



Forest Service News Advisory Group Vision:

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

Printable version

March 2008 | Volume 5, Issue 1 | [Archive](#)



Celebrate BC150 Years

Submitted by:
Colene Wood, RPF
Mountain Pine Beetle Response Team

Have you seen the ad on TV, where the narrator talks faster and faster as all the vistas of our beautiful province flash across the screen? You see wildlife, First Nations, salmon rivers, trees, workers, trains, boats and pioneers—all recognizable to Ministry of Forests and Range staff. In 2008, all over BC, people will see and experience our cultural and natural history as BC150 celebrations are held.

Our forestry heritage is woven throughout the BC landscape. Early logging by the Canadian Pacific Railway using rail transport established a forest industry, supplying wood from railway grants across southern BC.



Reference: BC150 website

"The importance of railways in the history of BC and Canada is often not entirely realized or may be forgotten nowadays" says William Stetler, Operations Manager for Steam Locomotives at Canadian Pacific Rail. A BC150 heritage tour will give people across BC a chance to celebrate communities linked by rail, such as Revelstoke and Hastings Mill (Vancouver).

Forest Service News - A Voice for Staff

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Transportation is the heart of forestry in BC. Water and boats were a part of life for many Forest Service staff with boat travel still continuing today.

BC150 is about communities organizing events. Sunshine Valley will host a community homecoming; the Hope Mountain School will organize a canoe and kayak trip down the Fraser River in honour of BC Rivers Day on September 28; and Hope Brigade Days, which take place every September, will be bigger than ever, in honour of the festival's 40th anniversary.

Cowichan Tribes will host the 2008 North American Indigenous Games in August, with more than 7000 athletes competing in 16 sports. There will be 2000 cultural performers and more than 3000 volunteers in Duncan.



Penticton is celebrating their 100th anniversary as a municipality and the Museum and High Schools produced a video honouring a key citizen, Hugh Leir and his family who established a logging industry in the Okanagan. This video was sponsored by the Ministry of Forests and Range and was released during the Association of BC Forest Professionals conference, ExpoFor 2008, in late February. A copy can be borrowed from our library.



Perhaps your town is planning a celebration? Check out the BC150 website, <http://www.bc150.gov.bc.ca/> and see if you can add a local forestry flavour to the celebrations.

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Mission to Europe

Submitted by:
Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester

From February 25 to 28, I participated in a European tour as part of the International Forestry Partnerships Program (IFPP) operated by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers to promote Canada's sustainable forest management practices to government agencies developing green procurement policies and buyers of Canadian forest products.

I represented B.C. and was accompanied by forestry representatives from Ontario, Quebec, the Canadian Forest Service and the Forest Products Association of Canada.

While Europe is a smaller market for B.C. forest products, sales for 2006 to the European Union exceeded \$233 million—with more than half of that being western redcedar.

We visited and gave presentations to key government officials and buyers in Rome, Berlin, Bonn and The Hague. Their main interests were environmental concerns and forest management certification

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Forest Service News
A quarterly newsletter for all Forest Service employees and former FS 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 is to share your ideas, news, stories, successes, experiences with revitalization and learning, celebrations and photos for use in future editions of the

systems, especially chain-of-custody.

Germany is closely following implementation of ecosystem-based management on the Central and North Coast. Greenpeace Germany is actively following this issue as well as how Ontario and Quebec are managing their portion of Canada's boreal forest. German publishers want information on these in order to provide a balanced perspective.

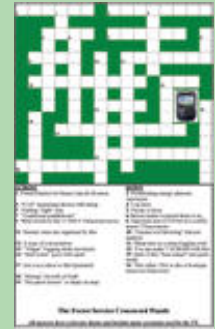
In our meeting with German government representatives, we learned that they were struggling with some of the same issues we struggle with in B.C., for example, rural/urban split, creating protected areas, climate change, carbon management and fibre supply. In a meeting with the executive director of Forest Stewardship Council International, we learned that buyers are willing to pay a premium for certified wood.

In the Netherlands we learned that the Dutch are pursuing a rigorous certification verification scheme. We reminded Dutch officials, that certification is only one piece of the puzzle, and that sustainable forest management practices in Canada are backed up by comprehensive legislative, regulatory and policy framework in all jurisdictions.

Overall, we found that Canada is highly regarded for its sustainable forest management practices. It's also clear that we need to continue to be open and transparent about our forest policies and that IFPP missions are valuable in achieving that. As well as Canadian delegations visiting key influencers in Europe, tours of B.C.'s forests are also arranged for European buyers and decision-makers.

For more info visit: http://www.ccfm.org/current/ifpp_e.php

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 no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition—[deadline for June articles is June 13.](#)



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

Let us know how you did.

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“My Strategic Conversation Adventure”

By Rod DeBoice
Provincial Beetle Boss

When I attended a Strategic Conversation workshop last fall, I anticipated a cross-section of Forest Service staff would come together to talk about forces that affect our organization. I then expected to learn how the process would help the organization adapt to these forces. Seems pretty straight forward, doesn't it? NOT!!

How do we crystal ball? The last time I checked, Swami head dress was not part of the apparel. Assuming we could predict the future, how could a group of Forest Service staff with technical, professional and clerical backgrounds become business and organizational experts? Assuming we overcame that hurdle, how would discussion and ideas be captured? How would it be brought together into a plan covering several years and, at the same time, be fluid enough to adapt to an ever accelerating rate of change?

Well, the workshop met and exceeded all my expectations! First, I was truly impressed with the diversity of the group in attendance. There was a mix of men and women and representation from various branches, locations and positions throughout the ministry. Our first activity involved identifying trends, and to spark discussion, we were asked to read 12 “snapshots of change” before the workshop. Later, we engaged in a sophisticated trend analysis and scenario building process to capture input.

We also had the opportunity to review the design of the [Strategic Conversation Website](#). The site

captures staff's imaginative ideas through past and future story telling and features an [Executive Blog](#), which gives everyone an opportunity to dialogue directly with executive. The site will also include some results from workshops and online submissions, and data collected will be used to inform business planning in the upcoming year.

By participating in a similar workshop at the Provincial Leadership meeting, I learned that the Strategic Conversation is not just a 'stop and start' initiative. Rather, it is a way of enhancing the Forest Service culture to become a learning organization. It allows staff to shape the future by providing input on how we can adapt to the continually changing world in which we operate.

One of the fundamental reasons I have been proud to be part of the Forest Service over the past 34 years is our pioneering spirit, which is at the heart of our culture. In my last year with this wonderful organization, I am excited to be part of the Strategic Conversation and look forward to passing the reins to young Forest Service staff who will continue the adventure into the future. Hats off to our executive for leading the way and staff for meeting the challenge!

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Deputy Attends Opening of China Landscape Project

In late January, Doug Konkin attended the official opening of the Guangdong-British Columbia Pacific Gateway Park in Guangdong, China, on behalf of the minister. Representatives of Coast Forest Products Association, Forestry Innovation Investment (FII), and the

Guangzhou government also attended.

The park is the first landscaping demonstration project in China to feature pressure-treated outdoor wood products made up entirely of B.C. wood and represents a new market for treated outdoor wood products that could be worth up to \$1.5 billion by 2010.

Guangzhou, a city of approximately 13 million people, is known as the Garden Capital of China with nearly 20 major parks. The project includes a 2500 square foot pavilion, meeting room and extensive boardwalks made from pressure-treated wood and cedar products from the B.C. coast and interior.

Pressure treated mountain pine beetle and pressure treated coastal balsam (silver fir) products have been used in the Guangzhou demonstration project, thereby being introduced to Guangzhou Garden Bureau officials and Design Institutes.

Outdoor wood products from coastal B.C. are well suited to China's climate because they are resistant to moisture and insects making them ideal for use in recreational buildings and a wide range of landscaping applications including walkways, bridges, trellises and benches.

Testing will continue on new mountain pine beetle products for future introduction/use in China's outdoor wood landscaping sector.

Greening initiatives linked with the 2008 Olympics, 2010 Expo and 2010 Asian Games have spurred massive landscaping projects around China, creating opportunity for outdoor wood products from B. C.

The project was led by FII's Shanghai office, working in partnership with Guangdong's Garden

Bureau, the Canada Wood Group and FPInnovations.

This park is a key element in continuing the relationship between B.C. and Guangdong, and Vancouver and Guangzhou, and further capitalizing on the sister-city/sister-province connection.

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Eligible for Benefits!

In October the Deputy Minister to the Premier announced that, effective April 2008, our ministry's Protection Branch seasonal auxiliary employees, who serve for three consecutive seasons and meet a minimum number of hours within a set period, will be eligible for benefits.

"This initiative provides an excellent incentive for our long-standing auxiliary fire fighters and will help with recruitment and succession," says Brian Simpson, Director of the Protection Program. "At the same time it provides recognition of the value of these people and the significance they represent to the success of our program."

The change ties directly to one of Protection Program's key strategic priorities. Valerie Dettwiler, who has been an auxiliary fire fighter in the Vanderhoof/Fort St. James Zone for 16 years and spends part of her off-season on the Program's Protection Auxiliary Advisory Group, notes that "for the past several years the Protection Program has been working hard to support the auxiliary workforce and this will possibly have the largest impact to the retention of auxiliary employees that we have seen thus far."

Benefits, which include extended health and dental, Medical Services Plan, group life insurance, optional spouse and dependent insurance, and the Employee and Family Assistance Program, will take effect on the first month following a seasonal auxiliary employees' recall date or upon application, whichever is later.

"Auxiliaries across the province are very excited about this initiative," says Dettwiler. "The long-term auxiliary workforce is critical to the success of the program and providing those who are eligible with benefits demonstrates the ministry's continuing commitment to the firefighters in BC."

Funding for seasonal auxiliary benefits will be paid from within Protection Branch's existing budget.

"This is a benefit to the ministry as well as our seasonal fire fighters. Affording these incentives to auxiliary staff and their families is well worth the estimated monetary costs associated with the initiative," says Simpson.

View the Protection Program's strategic plan on the intranet at: http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/Protect/Planning/Jan12_BCProtectionProgramStrategycomplete.pdf.

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BERG'S EYE VIEW

by Shane Berg



Unfortunately for C&E Tech Rick, he realized too late that the correct acronym for the new initiative was, "RMCP"!

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Kamloops Partnership Attracts the Best

Submitted by:

Jeff Leahy, RPF

Operations Manager, Kamloops Forest District

The Kamloops Forest District, in partnership with Kamloops BCTS Business Area, Tolko Industries Ltd, and the Southern Interior Forest Region have pooled their resources in order to provide a 2 year forestry internship. This joint program was developed to offer a meaningful, varied work experience and a launching pad for new entrants into a forestry career. Candidates from all over the province were interviewed for this opportunity and the sponsors are confident they found a great candidate.

We take great pride in announcing Kim Presley as the successful candidate. Kim completed her first year of studies while on a soccer scholarship at the Okanagan University College. Kim decided to forego her soccer dreams for a career in forestry and transferred to Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops where she graduated with a degree in Natural Resource Science. Kim has spent her

summers working for Western Forest Products and Tolko Industries Ltd.

When asked about this internship opportunity, Kim responded, “I'm really looking forward to starting this exciting new job, being exposed to all aspects of forestry, gaining valuable experience and building new relationships on my way to becoming an RPF. I know that with the tremendous support from the Forest Service and Industry partners, my journey will be a huge success! ”

We look forward to watching Kim grow in this internship role over the next 2 years and anticipate announcing a new RPF in the class of 2010.

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Video conferencing has arrived!

Submitted by:

Ryan Matthews, Technical Analyst
Information Management Group

As of March 31, 2008, there will be a Video Conference unit in every MFR HQ, Region and District office. For those who don't know what it is, Video Conferencing is a method to simultaneously send your video and audio at the same time. So now instead of just hearing you, I can see you too. As we all know a tremendous amount of information is passed in a meeting via body language. Studies show video conference meetings are at least twice as effective as a teleconference. The other great advantage of Video Conference is now that I can see you, and you can see me, we develop a better sense of familiarity and trust; hence, a better working relationship, resulting in more productive meetings.

This technology runs over the same network as the computers do so the usage cost is free. If you have colleagues across the country or across the world that have access to video conferencing equipment you can also call them.

Future enhancements will be to distribute units to the remaining field offices and research stations.

If you would like to try video conferencing or obtain more info please see provided link.

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/training/videoConferencing/index.htm>

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Two Forest Service Staff Pass the ABCFP Gavel

At the Association of BC Forest Professionals' (ABCFP's) annual conference and AGM in February, a significant event took place. Outgoing president Paul Knowles, RPF, handed over the reins of the association to current president Al Balogh, RPF. Both Paul and Al are district managers for BC's Forest Service.

Al is the district manager of the Central Cariboo Forest District while Paul was recently promoted to the district manager of the South Island Forest District. Prior to taking on this role, Paul was the operations manager in the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District.

How do two people with busy jobs and family lives find the time to dedicate to such a demanding volunteer job as president of the largest forestry association in Canada? “I had strong support from my wife and kids and great support from my boss, Ron Racine, my fellow managers and staff,” says Paul. “Of course, some adjustments had to be made on the job and I spent a fair bit of time outside of work hours attending to ABCFP duties.”

Al agrees with Paul and cites a recent change at the ABCFP that makes it a little easier for people to volunteer for high-profile roles such as councilors. “While it becomes a matter of balancing workloads of the association, the workplace and home life, the effective governance model now in place ensures the executive director and staff take a lead in much of the work so council members can focus on key priorities and strategic planning.”

The ABCFP council is made up of 10 members who are elected from the membership at large and two lay members who are appointed by government. Of the 10 elected members, currently 8 are Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) like Al and Paul, and two are Registered Forest Technologists (RFTs).

Al and Paul came into their council positions from very different routes. Paul had been a volunteer for 8 years before deciding to run for council. He served 2 years as a councilor at large and then 1 year each as vice-president and president. He will complete his term with one more year as past president. Al was not involved with the ABCFP at a volunteer level prior to being asked to run for council. “I realized that the best way to gain an understanding and to play a role in the direction the association took was to get involved,” he says. Al also served 2 years as a councilor at large before becoming vice-president in 2007.

Not surprisingly, both Al and Paul would recommend volunteering for the ABCFP for any RPF or RFT in the Forest Service. While a council commitment involves face-to-face meetings every 2 months, extra committee work and many email discussions, other volunteer roles are not as intense.

Paul explains that he has learned a great deal during his tenure. “I have been exposed to many different aspects of forestry all across the province,” he says. “I also had the opportunity to learn about professionalism, governance of non-profit organizations, leadership, teamwork and partnerships. The best part is that I've met a lot of great people along the way. It is certainly a highlight of my career in forestry.”

ExpoFor 2008 Declared a Great Success

While the ABCFP's conference and AGM had lower than expected attendance due to the tough spot the industry is in, the organizers were very pleased with the level of support the Ministry of Forests and Range showed with their large contingent of delegates. Over 350 delegates and guests descended upon Penticton from February 20 to 22 to learn about trends in forestry, welcome new inductees and celebrate the success of the annual award winners.

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Innovative Partnership with Local Licensee

Submitted by:
Christopher Gordon
Engineering Officer
Chilliwack Forest District

When the “townside” log cribbing on the Statlu River Bridge failed in April 2007, the Engineering Department of the Chilliwack Forest District found itself between a proverbial rock and a hard place. The approved budget did not provide for the estimated repair cost of \$75,000.00. The bridge was going to be at risk of total collapse when winter came. The Chehalis FSR had no active operating licensees. It was also the only access to three popular Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts recreation sites.

Rather than follow the usual approach of preparing a funding pressure to Treasury Board, Chilliwack's engineers elected to contact John Iacoviello at Probyn Log Ltd. with the following proposal: The Forest Service would oversee the works, but cost-share the expense of the project with Probyn.

Although Probyn Log Ltd. had no approved cutting permit in the area, they were planning on applying for one in 2008. The total repair costs were greater than what could be charged against the cutting permit, but by entering into a cost-share agreement, the Forest Service and Probyn pooled their limited resources—benefiting both parties.

The Chilliwack Forest District encouraged Mr. Iacoviello to submit a request to pre-approve their portion of the repair costs totalling \$30,000.00. After district team approval, Probyn would be assured of their costs and would be invoiced directly by the successful contractor. The remaining \$45,000.00 would be directly paid by the district as part of the repair contract.

Iota Construction was the successful contractor and the works were completed in November, securing the structure in time, and in advance of Chilliwack's infamous "rainy season."

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“Coastal Invasive Alien Plant Field Identification Training”

Submitted by:
Jeff Hallworth, P.Ag
Range Branch

Invasive alien plant management took a big step forward in coastal BC with the launching of several training sessions in the summer of 2007. The sessions were designed to help resource practitioners identify priority species in the field, understand invasive plant impacts and learn about best management practices.

Jeff Hallworth, Invasive Plant Specialist, and Ernie Sellentin, Invasive Plant Technician, of the Invasive Plant Program within the Range Branch, hosted the sessions. Jeff and Ernie are responsible for the inventory, planning and management of invasive alien plants in coastal BC, as well as extension and development of partnerships with various agencies and stakeholder groups. They are active in the newly formed Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (<http://www.coastalinvasiveplants.com/>), and are establishing working relationships with fledgling committees in the Lower Mainland.



Group discussion about knotweed

In each session, groups visited five locations to illustrate why a given species is particularly important in a susceptible or high risk site. The knotweeds—Giant, Japanese, Himalayan and Bohemian were viewed in riparian settings; Purple loosestrife and Yellow (flag) iris were observed in an estuary; Giant hogweed, Teasel and Oxeye daisy were found in a garden setting; and an active gravel pit and composting facility were used as examples of how Spotted knapweed, Gorse, Common tansy, St. John's wort, Canada thistle and Bull thistle are continuously being transported unwittingly through human activity.

A clear message was relayed to all participants—once established there is no “quick-fix” to controlling invasive alien plants and preventing their establishment is the most cost-effective solution. Invasive plant control and eradication requires persistence such as a 3 to 5 year commitment to successively treat and monitor actions. Preventing the establishment of invasive plants on new sites can save thousands of dollars in future control costs. Some preventative measures include: keeping equipment yards/storage areas free of invasive species; ensuring that soil moved during road works does not contain invasive plant parts or seeds that may be inadvertently transported; proactively grass seeding disturbed areas with a suitable grade of seed (i.e. Common No. 1 Forage Mixture or better); and land-filling mechanically removed invasive alien plants, as opposed to composting them.

The ministry has a long history of invasive plant management in the interior of BC, but is new to the coast. Numerous invasive plant species inhabit and threaten coastal ecosystems. The Invasive Plant Program on the coast is working to address these threats. Besides functions pertaining to outreach, Jeff and Ernie are involved with extensive inventory of road systems and sensitive ecosystems, such as rivers and wetlands. Also they implement biological control activities (releases, dispersals and monitoring) and manual removals of invasive plants considered to be outliers (from main population centres) or new infestations. They also contribute to legislative aspects of invasive plant management.

Enhancing knowledge and awareness of invasive plants through field training sessions is a vital step to ensure success in the battle to control these alien invaders.

With FREP and the FRPA-listed species in mind, similar training will be held in coastal MFR offices in 2008. Training will be offered to ministry staff, forest industry staff, contractors, consultants and First Nations.

For more information about this Range Branch Invasive Alien Plant Program, please visit: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/index.htm>.



Hogweed towers over onlookers

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Stellar Year for Ministry in Premier's Awards Recognition

Provincial Winner – Leadership Category

Our big winner, recognized in the leadership category this year is Peter Bradford, whose superb leadership abilities transformed the Forest and Range Evaluation Program from a fledgling initiative in 2003 to the internationally recognized intensive evaluation and resource stewardship monitoring program it has become today. A duplicate of Peter's Leadership trophy can be seen in the lobby of 1520 Blanshard Street, after which time it will be housed in the Integrated Resources section at 727 Fisgard Street. (Reference to this story will be posted on the [Executive Blog](#) along with the deputy minister's journal and other interesting information. In addition, you will find posts from members of the executive also sharing their perspectives on current topics and issues impacting the Forest Service.)

Peter Bradford



BC Timber Sales was also a Provincial Finalist in the Innovation category with the submission from the Budget and Expenditure Management Continuous Improvement Team (BECIT).

Two GOLD Winners Named at Regional Ceremonies

BC Timber Sales Budget and Expenditure Management Continuous Improvement Team won Regional Gold for their “Simpler and Smarter” contract management program. The 40-member project team for BC Timber Sales drew on best practices to redesign 13 contract administration processes into a single, innovative, paperless process.

The project required a complete re-think of business processes and involvement of all stakeholders in a change to the organization’s paper-reliant work culture. The changes impacted over 80 percent of BCTS’ staff as well as accounts payable staff in the ministry’s three regional offices that provide service to BCTS. The electronic system virtually eliminated inefficient tracking and complex coding. A process that once could take days can now be done in hours.

This has led to increased accountability, consistency and efficiency by reducing processing time; minimizing paper use to reduce the ministry’s carbon footprint; and saving the ministry more than \$250,000 annually. This group was recognized in the Lower Mainland, Northern and Interior regional presentations.

Also in the Northern Region, Gold was presented to the Nisga’a Project Team for effective transition of timber harvest management as land shifted from British Columbia to the Nisga’a Lisims Government. During a 5-year transition following the Nisga’a Final Agreement, the Ministry of Forests and Range’s Kalum Forest District worked to address all stewardship obligations.

Other ministry efforts were recognized in cross-ministry teams, as part of the Flood Preparation central coordination group who won the Provincial award for the Cross-Government Integration Category, and a Regional Honourable Mention as part of the Conversation on Health project.

All seven of the ministry’s applications were accepted as official nominations. Four of these were nominated for regional awards and four were also named finalists in the provincial competition, while two more were short-listed.

Congratulations to all who participated. The ministry has several projects under way that will be eligible for nomination next year. Let’s plan to make an even bigger impact on government and establish a strong presence at the 2008 Premier’s Awards.

BCTS Winners



Seated (l to r): Janice Juel, Audrey Aldridge, Rob Bigalke, Dominic Ignas
 Second Row: David Forget, Sandi Cartie, Premier Campbell, Christine Crawford
 Third (Back Row): Jim Voth, Mansje Sten, Duncan Taggart, Bruce McKerricher



Back row (L-R): Andrea Youde, Andy Davidson, Nicole Bilodeau, Gabby Nye, Premier Campbell, Donna Horn, Justin Hewitt
 Front row (L-R): Marg Budgeon, Heather Devine, Lesya Williams, Carolyn Kamper, Dave Clarke, Allison Bond

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Forest Service employees lend a hand

Submitted by:

The Skeena Stikine Forest District Safety Committee

On December 13, 2007, while returning to Dease Lake from Atlin, two Skeena Stikine Forest District staff members, Flint Knibbs and Claus Rygaard—came across a serious motor vehicle accident on the Alaska Highway approximately one hour west of Watson Lake. A vehicle had left the highway and rolled over. All three occupants were thrown from the vehicle, and sustained various injuries.

When Claus and Flint arrived there were other vehicles stopped at the scene, but it was apparent that no-one had taken charge of the situation or had assessed the injured.

Claus and Flint immediately took control of the scene, and while Claus contacted the RCMP, Flint assessed and administered first aid to the victims, one of whom appeared to be quite seriously injured.

Flint, a Compliance & Enforcement technician, is also a First Responder with the Smithers Volunteer Fire Department. As First Responder, Flint used his specialized First Aid training skills to treat the injured. Claus, a Timber Tenures Specialist stationed in Dease Lake and knowledge of the local area enabled him to quickly contact the RCMP using the Forest Service Satellite phone. Claus and Flint stayed at the scene until the RCMP and ambulance arrived approximately an hour later and assisted in transferring the injured to the ambulance.

Through a combination of their quick and appropriate actions, training and equipment, Claus and Flint were instrumental in averting a potentially life threatening situation.

The Skeena Stikine Forest District, and indeed the entire Forest Service, wish to recognize the actions shown by Claus and Flint on scene that day. Their calmness and skill under pressure, and going above and beyond to help others, brings honour to our organization, and reflects a continuing tradition of excellence amongst Forest Service employees.

We are proud to have Claus and Flint on our team.

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2007 Top Work Unit Awards

Jessica McDonald, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary presented the Deputy Minister's staff, Forest Practices Branch, BCTS (headquarters) and Central Cariboo Forest District a recognition award for achieving "top 20" best places to work in the Public Service. The input was based on the results of the 2007 Work Environment Survey across government.

Four work units from the Ministry of Forests and Range are on the list of the top 20 work units in 2007—out of more than 700 work units across Government. It's an indication of being proud to be part of the Forest Service family and is reflective of the compliment of talent and leadership qualities of all Forest Service staff.

It truly is a great place to work!

More information to be posted
at: [@Work](#)

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Forest Service *News* Advisory Group Welcomes Joy Berlando as New Member

I started my public service career in Alberta, working in various administrative positions throughout the provincial government, for a total of 14 years, when after having enough of Alberta winters, moved to Sooke in 1994 where I live with my husband and dog, a frisky American cocker spaniel!

I started working with the Forest Service in 1998 as a correspondence assistant in the Correspondence Services Section, moving to the Deputy Minister's office in 2007 as an administrative assistant, handling various financial management tasks, FOI requests and other administrative tasks including processing briefing notes and information requests for the minister's office.

The most challenging and memorable experience while working in the Correspondence Services Section of the Forest Service, was participating in a continuous improvement exercise for the MRL (Minister's Referral Letter) process. After several weeks of all day sessions, the group managed to streamline the process and roll out to the ministry. This took my supervisor and me out to the field to train staff about the new process. It was a great experience and a pleasure to meet staff and learn how many talented people there are in the ministry.

Another accomplishment during my career was obtaining a Personnel Administration Certificate from the University of Alberta while working full time.

My leisure time these days is taken up by fishing and boating (trying to get my tyee pin), traveling, photography, gardening, exploring the island and working on home improvements with my husband of 25 years not in any particular order.

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2007 Director Awards Recipients

The second annual Protection Program's Director Awards Ceremony recognized 13 individual's dedication to global excellence in wildfire management and response services. The ceremony was held in Victoria on February 27, 2008.

The candidates were chosen from more than 40 nominations.

The Director's Awards are based on the Protection Program's vision, mission and values and is a peer driven process.

Congratulations to all the recipients.

Recipients:

The Protection Program and the Director Awards Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 Director's Awards.

Director's Award - Pat Hayes, FPO, South Island Zone. Pat exemplifies the values of the Protection Program and is recognized for his leadership, innovation and tireless dedication to the continuous improvement of the Program through his participation on many working groups and task teams.

Safety Award - Valerie Dettwiler, FPA, Vanderhoof Zone. Valerie is recognized for her dedication to promoting the safety message in her leadership roles on various working groups and committees within the Program.

Leadership Award - Tom Hansen, Acting Supervisor, Rapattack. Tom's leadership and dedication to the Rappel Program was recognized by a large number of his peers in a quality nomination package that extolled his leadership qualities.

Mentorship Award - Leigh Barratt, Air Attack Specialist, Training, PATC. Leigh was recognized for his long service, high standards and commitment for mentoring new Air Attack Officers.

Innovation Award - Ron Lakeman, Meteorologist, South East Fire Centre. Ron has been instrumental in demonstrating the value and modelling the need to have full time Meteorologists to provide quality weather reports and promoting his services to other agencies on a cost recovery basis.

Inspiration Award - Penticton IA Crews, Jennifer Brown, Amanda Ames, Christine Hutter, Rachel L'Orsa, Dan Robertson, Terry Schmidt, Kyle Todoruk, Tayber Yastremski. This team of brave men and women responded without hesitation to an aircraft accident at the Penticton Airport, extracted the pilot from the wreckage and revived him after the initial assessment found no pulse.

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PJJ Hemphill Award

The PJJ Hemphill award is in honour of Mr. Pete Hemphill, a former Forest Service Branch Engineering Director. It is presented annually, to a deserving individual or individuals who have demonstrated engineering excellence through tangible improvements or engineering innovation in delivering the ministry's engineering program.

This year the award selection committee chose Dan Robek, Engineering Manager and long time Bridge Engineer, Coast Forest Region, as the recipient.

Dan was nominated by a wide range of ministry staff, including an executive branch director, regional staff managers, regional engineering staff, a district engineering officer and a district engineering technician.

Achievements and examples of excellence noted on Dan's nomination forms include:

- Extremely respected for his abilities;
- Always composed, conscientious, dedicated, dependable—encouraging, humorous, helpful—knowledgeable, practical and above all a professional;
- In fiscal 2005/2006 was instrumental in the replacement of 41 bridges worth 5 million dollars—project was on time and on budget;
- Has designed, overseen, or project managed the installation of some 200 bridges and major culverts worth an estimated \$30 million dollars;
- Developed a simple, fair, bridge compensation framework to deal with Bill 28 affected bridges. His valuation technique has been applied to some 160 bridges captured in the coastal reallocation process;
- His intimate knowledge of coastal bridge construction techniques likely saved the ministry millions of dollars;
- A quote directly from a district staff’s testimony of his engineering excellence and work ethics: “On the night of November 15, 2006, a major storm damaged our bridges...he arrived early the next morning...by the end of the day developed a plan and hired a specialized bridge contractor to repair the damage;” and
- Another district staff quotes: “at least once annually a crisis developed—he has always managed to help us—we are grateful.”

High acknowledgement was also given to two other nominees, Dan Rensby and Gary McClelland.

- Gary McClelland is acknowledged for his stellar work as a structures engineer and establishing the Bridge Registry Information Management System (BRIMS).
- Dan Rensby is acknowledged for his many years of dedicated, passionate service and recent accomplishments with mountain pine beetle epidemic road construction, safety and most recently, construction of the Oosta Connector.

[Top](#)

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



Community Charity Auction

On December 7, 2007, the Skeena Stikine Forest District office held its Second Annual Community Charity Auction.

Upon reviewing several very worthy Charity Organizations, the Auction Committee chose to support the Grendel Group (Family Advocates).

The Grendel Group is a non-profit, comprehensive multi-service social program agency, located in rural Northwest British Columbia.

The Grendel Group in the Bulkley Valley Lakes District provides a safe and supportive environment for assisting adults with special needs. Through Grendelivery, a small food service business, 10-15 special needs adults prepare excellent meals on a daily basis for delivery to the community. Some graduates of the program are now working in several restaurant kitchens in Smithers.

The Skeena Stikine Forest District office staff, including the Northern Interior Regional Service Center, Northwest Fire Centre, Hazelton Field office, BCTS Skeena and Babine Field Units raised a total of \$1,729 through the charity auction for the Grendel Group, beating last year's total by \$400.

On behalf of the Auction Committee Members thank you to all who provided a donation. Would also like to acknowledge and congratulate those that supported the auction through the donation of items and bidding. Without your support of such a worthwhile event we would have not been able to achieve this level of accomplishment.

Bernard Mattie (Auction Committee Chairperson)

Auction Committee Members

Kerry Anne Hrywkiw

Erin Havard

Jackie Wilson

Laura Taylor

Ronda Cunningham

Laurine Cavallin

Sabina Copley

Bob Shiach

Brad Lingard (Auctioneer)

L-R: Bill Camenzind, Nancy Cody (Grendel Group), Laura Taylor, Krista Dunleavy, Laurine Cavallin, Brad Lingard, Bernard Mathe (Chair), Sabina Copley, Ronda Cunningham, Jackie Wilson



Community Spirit in IMG

Submitted by:

Wendy Brookes

Administrative Services

Information Management Group

Information Management Group has been actively raising funds for charity since 1998. Because of incredibly generous branch staff, in the past 5 years, we have donated over \$10,000 to many local charities such as Victoria Transition House, Victoria Hospice, Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation, Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children, Mustard Seed Food Bank, Our Place, Spare the Cold, the Salvation Army Beacon Bus and the Fairfield New Horizons Seniors Centre. Some of the fundraising events included, craft and bake sales, lunchtime bingo, cookie and pizza days, 50/50 draws and our regular Christmas auction, which is the best fundraiser of all, raising over \$1100 this year alone. We even had an old fashioned cake walk that staff got a real kick out of.

We have developed a close relationship with the Seniors Centre over the past five years and have become like family. Every year IMG staff donates their time to help serve Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner to the seniors. Funds are also donated toward their wish list for the purchase of needed items for the centre. Some donations also help bring down the cost of a dinner ticket so more New Horizons members can attend. They are a wonderful group of people who really appreciate our efforts and we sometimes wonder who gets more enjoyment out of these occasions—us or them.

Of course none of this would be possible without the full support of the IMG Management Team and the enthusiastic involvement of branch staff. The social committee is hard at work as we write this, planning more fun events and fundraisers so that we can continue to help our community!

L-R: Clive Hunt, Carol Gjeterud, MaryEllen Bercier
Donna Sorensen, Ryan Matthews, Wendy Brookes



Run, Walk, Crawl, Bike Announcement – 10th Anniversary!

Submitted by:
Richard Dominy
Data Integrity Specialist
BC Timber Sales

The 10th Annual Event of Forest Service staff plans for the 2008 Run, Walk, Crawl, Bike to Work “summer solstice” is scheduled for June 20, 2008.

What is required from districts, TSO’s, regional offices and headquarters divisions is to confirm their contact(s) for the upcoming year.

A contact list from last year exists, so have your local contact get a hold of Richard Dominy Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca so he can review the list and determine if your office has changed or if your office actually has a contact.

Your cooperation in planning this event is crucial to its success.

The link to the Run - Walk – Crawl – Bike to work site is at the following URL:

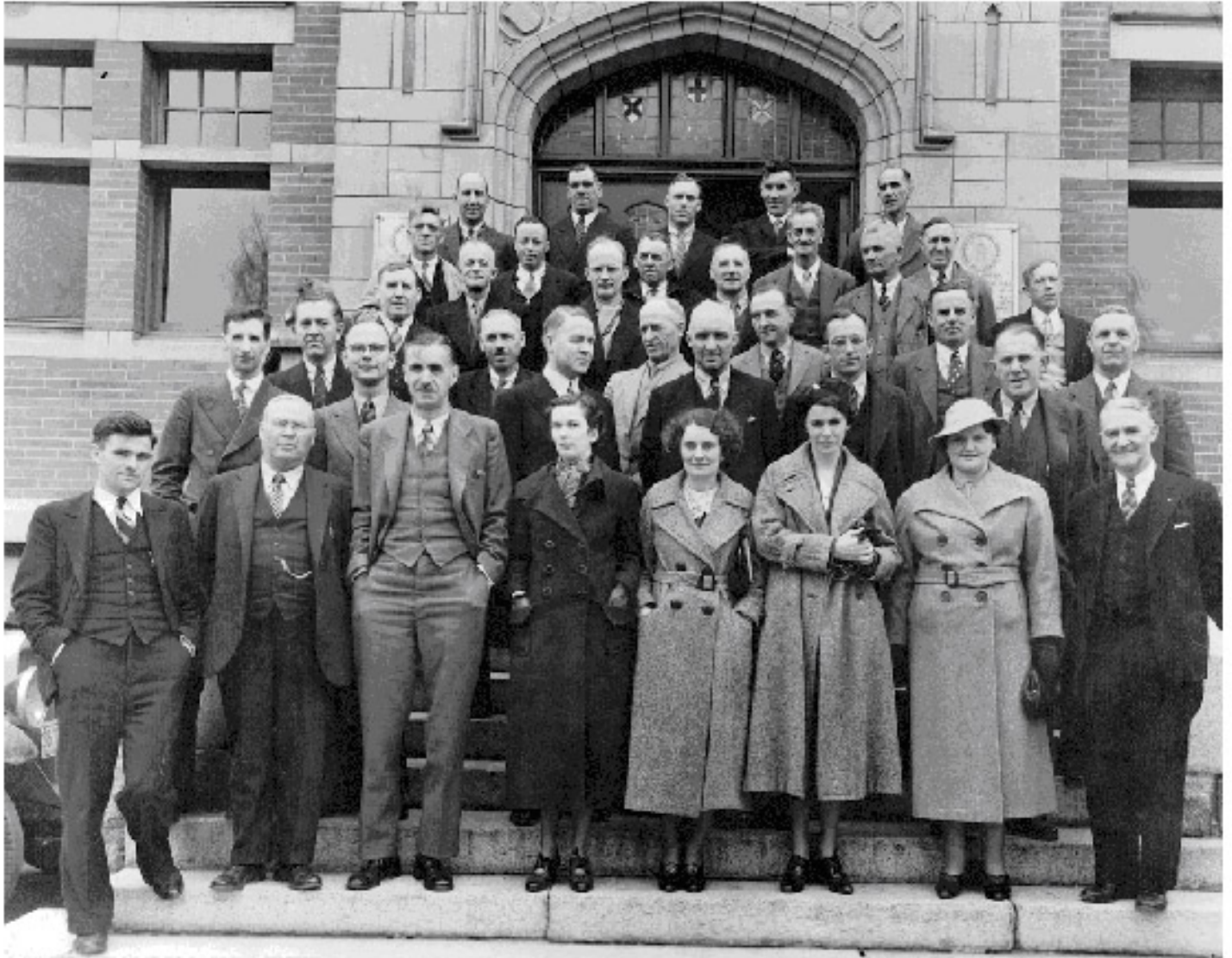
http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/dpg/Health/challenge_index.htm

Thank you and Richard looks forward to hearing from you.



Title: The Forest Service vessel B.C. Surveyor. This trim ...





Title: BC Forest Service; ranger meeting; Kanloops.



21st ANNUAL CASCADES FOREST DISTRICT MIXED SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT

Beer Gardens
Concession

Playground, Skateboard Park,
Bike Park, and Kids Ball Field
Saturday Night Banquet

WHEN: May 24 - 25, 2008

WHERE: Merritt Central Park
Adjacent to the RCMP Station

WHO: All Forest Districts and Regions

Entry Fee: \$ To be announced
\$ 75.00 Deposit Required by May 9, 2008

If your District or Region is interested
in participating, please contact
Trevor Schmidt or Marilyn Heppner
at (250) 378-8400





at (250) 378-8400
CASCADES FOREST DISTRICT



Kowalski does it again!

Forest Service Bonspiel, Held March 7 – 9, 2008 Chase, BC

For those of you who weren't at the FS Bonspiel this year (and what is your excuse?), the village of Chase was gracious again in accommodating the influx of Forest Service staff (past and present). As per tradition, it was a great event with teams coming from as far away as McKenzie (Scammel team). In all, 27 teams competed for the prestigious A, B and C events. In addition to the regular trophies, the memorial Dalton McArthur award presented by Ted and the previous recipient, (2007 Debbie Jones) for representing the spirit Dalton brought to the bonspiel. The award this year was presented to Russ Knutson.

There was a wide range of curling skill from complete novice to those who have curled most of their lives. The veterans were generous with giving tips to those seeking advice. Teams were in good spirits on and off the ice with some new creative moves being displayed on the ice. Next year we hope to see more butt wiggles, bump and grinds, shimmies, ice sprawls and dancing. The Chase Curling Club catered the fabulous dinner and the cooks received a standing ovation.

No one went home empty-handed thanks to the generous donations from districts, regions, BCTS and Protection. There was a door prize for everyone, just for showing up!

And the winners are:

A Event: Kowalski - Albert Kowalski, Ada Kowalski, Vic Endean, Diana Endean

This is the 14th time Albert Kowalski has been on an A Event winning team. The first time he won this trophy was in 1977.

B Event: Conlin - Brian Conlin, Rose Conlin, Jill Trelawny, Greg Bach

C Event: Gieselman - Terry Gieselman, Jerry Vaughn, Dave Jones, Ruth Jones

For more information and photos, visit the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District website at : <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dos/index.htm>



Bill Henriksen and Glenn Hill of Okanagan Shuswap FD discuss a shot.



Bob Sklapsky of Central Cariboo FD preparing to chow down.



Michaela Swan, Kari Streleoff, Helen Eggen and Tillie Parsons from the “Protection Girls” team.



Albert Kowalski, Diana Endea,, Vic Endean and Ada Kowalski of Chase, winners of the A Event.

5th Annual Dan LeClerc Memorial B.C. Forest Service Hockey Tournament & Funspiel

Submitted by: Mark Taylor, Headwaters Forest District
on behalf of the Tournament Organizing Committee

This years event was another roaring success with the participation of 5 Women's Hockey Teams, 6 Men's Hockey Teams and a 12 Team Curling Funspiel.

As usual, the events were enjoyed by all and our emphasis for FUN and camaraderie, both on and off the ice, was very successful!

In addition to witnessing some exciting hockey and great curling, we were proud to have some V.I. P.'s drop by during their busy schedules and assist us in making some memorable moments...John Harwood, our inaugural Mayor of Clearwater, popped by to drop the first puck prior to the First Men's Hockey Game.

Christy Dobi, one of our new Clearwater Councillors, got the Women's Hockey Tournament off to a flying start by dropping the ceremonial puck before the First Women's Game.

Lenette MacKenzie (Sandy's daughter) gave 2 beautiful renditions of the Canadian National Anthem before both the Women's and Men's Championship Hockey Games.

We were also very honoured to have Matthew LeClerc in attendance on Saturday to be part of presenting the Spirit of 2010 Championship Trophies & Pucks.

With a nail biting finish against the Merritt Slo Pokes, which included not only a 5 minute sudden death overtime period but also a shootout, the men's host team, Headwaters District Pylons were lucky enough to pull one out of the hat and win the hardware in front of their hometown fans!

In the Final Women's Game, the defending 2007 Women's Hockey Champions from Quesnel, the Gold Diggers, were presented yet again with the Championship Trophies & Pucks, after defeating the Clinton Outlaws in the Saturday Evening final.

And, congratulations to Fred Nakashima, a Forest Protection Technician from Kamloops, who received the most votes by his fellow hockey players and was awarded a Spirit of 2010 Hockey Jersey for the player in the tournament who most demonstrated teamwork and fair play.

Now, the good part

When the dust settled from the packed dance floor of the Wells Gray Pub on Saturday night and we dragged ourselves back to the office on Monday morning, we had been successful in raising \$1,500.00, which has been contributed to the following groups:

- \$200.00 toward the Challengers Group from Clearwater;
- \$600.00 to the Clearwater Minor Hockey Association, to be used for assisting some children in the area who cannot afford to play Canada's game.;
- \$200.00 to the Wells Gray Curling Club, to assist them in purchasing Curling equipment for their Junior Curlers to enjoy Canada's "other" winter past time;
plus a further
- \$500.00 to the Clearwater Ski Hill Club, to support them in their quest for the Hill to become a vital and fun part of our kids and our communities' future yet again.

** * * The staff of the Kamloops Forest District have accepted the offer to host the 6th Annual D.L.M. Hockey Tournament and Curling Funspiel in 2009!*

I am proud of our Headwaters District Staff and how we pulled out all the stops.

Since 2006, businesses, individuals and groups from everywhere showered us with support and donations in order to put on these great Hockey Tournaments and Funspiels, which far exceeded our expectations each and every year.

Thanks again and again to all the participants for making this event another great success and we look forward to having each and everyone of you back to Clearwater in the future!

[Note: Additional Hockey Tournament Team photos can be requested by contacting mark.d.taylor@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mark.d.taylor@gov.bc.ca)

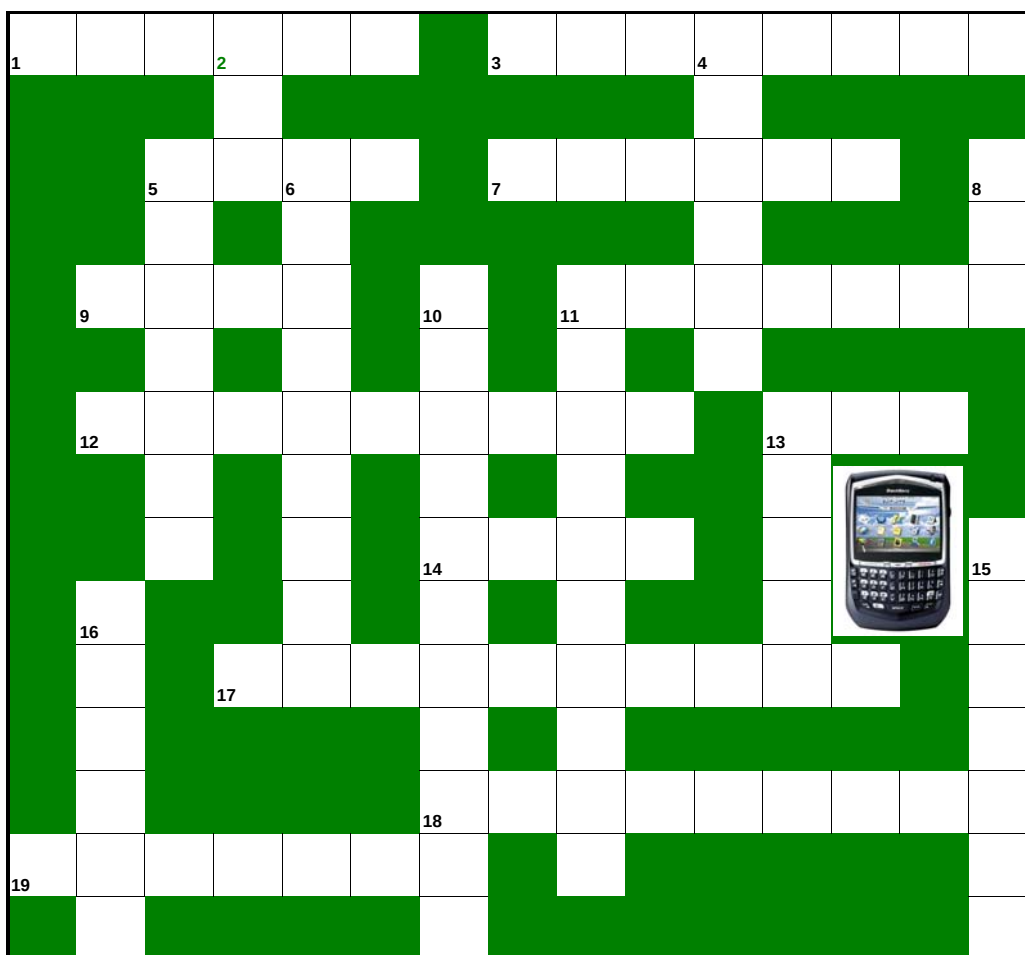
Men's Champions - Headwaters District Pylons



Women's

Champions - Quesnel Gold Diggers





ACROSS

1. Forest District for Burns Lake & Houston
3. "Cool" measuring device with string
5. Yarding "fight" tree
7. "Traditional paddleboats"
9. What monitors the 11 FRPA Values(acronym)
11. Nursery trees are organized by this
12. A type of conversation
13. "Vulgar" logging slash (acronym)
14. "Bad writer" goes with squirt
17. Are you a slave to this?(pictured)
18. "Boring" Growth of Girth
19. "Pet parrot leaves" or shape on map

DOWN

2. Proliferating energy phenom (acronym)
4. Log lasso
5. Group or layer
6. Before timber is priced there is an_.
8. Important tree to FN but not country music TV(acronym)
10. "Garden tool throwing" harvest method
11. Sharp turn on a steep logging road
13. You can make 7 ACROSS with this
15. Bark of this "bare naked" tree peels easily
16. This valley TSA is also a boutique mecca in Vancouver

The Forest Service Crossword Puzzle

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







From Left to right:: Tony Buckley, Kamloops TSM, Shane Berg, Kamloops Forest District Manager
Kim Presley, Jeff Leahy, Kamloops Ops Manager and Madeline Maley, RSM Southern Interior FR













Claus Rygaard

Flint Knibbs







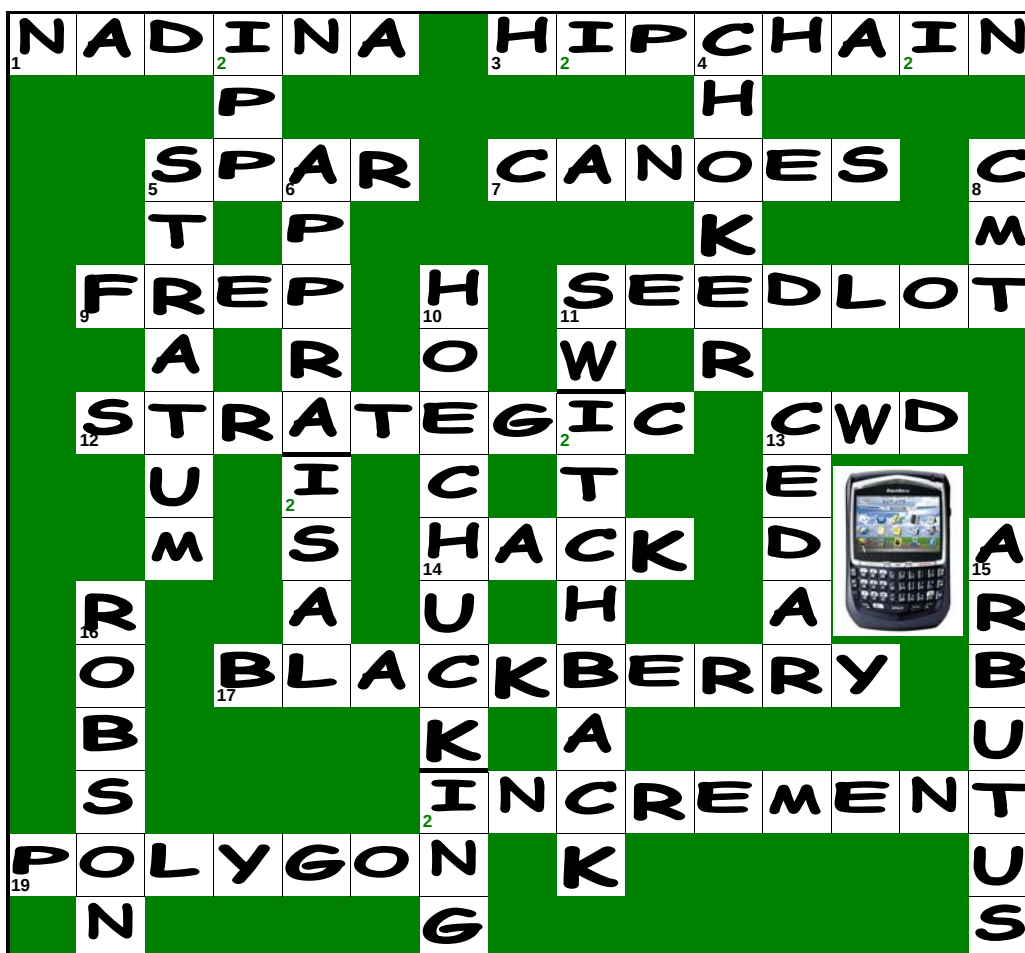
L-R: Pat Hayes, Ron Lakeman, Valerie Dettwiler, Tom Hansen, Leigh Barratt, Rachel L'Orsa, Amanda Ames, Kyle Todoruk, Terry Schmidt





Dan Robek
Winner

Trent Meyer
last year's winner



ACROSS

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