

# Newsletter

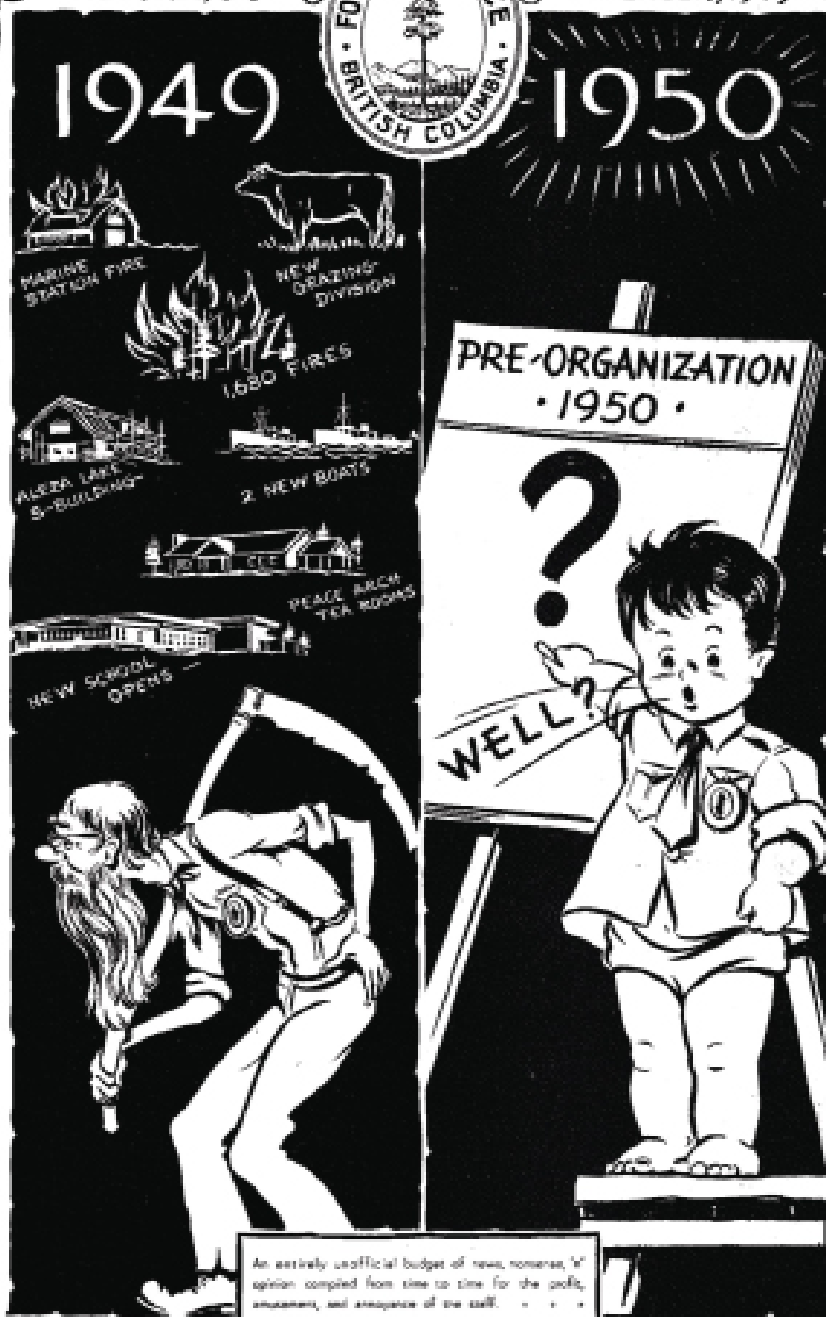
No. 77

Q851

VICTORIA, B.C.

DECEMBER, 1949

DECEMBER, 2009



## 2010

Strategic  
Business  
Transformation  
**MFR**  
what do we  
do?  
what do  
we  
STOP  
doing?



"An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense 'n' opinion compiled from time to time for the profit, amusement and annoyance of the staff..."

### *Forest Service News Advisory Group Vision:*

"True to our proud history, informing the Forest Service family through balanced and timely communication"

## Is Search and Rescue Important to You?

Submitted by John Huybers, Operations Manager, Prince George Forest District

The volunteer Search and Rescue system in British Columbia is something that I was aware of but had taken for granted as something being needed by “someone else.” Recently I became that “someone else” and was very thankful for their dedication, skills and training. Without their efforts I would not be here to write this story.

On the morning of Saturday, October 17, 2009, I was caving with 3 others in Fang Mountain Cave located in the McGregor Mountains 2 hours east of Prince George. It is a 3 km steep uphill hike to the cave entrance. At the entrance we stashed our extra gear including a satellite phone. In my experience of frequenting the cave three times over the past couple of years, I have found the middle entrance not to be a particularly challenging route, but it requires the use of ropes, harness and climbing equipment to negotiate the drops.

We entered the cave at 9:30 am and spent the next 4.5 hours exploring the lower passages. We were working our way back to the surface in the mid afternoon through a passage called the Cork Screw. The name is fitting due to the physical undulating shape of the passageway. It is a 2 meter diameter water formed passage in the limestone that extends vertically for 55

meters in a series of drops and ledges. The route is impassable without a rope and ascenders given the ice that forms that time of year. Two of my caving party members had moved up toward the top of the Cork Screw while I and the last member positioned below me had waited for them to clear the area. As I was ascending the rope I suddenly heard a pop, felt a crush to my chest and remember yelling, “I’m Dead.”



It was approximately 2:00 pm when the 500 kg rock popped from the wall as it grazed my right shoulder with enough force to slam me against the wall and pinned me to the 2 m ledge. At this point, I was unconscious and unaware of the

events that follow for the next 40 minutes. I was now located approximately 125 meters from the mouth of the cave and 20 meters down the Cork Screw.

I later learned that my caving partner had attempted to move the boulder, but was unsuccessful in a couple of attempts. He knew the situation was grave and growing worse by the minute and requested the other members to descend and assist with moving the rock. Adrenaline kicked in and they miraculously rolled the block to the side. I was now lying in a contorted position on the ledge as extremely cold water flowed under and around my body while I moved in and out

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of consciousness with my party members bringing me back each time. I slowly regained consciousness and it was clear that I had extensive injuries to my upper body and would require more than my caving friends to extract me from the cave.

With my core body temperature rapidly dropping we knew it would not take long before the hypothermia would overcome me. To my good fortune another caving group of four was entering the area when they heard the commotion and distress calls. Between my three members and the other group I was supplied with extra clothing, two space blankets and several heat packets to keep me warm as they used their thermos cups to bail and redirect the water flow.

Thankfully the satellite phone had availability and the 911 call was relayed to Prince George RCMP who then notified Prince George Search and Rescue and BC Cave Rescue. Within the hour the first wave of five PG-SAR members along with duffel bags of equipment were loaded onto two helicopters and rushed to beat the pending darkness. They managed to kick the gear out near the mouth of the cave and the pilots unloaded the PG-SAR members in a meadow located above the cave entrance. At the same time a second wave of PG-SAR members were heading to the trail head by vehicle. Over 50 PG-SAR, Northern BC Cave Rescue and neighboring SAR members were mobilized that afternoon and evening.

By 7:30 pm they had set up a rescue hauling system and lowered a stretcher to my position in the cave. Given the tight location and the extent of my injuries a conventional spine board could not be used, but instead they used a flexible K.E.D. to stabilize my body from head to tail bone and then moved me into the stretcher to suspend me vertically for much of the next 25 meter climb through the Cork Screw and up to the cave entrance by midnight with the aide of ropes and a set haul system.

The additional SAR members who had hiked to the cave entrance from the road were preparing for my evacuation down to the road by stretcher and had heated up additional hot water bottles on stoves and

heated up rocks in an open fire to place along my body core to provide additional external heat sources. At this point they were able to provide me with oxygen and it was a welcome relief. At this time, a Buffalo fixed wing aircraft arrived from Comox with four armed forces SAR Technicians who parachuted to the trailhead with additional supplies and equipment with the guidance of aerial flares and emergency lights of an RCMP vehicle.

PG-SAR members decided to move me to a large semi open area in a boulder field approximately 1.5km down the trail in the hope that a night flying SAR Cormorant helicopter could winch me up from this location. This move down the steep, rocky and rugged terrain required super human effort by numerous SAR and the caving party members as they moved my stretcher hand over hand with a belay backup system from above. Every rescuer involved handed the stretcher to the next person sitting beside them with out stretched legs and then ran to the end of the line to do it all over again when I passed by again. This procedure was no simple task due to the cold wet conditions and in complete darkness down the unforgivable terrain as they continued to extend the human chain for 5 hours until I was safely transported to a suitable aircraft pick up location.

It was near this location that the armed forces SAR techs took over the first aid. The cormorant helicopter arrived at 5:00am and in full darkness I was winched into the helicopter and within the hour I was in the hospital ER. I spent the next 3 days in the intensive care unit and 13 days in the hospital recovering from a flailed chest, 10 broken ribs, 2 fractures in the left clavicle, a fractured left scapula, a dislocated right clavicle, and crushed finger tip.

After two weeks of home recovery I returned to work half days with the hope of extending it to full time by the New Year. My experience reinforces my belief that anyone who plays or works in the outdoors may someday also owe their life to one of the 85 SAR associations and nearly 5000 SAR members in BC.



Inside Fang Cave

## 50 Years of Tree Improvement in BC

Submitted by Brian Barber, Director TIB, David Reid, Manager, Seed Production, TIB, Alvin Yanchuk, Forest Genetics, Research Branch and Diane Douglas, TIB

The Forest Service has been involved in tree breeding and related activities for over 50 years! In 1956, Dr. Alan Orr-Ewing initiated a plus tree selection program, the coastal Douglas-fir breeding program, and a provincial seed registration system. These endeavours were aimed at improving the genetic quality of tree seed used for reforestation in BC.

In 1959, industry became involved through the Plus Tree Board, later to become the Tree Improvement Board. This board was comprised of representatives from government, industry and the university. The cooperative effort was essential, given the immense task of selecting plus trees, testing their progeny on a range of planting sites, and establishing seed orchards.

During the 1960's, 15 company and 5 Forest Service seed orchards were established. Many were small and located in areas not conducive to flowering, a consequence of the lack of understanding of climatic requirements for seed orchards at that time. We now take for granted today's best practices, based on past trial and error.

This cooperation among government, industry and

universities on tree improvement continues today under the auspices of the Forest Genetics Council of BC and its many technical Advisory Committees <http://www.fgcouncil.bc.ca/>. Forest genetics research is undertaken on many of BC's commercial tree species. There are over 100 forest tree seed orchards producing seed for different parts of the province managed by the Forest Service and private companies.

To celebrate and recognize the people who have been involved with tree breeding and seed orchards over the past 50 years, 3 get-togethers were held. One group met in Vancouver in October 2008, the second group met at Saanich Seed Orchard, February 2009, and a larger gathering was held at the Cowichan Lake Research Station on September 16. Retirees brought articles, publications, slides, photographs, and told lots of stories with the same passion and enthusiasm as when they were actively involved. Some stories will be formally captured and shared with others as part of the BC Forest Service 100th anniversary in 2012.

"Oldtimers" attending were Gerry Burch, Jenji Konishi, Sven Rasmussen, Rob Bowden-Green, Keith Illingworth, Chris Heaman, Dave Wallinger, Don Grant, Grant Ainscough, Alec Orr-Ewing, John Barker, Mike Meagher, Vlad Korelus, Brian McCutcheon, Don McMullin, Yousry el-Kassaby, Bill Dumont, Art Walker, Ev van Eerden, Ingemar Karlsson, Don Pigott, Cai Hermansen, Harry Pillar, Web Binion, Jack Woods, Don Carson, Dick Kosick and Jim Challenger.



# Land Purchased to Expand the Skimikin Seed Orchard

Submitted by David Reid, Mgr. Seed Production, Tree Improvement Branch

**T**ree Improvement Branch (TIB) is pleased to announce the acquisition of almost 15 hectares of unmanaged farm land to the Skimikin Seed Orchard (SSO) site. The formerly private farm land adjacent to the Skimikin Seed Orchard was purchased to support the need for additional Lodgepole Pine orchards, as identified in the Forest Genetics Council of BC business plan. This new land will be the future home of the new western gall rust naturally resistant Lodgepole pine seed orchard for the Prince George low Seed Planning Unit.

This acquisition represented one of the most significant and complex land acquisitions the BC Forest Service has undertaken in the past two decades. The acquisition process was started in December 2007 and was anticipated to be completed by March 2009, but various regulatory group inspections, approvals and other extenuating circumstances extended the completion to August 2009. Fortunately, in these difficult economic times, funds used to purchase this land were accrued from last fiscal year's (2008-09) MFR budget. Some of the many benefits this new land brings include significant cost and time savings over

traditional land clearing for new orchards, which means faster orchard establishment with improved disease resistant seed being provided years sooner.

Also, by not clearing forest land for the new orchard, carbon emissions were significantly less as the new land is cleared, unmanaged grassland. Skimikin Seed Orchard staff, upon transfer of the ownership in August, immediately began preparing the site and the new orchard was fully planted with 5000 young Lodgepole pine grafted seedlings (that were being grown in a nearby holding bed) by the end of October. This new orchard should start to produce seed within 5 years and eventually will produce enough seed for 7.5 million seedlings per year.

Many thanks go to Skimikin staff Keith Cox and Karen Turner for initiating this project, former TIB Business Operations Manager Keith Thomas, and in particular to Cheryl Wirsz, Real Estate Project Manager, with the Ministry of Forests and Range, Resource Tenures Branch, Real Estate Operations Group, whose involvement was instrumental to the success of this project.

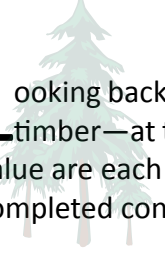


Tree Improvement Branch Director Brian Barber and Skimikin Seed Orchard Manager Keith Cox cut the ceremonial ribbon giving access to start managing the new seed orchard site land behind them. (l to r) Cindy Anderson, Karen Turner, Laurie Farrell (hidden behind Brian) Steven Farrell, Margaret Lazar, and Alle Palmer.

## FS News Looks Back 50 Years...

Check out the full 1949 Newsletter [here](#)

### Management Division



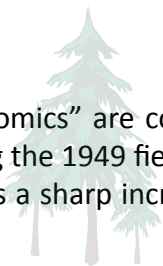
Looking back over 1949, the Management Division has been equally occupied, as during 1948, in selling Crown timber—at the rate of 215 timber sales per month. However, volume of timber sold and estimated stumpage value are down approximately 30 per cent from 1948 figures. At the same time, we have been closing out completed contracts at the rate of 185 per month.

Silvicultural crews have been engaged in sale area betterment during the year in the Nelson, Kamloops, and Prince Rupert Forest Districts. As projects are planned, this phase of forest management activity will be extended and the projects varied.

Provisions for more intensive forest management made in the past few years has considerably enlarged the scope of Management Division activities. Among these, working plans will form an important part. In addition to review of plans submitted by industrial foresters in connection with Management licenses, Forest Service plans are called for in connection with public working circles to be set up in certain key areas of the Province, or to be developed in connection with Forest Access Roads. On a smaller scale working plans will be required for farm woodlots, in addition to development work on this important phase of Forestry which is new to B.C. The technical staff of the Division has been enlarged to care for this work by the assignment of Assistant Foresters D.M. Carey and W.G. Hughes (formerly of Economics) and Foresters-in-Training N.V. Mason and A.L. Parlow.

Dave Carey, assisted by Nick Mason and Larry Parlow, is in charge of field surveys in connection with Forest Service Working Plans. They are at present in the field on the Sayward Working Circle (part of the Sayward Provincial Forest) and will undertake similar work on the Sechelt Forest and possibly one Interior working circle during 1950. Wally Hughes is laying the ground work for farm woodlot management. He will be working up procedure, using one or two sample applications in the Vancouver District during the winter, and plans to assist District officers with samples in the other Districts during 1950.

### Economics Division



With the creation of the Reforestation and Parks Division, the activities in “Economics” are confined to Surveys and Research and each year finds the volume of work increasing. During the 1949 field season, there were sixty men on forest surveys and thirty on various research projects. This is a sharp increase over 1946 when there were but ten employed on forest surveys and ten on research.

In surveys there were five parties in the field, two working from the launches, B.C. Forester and Forest Surveyor, and three using light trucks or river boats for transportation. A total of 6,500 square miles, or 4,189,000 acres, was examined during the summer and the reports and maps are now in the process of compilation. This is a big step toward our objective of 9,000 square miles per year as the standard yearly programme for forest surveys. Finished maps are now coming out at the rate of about 500,000 acres per month, which ought to please the boys in the field.

The research men had a big season with the major efforts being the gathering of data for working plans for the experiment stations at Aleza Lake and Cowichan Lake. After a number of years of inactivity the Aleza Lake station again has been put in operation and a resident research forester appointed in the person of Larry deGrace. The growth and yield staff remeasured the permanent plots due for re-examination in 1949 and also put in 146 new plots in the Kamloops Forest District. Perhaps the outstanding event in research has been the thorough study and analysis that has been made of past activities resulting in the publication of a number of technical articles and research notes. On the basis of this study, it is planned to design the programme of studies that will be initiated in the next few years.

# And Today... BC Timber Sales – Changes since 1949

Submitted by Dave Peterson, ADM, BCTS, Mike Falkiner, Director of Operations, BCTS  
and Peter Jacobsen, A/Director, Business Operations, BCTS



**A**s BC Timber Sales (BCTS) strives to change the way we do business to meet the ever-growing challenges of the current economic landscape, we can look back to 1949 and recognize that changes have been taking place on a number of fronts through the decades. Little then is the same today.

The way we price timber has dramatically changed. In the 40's and 50's there were no auctions to speak of. In the 80's, the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program (SBFEP) was developed and auctions opened volume up to those who could not secure timber through any other source. In 1949, Crown timber was being sold at the rate of 215 timber sales per month. To date in 2009, BCTS has held 505 auction sales. We must be mindful that the sales indicated in 1949 represent the total provincial harvest whereas the sales in 2009 refer only to the percent of Crown timber allocated to BCTS, which is approximately 20 percent of the provincial volume.

In 1999, the Market Pricing System (MPS) was introduced and this became one of the driving forces to the formation of BCTS in 2003. Since its inception, BCTS has developed the data on price and cost for the formulation of Crown timber pricing.

Timber inventory in the province has taken a massive turn. In the 50's the Interior pine forests became the mainstay of timber harvest and remained until 2006. That year, the onslaught of the Mountain Pine Beetle began its destruction and to date, 25 percent of the pine inventory has been decimated through beetle infestation.

The structure of the forest sector has shifted. Primarily focused on the Coast in the 40's and 50's, this transformed through the late 60's and 70's to form the beginnings of the dominance of the Interior sector. Today, the largest Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF) mills in the world are located in the Interior and the majority of BC's timber is harvested there.

Involvement of Communities and First Nations in the decisions on the land base has increased immensely and has made an enormous impact on the way we consult.

Advanced technology has radically changed the way we are able to do our work. Technology touches all aspects of our business—email, cell phones, video conferencing equipment, live meeting, handhelds, GPS for layout design etc. All these tools enable fewer people to do far more—far more quickly.

As we face the following years and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, both anticipated and those yet to be identified, it is interesting to take a moment to glance back at the road we have already travelled as an organization.



# FS Generation Joins Long Service!

Submitted by Brian Smith, Resource Technician, Nadina Forest District

**A**nother Forest Service employee has followed in their Parent's footsteps. I currently reside and work in Burns Lake as a Range Technician and have followed my mother, Dolores Davis, who worked in the Smithers office for 20 years and my Step father Carl Davis who also worked in the Smithers area in the mid to late 60's.

I started full time employment with the Forest Service in September 1974 and have held a number of positions throughout the old Prince Rupert Forest Region. I have worked in Burns Lake in the east to Haida Gwaii in the west to Stewart in the north. "It just seemed like the right field of work to get into while I was still going to High School." In fact, that was the type of work I said I wanted to get into in my High School Yearbook.

I was recently in Victoria for the Long Service Awards on October 20, 2009. At the Forest Service Meet and Greet at the Grand Pacific Hotel, I was presented with a Traditional Native Blanket and Hat by my mother, Dolores Davis. These blankets are awarded when the individual has reached a major milestone in their life and it's usually given to them when they Graduate from High School. Growing up off of Haida Gwaii, they did not know of this Tradition until just before both our children graduated in 1998 and

2000. My mother started on the blanket in May 2009 along with the hat and at the same time, she asked to get on the agenda at the Meet and Greet. She finally got permission to attend and make this presentation a couple of weeks in advance.



Also in Tradition, my mother gave a thank you gift to Deputy Minister Dana Hayden for the Ministry of Forests and Range for allowing her to make this presentation. The gift is a sketch of a Totem Pole from her father's ancestral Village of Tanuu. In fact, she sketched it herself. If any of those who know my mother, you would know that it was a prize to obtain one of her pieces of Art work. Just ask anyone who won one at the Prince Rupert Regional Forest Service Bonspiels in the 70's and 80's.

The Honourable Steven L. Point, BC's Lieutenant Governor was pleased to see me dressed in the Traditional Blanket and Hat at the Formal Ceremonies in Government House later that evening. I was recognized for my 35 years of service from the government that evening and I was not sure if I wanted to be there for the next one at 40 years. I mentioned that I was not sure if there have very many 1st Nations Employees that have preceded me with these 35 years with the Forest Service, but I believe there will be more.



## FS NEWS WORD SEARCH



## 3 Generations of FS Staff!

Submitted by: Bruce Young, Manager, Wildfire Operations, BC Wildfire Management Branch



I am the 2nd of 3 generations in the BCFS.

My dad Melvin Young joined the Engineering Branch in 1951 when the BCFS began constructing Forest Service Roads (FSR) around the province. The Engineering Branch hired equipment operators, mechanics, and engineers and owned all of the heavy equipment and the first FSR was built in the Fly Hills above Salmon Arm. These projects also required staff to live in camps close to the job site in bunkhouses—and trailers for those with families. My two older brothers grew up with other families in these camps.

My dad, his older brother Art, younger brother Pete and his brother-in-law Gord Mounce all started working for Engineering in the 50's and all retired with the BC Public Service. They worked on the "projects" building FSR's at McGillivray Cr., Stone Cr., Strathnaver, Willow R, Aleza Lk, Morice R., and White Swan.

I started with the BCFS in 1978 with the Engineering Branch in Victoria before heading to Prince George and Forest Tech School. I have worked in most district programs, but my heart has always been with Protection/Wildfire Management.

Throughout my career I lived all over the north in great places and now reside in Kamloops.

My son Kyle is the 3rd generation of "Young's" and for 5 years has worked with the Wildfire Management Branch on the Ft. St. John Rhinos unit crew and last year as the Crew Supervisor of the 100 Mile Stormriders unit crew.

When people talk about the "Forest Service family" I have a slightly different sense of family pride as I have been part of this since I was born.

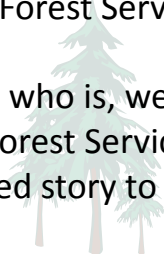
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## 2nd Generation Forest Service Member?

Are you a 2nd generation Forest Service member, or maybe a 3rd?

If you are, or know of someone who is, we would like to feature your story in the Forest Service News.

Please submit your suggested story to [ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca).



## Canada's Most Powerful Women in 2009



Our own Dana Hayden, Deputy Minister was presented with the prestigious 2009 "Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women" award in Toronto on November 30th, 2009.

The award has become one of Canada's most recognizable honours bestowed on the country's highest achieving women leaders in the private, public and not-for profit sections. Independently nominated, and selected for recognition by an independent advisory board, the awards span eight categories: Corporate Executives, Entrepreneurs, Public Sector Leaders, Trailblazers and Trendsetters, Champions, Professionals, Future Leaders and Arts and Communications. Dana was presented with an award in the category of Public Sector Leaders.

Dana also received this award in 2007 when she was President and CEO of the BC Lottery Corporation.

Congratulations to Deputy Hayden on this most accomplished and deserving award!

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## Aboriginal Youth Internship Program

Submitted by Carrie Carty, Forest Practices Branch

I am always looking for new and innovative ways to expand my knowledge, especially outside the realm of formal education. So when I heard about the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program, I decided to give it a go. I thought that it would be the perfect opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the BC Government.

I put my name out there and was offered a position within the Ministry of Forests and Range. I have left my home of Haida Gwaii to pursue a new adventure! I am now in my fourth month of the placement and have already learned a new language! The language of acronyms! My first two months with the ministry, I was immersed in reading and meetings and learning the names of all the new people that I now work with. I am now working on several projects that will help to increase First Nations participation within the Forests for Tomorrow Program. I am looking forward to the next five months with MFR and seeing the results of my work in action.

Near the end of May I will move on to the next portion of the program, which is a three month placement with an Aboriginal Organization. I am hoping to be able to focus on a project that will be aimed toward Arts and Culture. My ultimate goal is to take what I learn here and utilize it within my home community on Haida Gwaii. I am excited to see where my new knowledge that I gain from this program will lead me.



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Taken an Awesome photo  
lately?

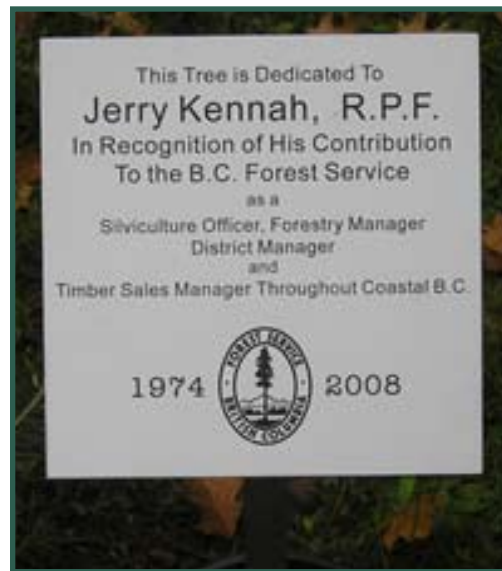
Submit it to the *FS News*  
Photo Contest your ideas!

# The Jerry Tree

Submitted by Mike Falkiner, Director of Operations, BCTS

On October 14, 2009, at the Cowichan Lake Research Station, a small group of BC Timber Sales staff honoured the long and distinguished career of recently retired Jerry Kennah.

Jerry has been involved in silviculture and forest management all over the coast for longer than he cares to remember. In his honour a grand fir (Jerry's choice) was planted and a plaque erected.



For the past 30 years the ministry has recognized staff that have made significant contributions to forest management by planting a tree in their honour at the research station.

In December 2008, Jerry Kennah retired after 35 years in the Forest Service. He started with the Inventory Division in 1974 fresh out of the University of New Brunswick. He received his RPF in 1977 and moved to the Vancouver Forest Region as 2i/c of Forest Operations. Jerry was in the regional office from 77 to 95, serving as a silviculture officer and forestry manager. During this time, he gained extensive knowledge of coastal operations having visited every drainage in the region.

In 95 he moved to district operations as the District Manager in Port McNeill, Duncan and Chilliwack. When the ministry restructured in 2002 he joined BC Timber Sales as the Timber Sales Manager in the Chinook Business Area.

He married Faye in 1981 and they have three children, Morgan an RPF presently taking her MBA in Calgary, Mike who is studying medicine in Dublin and Stephanie presently teaching in Thailand.

Faye and Jerry plan to spend their winters at their condo in Puerto Vallarta and the rest of the year in Chilliwack.

Jerry has many fond memories in the service. The highlights were the people, the opportunities and the feeling that you made the province a better place for future generations. The feeling of achievement didn't come without a few battle scars, but in his words they were all worth it.

In the early 80's the Research Branch started a tradition of planting a tree at the Cowichan Lake Research Station to recognize ministry staff that made a significant contribution to forest management during their career. In October, Jerry and Faye travelled to the station to plant a tree in his honour.

He told the group that attended the event that he was honoured and humbled at the same time by being placed in the great company of the others that have trees planted at the facility.

# Tree of Life Award

Submitted by Dave Haley, Woodlot Licence Forester, Resource Tenures Branch

Steve Henderson, Woodlot Licence Forester, Prince George Forest District was one of five people presented with the Tree of Life Award on September 23, 2009, in Nanaimo by the Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada at the recent National Awards Banquet, Annual General Meeting.

The Tree of Life Awards are nationally recognized, but selected and presented by Sections of the Institute to individuals who have made superior, dedicated or particularly effective contributions to sustainable forest resource management, forest renewal and sustained yield, or integrated management of the forest and its intrinsic values.

Steve was nominated by Scott Scholefield, BCTS on behalf of the Cariboo Section.

The activities that led to the nomination are:

1. Active CIF member since 1988 <http://cif-ifc.org/>

2. Chaired Willow River Demonstration Forest Society (WRDFS 1994-2004)

3. WRDFS Woodlot manager (1999-2004)

- The woodlot's purpose is to demonstrate sound forest management activities to local residents. Some CIF/WRDFS activities are:

- National Forestry Week Walk in the Woods tours—over 800 elementary students participate annually.

- As Woodlot Manager, Steve managed operations including: setting up areas for harvesting, monitoring the pine beetle infestation, pile burning and silviculture.

- As Woodlot Chair, Steve organized volunteer work parties, obtained labour from the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre (PGRCC) for larger trail maintenance projects, obtained Forest Renewal BC funding for silviculture projects and provided reports to the Cariboo Section on operations.



left to right: Steve Henderson, John Pineau, Executive Director of the CIF/IFC, Peter Marshall, outgoing President of the CIF/IFC.

4. McMillan Creek Stewardship Group

- Founding member, Secretary (1997-2005).

- Won a Prince George Chamber of Commerce Green Award in 2002 for the many restoration projects and educational programs completed.

- Involved private landowners, the City of Prince George, Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and PGRCC.

5. PG Railway and Forestry Museum <http://www.pgrfm.bc.ca/>

- Board Secretary (2007-present).

6. Prince George Foretree Fest [http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/rec\\_culture/parks/urbanforestry/foretreefest/](http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/rec_culture/parks/urbanforestry/foretreefest/)

- Coordinated professional volunteers from regional and district MFR offices, licensees and consultants to help teach the public how to plant trees.

- Foretree Fest was a City of Prince George initiative to restore city parks following the mountain pine beetle infestation and involved 27 sponsoring organizations, including the MFR.

7. Prince George Forest Capital of BC <http://www.forestcapital2008.princegeorge.ca/>

- Assisted with the successful bid proposal in getting the City of Prince George and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation named 2008 Forestry Capital of BC.

# Third Time's a Charm

## Vanderhoof Forest District wins 2008 Resource Stewardship Monitoring Award

Submitted by Kathleen Hebb, RPF Stewardship Forester, Vanderhoof FD



Left to Right: Gord Saito (Tenures Forester), Lori Borth (Operations Manager Corporate Services, First Nations and Stewardship), John DeGagne (Stewardship Officer), Christine Friedrichsmeier (Range Technician), Derek Lefler (Stewardship Forester), Kathleen Hebb and award (Stewardship Forester), Bill Thibeault (District Manager), Shane Goretzky (Stewardship Technician), and Jim Snetsinger (Chief Forester)

After being nominated in 2006 and 2007 for the Chief Forester and ADM of Operations Award for Excellence in Resource Stewardship Monitoring, Vanderhoof Forest District came out a winner this year when the district received the honour for their work completed during the 2008 field season.

For each of the past three years, a voting panel has convened that selects the forest district that achieves the most significant contribution and highest level of excellence for resource stewardship monitoring under the provincial Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP). The panel is comprised of FREP team members including the FREP Program Manager, FREP Quality and Data Management Specialist, and Resource Value Team Leads in addition to three Regional representatives and the Director of Forest Practices Branch. Ten nominations were received this year and all proved to achieve excellence in resource stewardship monitoring.

While the award is a team award given to the district as a whole, the 2008 Stewardship team of Kathleen Hebb, John DeGagne, Derek Lefler and Christine Friedrichsmeier received special recognition for their contributions to the program.

Vanderhoof Forest District is in good company on the unique carved yellow cedar award created by Ahousaht Nation carver George Williams, joining the names of 2006 and 2007 winners Nadina and Haida Gwaii Forest Districts. Some of the results Vanderhoof achieved in 2008 include:

- consistently collecting data that is among the highest quality in the province;
- enhancing communications about FREP and the monitoring results with other district staff and licensees by providing opportunities for attending training and field trips, developing report summaries, and hosting presentations ; and,
- working with BC Timber Sales, Canfor and a local consultant on an innovative project to relate riparian monitoring data to local watershed characteristics.

A well attended all-staff luncheon was hosted at the Vanderhoof Forest District office, followed by presentations by Chief Forester Jim Snetsinger and Acting Executive Director of Operations, Jim Maxwell (via videoconference). District Manager Bill Thibeault proudly accepted the award on behalf of the district and the Stewardship team.

After lunch, district management, Stewardship and Tenures staff took the chief forester to tour a typical large beetle-salvage block. Discussions were lively and interesting, ranging from the management of riparian and stand-level biodiversity in a large-scale salvage landscape, to using FREP data and results in the continuous improvement in forest and range management, to the role and responsibilities of forest professionals in achieving the objectives of FREP.

## Cont. Third Times a Charm

Being in the heart of the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic and in a landscape where large cut blocks are the norm, work days are typically long when carrying out resource stewardship monitoring work. The Vanderhoof FREP team earned their paycheques on one particular cut block, establishing 35 standing tree plots and coarse woody debris transects over the course of 10 hours and 274 hectares. Another cut block over 400 hectares in size was selected for fish/riparian monitoring, as well as water quality evaluations at several road crossings.

It may appear there is little glory for district FREP staff carrying out this work, but there is also no more important work than monitoring the effectiveness of forest management practices during salvage operations the scale of which have never been seen. The responsibility of evaluating and reporting out on how well current forest and range practices are meeting government objectives, encouraging continuous improvement where issues exist, and potentially influencing future policy and regulation is not taken lightly.

For more information about the Forest and Range Evaluation Program, please go to: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/index.htm>

# Community Charity Auction

Submitted by Bernie Mattie, Field Operations Supervisor, Skeena Stikine Forest District

On December 9, 2009, the Ministry of Forests and Range, Smithers Charity Auction Committee with their Corporate Sponsor Glacier Toyota presented the Salvation Army Food Bank in Smithers a cheque totalling \$7051. The proceeds were the result of this year's Fourth Annual Community Charity Auction fundraiser held October 30th at the Smithers Glacier Toyota Dealership Showroom.

The funds will be used to help support the Food Bank's work by supporting the provision of services to adults, children, the distribution of clothing, groceries and by providing free meals.

To date, the Charity Auction Committee has raised over \$12,450 for local Charities carrying on a tradition that was started by district staff back in 1989. Including the previous charity fund raising, the total amount raised for charities by the Auction Committee is over \$82,450.

The Auction committee includes Kerry Anne Hrywkiw, Gisela Varga, Jackie Wilson, Laurine Cavallin, Cheryl MacMillan, Erin Havard, Jackie Wilson, Laura Taylor, Sabina Copley, Ronda Cunningham, Sandi Hiemstra, Bob Shiach, Brad Lingard (Auctioneer), Brian Atherton (Auctioneer) and Bernie Mattie (Auction Committee Chair).

Congratulations to everyone who supported the Auction by either volunteering, donating and bidding. A very special thank you to our Corporate Sponsor Scott Oleiuk from Glacier Toyota Smithers, Rick Apperson from the Salvation Army, Jane Lloyd-Smith (District Manager), Bruce Hutchinson (Operations Manager) and Lou Tromp (Operations Manager) for supporting the Auction. Without their support of such a worthwhile and fun event, we would not have been able to achieve this level of accomplishment.



Left to right: Bernie Mattie (Auction Chair), Rick Apperson (Salvation Army - Smithers), Bob Shiach, Jackie Wilson, Laurine Cavallin, Brad Lingard (Auctioneer), Gisela Varga, Scott Oleiuk (Glacier Toyota), and Erin Havard

# 2009 National Forest Week on the North Island

Submitted by Andrew Ashford, DM, North-Island Central Coast FD



With the vast amount of forest surrounding their communities, and the role these forests play in the social well-being of residents, local foresters are particularly committed to promoting forestry awareness on Northern Vancouver Island. The North Island Network of Forest Professionals (NFP) includes 153 forest professionals, and is one of the most active NFP's in the province, with a long history of promoting coastal forestry.

Over the years, the North Island NFP has successfully hosted a wide-variety of community events, including forestry information booths, large-scale forest road garbage cleanups and classroom presentations.

In March 2008, members of the North Island NFP formed a National Forest Week planning committee, bringing together forest professionals from government, forest industry, and forestry consultants. With the establishment of a planning committee, National Forest Week celebrations on the North Island have expanded and are now a collaborative effort between government, forest industry, forestry consultants and First Nations.

In September 2009, as part of National Forest Week, the North Island NFP hosted a number of events geared toward promoting a greater recognition and appreciation of the role forests play in local North Island communities.

To advertise National Forest Week, a large forestry exhibition, collaboratively put together by government, local forest companies, and consultants, was displayed as part of the Mount Waddington Regional Fall Fair. The forestry exhibition, visited by hundreds of people, highlighted the role of local First Nations in forestry and gave an overview of the planned National Forest Week activities.

During National Forest Week, local schools participated in a variety of events, including "Forest Fire" presentations (which included a visit from Smokey the Bear), interactive forestry tours, and "Career in Forestry" presentations. In total, 14 elementary schools (including 11 public schools and 3 First Nation schools) and 2 secondary schools participated in National Forest Week activities. Home-schooled children also participated.

The "Forest Fire" presentations, which utilized information and resources from the Learn Forestry website, were geared toward Kindergarten – Grade 3 level students. The Kindergarten presentations were kept fairly simple, and included a few fire prevention tips from Smokey the Bear, and a reading of the story "Fire – The Renewal of a Forest!" The presentations to the Grade 1 – Grade 3 students were made quite interactive, and included an overview of fire's role within our forests, the fire triangle, fire suppression tools and fire prevention tips. At the end of the presentations, students were handed a Smokey the Bear pencil, animal eraser, and entry forms for the ABCFP and CIF Art Contest from Smokey the Bear.

The forest tours, held over 2 days and geared toward Grade 4 – Grade 7 level students, included a stop at an active harvesting site, a hike along an interpretative trail, an opportunity to plant trees and a salmon BBQ lunch. At the interpretive trail, a local First Nation guest speaker presented information on traditional forest resources. The BBQ salmon lunch was prepared by a local First Nation representative who cooked the salmon in traditional style over an open fire.

### Cont. National Forest Week - North Island

The BBQ lunch also included an interactive First Nation display including baskets woven from cedar bark, masks and other hand-carved items and a logger's sports demonstration.

The "Career in Forestry" presentations, made to Planning 10 students, included an overview of the wide-variety of career options within the field of forestry, the role of the ABCFP, including its START program, and the steps students should take if they are interested in pursuing a career in forestry. Locally developed "Career in Forestry" brochures, along with brochures from the ABCFP were given to the students.

Approximately 800 students benefited from the educational opportunities presented by the North Island NFP during National Forest Week, resulting in a significant amount of positive feedback from teachers, parents and students, expressing their appreciation. Planning is already underway for National Forest Week 2010, and the North Island NFP looks forward to expanding upon its 2009 efforts.

## BERG'S EYE VIEW

By Shane Berg



# Forest Service News Readers!

**T**ime to get out and snap some photos! The Forest Service News Advisory Group increasingly requires good quality digital photos for the quarterly newsletter. We acknowledge that there are skilled photographers among Forest Service staff and would like to showcase your photos in each quarterly edition.

## Categories

Photo's can consist of:

- Workplace images – individuals or groups / teams in office and field settings; health, wellness and social activities;
- Community involvement;
- Wildlife; or
- Scenic.

## Submission Details

- Deadline for submissions is changed with each edition and will be noted on the previous edition.
- Images can be submitted to:

[ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca);

- The contest is open to all Forest Service employees and retirees;
- Interested staff can make submissions to as many editions (season/category) as they want, but there is a limit of two images per category.



## Prizes and Judging

- There will be an overall 'Best' image in each category.
- Judging will be done by the Advisory Group;
- Images will be judged on composition, clarity, exposure, creativity, relevance to FS News and category fit;
- The winner of the 'Best' image in each category will be sent a prize for their photo;
- Individuals can win only one prize; and
- All winners will be announced with their photo in the edition of the newsletter.

## Technical Specifications/Requirements

The following specifications and requirements have been established to ensure that images can be used in a variety of applications.

1. All images must have relevance to the Forest Service News and be submitted in digital format.
2. All images must be in full colour or black and white.
3. Photo dimensions (image size) should be at 300 dots per inch (DPI) and preferably in a jpg format and sent to [ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca).
4. Images can be digitally enhanced (i.e., colour / exposure adjusted composite photos are okay), but not digitally altered (i.e. NO "Photo-Shop" images must portray subjects and / or material in photo as they were captured).
5. When submitting images, some descriptive information should also be included – category of image and location.
6. All images submitted, whether or not selected as a winning image, may be published in future issues of Forest Service News.

For further information, contact:

Sonia Donison: (250) 953-3859 or  
[ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca)

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH IS MARCH 12, 2010.**

## December Edition Photo Contest Winners!



**Category Workplace:** Ledge Creek - The tree is about 50 m tall and 3.0 meters (10 feet) diameter at breast height. By Brent Farrell, Columbia FD (Bill Beard - photographer)



**Category Community:** Grade Four forestry tour, Edgehill School – Powell River BC  
By Patrick Devereaux BCTS



**Category Wildlife:** Unexpected Visitor off of Dayton Road Blackwater FSR, Lynx By Ljiljana Knezevic RNI



**Category Scenic:** Reflective Moment - Broughton Archipelago, Vancouver Island By Ward Strong, Research

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM DANA HAYDEN

### DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE

At this  
most joyous time  
of year, it is only appropriate that we  
take time from our busy schedules to reflect on our  
lives and count the many blessings we enjoy living in  
British Columbia.

Christmas offers us the opportunity to set aside our differences, forget for a moment the many work challenges and other pressures in life we are dealing with, and focus on those things that bring us together. Christmas is when we can take a break from our busy lives to be with our loved ones, reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and begin to look forward to the challenges of the new year. When I think about the successes and the achievements of the Ministry of Forests and Range this year I am proud and awed. The Forest Service is truly an organization that excels in so many ways, and makes a positive difference to the lives of so many British Columbians. I know we will continue to do this in the new year.

Christmas is also a time to reach out to those people who are less fortunate than we are. I'd like to thank all of the kind Forest Service staff who have given generously to assist others that are less fortunate than they are through the many fund raising events that the provincial government, the Ministry, and individuals in the Ministry have sponsored. Our ability to help others who need our assistance to make their lives easier and to help them get over some of the inevitable bumps that occur in life is truly reflective of the Forest Service's "Christmas spirit" throughout the year.

In a world dominated by rapid change and  
sometimes chaos, the Christmas season is a  
soothing and consistent source of joy and  
hope. To all my Forest Service family, friends  
and colleagues, **Merry Christmas!**



***Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the  
Forest Service News Advisory Group***

Shane Berg  
Joy Berlando  
Bailey Blencowe  
Lynda Currie  
Steve Dodge

Richard Dominy  
Sonia Donison  
Dave Hails  
Brian Hawrys  
Russ Horton  
Kim Steinbart

**F**orest Service News is a quarterly newsletter for all Forest Service employees and former FS employees.

Sonia Donison is providing administrative and coordination support for the newsletter. Questions or comments about Forest Service News should be directed to Sonia at 250-953-3859 or via [email](#).

**Call for Stories/Ideas**

The success of Forest Service News depends upon the active engagement of staff throughout the organization. One way for people to support the newsletter is to share your ideas, news, stories, successes, experiences with revitalization and learning, celebrations and photos for use in future editions of the newsletter. People are asked to check with Sonia at 250-953-3859 or via [email](#) about their idea or ideas before writing a story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition—deadline is **March 12**.



**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**