



## The Apparel Program is Here!

Submitted by: Steve Schell, Director, Regional Operations

FLNRO's Voluntary Apparel Program was officially launched by Deputy Minister Tim Sheldan July 4, 2016. The Voluntary Apparel Program was developed to provide staff with the opportunity to acquire ministry-approved apparel to help strengthen our ministry's sense of identity and increase public recognition of our employees.

Employees who wish to participate in the program can purchase up to \$100 of approved apparel every two years. To learn more about the apparel policy, the ordering process and the eligibility criteria, check out FLNRO's [Voluntary Apparel Program](#) page.




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### *Advisory Group Vision:*

*"True to our proud histories, informing ministry staff through balanced and timely communication"*

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## The Dirt Facebook



To join “*The Dirt*” facebook page, simply go to the link below and ask to join the group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

Issues of “*The Dirt*” will be posted online quarterly. The newsletter and facebook group are for all employees and former employees of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and is intended to provide up-to-date information on the organization.

Add your story to *The Dirt* facebook account. “Participating in social media means contributing content or comment. When doing so, we trust you to be professional, personable, and relevant.” –Social media guidelines.

## Sudoku - do you play?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 3 |   |   | 8 |   | 5 |   | 7 |
| 6 | 4 |   |   |   |   | 3 |   | 1 |
|   |   |   | 2 | 4 |   | 8 | 9 |   |
|   |   | 1 | 9 |   |   |   |   | 2 |
| 7 | 9 |   | 8 |   | 4 |   | 3 | 5 |
| 5 |   |   |   |   | 7 | 6 |   |   |
|   | 7 | 3 |   | 6 | 2 |   |   |   |
| 9 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   | 6 | 4 |
| 8 |   | 5 |   | 7 |   |   | 1 |   |



## Sudoku Solution



## The Dirt Contents, July 2016

Click on a # to jump to page

### IN THIS ISSUE

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Apparel Program          | 1     |
| <i>The Dirt</i> Facebook | 2     |
| Staff Engagement         | 3-4   |
| India Mission            | 5     |
| Rural Dividend           | 7     |
| Fish Passage             | 8     |
| FTELP                    | 9     |
| Drones                   | 10-11 |
| Wildfire                 | 14    |

### RECOGNITION

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| One Billionth Tree          | 4     |
| Going the Extra Mile        | 6     |
| GeoBC - Best Places to Work | 12-13 |
| Memorabilia                 | 16    |
| National Aboriginal Day     | 17    |
| Shawn O'Hara Interview      | 15    |

### AROUND THE MINISTRY

(check out Facebook)

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| Public Service Week - Victoria - 18 |
| Trapshoot Results - 19              |

Photo Contest Winners

## Retirees Receive *The Dirt*!

If you are a former employee and want to keep up with the latest *Dirt*, please contact Richard Dominy and he will add you to the retiree's email distribution list. Provide email, home phone and home mailing address. You can contact Richard directly at: [Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca).



## Staff Engagement in Terrace and Performance Metrics

Submitted by: Lisa Hanna, Resource Manager, Coast Mountains Natural Resource District

“Organizations do what is measured.”

“People are motivated by recognition and reward.”

Both this business axioms were realized April 22 and 23, 2016, in Terrace.

A group of motivated staff, led by our Scaling Supervisor, Amber Olson, decided that they wanted to win the Terrace’s Business Expo 2016’s ‘best exhibitor’ award. Amber is also very engaged in creating and maintaining strong local performance goals in workplans—no coincidence.

The group met a couple of weeks ago to brainstorm ideas. A number of district staff, with leadership from Amber, Tierra Baker and Tara Salmon, got things moving, along with reps from BC Timber Sales (Norm Parry), Wildfire (Rich Forget) and Compliance and Enforcement (Pat Smith).



The team successfully engaged additional staff (plenty from each program) to deliver the goods. They harvested, gathered, plotted and pillaged to create a little forest amongst the concrete, aluminum and polyester draping in the Terrace Sportsplex. Kids got their picture taken as Smokey, visitors did a forest walk quiz, learned about FrontCounter BC and careers in the Public Service and even picked pencils off our ‘grow your own’ pencil tree.

## Staff Engagement continued

The Business Expo held Friday, April 22, 2016, and Saturday, April 23, 2016, was attended by over 2200 community members. The event required 24 staff to volunteer time outside work hours to manage the booth. As usual, staff happily stepped forward to share our 'world' with the community, and, our team did it! The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) booth won Best Overall Judges Choice, as well as Best Cultural Exhibit.

The FLNRO management team in Terrace is very proud and honoured to work with this great group of resource professionals. Our community also appreciates their work!



## One Billionth Tree

Submitted by: Shawn Rice, Resource Manager, Omineca Region

On June 2, 2016, the Prince George Natural Resource District (PGNRD) officially planted its one billionth tree.

The ceremony took place at the Central British Columbia Railway and Forestry Museum. Councilor and Acting Mayor Susan Scott and Lheidli T'enneh Chief Dominic Frederick were joined by MLA for Prince George-Valemount Shirley Bond and MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie Mike Morris to commemorate the occasion with the planting of a spruce tree. Also in attendance were industry leaders from Canfor, and members of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, which included representatives from BC Timber Sales.

The PGNRD, which includes the



Robson Valley Timber Supply Area, covers 4,853,849 hectares in the heart of the province's forest sector.

Planting first started in the PGNRD in 1959 and approximately 21 million seedlings are planted each year.

Investments through the Province's Forests for Tomorrow program have also contributed to reforestation

in the PGNRD, with 16 million seedlings covering about 11 thousand hectares being planted since 2005.

The province is forecasting the 8 billionth seedling will be planted by 2018, meaning that the PGNRD will account for over 13% of the provinces planting.





# Government & Industry Forest Sector Mission to India Update

Submitted by: Tim Sheldon, Deputy Minister



I recently spent time in India, in my role as Board Chair of Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII), leading a delegation of industry and government representatives across South India to explore the possibilities of expanding trade with India. In emerging markets, particularly India, a growing demand for softwoods resulting from a reduced supply of traditional hardwoods is creating new opportunities for our B.C. wood products.

Culturally and historically, India is a fascinating place. The emergence of a growing middle class and a generally younger age range separates this potential market from our Asian markets such as Japan and China.

I spent a day in Mumbai and then travelled to Chennai for the first of several site visits. I arrived in Bangalore and continued with several more site visits to furniture manufacturing companies, developers, woodworking firms and

wood frame housing designers. In Chennai, formerly known as Madras, we visited Farwood Industries, which is a large furniture, door and window frame manufacturer with whom we are just beginning a relationship. There is clearly a need for more education about the strength and resilience of B.C. forest products. Certainty of supply and distribution are also issues that need to be worked on. We also visited Soundarya Decorators who have a supply contract with Coast Clear Wood Ltd. Coast Clear Wood acts as an agent for Western Forest Products, supplying B.C. yellow-cedar for commercial and residential "fit outs" (furniture and wood components).

My itinerary included visits to a prefabricated homebuilder that uses Canadian spruce-pine-fir, furniture designers and manufacturers, some of which have completed—or are currently using Canadian wood—in product

trials, and real estate developers who use wood prominently in the design and construction of housing developments. I was interested in seeing some of the residential and resort development uses of wood (India has a culture that is very fond of wood products, but they are logically more attracted to tropical hardwood species) to see if there is an opportunity in that market. It was a very successful trip, and I'm keen to share what we've learned with my FII and industry colleagues as well as with the Ministry of International Trade. As I mentioned earlier, I think that India is an opportunity for us and the forest sector to develop an emerging market. We're going to have to be patient in helping to educate the market about our products and also to work concurrently on the supply and distribution issue; but FII India and the B.C. forest industry is up for the challenge as it will help us to further diversify our markets and help with strengthening our manufacturing base back in B.C., which creates good jobs for British Columbians.



# Going the Extra Mile

Submitted by: Greg Stewart, Manager, Crown Contaminated Sites Program



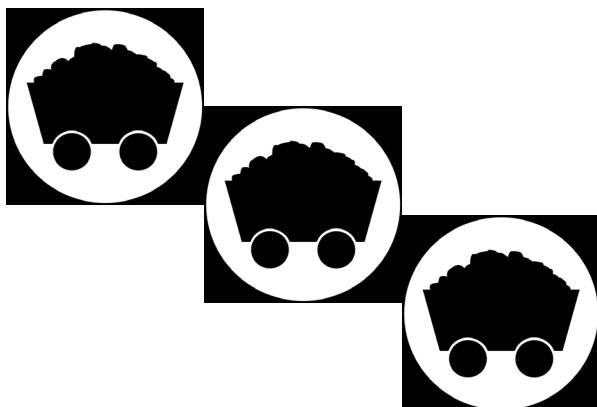
**Geoff Sinnett** is a contaminated sites geoscientist working in the Crown Contaminated Sites Program of the Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation Division. Over the past several years, Geoff has been responsible for management of the Britannia Mine Remediation Project. This is a multi-million dollar remediation project that includes the treatment of acid water by a high density sludge water treatment plant.

Last year Geoff was approached by Phyllis Lesnikov, a young high school student, who wanted to study the environmental issues at the Britannia Mine as a science project. Geoff spent considerable time mentoring and providing guidance to Phyllis regarding the understanding of acid rock drainage and associated metal contamination. He provided her with access to the mine site and allowed her to take soil and rock samples to conduct geochemical analyses for her project.

As a result of receiving a gold medal at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair, Phyllis qualified to compete in the 2016 Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF), where she was awarded a silver medal. Her award also included a \$2,000.00 entrance scholarship to the science faculty at the University of Western Ontario. The project ranked in the top 30 out of 300 projects in the intermediate (grade 9 and 10) group.

Geoff is being recognized for going the extra mile to help a young science student pursue research and opportunities for study. This is another example of how British Columbia public sector employees contribute to the community and provide support and guidance to youth as part of their everyday work.

Great Job Geoff!



# Rural Dividend's First Intake a Rousing Success

Submitted by: Andrew Pye, Policy Analyst, Office of the Associate Deputy Minister



On May 31, 2016, the first intake of the Rural Dividend Program closed, receiving 180 applications from communities across the province. Jason Fisher, Associate Deputy Minister responsible for the program noted that this was a successful start for the new program, saying “We’re very pleased by the quality and diversity of the applications we’ve received, which have definitely exceeded our expectations.”

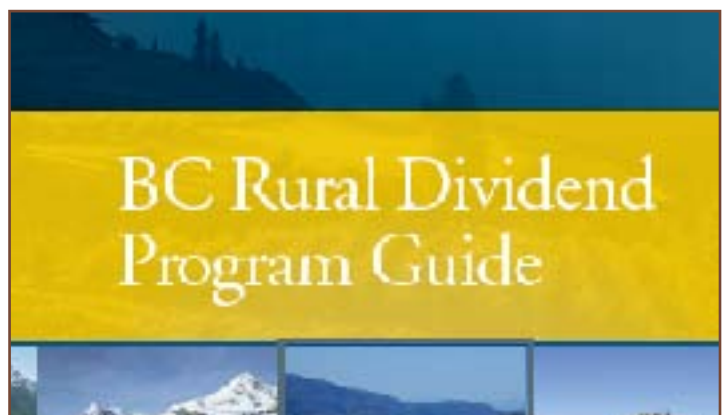
The Rural Dividend Program is providing \$25 million a year, over three years, to rural communities across British Columbia. Funds will go towards reinvigorating and diversifying local economies, ensuring that communities have the resilience to plan for future growth. The Program targets communities with a population of 25,000 or less, and accepts applications from First Nations, not-for-profits, and local governments.

“Our Program is focused on helping small rural communities facing economic hardship, including those facing mountain pine-beetle induced challenges” says David Borth, Executive Director Rural Development. The Rural Dividend was designed with input from the Rural Advisory Council making it well positioned to address rural-specific issues and challenges. “We expect that these projects will make a very real and measurable impact in communities, and we are really excited for that.” Announcements

regarding project development applications are expected in July, while funding for project applications will be announced in September.

Work is already underway in preparing for the second intake, which will open October 3rd and run until October 31st. The program expects even more applications as eligibility requirements are tweaked, and communities become more familiar and comfortable with program guidelines. Notes Fisher “Our hope is that we can take the lessons we’ve learned from the first intake, and apply them to the second intake, improving our program, and benefitting as many rural communities as possible in the process.”

For more information on the Rural Dividend Program see the program website at: [www.gov.bc.ca/ruraldividend](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ruraldividend)



# Fish Passage

Submitted by: Richard Thompson, Monitoring Unit Head, Ecosystem Conservation Section, Ministry of Environment



## Plumbob Creek Project

Plumbob Creek Crossing - before and after - Photo credit: Phil MacDonald BCTS

The ability for fish and other aquatic organisms inhabiting streams to move freely (upstream and downstream) throughout their natural environment is an important component of healthy resilient natural aquatic ecosystems. Different fish species and life stages require a variety of habitats at different times of the year. Manmade barriers such as road-stream crossings that block or delay fish movement can result in changes to fish communities and lost productive capacity.

Healthy, resilient fish populations are necessary to maintain British Columbia's fish species diversity and productivity which in turn supports our recreational, commercial and indigenous food fisheries. In addition to the importance to our fisheries, maintaining access to a full range of habitats is necessary to ensure fish populations and other aquatic species have the best chance to

adapt to changing aquatic conditions resulting from climate change.

BC's Fish Passage Technical Working Group has been working with BC Timber Sales, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to prioritize and remediate problem road-stream crossings. Between 2008 and 2015 the Fish Passage Technical Working group has remediated over 150 road stream crossings resulting in fully restored access to over 750 kilometers of fish habitat.

One of the considerations used in selecting potential remediation sites is the presence of and benefit to fish species of special concern or at risk. In 2015, the Fish Passage Technical Working group with support from BC Timber Sales, DFO and Pacific Salmon Foundation improved fish passage on Plumbob Creek. This project had the potential to improve

habitat access for both westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) both species of special concern. The project involved replacing an undersized, perched culvert with a clear span bridge. Fish now have improved access to over 7 kilometers of upstream habitat and the Teepee Forest Service Road has an improved stream crossing better suited to deal with climate change in the East Kootenay area of British Columbia.



# The Latest Dirt on the Forest Technologist Entry Level Program (FTELP)

Submitted by: Jesse Blewett, Coordinator of Business Excellence, BC Timber Sales

On June 6, 2016, six brand new, enthusiastic trainee forest technologists filed through the doors of the BCTS Mackenzie field office to embark on their journey through the Forest Technologist Entry Level Program (FTELP). Over the program's two years, this lucky cohort will gain experience and training in all areas of forest technology before moving into a northern BC vacancy. In the days since the program's launch, this group has spent many hours becoming well acquainted with everything and anything BCTS, including a series of (dare I say) engaging and participatory safety and orientation training days where they explored our Safe Work Procedures, Standards of Conduct, Safety Manual and everything in between. As the days turn into weeks it's beginning to feel like the FTELP has always existed, neatly housed in the centre of the office. However, less than a year ago the FTELP was merely an idea and it took a lot of hard work and guidance from people all over the province to get it to its natural state today. One great example of this comes from last March. In Kamloops and Prince George experts from BCTS and beyond came from all over BC to participate in two curriculum development workshops. Throughout the

days experts cycled through different topic based stations to collaboratively map out the key training needs for each area of forest technology. The result was phenomenal. By enabling people from all different fields of forestry to sift through the topics together, we were not only able to develop a thoughtfully constructed curriculum outline for each area, but we were able to uncover linkages between topics that will surely enhance both the program and our participants' understanding of forestry as a whole. However, what I found particularly interesting about the workshops was the feedback. So many of these folks, who generously gave up their time to help us in our endeavor, felt that it was surprisingly delightful to spend the day connecting with individuals outside their area of expertise. The curriculum development workshops are only one example of when people stepped up to help get the FTELP off the ground; there are countless examples of when people from BCTS and beyond provided us with invaluable assistance. We could literally fill The Dirt entirely with these stories—but since there's a word limit, on behalf of the FTELP team, I would like to extend my most gracious and appreciative thanks to everyone who helped us up to this point and continues to support the FTELP as we move forward.

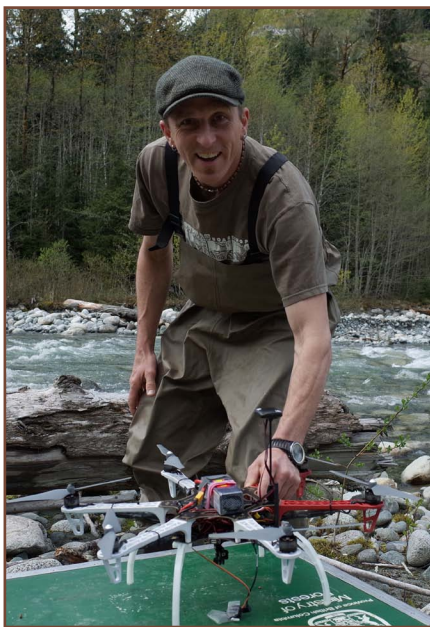


Gavin Anderson – Team Lead; Jyoti Budhathoki Bimali – Participant; Ariel Yelland – Participant; Chelsea Bennett – Participant; Dylan Tripp – Participant; Matt Parker – Participant; Paul Quesnel – Participant; Anita Thomson – Team Lead; Nathan Davis – FTELP Woodlands Supervisor

# Unmanned Aerial Vehicle—Drones

Submitted by : Matt Sakals, PhD PGeo, Research Geomorphologist, Skeena Region

An orthophoto constructed from 25 individual photographs captured by a UAV



Matt Sakals conducting fluvial geomorphic research in the Skeena Region

Ever held your camera overhead and wished you were 20m tall? Ever wished you had a high resolution 3-D model of a site or that your orthophoto was 1cm resolution not 1m? Ever wondered about using an unmanned aerial vehicle to do your work differently or better?

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or “drones”) are used for many military and nefarious purposes, but consumer UAVs have now reached a state where they can allow us to work more efficiently, accurately and safer. No special skills are required; these tools are amazingly easy to fly. In a demonstration with BCTS Skeena, 15 people flew a UAV for the first time with no mishaps.

There are four common products from UAVs: photographs, videos, orthophotographs and 3 dimensional models. Still photographs are the most readily collected and can characterize a site in a way that is impossible with a handheld camera. Typical flights for site characterization are 2 or 3 minutes long and at heights between 10 and 30m. Videos are more challenging to capture, but can do wonders for promoting a site, feature or management practice. Production of orthophotos and 3-D models are eased by the use of an automatic pilot application and require post-processing software. The automatic pilot uses Global Navigation Satellite Systems (the generic term for GPS) to guide the aircraft

while taking multiple photographs from different positions. Post-processing transforms the photos into orthophoto mosaics or 3-dimensional models using multi-view stereoscopic analysis. This process is akin to simultaneously looking at a dozen aerial photographs under the stereoscope at the same time—you end up with a topographic model of the site that can be draped with the imagery.

UAVs come in many shapes, sizes and price ranges. For use within the Public Service, one of the latest versions has a stabilized 12 megapixel camera capable of capturing both still images and videos, it is small enough to fit into a small custom backpack and can be purchased for less than \$1000. These systems interface with a tablet or phone for the first-person view (FPV), camera control and automatic piloting.

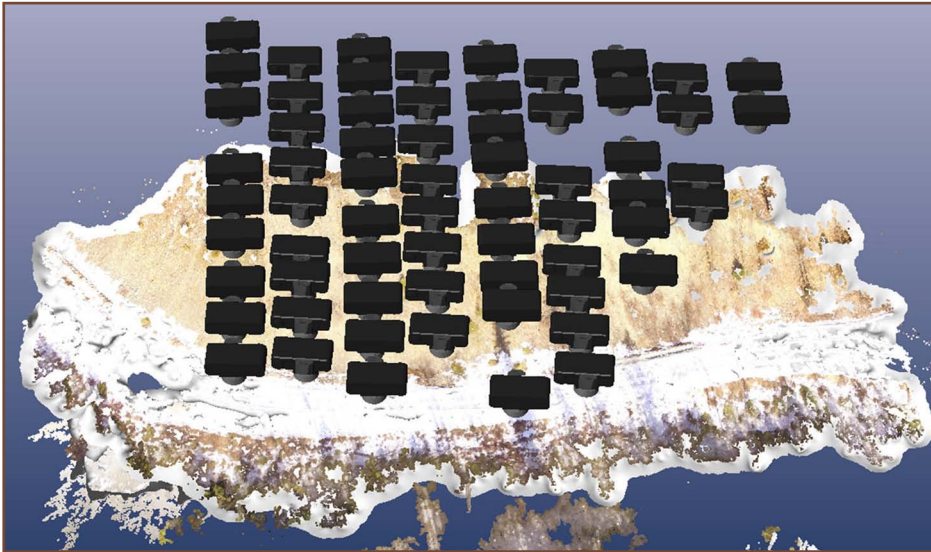
UAVs are aircraft under the jurisdiction of Transport Canada. Fortunately, there are exemptions that allow for the use of UAVs away from airports and built up areas. By following some reasonable rules you can be completely compliant as you pilot your drone in the field to complete your work better than ever before.

FLNRO is currently involved in a project that is scoping the use of UAVs by the provincial government so it is likely that we will see a provincial level framework to guide the application of UAVs in the near future. BCTS has launched a provincial UAV program and

*Continued...*

*Drones - Continued...*

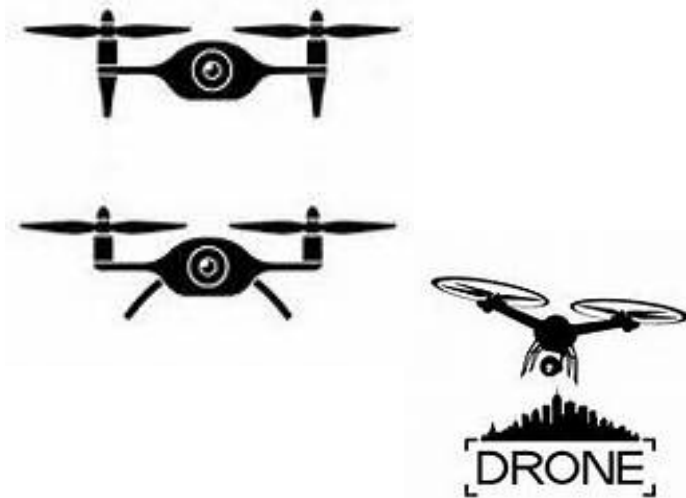
they hope to provide services for not only their own use, but for the rest of government as well. In action now, there are a few UAVs out in the field doing investigations on landslides, stream processes, soil disturbance (mud bogging), and mining disturbance and rehabilitation. New applications need only be thought up before we can put these amazing tools to work even further. Once you've got a great idea how you can work better with using a UAV, let me know. The sky's the limit!



Using a consumer UAV, an autopilot app, and post-processing software, orthophotos and 3-D models can be created.



Working in the field with a small UAV



**Submit an Article to *The Dirt*  
and receive a Notebook**



## Congratulations to the GeoBC team on being selected as one of the 2016 10 Best Places to Work in the BC Government

**"No matter where you go, there you are"**

**~ Buckaroo Banzai, 1984**

Submitted by: **Malcolm Gray, Lead, Special Projects, GeoBC**

The quote above is a favourite - a truism to be sure, but one that captures the core of what GeoBC is all about. We're a group that recognizes the fundamental importance of the concept of "place" and how that simple piece of information can bring context and understanding to difficult problems.

BC is big. Like really big. Like 95 million hectares big and mapping something that huge has consistently been a challenging undertaking. Driven by a need to understand our varied and complicated landscape, curious and dedicated men and women in our fair province have lead the world in the field of mapping since the 1800's, but perhaps more significantly, they still do today. GeoBC, its organizational predecessors and our current professional geospatial colleagues have been often asked to solve the problem of "mapping the unmappable" and over the years have pioneered many of the advances that helped geographic records evolve from paper and linen into the world of silicon.



**Image and terrain of Halkett Island in Victoria harbour, collect by a drone.**

After the Second World War, aerial photography was the new innovation that made it possible to map the land, water and forests of BC in much greater detail than ever before. With the growing adoption of computers in the 1980's, digitization was beginning to replace pen and ink drafting. This is the point in our shared history where the Province of BC significantly invested in data, digitizing existing large-scale resource inventories and creating new ones.

The broader application of spatial analysis techniques and development of custom software applications took off in the 1990's once robust databases became available. Throughout all of this change the only constant is the committed team determined to support their colleagues throughout the Public Service by helping them connect their business with the powerful concept of "place". Behind the scenes, the men and women of the precursors

*Continued...*

*GeoBC Continued...*

which led to GeoBC continuing to do what they did so well and find a way, often in spite of the technology and tools they had to work with. Creativity and intellectual curiosity were the most powerful tools available to them and this remains true in the modern GeoBC.

In its current state, GeoBC has four distinct functions and services:

1. To create and maintain a standard set of base-mapping data with the goal of progressively making this information open and accessible for use by all;
2. Provide business direction and assurance for a registry of

Provincial rights and interests—specifically the Integrated Land and Resource Registry (ILRR);

3. Offer business improvement services and assistance in integrating emerging technologies in support of streamlining operational business; and

4. Where government business areas require more direct decision support services than is possible through self-serve online geospatial tools, GeoBC will provide a service for custom solutions.

Every morning we wake up in the future and see previously unimaginable possibilities become commonplace. Throughout this

changing landscape the temptation can be to embrace the “new” and see technological tools as the solution to problems. We see it differently. While we’re relentless in our pursuit and use of the appropriate technology, at the end of the day, what we hope for is that we’re able to bring the right information at the right level to the right person at the right time.

This and the endless variety of projects we get involved in, is exciting stuff for GeoBC staff. Combined with a great team spirit, this helps explain why we enjoy coming to work at one of the Top Ten places in the B.C. Government.



Back Row from Left: Scott MacPhail, Darrel Richardson, Dave Smith, Don Ramsdale, Buddy Syrette, Andy Calarco, Jason Young, Steve Hann, Rick Deegan, Dale Sparrow, Susan Westmacott, Brad Hlasny, Harald Steiner, Josh Tarle

Middle Row from left: Joy Sinnett, Marilyn Tipper, Alison Sweeten, Rocky Brooks, Sarah MacGregor, Azadeh Ramesh, Michelle McNally, Natalie Work, Ben Arril, Robert Prins, Rob Gowan, Angus Christian

Front Row from Left: Malcolm Gray, Ian Laing, Tristan Joslin, Steeve Deschesnes, Jim Vye, Mark Spencer, Jayne Wynrib

Missing: Janet Adams, Nancy Liesch, Stephen Sutherland, Aaron MacMillan, Jamie Duncan, Carrie Leonard, Carol Ogborne, Owen Strachan, Heather Stevens, Koraley Tylor, James Thompson, Elise Bauer, Tim Brierley, Rennie Dugaro, Brian Lister, Sami Bouma Ngock, Meg Hoole, Gurdeep Singh, Eva Roberts

# BC Wildfire Service helps fight Fort McMurray Fire

Submitted by: Karlie Shaughnessy, Communications Specialist, Southeast Region

A half a million hectares is roughly equal to the size of Prince Edward Island. That's about the final size of the record-breaking Horse River wildfire—simply nick-named the Beast—that destroyed 2,400 homes and buildings and left more than 90,000 residents of Fort McMurray evacuated for a month.

In terms of bad timing for a wildfire to occur, The Beast picked it. Northern B.C. was influenced by the same hot and dry conditions that lead to extreme fire conditions in northern Alberta. By May 1, 2016 the Prince George Fire Centre was dealing with 50 active fires and evacuations of its own near the city of Fort St. John. All available firefighters in B.C. were sent north in an attempt to protect the community.

While requests for B.C. firefighters were being sent from the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) to help with the situation occurring near Fort McMurray, B.C. Wildfire Service crews had to stay home initially to prevent a similar situation from occurring with the 24,000 and 12,000 hectare wildfires burning towards Fort St. John.

The fire was burning in C2 Black Spruce--described as "flammable as dry grass."

With help from a cold front and a couple weeks of hard work, the situation in B.C.'s north calmed down enough that the BC Wildfire Service was able to send personnel to assist with The Beast.

As of May 27, 188 BC Wildfire Service personnel were stationed in Alberta making it the largest out-of-province deployment on record. These positions consisted of unit crews, initial attack crews, agency representatives and various support personnel.

James Ritco, who normally fights fires in the Boundary, found himself assigned to Division Delta and Division X-ray as a strike team leader. Their main objective was to establish control and containment on a five kilometer stretch in the south in active C2 Black Spruce that has

been described as being as "flammable as standing grass." Ritco's daily routine soon seemed apparent. Due to the conditions and volatility of the forest fuels, he says they were "chased out daily by the fire" and had to retreat to safe ground.

One analyst from the Bank of Montreal estimated insurance losses could exceed \$9-billion. To put that in perspective, the 2011 fire in Slave Lake, Alta., destroyed 400 buildings at an insurance cost of \$700-million. Officials have concluded the fire was person-caused and has been said to be the costliest disaster in Canadian History.

**The Fort McMurray fire is now considered the costliest disaster in Canadian history.**



# Laugh through a Fringe Safari with Shawn O'Hara

Submitted by: Angela Bello, Correspondence Coordinator, Correspondence Services



**"Blurry due to laughter."**

Comedy is cathartic. For Shawn O'Hara, FLNRO Correspondence Coordinator, it's a way to deal with reality when it seems bleak and cluttered with unfulfilled promises.

According to Shawn, when we were little we were told that anything was possible and that we could be anyone. With a generation struggling to find connection, housing and peace, things have become a little more complicated. "The world we were promised could never exist," he says. "Now we are standing around asking 'What do we do?' So we make jokes." Let us be entertained.

Shawn's upcoming show at the Victoria Fringe Festival is based on those old animal discovery shows that were a big part of childhood, but aren't really around anymore. These shows created a generation conscience about the environment and of humankind's responsibility to live in awe and respect of wildlife and nature.

Unfortunately, that world and some of those values are fading. Shawn's show, called Field Zoology 101, comes from a "place of fondness that we will never see again." Based on the exploits of famous animal experts like Steve Irwin and Jack Hanna, Field Zoology 101 takes you on a safari of bizarre jokes as you journey with Brad Gooseberry (O'Hara's character) on a show which he describes as "The Crocodile Hunter if it was hosted by your weird uncle."

At the end of the day, Shawn says, "comedy is about entertaining people."

"Life is hard, but if you can make someone laugh, it makes their day a little better. That's all I want to do." Field Zoology 101 is at the 2016 Victoria Fringe Festival from August 27 to September 3. For more information, visit [www.intrepidtheatre.com/festivals/fringe-festival](http://www.intrepidtheatre.com/festivals/fringe-festival).

# Proud Memorabilia Displayed!

Submitted by: Kimberly Scott, Stewardship Forester, Cariboo Region

The Quesnel Natural Resource District proudly displays memorabilia in our front foyer that's been donated by employees and, found at our office over the years.

It's been a valuable way for us to honour the past and evolution of our ministry and, will be a beneficial way to celebrate the future of our ministry.



## Retirees Receive *The Dirt*!

If you are a former employee and want to keep up with the latest *Dirt*, please contact Richard Dominy and he will add you to the retiree's email distribution list. Provide email, home phone and home mailing address.

You can contact Richard directly at: [Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca). Don't forget our [Facebook](#) page!



Have a Story idea?  
Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

Don't forget about the Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>



# 2016 National Aboriginal Day in Squamish

Submitted by: Kelly Franz, P.Geo, Advisor, First Nation Relations



I lost a canoe race, witnessed the blessing of a new building, and attended an Aboriginal Day celebration all hosted by the Squamish Nation. It was a good chance to get to know the community and get a glimpse of Squamish culture and to have some fun getting our butts kicked by kids in the canoe race.

The canoe race featured two canoes from the Squamish Nation populated with kids (~ 6 to 12 years old!) and their animated coach, and four “government” boats (paddled by DFO, West Van Police, RCMP, a nurse, Conservation Officers, FLNRO staff). The canoe I was in sprung a leak, ran aground, experienced near misses and collisions, and finally arrived at shore into the ankle-deep muck—we were dead last!

Look for details for next year's event!



Frank DeGagne, Kelly Franz, Bob Cunneyworth, Daniel Scott, Teressa McMillan



Photo - Location: Stawamus - The Squamish language spelling of Stawamus is STA-a-mus which is a variant of the word Sta-mus, which means shelter

# Public Service Week—Picnic in the Park!

Submitted by: Kyle Yakiwchuk, Web Coordinator (Internal Communications)



To celebrate this year's Public Service Week, FLNRO staff in the Victoria area enjoyed a Picnic in the Park.

Hot dogs, beef and veggie burgers, cake, snacks and soft drinks were enjoyed by all at the Beacon Hill Park location.

Kudos and thank you to the organizing committee: Sarah Blenkin, Wendy Robinson, Jasmine Johl, Melanie Boyce, Sarah Andrews, Tania Hogan, Sandra Jupp, Jennifer de Bree, Sam Bellion, Shawn O'Hara, Angela Bello, Sarah Hipkin, Polly Vaughan, Sonia Donison; as well as the grill-masters Duncan Williams, Ward Trotter, Adam Taylor, Wilf Bangert, Paul Knowles and Tim Sheldon!

A big thank you to all for your continued dedication and commitment to this ministry.



# Alexis Creek 45th Annual Trap Shoot

Submitted by: Brian Rosengren, Stewardship Forester, Cariboo Region

Courtesy of the Williams Lake Tribune



**Above: Jordan Grier and Ted Traer battle for the KFM Trophy.**

The 45th BC Forest Service Trap Shoot was held at Alexis Creek's Chilcotin Rod and Gun Club Range on Saturday, May 27 under ever changing skies.

It was a great turnout with 55 shooters comprised of 11 five-person shotgun trap and skeet teams, and individual .22 calibre rifle shooters.

Alexis Creek and Williams Lake staff from the Cariboo-Chilcotin District of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, organized the event and the Initial Fire Attack Crews from Puntzi Tanker Base setup the tents, tables, and chairs. Bill Chapman ensured the vintage clay pigeon throwers were operational for the day.

Barry Jenkins and Mike Carlson (BC Forest Service retirees who have been present for each of the 45 years) served as range masters — Barry for the shot-gunners, and Mike for the rifle shooters. Sam Davis also served as range master and gave the safety briefing.

Once again Quesnel Quality was the highest scoring trap and skeet team and awarded the Jack Lynn Memorial Trophy.

The Quesnel Quality team were Terry Street, Gord Wall, Ted Traer, Andres Street and Adam Veley, scored 109 out of a possible 125 points, beating their own score from last year of 107.

Adam Veley was the Top Gun with a perfect 25 out of 25. Jenna Brink was the female Top Gun with 16 out of 25.

Jordan Grier was the last man standing on the first Annie Oakley trap shoot line, winning the Kevin Frittenburg Memorial Trophy.

Adam Veley triumphed on the second Annie Oakley line.



The .22 calibre rifle shooting winners, listed first to third, were; Connie Haley, Jenna Brink, and Peggy Menning for the women and, Journey Carlson-Campbell Rio Menning and Meacham Carlson-Campbell for the youth.

The Shot in The Dark from Williams Lake won a hard fought battle for the lowest-score trophy, and Krista Beadman was the 177th fastest gun.

Everyone enjoyed the competitive fun, great food and camaraderie, to me it is like an Alexis Creek Forest Service reunion every year.

# The Dirt Photographers!

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

## Categories

Photos can consist of:

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

## Submission Details

- Deadline for submissions is changed with each edition and will be noted on the previous edition.
- Images can be submitted to: [FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca)
- The contest is open to all ministry employees and retirees.
- Interested staff can make submissions to as many editions (season/category) as they want, but there is a limit of five images per category.
- We are looking for recent photos, please limit your entries to shots taken within the past 2 years.

## Prizes and Judging

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

## Technical Specifications/Requirements

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

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

For further information, contact:

[FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca)

DEADLINE IS September 16, 2016.

## View and Select your Prize!!

(embroidery: *The Dirt* - Newsletter Advisory Group)

## Prizes

Don't forget to try your hand at writing a limerick or poem. Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

# July Edition Photo Contest Winners!

**Wildlife Category** - Pacific Northwest Raptors, Herd Road,  
Duncan

Photo taken by: Heather Chia, Executive Divisional Coordinator



Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Sonia Donison](#) directly.

Have a photo for the next "Photo Contest?"  
Review the contest guidelines and send your photo's to  
the [FS News](#) Advisory Group!

**Scenic Category** - Yellowhead Mountain and Yellowhead Lake in Mount Robson Provincial Park. The red stands are Mountain Pine Beetle killed.

Photo taken by: Matt Makar, RPF, Inventory Forester



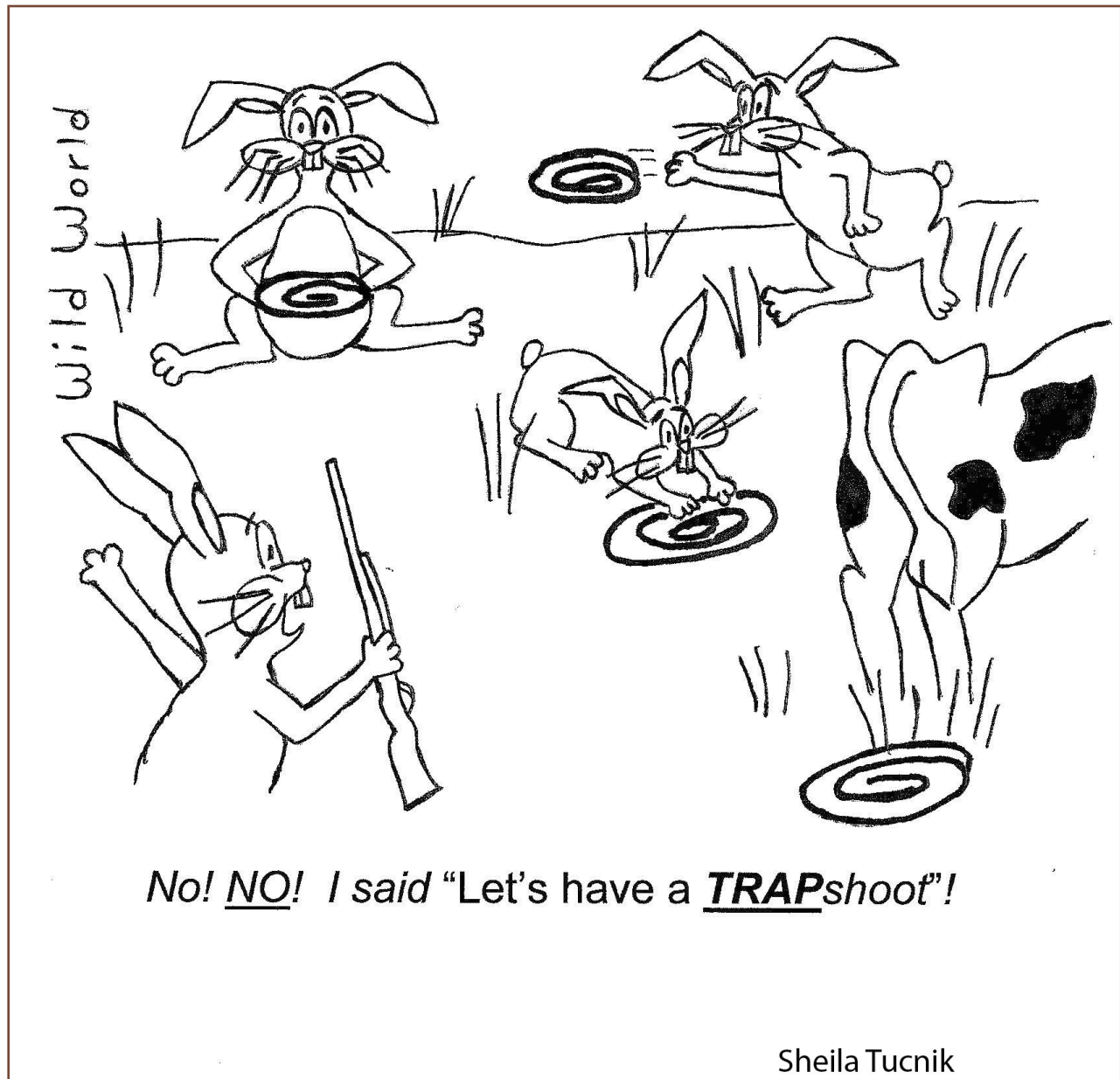
Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Sonia Donison](#) directly.

## Workplace Category - Sturgeon telemetry flight Fraser River Canyon

Photo taken by: Scott Horley, Environmental Stewardship Biologist



Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Sonia Donison](#) directly.



*The Dirt* is a quarterly newsletter for all employees and for employees.

Sonia Donison is providing management and coordination support for the newsletter. Questions or comments about the newsletter should be directed to Sonia at 250-356-9638 or via [email](#).

**Call for Stories/Ideas**

The success of the newsletter 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 250-356-9638 or via [email](#) about their idea or ideas before writing a story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition—deadline for articles is

September 16, 2016



**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**