



FLNR INTERNAL NEWSLETTER



FLNR TURNS 5!

I am extremely proud and excited to announce that March 14, 2016, marks our fifth year as the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR).

Our ministry was formed five years ago, within the natural resource sector (NRS), to deliver an integrated approach as the province's land manager, responsible for stewardship of provincial Crown land, cultural and natural resources. Five years of hard work and dedication to integrating policy with operational land management has made a real difference in how we work together to deliver services for our province.

We are not done yet. Using our Executive Strategic Roadmap we will continue to work together to move forward the priorities of our organization and this includes continuing to build a strong, integrated model for natural resource management.

Over the next couple of months, I encourage you to come together (by building, business area, etc.) and take some time to reflect on, acknowledge and celebrate the many accomplishments and successes our ministry has had over these past five years.

On behalf of myself and the rest of the executive, thank you for your dedication and daily contributions to our ministry and province.

Happy 5th anniversary!
Tim Sheldan
Deputy Minister

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 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?

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

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Sudoku Solution

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The Dirt Contents, March 2016

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AROUND THE MINISTRY

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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.

Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) Group Celebrates Success!

Submitted by: Kim Scott - Stewardship Forester (Quesnel District), Nancy Densmore - Biodiversity Specialist (Resource Practices Branch), and Frank Barber - Effectiveness Evaluation Coordinator (Resource Practices Branch)

On February 10 and 11, 2016, over 90 people met in Richmond B.C. for the Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) Continuous Improvement session.

Attendees included district, regional and branch staff from FLNR and Ministry of Environment, consultants, FLNR executive, First Nations, licensee and BCTS representatives, plus staff from the Association of BC Forest Professionals and the Forest Practices Board.

One of the focus areas for this diverse group was how to improve communications both internal and external to the program to make the most of our 10 years of effectiveness evaluation data on the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) values (fish/riparian, water, biodiversity, soils, cultural heritage, timber, wildlife, visual quality, recreation, resource features and range) and meet our mission “to collect and communicate the best available natural resource monitoring information to inform decision-making, improve resource management outcomes and provide evidence of government’s commitment to environmental sustainability.”

An important component of this annual meeting is recognition of our peers. This year’s Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) award for district monitoring performance was given by Tom Ethier, ADM – Resource Stewardship Division, to the Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource

District (NRD) stewardship team, represented by Ted McRae and Keith Boyes. The Loon Tale challenge, a highlight during the evening dinner session, awards the best sampling of human interest stories, and this year Martin Ponsioen of Cascades NRD won us over with his actual loon tale, helping out biologists with their loon monitoring, in the evening of a FREP sampling camp-out!

Our photo contest favorite picture was a combined effort from Keith Boyes and Heather Rice of Okanagan Shuswap NRD and shows the benefit of being out in the field at the right place and the right time.

Lee-ann Puhallo from Quesnel NRD, though not able to attend the event in person, was chosen by her FREP peers for her positive and encouraging influence and she is this year’s recipient of the Stephanie Wilkie award.

This award remembers Stephanie, our inspiring, fun and enthusiastic colleague from Fort Nelson who passed away in July 2011.

The FREP continuous improvement meeting is an important part of the FREP planning cycle giving the FREP team a chance to celebrate success, learn from past performance and improve the program going forward.



The FREP continuous improvement participants met in Richmond Feb. 10 and 11.

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Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) Group Celebrates Success!

RIGHT--Martin Ponsioen of Cascades NRD was lucky enough to help assist biologists with their loon monitoring, in the evening of a FREP sampling camp-out! The loon shown here is the female. The biologists captured the mated pair in Mowson Pond, near Carpenter Lake, west of Lillooet.



LEFT--Photo contest favorite picture was a combined effort from Keith Boyes and Heather Rice of Okanagan Shuswap NRD and shows the benefit of being out in the field at the right place and the right time.

BELOW--Tom Ethier awarding Okanagan Shuswap NRD's Ted McRae and Keith Boyes with the ADM's award.



The Leader in You – Beginning a Leadership Journey

Submitted by: Roger Ritsema, Advisor, First Nations Relations, Quesnel District

As a new public service employee, I can't help but notice the seemingly regular stream of retirement emails that find their way into my inbox. Leadership within the ministry has also taken notice. The boomer generation are retiring en masse, requiring a sustained

Leadership theory was coloured by current FLNR managers who were present to offer their personal experiences on the challenges and successes of their personal leadership journeys, which myself and many others found especially inspiring. Sharing their



commitment to developing leadership capacity among staff new to the public service. This is the general vision put forth by ADM Rick Manwaring and the Joint Area Leadership Team, who developed 'The Leader in You', a two-day workshop for Cariboo District FLNR employees in the first five years of their public service careers, held in Williams Lake in late February.

The facilitation team was made up of FLNR volunteers who stepped up, some beginning, some continuing on their own leadership journey, to deliver the content. The facilitation team made up for any nervousness or inexperience in such a setting with enthusiasm and authenticity, and deserve credit for their effort.

Leadership ideas, tools, strategies, and exercises came at us fast and furious over the two days. My sense is that the intent was not for participants to memorize each and every one, nor to be overwhelmed, rather that for each individual, a certain tool or theory or maybe a few might take hold, make intuitive sense, and be applied.

experiences so candidly helped add a personal and more relatable aspect to the leadership theories and strategies we learned throughout the workshop.

A common theme was the importance of self reflection and the two-day workshop acted as its own exercise. By being away from our day-to-day tasks and the introspective nature of many leadership exercises, I was able to take stock of my work experiences to date and to begin to think about how applying the leadership principles that spoke to me could impact my current position and my career path moving forward.

Attendees of the workshops came away with a lot to think about: encouragement for setting leadership goals within the public service, many tools and ideas for how to reach these goals, and how to be a more effective leader, team member and employee. Perhaps just as importantly, new public service employees left assured that the current ministry leadership see the importance of fostering the next wave of leaders and are actively supporting them.

Welcome Sheila Tucnik as a new Advisory Group Member for *The Dirt* and Cartoonist!



My name is Sheila Tucnik, and I am a Senior Contract Procurement Specialist within the Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector (CSNR) and am excited to be taking over as the cartoonist for *The Dirt*. Once upon a time, in my previous life (before being a public servant), I had completed the Broadcasting Radio and Television program at Confederation College in Thunder Bay, Ontario. I went on to become a copywriter, writing both radio and television commercials until I decided to get a “real job”. That’s when my career with the BC Public Service began.

Having an interest in creative writing, I jumped at the opportunity to be the cartoonist for *The Dirt* as it will provide me with a creative outlet. Some years ago my poem Respect was published in Touching the Sky, a book of poetry, and I received an Editor’s Choice Award (although I have a sneaking suspicion that they awarded one to all of the poets published in the book).

My latest endeavour has been the writing of a novel *Star Bright*, which is being published by Filidh Publishing, a publishing company based in Victoria, BC. The book is hot off the presses as I write this. The official launch and book signing is still to be determined. My publisher is aiming for the date of April 22nd (Earth Day) and is looking into various venues. In the meantime, I’m honing my signature skills in anticipation of the big day. Anyone interested in attending the launch can check for updates on my author Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/sheilatracyauthor>.

However, if you simply can’t wait to read it (I can only hope), there isn’t any need to wait for the official launch. The hard cover, soft cover and eBook versions are being sold on Lulu.com/shop/sheila-tracy/star-bright. The eBook version is also available at <http://www.apple.com/ca/ibooks/>.

Star Bright is about former child star Cassandra Carrington who at age 19 is thrown into the real world and forced to fend for herself when her mother suddenly dies. The story is about her life thereon in, the good the bad and the ugly. It is about her actions and reactions which lead to her morale compass being forever changed. Does Cassandra deserve a happy ending to her story? I want the readers to be the judge and give their feedback on my author [Facebook page](#).

For my novel, I’m using the pen name of Sheila Tracy. The reason being is that I’m engaged and at some point (no wedding date set yet) my last name will be changing. My other motive for having a pen name is in case the critics aren’t kind, that way I can respond, “What? Me write that book? Whatever gave you that idea? That’s not my name, that’s not me!”

But getting back to *The Dirt*, and to a more serious tone... oh wait, as the cartoonist I shouldn’t have a serious tone. Therefore, sorry folks, you won’t find any serious tone here. I hope you enjoy the cartoon in this issue and the ones to follow.

Cheers!

Heritage Week 2016 wraps up, but this year's theme continues!

Submitted by: Berdine Jonker, Manager, Heritage Programs and Services, Heritage Branch

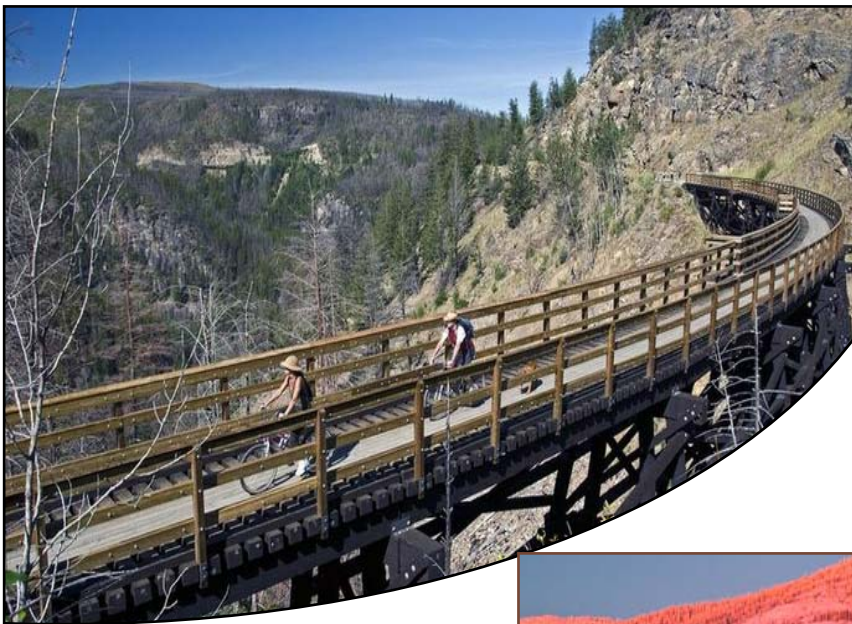
Distinctive Destinations: Experience Historic Places is the theme for this year's Heritage Week, which ran February 15-21, 2016 and kicked off a year of celebrating heritage tourism adventures across Canada. In alignment with other provinces and territories, Heritage Week is proclaimed by British Columbia annually, and promoted through a communication network of more than 700 heritage societies, advocacy groups and local governments. Heritage Week is an opportunity to explore and celebrate the special places and heritage values that help tell the story of our province.

This year's theme offers a rich palette of historic, vibrant, scenic, cultural, and stimulating destinations that inspire weekend adventures or week-long road trips. As the saying goes, 'it's not just about the destination, but also the journey', so this year we are excited to see so many historic places featured as hot tourism destinations, not to mention the variety of ways to get there. Whether it is by boat, on foot, by trail, highway or rail, there's a historic

BC destination that offers something for everyone. By encouraging BC residents to share their stories about distinctive destinations throughout the province, Heritage BC, the voice of heritage conservation in BC communities, is giving visitors a chance to experience a sense of place through the eyes of the locals. This exchange not only enhances the visitor experience, it also strengthens a sense of pride in our shared heritage.

Looking for destination inspiration? Visit the Canadian Register of Historic Places at www.historicplaces.ca and HelloBC Trip Ideas at: www.hellobc.com/british-columbia/trip-ideas.aspx.

Want to learn how BC communities celebrate Heritage Week? Find out more at: <http://www.heritagebc.ca/heritage-week-2016>.



Kettle Valley Rail Trail

Red Mountain - Rossland



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More Heritage Week Photos



Floe Lake Warden



Totems Haida Gwaii

The Quesnel Natural Resource District – Making Connections and Building Relationships

Submitted by: Kim Scott, Stewardship Forester, Quesnel Natural Resource District

The Quesnel Natural Resource District held its first AGM on Thursday, February 18, 2016. Our staff met off-site which provided room for district employees, as well as, provincial and regional leads. Our staff members were joined by one of our local licensee representatives who spoke about their company's business focus and shared their perspective on continuous improvement and team building. We had a productive day of sharing information regarding the accomplishments of each district department and celebrating goals achieved.

The focus of the day was to explore what has been working well and what could be improved with our operations. Presentations were given regarding natural resource monitoring and moving integration forward in Quesnel with regional and provincial initiatives. Break-out sessions gave staff from all branches of government the opportunity to brainstorm ways in which we could

allocate resources and possible approaches for assisting each other with various program targets.

Many thanks go to the regional and provincial staff that presented and attended: Peter Bradford - Stewardship Evaluation Officer (Resource Practices Branch), Rodger Stewart – Director of Resource Management, Robin Hoffos - Habitat Management Section Head, Michaela Waterhouse - Silvicultural Systems Researcher, Lee Williston - Fish Biologist, Nola Daintith - Regional Silviculture Specialist, David Rusch - Regional Forest Pathologist, and Becky Bings - Habitat Biologist.

A big thank you also goes out to our local staff that organized, presented, and participated in our AGM!



A Unique Partnership Program Sows Benefits for Wildlife Habitat

Submitted by: Rob Wipond and Ron Diederichs



This past fall the Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program, working with the Little River Enhancement Society, helped restore a salmon spawning creek near Comox that had been diverted during development into an agricultural ditch. It was just the latest success for a program that has been conserving and restoring important habitat on Vancouver Island for nearly three decades, and that has in many ways become a model for public-private partnerships.

The Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program (VICLMP) began in 1989 as collaboration between government and non-profit organizations that were seeking innovative ways to conserve critical habitat for regionally or internationally significant fish and wildlife species. Today, the VICLMP partners include the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Environment Canada/Canadian Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Nature Trust of British Columbia, and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. Their flexible, dynamic partnership arrangement has allowed VICLMP and its member organizations to respond quickly to emerging opportunities and leverage each other's resources, expertise and staff to help meet common objectives.

"The partners can act in concert or independently of each other," says Thomas Reid, VICLMP's coordinator. "That gives us a lot of different ways of achieving our shared goals, based on the needs of different projects."

Indeed, the full-time VICLMP coordinator position itself, explains Reid, has been sustained for over 20 years through varying financial contributions from all of the partners. Today, VICLMP manages over 11,000 hectares, protected in a mix of Wildlife Management Areas, sites purchased by or leased to the province, and other designations covering tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, forests, and farmlands. While some Conservation Lands sites are hidden gems known mainly to locals, others have a higher profile such as the Tofino Mudflats, Parksville-Qualicum Beach, and Quatse River WMAs, or the Somenos Marsh, Cowichan Estuary and Baynes Sound Conservation Areas.



Continued...

A Unique Partnership Program Sows Benefits for Wildlife Habitat

“Many of our sites are in prominent locations that are under pressure from nearby human activities,” says Reid. “So we are also always actively planning and managing to protect the habitat values.” Recent VICLMP projects have included the protection of habitat for Species At Risk such as western painted turtle, tall woolly-heads and vesper sparrow, the restoration of old industrial sites and former agricultural fields, removal of invasive species, and the installation of water control structures. These same partners, with others, also collaborate in other regions to support FLNR’s province-wide Conservation Lands Program, securing and helping to manage critical habitat areas from the mudflats of the Fraser River Estuary and threatened grasslands in the south central region to the Todagin plateau in northern BC. These lands also sometimes help to protect First

Nations cultural values or provide other secondary benefits for the public such as flood protection, fish production, improved water quality, or compatible opportunities for fishing, hunting, bird watching and hiking.

As increasing urbanization continues to fragment and put pressures on Vancouver Island habitats, Reid says that he expects VICLMP’s partnering to become even more creative. “We work with First Nations, local governments, non-profits, volunteers—just about anybody who shares a conservation interest,” says Reid. “We’re always seeking new collaborators where values or objectives may align.”

For more information, see the Conservation Lands Program website at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/habitat/conservation-lands/>



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



Water Sustainability Act

Submitted by: Kim DeRose, Water Stewardship Officer, Thompson Okanagan Region

On Thursday, February 4, in anticipation of the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) coming in to force, staff from FLNR, ENV and guests from the Oil and Gas Commission gathered in Richmond from across the province to discuss WSA implementation at an all-day Learning Lab.

new Act.”

The primary purpose of the conference was to help staff gain an understanding of the new WSA regulations and introduce them to the people and resources available to support them in applying those regulations. “We have hired 86 new staff,” said Kaaren Lewis of ENV. “FLNR is set to administer the Act, and Environment is here to



The Learning Lab launched amid a room full of excitement with over 220 people in attendance. “We are here to celebrate the work to be done ahead and the work that has already been done,” said Madeline Maley, Chair of the WSA Learning Lab, and the new Executive Director for BC Wildfire Service. “We’ve made great strides to get to where we are today,” she added. Ward Trotter, FLNR Executive Director, Natural Resources, Resource Stewardship Division, and Lynn Kriwoken, ENV Executive Director, Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Policy Division, joined in the opening address. “Today is a milestone in bringing the Act into effect,” said Kriwoken. “You all have a role to play in the implementation of WSA.” Themes repeated throughout the day were collaboration and training. “Collaboration between our agencies is a key ingredient,” said Trotter and assured staff “Training will continue so that you are supported in delivering the

provide ongoing support in a big, big way.”

Attendees spent the majority of their day in two sessions. The first session, an introduction and overview of the regulations, was delivered by Randy Cairns, Water Policy Advisor, Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Policy Division of the Ministry of Environment and his team of presenters. The second part of the day was a hands-on learning module to review the water allocation process and the various steps and stages involved in applying for a licence for groundwater use. When asked about the breakout activity, one participant commented, “This exercise is where the aquifer meets the stream—where the rubber meets the road. It gets you thinking about the gaps in information and the risk you deal with in applications.”

The WSA introduces groundwater regulation, will better protect stream health, and enables new tools to protect

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Water Sustainability Act

the needs of people and the environment during times of water scarcity. For the first time, those who use groundwater for non-domestic purposes will require a licence and will pay for that water. Users will also have the same access rights and responsibilities as those who obtain water from surface sources.

Now that the WSA is in force, government has updated its external websites and communications products.

- Specific direction on how non-domestic well owners can apply for a groundwater licence, including a new online application, is available at [FrontCounter BC](#).
- An updated [Water Rent Estimator](#) that includes the new water use purposes identified in the WSA and the new Water Sustainability Fees, Rentals and charges Tariff Regulation, and incorporates the new rental rates introduced in February 2015.
- The new government Gov 2.0 web platform is now live, and includes new pages related to [water stewardship](#) and the WSA.
- The [WSA Engagement site](#) has been updated to profile past engagement activities and provide opportunities for citizen engagement in future stages of WSA implementation and regulation development.
- Government has prepared a [WSA Overview brochure](#)

for the public along with other communications materials on groundwater licensing, groundwater protection, dam safety and water fees and rentals. Government has also updated the information available to natural resource sector staff.

- The WSA team will continue to expand the [FAQs](#) on the NRS intranet site, to help staff implement the WSA and respond to questions from clients and the public.
- Government will be hosting LiveMeetings on the WSA and the new regulations. Watch for an invitation to these meetings.

Initial WSA training has been developed for government staff with the virtual delivery of [priority learning modules](#), and an in-person WSA Learning Lab. For more information on training and learning opportunities visit our [Learning page](#). Development of WSA training materials for NRS staff is ongoing.

More information on the implementation of the WSA can be found on this site. If you have further questions, or want to comment on the WSA and its implementation, please email us at livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca.

Retirees Receive *The Dirt*!

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You can contact Richard directly at: Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca.

Have a Story idea?

Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

Don't forget about the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

BC Winter Games in Penticton

Submitted by: Kimm Magill Hofmann, Senior Water Authorizations Specialist, Okanagan Shuswap Natural

Many families with children find themselves involved in sports at various levels. My youngest son joined speed skating with the encouragement of his friend. Our older son soon followed and then my husband. Speed skating was not a sport anywhere on my radar when we had children. Having two boys, my guess would have been hockey or soccer. I knew very little about speed skating, but as these things typically go, we were soon involved in the running of the club and learning about PBs (personal bests), what a jig is (used to hold the skates while you sharpen them), how to sharpen speed skates (you can't take them to the local skate sharpener) and volunteering as officials at meets.

As happens, our boys grew up and went on to university. Oddly enough my husband and I maintained our connection to the sport. My husband now coaches for the Salmon Arm Ice Breakers and most recently was asked and became the Speed Skating Sport Chair for the BC Winter Games held in Penticton February 25 – 27. He asked me to volunteer as Place Judge, a role I have done at many meets. The Place Judges record the order of the skaters as they cross the finish line. This information is matched up with the times for the skaters as recorded by the Timers.



Photo by Kelly Dickenson, BC Winter Games

As a volunteer I was at the South Okanagan Event Centre (a beautiful facility) from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on the 25th and 26th. The 27th was a short day to allow the athletes to travel home. There were athletes from all over British Columbia competing in hockey, ringette, downhill and x-country skiing, gymnastics, martial arts, archery, figure skating and other sports.

Talking to other speed skating volunteers I was surprised by the variety of careers and backgrounds: the Starter was a Correctional Officer for a women's prison and used to be speed skater, the electronic place judge works for the RCMP as a Data Management Technician, the head Place Judge is a Financial Advisor whose son is a speed skater but wasn't competing at the games, a school teacher was one of the Recorders and of course there were many retirees. Many of these people took time off work and were paying for their own accommodation and meals in order to volunteer.

In addition to the athletes, the Games provide an opportunity for students from the community to share their skills in photography, film and writing. Both the opening and closing ceremonies exhibited local and young talent as well as being filmed by students.

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BC Winter Games

Needless to say I was amazed at the caliber of skating. These skaters can do 500 m in less than a minute, no wonder it's referred to as the fastest sport on ice. It can be very exciting as the skaters jockey for position, often on the curves sometimes resulting in falls. With the speeds the skaters achieve, hitting the boards (padded with up to 3 layers of mats) can result in injuries. Although one skater was taken off the ice on a stretcher she was back on the ice the next day. These kids are tough!



Photo by Sandy Steck,
BC Winter Games

For the athletes, the BC Winter Games will be a fond memory where they honed their competitive skills in their respective sport, met new friends and had memorable experiences. For me it was a great opportunity to support these kids and continue my involvement in a sport I've come to love. With the caliber of skating, I fully expect to see some of these athletes competing for Canada one day.



Photo by Kelly Dickenson,
BC Winter Games

On the starting line.

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BC Winter Games

Photo by Kelly Dickenson,
BC Winter Games



Photo by Sandy Steck,
BC Winter Games



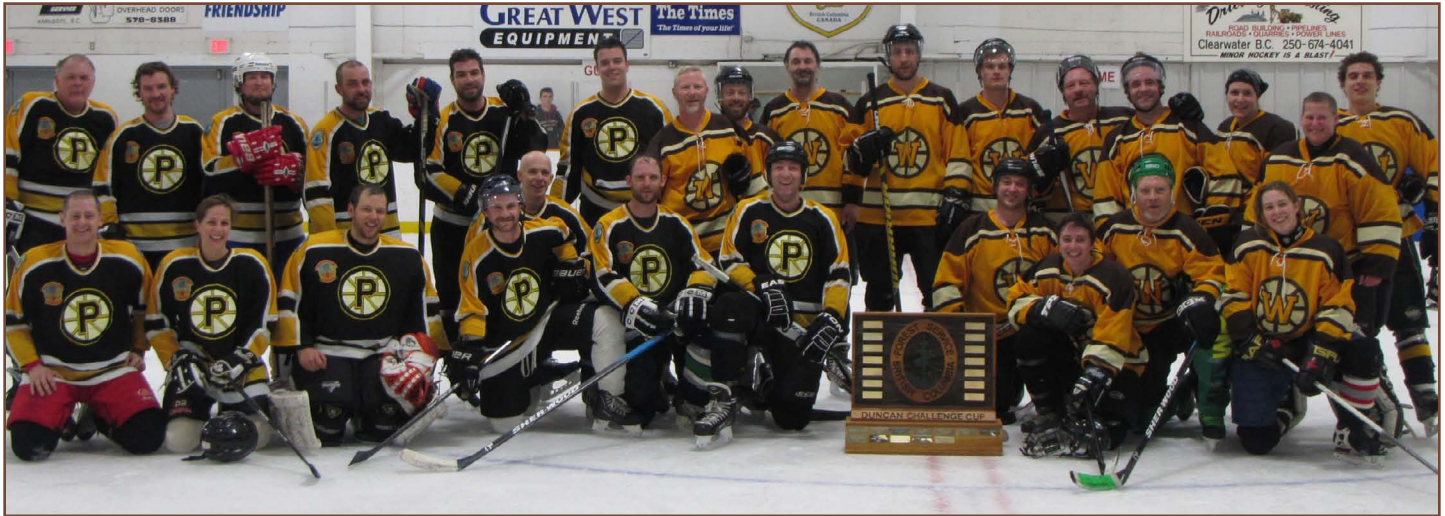
Photo by Sandy Steck,
BC Winter Games

Me in the red jacket and glasses on my head.



Dan LeClerc Memorial Hockey and Funspiel

Submitted by: Jessica Gunn, Area Forester, BC Timber Sales - Clearwater Field Team



Another successful year of building friendships over beverages in the dressing rooms and on the dance floor was had again this year at the 13th Annual Dan LeClerc Hockey Tournament and Funspiel hosted by Clearwater. Dan would have been proud to be part of this group although they did seem to be a little more “Fluffy” than usual.

We host this tournament in memory of Dan who we lost in 2002—here are some words from Mark Taylor a good friend of Dan’s. “As far as sports go, Dan was always willing to participate and help in any way he could. When playing sports Dan always gave it his all and in Hockey he had one memorable nickname and ... it rhymed with ... “Zamboni” That’s right... “Dan-Boni”. This referred to the way Dan would slide all over the ice, blocking shots, tripping opponents, swing at pucks and basically doing a great job of cleaning the ice. This phenomenon generally occurred when opposing players had somehow gotten around Dan on defence. Yeah, sports had a lot to do with life for Dan and some other words that come to mind when I think of him are...

“Hacking” he was notorious for this when playing hockey, along with the odd cross check, elbow, trip etc. and.... but it could also be used as describing the way he played golf or when he was giving someone verbal abuse for being.....

“Fluffy” ... so, although he may have enjoyed the company of a small furry creature, if you ever acted like a baby or poor sport you were now considered as “Fluffy”.

Teams from all over were invited and we were fortunate enough to have 2 from Williams Lake (Cariboo Fire Center, Cariboo United Forces), 4 from Kamloops (Kamloops Axemen, Kamloops Fire Center, MOTI, and Swamp Donkeys), 1 from 100 Mile House/Clearwater(Pylons). Many thanks to the Swamp Donkeys for filling in as our 8th team.

Jibs and jabs were taken by all on the ice and off. The verbal abuse was all for fun and games though of course, in the end there were smiles all around. Sunday’s play-off round pace seemed to have slowed down a little—I think from lack of hydration on Saturday night.

In the finals were the 2 Fire Centers Kamloops and Cariboo playing for the big trophy. I was expecting lots of trash talk, a sleughfoot here and there followed by some gloves being dropped, but in the end the game was a cordial game of back and forth, Cariboo scoring 2 in the first with Kamloops scoring 1. It came down to the wire with Kamloops Fire Center slipping one by the goalie with 8:30 minutes left to tie the game. At the 5 minute mark there was another goal buried by Kamloops Fire Center defense men to win the game. Cariboo FC ran out of steam for the rest of the game. I hear through the grapevine that there were some bets laid and Cariboo FC will be doing a dance later this season for the Kamloops FC guys.

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Dan LeClerc Memorial Hockey and Funspiel

Oh the funspiel you ask—well we only had 3 teams enter and the rest of the spots were filled with local players who helped coach the non-players along. The forestry teams all had a hoot along with the Ice girls in their costumes. Maybe next year we can join with the provincial curling tournament and have some more fun together.

Thank you to our sponsors Rison Realty, Clearwater Glass, Wells Gray Inn, Clusko Logging and Yellowhead Helicopters for the support in covering off refs and ice times. As well, thanks to the many other businesses and teams that supported the tournament with donations for

raffles—we sure had a great looking table!

Next year's tournament has not been decided yet (thanks for all your vote of confidence to host again). We are always looking for more teams to come join in the fun. Please contact me (Jessica.Gunn@gov.bc.ca) if you want to get on the bug list when things get closer to hosting next year.

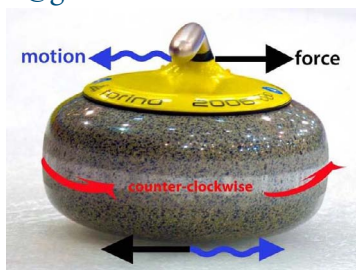
So stay tuned for more exciting news on the Dan LeClerc Memorial Tournament 2017. Cheers everyone and keep your sticks on the ice.

2016 NRS Annual Curling Bonspiel

Submitted by: Darcy Lillico, Practices Forester, Silviculture, Williams Lake Field Team

Spring must be in the air as the first bear (Smokey) sighting in Williams Lake occurred at the Williams Lake curling rink during the weekend of March 4th to 6th. Eighteen teams participated in this year's Provincial Bonspiel, which has been running since 1963. The event was kicked off with the piping in of the teams by Bryan Underwood, which was then followed by an opening speech by Mayor Walt Cobb and the first rock being thrown by Williams Lake Stampede Queen Cheyleigh Sand. A great time was had by all participants over the course of the 3 day event with the bonspielling continuing late into the evening both Friday and Saturday night. The event wrapped up Sunday with the winner decided in some closely contested matches.

The location of the 2017 Annual Bonspiel has yet to be determined. If your office is interested in hosting this prestige annual event please contact Darcy Lillico at Darcy.Lillico@gov.bc.ca.



Smokey came out of hibernation to throw some rocks.

*Continued...*

2016 NRS Annual Curling Bonspiel

Right: **A Event Winners**
1st Mooney Rink (String Beans and Wieners)
 2nd Wood Rink (Sheet Stains)
 3rd Pedersen Rink (Grumpy Old Cowboys)



Below: **B Event Winner**
1st Dodge Rink from Quesnel
(The Magnificent Steves)
 2nd Ashworth Rink (Hammer Time)
 3rd Underwood Rink (Hack Attack)



Below: **C Event Winner 1st McGirr Rink (Los Gringo De Ringos)** (also best dressed team winners)
 2nd Keen Rink (The Keeners)
 3rd Hill Rink (Hill Billy Rockers)



2016 NRS Annual Curling Bonspiel



Stampede Queen throwing rock



Winner of the Dolton McCarther memorial award was Darcy Lillico.

This trophy is awarded each year to a person who exemplifies team work, comradery, participation in events and ensuring that everyone who participates has a positive experience.



HQ Funspiel – Results

Submitted by: Stephen Simonds, Service Desk Analyst, Information Management Branch

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 48th Annual Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) Funspiel. It has become a very “Poplar” winter event.

We had 20 full teams, which worked out perfectly for the draw on Saturday and a few hungry requests for people coming for the dinner as well. The delicious buffet style meal put on by The 1550 Restaurant was a big success with ample food for everyone and some delicious tasty pastries to follow it up. Thank you to 1550 for making it a memorable and delicious meal for our hungry curlers.

We had a solid start at 3:30 with curlers new and experienced eager to take to the ice at The Archie Browning Curling Club in Victoria.



Right: 2nd place went to Don Rorison and Donna Romain, Helen and Tom Casey.

Congratulations to all the teams!

Some photos were taken of the event and of the teams. Thank you to Maureen Zavesiczky for taking many of them. You can “Cedar” photos at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sc/fagzgoag9c7ldqe/AABzcekTV9fhB6rXPZglTk3za>

Special mention to the organizing committee: Ed Sabadash, Stephen Simonds, Kelly Ketcheson and Charlie Klasen for making this a most memorable event.

Additionally; to all of our sponsors who provided amazing giveaway prizes.

Thank you one and all!

We look forward to seeing you all again next year where we’re confident it will be just as enjoyable. No j”Oak”! We couldn’t have done it without you! Enjoy the winter, have a great summer and see you on the “Beech”.

Left: “Fir”st place winners Clair Lloyd, John Crooks, Julie and Bill King.



Continued...

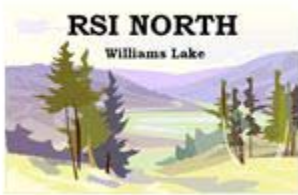
HQ Funspiel – Results



3rd place to Richard Grieve, Kim Bellefontaine, Fil Ferri and Stephen Pal.



Our **“Best Dressed”** category winners went to “The Horny Devils” ... Richard and Kim Linzey, Judith Cook and Cameron Woodbridge, whose Valentine’s enthusiasm was obvious in the effort they put into their costumes. Honorable mention to all those other teams who went the extra mile and “spruced” it up for the Valentine’s themed tournament.



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

NOTICE

45th ANNUAL

ALEXIS CREEK BC FLNR TRAPSHOOT

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE LONGEST RUNNING

FOREST SERVICE EVENT!



It'll be a BLAST!



When: May 28th 2016

Where: Alexis Creek Rifle Range

Why: To carry on a great Forest Service (FLNR) tradition!

How: in Teams of 5 or individually

Events:

T-Shirt design contest – You could be famous – entries by May 8th-contact

Brian Rosengren for more details (250) 394-4710

Dinner Saturday evening

Beans, Salads and fixins' provided - Bring your own meat

Cost included for shooters

\$5.00ea for additional adults \$3.00 for kids

Breakfast - Saturday (by donation, proceeds to A.C. Rod & Gun Club Range),

Concession available - Saturday

Practice rounds until 10:30am Saturday

Main Event > 25 shots, 15 trap – 10 skeet, best team score

Annie Oakley - \$5.00ea/round 1st round proceeds to Kevin Frittenburg Memorial Fund;

2nd round 50/50

.22 Shoots – Ladies: \$5.00 Kids: Free

T-Shirts: Included with entry (extras \$20.00 ea)

Cost: \$34.00/Shooter \$170.00/Team BEFORE May 21st (Team registration form must be completed)

****Cost Increases to \$39.00/Shooter \$195.00/Team after May 21st, 2015****

Entry includes one box of shells/entry. Additional shells \$10.00/box, \$5.00 for practice round if you have your own shells.

Free Camping available on site Friday and Saturday

>>>> Visiting team door prize donations welcome <<<<

For information contact: Brian Rosengren (250) 394-4710

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
- 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.

View and Select your Prize!!

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

Prizes

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 17, 2016.

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 - Big horn sheep near Field BC
Photographer: Dan Krywonos, Compliance and Enforcement Officer



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 - Nechako River in Vanderhoof

Photographer: Jasmin Campbell, Resource and Contract Administrator,
FrontCounter BC



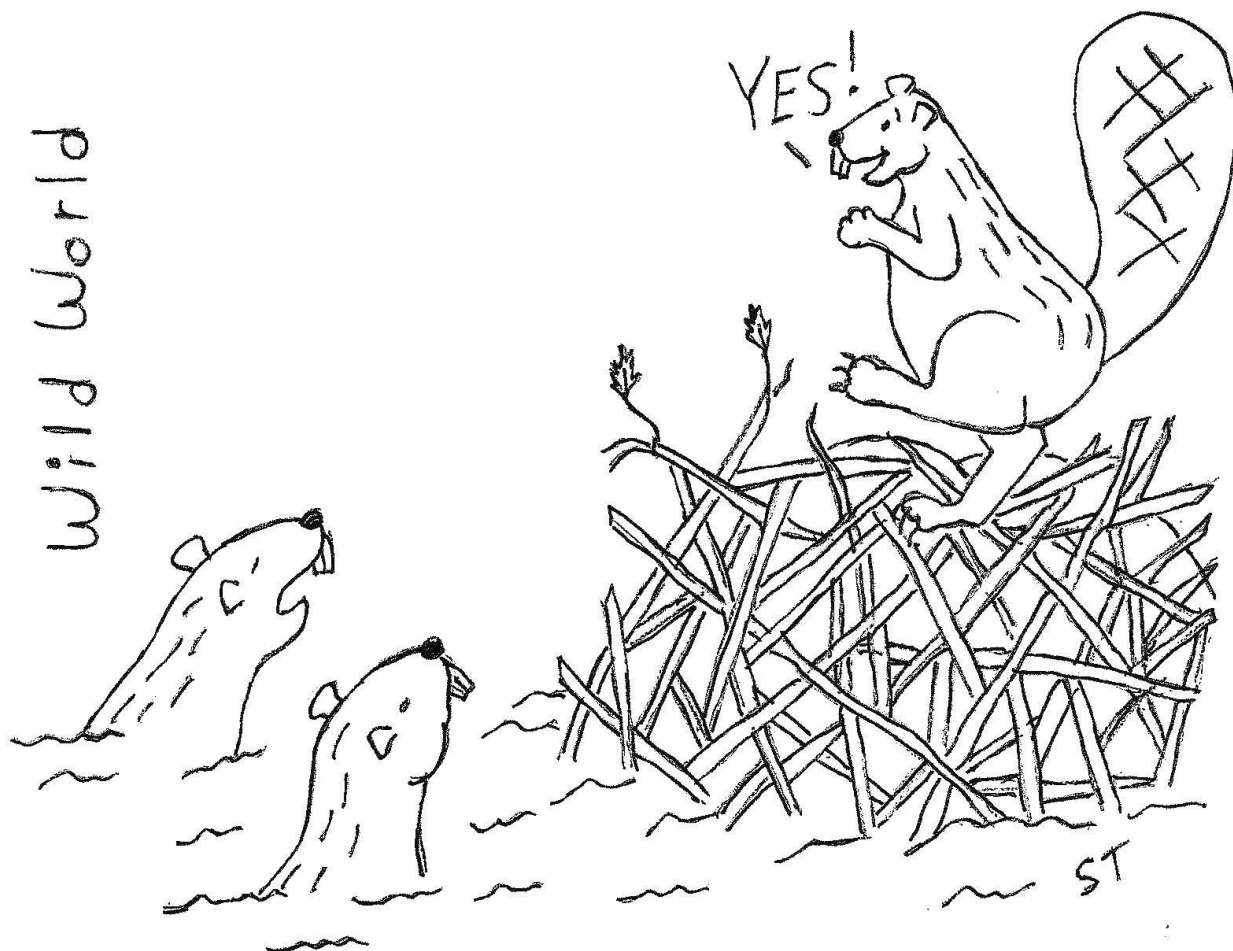
Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Sonia Donison](#) directly.

Workplace Category - Range inspection, Telegraph Creek, BC
Photographer: Marc Schuffert, P.Ag., Range Officer, Skeena Stikine District



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

Sheila Tucnik, newest advisory group member and cartoonist



Ralph just got the good news that his dam isn't on the decommission list.

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

June 17, 2016



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES