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Guidelines for Forest Service *News* Submissions

Moving on to another Successful Year!

The purpose of the newsletter is to strengthen communication across the Forest Service as well as with past employees. More specifically, the Forest Service *News* was created to communicate information about the strategic direction and mandate of the organization, progress and learning about Forest Service revitalization, individual and team successes, and to share stories and information reflecting the values and spirit of the Forest Service family.

The feedback received over the past two years confirms that the newsletter is achieving its purpose. An essential part of the success to date has been the many stories and ideas received from staff. To ensure the Forest Service *News* continues to achieve its purpose and assist staff with the submission of stories, the advisory group has developed the following guidelines.

- We are striving for a newsletter length that ensures it is printer friendly, clean and easy to read; therefore, we are targeting around 12 stories per edition.
- Story length often presents challenges with any newsletter. While an electronic delivery format can accommodate varying lengths of the Forest Service *News*, the advisory group is aiming for stories that do not exceed 400 words in length. In establishing this guideline, we recognize that some stories may be longer. The key thing is for the story to be interesting and fit the purpose of the newsletter.
- If possible, we would like to have a photo accompany all stories. Because of website delivery of the newsletter, photos in jpg format are best. Please send three to four of the best photos and the advisory group will make the final selection of one photo per story.
- Sometimes we receive stories that need some editing and the members of the advisory group help with this. Any edited story will be sent back to the originator for approval. A story that needs substantial editing may have to wait for another edition, depending upon the number of stories we now have lined up for a specific edition.
- There may be occasions where a story is deemed unsuitable for the newsletter as submitted—not well written, doesn't fit the purpose of the newsletter or another reason. In such situations, the advisory group will work with the submitter to help re-focus a story.
- Story ideas should be sent to the feedback form prior to drafting the article.
- Submission deadlines to Sonia are required no later than 2 weeks prior to the production of the next quarterly edition.
- To assist with article submissions, the advisory group has developed the categories for content:

Forest Service *News* - A Voice for Staff

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Forest Service *News*
 A quarterly newsletter for all Forest Service employees.

Contact: 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 [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

- Events (FS calendar and upcoming events, stories after events)
- People profiles
- Forest Service history
- Places/location profiles
- Organizational direction/strategy
- Business, including innovation
- Editorials
- Questions that need answers?
- Employee/team recognition

While it will not likely be possible to cover all the categories in each edition, we are aiming for this range of content over every two or three issues.

The advisory group also anticipates having an occasional reader poll to solicit feedback on specific features of the newsletter.

Thanks for your consideration of the above guidelines—keep the stories and ideas coming!

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 [email](#) about their idea or ideas before writing a story. Stories are to be submitted 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition.

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My Hair is Purple!

On Friday September 29, 2006, Michael Blackstock, First Nations Relations Manager of the Southern Interior Forest Region coloured his hair purple after negotiating a Forest and Range Opportunity (FRO) agreement and Community Forest with the Xaxlip First Nations.

Michael has been negotiating with the Xaxlip First Nations (located just outside of Lillooet), since approximately 1999. The goal in 1999 was to negotiate a Community Forest for the First Nation, but the deal fell through just before the Liberal government was elected to replace the

NDP. Then approximately two and a half years ago negotiations began for an FRO agreement with the First Nation.

Cathy Scott-May was hired as a negotiator to assist in the process. The negotiations were protracted and complicated and as the negotiations wore on, Cathy thought it to be an incentive to the band if Michael offered to dye his hair purple if Xaxlip signed an FRO with the ministry. At the time, Michael was willing to try almost any incentive, which ended up being a funny gesture.

So, a resolution was reached and the Xaxlip signed the FRO, which included a Community Forest. First thing the following Monday, Michael received an email from Nora Billy of the Xaxlip First Nation saying: "Ok now its time to die your hair" and the rest is history.

Michael greatly admired the Xaxlip's negotiating tactics and patience and both Cathy and Michael were quite happy they reached an agreement with the First Nation.

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AN ALIEN INVASION OF THE GREEN KIND

By: Sonja Leverkus B.Sc. (Agr.), A.A.G., BIT, CEPIT ~
~ Ministry of Forests and Range, Fort Nelson ~

The aliens are invading and only you can stop them!!!! These aliens are green and the threat that they pose to our land is huge! These aliens are of the plant variety. They are actually non-native plants that lack any natural means of control in their new home. These alien invaders have extremely aggressive growth patterns which allow them to out-compete our native plant species. Invasive plants are on the move from Southern BC to the North via multiple transporters. They are difficult to control and have the potential to negatively affect BC's natural resources.

In response to the threat that invasive plants pose in north-eastern BC, the Ministry of Forests and Range in Fort Nelson hosted an *Alien and Invasive Plants Training Session and Conference* in late October. We were extremely pleased to have an excellent turn out with over 40 participants from: Ministry of Forests and Range, Fort Nelson First Nation, CanFor, Ministry of Environment, the Oil and Gas Commission, Toad River Community, Fort Nelson Community, Encana, BC Timber Sales, GeoTerra, weed inspectors, range holders and local farmers.

The focus of the conference was to increase awareness of invasive and alien plants as well as to give participants tools to deal with them. Over the two days of workshop, participants learned how to identify invasive plants, discussed their taxonomy, worked with hands-on practical identification and learned about the Invasive and Alien Plant Program (IAPP). IAPP is a centralized database that contains all invasive plant inventories, treatments and monitoring records, as well as future treatment plans for each site.

The conference was a huge success thanks to our incredible presenters: Bob Drinkwater and Laura Kristiansen. Bob and Laura provided us with great amounts of information in a clear, concise and interesting format. Together, their teamwork provided all participants with a vast plethora of knowledge, which will hopefully lead to keeping the North East free of invasive plants!

We were also very honoured to have two fantastic lunchtime presenters: Theresa Fincaryk, the Cultural Revitalization Manager from the Fort Nelson First Nation with her assistant David Sutherland. Theresa and David thrilled the participants with an amazing 1 hour presentation of the traditional use of local trees, plants, berries and roots. Their presentation gave all participants time to reflect and to be reminded that there are many plants that are not harmful and many of which are beneficial to our health.

With increased activity in the North East, the potential for invasive plants to get “rooted in our community” is huge. The invasion is on its way from the south! We need to do all that we can to prevent these aliens from taking over!!!!

To learn more about invasive plants and what you can do to help prevent their spread, please contact your local Range Agrologist. An updated list of contacts can be found at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/district_staff.htm. Further information can also be found at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/invasive/index.htm.

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Power in Pink

By Corri-Ann Troke on behalf of the Team

Welcome to our world!

Team members, Tanya Prest, Corri-Ann Troke, Maria Romeo, Heather Gell, Bonnie Stephens, Nina Barber and Madeline Maley have just welcomed Andy Oetter to their team, more fondly known as “The Kamloops District Divas” the Corporate Services Team of the Kamloops Forest District. For the next six months, Andy is on a temporary assignment as an Operations Manager and part of the Succession Planning Knowledge Transfer Initiative.

The team embraced the *Road Ahead Initiative* and took it upon themselves to focus their strengths, knowledge and abilities for the betterment of their workplace. Meeting regularly, they discuss current projects, workload pressures, safety issues and upcoming challenges.

A Learning Organization Member, facilitated and assisted the team with the formation and building of a “Team Charter” a document that holds important significance to all, with the most important piece being “Who they are!” They are a valuable part of the Forest Service and their contributions are critical to the success of the organization. As a team, they all function equally and job titles do not differentiate one from another.

Through a Continuous Improvement Initiative, the team completed reading the book: “*The Eighth Habit*,” by Stephen Covey. The focus of this book was finding and sharing their voice. Each month a chapter is read and everyone comes prepared to the monthly meeting to watch the DVD clip and discuss the significant meaning of the chapter from each individual team member’s point of view. These discussions taught them more about each other, strengthened team dynamics and the positive contributions each made to their co-workers and workplace. Marking that success, the Divas have eagerly started to read and discuss their next book: “*The Fifth Discipline*,” by Peter Senge.

Ongoing learning for the group enables them to hone their skills, both personally and professionally, thus improving their work/life balance. Inspiring guest speakers are invited to share their knowledge and skills associated with their work and/or life.

“Thank you,” two very important and powerful words for the team that are used freely amongst themselves and to others they encounter throughout their day. These two words put smiles on many faces and encourages them to put their best foot forward.

With full support from the District Management Team comprised of Shane Berg, District Manager, Madeline Maley and Jeff Leahy, Operations Managers. the Corporate Services Team are proud members of the “Flagship District” and have a strong team presence within the office. They are empowered in their performance and encouraged to risk-manage day-to-day decisions for the corporate good, striving to provide the best customer service both internally and externally and to share their knowledge and experiences to assist others.

Last year, Deputy Minister Doug Konkin, recognized the teams efforts and in appreciation kindly rewarded them with lunch. Phil Zacharatos, Regional Executive Director of the Southern Interior Forest Region also praised the group for exemplary effort and team dynamics. Word has it that the team’s efforts have been discussed amongst members of the Operations Leadership Team as well.

The team believes that their small group can and does have an effect on a much larger scale.

To be truly distinct and visible and in keeping with the esprit de corps, the team has matching pink t-shirts, each appliquéd with the district logo and team name.

You see, there is power in pink!

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Protection Program Firefighter Battles Malaria with Nets!

Ross Johnston, a 27 year old Protection Program firefighter for the Fort Nelson Forest District is flying to a new battle. For the last 10 summers, Ross has been helping to eradicate wild fires in the mosquito-infested forests of northern BC. His usual assignment is on a three-person helicopter initial attack crew that flies and actions small fires before they grow larger.

Always wanting to broaden his own horizon's and his sense of community, Ross competed in and won the first ever "junior delegate" national competition for the Canadian Red Cross. His mission is being sent to Sierra Leone for the next five months to help distribute white, polyester insecticide-treated mosquito nets to be used as barriers between children's beds and malaria-carrying mosquito's.

Ross is expected to return home in April. We wish him a safe return and support his desire to help vulnerable people.

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Surprisingly Reunited After a Decade

The 'six degrees of separation' theory refers to the idea that anyone on the planet is connected to any other person through a chain of acquaintances that has no more than five intermediaries. While many studies have been conducted to test the theory, the precise number of

links between people obviously varies according to the population being measured and individual circumstances. The chain of connections often is less than six degrees and much closer than expected. Ramona Howe, Records Management Clerk in the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District, shares an experience of a critical connection in her life.

While on her way to work in 1997 for the morning shift at the Kamloops jail, Ramona was in a horrific motor vehicle accident on the Trans Canada Highway just east of the Lafarge plant. She recalls that "my vehicle landed upside down on the train tracks after rolling over a few times. I was ejected and flew approximately 50-60 feet from the vehicle."

During a break in a Radio Information session at the Okanagan Shuswap district office in November 2006, Ramona discovered that one of the people assisting in the session from the Electronic Program Co-Op (Kamloops) had saved her life during the vehicle accident back in 1997. "I suffered many injuries including broken bones, nerve damage and a severed artery," says Ramona. "Kevin X. Larsen, now an auxiliary employee with the ministry in Kamloops, managed to find me in the ditch. He not only cared, but he was able to run a mile or so back to his truck to radio for an ambulance. Without his help, it is very questionable that I would have survived."

Ramona always wondered who helped her and was shocked to meet Kevin. "You can't imagine how humbled I felt and how wonderful it is that there are people like Kevin in this world. I want to publicly express my thanks to Kevin and also let people know what a great colleague they work with."

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Welcome New Members of the Forest Service Advisory Group!

The FS Advisory Group welcomes Radha Fisher, Provincial Information Officer of the Protection Program and

Steve Waghorn, FOS Tenures/Geomatics of the Sunshine Coast Forest

District as the newest members of our team!

Bio – Steve Waghorn

- BC native, born and raised in North Vancouver.
- Started with BC Forest Service in 1972 as part of a fire suppression crew based out of Port Hardy Ranger District.
- After graduation from BCIT (Forestry) in 1973, did a short stint in the NWT (Fort Smith) with International Forest Fire Systems (IFFS) who contracted with Federal gov't (Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs). IFFS was the company that pioneered rappelling from helicopters, a precursor to RAPATTACK. We were affectionately known then as "Spidermen." (eat your heart out Tobey McGuire).
- Rehired by BC Forest Service mid summer 1973 as crewman on Forestry Crew #3 in Powell River and have remained here ever since.
- Have held several positions with varied responsibilities including cruising, silviculture, inventory, planning, LIM, a tenuous 2 years with former MSRM and now as a Tenures FOS.
- Still married (since 1975) to Jill, two 'grown' children, Nathan and Marissa (who both reside and work in Vancouver, aacck the city go figure...) Kids replaced by 2 dogs who are proving harder to raise.
- Hobbies and activities include ice hockey (recently retired after 33 years), golf (still haven't broken 80 but have had a 'hole-in-one'), skiing, hiking, going to the gym (yecch), recreating on Powell Lake and watching TV. Dislikes include long moonlight walks on the beach, gardening (except for cutting the lawn on my John Deere!), shopping, romantic dinners without wine etc.
- Presently I like to regale the staff here with stories and yarns from the past as well as dabbling with the district newsletter (Sunshine Coast Tattler), (parody) song writing, soundtracks to video and other multimedia. I have a fairly extensive music collection (hey I grew up in the 50's so even the Beatles are a modern phenom to me) which is quite eclectic.
- I like to take my credo from Jagger and Richards, "*You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you get what you need.*"

Radha Fisher has been deployed to Australia to assist with their fire situation, returning to the ministry and the FS Newsletter Advisory Group in mid-February, stay turned for potential newsletter items. We wish her luck and safety.

Thank You!

The Advisory Group would like to thank Jenni Martin and Brian Atherton for their input and views on newsletter articles and the re-creation of the newsletter. Unfortunately, due to other work commitments, they feel they cannot contribute enough to the newsletter to be part of the Advisory Group.

We appreciate their enthusiasm and team spirit and will miss their input in future newsletter editions.

We wish Jenni, Brian and their families all the best!

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GuluWalk Support

The GuluWalk is focussed on supporting the abandoned children of northern Uganda. On October 21, 2006, over 30,000 people, in 82 cities and 15 different countries, took to the streets to urge the world to support peace in northern Uganda. The event raised over \$50,000 for programs for a generation of

children being left behind.

Margot Spence, Planning Officer, Performance Management of the Strategic Policy and Planning Branch, and “The Place” Team of 28 (from Lambrick Park Church, Victoria, BC) raised more money than any other team internationally—over \$7000 to go toward the GuluWalk 2006. Thanks to all her supporters, including many Forest Service colleagues, Margot raised \$940 of this.

The hope for this walk is to provide new education, rehabilitation and youth outreach programs to reduce the number and impact of child abductions, diminish the killings and assist with the recruitment to armies in northern Uganda and to provide a safer world for the children.

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North Coast Tops In ForesTree Registration

By: Bob Cuthbert RFT
Operations Manager
North Coast Forest District

Dave Bewick, District Manager of the North Coast Forest District (NCFD) in the Coast Forest Region, challenged his staff to enter their profile and be the first office to reach 100% participation in ForesTree Expertise Locator System.

Even though participation is voluntary, all staff chose to enter their profile and on September 30, 2006, NCFD reached their goal of having every permanent staff member registered in ForesTree. Now NCFD challenges all other districts, regions and branch divisions to have increased participation of employee registration in ForesTree.

Already, some staff has been called by other Forest Service staff members searching ForesTree looking for advice. They are a small district, but have a very good depth of experience and knowledge in all programs at the district level. Staff agrees that ForesTree has been an excellent method of documenting knowledge, expertise and even personal interests.

ForesTree profiles are a living document with annual updates and staff found it a good method of tracking ones' competencies and level of expertise. Another benefit of having a profile is having a well formatted sheet to attach to resumes and job applications. It also works well in providing information for a secondary contact, if you are away.

NCFD again encourages and challenges all Forest Service Staff to get their profiles registered in the ForesTree Expertise Locator System. The more people who have their profiles, the better the system will work.

The analogy of it being the “Yellow Pages” is a very good one. The thicker the directory, the better your success will be in finding the help or information you are seeking.

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Workplace Wellness, Peace-Liard Style

Jamie Kroschel, RPF
Practices Forester
BC Timber Sales, Dawson Creek

During the week of September 18 - 22, all members of the BC Timber Sales', Peace-Liard Business Area put a unique twist on their annual meeting and held it near the northern limits of the Business Area in the neighbourhood of the BC, Northwest Territory border at the beautiful Northern Rockies Lodge on Muncho Lake.

BC Timber Sales covers the province in 12 management units called Business Areas. These Business Areas are further subdivided into several field teams, which are comprised of a group of foresters and technicians responsible for all forestry

operations in a predetermined area.

Each year, the business area meeting is hosted by one of the field teams who also have the opportunity to showcase, by means of a field tour, some of their activities and unique locations within their operating areas. The Fort St. John and Dawson Creek Field Teams have had the honour of hosting the meeting during the last couple of years, but the Ft. Nelson Field Team faced the difficulty of trying to find enough accommodation for everyone in a town where hotel vacancies are as rare as hen's teeth.

With the assistance of the Workplace Wellness Team, a creative solution was found and arrangements were made to stay at the Northern Rockies Lodge. The lodge is located on the shores of Muncho Lake, situated in some of the most scenic (and hidden) areas in the Rocky Mountains. The trip up to the lodge was an adventure and wildlife safari in itself. It seems as if every species of large mammal was seen, including, but not limited to, stone sheep, caribou and bison.

Once at the lodge we were treated royally by the staff and owners Marianne and Urs Schildknecht. We also had the privilege of being joined by BC Timber Sales' Assistant Deputy Minister, Dave Peterson.

On the first day at the lodge we held our annual meeting and followed up with activities that included either soaking in the world famous Liard Hotsprings or doing some fishing at some of the local hot spots.

Day two was set aside to carry-out a field tour and see some of the spectacular scenery and wildlife that this part of the province has to offer.

The trip was a unique opportunity to not only complete a business area meeting, but also provided the field teams with an opportunity to share a great experience and do some team building. We had a chance to learn a little more about each other in a spectacular setting.

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Be smart Like A Fox & remember to LAF

The folks at Strategic Human Resources are pleased to announce an innovative new way to help deliver messages and connect with Forest Service staff. It is a cartoon called *Like a Fox*. The red fox was chosen as the “spokes animal” since it is found throughout British Columbia—lives in both the forest and on rangelands and is known to be smart as well as pro•active. The cartoon fox will look better in future thanks to talented artist Shane Berg, District Manager of the Kamloops Forest District. Many thanks to this busy DM!

Like a Fox is available to comment on any issue the ministry has; he is able to answer your questions and can tell your stories. *Like a Fox* is available to comment on any issue the ministry has; he is able to answer your questions and can tell your stories. If you have a question to ask, or a story to offer, Strategic Human Resources are anxious to hear about it. Please contact Peg Ainsley, Internal Communications Coordinator, at 250-387-9017 or e-mail peg.ainsley@gov.bc.ca.

While it may appear in the *FS News* from time to time, *Like a Fox* will make its home on the Strategic HR website: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hrb/>

Please enjoy this premiere edition of *Like a Fox*.

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4th Annual Dan LeClerc Memorial B.C. Forest Service Hockey Tournament & Funspiel

Thursday February 15th through Saturday February 17th, 2007
at the North Thompson Sportplex
in Clearwater, B.C.

Due to the overwhelming success of the event in 2006, we are continuing with our Women's Hockey Tournament and Curling Bonspiel to attract as many participants from all over the province into the weekend festivities.

The ice has been booked and our enthusiastic organizing committee has begun planning in earnest.

It is our intent, yet again, to put our fun little town on the map by pulling out the stops and putting on a great event, with our emphasis being on FUN and camaraderie, both on and off the ice.

If you have not entered your team do so now! Please review the attached invitation for associated entry fees and Headwaters District Contact information to express your interest.

We hope to see you in February 2007!

Mark Taylor
Headwaters Forest District
on behalf of the Tournament Organizing Committee

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Stanfield Cup Results

November 2006
Vanderhoof, BC

November 17-19, 2006, saw the 4th rendition of the Vanderhoof Forest District's highly successful Stanfield Cup Tournament, with historic Legend and Lore dating back to 1974. Amazingly successful, tournament organizers estimated the gathering at about 180 skaters, the vast majority being Forest Service Employees. A great time to catch up with friends and in some cases family. The local watering hole in the mezzanine provided a holistic view of the on-ice action while providing a friendly atmosphere of camaraderie.

Earlier in 2006, a decision was made to move the date of the traditional tournament, from March to November. The primary reason for this was to prevent any conflict between the Stanfield Cup Tournament and another highly popular Forest Service Hockey Tournament; the Dan LeClerc Memorial Hockey Tournament and Funspiel.

The tournament was expanded to include a women's division as well as the traditional Men's Stanfield Cup and Silver Cup Divisions. Teams from around the province supported this year's event. Men's Teams such as the Dawson Creek Devils, Mackenzie Stars, Prince George, Kalum/Terrace Bulldogs, Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof Forestry Flyers, and the fan favourite Protection Bruins teams were all present. The Ladies Division featured the Vanderhoof Vipers, the Houston Vipers and two teams from Mackenzie; the Mackenzie Stars and the Mackenzie Chicks with Sticks.

The Inaugural Ladies Division had the Mackenzie Stars edge out Houston in the round robin play crowning them "Stanfield Cup - Ladies Division Champions."

The Silver Cup Division had Fort St. James defeating Mackenzie in a well fought final with Prince George and Kalum finishing 3rd and 4th respectively.

As for the Stanfield Cup Division, after coming back from a 2 goal deficit in the last 4 minutes, the Dawson Creek Devils defeated the defending champion Vanderhoof Flyers in an exciting tie•breaking shoot-out only to fall in the final to a well seasoned Protection Bruin team. After a strong start, Burns Lake finished the tournament in 4th with a tough loss in another exciting shoot•out.

The organizing committee would like to thank all the volunteers and contributors from their office and community as well as all the players, teams and fans that attended and made this tournament a great success. Hope to see all of you in 2008!

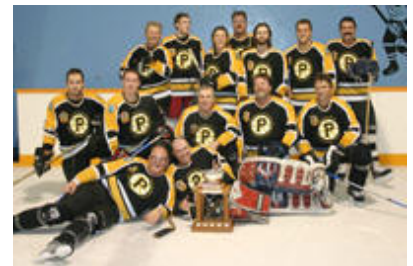
Stanfield Cup Ladies Champions



Silver Cup Champions



Stanfield Cup Champions



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2007 Provincial Forest Service Curling Bonspiel

Come One Come All ... Have some Fun!!

This year's bonspiel will be held again at the Curling Club in Chase B.C., on March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, with the focus being on fun, a bit of competition and having a great time with colleagues, families, friends and former Forest Service employees. There is a special welcome for junior curlers or curler wannabe's and friends. Individual registrants are welcome and will be hooked up with a team for a great time!!!

There will be door prizes galore, with the goal again being to ensure all curlers leave with a prize of some kind. Prizes from the past 2 years have been pretty darn good, so be sure to be there!!

In case you don't know—the Provincial Forest Service Bonspiel used to be a huge event held annually in Kamloops (in February or March) and peaked at over 120 teams participating. Curlers of all shapes, sizes, ages and abilities descended upon Kamloops to partake in a weekend of fun and competition with their Forest Service comrades. During the late 1990's and into the early 2000's, attendance declined to the point where the long-standing tradition took a 3-year breather. In 2005, the Bonspiel was resurrected and moved to a smaller, more affordable center—Chase. The home town atmosphere in Chase has been the home to a 22 team 'fun-fest' over the last 2 years. When attendance rebounds enough, the plan is to move the bonspiel back to Kamloops and let it continue to grow, hopefully starting in 2008.

Planning for this year's event is well underway through the efforts of the Organizing Team, which hails from the Okanagan Shuswap District and Southern Interior Region—Larry Martin, Bill Henriksen, Ken Shaw, Mike Jobke, Sally Beldi, Bob Threinen, Will Robbins, Kevin Bertram, Stan Jones, Craig Sutherland and Ron Racine.

Lots of information about the Bonspiel is available on a website set up to support the event: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dos/2007_Curling_Bonspiel/2007_Bonspiel_index.htm.

If you've never curled before, be there for one of the Friday evening seminars
“Curling 101 in 15minutes.”

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39th Annual Ministry of Forests and Range Funspiel

The 39th Annual Ministry of Forests and Range Funspiel brought out the masses on Jan. 6. Indeed 24 keen MFR teams with “(Wo)Men with Brooms” were everywhere, braving the cool temperatures, only to recover comfortably in the hospitable lounge of the Archie Browning Arena.

For the old and new, it was a fantastic event that once again showed the family fun spirit that is the trademark of this ministry. For the observer there was a director here and there, a deputy minister (good to see Larry Pedersen), a new intern playing against her husband, other husbands and wives, colleagues and expert curlers (easy to spot) folded in amongst the novice types (again easy to spot). All enjoyed a full afternoon of the sport of curling that finished off with a hearty lasagne dinner and the wrap-up prize presentations.

RESULTS

The winners this year were “The Brian Corrigan Rink for Revenue Branch”! Brian beat two other teams from Revenue and the McNabb rink for Economics and Trade. Apparently Brian and his team of Bob Bull, Brent Sisco and Steve Davis have been just a little hard to put up with around the office since their big win. This year's wine “Forest Service Fermentations” came with coveted hand-etched glass mugs, created by Jim Challenger. Rumours abound about an etching on the wine bottle....

This was Roger's last “shot” as the organizer, he is retiring in **May**, and he truly has “out-swept” himself, “skipping” the 39th Annual MFR Funspiel to new curling highs. Talk about a hard act to follow, thank you Roger and all participants that made it happen, it was truly a great fun event. Next years 40th anniversary will be organized by Dave Bodak, in Strategic Policy and Planning Branch. Watch for it!

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- There may be occasions where a story is deemed unsuitable for the newsletter as submitted—not well written, doesn't fit the purpose of the newsletter or another reason. In such situations, the advisory group will work with the submitter to help re-focus a story.
- Story ideas should be sent to the feedback form prior to drafting the article.
- Submission deadlines to Sonia are required no later than 2 weeks prior to the production of the next quarterly edition.
- To assist with article submissions, the advisory group has developed the categories for content:
 - Events (FS calendar and upcoming events, stories after events)
 - People profiles
 - Forest Service history
 - Places/location profiles
 - Organizational direction/strategy
 - Business, including innovation
 - Editorials
 - Questions that need answers?
 - Employee/team recognition

While it will not likely be possible to cover all the categories in each edition, we are aiming for this range of content over every two or three issues.

The advisory group also anticipates having an occasional reader poll to solicit feedback on specific features of the newsletter.

Thanks for your consideration of the above guidelines—keep the stories and ideas coming!

My Hair is Purple!

On Friday September 29, 2006, Michael Blackstock, First Nations Relations Manager of the Southern Interior Forest Region coloured his hair purple after negotiating a Forest and Range Opportunity (FRO) agreement and Community Forest with the Xaxlip First Nations.

Michael has been negotiating with the Xaxlip First Nations (located just outside of Lillooet), since approximately 1999. The goal in 1999 was to negotiate a Community Forest for the First Nation, but the deal fell through just before the Liberal government was elected to replace the NDP. Then approximately two and a half years ago negotiations began for an FRO agreement with the First Nation.

Cathy Scott-May was hired as a negotiator to assist in the process. The negotiations were protracted and complicated and as the negotiations wore on, Cathy thought it to be an incentive to the band if Michael offered to dye his hair purple if Xaxlip signed an FRO with the ministry. At the time, Michael was willing to try almost any incentive, which ended up being a funny gesture.

So, a resolution was reached and the Xaxlip signed the FRO, which included a Community Forest. First thing the following Monday, Michael received an email from Nora Billy of the Xaxlip First Nation saying: “Ok now its time to die your hair” and the rest is history.

Michael greatly admired the Xaxlip's negotiating tactics and patience and both Cathy and Michael were quite happy they reached an agreement with the First Nation.

AN ALIEN INVASION OF THE GREEN KIND

By: Sonja Leverkus B.Sc. (Agr.), A.A.G., BIT, CEPIT ~
~ Ministry of Forests and Range, Fort Nelson ~

The aliens are invading and only you can stop them!!!! These aliens are green and the threat that they pose to our land is huge! These aliens are of the plant variety. They are actually non-native plants that lack any natural means of control in their new home. These alien invaders have extremely aggressive growth patterns which allow them to out-compete our native plant species. Invasive plants are on the move from Southern BC to the North via multiple transporters. They are difficult to control and have the potential to negatively affect BC's natural resources.

In response to the threat that invasive plants pose in north-eastern BC, the Ministry of Forests and Range in Fort Nelson hosted an *Alien and Invasive Plants Training Session and Conference* in late October. We were extremely pleased to have an excellent turn out with over 40 participants from: Ministry of Forests and Range, Fort Nelson First Nation, CanFor, Ministry of Environment, the Oil and Gas Commission, Toad River Community, Fort Nelson Community, Encana, BC Timber Sales, GeoTerra, weed inspectors, range holders and local

farmers.

The focus of the conference was to increase awareness of invasive and alien plants as well as to give participants tools to deal with them. Over the two days of workshop, participants learned how to identify invasive plants, discussed their taxonomy, worked with hands-on practical identification and learned about the Invasive and Alien Plant Program (IAPP). IAPP is a centralized database that contains all invasive plant inventories, treatments and monitoring records, as well as future treatment plans for each site.

The conference was a huge success thanks to our incredible presenters: Bob Drinkwater and Laura Kristiansen. Bob and Laura provided us with great amounts of information in a clear, concise and interesting format. Together, their teamwork provided all participants with a vast plethora of knowledge, which will hopefully lead to keeping the North East free of invasive plants!

We were also very honoured to have two fantastic lunchtime presenters: Theresa Fincaryk, the Cultural Revitalization Manager from the Fort Nelson First Nation with her assistant David Sutherland. Theresa and David thrilled the participants with an amazing 1 hour presentation of the traditional use of local trees, plants, berries and roots. Their presentation gave all participants time to reflect and to be reminded that there are many plants that are not harmful and many of which are beneficial to our health.

With increased activity in the North East, the potential for invasive plants to get “rooted in our community” is huge. The invasion is on its way from the south! We need to do all that we can to prevent these aliens from taking over!!!!

To learn more about invasive plants and what you can do to help prevent their spread, please contact your local Range Agrologist. An updated list of contacts can be found at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/district_staff.htm. Further information can also be found at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/invasive/index.htm.

Power in Pink

By Corri-Ann Troke on behalf of the Team

Welcome to our world!

Team members, Tanya Prest, Corri-Ann Troke, Maria Romeo, Heather Gell, Bonnie Stephens, Nina Barber and Madeline Maley have just welcomed Andy Oetter to their team, more fondly known as “The Kamloops District Divas” the Corporate Services Team of the Kamloops Forest District. For the next six months, Andy is on a temporary assignment as an Operations Manager and part of the Succession Planning Knowledge Transfer Initiative.

The team embraced the *Road Ahead Initiative* and took it upon themselves to focus their strengths, knowledge and abilities for the betterment of their workplace. Meeting regularly, they discuss current projects, workload

pressures, safety issues and upcoming challenges.

A Learning Organization Member, facilitated and assisted the team with the formation and building of a “Team Charter” a document that holds important significance to all, with the most important piece being “Who they are!” They are a valuable part of the Forest Service and their contributions are critical to the success of the organization. As a team, they all function equally and job titles do not differentiate one from another.

Through a Continuous Improvement Initiative, the team completed reading the book: “*The Eighth Habit*,” by Stephen Covey. The focus of this book was finding and sharing their voice. Each month a chapter is read and everyone comes prepared to the monthly meeting to watch the DVD clip and discuss the significant meaning of the chapter from each individual team member’s point of view. These discussions taught them more about each other, strengthened team dynamics and the positive contributions each made to their co-workers and workplace. Marking that success, the Divas have eagerly started to read and discuss their next book: “*The Fifth Discipline*,” by Peter Senge.

Ongoing learning for the group enables them to hone their skills, both personally and professionally, thus improving their work/life balance. Inspiring guest speakers are invited to share their knowledge and skills associated with their work and/or life.

“Thank you,” two very important and powerful words for the team that are used freely amongst themselves and to others they encounter throughout their day. These two words put smiles on many faces and encourages them to put their best foot forward.

With full support from the District Management Team comprised of Shane Berg, District Manager, Madeline Maley and Jeff Leahy, Operations Managers. the Corporate Services Team are proud members of the “Flagship District” and have a strong team presence within the office. They are empowered in their performance and encouraged to risk-manage day-to-day decisions for the corporate good, striving to provide the best customer service both internally and externally and to share their knowledge and experiences to assist others.

Last year, Deputy Minister Doug Konkin, recognized the teams efforts and in appreciation kindly rewarded them with lunch. Phil Zacharatos, Regional Executive Director of the Southern Interior Forest Region also praised the group for exemplary effort and team dynamics. Word has it that the team’s efforts have been discussed amongst members of the Operations Leadership Team as well.

The team believes that their small group can and does have an effect on a much larger scale.

To be truly distinct and visible and in keeping with the esprit de corps, the team has matching pink t-shirts, each appliquéd with the district logo and team name.

You see, there is power in pink!

Protection Program Firefighter Battles Malaria with Nets!

Ross Johnston, a 27 year old Protection Program firefighter for the Fort Nelson Forest District is flying to a new battle. For the last 10 summers, Ross has been helping to eradicate wild fires in the mosquito-infested forests of northern BC. His usual assignment is on a three-person helicopter initial attack crew that flies and actions small fires before they grow larger.

Always wanting to broaden his own horizon's and his sense of community, Ross competed in and won the first ever "junior delegate" national competition for the Canadian Red Cross. His mission is being sent to Sierra Leone for the next five months to help distribute white, polyester insecticide-treated mosquito nets to be used as barriers between children's beds and malaria-carrying mosquito's.

Ross is expected to return home in April. We wish him a safe return and support his desire to help vulnerable people.

Surprisingly Reunited After a Decade

The 'six degrees of separation' theory refers to the idea that anyone on the planet is connected to any other person through a chain of acquaintances that has no more than five intermediaries. While many studies have been conducted to test the theory, the precise number of links between people obviously varies according to the population being measured and individual circumstances. The chain of connections often is less than six degrees and much closer than expected. Ramona Howe, Records Management Clerk in the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District, shares an experience of a critical connection in her life.

While on her way to work in 1997 for the morning shift at the Kamloops jail, Ramona was in a horrific motor vehicle accident on the Trans Canada Highway just east of the Lafarge plant. She recalls that "my vehicle landed upside down on the train tracks after rolling over a few times. I was ejected and flew approximately 50-60 feet from the vehicle."

During a break in a Radio Information session at the Okanagan Shuswap district office in November 2006, Ramona discovered that one of the people assisting in the session from the Electronic Program Co-Op (Kamloops) had saved her life during the vehicle accident back in 1997. "I suffered many injuries including broken bones, nerve damage and a severed artery," says Ramona. "Kevin X. Larsen, now an auxiliary employee with the ministry in Kamloops, managed to find me in the ditch. He not only cared, but he was able to run a mile or so back to his truck to radio for an ambulance. Without his help, it is very questionable that I would have survived."

Ramona always wondered who helped her and was shocked to meet Kevin. "You can't imagine how humbled I felt and how wonderful it is that there are people like Kevin in this world. I want to publicly express my thanks to Kevin and also let people know what a great colleague they work with."

Welcome—New Members of the Forest Service Advisory Group!

The FS Advisory Group welcomes Radha Fisher, Provincial Information Officer of the Protection Program and Steve Waghorn, FOS Tenures/ Geomatics of the Sunshine Coast Forest District as the newest members of our team!

Bio – Steve Waghorn

- BC native, born and raised in North Vancouver.
- Started with BC Forest Service in 1972 as part of a fire suppression crew based out of Port Hardy Ranger District.
- After graduation from BCIT (Forestry) in 1973, did a short stint in the NWT (Fort Smith) with IFFS who contracted with Federal gov't (Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs). IFFS was the company that pioneered rappelling from helicopters, a precursor to RAPATTACK. We were affectionately known then as "Spidermen." (eat your heart out Tobey McGuire).
- Rehired by BC Forest Service mid summer 1973 as crewman on Forestry Crew #3 in Powell River and have remained here ever since.
- Have held several positions with varied responsibilities including cruising, silviculture, inventory, planning, LIM, a tenuous 2 years with former MSRM and now as a Tenures FOS.
- Still married (since 1975) to Jill, two 'grown' children, Nathan and Marissa (who both reside and work in Vancouver, aacck the city go figure...) Kids replaced by 2 dogs who are proving harder to raise.
- Hobbies and activities include ice hockey (recently retired after 33 years), golf (still haven't broken 80 but have had a 'hole-in-one'), skiing, hiking, going to the gym (yecch), recreating on Powell Lake and watching TV. Dislikes include long moonlight walks on the beach, gardening (except for cutting the lawn on my John Deere!), shopping, romantic dinners without wine etc.
- Presently I like to regale the staff here with stories and yarns from the past as well as dabbling with the district newsletter (Sunshine Coast Tattler), (parody) song writing, soundtracks to video and other multimedia. I have a fairly extensive music collection (hey I grew up in the 50's so even the Beatles are a modern phenom to me) which is quite eclectic.
- I like to take my credo from Jagger and Richards, "*You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you get what you need.*"

Radha Fisher has been deployed to Australia to assist with their fire situation, returning to the ministry and the FS Newsletter Advisory Group in mid-February, stay tuned for potential newsletter items. We wish her luck and safety.

Thank You!

The Advisory Group would like to thank Jenni Martin and Brian Atherton for their input and views on newsletter articles and the re-creation of the newsletter. Unfortunately, due to other work commitments, they feel they cannot contribute enough to the newsletter to be part of the Advisory Group.

We appreciate their enthusiasm and team spirit and will miss their input in future newsletter editions.

We wish Jenni, Brian and their families all the best!

GuluWalk Support

The GuluWalk is focussed on supporting the abandoned children of northern Uganda. On October 21, 2006, over 30,000 people, in 82 cities and 15 different countries, took to the streets to urge the world to support peace in northern Uganda. The event raised over \$50,000 for programs for a generation of children being left behind.

Margot Spence, Planning Officer, Performance Management of the Strategic Policy and Planning Branch, and “The Place” Team of 28 (from Lambrick Park Church, Victoria, BC) raised more money than any other team internationally—over \$7000 to go toward the GuluWalk 2006. Thanks to all her supporters, including many Forest Service colleagues, Margot raised \$940 of this.

The hope for this walk is to provide new education, rehabilitation and youth outreach programs to reduce the number and impact of child abductions, diminish the killings and assist with the recruitment to armies in northern Uganda and to provide a safer world for the children.

North Coast Tops In ForesTree Registration

By: Bob Cuthbert RFT
Operations Manager
North Coast Forest District

Dave Bewick, District Manager of the North Coast Forest District (NCFD) in the Coast Forest Region, challenged his staff to enter their profile and be the first office to reach 100% participation in ForesTree

Expertise Locator System.

Even though participation is voluntary, all staff chose to enter their profile and on September 30, 2006, NCFD reached their goal of having every permanent staff member registered in ForesTree. Now NCFD challenges all other districts, regions and branch divisions to have increased participation of employee registration in ForesTree.

Already, some staff has been called by other Forest Service staff members searching ForesTree looking for advice. They are a small district, but have a very good depth of experience and knowledge in all programs at the district level. Staff agrees that ForesTree has been an excellent method of documenting knowledge, expertise and even personal interests.

ForesTree profiles are a living document with annual updates and staff found it a good method of tracking ones' competencies and level of expertise. Another benefit of having a profile is having a well formatted sheet to attach to resumes and job applications. It also works well in providing information for a secondary contact, if you are away.

NCFD again encourages and challenges all Forest Service Staff to get their profiles registered in the ForesTree Expertise Locator System. The more people who have their profiles, the better the system will work.

The analogy of it being the "Yellow Pages" is a very good one. The thicker the directory, the better your success will be in finding the help or information you are seeking.

Workplace Wellness, Peace-Liard Style

Jamie Kroschel, RPF
Practices Forester
BC Timber Sales, Dawson Creek

During the week of September 18 - 22, all members of the BC Timber Sales', Peace-Liard Business Area put a unique twist on their annual meeting and held it near the northern limits of the Business Area in the neighbourhood of the BC, Northwest Territory border at the beautiful Northern Rockies Lodge on Muncho Lake.

BC Timber Sales covers the province in 12 management units called Business Areas. These Business Areas are further subdivided into several field teams, which are comprised of a group of foresters and technicians responsible for all forestry operations in a predetermined area.

Each year, the business area meeting is hosted by one of the field teams who also have the opportunity to showcase, by means of a field tour, some of their activities and unique locations within their operating areas. The Fort St. John and Dawson Creek Field Teams have had the honour of hosting the meeting during the last couple of years, but the Ft. Nelson Field Team faced the difficulty of trying to find enough accommodation for

everyone in a town where hotel vacancies are as rare as hen's teeth.

With the assistance of the Workplace Wellness Team, a creative solution was found and arrangements were made to stay at the Northern Rockies Lodge. The lodge is located on the shores of Muncho Lake, situated in some of the most scenic (and hidden) areas in the Rocky Mountains. The trip up to the lodge was an adventure and wildlife safari in itself. It seems as if every species of large mammal was seen, including, but not limited to, stone sheep, caribou and bison.

Once at the lodge we were treated royally by the staff and owners Marianne and Urs Schildknecht. We also had the privilege of being joined by BC Timber Sales' Assistant Deputy Minister, Dave Peterson.

On the first day at the lodge we held our annual meeting and followed up with activities that included either soaking in the world famous Liard Hotsprings or doing some fishing at some of the local hot spots.

Day two was set aside to carry-out a field tour and see some of the spectacular scenery and wildlife that this part of the province has to offer.

The trip was a unique opportunity to not only complete a business area meeting, but also provided the field teams with an opportunity to share a great experience and do some team building. We had a chance to learn a little more about each other in a spectacular setting.

Be smart Like A Fox & remember to LAF

The folks at Strategic Human Resources are pleased to announce an innovative new way to help deliver messages and connect with Forest Service staff. It is a cartoon called *Like a Fox*. The red fox was chosen as the "spokes animal" since it is found throughout British Columbia—lives in both the forest and on rangelands and is known to be smart as well as pro•active. The cartoon fox will look better in future thanks to talented artist Shane Berg, District Manager of the Kamloops Forest District. Many thanks to this busy DM!

Like a Fox is available to comment on any issue the ministry has; he is able to answer your questions and can tell your stories. *Like a Fox* is available to comment on any issue the ministry has; he is able to answer your questions and can tell your stories. If you have a question to ask, or a story to offer, Strategic Human Resources are anxious to hear about it. Please contact Peg Ainsley, Internal Communications Coordinator, at 250-387-9017 or e-mail peg.ainsley@gov.bc.ca.

While it may appear in the *FS News* from time to time, *Like a Fox* will make its home on the Strategic HR website: <http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/hrb/>

Please enjoy this premiere edition of *Like a Fox*.

4th Annual Dan LeClerc Memorial

B.C. Forest Service Hockey Tournament & Funspiel

Thursday February 15th through Saturday February 17th, 2007
at the North Thompson Sportplex
in Clearwater, B.C.

Due to the overwhelming success of the event in 2006, we are continuing with our Women's Hockey Tournament and Curling Bonspiel to attract as many participants from all over the province into the weekend festivities.

The ice has been booked and our enthusiastic organizing committee has begun planning in earnest.

It is our intent, yet again, to put our fun little town on the map by pulling out the stops and putting on a great event, with our emphasis being on FUN and camaraderie, both on and off the ice.

If you have not entered your team do so now! Please review the attached invitation for associated entry fees and Headwaters District Contact information to express your interest.

We hope to see you in February 2007!

Mark Taylor
Headwaters Forest District
on behalf of the Tournament Organizing Committee

Stanfield Cup

November 2006

Vanderhoof, BC

November 17-19, 2006, saw the 4th rendition of the Vanderhoof Forest District's highly successful Stanfield Cup Tournament, with historic Legend and Lore dating back to 1974. Amazingly successful, tournament organizers estimated the gathering at about 180 skaters, the vast majority being Forest Service Employees. A great time to catch up with friends and in some cases family. The local watering hole in the mezzanine provided a holistic view of the on-ice action while providing a friendly atmosphere of camaraderie.

Earlier in 2006, a decision was made to move the date of the traditional tournament, from March to November. The primary reason for this was to prevent any conflict between the Stanfield Cup Tournament and another highly popular Forest Service Hockey Tournament; the Dan LeClerc Memorial Hockey Tournament and Funspiel.

The tournament was expanded to include a women's division as well as the traditional Men's Stanfield Cup and Silver Cup Divisions. Teams from around the province supported this year's event. Men's Teams such as the Dawson Creek Devils, Mackenzie Stars, Prince George, Kalum/Terrace Bulldogs, Fort St. James, Burns Lake, Vanderhoof Forestry Flyers, and the fan favourite Protection Bruins teams were all present. The Ladies Division featured the Vanderhoof Vipers, the Houston Vipers and two teams from Mackenzie; the Mackenzie Stars and the Mackenzie Chicks with Sticks.

The Inaugural Ladies Division had the Mackenzie Stars edge out Houston in the round robin play crowning them "Stanfield Cup - Ladies Division Champions."

The Silver Cup Division had Fort St. James defeating Mackenzie in a well fought final with Prince George and Kalum finishing 3rd and 4th respectively.

As for the Stanfield Cup Division, after coming back from a 2 goal deficit in the last 4 minutes, the Dawson Creek Devils defeated the defending champion Vanderhoof Flyers in an exciting tie-breaking shoot-out only to fall in the final to a well seasoned Protection Bruin team. After a strong start, Burns Lake finished the tournament in 4th with a tough loss in another exciting shoot-out.

The organizing committee would like to thank all the volunteers and contributors from their office and community as well as all the players, teams and fans that attended and made this tournament a great success. Hope to see all of you in 2008!

2007 Provincial Forest Service Curling Bonspiel

Come One Come All ... Have some Fun!!

This year's bonspiel will be held again at the Curling Club in Chase B.C., on March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, with the focus being on fun, a bit of competition and having a great time with colleagues, families, friends and former Forest Service employees. There is a special welcome for junior curlers or curler wannabe's and friends. Individual registrants are welcome and will be hooked up with a team for a great time!!!

There will be door prizes galore, with the goal again being to ensure all curlers leave with a prize of some kind. Prizes from the past 2 years have been pretty darn good, so be sure to be there!!

In case you don't know—the Provincial Forest Service Bonspiel used to be a huge event held annually in

Kamloops (in February or March) and peaked at over 120 teams participating. Curlers of all shapes, sizes, ages and abilities descended upon Kamloops to partake in a weekend of fun and competition with their Forest Service comrades. During the late 1990's and into the early 2000's, attendance declined to the point where the long-standing tradition took a 3-year breather. In 2005, the Bonspiel was resurrected and moved to a smaller, more affordable center—Chase. The home town atmosphere in Chase has been the home to a 22 team 'fun-fest' over the last 2 years. When attendance rebounds enough, the plan is to move the bonspiel back to Kamloops and let it continue to grow, hopefully starting in 2008.

Planning for this year's event is well underway through the efforts of the Organizing Team, which hails from the Okanagan Shuswap District and Southern Interior Region—Larry Martin, Bill Henriksen, Ken Shaw, Mike Jobke, Sally Beldi, Bob Threinen, Will Robbins, Kevin Bertram, Stan Jones, Craig Sutherland and Ron Racine.

Lots of information about the Bonspiel is available on a website set up to support the event

http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/dos/2007_Curling_Bonspiel/2007_Bonspiel_index.htm. If you've never curled before, be there for one of the Friday evening seminars "*Curling 101 in 15minutes.*"

39th Annual Ministry of Forests and Range Funspiel

The 39th Annual Ministry of Forests and Range Funspiel brought out the masses on Jan. 6. Indeed 24 keen MFR teams with "(Wo)Men with Brooms" were everywhere, braving the cool temperatures, only to recover comfortably in the hospitable lounge of the Archie Browning Arena.

For the old and new, it was a fantastic event that once again showed the family fun spirit that is the trademark of this ministry. For the observer there was a director here and there, a deputy minister (good to see Larry Pedersen), a new intern playing against her husband, other husbands and wives, colleagues and expert curlers (easy to spot) folded in amongst the novice types (again easy to spot). All enjoyed a full afternoon of the sport of curling that finished off with a hearty lasagne dinner and the wrap-up prize presentations.

RESULTS

The winners this year were "The Brian Corrigan Rink for Revenue Branch"! Brian beat two other teams from Revenue and the McNabb rink for Economics and Trade. Apparently Brian and his team of Bob Bull, Brent Sisco and Steve Davis have been just a little hard to put up with around the office since their big win. This year's wine "Forest Service Fermentations" came with coveted hand-etched glass mugs, created by Jim Challenger. Rumours abound about an etching on the wine bottle....

This was Roger's last "shot" as the organizer, he is retiring in **May**, and he truly has "out-swept" himself, "skipping" the 39th Annual MFR Funspiel to new curling highs. Talk about a hard act to follow, thank you

Roger and all participants that made it happen, it was truly a great fun event. Next years 40th anniversary will be organized by Dave Bodak, in Strategic Policy and Planning Branch. Watch for it!



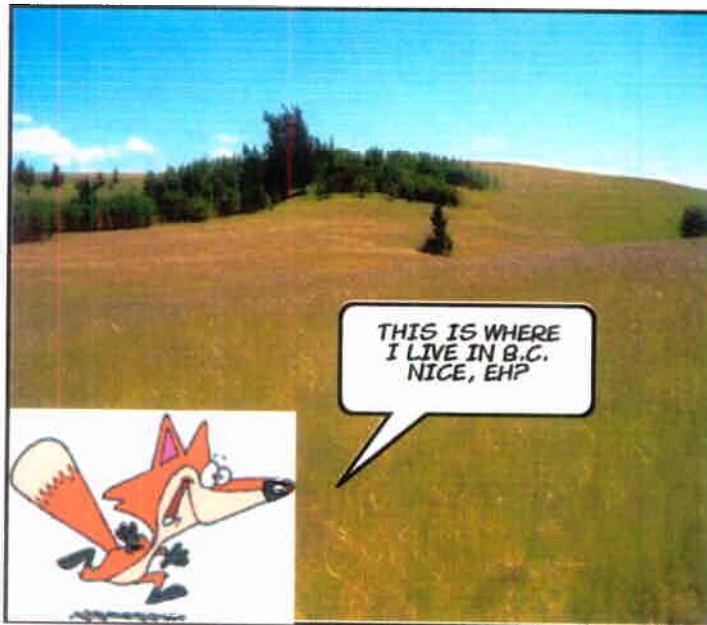












THIS IS WHERE
I LIVE IN B.C.
NICE, EHP



SOME PARTS OF B.C. LOOK LIKE
THIS. I'VE GOT A HUGE TEAM OF
PROFESSIONALS LOOKING AFTER IT.



THEIR VISION INCLUDES KEEPING IT IN
GOOD SHAPE SO THE HUMANS CAN
ENJOY IT - THEY CALL THIS "SOCIAL"
I THINK IT MEANS FUN - NOT SURE

THIS IS MY COUSIN.
HE'S GOT THAT "DEATH
BY E-MAIL" LOOK AGAIN.
HE'S BURIED, HE SHOULD
GET OUTTA THERE AND
TAKE A WALK.



THIS IS HOW
HUMANS
CATCH FISH.
I THINK
BEARS ARE
BETTER AT IT.



MY TEAM HAS
ANOTHER PART TO
THEIR VISION -
ENVIRONMENTAL
VALUES

THAT'S MORE
ABOUT US
ANIMALS, AND
BUGS AND FISH
AND BIRDS - WE
ALL GOTTA BE
ABLE TO LIVE HERE

SURE, I EAT THE
ODD BIRD EGG,
BUT THE ODD BIRD
EATS ONE OF MY
PUPS, SO IT ALL
WORKS OUT

(IT ALSO HELPS
THAT I POOP
EVERYWHERE)

I'M JUST
SAYIN'...

THEN THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE
VISION CALLED ECONOMY. JOBS ARE
AT STAKE - HUMANS NEED TO EAT TOO.
COMPANIES CUT DOWN TREES FOR THE
MARKET, FOR BUILDING,
AND MY HUMANS MAKE SURE THEY
PLANT MORE, AND LEAVE MY HOME
LOOKING PRETTY AND FULL OF THINGS
FOR ME TO EAT. IT'S A GOOD VISION.





4th Annual Dan LeClerc Memorial B.C. Forest Service Provincial Hockey Tournament & Curling Funspiel

Thursday February 15 - Saturday February 17, 2007
@ North Thompson Sportsplex
Clearwater, B.C.

Please accept this as your personal invitation !!

We have now finalized most of the tournament details and are ready to formally begin Hockey Tournament & Curling Funspiel Registration.

Highlights and points of emphasis include:

MENS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Entry fee is \$600.00 per team **IF** teams are confirmed prior to December 15, 2006.

After December 15, 2006 (and no later than January 19, 2007), the Mens Hockey Tournament Entry Fee is \$650.00 per team.

We have booked ice time and developed a tournament draw designed for only the first **8** Mens teams paid and registered.

Mens Hockey Tournament registration, rules ,questions or if you need any assistance please don't hesitate to contact Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca (250-587 -6750) Reg.Trapp@gov.bc.ca (250-587 - 6796) or Andrew.Groom@gov.bc.ca (250 / 587 - 6793)

- **Mens Hockey Registration Deadline is January 19, 2007**

WOMENS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Entry fee is also \$600.00 per team **IF** teams are confirmed prior to December 15, 2006.

We have decided to restrict entries to the first 4 paid registrations.

Important Note : If we do not have a commitment for a minimum of 4 Womens Hockey teams by December 22, 2006 then the Womens Hockey portion of this tournament will be cancelled. We realize that it may be difficult for you ladies to put together womens teams to participate so we are encouraging individuals to contact Sherri Harden directly if you are interested in playing.

Womens Hockey Tournament registration, rules ,questions or if you need any assistance please don't hesitate to contact Sherri.Harden@gov.bc.ca (250-587 -6798) or Mark.D.Taylor@gov.bc.ca (250 / 587 - 6715)

- **Womens Hockey Registration Deadline is December 22, 2006**

CURLING FUNSPIEL (Mens and / or Womens and / or Mixed and / or General Open Divisions)

Entry fee is \$120.00 per team **IF** Curling teams are confirmed prior to December 15, 2006.

After December 15, 2006 (and no later than January 19, 2007), the Entry Fee is \$140.00 per team.

We have initially booked sheets and developed a Bonspiel draw designed for 12 teams; however we are able to easily expand this schedule to accommodate up to 24 teams. We have restricted entries to the first 24 paid registrations.

Curling Funspiel registration, rules, questions or if you need any assistance please don't hesitate to contact Abbey.Bates@gov.bc.ca (250 587 –6770) or Korinne.Isbister@gov.bc.ca (250 587 – 6791) or Heather.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca (250 / 586 –6766)

- **Curling Funspiel Registration Deadline is January 19, 2007**

Payment for registration into each event should be made via cheque or money order and sent to the attention of :

Mark Taylor

Headwaters Forest District , Box 4501, RR#2 Clearwater, B.C. V0E 1N0





