



Claude Richmond gets Forests portfolio

Claude Richmond, MLA for Kamloops, was appointed Minister of Forests on November 1, replacing Dave Parker, who moves over to Crown Lands.

"Claude Richmond has always taken a keen interest in forestry," said Deputy Minister Ben Marr.

Richmond has served as Minister of Social Services and Housing for the past three years.

In 1988 he was appointed Government House Leader.

His first appointment to Cabinet was in 1982, as Minister of Tourism — just one year after winning the provincial by-

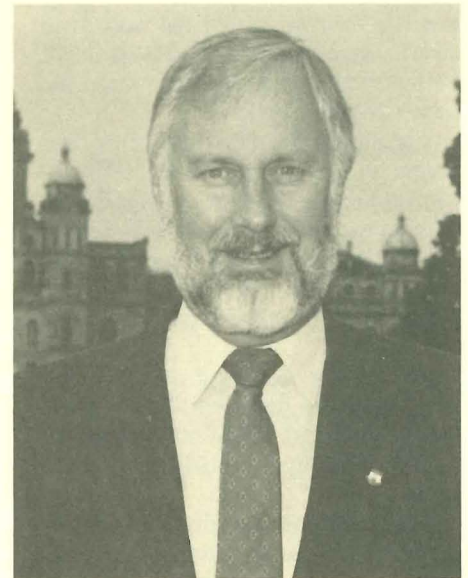
election in the Kamloops constituency.

Two months after joining cabinet, he was also appointed Minister Responsible for Expo '86.

Richmond currently sits on five cabinet committees:

- Planning and Priorities;
- Environment and Land Use;
- Regional and Economic Development;
- Legislation and Regulations (vice-chairman); and,
- Privatization.

He was born in Blue River, B.C., on August 3, 1935.



Claude Richmond takes over as new Forests Minister.

Deputy Minister Ben Marr will be missed

Deputy Minister Ben Marr is leaving the Forest Service on November 30 to follow new opportunities as regional manager of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

"It was a hard decision to make," Marr said. "But it was an opportunity I wanted to take — I won't get many more."

"One of the things I've enjoyed most in my three years with the Forest Service, was having the chance to travel around B.C. and exchange ideas with staff — to make a difference — during recent presentations.

"I will make every effort to complete the presentations before I leave," Marr said. "However, the employee communications program will continue to work, as long as staff show they want it. They should keep pushing the executive for the information they need."

"Some of the presentations have been very lively, and I don't think our staff need any advice from me. They are already keen on being part of the Forest Service. Being allowed to take part in major policy changes was also gratifying. We had to get our house in order and deal with issues such as the stumpage system and added value in the Small Business



Ben Marr will miss Forest Service but has new roads to travel on.

Forest Enterprise Program. I think we have really changed direction in the last few years.

"The issues now coming to the fore, are more about the land base, the environment and public awareness. These are difficult issues but they have to be faced."

"To face the issues of the day, our systems and processes must be flexible and fast — not rigid and tied down."

"We don't have time in today's world for Royal Commissions — where after five years you may find that the wrong questions were asked. With the perma-

nent Forest Resources Commission, we can ask questions and get answers when the issues are upon us. As the issues change, we can pose new questions. It has more flexibility than a Royal Commission.

"Our new Policy and Planning branch is also crucial for our ability to speak in a single voice," Marr said. "I have a strong sense that we are a vital organization that wishes to be progressive. But we lacked a sense of the big picture. The new branch can play a key role in developing a strategy and mission."

Marr leaves Victoria with the distinction of being the longest-serving deputy minister presently working for the provincial government.

He started with the B.C. Water Resources Service in 1960, and became its deputy minister in 1974.

"I've always seen myself as a public servant first," Marr said. "I've tried to maintain high standards, as opposed to concerning myself with the political changes that take place. I have a central core of belief in the public service as a meaningful career. As long as you feel that being in the public service is a meaningful purpose in life, things will work out just fine."

Districts pull B.C. through busy fire season

Heavy lightning storms made the 1989 forest fire season one of the busiest in Forest Service history. There were 3,511 fires reported by October 15, when the season officially ended.

It was the third-highest number of fires reported in any season since 1950 — about 1,000 more than the average 2,590.

However, the area burned was held to 22 358 hectares — much lower than the average of 95 000. This was because 95 per cent of all fires were put out within a few hours.

"Most of our success this year is due to the vigor and excellent organization of forest districts' initial attack crews," said **Jim Dunlop**, director, protection branch.

"Nearly 90 per cent of the fires this year were put out by district 'firetack' crews."

"District crews are the first and most important line of defence in our fire suppression program," Dunlop said. They are the backbone."

"Our success rate is the envy of other

firefighting organizations in Canada.

"Even though we have the toughest terrain, and the highest number of fires in the country, our costs, per fire, and the number of hectares burned, are the lowest."

Costs for fire suppression this year reached \$64 million. This compares favorably to 1985 when \$127 million was spent fighting 3,603 fires.

After the bills have been paid, and equipment cleaned and put away, Forest Service protection staff can reminisce about the season.

But they will be busy this winter, fine-tuning their preparedness for the 1990 season.

One of the projects to be analyzed is the Smoke Plume Evaluation and Modelling project.

A prescribed burn was monitored in Vernon this fall to gather data which will help predict and control smoke from prescribed burns.

Sophisticated equipment, including an airborne laser, video cameras, infra-red scanners and in-ground thermometers, took

fine measurements of the forest fuels, before and after the fire, of air particles and gases, forest fuels, wind, temperature and the smoke plume itself.

Peter Fuglem, planning, development and research manager, protection branch, said there will also be some fine-tuning of the Advanced Fire Management system, which has been gradually implemented over the last three years.

"It is designed to take massive amounts of information and present it graphically," Fuglem said.

"It's important for everyone to look at the same information."

Displays include fire behavior and fire occurrence prediction, forest cover types and value and lightning.

"This year we will increase the capability to include hourly information, and we now have the system on desktop computers, which gives us more speed as well as printing ability."

"Next year we will also have an animated satellite image of the weather," Fuglem said.

Native land ethics to be addressed

The Forest Service will sponsor a booth at the National Native Forestry Symposium's exhibition, at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre on November 22 - 24.

Dennis McPhail, timber tenures and Indian affairs forester, timber harvesting branch, and **Graham Archdekin**, Small Business Forest Enterprise Program policy officer, will offer information on Forest Service programs to delegates.

For more information contact: The Intertribal Forestry Association of B.C. at 769-4499.

S. Moresby plans in the works

Plans for the \$24-million South Moresby Forest Replacement Account (SMFRA), created to help offset timber supply reduction from the creation of South Moresby National Park, were the topic of conversation during an open house in Queen Charlotte City on August 30.

Hosting the open house, were **John Cuthbert**, chief forester and SMFRA management committee co-chairman, and **John Drew**, regional director-general, Forestry Canada.

"We were there to listen," said Cuthbert. "I spent the whole time talking to people from local businesses, the native

community and the local forest industry." About 60 people attended.

"Essentially, they wanted some assurance that local people will get the chance to bid on contracts for work carried out under SMFRA, and that as much work as possible, be done on the Charlottes," Cuthbert said.

"Local officials would like more long-term contracts. It will give island contractors more security too."

Both Cuthbert and Drew emphasized the tremendous potential for forestry on the Charlottes.

"The Charlottes are our best forestry opportunity in Canada," Drew said. "Our challenge is to share the vision of that opportunity. But this opportunity can't be imposed by government. It's ultimately a community vision, supported by the expertise of our technical foresters."

Of the South Moresby agreements, SMFRA is the only one actually being carried out, Cuthbert said.

The plans will be implemented by the Forest Service's Vancouver region and the Queen Charlotte Islands district.

Demonstrations end in discussion

Members of several environmental organizations, held rallies outside Forest Service offices in Victoria, and the Vancouver, Nelson and Kamloops regions on October 24.

In Victoria, the groups were invited to talk with members of the executive about their concerns, which included clearcutting, public involvement in for-

estry, the allowable annual cut, and the ability of Forest Service staff to monitor the forest industry in B.C.

Deputy Minister **Ben Marr**, and Chief Forester **John Cuthbert**, met with the representatives as well as the media.

Further meetings with members of the various groups, are expected to be held in the future.

Rescuer credits FS check-in system

It wasn't really quick thinking, but thinking along the right channels that helped **Blake Fougere** rescue three helicopter crash victims from the waters of Ramsay Arm, 75 kilometres north of Powell River, on September 9.

Blake, Sunshine Coast forest district fire control officer, credits the Forest Service's air operations safety check-in system. It made him aware that the helicopter had not checked in, and might be in trouble.

The day of the rescue, a joint industry-Forest Service herbicide program was being conducted in the Bute Inlet-Ramsay Arm area.

Blake was responsible for the half-hour, air-to-ground radio checks during the operation, and volunteered to continue the job after the herbicide project was finished.

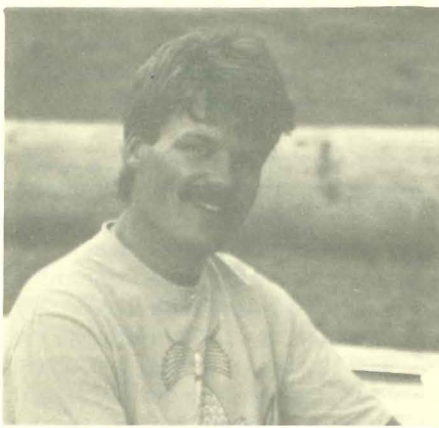
A half-hour went by, and the helicopter pilot did not make contact. After several failed attempts to get the pilot on the radio, Blake requested an aircraft to assist in a search.

At the Quatam River Camp, Blake and the camp watchman used a battery from a pickup truck to start the engine in a small boat, then headed up Ramsay Arm to search for the helicopter.

Meanwhile, the helicopter had gone down, mid-channel, in Ramsay Arm. The pilot and one passenger got out of the machine, but the other man was trapped.

With a dislocated shoulder, the pilot dove back into the helicopter, freed the passenger's foot, and got him out of the machine just before it sank.

The water was extremely cold and it



Blake Fougere helped save a life.

was several hundred metres to shore. Unfortunately, the passenger who was freed by the pilot, could not swim. He stayed afloat with a seat cushion, while the pilot and other passenger did what they could to offer encouragement.

After half an hour, they began to lose the feeling in their arms and legs. The two men who could swim, feared for their own lives and swam to shore, keeping watch on the man still in the water.

When Blake and the watchman arrived at the scene, the men on shore were yelling and pointing them toward the spot where the other passenger was floating.

After several minutes, Blake and the watchman found him — on his back, with his arms around the seat cushion. He was still breathing, but did not respond to Blake's voice.

They pulled him into the boat, and Blake immediately began to warm him up, enveloping him like a cocoon. The watchman picked up the other two men

on shore. On the way back to the camp, Blake kept talking to the man who was suffering from hypothermia, to keep him awake.

The three men were put on the plane which had been requested earlier, and flown to Campbell River.

The next day, hospital staff told Blake that the passenger who had been rescued from the water was lucky, and thankful to be alive.

As the above events unfolded, Search and Rescue was notified of an overdue aircraft. But due to Blake's alertness and initiative, a costly search-and-rescue operation was not required.

A letter of commendation was given to Blake by Sunshine Coast District Manager **Barry Mountain**, and the Forest Service can not give enough praise to Blake for his actions.

He took charge when he suspected a problem, got an old boat running, and was instrumental in saving a life. Blake, we take our hats off to you.

— submitted by **Barry Miller**,
Sunshine Coast forest district

Staff pinned for their safety

Have you worked five, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years without a time-loss injury? If so, you are eligible for an individual safety award lapel pin and certificate.

If you have worked 30 or 35 years without a time-loss injury, you will receive a laser-carved plaque.

Thirty-four Quesnel forest district staff, were the first to receive their individual safety award pins for five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years with no time-loss injuries.

Gordon Hawkey, operations manager, forestry, and **Adolph Jede**, resource assistant, timber, topped the list as the two 25-year-award recipients.

Quesnel staff were also presented with the B.C. Safety Council Gold Award for having achieved 179,226 time-loss, accident-free person hours, starting in January 1987.

Doug Flintoff, district manager, praised his staff for their commitment to safety and encouraged everyone to continue their participation.

Reunion mixes old and new

'Oldtimers' were awed and amazed at the advancement of air-attack technology when they attended the first Kamloops Air Operations Reunion (1958 - 1989), on September 22-23. About 160 past and present staff gathered to renew old acquaintances and swap stories about fighting forest fires from the air. All had worked at the Kamloops base at some point in their careers.

The gathering included Forest Service notables, **Stan Nolkes**, 85, and **Art Kirk**, 82.

Participants who remembered the days of Super Cub birdog aircraft and Steerman and TBM air tankers, were particularly impressed by a DC-6 airtanker and Aerostar birdog aircraft demonstration.

An open house with photos and news clippings displayed, brought back many fond memories.

Judging from the success of the reunion, organized by **Mac Morrow**, future get-togethers are a strong possibility.

— submitted by **Bruce Noble**,
Kamloops Air Operations

District manager gets feet wet fast

Almost five months ago, **Bronwen Beedle** was appointed Fort Nelson district manager. We caught up with Bronwen after the busy forest fire season, to find out more about who she is, and how she views her new role.

FS: You probably didn't have time to ease into your position. What has that done for you?

Beedle: In retrospect, it was probably the best way to learn a lot of things very fast. It gave me a better appreciation of my staff, the complexities and size of the district and the logistics of moving people and equipment.

I got to see a lot of the district in a short time because not all fires were in one area.

It was definitely a challenge and an exciting way to begin. Staff here were worth their weight in gold. All fires were actioned and things went smoothly, due to their knowledge of the area and their willingness to pitch in.

Not all of my time was spent on fires, however. I did manage to get out and see the range resource. The foothills and mountain country are beautiful.

I spent quite a bit of time in helicopters, looking at the status of silviculture in the district, particularly along the river bottom lands.

FS: In the past you have worked as a lands manager and district lands manager for the provincial government. How do these compare to your present position?

Beedle: Some similarities and some differences exist. The first difference is the size of the organization. Fort Nelson forest district office deals with more programs and has a larger staff than either of the offices I was in with Lands. My new position is more administrative, but that may be due to a change in times, policy and administration procedures, and the advent of computers in all offices. Computers and decentralization in both organizations has greatly changed operating procedures. Although field inspections are an integral part of the workload, the planning function has become more important.

FS: What do you enjoy most about being district manager in Fort Nelson?

Beedle: I like the people, the decision-making responsibility, and the ability, for the most part, to choose the days I go out into the field.

I try to go out once a week, and being able to choose the bright sunny days is a definite plus. The country up here is beautiful and varied. The variety of programs also precludes dull moments.

FS: How has your seven years experience as a forester prepared you for the position of district manager?

Beedle: I worked for industry for seven years, but I have been a registered professional forester since 1976.

The combination of industry and government experience provided me with a valuable insight as to how both sides of the coin operate.

It gave me a better understanding of how industry operates, where their priorities lie, and the frustrations that result when there is poor communication between a company and the Forest Service.

FS: Do you believe in a particular style of management, having received your masters degree in business administration last year?

Beedle: I don't think one acquires a certain style of management by being a business school graduate. It does give new insight into managing different situations, the new techniques and opportunities available for promoting personal development of individual staff, negotiating skills and problem-solving methods.

Many of the management principles I use are based on experience. Graduate work fine tuned them — particularly my people management skills.

FS: Is being the first woman district manager something you have to take into consideration sometimes?

Beedle: Respect for a manager has to be earned regardless of sex. The extent of my past work experience, along with my education, has certainly been a plus in this case.

I would be lying if I said that being a woman district manager is not a factor to be considered.

Sometimes you have to approach a situation or problem a little differently because you know it will be more acceptable.

To sum it all up, I like my job, it is challenging and interesting.

The people are friendly, young, enthusiastic and a pleasure to work with. We are looking forward to a period of planning and organization.

The joke is on Jim

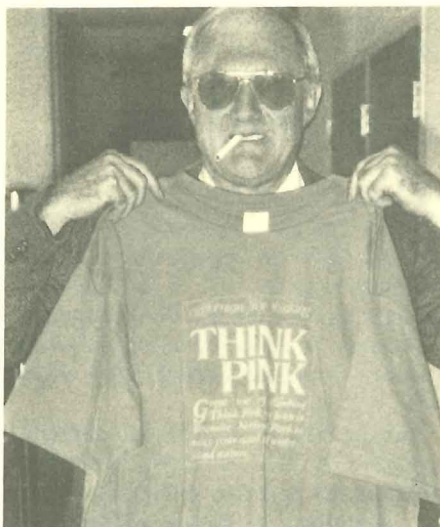
He suggested it. Now he's wearing it.

Jim Dunlop, protection branch director, is sporting a hot-pink, glow-in-the-dark T-shirt these days.

Jim quietly suggested that pink might be a good color for Forest Service uniforms, at a meeting last May, when several women were present at discussions about a "uniform" committee. He hadn't counted on everyone in the room hearing his suggestion. In recognition of his good taste and contemporary attitudes, he was given a prototype T-shirt at the executive committee meeting on September 5.

The executive are grateful for Jim's suggestion, and expect his staff to take the lead in assessing his new uniform.

— submitted by **Sylvia Pang**, executive correspondent



Jim Dunlop shows his new fashion line.

New Zealand the flip-side of B.C.

John Cuthbert, chief forester, probably didn't expect to find himself hitch-hiking in the dark, with other Commonwealth Forestry Conference delegates in Rotorua, New Zealand, this September, but when their rental car broke down late one evening, they tried to hitch a ride — on the wrong side of the road.

"The people were really friendly, and, of course, they stopped to let us know we were on the wrong side of the road," Cuthbert said. "It wasn't hard to get a ride."

Canada had one of the largest delegations at this year's conference, with more than 15 representatives, including John Drew, regional director-general, Forestry Canada, Peter Pearse, University of British Columbia, Tom Hall, manager, recreation section, integrated resources branch, as well as Cuthbert.

"There was a lot of discussion about forestry as a multi-use enterprise, and how that's working throughout the world," Cuthbert said.

"We found that B.C. is not alone in terms of the issues. There were many parallels, such as urban/rural conflicts in

forest resource use, especially with Australia."

"There were some thoughtful and controversial papers presented," Cuthbert said. "The papers given by Canadian delegates were among the best. For example, Tom gave a thoughtful paper on how we in B.C., integrate the recreation resource."

Because Rotorua is the centre of the major area of commercial coniferous plantations in New Zealand, delegates had the opportunity to tour the country's largest exotic forests and wood processing plants.

"Forestry in New Zealand is about as opposite from B.C. as you can get," Cuthbert said.

"They have highly productive volcanic soils and most of the trees for industrial use are grown in plantations."

"Their main species, *Pinus radiata* (Radiata pine) has been grown on plantations for 100 years," Cuthbert said. "It only takes them 30 years to grow 55-centimetre trees that yield 800 to 1 000 metres per hectare. The very best site we have, just touches this."

"In new Zealand, 10 million cubic metres of wood is produced each year from just 1.2 million hectares of forest," Cuthbert said. "In B.C., our allowable annual cut of 72 million cubic metres comes from a 26 million hectares. By the year 2010, New Zealand's production will increase to 25 million cubic metres."

New Zealand and B.C. are also different when it comes to forest management.

"Unlike B.C., where forests are managed for integrated resource use, in New Zealand the indigenous forests are managed for recreation and Maori cultural uses, while plantations are managed for the forest industry," Cuthbert said. "Our forests are much more complex — but their solution fits their situation."

In New Zealand, there are no restrictions on the export of logs, and their timber harvesting methods are "crude" by B.C. standards, Cuthbert said.

"The machines they use now for harvesting, were used years ago in B.C."

Overall, Cuthbert found that B.C. has a lot more credibility in forestry outside of the province, than inside.

Merry Creek's a happy watershed

by Dale Anderson, Nelson Forest Region

MERRY CREEK — Castlegar

It began with a classic pattern: a lumber company applied to harvest timber in a 'consumptive-use' watershed and water users objected.

A petition was circulated. It requested that water, recreation, and historic values in the watershed be protected. Numerous individuals and groups pressed the Forest Service to modify the harvesting plans.

The area's important features were identified by local citizens, who continued to stress the need for careful planning and preservation of critical sites.

"It took a lot of work, but timber harvesters, government officials, water users and naturalists all provided input to the new plan," said Harry Killough, a long-time resident and member of the Blueberry-China-Merry Creek Watershed Committee. As part of the proposal, 109 hectares of land have been designated a Forest Service Recreation Reserve to protect significant historical, geological, and ecological values.

"Integrated watershed planning requires effort and a cooperative approach by all parties," Killough said. "I see this as an



Ted Evans in the recreation reserve.

Photo: Dave Fitchett

example of what can happen when people work together."

So far, an interpretive trail has been constructed; five-and-a-half kilometres of hiking trails have been completed; a pit toilet was built; and, other measures were taken to protect water quality.

Harvesting from eight cut-blocks will soon begin, using both clearcutting and selective cutting, under visual management guidelines.

Harvesting will not occur within the interpretive trail and recreation reserve.

Tours can be arranged through Dave Fitchett at the Arrow forest district office.

— submitted by Ted Evans, correspondent

Port McNeill staff show hidden talent

by Bill Pearson, Port McNeill forest district.

Port McNeill forest district staff went "all out" at the annual Mount Waddington Regional District Fall Fair, to portray a Danish family homestead in the unforgiving Cape Scott wilderness on Vancouver Island's northwest tip.



Cape Scott exhibit was fun and rewarding to make.

Like most forest districts, we find it difficult to participate in all local events, because of limited resources.

Each volunteer had a specific job. I painted a huge backdrop of Cape Scott and the Pacific Ocean. The "grunt" boys in the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program, built a partial log cabin.

Bill Perry gathered the "forage" and other materials needed to pull the project together.

Brenda Fleeton, got the most onerous task of finding a life-size horse that wouldn't require a scoop shovel.

That's when the fun began.

Her phone inquiries received a range of responses, from a loud "click" to minutes-long laughter.

Brenda lucked in when she followed-up a lead on a horse seen in front of a tack-and-feed shop near Cassidy airport.

The outcome was a great success.

Our exhibit won second prize in the semi-commercial category.

The Forest Service gained considerable "PR" mileage on this project, and plans are underway to participate in the fair again next year.

Communities get into forestry

To date, agreements have been signed for 22 projects funded under the new \$5-million community forestry program to improve the value and growth of immature forests on Crown and municipal lands.

The projects, funded 75 per cent by the province and 25 per cent by local or regional governments, are estimated to create about 750 short-term jobs.

They include work such as tree thinning, spacing, pruning and brushing, to upgrading hiking trails such as the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail.

Total costs for each project are:

100 Mile House - \$100,000; Quesnel - \$532,315; Williams Lake - \$222,000; Clinton - \$42,600; Columbia/Shuswap - \$1,127,172; Central Okanagan - \$614,174; Kamloops - \$460,018; Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band - \$34,022; East Kootenay - \$360,720; Mount Waddington - \$302,407; Nakusp - \$76,560; Mackenzie District - \$250,600; Kiti-mat-Stikine - \$362,000; Smithers - \$83,445; Sechelt District - \$220,677; Central Coast - \$102,635; Greater Vancouver - \$426,590; Midway - \$177,533; Zeballos - \$46,635; Campbell River District - \$149,270; Sayward - \$317,000; Gold River - \$71,044.

Forest Service staff do well in local community events

Not only did the float from the Skimikin Nursery and Seed Orchard win first prize in the Salmon Arm fall parade, it carried students from every school in Shuswap School District 89, from as far away as Falkland, Sicamous and Enderby.

They had a hoot throwing candy at an enthusiastic crowd, while nursery staff handed out forestry hats and 850 container trees donated by Kalamalka Research Centre.

The senior citizens had their hands out just as often as the children. Not one bag of trees was left by the end of the parade. At least 850 trees were probably planted in B.C. after the parade on September 16.

— submitted by Elaine Hadath,
Skimikin Nursery

The extra efforts of a group of Morice forest district staff paid off when their entry in the first annual Houston Trade Show took first prize on September 15.

Discover Houston '89, sponsored by the Houston and District Chamber of Commerce was a sell out. The district display won a blue ribbon for excellence as the top entry in the recreation division.

Operations Manager Rod DeBoice, led the team of staff members who worked "above and beyond" the call of duty to put together a top-quality display. It included information on integrated resources management and advanced fire management.

— submitted by Al Gorley,
Morice forest district

Larch cone motherlode found

This August, the Penticton forest district reaped its first successful Larch cone harvest in 12 years.

An estimated 2.5 million cones were collected, and should yield 25.1 million seeds. Once planted, the seeds will produce about 8.4 million seedlings for more than 6 700 hectares of land.

The collection is also significant, because it provides an alternate species for controlling Mountain Pine Beetle.

The cones came from two seed zones: Shuswap-Adams and Thompson-Okanagan Dry.

— submitted by Laverne Cormier,
Penticton forest District

FS staff will be the final slogan judges

More entries have come in for the Forest Service slogan challenge.

Suggestions can be submitted to the executive until November 30, when a shortlist will be put together.

But Forest Service staff will be the final judges. You will have a chance to vote for your favorite slogan, when the short-list is published in the next issue.

Here are the latest submissions:

Managing our Forest Legacy
 B.C. Forest Service - Growing Tradition
 B.C. Forest Service - We Do Care!
 B.C. Forests - A Public Commitment
 The Future of the Forests is in Our Hands Today
 Our Forests - Nos Forêts
 FORever ESTablished
 Managing Your Forest Resources
 Forests for All Uses
 Caring for the Forest
 The Forest an Ongoing Resource
 Trees the Future is Now
 B.C. Forests Looking Greener Than Ever

The following are all preceded by BCFS:

A Living Tradition
 Our Living Economy
 Our Growing Economy
 Managing the Future Today
 Looking Forward

Looking Forward to the Future
Our Future is Still Growing
Managing Our Growing Future
Managing Tomorrow's Resources
Today

Managing Our Future
Planting the Seed of Future
Planting the Seed of Prosperity
Your Family Tree
Planting Our Future Today
Managing our Future Prosperity
Planting Our Future
A Canadian Tradition
We're Still Growing Strong
Maintaining the Future
Making Sure the Future is Still Growing
B.C. Forests: For the Benefit of All,
Now and for the Future

Because of
Commitment
Forestry
Stewardship



Survey response much better than expected

Forest Service employees gave a whole-hearted response in completing more than 1,100 staff input surveys.

A summary and analysis of the surveys is now being done by Synergistics Consulting Inc., in Vancouver.

"We expect it will be completed early in January," said **Laura Stringer**, director, public affairs branch.

"I'm sure that everyone is looking forward to the results and we will publish a summary in the newsletter when the analysis is completed."

A permanent, employee communications program committee was appointed by Deputy Minister **Ben Marr** to review the results of the staff input survey and develop an ongoing program.

They are:

- **Laura Stringer** - (Chairperson) - director, public affairs branch;
- **Fred Baxter** - regional manager, Prince George forest region;
- **Ken Pendergast** - district manager, Fort St. John;
- **Les Underwood** - director, technical and administrative services branch; and,
- **Paul Kuster** - district manager, Squamish.

'Fires of the future' slated for meeting

The Northwest Fire Council will hold its annual meeting, November 14-16, at Campbell's Lodge, Chelan, Washington.

This year's program was developed to take a futuristic snapshot of fire management between now and the year 2000.

Five technical sessions will cover individual agency vision, constituent's point of view, research, prevention cooperatives/hazard mitigation planning-urban interface, and wilderness fire management.

For more information contact: **Roger Wallace** at (509)782-1413 or **Grover Payne** at (509)662-4333.

When to "Take Charge of your Career"

Part of the Forest Service's Women's Programs action plan for 1989-90, is to deliver 20 'Taking Charge of Your Career' workshops.

Scheduled courses will be held on the following dates: November 22, 23, and 24, in Victoria.

Courses are proposed for: November 7, 8, and 9, in Prince George; January 16, 17, and 18, in Dawson Creek; early spring-late fall, in Horsefly and Williams Lake; spring in the Kootenays; spring and November, in Kamloops; and, March in Victoria.

The Women's Programs' annual general meeting will be held November 30 at Dunsmuir Lodge in Victoria.

For more information contact your Women's Programs representative, or **Charlene Levis** at 387-1102.

James, not John

Pete Theurer, Jim Whissell, Dawn State and **Ken Minty** are new staff members in the Fort St. James forest district, not the Fort St. John district, as reported in the September issue of the newsletter.

Office-bound staff take to the road

The Forest Service has many parts which interact with one another. In our day-to-day grind, we sometimes lose sight of this bigger picture.

We were fortunate to get a glimpse of how these parts work together on a recent field trip to the Cowichan Lake Research Station and the B.C. Forest Museum in Duncan. We would like to thank **Bob Battles** and financial services branch staff for letting us tag along and share the experience. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the Duncan field trip was priceless.

Along Highway 1, we were awed by scenic deep valleys, past and present farms, and peaks of the Gulf Islands. We saw evidence of the forest industry and its importance in the Duncan forest district. We passed by lumber and shake mills, a small log-home construction company, and the recently privatized Koksilah Nursery.

At the Duncan Museum we picked up **Jack Woods** and **Don Carson**, who work at the Cowichan Lake Research Station.

Jack, a research scientist, was our first guide. He explained several aspects of the forest industry, and pointed out that most of southern Vancouver Island is privately-owned, productive, Douglas-fir forest.

We saw examples of both good and bad forest management practices. For example: trees on one piece of privately-owned land had root rot. We learned that treatment for this disease is extensive and includes overturning the trees' roots to expose them to air. The federal and provincial governments are jointly conducting research on this disease.

We were also shown reforested sites planted in 1980 on Crown land. Here the trees are now 2.4 to 3.6 metres high.

Jack explained that forests in the Duncan

forest district are mostly second-growth.

They were naturally regenerated after the impact of the 1800s timber harvesting boom and a major forest fire.

We were impressed by the scenic Cowichan Lake Research Station. Superintendent **Don Carson** guided us through, with his expertise and humor.

The station has six greenhouses. They contain experimental and operational seedlings in various stages. One greenhouse, sponsored by the Forest Resource Development Agreement, has the only computerized system to censor grafted clonebanks (seedlings) of parent trees selected from natural stands.

We walked through the tree trail, and saw a 500-year-old tree that was missed in the 1800s fire.

Don boasted that most people visit the station for its terrific food. We were not disappointed.

Long-time Heritage Cook House staff, **Al Wilkinson** and **Valerie Brooks**, served us an incredible buffet lunch.

Exploring the facilities on our own, we met **Les Pilcher**, who has maintained the station for more than 20 years.

From our tour of the station we learned a great deal about breeding programs and the important role of research in forest management.

In the afternoon we headed to the B.C. Forest Museum — singing all the way. It was fun, interesting and a must for people of any age.

At the end of the day, organizers presented each of us with a useful information kit and a seedling. But our day didn't stop there. We kept having fun and got to know each other better during dinner . . . and into the evening.

— submitted by **Ann Thompson** and **Jackie Dash**, Public Affairs Branch.

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Make your phone talk

A simple hello won't do.

Hello is just fine when we meet someone on the street, but it isn't enough on the phone.

Your caller wants to be sure he or she has reached the right office.

Give your name. Give your department or office.

Three rings are plenty. Some callers won't wait beyond three rings. Pick up the call on the first or second ring. If you have to dash to another desk to get a call, compose yourself before answering. A breathless response isn't reassuring to anyone.

Source: *Virginia Leader*