're using the knowledge and coming up with their own questions."

NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST WINNER

In the Prince Rupert forest region, school children amply demonstrated their artistic talent in the provincial and national poster contests.

Coordinated by Prince Rupert forest region GIS Technician **Loretta Kent**, entries from the region won three of the four top prizes at the provincial level.

All three were entered in the national contest, and **Jennifer Byron**, of Bulkley Valley Christian School in Smithers, took first place in the junior category (Grades 4 to 6).

Kelsey Bareham of Signal Hill School in Pemberton, who won first in B.C., placed second in the national contest.



The ever popular Smokey Bear was on hand at a daycare centre in Fort Nelson to help judge a coloring contest.

Maddalena Di Iorio Dunn, district planner. She attributes the growing success of the annual event to concern about local development.

"So many trees are being taken down as subdivisions go in," she says, "and this is seen as a way of balancing that." This year's urban forest theme was especially fitting.

The district also held an open house and provided seedlings for Boy Scout planting activities — 1,000 fir and cedar for the Comox group and 500 white pine for Gold River.

MERRITT

Merritt district staff hosted an evening with **Dr. Patrick Moore**, a director with the Forest Alliance of B.C. and chair of its Forest Practices Committee. Close to 100 people attended to hear Dr. Moore speak on "ecology, politics and clearcutting."

The district also staged a poster contest for children aged 10 to 12. Six winners will attend Silver Lake Forestry Camp this summer. Funds for the summer camp and other National Forest Week activities were raised by district staff, local licensee staff and con-

Bingo decides Lakes woodlot licences

The Lakes forest district has adopted a novel approach to stave off perceptions of bias in allocating new woodlot licences.

As part of the government commitment to double woodlot licences, the Lakes district will award 14 new licences this year. Together with a consultant, staff identified 24 tracts of land which qualified under the program.

The task was then to select which 14 would be eligible for further evaluation leading to a licence.

The potential for controversy lies in the location of an area, which can give — or be seen to give — an advantage to owners of nearby land.

Lakes district staff learned from other districts' experiences, which included accusations of a biased selection process.



Lakes district Woodlot Forester Alison Patch and Regional Manager Jim Snetsinger took over the Kinsmen Club's bingo machine to decide woodlot licences.

To prevent similar criticism, District Manager **Bill Brinnen** proposed that all 24 eligible tracts be put into a hat, from which the 14 would be chosen. But for

the draw itself, staff used a more novel approach. They borrowed a bingo machine from the local Kinsmen Club and assigned bingo numbers to each of the 24 woodlots.

Brinnen and Regional Manager **Jim Snetsinger** made the draw during National Forest Week.

To everyone's delight and satisfaction, the 14 woodlots came out evenly distributed throughout the district.

After further review by other land management agencies, the woodlot licences will be advertised later this year and awarded by March 31, 1996.

— *Submitted by Alison Patch, woodlot forester, Lakes forest district*

New technology revitalizes forests kiosks

A major overhaul of the Forest Service's Touch Your Forests display is keeping the popular attraction at the forefront of current technology.

The Touch Your Forests kiosks have been completely rebuilt, using state-of-the-art Macintosh Powerbook technology and award-winning design and manufacturing expertise. As well, new versions of the interactive program are being developed for CD ROM and the Internet.

The all-new kiosks measure seven centimeters thick and weigh only 42 kilograms, including the carrying case. The backlit viewing area measures 137 centimetres (9.5 inches) diagonally and displays thousands of colors in high contrast. The kiosk also features stereo speakers and CD-quality sound.



New information has also been integrated into the displays. One new section outlines the Forest Practices Code. Another, tentatively called "The Life Cycle of a

.....
The new Touch Your Forests kiosks measure less than two inches thick.
.....

Managed Tree," is being modelled after the research branch's highly successful program, Fred's Forest.

Of the three new kiosks purchased, one is destined for BC House in London, England; another will spend the summer at the forest museum in Duncan; and the

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Business as usual for TSR

The timber supply review is still moving full steam ahead even though Chief Forester **Larry Pedersen** announced in April that he was recommending a one-year extension to complete the project. Since the minister accepted the recommendation, Forest Service staff have released two more AAC determinations, timber supply analyses, public discussion papers and socio-economic analyses.

"The extension is the result of a number of unavoidable factors and events," said Pedersen. "But it certainly doesn't translate into a shift in focus. The TSR remains one of the ministry's top priorities."

The decision to extend the deadline wasn't easy, he admitted.

"District, regional and Victoria staff have put enormous effort into this project and they have made significant progress, but still I wasn't sure that I would be able to determine the remaining 48 AACs before

the end of 1995 and I wasn't prepared to ignore a legislated deadline," Pedersen explained.

Over the past three months, Pedersen has attended 11 AAC (UPDATE) determination meetings around the province. In some weeks he has attended two meetings — quite a gruelling schedule given that they last two days and the chief forester is the only staff member who must attend every meeting.

Although there are still 48 AACs to be announced, Pedersen is optimistic that the brunt of the work will be completed by the end of this year. In fact, the amended *Forest Act* will require that all timber supply analyses — a major component of the review — for tree farm licences and timber supply areas be completed by the end of the year.

"This is not an unrealistic goal. In terms of the TSAs, we've already released 30 timber supply analyses and 28 public dis-

cussion papers and socio-economic analyses. That leaves only seven timber supply analyses and nine discussion papers and socio-economic analyses," Pedersen noted.

"At this point, we anticipate all but 16 determinations will be completed by the original deadline. This means 54 of 70 AAC decisions will be completed by the end of this year. This is nothing short of remarkable and the success can be attributed to the many Forest Service staff who worked on, and support, this initiative."

Despite the gruelling schedule, a change in chief foresters and a one-year extension, the timber supply review continues to meet its original objective of completing a comprehensive review and updating both the TFLs and TSAs in the province.

— Submitted by **Karen Brandt**,
public affairs branch

Touch Your Forests

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third can be booked through headquarters for temporary exhibits.

The popularity of the Touch Your Forests display also convinced the Forest Service to enlist the support of BC Systems Corporation to develop a CD ROM version. The project taps laser disk technology, which enables text, photos, video and animation to be stored on a disk similar to an audio CD and played back on CD ROM-equipped PCs.

Along with the Touch Your Forests information, the CD version includes 100 photos showing different aspects of forestry in B.C. and an interactive version of *The Tree Book*. The disks, expected to be available later this summer, will

be distributed to a wide audience.

An audience of millions world-wide will soon be able to touch B.C.'s forests from the comfort of their homes or offices. In cooperation with BCSC and the Camosun College computer co-op program, the Forest Service is developing a version for the Internet. Subscribers can expect to see it on the 'Net this fall.

Although the old Touch Your Forests kiosks may be technologically obsolete, they are still an effective means of promoting B.C. forestry. The units will be featured at several locations this summer, including the Queen of the North, the B.C. ferry which travels the Inside Passage.

For more information on Touch Your Forests, call **Steve Hunt**, silviculture branch, at 387-8916.

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