



Hazard Alert

Submitted by: Andrew Ashford, District Manager, North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District

Recently an Astar helicopter was enroute to Fish Egg Inlet with three FLNR clients on board. After approximately 55 minutes in flight the helicopter landed and shutdown to hold for the crews. A few minutes after the FLNR crew members had departed the area, the pilot received a radio transmission from them identifying that one of the crew vests that had been in the aft bay had circular patch of gasoline on it approximately four inches wide.

The pilot opened the rear bay and immediately noted a strong smell of jet fuel. The pilot opened all cowls in his investigation and found all areas bare and dry. The pilot pulled the interior panel in the rear bay and found a very minor leak from the engine drain line running through the area. The pilot left the aft bay door open to vent over the four hour period of the hold, but could not see the exact area of the leak.

The pilot returned to base with no further incident. The engineer removed the panels and in good light was able to discover, and repair, a small split in the drain hose line.

Important to note and identify is the proactive approach of the FLNR crew members to make contact on the radio to the pilot and identify a problem. This gave the pilot some initial direction as well as time to investigate. Much appreciation to the FLNR crews for this.

As well, pilots should be including in our standard safety briefing to passengers that, in the unlikely event, they are seeing or smelling abnormal fuel, hydraulic or oil in or around the helicopter they should report it immediately to the pilot.

Note: this hazard alert was sent to the district FLNR along with a thank you note as reinforcement of the value of combining our Safety Management Systems

Advisory Group Vision:

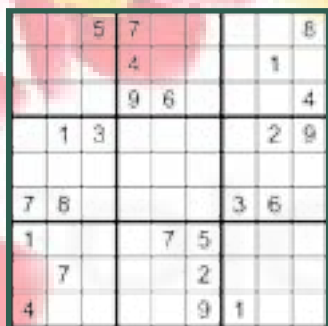
"True to our proud histories, informing ministry staff through balanced and timely communication"

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.

Sudoku - do you play?



Solution

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

The Dirt Contents, March 2014

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Provincial Bonspiel Results
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Haida Nation and B.C. Sign Forest Tenure Agreement

Submitted by: Ricardo Toledo, Neil Edwards, First Nations Policy Forester, Lindsey Affleck, Public Affairs Officer

On March 13, 2014, the province signed a Forest Tenure Agreement with the Council of the Haida Nation fulfilling a major component of the historic 2009 “Kunst’aa Guu - Kunst’aayah” Reconciliation Protocol.

Under the agreement, the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Council of the Haida Nation agree to establish an area-based tenure on the east coast of Graham Island and Moresby Island on Haida Gwaii. As a result, Taan Forest Products Ltd. will be invited to apply for a First Nations Woodland Licence.

The area-based licence will have a proposed allowable annual cut of 134,210 cubic metres.

Some of the allowable annual cut will be used to support BC Timber Sales in delivering the market-based timber pricing system through a cooperative management agreement between Taan Forest Products Ltd. and BC Timber Sales.

First Nation Woodland Licences provide the licence holder with exclusive rights to harvest timber and the right to manage other forest resources within the licence area. First Nation communities and the province continue to develop these opportunities, with the potential for up to 10 more First Nation Woodland Licences to be issued in 2014/15.

This area-based tenure will assist the Haida Nation in managing forest resources differently on Haida

Gwaii, which will provide new opportunities for the Haida Nation and provide the Haida Nation with

new job opportunities and income streams that will contribute to strengthening local economies.

Vice President of the Council of the Haida Nation Trevor Russ - “the Haida Nation has been working with the province since 2009 to fulfill obligations made to each other in the Kunst’aa Guu - Kunst’aayah agreement. The signing of this forest tenure is a major component of that agreement and acknowledges another step between the Haida Nation and the province in this incremental approach to reconciliation.”



Standing:

From left to right: Minister of Environment Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad, Kil tlaatsg'aa - Peter Lantin (President of the Council of the Haida Nation), Gaahlaay - Lonnie Young (Hereditary Chief), Sdiithldaa - Frank Collison (Hereditary Chief).

Seated:

Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson, Ginn waadluuwan uu 'laa isdaa aayaagan - Trevor Russ (Vice President of the Council of the Haida Nation).

The 2012 report “Our Natural Advantage: Forest Sector Strategy for British Columbia,” recommended First Nations become full partners in the forest sector. Today’s Forest Tenure Agreement is the seventh signed for this new form of tenure since it was introduced in 2011 to address First Nations’ unique interests in land and resources.

Since 2002, the province has signed agreements with 177 First Nations providing \$354 million in forestry revenue-sharing and providing access to 62 million cubic metres of timber.



Using Wood Vids!

Submitted by: James Sandland, Manager, Climate Change and Forest Carbon

What do BC's heritage, innovation, sustainability, history, community and culture have in common? They all converge in forests! A new video series, commissioned by the Climate Change and Bio-economy section in the Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation Division, is a visual journey designed to expose the deep relationship British Columbians have with their forests and show the subsequent spin-off benefits to the climate that naturally result from using wood.

Forests have been an important part of British Columbia's (BC) history and social fabric for hundreds of years. Covering 55 million hectares of land, our forests alone are larger than some entire countries! They are as rich and diverse as our culture and as important to our future as they were to our past.

One of the greatest challenges we face today is climate change. Forests, a cornerstone of the global carbon cycle, are vital to mitigating the climate change effects and adapting to inevitable impacts. They take up huge amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it as carbon in trees, soil and other forms of biomass.

Every year, 25-30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) are transferred from our sustainably managed forests to long-lived wood products that end up in our buildings, instruments, bridges, surfboards and more. Carbon stored in long lived wood products like these are akin to making carbon deposits in a long-term bank account that stores carbon for 100 years and beyond. The numerous heritage buildings across our province provide a great example.

Our BC wood, even the infected Mountain Pine Beetle wood, has high value for our province, residents and environment. If we stop and look around it's pretty amazing what can be done to reduce climate change. Through the use of wood, we can not only support and maintain this culture; we can take action on climate change. We can honour our past, while simultaneously honouring our future.

The videos in this series will be released throughout this year on the FLNR intranet site. The first one, featuring the Kinsol Trestle, is online so [check it out here!](#) Stay tuned for the second video on the intranet coming soon.



Tony Wayne Wideski

March 3, 1959 - December 26, 2013

On Boxing Day 2013, we lost one of our best. Tony died after a courageous battle with Pancreatic Cancer. He leaves behind his loving family, wife Pam and children Kurt and Christy. His vast network of colleagues and friends throughout BC are also grieving his loss and are gaining a profound appreciation of the tremendous challenge ahead of us, to carry on his legacy.



people from all over western Canada. The slideshow of Tony's life was incredibly moving; so much accomplished yet a life cut far too short. Tony's family in particular were very appreciative of the many stories shared by Tony's devoted friends and colleagues. He was highly respected and impacted many people's lives. The most ordinary conversations of years ago, take on a much deeper meaning at these times.

Tony's impressive career speaks for itself, but those are only stops along the way for this dedicated public servant, loving father and husband. Anyone who ever met Tony would agree that above all, he left an impression, from his friendly smile to his precise memory and attention to detail. Most incredibly, in his final months he worked as tirelessly and cheerfully as ever, despite the visible toll of the terrible disease. He never lost enthusiasm for building the new organization and always cared deeply for his staff. We are honoured to have witnessed such courage first hand.

Tony's Celebration of Life was held in Cranbrook on January 10, 2014 and was attended by over 400

Kootenay Boundary Region is working on a Legacy Project in honour of Tony, tentatively scheduled for next Public Service Day. Some ideas revolve around Tony's love of waterfowl and community service. We will make announcements as the ideas take form, pay attention to *The Dirt* newsletter and facebook account <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>. As Tony used to say, "storming, forming and norming." We are still storming and forming, so if you would like to participate, contact [Ray Morello, District Manager, Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District](#). It will take a long time to get to 'norming', but we have big shoes to fill.



Record-setting woodlot bonus bid brings an early Christmas on the North Island!

Submitted by: Andrew Ashford, District Manager, North Island Central Coast Resource District

It was just a week before Christmas in Port McNeill when Woodlot Forester René Labbé found himself at the centre of a unique 'gift' exchange where he provided new woodlot licence W2108 to licensee Bruce Kearney of Twin T Holdings Corporation in exchange for his bonus bid of \$875,000. There were smiles all around when the cheque was exchanged and obvious excitement from the licensee.

"This woodlot is an excellent business opportunity," cited woodlot owner Bruce Kearney. Kearney's

business partner, Rick Pizze, was quick to add that "given the interest generated in this community-based tenure, the ministry should consider additional woodlot opportunities across the province." Offered for bid in April 2013, Woodlot W2108 comprises of 800 ha of second-growth hemlock and cedar timber on West Cracroft Island with an allowable annual cut of 4,479 cubic metres, within North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District (NICC). Thirteen bidders competed for the tenure, with 6 of the bonus bids coming in at over \$400,000.

Expansion of the woodlot program was cited as a priority for the province in order to support job creation and prosperous rural economies as part of 'Our Natural Advantage: Forest Sector Strategy for British Columbia'. Tasked with identifying a

new woodlot opportunity in 2012, René quickly focused on the available landbase and narrowed the opportunity to a few choices. A flurry of field work to verify access, timber quality and boundaries happened next—which took a great deal of planning as West Cracroft Island was

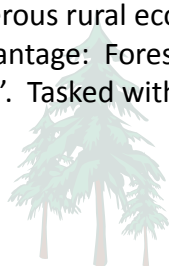
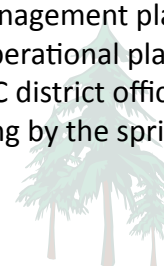
only boat accessible from the office in Port McNeill. "I have to give the credit to René", stated district manager Andrew Ashford, "he worked extremely hard and with tight timeframes to identify and put



Presentation of the bonus bid of \$875,000 for woodlot W2108 in Port McNeill.
(L to R): Andrew Ashford, district manager; Bruce Kearney, licensee; Rick Pizze;
René Labbé, woodlot forester

together the woodlot bid package—and based on the interest from the forestry community on Vancouver Island, he certainly developed an excellent tenure opportunity." René himself was much more modest, and quickly acknowledged the team effort that brought the whole project together. "There was more than just me working on the woodlot—Rob Short did a lot of field work, Amy Beetham managed the archaeology work, Kathy DesRochers led the First Nations consultation, and so many others who contributed", said René.

The new woodlot is hoping to go operational in 2014, and the management plan has already been approved. The operational plan is currently under review in the NICC district office and it looks like they will be logging by the spring!



Team Safety Meeting

Submitted by: Grant Johannesen, RFT, Forest Tech., Silviculture, Quesnel Field Team
Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area, British Columbia Timber Sales

The Quesnel office had an all staff safety meeting Thursday, February 20th. The Team was informed well in advance and preparations were made to ensure a successful turnout.

Management agonized as they set up the team agenda and selected only the very best speakers, knowing that their every move and decision would be under close scrutiny and any falters or weaknesses of the presentation would be subject to the criticism of the many loyal Canadian, Quesnel office employees.

You could feel the tension and anticipation vibrating throughout the building in the time leading up to the 9am safety meeting start.

The starting lineup of speakers was released and high expectations were on their shoulders to put on a successful display of their skills, knowledge and ability.

All was going along as planned, following the game plan of the agenda to a 'T'. Safety topics were discussed, open communication was informative, and goals and objectives were met. Staff safety

recognition, awards and presentations concluded a successful morning.

Everyone was encouraged to wear their Canadian "Red" colours, shave their whiskers, be courteous, polite and respectful, and bring an appetite for the luncheon to follow.

In theory and on paper this all sounded fine and dandy. Then, just a few minutes before lunch, the cheer "Go Canada Go!" erupted and the Board Room big screen lit up with a live feed of the Women's Gold medal hockey game! As they say, the rest is history. The supportive audience, along with key note speakers and presenters pooled their talents together to produce a potluck lunch that showcased previously hidden culinary talents. Needless to say a celebratory meal was enjoyed by all. A truly delectable feast of soups, sandwiches, veggies, fruits and delicious desserts tickled the taste buds of a hungry, energetic, celebratory crowd.

It is safe to say, the moral of this story is ... **Safety is Golden!**



Heritage Week 2014 Recap and Virtual Tour

Submitted by: Judith Cook, Heritage Planner - Information & Promotions, Heritage Branch

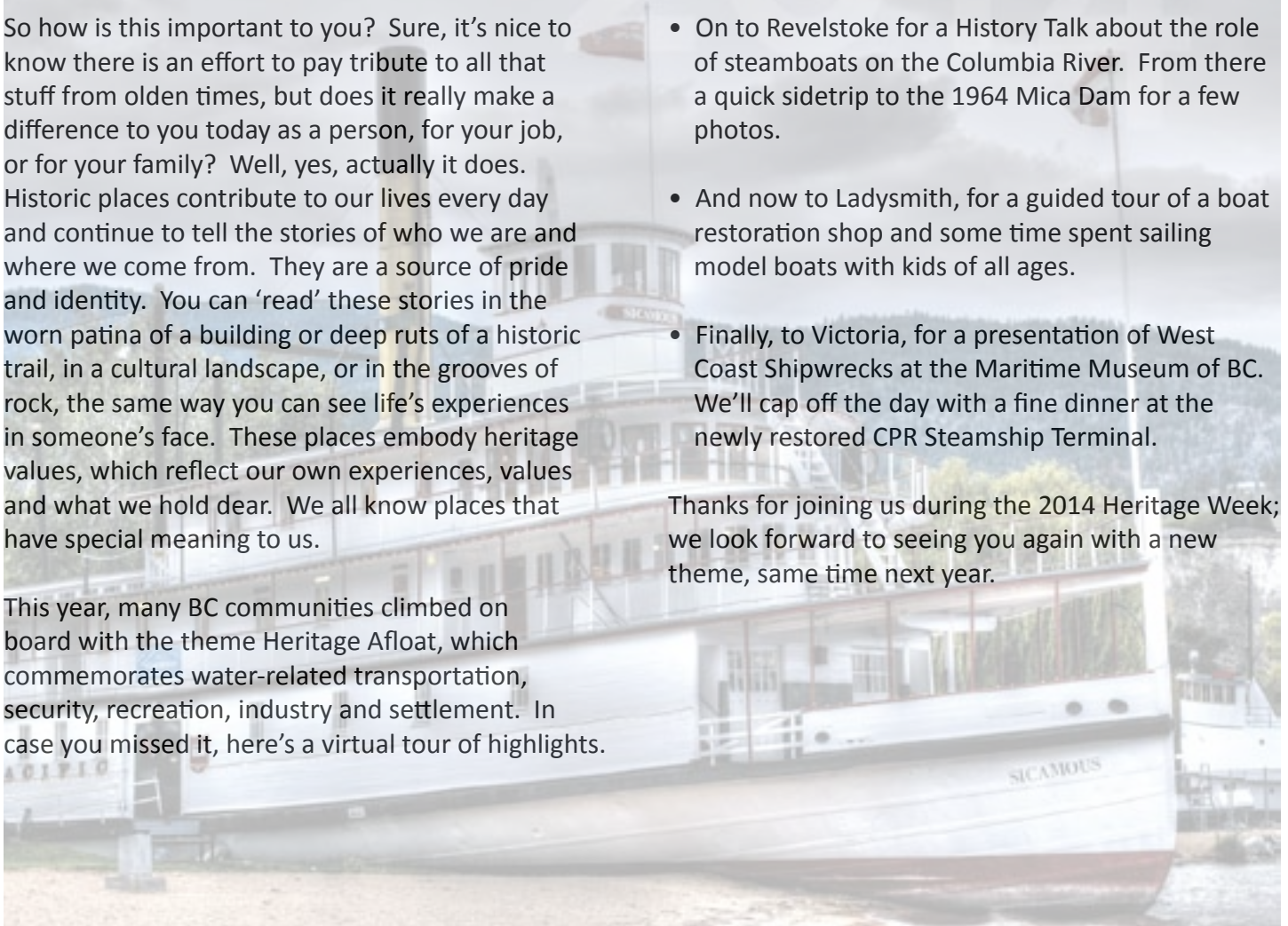
Every year since 2002, in the third week of February, heritage in British Columbia gets a special nod. Proclaimed by the province and facilitated by the non-profit Heritage BC, Heritage Week is dedicated to celebrating the places, people and events that have helped to shape the evolution of our culture and communities.

So how is this important to you? Sure, it's nice to know there is an effort to pay tribute to all that stuff from olden times, but does it really make a difference to you today as a person, for your job, or for your family? Well, yes, actually it does. Historic places contribute to our lives every day and continue to tell the stories of who we are and where we come from. They are a source of pride and identity. You can 'read' these stories in the worn patina of a building or deep ruts of a historic trail, in a cultural landscape, or in the grooves of rock, the same way you can see life's experiences in someone's face. These places embody heritage values, which reflect our own experiences, values and what we hold dear. We all know places that have special meaning to us.

This year, many BC communities climbed on board with the theme Heritage Afloat, which commemorates water-related transportation, security, recreation, industry and settlement. In case you missed it, here's a virtual tour of highlights.

- We'll start in Kelowna, at a Heritage Week kick-off breakfast, followed by a visit to the S.S. Sicamous sternwheeler on the lakeshore in Penticton.
- Next, we'll hop over to Richmond, to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery exhibit featuring the Nikkei Fishermen of the West Coast.
- On to Revelstoke for a History Talk about the role of steamboats on the Columbia River. From there a quick sidetrip to the 1964 Mica Dam for a few photos.
- And now to Ladysmith, for a guided tour of a boat restoration shop and some time spent sailing model boats with kids of all ages.
- Finally, to Victoria, for a presentation of West Coast Shipwrecks at the Maritime Museum of BC. We'll cap off the day with a fine dinner at the newly restored CPR Steamship Terminal.

Thanks for joining us during the 2014 Heritage Week; we look forward to seeing you again with a new theme, same time next year.





Heritage Afloat

The SS Sicamous Paddle Wheeler

The SS Sicamous is a sternwheeler paddle steamer built in 1904 by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. It was the last sternwheeler built in Canada and is the only one still in existence. The ship was built for the Kootenai River and was used to transport passengers and cargo between Penticton and Revelstoke. It was later used by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for various other purposes, including as a tugboat and a ferry. The ship was restored by the Penticton Heritage Society and is now a museum ship. It is open to the public for tours and is a popular attraction for visitors to Penticton.

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www.heritagebc.ca

My African Adventure!

Submitted by: Jennifer de Bree, Executive Administrative Assistant, Coast Area

It has been a dream of mine to go to Africa. I had put it off for years for various reasons, but finally in January 2013 I made an online application through Service Link, the volunteer organization for the Christian Reformed Churches in North America, to volunteer with my husband, Anton, at Omwabini Rescue Steps in Kimilili, Kenya from January 14, 2014, to February 15, 2014.



income generation. Before we left we were able to raise over \$5,000 for Omwabini to purchase a generator, photocopier, sewing machine and tractor tires. When we arrived the purchased items, aside from the tractor tires, were already there and in use and the people were very thankful as all the items are of tremendous benefit to their work. It was neat to see the difference that we made with

Omwabini is a name derived from the local Luhya language in western Kenya meaning a “Rescuer” and its objective is to work with orphaned and vulnerable children to rebuild their lives and give new opportunities for health, growth and



sustainable progress to children and child-headed families who have lost parents to disease and poverty and now face futures of continued poverty, neglect and struggle with little or no opportunity for change. Omwabini was founded by Mama Mary Bunyasi in 2002 and is run by her and three of her sons. They run an orphanage for over 400 children, a primary school, a secondary school, a vocation training centre and offer health clinic and counselling services. They also support their local community by protecting water sources, building houses for those living in impoverished conditions, providing agricultural training and support and encouraging economic empowerment through

the help of so many people right away.

During our time there, we were able to learn more about Omwabini and had the opportunity to meet and work with the people and the communities that they support. The highlights of our time were the kids who were always excited to see the mzungus (white person) and working in the community building five houses for impoverished families and protecting a water source. Once completed, the houses we worked on will provide shelter for 5 adults and 25 children and the protected water source will provide clean water to an estimated 80 households and 500 beneficiaries. It was amazing being a part of what Omwabini is doing for children, families and their communities. Although we are still processing the many things we saw and experienced, we know that it has brought a new perspective to our lives and how we want to spend them.



My husband and I are already discussing going back to Africa so that we can continue making a difference in the lives of impoverished families and communities.

For more information:

Omwabini Rescue Steps – www.omwabini.org

Jen and Anton’s Blog – <http://antonandjen.blogspot.ca/>

Jen and Anton’s Website – <http://members.shaw.ca/antonandjenmission/Mission/Home.html>

C&E Presents its 2013 Glen Evely Award

Submitted by: Kevin Bertram, Provincial Compliance and Enforcement Leader

Compliance and Enforcement Branch presented its annual Glen Evely award on November 27, 2013, during the C&E All staff meeting held in Vancouver.

Glen Evely

Glen Evely was a father, a husband and peer who exemplified the values C&E holds high. Glen was tragically taken from us in the early hours of November 13, 2004, when the police car he was riding in as an auxiliary RCMP officer was struck by a speeding vehicle fleeing police in downtown Vernon, B.C. The memory of Glen, his contribution to C&E and the underlying principles for this award are summed up by the gracious words of his friend Dan Krywonos who wrote of Glen in 2004 "... (he) was thorough, professional, accurate, full of pride, compassionate, sincere, truthful, respectful, resourceful, community oriented, passionate towards family, life and work, a giving volunteer, made friends easily and most of all spoke with glowing admiration and love of his children and family...". Glen's memory lives on in the dedication of folks in the organization who hold dear these unflagging values.

The Award

The award is presented to a C&E staff member who has demonstrated extraordinary performance, commitment and dedication to the program and their work has been a significant contribution to the program, ministry and government. This is the 9th year of the award.



This year's award was presented to **Herb Noren**, Natural Resource Officer, Salmon Arm Field Office, Thompson Okanagan Field Unit.

Herb was nominated because of his cumulative contribution to C&E. After being transferred into C&E in 2003, Herb has not only survived the last 10 years but has embraced the multitude of changes and steadily progressed into an outstanding, competent and resourceful Natural Resource Officer.

Herb started with the Ministry of Forests in 1989 and was moved to C&E in the downsizing of 2003. Prior to 2003 Herb lived, breathed and loved silviculture. C&E was an unknown world.

Herb is persistent, polite and firm and in spite of being unconventional (sometimes to the extreme!) his non enforcement experience prior to entering C&E has not hampered his success in investigations or compliance actions. Ultimately, due to Herb's attention to detail and unwavering focused purpose even the most difficult clients will comply. Herb gives enforcement action only where it is warranted.

Three other award nominees were presented certificates for their contributions. These included a Headquarters staff member, and two very dedicated NROs out in the field. They were:

- **Mary Lou Page** is a person who shows dedication to the C&E Program on a daily basis. She has tremendous leadership qualities and has been the backbone of many major projects in C&E, which have had a positive impact on the program. Her strength in leading the Quality Leadership Team (QLT) has resulted in the achievement of Level I and Level II of the Excellence Canada's Progressive Excellence Program under the category Quality. She has also spearheaded the complete revamp of the Compliance Manual, which can't be considered an easy feat, considering the changes that C&E has undergone in the last few years. Mary Lou has also undertaken many other tasks, including a review of all open ERA cases in the province as well as clearing up inconsistencies in CIMS and Violation Ticketing procedures. She is what keeps the QLT group functional and productive. She always seems willing to take on those challenges which are difficult to deal with. For these above-mentioned reasons, and others that have surely gone unnoticed, Mary Lou

Glen Evely Award continued...

deserves this nomination for the Glen Evely award in the C&E Program.

- **Maurice Potesta** does his job in a quiet, efficient, and understated manner and can fly under the radar yet it is those people who keep an organization functioning and who consistently rise to the occasion without needing to be asked. Maurice is a mentor to other staff. He has a quiet confidence and an ability to interact with people on a respectful and personable level regardless of the situation which makes people respect Maurice. He has forged relationships with MEM, BC Fisheries, Lands and the COS. His years of experience, ability to intuitively see potential issues and his dedication and willingness to follow up on issues/leads has played a large part in reducing the historic levels of Forest Crimes in his region and has lead to numerous successful cases.

- **Diane Lewthwaite** is the NRO Supervisor for the 100 Mile House Field Unit in the Cariboo Region. She's been with the ministry since 1991; starting as Protection Clerk in the district. Throughout her career she's exemplified continuous learning. Over the years, Diane has taken advantage of on-

the-job training opportunities, mentorships, self directed and formal correspondence study; all the while working full time and raising a young family. As a result of her hard work, determination and positive attitude, Diane has moved through the ministry ranks from Clerk to her present position as NRO Supervisor. Along the way she has excelled and proven herself in various district roles such as Silviculture Clerk, Resource Services Assistant, R.A. Silviculture and in 1997 as a C&E Officer; promoting into the C&E District Specialist in 2007. As a female field officer she earned the respect of the clients she works with. Many of these clients are big, burly Cariboo loggers and ranchers who stand head and shoulders above her 5 foot frame. Regardless, she stands her ground and professionally deals with clients in a fair, compassionate, but firm manner. She doesn't step around or avoid difficult or uncertain situations. Diane tackles them head on; seeking out the information, assistance and expertise needed to resolve issues.

Congratulations to Herb and the other nominees and a big thank you from all the C&E staff for your contributions, dedication and commitment.

The Dirt Advisory Group wishes to thank Lynda Currie for her invaluable contribution, participation and guidance as a Newsletter Advisory Group Member!

We wish her the best of luck in her retirement and future endeavours! She will be missed!

After 36 years; 26 years in the government and 10 years in the private sector, I have announced my retirement.

It has been my absolute pleasure to work with the newsletter advisory group since 2006. You couldn't ask for more dedicated people. Its a lot harder than it looks to get those articles together for each edition. To all of the people that I have met over the years, you are really a great bunch.

As an organization, we never quit, we always try our best to make things work, we are amazing at adapting to change and we always honour the past and the present. I will miss all of you.

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. Don't forget our [Facebook](#) page!

Thank you and Good Luck to Ricardo Toledo!



We say farewell to another member of our Newsletter Advisory Group.

Ricardo has accepted a position as a Project Assessment Manager with the Environmental Assessment Office. Over the past seven years Ricardo has worked in Haida Gwaii as a First Nations Liaison Officer, a Tenure Strategy Project Manager, Partnership Implementation Manager, and most recently Acting Resource Manager for the Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District.

Ricardo was involved in developing a series of agreements between the Haida Nation and the province, as well as leading a number of collaborative initiatives among industry, communities and the Haida Nation.

Prior to joining the ministry, Ricardo was involved in international development work in East Timor, Peru and Paraguay, mostly in employment policy, land-use planning, and natural resource management.

Farewell Ricardo, stay in touch!

Welcome Newsletter Advisory Group Member Alexandra Ryland, Operations Technologist, BC Timber Sales

I moved to British Columbia in 2011 as a graduate student from the University of Toronto studying Forest Conservation. I came to the beautiful Haida Gwaii where I conducted my research in Riparian Restoration.

After completion of my Masters in Toronto in 2012, I came back to Haida Gwaii to work for the District office as a Stewardship Technician and have been happily living in Haida Gwaii even since.

About 8 months ago I made the switch to BC Timber Sales, where I currently work as an Operations Technologist. This job is a perfect fit for me while articulating as a Forester in Training with the ABCFP.



Looking forward to joining the FLNR Newsletter Advisory Group!

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

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

Welcome Newsletter Advisory Group Member

Josh Pressey, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District



I was born and raised in southern Ontario, and received a Forest Technician Diploma from Sir Sandford Fleming College. I started my natural resources career working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in the Toronto area completing fisheries management

projects for a number of years. Then my future wife and I decided to move out to BC, where we landed in Prince George. There I worked in the consulting business for a number of years doing various forestry, biology and environmental jobs throughout

the province and at that time I started on my Professional Forester Designation through the ABCFP pupil program. I moved from the private consulting sector back to the Public Service in 2004, but for the BC government this time.

Since 2004, I have held various positions within the BC Public Service. Prior to my current appointment of District Manager Nadina Natural Resource District, I have been an Operations Manager, Planning Forester and Resource Technician.

My biggest goal is to successfully balance my demanding job and my family life. With two young boys (6 & 9), that are very busy and I want to be fully engaged with them and it can be challenging at times.

I am looking forward to being a part of the fantastic newsletter team.

Welcome Newsletter Advisory Group Member *And Cartoonist*

Daniel Becker, Natural Resource Officer, Dawson Creek

I was born in New Brunswick but moved westwards for work. I followed my fiancée to BC from Manitoba where I worked as a Resource Officer for Manitoba Conservation. In BC I lived in Nanaimo where I worked for the Pacific Northwest Raptors as a Bird Control Officer and it was the best job I ever had. I flew hawks and falcons every day. My fiancée and I then moved to Fort St John so that I could work as a Natural Resource Officer. After she received a job for the BC Oil and Gas Commission we moved out to Tomslake so that we could both work out of Dawson Creek. We bought a beautiful home and we have a little family comprised of us, our dog (Brigand), and our cat (Gir).

I have a lot of training and experience in law enforcement and I hope one day to be a Conservation Officer. I love working with my hands and doing things outdoors. I used to skateboard a lot but the conditions up here are not very good for that pastime. So instead, I snowshoe and practice traditional archery with my longbow. I look forward to being a part of the team, meeting everyone, and helping in any way that I can.

"If you strike me down I shall become more powerful than you can possibly imagine" –Obi-wan Kenobi



How Quesnel Spent their Land Based Investment (LBI) Money (and you could too!)

Submitted by: Matthew Braun, Range Practices Specialist

Problem

An area along Narcosli Creek, locally referred to as the “Holding Grounds” has a history of serving as both a gathering place for range cattle when rounding up in the fall and as an area they are naturally attracted to throughout the grazing season. The resulting prolonged, heavy use along with initial deforestation has resulted in decreased ecosystem function. The area is no longer providing the amount of forage, habitat, or filtering it could if properly maintained. Sandy Latin and Lee Naeth used rangeland health inspections to document this impact and provide a baseline for comparison of future improvements.

Suggested Solutions

Sandy and Lee decided to control grazing so that the trees, shrubs and graminoids that anchor the streambank could grow. Traditional fencing projects require tenure holder buy-in to maintain fence and removing cattle from the area altogether is not feasible. Quesnel district decided to use their LBI money to work with a local conservation group (Baker Creek Enhancement Society) with expertise in stream restoration and brush fence construction. The Baker Creek Enhancement Society would take on a contract to place timber into the stream, plant whips and trees, and erect barriers to protect the works.

Plan

Quesnel Natural Resource District entered a contract with Baker Creek Enhancement Society to anchor 50m of streambank with 15 conifer trees, plant 1500 shrub whips (cottonwood, willow, red-osier dogwood), plant 500 spruce seedlings and construct 300m of aspen tree fencing. An excavator recontoured the banks to a 2:1 slope and the conifer trees were anchored into the bank along this section of the creek in January. The ground next to the bank with the exposed mineral soil from the recontouring activity was loosened with the excavator bucket and whips (gathered from an undamaged portion

of the stream) planted. Spruce seedlings will be planted in spring. Roughly 50m³ of aspen was harvested from an aspen grove with root wads intact (they were pushed over) and skidded about 800m to the site and assembled into barriers. The aspen tree barriers were placed about 10m from the streambank with regular sections of barrier extending perpendicular to the main barrier to create cells along the streambank. These barriers are to reduce access to the newly anchored and planted trees and whips as well as areas of streambank with no work done, but at risk of losing more soil. The new barrier was extended to connect with a similar project constructed 15 years ago. The conifers anchored into the stream should slow down and deflect water flow from hitting the bank at full force and as the area behind the trees fills in with sand and silt—the natural establishment of vegetation in addition to that planted will continue, further increasing bank stability.

The resulting stream revetment will be fully protected from cattle grazing for at least a few years until the aspen barriers break down. The barrier may require a bit of maintenance, but not the same amount as a 4-strand barbed wire fence next to a stream that floods regularly. The disturbed soil may need to be seeded.

The area in question is a high archaeological potential area, which initially seemed like a challenge. Authorization for in-stream works was handled by the Baker Creek Enhancement Society, which has plenty of experience implementing these types of projects. They used a notification under section 9 of the Water Act and Part 7 of the Water Act Regs. The Quesnel Natural Resource District consulted with local First Nations and the range tenure holder about the project. The Baker Creek Enhancement Society was issued a Range Improvement Authorization to cut timber and construct a brush fence under section 51 of FRPA and Section 43 of FPPR.

LBI continued...

Costs

Equipment/supplies	Total cost
Excavator	\$6,500
Permitting and Planning	\$2,000
Plant Collection and Site Labour	\$2,500
Grapple Skidder/Low Bed Costs/ Backhoe	\$7,999
Environmental Monitoring	\$3,500
Clamps and Chains	\$2,500
Total	\$24,999

Follow up

Stream health inspections to follow.

A trip in the spring to shore-up the barrier with some debris.



Figure 1. Representative impacted section of Narcosli Creek.

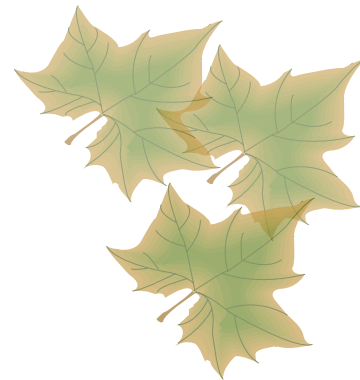
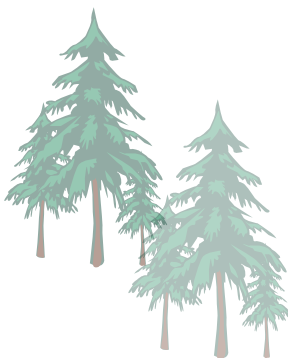


Figure 2. Aspen barriers were placed along and perpendicular to the stream to create cells.

LBI continued...



Figure 3. A Baker Creek Enhancement Society worker inserting willow whips in loosed soil next to stream.



Figure 4. Anchoring conifers into the streambank.



Figure 5. Conifers anchored into the streambank.



Figure 6. Aspen tree barriers protecting the streambank.

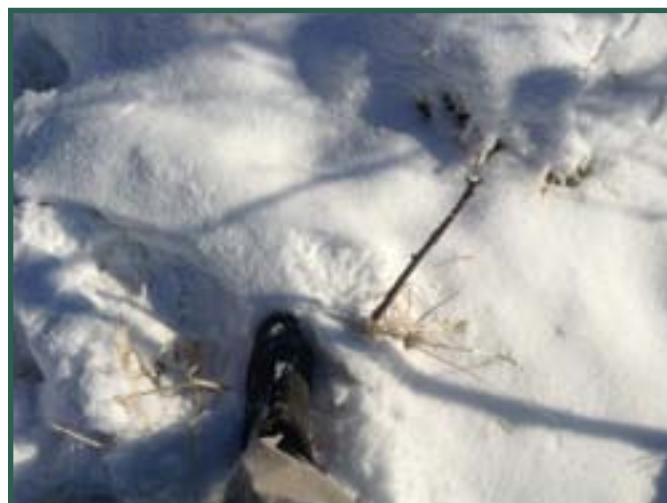


Figure 7. A planted willow cutting within the protected area next to the stream.

The Dirt Readers!

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
- 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
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

DEADLINE IS June 13, 2014

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!

March Edition Photo Contest Winners!

Wildlife Category: Photographer - Ken Chalmers, Woodlots and Range Officer.

This little guy is an ermine. It seems he was inspecting us and our cattle guards on the Tahtsa FSR.



Have a photo for the next “Photo Contest?”
Review the contest guidelines and send your photo’s
to the *FS News* Advisory Group!

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

Workplace Category: Photographer - Harold Hosken, R.F.T., Natural Resource Officer, Compliance and Enforcement. Cape Scott Windfarm.



Scenic Category: Photographer - Lloyd F. Davies, RPF, Visual Resource Management Specialist, Coast Forest Area. Forest in the Fog. foggy forest neat Port McNeill.





Daniel Becker, Natural Resource Officer
The Dirt Cartoonist and Advisory Group Member!

The Dirt is a quarterly newsletter for all employees and former 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 June 13.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES