



June 2007 | Volume 4, Issue 3 | [Archive](#)

[Printable version](#)

Connecting with Former Forest Service Employees

Submitted by:
Ron Racine
District Manager
Okanagan Shuswap

One of the most important communication vehicles we have in the Forest Service is our newsletter. A few years ago, we lost the newsletter for a period of time and it quickly became apparent that we needed it to not only communicate with each other, but also to ensure a connection with retirees and others who had left the organization.

When the first edition of the electronic version of the Forest Service *News* was distributed in December 2004, a few of us in the Southern Interior Region saw the opportunity to make sure the newsletter be distributed to our former colleagues. We had heard from folks who had left the organization that they wanted to stay connected. With that impetus, Bob Threinen (RSM) and I started developing a distribution list of retirees and former Forest Service employees who we knew would be interested in receiving the newsletter.

With more than 200 names now on the list, our expectations certainly have been exceeded. It has expanded well beyond the boundaries of our region and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive

Forest Service News - A Voice for Staff

In this issue:

[FS Retirees](#)
[People Location Profile](#)
[Centennial](#)
[Partners in Performance](#)
[Job Fair](#)
[First Harvest Ceremony](#)
[New Computer Application](#)
[Field Trip](#)
[Day of Mourning](#)

"Recognition and Awards"

[New Advisory Group Members](#)
[ForesTree](#)
[Kamloops Winter Crew](#)
[P.J.J. Hemphill Award](#)
[Premier's Award](#)

and a key factor in motivating to continue and even expand our list. The newsletter is a great way to keep people informed of many interesting stories from and about Forest Service employees and it also lets them know of events in which they can be involved.

I am also pleased that the newsletter advisory group has developed a PDF version of the newsletter, which enables us to distribute both the stories and pictures!

If you know of any former employee who you think would like to be added to the list, please send their names and email address to either Ron.Racine@gov.bc.ca, Bob.Threinen@gov.bc.ca or Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca

[Top](#)



Life in the Peace

Life in the Peace Forest District by Jenni Martin an interior and coast transplant who has taken up roots in "Dawson" as the C&E Supervisor.

Beep screams the alarm, its 6 am. I get up, turn on the coffee pot, encouraged by the comforting gurgle sound that has begun; I shower with little enthusiasm at first, then the warm water awakens me with the scent of zest. I scrub all the right spots and stay a little too long to soak in the heat. Breakfast and the slightly strong coffee complete my morning and I step out of my small home. Like most days I find a light breeze blowing scented with fresh cut hay, sweet grass or pine. On the hot days of summer there is relief and on the cold days of winter a bitter smack and a drift of snow to shovel. My home is perched on a hill that provides a view of Dawson Creek and Bear Mountain. I could watch my dog run away for days but life is good and she has no reason to go. I travel through the traffic circle, across town along the famous Alaska Hwy. to 17th street & half way up on the right is the office. The office is large and busting at the seams with staff, it is grey with a manicured lawn out front, a community forest out back with several trails

"Around the Forest Service"

[New Events Format](#)

[Hockey Fever](#)

[2007 Rendezvous](#)

[SPCA Challenge](#)

[Trapshoot](#)

[Williams Lake Golf](#)

[Corporate Challenge](#)



Forest Service News

A quarterly newsletter for all Forest Service employees.

[Submission Guidelines](#)

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 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—**deadline for September articles is September 14.**

to use during coffee and lunch breaks.

This office has a lot of diversity and talent in every age bracket. Some faces have the experiences and wisdoms of the Peace etched in, some faces are new. Heading the herd in the Peace district is Dale Morgan; he is new to the dry country and the ministry. The snow is easier to shovel on Queen Charlotte Islands where Dale, wife Trish and two little girls come from. Due to his late fall arrival it was spring before Dale discovered that his driveway is large enough for two vehicles. With new staff come renewed energy, enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to our office.

The Dawson Creek TSA covers approximately 2.28 million hectares and Fort St. John TSA covers approximately 4.67 million hectares—combined AAC 3,975. The district includes Dawson Creek, Hudson's Hope, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, Fort St. John, Trutch, Pink Mountain and Taylor. Our areas of business are diverse, Fort St John Pilot, MPB, range, First Nations - Treaty 8, oil & gas, research, protection, etc.

Dawson Creek boasts a population of 11, 000 and mile 0 of the Alaska Highway. The population swells and shrinks with the oil and gas activity and is difficult to find a room for rent or place to tent. We lived in an RV for 6 months, after work we searched for a suitable dwelling to purchase—visions of acreage danced in our heads. There was one place of interest on Fair Weather road—we searched and never did find it. I mentioned our plight at work and our engineer Steve replied “Fair Weather road is not a place but a condition – you have to have fair weather to travel it”.

Rain can make field activity tough. It takes just one trip, for the wet behind the ears, to learn this important lesson as the tires cake with mud, you slip off the road and then the embarrassing radio call to the office for help. Winter brings -40; things freeze and fall off, so we stay in.

The lunch room is full most winter days with folks and seasonal conversation, hunting and gut piles is always big as the Peace has an abundance of hunters and wildlife (Cariboo, moose, deer, bison, etc). Then there is calving (Winn & Kari), branding and farm/ranch seasons activities. Hockey is a topic in any office and we are no different, but we are proud of the Peace Devils who took second in the 2006 Stanfield Cup.

There has been change and there are more to come. I think Shrek said it best “change is good donkey.”

Much thanks Jenni Martin, come visit the Peace sometime!

[Top](#)



FS Crossword—how much do you know about the Forest Service?

Let us know how you did.

Planning for the Centenary of the Forest Service

Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester and Tim Sheldan, ADM, Operations

In 2012 the Forest Service, Ministry of Forests and Range, will celebrate its centenary. While this milestone is still over 4 years in the future, planning for it has commenced. In the following article we will outline progress to date and identify opportunities for you to become involved in this exciting project.

We have asked Ralph Archibald, retired Director from Forest Practices Branch, to work on a plan and budget for the ministry executive to consider and have asked for this package to be delivered to us by mid-October, to enable us to consider it in the early stages of the next budget cycle. Ideally, we would like to have executive approval of this package before the end of this calendar year, so that work can begin in earnest early in 2008.

Ralph has formed a small advisory group of present (John Parminter) and former (Mike Apsey, Doug Adderley, John Cuthbert, Charlie Johnson, Al MacPherson, Harry Drage and Jim Dunlop) MFR employees. We will be augmenting this group in the coming weeks with additional present employees. The advisory group has taken the first steps in defining the objectives of the centenary project, identifying the target audiences, identifying possible theme areas to be addressed and even suggested some possible products/events. These are all outlined below:

Objectives:

- To celebrate our past accomplishments and to inspire hope for the future.
- To create interest and enthusiasm for the Forest Service and the forest sector.
- To raise awareness of the historic and present role of the Forest Service.

Target Audiences:

- Staff – past and present
- Communities
- General public – domestically, nationally and internationally
- Elected officials
- Potential employees – secondary and post secondary students
- Professional Associations

Themes:

NEW

Reader Poll

The stories in FS News that most interest me are	
☐	about my colleagues' play
☐	about my colleagues' work
☐	about FS play
☐	about FS work
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Vote !</div>	
See Results	

(The present thinking is that each theme area would have a consistent 10 page document that outlines its history and present status within the ministry)

• BCTS	• Oval
• Branches	• Partnerships
• Compliance and Enforcement	• Protection
• Engineering	• Range
• Field offices (Ranger Districts, Regions, Districts)	• Recreation
• Inventory	• Research
• Land-use planning	• Revenue
• Legislation	• Scaling
• Marine fleet	• Silviculture
• Ministers, Ministry Executive members	• Tenuring

Possible Products / events:

- Book of photos and stories (table top)
- Book of written history
- Video – similar to U.S.F.S. “Greater Good”
- Web-based tool, key word / date driven containing stories, images and interviews
- Magazine stories / articles
- Take aways (hats, pins, etc)
- School packages
- Public displays – provincial and local
- Speaking notes – media packages
- Reunions – dinners, BBQs, etc

How you can get involved:

We believe that the work Ralph and his team have done is an excellent start. However, we would welcome your suggestions on how it could be improved. Such suggestions should be sent to Ralph.Archibald@gov.bc.ca.

A successful centenary celebration will be dependent on a large number of volunteers: people to help gather the stories, people to draft the theme documents, people to organize events in communities throughout the province, people to comb through local museums and archives and many other tasks yet to

be identified. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Ralph know.

Finally, we suspect that a large volume of historical information is sitting in offices, basements and/or attics. If you are aware of such information and have been wondering what to do with it, please bring it to Ralph's attention so that it can be catalogued and considered as a component to our centenary celebrations.

We will provide the next update on this project in the March '08 Forest Service *News*.

[Top](#)



Partners in Performance

It was a very successful first year for Partners in Performance (PIP), with six pilot visits completed.

Through PIP, qualified panels of peers visit offices (e.g., Branch, Regional Office, Timber Sales Office and Fire Centre) and have conversations with staff. Each office has the opportunity to showcase their strengths while panels assess how each response centre demonstrates the four factors important to a strong public service:

1. Engaged employees
2. Strong leadership
3. Citizen-centred culture
4. Organizational performance management and reporting

The six operations visited so far were Mackenzie, Quesnel and Sunshine Coast Forest Districts, the Southern Interior Forest Region, Seaward-Tlata Business Area, and the Forest Practices Branch in a whirlwind schedule from November to March.

Donna Horn and Rob Martin did a tremendous job of planning, coordinating logistics and supporting the PIP teams, as well as recruiting offices to visit, and spreading the word about PIP.

All offices involved expressed appreciation for the dedication, caring and professionalism displayed by all panel members in their work. PIP team members Mary Bauto, Ray Morello, Gloria Wills, Dave Hails, Krista Dunleavey, Jim Gowriluk, Debbie Janning-Stewart and Dave Horne report feeling privileged to get the chance to listen to so many Forest Service staff

talk about how their workplace was performing in terms of the four factors. The PIP team wants to thank all the offices visited for the enthusiasm and effort in making their visits a success.

Many people started their conversations with the panels by saying they were not sure they had much to say, but almost everyone had to be told their time was up!

The panels debriefed each office and provided a report on what was working well and what opportunities were discovered as they listened. Offices visited are moving forward with implementation of their 'growth plans' to build on successes and to address opportunities.

What was one of the key findings from the panel visits? Staff indicated that their level of engagement is directly related to the degree to which their leader/supervisor cares about or shows interest in them. They further emphasized that they want their leaders/supervisors to be visible in the organization on a daily basis.

There are eight Partners in Performance visits planned for this year, in yet to be determined locations. Please contact Rob Martin or Donna Horn for information about PIP, or check out the website at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/roadahead/pip/>

[Top](#)



Job Fair!

Getting back to the old days and delivering a positive Forest Service message to schools is of major importance to people working in the Arrow Boundary Forest District. Only three weeks after the year-end staff meeting, and roll out of the five themes feeding into the Human Resources Strategic Plan, an invitation was received to participate in a job fair at Selkirk College in Castlegar.

A team of 10 people led the charge in preparing for the February 6, 2007, event. Tasks were assigned and work began in building the posters and informational handouts. Time was short, but the final product was fantastic. Thanks to staff at branch and region for providing advice and materials!

The date arrived, and staff from the Arrow Boundary and Kootenay Lake Forest Districts, the Southern Interior Forest Region, BC Timber Sales and the South East Fire Centre showed up all decked out in Forest Service apparel and ready to work the booth. The enthusiasm that staff brought and the pride of the Forest Service was infectious to the students who visited the booth.

Feedback from staff who participated was: ‘we all promoted the FS in a real and enthusiastic way’, ‘I felt like we were making a difference to our organization,’ a great opportunity to show off what we do.’ We believe that at least a few of the students attending the job fair are interested in pursuing a career in forestry, based on what they learned at the booth.

[Top](#)



New Relationship Made Reality

Submitted by:
Kerry Grozier, District Manager
Chilliwack Forest District

The Aboriginal Affairs staff and managers in the Chilliwack Forest District attended a “first harvest ceremony” with the Chehalis Indian Band in April 2007. First harvest referring to the fact that the Chehalis have been successful in moving their reallocation licence toward two years of wood in cutting permit and strong sales pending for their logs. This may be playing out in many districts across the province and hope you too are celebrating these milestones of achievement.

What made this particular ceremony special and humbling was the Chehalis Band’s gift to the district of a ceremonial drum or Q’owet (cow wet). I am certain that many staff in the province have been witness to the deer skin drums that keep beat to songs and prayer of First Nations. We were told that to receive a drum is no ordinary experience and is in fact a very rare event at best. It demonstrates that we have reached a level of trust and respect that frankly I have not witnessed in my long career with the Forest Service. This could only be made possible by our ability to work with First Nations through the advent of the Forest Revitalization Plan.

Not all negotiations and efforts have resulted in success, but we can take a great deal of pride in the accomplishments that we have made. This gift was received by Russ Knutson, Aboriginal Affairs Officer extraordinaire, on his last few days of work before retiring. He passes the torch to Kevin Chisholm who has already been embraced by many of the bands we deal with.

Gene MacInnes, Operations Manager was asked to bring the drum to life by partaking in song. His drumming was shaky but in the end he did a great job—for a crusty old Scotchman.

It will certainly leave a lasting impression with me and believe it is very much about what we should see in the new relationship era.

[Top](#)



District tenures officer leads development of major new computer application

An interview with Bill Beard, Tenures Officer, Columbia Forest District regarding the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) Tracking System application.

Q. What is the FSP Tracking System?

The FSP Tracking System is a web based application now available to licensees and district/regional users to support the submission, review, approval and viewing of FSPs and their amendments.

Q. What was your role in the development of the FSP Tracking System?

This was an exciting project for me—as I was part of a highly skilled team building a new computer application to meet the needs of both industry and government within the usual constraints of resources and time. To help ensure the application met the needs of the users, I had the opportunity to work with Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) members, branch personnel along with potential users in various district and licensee offices.

This project was part of a one year temporary assignment to Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch (RTEB) in Victoria. I was a co-project manager with John Gallimore of MFR's Information Management Group (IMG), sponsored by PFIT and RTEB. My involvement in the project varied from full time, while I lead the definition of requirements and corresponding design, to slightly less while the consultants developed the application, which returned to full time during the implementation phase as I lead the testing and data loading activities.

Q. Why do we need this application?

The FSP Tracking System is a new computer application that will be very useful to district personnel. On the one hand, the application enables us to be consistent with the ministry's strategic direction to replace paper based submissions with electronic ones. On the other hand, the application assists district personnel in the review and approval process through optional workflow tools and by providing electronic access to documents. As the FSP is approved, the associated stocking standards

and Forest Development Unit boundaries will be automatically loaded and marked as approved in RESULTS and LRDW respectively.

Another major benefit I see is the ability for any user, whether government or licensee, to be able to retrieve an approved FSP and/or amendment(s) from a central database. Historical issues with paper files being misplaced will no longer be an issue.

Q. How do I get access to the FSP Tracking System?

Users may obtain access by requesting access on the FSP Tracking System website at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/fsp/>. There are training and support tools available on the website to help new and returning users with the application.

Q. What is next for you?

While I will be based out of my home district in Revelstoke, I plan to continue with the application—particularly with further defining how the application can support our business as we shift to operating under approved FSPs. This includes how the application can identify and track specific obligations on the land base. It's an exciting project and I'm looking forward to expanding the functionality of the application to further support both district and licensee users.

[Top](#)



Our Cowichan Field Trip

Submitted by:
Emily Pridham
Co-op Student
Aboriginal Affairs Branch

The Cowichan Tribes signed a Forest and Range Opportunity agreement with MFR in early 2004 and the Aboriginal Affairs Branch spent March 23rd touring some of the businesses that the Cowichan Tribes have successfully developed since then.

The first stop was the Cowichan Tribe's Probationary Community Forest. Rob Furness, Manager for Khowutzun Forest Services, talked to us about the project and the area's local history. It was an excellent

opportunity for those of us who work from an office to get a feel for the on-the-ground results of the agreements we negotiate with First Nations.

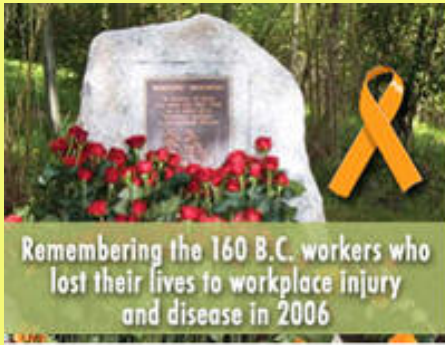
We returned to the Quw'utsun' Cultural Centre to join Chief Richard Alphonse and some of the Cowichan Tribe Councillors for a mouth-watering lunch. Salish tea, scow bread, grilled salmon and blackberry crumble highlighted the delicious meal of the day.

After lunch we visited Khowutzun Millwork and Joinery (KMJ), a cabinet-making shop owned by the Cowichan Tribes since 2002. The business started as a training facility, but the Band quickly realized it had the potential to be a very profitable business. KMJ now employs about 16 people full time and provides on-the-job training.

From the cabinet shop, we continued on to the Cowichan River Hatchery. The hatchery produces about 1.5 million fish annually, most of which get released into Cowichan Lake. A group of six women tagging fish inside one of the buildings caught our attention. Never having seen the process before, we were completely enthralled. The wriggly little fish first get submerged in an anaesthetic bath, where within ten seconds they stop moving. Then they're scooped up, have their fin clipped and the tag inserted in their nose (it's a tiny piece of wire that identifies where the fish is from and when it was released). The whole procedure takes less than a minute, and once the fish get returned to their tank, they're moving again within minutes.

Our final destination was Cherry Point Vineyards. Owned by the Cowichan Tribes for 3 years, the vineyard has 22 acres of grapes and can produce 5,000 cases of wine a year. We walked around the fields and then returned to the Wine Shop for a quick wine tasting lesson—the famous blackberry port was a tasty cap to the day. Plus the branch had seen first-hand proof that the Forest and Range Opportunity Agreement works.

[Top](#)



International Day of Mourning

Every year, WorkSafeBC, along with the B.C. Federation of Labour and the Business Council of British Columbia, co-host a public ceremony to remember those workers who lost their lives as a result of work-related accidents or occupational diseases.

This year, because the International Day of Mourning fell on a Saturday, WorkSafeBC held its main ceremony on Friday, April 27. The ceremony took place at 10 a.m. at the Workers' Memorial in Vancouver's Hastings Park, with a second ceremony in Nanaimo on the Saturday. Families, workers, employers and other interested parties were invited to attend.

WorkSafeBC also extended an invitation to a number of other organizations, including the Ministry of Forests and Range, to participate in this year's ceremony by laying a wreath on behalf of their organization. The Forest Service was invited due to the active role we are taking in helping to improve the safety performance in the forest industry in BC, through initiatives such as: entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with WorkSafeBC, establishing Safety Managers in both BCTS and Operations Division and participating in the BC Forest Safety Council.

Dave Peterson, ADM, BC Timber Sales, one of our two Forest Service participants on the Board of Directors of the Safety Council, attended the ceremony and laid a wreath on behalf of the Ministry of Forests and Range.

Dave had the following observations from the event. "It was a deeply emotional experience for me, both sobering and uplifting at the same time. I was profoundly struck by the testimonials from a young, injured sawmill worker from Fort St. James and from a WorkSafeBC inspector who often deals with the aftermath of industrial accidents, and by the presence of the family of a young worker who died in a gas station incident in Port Coquitlam. At the same time, I found it both inspiring and an honour to have a part in the role the Forest Service is playing in improving the safety culture in BC. Unsafe truly is unacceptable; clearly our mutual objective needs to be zero serious accidents and fatalities. One day, I hope that my children will choose a rewarding forestry career and I trust that the industry will be a safer place for them and all other workers."



[Top](#)

Welcome Forest Service *News* Advisory Group Members

Peg Ainsley

Peg is the Internal Communications Coordinator in Strategic Human Resources. Her varied background includes everything from private sector newsletter production to filmmaking—from supervision to media relations. Former government experience with Forest Renewal BC gave her some insight into the joys and challenges we face in the Forest Service.

Although experienced in all aspects of communications work, her favourite is Internal Communications. She enjoys assisting various workgroups with communicating their findings and results. She has developed new display units and materials for use at career fairs and has created a 90-second video that captures the essence of the Forest Service to be used on the career site, at career fairs, and in presentations.

She says she is excited about joining the newsletter team, and we look forward to having her input.

There is always room for more help, so please consider joining us.

Ron Racine

I am currently the District Manager of the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District and have been since the district opened in 2003. Previous to that, I spent 10 years with the Forest Service in Salmon Arm and Merritt and previous to that, 11 years with Industry in the Central Interior of BC.

My wife Lisa and I have two spunky and wonderful daughters, Kendra age 10 and Alyssa age 7, who we get a lot of enjoyment from.

I am thrilled that the Forest Service Newsletter is back and continues to be produced each quarter. I will do my best to help it be a product that all in the Forest Service can continue to be proud of!

Shane Berg

District Manager, Kamloops Forest District

Shane attended the University of Alberta and graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Forestry in 1985. Being surrounded by BC educated colleagues; he decided better to "join them" and received his Diploma in Forestry (Advanced Silviculture) from UBC in 1997.



Peg Ainsley



Ron Racine

Shane began his career in the British Columbia Forest Service with the Invermere Forest District as a "59-day hire" silviculture technician in 1987 after having worked for both Syncrude Canada in Ft. McMurray, AB and in a number of capacities with the Alberta Forest Service. His desire for more "permanency" found him promoting to a district silviculturist in the Boundary District in 1990, an Operations Manager in the Squamish Forest District in 1995 and a district manager post in the mighty Kispiox Forest District in 1997. Shane became District Manager of the Kamloops Forest District, the "Flagship" of the Southern Interior Forest Region, in August of 2002.

Shane's drawing career began at an early age when he realized he could avoid doing lengthy book reports in elementary school by instead, choosing to draw the historical figures or events. Little did his early teachers realize the "monster" they were creating?! Shane's formal "cartooning" exposure began as the editorial cartoonist for the U of A's "Gateway" campus newspaper, where he eventually created the "Bear Country" cartoon, chronicling the adventures of a forestry student, an engineering student and a talking bear as they lampooned everything from local campus politics to Bruce Springsteen concerts?! (Of no surprise to any of Shane's colleagues, he has a file-folder full of "letters to the editor" complaining about some of his racier topic areas!...come to think of it, Tim Sheldan has a similar file!).

Since that time, Shane has dabbled as a freelance cartoonist for a number of newspapers across BC and at his "peak" had his cartoons featured in over 15 community newspapers across the province. Shane has put his freelance pursuits "on hold" for awhile and now reserves his artistic endeavours for staff meetings, retirement gala's and the Forest Service Newsletter.



Shane Berg

[Top](#)



SUMMER SAFETY TIP: Avoid BBQ burning during periods of high forest fire danger!

By Shane Berg

[Top](#)



Brian McIntosh Wins ForesTree Award

Submitted by:
Jim Challenger, Ministry Webmaster
Information Management Group

Brian McIntosh is the winner of the \$100 gift certificate in the ForesTree Expertise Locator contest that the Information Management Group held from November to December 2006.

Brian is the Fuel Management Specialist for the Coastal Fire Centre, Protection Program. Brian is also a Type 1 certified Fire Behaviour Specialist who was recently deployed with 51 other Protection Staff to assist the State of Victoria, Australia in dealing with their recent large wildfires. For more information about Brian you can check out his ForesTree profile at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/gscripts/his/ftre/DisplayProfile.asp?ProfileID=373>

Over 450 staff have now entered their profiles into the ForesTree Expertise Locator and stories are already filtering back to me about how useful this tool is to find people who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with others.

To paraphrase a popular advertisement: Learn something. - Good; Enter your profile into ForesTree. - Fantastic; Share your knowledge with others—Priceless.

Be part of our learning organization and enter your profile into ForesTree today!

[Top](#)



From Fire Resistant pants to winter chaps and snow shoes

Like many communities within the interior of the province, Kamloops is fast becoming surrounded by a blanket of beetle infested trees. This winter the City of Kamloops took significant steps to reduce the fire hazard within its municipal boundaries

working in partnership with the City of Kamloops, industry, private contractors, the Kamloops Indian Band, the Kamloops Forest District office and the ministry Fire Zone staff.

Fire fighters from the Kamloops Initial Attack and Unit Crews had the opportunity to continue working throughout the off season falling and burning Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees in a number of residential areas within city limits. Crew members traded in their fire resistant pants for winter chaps and snow shoes to treat a total area of over 50 hectares scattered over 6 different locations within the city, (this was part of over 400 total hectares the city had treated).

The suppression crews also recovered costs for significant fuel modification projects for the district of Logan Lake and BC Parks at Lac le Jeune Provincial Park. Smaller projects were also completed for the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts at a number of recreation trails and campsites throughout the Kamloops Forest District.

Not only did the crews benefit from the increased employment, they also received chainsaw training both in the field and classroom from trained professionals. They are now a more valued resource for the upcoming summer fire season and are increasing safety for the people of British Columbia in urban forested areas and popular recreation sites.

The Kamloops Zone Fuels Management Team was also presented with Certificates of Appreciation from Kelly Johnston of the City of Kamloops, for their contribution toward the City's Community Wildfire Prevention Plan.

The Certificate of Appreciation recipients were:

- * Hugh Murdoch
- * Raymond Dick
- * Dolan Paul
- * Geoff House
- * Jason William

- * Craig Wallace
- * Mike Narcisse
- * Kevin Antoine
- * Jarvis Manuel
- * Ian Adams
- * Phillip Shupe

The crews should be proud of their contribution towards this fuels management initiative.

[Top](#)



P.J.J. Hemphill Award for Excellence in Engineering

Trent Meyer - 2007 Recipient

The P.J.J. Hemphill Award for Excellence in Engineering is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have achieved excellence in delivering ministry engineering initiatives and activities.

The award is given in honour of Pete Hemphill, a former Director of the 'old' Engineering Branch.

Former award recipient Norm Larson, presented Trent Meyer, Engineering Officer of the Sunshine Coast Forest District with the 2007 award.

Nominations are evaluated on the basis of peer recommendations indicating that tangible improvements have been made to the ministry engineering program through the engineering excellence and innovation of the nominees. The 2007 Review Panel was comprised of past Award Winners, including:

- 2006 – Doug Erickson
- 2005 – Alan Harrison
- 2004 – Les Higgs
- 2003 – Duncan Taggart
- 2002 – Della Peterson
- 2001 – Daryl Hunt & Norm Larson

[Top](#)

BCTS Finalist in Premier's Excellence Awards

[Photo](#)

Premier Gordon Campbell honoured 4 individuals and 5 teams with 152 members for their outstanding achievement in British Columbia's public service, presenting each with a Premier's Award in Innovation and Excellence on March 27, 2007.

BC Timber Sales was chosen as one of 18 finalists for a 2007 Premier's Excellence Award. More specifically, BCTS is one of three finalists in the category of Organizational Excellence. A total of 65 nominations were submitted for all categories to a panel of independent adjudicators and judges for the 2007 Premier's Awards, with the 9 winners selected from the 18 finalists.

BCTS staff was also involved in a second project, the new interior log grading system, which was a finalist in the Service Excellence category.

The development and implementation of the new interior grades system required coordination with the private sector, BCTS, over 800 scalers and the scaling software vendors. Several ministry divisions and staff at all levels were involved in meeting the tight timelines for this project.

Selection as a finalist is a significant achievement and the strength of the nomination is a tribute to the efforts and commitment of staff in making BCTS an excellent organization with strong performance after just a few years of operation. The submission is available at <http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/com/excellence/>.

The B.C. Public Service is the largest corporate workforce in the province, with more than 30,000 people working everyday to make a positive difference in the lives of 4 million British Columbians.

More information on the winners and the Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards is available online at www.bcpublicservice.ca/premiersawards

[Top](#)

New Events Format

Everyone in the Forest Service is passionate about their sporting and other FS activities and so they should be! Whether curling and hockey in winter or boating and golf in summer, we love the competition, the biting cold, the sweltering heat and gloating over results.

We have SO many events; it is difficult to keep up with them in the Forest Service *News*. We have stories containing announcements of upcoming events and results of past events. We have reports of districts throwing an event just for the heck of it and all manner of other sports news.

To meet this enormous thirst for knowledge about each others' events, we have created special links to such activities located [“Around the Forest Service.”](#)

You can check on the results of your favourite match, watch for news of upcoming games and let us know about what events are taking place in your area.

[Top](#)

Made you read the entire newsletter—just to get to the crossword [answers](#)...

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You are visitor # 0

Life in the Peace

Life in the Peace Forest District by Jenni Martin an interior and coast transplant who has taken up roots in “Dawson” as the C&E Supervisor.

Beep screams the alarm, its 6 am. I get up, turn on the coffee pot, encouraged by the comforting gurgle sound that has begun; I shower with little enthusiasm at first, then the warm water awakens me with the scent of zest. I scrub all the right spots and stay a little too long to soak in the heat. Breakfast and the slightly strong coffee complete my morning and I step out of my small home. Like most days I find a light breeze blowing scented with fresh cut hay, sweet grass or pine. On the hot days of summer there is relief and on the cold days of winter a bitter smack and a drift of snow to shovel. My home is perched on a hill that provides a view of Dawson Creek and Bear Mountain. I could watch my dog run away for days but life is good and she has no reason to go. I travel through the traffic circle, across town along the famous Alaska Hwy. to 17th street & half way up on the right is the office. The office is large and busting at the seams with staff, it is grey with a manicured lawn out front, a community forest out back with several trails to use during coffee and lunch breaks.

This office has a lot of diversity and talent in every age bracket. Some faces have the experiences and wisdoms of the Peace etched in, some faces are new. Heading the herd in the Peace district is Dale Morgan; he is new to the dry country and the ministry. The snow is easier to shovel on Queen Charlotte Islands where Dale, wife Trish and two little girls come from. Due to his late fall arrival it was spring before Dale discovered that his driveway is large enough for two vehicles. With new staff come renewed energy, enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to our office.

The Dawson Creek TSA covers approximately 2.28 million hectares and Fort St. John TSA covers approximately 4.67 million hectares—combined AAC 3.975. The district includes Dawson Creek, Hudson's Hope, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, Fort St. John, Trutch, Pink Mountain and Taylor. Our areas of business are diverse, Fort St John Pilot, MPB, range, First Nations - Treaty 8, oil & gas, research, protection, etc.

Dawson Creek boasts a population of 11, 000 and mile 0 of the Alaska Highway. The population swells and shrinks with the oil and gas activity and is difficult to find a room for rent or place to tent. We lived in an RV for 6 months, after work we searched for a suitable dwelling to purchase—visions of acreage danced in our heads. There was one place of interest on Fair Weather road—we searched and never did find it. I mentioned our plight at work and our engineer Steve replied “Fair Weather road is not a place but a condition – you have to have fair weather to travel it”.

Rain can make field activity tough. It takes just one trip, for the wet behind the ears, to learn this important lesson as the tires cake with mud, you slip off the road and then the embarrassing radio

Beep, beep, beep screams the alarm, its 6 am and my day begins

call to the office for help. Winter brings -40; things freeze and fall off, so we stay in.

The lunch room is full most winter days with folks and seasonal conversation, hunting and gut piles is always big as the Peace has an abundance of hunters and wildlife (Cariboo, moose, deer, bison, etc). Then there is calving (Winn & Kari), branding and farm/ranch seasons activities. Hockey is a topic in any office and we are no different, but we are proud of the Peace Devils who took second in the 2006 Stanfield Cup.

There has been change and there are more to come. I think Shrek said it best “change is good donkey.”

Much thanks Jenni Martin, come visit the Peace sometime!

District tenures officer leads development of major new computer application.

An interview with Bill Beard, Tenures officer, Columbia Forest District regarding the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) Tracking System application.

Q. What is the FSP Tracking System?

The FSP Tracking System is a web based application now available to licensees and district/regional users to support the submission, review, approval and viewing of FSPs and their amendments.

Q. What was your role in the development of the FSP Tracking System?

This was an exciting project for me—as I was part of a highly skilled team building a new computer application to meet the needs of both industry and government within the usual constraints of resources and time. To help ensure the application met the needs of the users, I had the opportunity to work with PFIT members, branch personnel along with potential users in various district and licensee offices.

This project was part of a one year temporary assignment to Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch (RTEB) in Victoria. I was a co-project manager with John Gallimore of MFR's Information Management Group (IMG), sponsored by the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) and RTEB. My involvement in the project varied from full time, while I lead the definition of requirements and corresponding design, to slightly less while the consultants developed the application, which returned to full time during the implementation phase as I lead the testing and data loading activities.

Q. Why do we need this application?

The FSP Tracking System is a new computer application that will be very useful to district personnel. On the one hand, the application enables us to be consistent with the ministry's strategic direction to replace paper based submissions with electronic ones. On the other hand, the application assists district personnel in the review and approval process through optional workflow tools and by providing electronic access to documents. As the FSP is approved, the associated stocking standards and Forest Development Unit boundaries will be automatically loaded and marked as approved in RESULTS and LRDW respectively.

Another major benefit I see is the ability for any user, whether government or licensee, to be able to retrieve an approved FSP and/or amendment(s) from a central database. Historical issues with paper files being misplaced will no longer be an issue.

Q. How do I get access to the FSP Tracking System?

Users may obtain access by requesting access on the FSP Tracking System website at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/fsp/>. There are training and support tools available on the website to help new and returning users with the application.

Q. What is next for you?

While I will be based out of my home district in Revelstoke, I plan to continue with the application—particularly with further defining how the application can support our business as

we shift to operating under approved FSPs. This includes how the application can identify and track specific obligations on the land base. It's an exciting project and I'm looking forward to expanding the functionality of the application to further support both district and licensee users.

Hockey Fever

Cabin fever struck a few MFR folks during a dull winter's day in February... Cy McConnell and Steve Jablanczy were reminiscing about the old days and the traditional Nelson Region Hockey Tournament. They struck upon the idea of having a “just for old times sake” hockey match pitting Kootenay East against Kootenay West.

Let the planning begin! At first count, it appeared that there would be plenty of ‘stars’ and consideration was given to a small round robin. As the date drew near, cases of disinterest reared their ugly head, legs were broken, other commitments surfaced and numbers dwindled. However, the morning of the big match 21 players were present and gave the game of HOCKEY its deserved CANADIAN effort.



Kootenay East Represented by (L to R):
Cliff Lauder, Ray Morello, Max Andrew, Ron Kassian, Lloyd Havens ,Tony Wideski, Curt Soderstrum Paul Rasilainen, Don Hurlbut ,Travis “Hands” Opal.



Kootenay West Represented by (L to R):

Ron “may rain” Lakeman, Paul “oops...sorry” Rasmussen, Gene “snorer” Desnoyers, Wes “no neck” Ogloff, Don “Crash” Courson, Shawn “the Chef” Switzer, Mark “Majic” Healy, “Diving” Dave Duncan, Elaine “Strong-Arm” Armagost, Dennis “Wreck’em” Rexin and Steve “Jab’em” Jablanczy.

The match ended with Kootenay West waxing Kootenay East—or was it the other way around? Regardless a good time was had by all both on and off the ice.

There is hope that the tradition continues with a re-match in the fall of 2007.

The last regional tournament was hosted by the Cranbrook Chiefs in the East Kootenays in spring 2001.

Is there any interest in resurrecting this tournament even on a smaller scale? With many past players nearing the retirement age it would be fun to bring back players from past teams such as the Inverbrook Beavers, Kootenay Lake, Golden Flames and the regional office, mix it up with the new (much younger) players and give it another go!

EX-FOREST SERVICE VESSEL RENDEZVOUS AND “OPEN HOUSE”

Submitted by:
John Parminter
Research Branch, Victoria

As described in the October 2005 issue of this newsletter, the *MV Coast Ranger*, our last wooden vessel in active marine service, travelled from Prince Rupert to Vancouver to attend the 14th annual rendezvous of the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron. This group consists of current owners of coastal boats formerly operated by the Forest Service for many decades.

The 2006 rendezvous was held at the Brentwood Bay Marina on Vancouver Island and boats attending were *Silver Fir*, *Alpine Fir II*, *Maple II*, *Dean Ranger* and *Forest Ranger II*. Special guest Charles Hyatt, accompanied by his wife and family, travelled from Sechelt to Brentwood Bay to reunite Charles with some of the boats he lived and worked on. He was stationed on *Western Yew* around 1956 at Chatham Channel, working the Knight Inlet area. The Forest Service presence consisted of an office on floats and two houses on the shore, where Charles' wife and two daughters lived and where the children were home schooled.

After a few years away, Charles returned to the Forest Service in 1960. He and an assistant ranger took the *White Birch* from the Fraser River depot in Vancouver to Ocean Fall, where they lived on board for the summer and worked the Rivers Inlet and Smith Inlet areas, then switched to the *Forest Ranger II* out of Thurston Bay to work Bute Inlet.

Two ranger districts were covered from Thurston Bay and seven families lived at the marine station. Charles subsequently worked out of Lund, Madeira Park and Sechelt on the *Forest Dispatcher*, *Pacific Yew*, *Wells Gray* and *Western Yew*. After retiring, Charles stayed in Sechelt and his former Forest Service home in Madeira Park is now the community library.

The 2007 rendezvous will be held from August 24 – 26, 2007, at the Maple Bay Marina, near Duncan. It will also be a reunion for any Forest Service employee who worked on the vessels, plus it is hoped that other government service, police, fisheries, Coast Guard and supply or mission boats will attend.

The former Forest Service vessels present will be open for tours on Saturday, August 25 from 13:00 to 15:00. For information on the 2007 Ex-Forest Service Vessel Rendezvous and Reunion please contact:

Ms. Robin Lakenes
PO Box 448
Brinnon, Washington 98320 USA
Phone (360) 796-3340
E-mail: compassrose@express56.com

For additional information about former Forest Service vessels please visit these websites:

<http://www.members.shaw.ca/forestryboats/>

<http://www.members.shaw.ca/marineimages/>



SPCA CHALLENGE

Submitted by:

Lynda S. Jones

Administrative Assistant

Southern Interior Forest Region

And they're offfrom May 1st to May 15th

Once again this year the Northern Interior Region (NIR) and the Southern Interior Region (SIR) challenged each other to see who could raise the most money for their respective SPCAs. This challenge started in 2005, with the NIR beating the SIR, and Phil the Z - RED having to wear a dress to an all staff meeting. In 2006, the two regions again entered the race, along with the Coast. SIR was the triumphant winner, leaving the other two REDs to dress up at staff meetings. Who can forget Bill Warner (with his flowing golden locks) pole dancing.

In 2007, the challenge was back between NIR and SIR. Wendy Cole and Heather Harris from the north, worked feverishly to organize a variety of fun events; such as 50/50, bake sale, basket raffle, pull tab lottery and RED parking, with the Mackenzie Forest District coming on board and donating \$257.00 to add to the region's total. Final Tally: a very impressive \$1417.00 for their SPCA.

Dianne Clearwater, Beth Eagles, Andrea Inwards, Trudy Goold and Lynda Jones in SIR, put in an exhausting schedule of events—with something planned for almost every day, starting with an all staff meeting sing-along, by the Village Idiots, singing S...P...C...A... to the tune of YMCA.

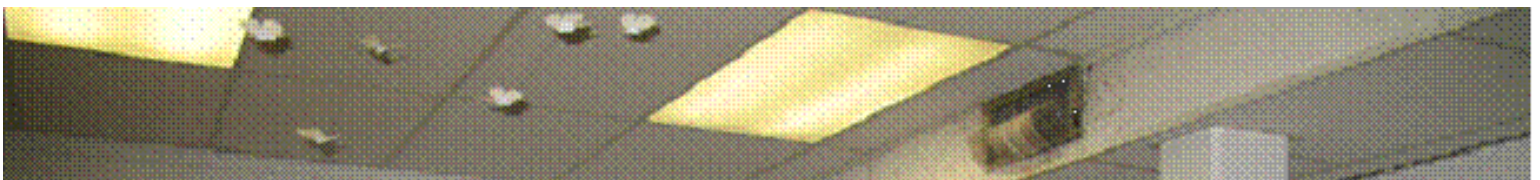
List of events: 50/50, cookie/baking sale and dog cookie sale, chilli challenge, hot dog sale, in-house bottle drive, dog agility demo and introduction, perogie sales (over 1100 perogies made, and sold, by regional volunteer staff), wonton soup/chow mein day (over 300 wontons were also made by regional volunteer staff) Texas Hold'em poker game, office Olympics, horse racing, bring-your-pet-to•work day, huge silent auction and garage sale.

I'm sure most staff are glad the “*SIR SPCA FM Station—With Lots of Commercials and Very Little Music*,” has shut down again for another year.

SIR retained her first place standing by bringing in a whopping, \$3248.73 for the Kamloops SPCA (NOTE: Kamloops beat Kelowna in the Kamloops/Kelowna City Challenge during this same two week period by \$86,570 to 71,000).

Above all—staff really enjoyed the two week challenge with lots of full stomachs and too much laughter. The friendly rivalry between the two regions is a real hit.

Since the beginning of the SPCA ministry Regional Challenge in 2005, through the generosity of the Ministry of Forests and Range staff in the 3 regions, a total of \$ 14,799.32 has been raised for the SPCA. We can all take a bow—forestry has shown them “we care”!





PEROGIE MAKING 101 WITH RED!

LYNDA JONES

MICHELLE KONOWALCHUK

GUEST

PHIL ZACHARATOS

CHERYL DOLL

ELDY GOOLD

The Chilcotin Forest District's 36th Annual Trap Shoot 2007

Submitted by:
 Dan Hicks
 Stewardship Technician
 Chilcotin Forest District

The Chilcotin Forest District held its 36th Annual *Chilcotin Forest District Trap Shoot* at the Chilcotin Rod & Gun Club Range in Alexis Creek on Saturday, May 26th.

The contestants and onlookers were undeterred by frequent showers with 65 contestants signed onto 13 teams traveling from as far north as Burns Lake and as far south as 100 Mile House.

Further to the established shooting events, such as 22 caliber rifle shooting, and skeet and trap shotgun shooting, everyone was treated to a wild west styled “cops versus cowboys” shooting contest.

District Tenures Officer Grant Feldinger organized the event, assisted by Tenures Forester Brian Rosengren and many other district volunteers with Williams Lake resident Barry Jenkins serving as Range Master and John LaBoyne of the Okanagan-Shuswap District designing the event T-shirt logo.

As the winners of the “cops versus cowboys” shooting contest, the cowboys donated their reward money to the Cariboo-Chilcotin based *139 Children's Fundraising Society*.

Highest scoring shooting team <i>Jack Lynn Memorial Trophy</i>	<i>The Horsefly Hotshots</i> ; Wayne Johnson, John and Tim Menning, Leonard Tepemmer and Albert Veninea.
Top male gun	Brian Foote
Top female gun	Connie Haley
Annie Oakley top shooter (trap shoot elimination event) <i>Kevin Frittenburg Memorial Trophy</i>	Barry Jenkins
Ladies' 22 caliber rifle shooting winner	Sandie Cattanach
Children's 22 caliber rifle shooting winner	Cole Feldinger
Cops versus Cowboys handgun and long-gun shooting winners	The cowboys; Slim Brecknock, Malcolm Cattanach and Steve Lemke.
Lowest scoring team <i>Broken Shotgun Award</i>	<i>The Flying Tigers</i> ; Anna Brace, Ollie Chapman, Connie Haley, Bruce Myers and Steve Richburg.
65 th best shooter	Brian Rosengren





Fore!

It's that time of year again—start planning to attend the 35th Annual Provincial Golf Tournament, one of our oldest Forest Service traditions.

The Williams Lake Forestry Centre is once again honoured to host this magnificent event in the beautiful Central Cariboo.

Please keep September 7-9th open because you are not going to want to miss this tournament.

Being an anniversary year, we are planning on a few extra special activities.

More information will be coming soon, so watch your e-mail.



Corporate Rowing Challenge - Victoria

The 14th annual Island Community Corporate Rowing Challenge Regatta was held June 2nd on the Gorge Waterway in Victoria as part of the Selkirk Waterfront Festival. Rowing is a team sport that requires determination, collaboration, commitment, patience and a positive attitude.

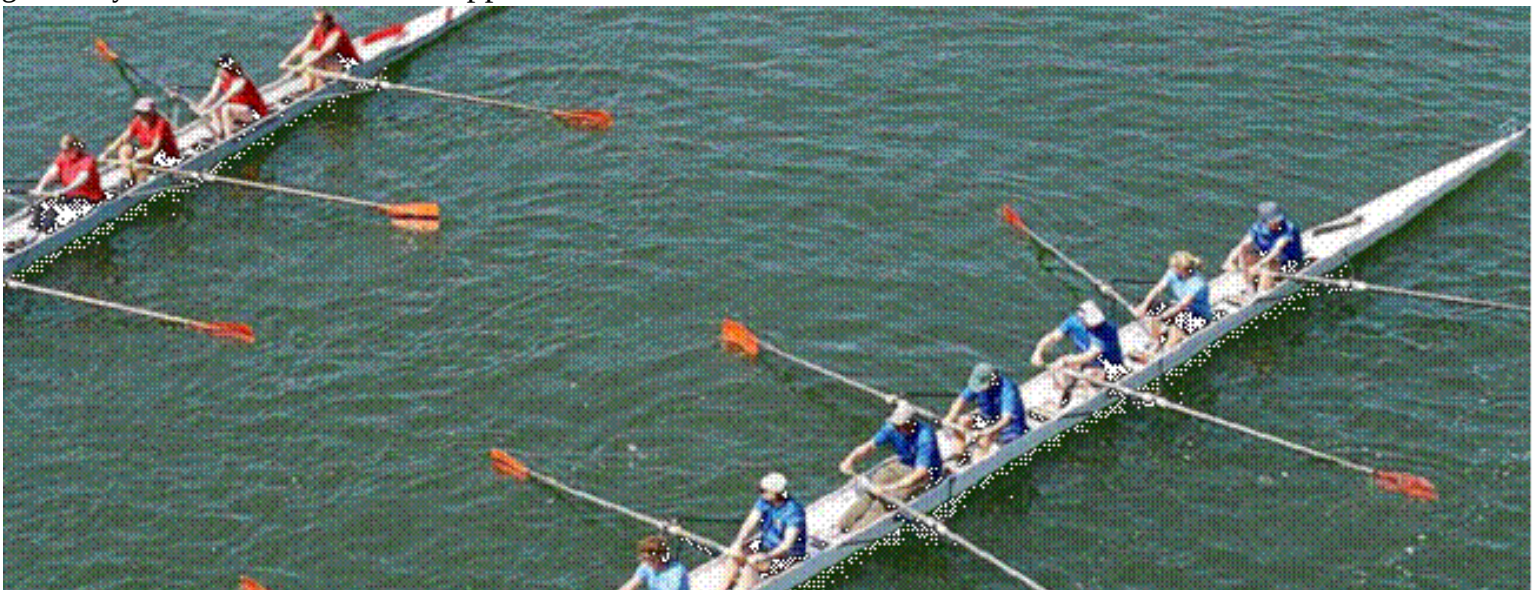
The Ministry of Forests and Range entered a team in the 'Challenger 8' category. The 'MFR Forest Oars Rowed Ahead' team consisted of Reed Vickers, Grant Loeb, Steve Davis, George Silvestrini, Jen Erlendson (all from Revenue), Eva Podolski, Patti Kagawa (BCTS), Susan Zedel (Tree Improvement Branch), Ron Planden (Forest Analysis and Inventory), Nigel Fletcher (Forest Practices), Tricia Morris (Aboriginal Affairs) and Melissa Murray (Labour & Citizen Services). The coxswain was Colin Silvestrini, George's son, who did a fantastic job and enjoyed ordering all the adults around, especially his dad! The crew had a fun and patient coach, Willow, who played a great leadership role in bringing the team together.

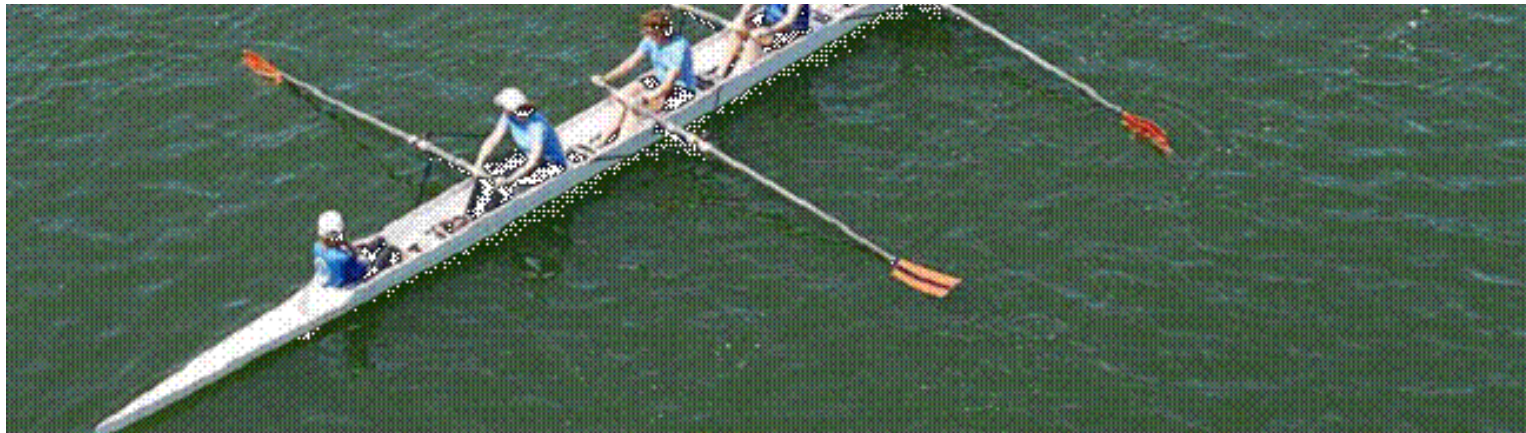
Practices for the final regatta began in mid-April, twice a week after work for seven straight weeks at the Elk Lake facility of the Victoria City Rowing Club.

On June 2nd, the day of the competition, a fleet of 15 eight-man boats had registered to compete in the same challenger category. There were teams from all over Victoria in the regatta: B.C. Ferries, PSA, A-Channel, and other ministries including Environment, Labour and Citizen Services and Pacific Forestry Centre. Races were held over a 500m course set at the Selkirk Waterfront. Each crew had two preliminary races with the top four boats participating in the final, based on the combined time from both preliminary races.

The Forest Oars won both their preliminary races. It was an exciting race to the finish line in their first heat with a time of 2:19.40, with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources 1.5 seconds behind, and VIHA in third. The second heat showed a great start and the crew held on to win in a time of 2:05.79 against the Lakeside Trail Runners and the Pediatric Nurses. Despite winning both of the preliminary heats, the Forest Oars did not have a fast enough combined time to make the final heat and finished in 5th place out of the 15 teams in the Challenger 8 category.

The crew also managed to raise just over \$300 in the pledge drive to support Dynamic Opportunities for Youth. A big thank you to all of those who supported the cause!











Submission Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the newsletter is to strengthen communication across the Forest Service as well as with past employees. The success of the Forest Service *News* depends on staff stories and ideas.

Content Categories

The newsletter Advisory Group needs to ensure that certain areas are covered—not in every edition, but aiming to cover all of them over the course of a year.

Which of these content categories fits your story?

Events (FS calendar and upcoming events, stories after events)

People profiles

Forest Service **History**

Places/location profiles

Organizational **Direction/strategy**

Business, including innovation

Employee/team **Recognition**

Limits

We target 12 stories per edition.

It needs to be kept printer friendly, clean and easy to read.

A story length of **400 words** or less also keeps the newsletter readable in a brief amount of time. Some stories may require a longer format and will be considered on an individual basis. The key is to keep it interesting and provide a personal FS employee connection.

A photo to accompany your story would be great. Because of website delivery of the newsletter, photos in jpg format are best.

Please send three or four of your best pics and the advisory group will make the final selection of one photo per story.

Sometimes we receive stories that need some **editing**. Any changes will be sent back to the originator for approval. A story that needs substantial editing may have to wait for another edition, depending upon time constraints and circumstances.

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.

Deadlines

Story ideas should be sent to the feedback form prior to drafting the article.

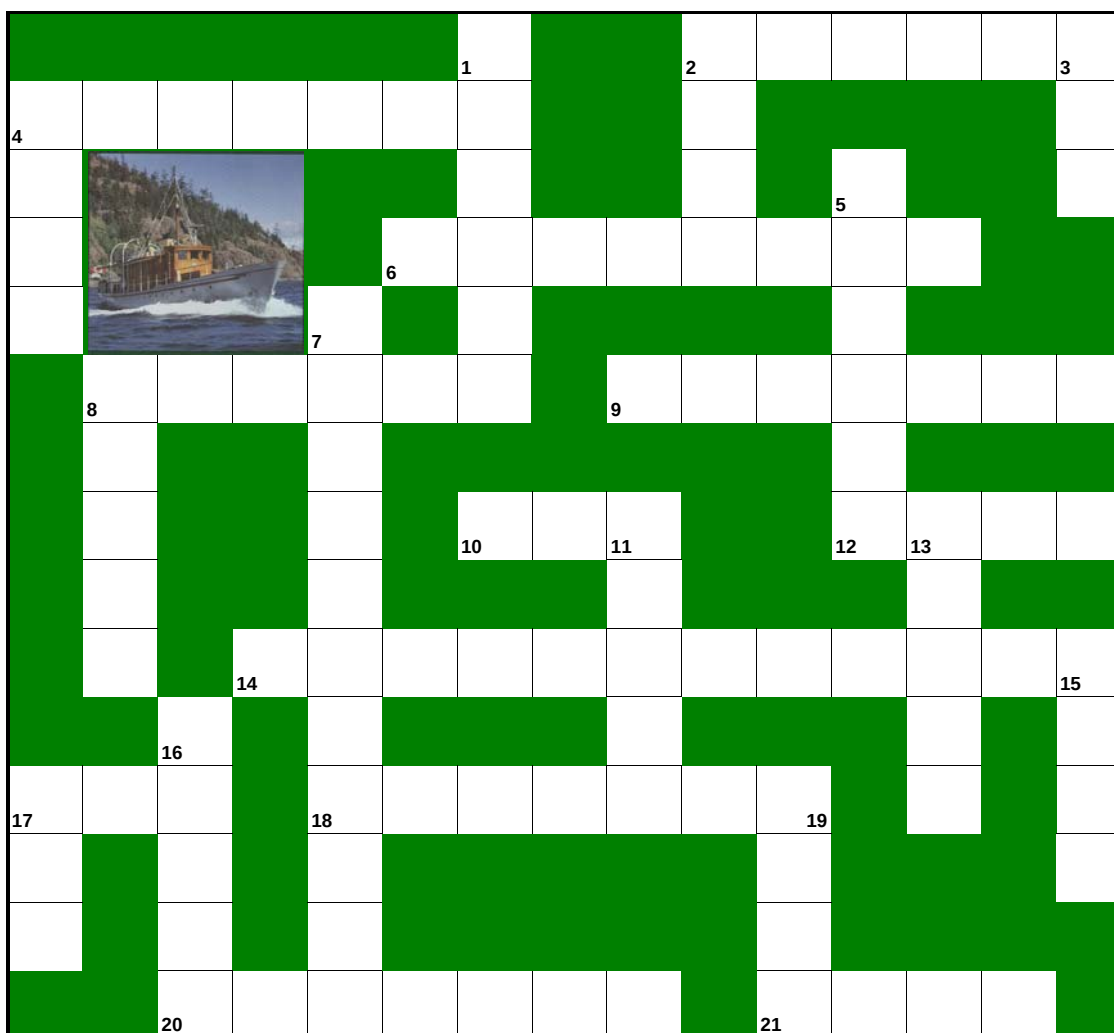
Submissions are required no later than two weeks prior to the production of the next quarterly edition: Production target dates are: **March 31, June 30, Sept 30, Dec. 22**

We'd appreciate your completing the **reader polls** to help us continuously improve this employee-driven newsletter.

Your final story checklist:

- ☐ Is the content relevant and appropriate?
- ☐ Have the facts been checked and verified?
- ☐ Is there a “personal” angle?
- ☐ Is the length within the guideline? (400 words)
- ☐ Grammar and spelling checked?
- ☐ Is there a photo to include?

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



ACROSS

2. Study of biology of plants
4. Rubber tired logging machine
6. Right now it's Coleman
8. "The Beautiful Ship" (pictured)
9. aka Yellow cedar
10. Guitarist Jeff or eco classification(acronym)
12. Everyone should have this plan (acronym)
14. Vanderhoof's hockey prize(2 words)
17. What we call 'our' roads (acronym)
18. Cone bearing
20. Take the ferry from Fauquier
21. Precursor to Forest Licences (acronym)

DOWN

1. Tom or Timber
2. Former SBFEP (acronym)
3. Cancer fighting tree
4. "Hoot Haven" places (acronym)
5. 1970s Forest Actor
7. Heavy measure
8. Now it's BCTS (2 DOWN)
11. Snetsinger is this kind of forester
13. Latin for spruce
15. _____ Fiction or in orange juice
16. Tree top on a Royal's head
17. Animal skin tree
19. Goes with square or canal

The Forest Service Crossword Puzzle

All answers have a forestry theme and include many acronyms used by the FS.















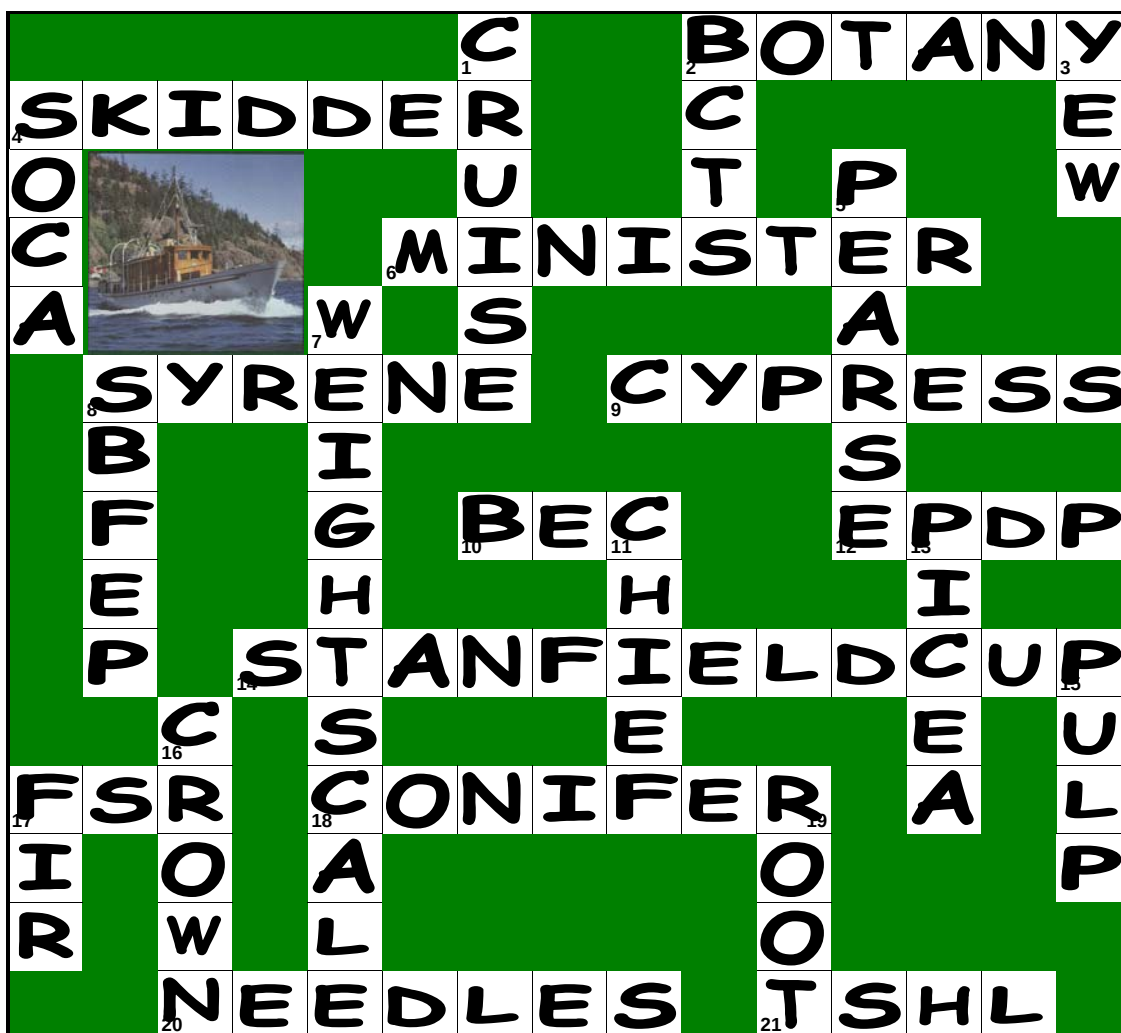












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