



Provincial Fossil - Vote for your favourite fossil by November 23rd

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/land-use/fossil-management/designating-a-provincial-fossil> See article page 3 and 4.





"Elasmosaur" (marine reptile)

Elasmosaurus sp. or "Elasmosaur" or "Swan lizard" was a large and predatory marine reptile with a long neck and flippers. This marine reptile roamed the waters roughly 80 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period of the Mesozoic Era. Fossils of elasmosaur have been found near Courtenay on Vancouver Island.

Elasmosaur photo (Swan lizard) is courtesy of Dr. Jim Haggart



Shonisaurus sikanniensis or "Ichthyosaur"

Shonisaurus sikanniensis or "Ichthyosaur" had a large whale-like body, a long dolphin-like snout, and flippers that were used for propulsion and balance while swimming. Some ichthyosaurs were the largest marine reptiles to have lived in the world's seas and include some of the largest fossils that have ever been found. Ichthyosaur fossils are known in British Columbia from Triassic and Jurassic rocks of Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii.

Ichthyosaur photo (Fish lizard) is courtesy of Royal Tyrrell Museum



Marrella splendens or "Lace crab"

Marrella splendens or "Lace crab" was a jointed-legged animal similar to crabs, spiders and other insects found today. The Lace crab lived approximately 530 million years ago during the Cambrian Period of the early Paleozoic Era. Lace crabs are one of the most common fossils found at the Burgess Shale World Heritage Site in Yoho National Park.

Marrella photo (Lace crab) is courtesy of the Geological Survey of Canada



Eosalmofossil or "Dawn salmon"

Eosalmofossil or "Dawn salmon" is a genus of extinct salmon which lived during the Eocene Epoch, about 34-56 million years ago. The genus was first described in 1977 from fossils found in lake deposits at Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park near Smithers, British Columbia. *Eosalmofossil* have also been found at sites in Princeton and Cache Creek, BC.

Eosalmofossil photo (Dawn salmon) is courtesy of Mark Wilson



Canadoceras yokoyamai or "Canadian horn ammonite"

Canadoceras yokoyamai or "Canadian horn" is a classic example of an ammonite, which is an extinct fossil group that occupied the seas and oceans for a time span greater than the dinosaurs roamed the Earth. The Canadian horn, a soft-bodied animal similar to snails, octopus or squid, is from the Cretaceous Period during the Mesozoic Era approximately 80 million years ago. These fossils are commonly found on the eastern side of Vancouver Island.

Canadoceras photo (Canadian horn) is courtesy of Dr. Jim Haggart



Olenoides serratus or "Trilobite"

Olenoides serratus or "Saw-tooth trilobite" is part of a group of extinct marine arthropods that lived during the Cambrian Period, about 530 million years ago. Its fossils were first discovered in the Burgess Shale beds in Yoho National Park in 1909, where they are abundant. Many trilobite species are also found in the Bull River, Campbell.

Olenoides photo (Saw-tooth trilobite) is courtesy of Smithsonian Institution



Yabeina columbiana or "Fusulinid foraminifera"

Yabeina columbiana or "Rice fossil" was a single-celled animal that lived in the oceans covering much of British Columbia approximately 300 million years ago during the Permian Period of the Paleozoic Era. Occurrences of *Yabeina* in North America are rare and unusual, yet these fossils can be found in the Marble Canyon of British Columbia.

Yabeina photos (rock showing several specimens, magnified image of the animal) are courtesy of Dr. Ted Danner

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September 2018

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The Dirt Contents, September 2018

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Selecting British Columbia's Provincial Fossil Emblem

Submitted by: Elisabeth Deom, Senior Stewardship Officer – Paleontology, Heritage Branch

As I sit down at a table in Manning Park to write this article, a Steller's Jay joins me. How fitting for this article since this bird is our provincial bird. It is time now to select a fossil emblem, one that will be added to the other provincial emblems representing the province. And what better time now that fossil management in BC applies across the natural resource ministries and is being communicated out to industry, agencies and the public.

I hope you know about the rich and diverse fossil resource or natural heritage we have throughout the province. The complex geology of BC, created by different land masses colliding and deposition of various materials, stretches across the geological time scale (from Precambrian to present time). Adding a fossil to the provincial emblems celebrates this great diversity and will hopefully encourage everyone to find out more about this fascinating resource.

The initiative is in partnership with the BC Paleontological Alliance, which suggested four of the seven fossil candidates. The remaining three were proposed by the public when the first part of this project was launched. Choosing a favourite fossil among the seven will not be easy.

Among the seven fossil candidates we have two marine reptiles, the Elasmosaur and the Ichthyosaur. The Elasmosaur, a long-necked imposing creature from the Cretaceous period was discovered in Courtenay in 1988. The site was protected shortly after under a provincial heritage designation. The large fossil

specimen was excavated and is at the Courtenay and District Museum, among many other incredible fossils found on Vancouver Island. The scientific excavation of the specimen resulted in the creation of one of the first paleontological societies in BC. Another Elasmosaur has since been discovered on the island.

Ichthyosaur fossils have been found on Vancouver Island, in the Kootenay and in the Peace Region. One of the world's largest specimens, 23 metres long, unearthed from the Peace Region is *Shastasaurus sikanniensis*; it is one of the specimens on the list of seven to vote for. Ichthyosaurs were large swimming reptiles with flat tails and long snouts like our modern-day dolphins that ruled the ancient oceans some 200 million years ago.

Two of the fossil candidates are from the world's famous fossil site, the Burgess Shale in Yoho National Park. The lace crab (*Marrella splendens*) and the trilobite *Olenoides serratus*. *Marrella* and *Olenoides* are very abundant at the 500 million year old site, famous for the record of life-forms that evolved in the Cambrian period, in the early beginnings of multi-cellular life. *Marrella* was an animal similar to crabs and spiders, but with delicate and unusual features. It has no modern equivalent in the modern world. Trilobites are a group of extinct marine arthropods. They are divided into three parts from the head to the tail (head, body, tail) and from side to side (the central axis and two lobes). They play a major role in determining the order and age of global geological strata or layers (called

biostratigraphy).

Before the Cambrian explosion of many life-forms, ancient seas were the home of simple life-forms. An example of these is *Yabeina columbiana* or fusulinid, a now extinct single-celled animal that lived on the sea bottom about 260 million years ago. *Yabeina* is an Asiatic fusulinid found in Japan and China, but very rare in North America. We find it in BC in Marble Canyon and Hat Creek. According to geologists, the parts in BC that now contain *Yabeina columbiana* were located in the Pacific Ocean and near the Equator. These fossils tell us a piece of history of the formation of the West Coast of North America.

Another fossil candidate, *Canadoceras yokoyamai* or Canadian horn ammonite, is a type of mollusc that lived in the oceans 80-84 million years ago. Ammonites were related to clams and snails. A living relative today is the *Nautilus*, found in the South West Pacific. These marine animals had tentacles and they lived in spiral-shaped shells that were used for buoyancy. Ammonites are found throughout BC, but are particularly abundant on the West Coast and in northeastern BC. *Canadoceras yokoyamai* is found on the eastern side of Vancouver Island.

Ammonites are of value to geologists. They make great guide fossils for stratigraphy because they evolved rapidly and each ammonite species has a short life span, they are found in many types of sediments and have a worldwide distribution. They can therefore be used to determine age equivalence of two or more geo-

continued...

Fossil Emblem continued...

graphically separate rock units.

The last candidate, *Eosalmo driftwoodensis* or ancient salmon, lived 50 million years ago. Fossils of this fish have been found in lake deposits at Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park. *Eosalmo* are also found in BC in Princeton and near Cache Creek. It is incredible to see how similar the modern salmon specimens are to their ancestors.

You have until **November 23rd** to vote for your favourite fossil to represent our province. Take the time to do your own research and make sure you vote. I cannot wait to find out which one will get the most votes.

For more information, visit the ministry website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/land-use/fossil-management/designating-a-provincial-fossil>

Protecting Our Lone Workers with the Worker Safety Check-In Project

Submitted by: Tedi Bezna, Client Relationship Coordinator, Communications, Engagement and Divisional Operations Branch



The Worker Safety Check-In (WSCI) Project is an initiative to create consistent safety check-in procedures for lone, isolated, and field workers within FLNRORD across the province. With this solution, we will be using [SafetyLine](#) software in partnership with the BC Wildfire Centre Monitoring Services to provide a centralized, automated tracking and monitoring system to keep our employees safe. This solution will be rolled out across each of the regions over the next two years, beginning with the Coastal region in October 2018.

Currently, safety check-in procedures vary across the province from region to region, with different devices, software, and monitoring practices in place. Having unified check-in practices across the province will help when monitoring

workers as they move across regions, and assist in easy and efficient onboarding of new staff. WSCI will replace the current Personnel Resource Tracking (PRT) technology and will provide safety check-in services to the regions that are currently dependent upon it.

Training for workers, monitors and administrators is being prepared by the project team in partnership with SafetyLine to ensure everyone involved is well prepared, and to facilitate a smooth transition from each region's current processes. The training for the solution is being facilitated through webinars, online video courses, and in person training, which will enable workers to take advantage of improved safety monitoring as soon as possible. This solution will also provide efficient onboarding and consistent training for new staff with access to web-based training.

To learn more about the Worker Safety Check-In Project, please visit the [WSCI SharePoint Site](#), which is updated regularly with frequently asked questions and project updates. Any additional questions can be sent to the [WSCI Project Team](#).



No escape – the smoke from this year's wildfire season was everywhere

Submitted by: Michael Oomen, Internal Communications Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service

With sunrise reduced to an eerie red glow and the smell of campfires everywhere, there was no escaping the effects of this year's wildfire season. From April 1st until mid-September there were over 2000 fires reported during the 2018 wildfire season. As of September 12th, there were still 435 fires burning across the province with almost 390 of those attributed to lightning. With so many fires in so many locations, BC residents were left with grey summer days and the experience of streetlights coming on in the middle of the afternoon. The old saying where there's smoke there's fire was never more self-evident than this past summer.



Wildfire Sunrise: Prince George residents experienced the eerie red glow of morning sunrises.

The effects of the smoke from this year's fires went beyond the borders of our province. Our neighbours in Alberta experienced deteriorating air quality as clouds of wildfire smoke poured into southern Alberta with a blanket of thick smoke settling over the city of Calgary. For more than two days, Environment Canada's air health index (AQHI) was rated at 10+—the highest you can go. In Edmonton the city went so far as to close all outdoor pools because of poor air quality. The smoke from over 600 fires even travelled to our prairie provinces with Manitoba issuing an air quality alert mid-August.

South of the border, our U.S. neighbours didn't fare any better. With no winds coming off the pacific, warm

continental winds pushed smoke south into Washington State as far south as the Oregon border and as far east as Idaho. For a couple of days in August, Seattle and Portland were both listed in the top five for cities with the worst air quality. Vancouver was number three.

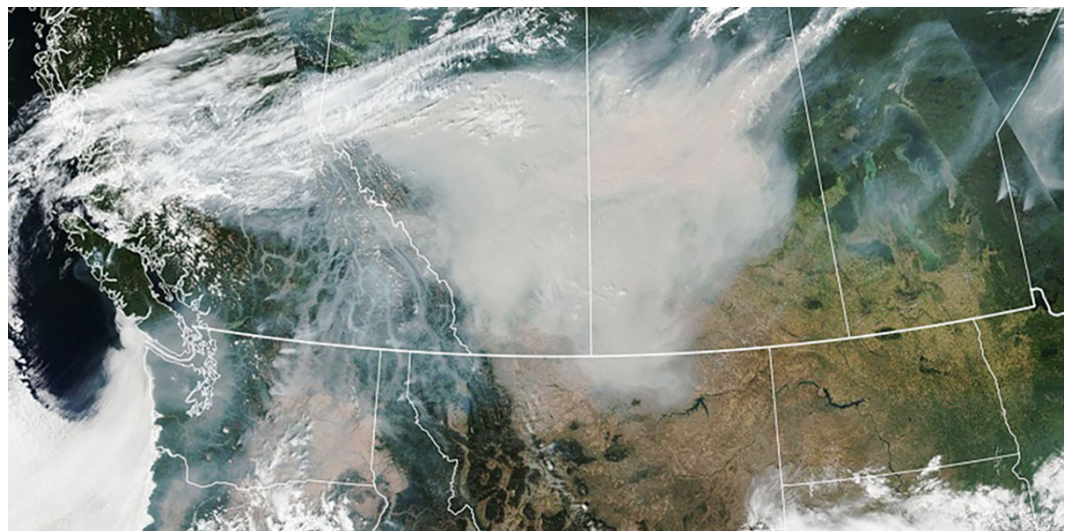
The long term effects of such extreme air quality on the general public isn't clear but Environment Canada was warning that anyone at risk needed to limit their exposure and stay inside when possible. For Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley regions, this meant the longest sustained air quality advisory on record running from August 13th to August 23rd.

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Visible from Space

The drifting smoke was so prominent that NASA satellites could see the effects from space.

A satellite image shows the smoke from fires in British Columbia drifting across Alberta and Saskatchewan on Aug. 15. (NASA Earth Observatory/NASA GSEC/Lauren Daphin)



No Escape continued...

Smoke affected BCWS operations

The smoke that was blacking out the sky and ruining summer for so many residents was also a challenge for crews working hard to contain hundreds of fires across the province. On August 20th, Kyla Fraser, a public information officer with the BC Wildfire Service, said that despite a relatively lightning-free weekend with few new fire starts, firefighters continue to be extremely busy battling about 545 wildfires.

"We have had to ground aircraft in some instances just because visibility was too poor, unsafe to fly," Fraser told CBC in August. "Smoky conditions also can pose a problem with detection and discovering new wildfires." The visibility and smoke related problems continued for days with some relief coming by the 24th and 25th.



Smoke billows over the northern shoreline of Nadina Lake, August 20th-25th.

A new record

When the smoke finally cleared BCWS was able to get an accurate count of the damage done. The total number of hectares burned jumped from 768,000 on August 24th to more than 1.3 million. By August 31st it was official: 2018 was the most damaging fire season on record in terms of hectares burned, surpassing 1.2 million hectares in 2017 and 855,000 in 1958.

In the end, the 2018 wildfire season will be a year defined as much by smoke as it was by fire. For many it was summer days ruined by an endless smoky haze, but for others it was the first hand experience of watching your homes and your communities be threatened by fire. Hopefully this year's record won't be broken for a very long time.

If you are a former employee and want to keep up with the latest Dirt, please contact Sheila Tucnik and she will add you to the retiree's email distribution list. Provide email, home phone and home mailing address. You can contact Sheila directly at Sheila.Tucnik@gov.bc.ca. Don't forget our [Facebook](#) page!

RSTBC: Supporting Rural Development from the Ground Up

Submitted by: Kevin Eskelin, Regional Recreation Manager, Southern Interior East Region

Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) develops and maintains a province-wide network of public recreation sites and trails on Crown land. This extensive network currently includes more than 1100 recreation sites for camping, 84 backcountry cabins, 110 day-use shelters, 34 restored fire lookouts, 80 managed snowmobile areas, 32 managed Nordic ski areas, and 800+ trails scattered throughout British Columbia.



Boundary Lake Recreation Site

Site and trail facilities and amenities include: campgrounds, boat launches, fishing docks, parking lots, staging areas, information kiosks, emergency shelters, warming huts, and avalanche awareness signage.

Ensuring the resiliency and sustainability of small rural communities is key to preserving the prosperity and way of life that has come to characterize British Columbia. In a province as large and diverse as BC, many rural communities are isolated by long distances and/or mountain ranges and must rely on local natural resources to support their economies. By developing public recreation facilities in these areas of the province, RSTBC helps create new opportunities for economic development and diversification for rural communities—including tourism destinations.

Located in 4 regional and 19 district offices, RSTBC field staff engage directly with stakeholders to identify recreation opportunities that meet local needs. In this grassroots approach, RSTBC builds collaborative partnerships with recreation groups, communities, regional districts, and First Nations to develop recreation sites and trails that are safe and sustainable. This collaboration involves assisting with local planning initiatives, contributing capital and operational funding, leveraging

external funding sources, and facilitating stakeholder dialogue and engagement.

Proposed projects are subjected to thorough stakeholder referrals and First Nations consultations to address any outstanding issues or potential conflicts. If concerns can be suitably addressed, the project is legally established and RSTBC enters into a partnership agreement with the proponent to manage and maintain the site or trail.

RSTBC oversees the construction of new sites and trails, ensuring adherence to provincial standards and guidelines, and provides ongoing support, expertise and guidance to assist contractors and agreement holders in gaining the necessary skills and experience for managing recreation facilities. The long-term goal is to expand the stewardship capacity of agreement holders to ensure sustainable maintenance of sites and trails important to local communities.

continued...

RSTBC continued...

Once a site or trail begins to attract regional or broader interest, it's important that both the facilities and agreement holder have the capacity to absorb the higher-use levels, environmental impacts, and potential conflicts that come with increased demand. RSTBC collaborates with local governments, tourism advisory councils, and other provincial agencies on an ongoing basis to ensure that sites or trails with tourism potential are capable of withstanding higher recreation pressures before being actively marketed and promoted.

Recreation sites and trails contribute multiple economic, social and health-related benefits to rural communities by reinvigorating and diversifying local economies from primarily resource-based dependence to a broader base supported by commercial spinoffs from increased recreation and tourism. This in turn creates incentives for new and expanded small businesses, such as bike shops, snowmobile and ORV dealerships, camping supply outlets, and guided tour companies.

Local recreation opportunities improve the quality of life in rural communities and encourage families and youth to participate in healthy outdoor activities. Well-managed nearby recreation facilities also serve to attract new residents to the area, including sought-after professionals, to increase community diversity, vitality and sustainability, and strengthen the resilience of BC's rural communities.

RSTBC has been playing a significant role in driving rural economic development for many years now and will continue to do so as it strives to meet the public's ever increasing demands for quality outdoor recreation experiences.

Hale Creek Recreation Site - 4X4 Assoc of BC

Recreation sites and trails are a vital component of BC's tourism infrastructure.

Have a Story idea?
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GWELLS Free Code

Submitted by: Lindsay Macfarlane, Senior Groundwater Data Specialist, Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Policy Division, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy



From left to right:
Christian Evans,
Meherzad Romer, Steve
Hillier, Nicole Smith,
Lindsay Macfarlane,
Sybrand Strauss.
Missing: Gary Wong,
Derek Roberts

In the natural resource ministries, ENV and FLNRORD are collaborating on the [Water Information Services Project \(WISP\)](#). WISP is a multi-year project that is actioned through co-ordinated strategic sub-projects, which achieve the project goal to “create accessible and integrated information systems that support robust decision making and effective management of water resources for British Columbians”.

Under WISP, the new [Groundwater wells and aquifers \(GWELLS\)](#) application is being developed by an internal team of software developers using open source software. Code for GWELLS is stored on [GitHub](#), a web-based hosting service, and is open to the coding community to provide comments or code improvements. This allows for a collaborative approach to system development and provides a learning opportunity for external developers to gain experience working with government.

The GWELLS team has received several code contributions from the coding community, which upon review have been incorporated into the application. This is a win-win opportunity for both government and the coding community as government gets support with development to help improve service delivery and external developers get exposure to IT projects being developed with government.

GWELLS is an application for industry, academia, government and citizens who submit or use groundwater data and information. It is a repository for groundwater and aquifer data that supports water resource management, water authorizations, aquifer classification, and compliance with regulatory requirements under the *Water Sustainability Act* and Groundwater Protection Regulation.

For more information about WISP please contact [Jag Dhau](#) or visit the [WISP Intranet Site](#).

For more information about GWELLS, please contact [Lindsay Macfarlane](#).

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A Summer with BCTS

Submitted by: Heather Jay, Digital Engagement and Internal Communications Officer (Co-op Student),
BC Timber Sales - Headquarters



Co-op positions are an adventure; there are many firsts and many challenges. As a Digital Engagement and Internal Communications Officer with BC Timber Sales (BCTS) for the past four months, I have learned more about forestry than I had ever thought there was to know and realized there is so much more to learn... about everything.

My first project was to create a video about BCTS' Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) or otherwise referred to as their drone program. I had never considered the usefulness of drones before, but when I attended a training session for new pilots this summer I quickly learned what a fantastic tool they are. Cost effective, agile and easy to use, drones offer enormous benefits to staff operating in the field. In addition to creating a three minute video, I wrote about the RPAS program for The Dirt too.

My second major project was documenting on camera the rehabilitation of a fish habitat in the Artlish River area. Wading across a river with a camera hoisted above my head was pretty awesome; the resulting wet socks were not. The crew working to rehabilitate this fish bank were welcoming and their expertise shone through in their interviews. Again, this project was a fantastic learning opportunity and window into the many different operations and projects BCTS is a part of.

In between video documentation and editing, I wrote articles, updated training manuals and oriented myself in the world of public service. I had quite a lot of help in the last regard; my coworkers graciously explained the ins and outs of government. One co-worker gave me a hand out of the basic forestry acronyms, which I taped to my cubicle wall, and another colleague patiently taught me how to use the giant printer, even though it was the third time I had asked.

As my time in the position draws to a close, I'll take away some valuable lessons and amazing experiences. There are so many exciting, wonderful things to learn in this ministry. Our province is awe-inspiring and filled with amazing people and interesting stories that in the future I hope to use some of my new experiences with BCTS to help to tell them.



Get Up Offa That Thing

Do you sit at work all day? Is your work causing physical pain? Staying in one position while doing repetitive motions is typical of a desk job. Here are a few simple exercises to do at your desk. Even better get up from your desk and go for a walk--sitting is the new smoking..

[Government of Canada - Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety](https://www.humanresources.ca/occupational-health-and-safety/occupational-health-and-safety-articles/get-up-offa-that-thing-101.aspx)

Eyes in the Sky

Submitted by: Heather Jay, Digital Engagement and Internal Communications Officer (Co-op Student),
BC Timber Sales - Headquarters

In 2015, BC Timber Sales (BCTS) began testing the use of drones, also referred to as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), in the field. “They are an eye in the sky,” says Jennifer Naylor, BCTS’ Business Technology Innovation Manager, “that assist us with surveying BCTS operating areas more efficiently and safely.”

RPAS’/drones are routinely used in BCTS’ operations for aerial mapping and imaging plots of land and where possible, have replaced more costly methods used in the past such as helicopters. “Drones offer access to locations that previously would have been cost prohibitive or simply too dangerous to access with traditional methods,” says Naylor.

A recent case study by BCTS’ Kamloops field team confirmed the efficiency of RPAS’ versus traditional methods of reviewing a block, which required driving or walking to a high point to obtain the visual confirmation needed for an assessment. When the field team conducted their post-harvest assessments such as road rehabs and retention tree assessments of a block using traditional methods, the labour time and total costs were an estimated 16 hours and \$612.00. Using a drone, labour and costs were reduced by over 50 percent, shrinking dramatically to an estimated 8 hours of labour and cost of \$362.00.

“Our goal is to have a drone and pilot in every BCTS office,” says Naylor. The BCTS RPAS program is well on its way to meeting that goal. Today, there are over 45 trained BCTS drone pilots, with pilots in each of BCTS’ 12 business areas, who have completed the rigorous drone pilot ground and flight training, a requirement to operate under the FLNRORD’ Special Flight Operating Certificate (SFOC).

A fleet of 19 drones, mostly Phantom 4s and Inspire 1s are deployed in 16 different BCTS offices across the province. The Inspire 1s can fly in colder temperatures and feature a changeable gimbal and infrared camera. There are also several small Mavic drones, which are small enough to fit in a pilot’s cruising vest, that are a part of the BCTS fleet.

The BCTS RPAS program is integrated with the provincial RPAS program in which all pilots and aircraft are registered and operate under a single ministry SFOC and operations manual. The provincial RPAS program, led by GeoBC, also has a community of practice where pilots can collaborate



and learn from each other. In addition to working across government, BCTS is exploring other forestry specific uses and benefits of drones and collaborating with research groups such as FPInnovations, a Canadian non-profit organization which carries out scientific research and technology transfer for the Canadian forest industry.

The advantages of incorporating drones in BCTS’ business operations are exciting, and the technology provides intriguing potential for the future. BCTS’ RPAS program has plans to expand the post-processing capabilities to produce orthophotos and digital elevation models of the areas captured by the drones within their fleet. This information will then be available to staff in a highly accessible and mobile format to support operational decisions.

Sweet Georgia Maeve

Christine Cameron, Senior Correspondence Analyst, Correspondence Services, DMO, is the creator behind Sweet Georgia Maeve. She makes stylish and cozy knit toques for the whole family. Christine started knitting in high school and for many years was an on-again off-again knitting enthusiast. That was until last year when Christine was on maternity leave with her second daughter, Georgia. As a newborn, Georgia encountered some unexpected health issues and Christine picked up her knitting needles once more. Once Georgia was in the clear and the hazy newborn days were over, Christine realized that she had knit enough hats to start a small business, and so Sweet Georgia Maeve began!

<https://www.instagram.com/sweet.georgia.maeve/>



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We hope you enjoy reading about the past!

Congratulations 2018 Academy Training Natural Resource Officer Graduates!

Story & photos by: Holly Frederickson, Training and Education Coordinator, Compliance and Enforcement Branch, HQ

2018 NRO Training Academy Graduating Class



Planning for the third Academy training started early 2018 with approvals, advisory group meetings, engagement of trainers, content review and invites to guest speakers. In March, seven NRO trainers completed an inaugural two-day Train-the-Trainer session to further develop their facilitation skills.

These cumulative efforts set the stage with the opening ceremony on May 28th at the Pacific Regional Training Centre (PRTC) in Chilliwack. A blessing was delivered by Eddie Gardner of the Skwah First Nation. Fourteen newly hired Natural Resource Officers (NROs) and one new supervisor attended; these recruits are stationed across BC. Based on the success of a cooperative learning approach initiated last year, interest continues to grow in our training model. An Operations Officer from BC Oil & Gas Commission attended the full training while other compliance agencies sent team members for portions of the training: the Environmental Assessment Office, BC Wildfire Service and the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre.

Under the great leadership of our experienced officers and feedback from the class of 2017, the four intensive weeks of training shifted to a more interactive format.

Week one set the foundation studying new or revised policies, Basic Law, Court Proofing and Violation tickets plus a day at the Chilliwack courtroom. Corporal Pamela Vinh (RCMP Major Crime Section - Forestry) acted as the accused for ticket violations that NROs had to defend in this realistic setting.

The NRO Law Fundamentals course in week two focused on investigation processes and NROs tested their photography skills at staged crime scenes. Ian Douglas (Wildfire Prevention Enforcement Superintendent, BC Wildfire Service) returned to share his expertise and reinforce how our agencies support each other. Next was an informative presentation by Sue Pelletier and Paula Griffin for Wildfire Recovery to introduce the new policy that impacts all investigations (not specific to wildfire). The NROs also delved into case file analysis and competed in a jeopardy style game to review content before writing the course exam.

Always a favourite with the Academy attendees are tactics/self defense training. Week three focused on gaining confidence through Verbal Judo and Confrontation Management skills. Janis Boivin, supervisor and fellow Academy graduate made this observation. "The new

continued...

NRO Graduates continued...



Sara DeVita (right) reviews how to complete violation tickets for banned campfires staged at Tamahi Creek Recreation Site in Sardis

recruits took the safety training seriously and conducted themselves very professionally over the four days. Their abilities and confidence improved throughout the training; their enthusiasm and humour helped maintain a positive environment, especially as we were all getting tired. Our interactions during safety training remain a huge part of our Academy memories.”

Matt Austin, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Integrated Resource Operations Division, joined in on Monday June 18th to observe the “Conflict and Direct Action” presentation presented by the Critical Incidents and Emergency Management Branch of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. The NROs benefited as Matt shared insights from his field experience to reinforce branch policies and the need for safety first.

The remainder of the week was spent on three field days with specific focuses—forestry, land and water. The NROs took notes and photos, wrote offense tickets, referenced maps and legislation then completed system entries in the classroom. The trainers and industry subject experts who organized these experiences offered excellent opportunities to experience a “day in the life” of a NRO.

Jenni Martin, Compliance and Enforcement Branch Provincial Manager of Training, is pleased with the transformation from the first two Academy sessions. “We continue to make changes based on feedback from grads, instructors, supervisors and our planning team. Our model supports onboarding with their field team prior to attending Academy. The formal

training connects new recruits with our dedicated trainers and other agency groups. This group had a collaborative approach from the beginning. They have built a special bond that will carry through their career.”

On June 22nd, the graduates received their certificate of completion, badge and letter of authorization, as presented by our leadership team of Kevin Edquist (Director), Hayley Thomas (Deputy Director, Corporate Support) and Ian S. Brown (Deputy Director, Operations). Former Deputy Minister Tim Sheldon provided a video message to offer his congratulations and an Oath of Office ceremony wrapped up the event followed by group photos.

We wish our newest team members great successes as they protect the land, water, forests and cultural resources for future generations.



Connie Herman (left) guides NROs to use Appraisal maps at an active Forestry site in Mission.



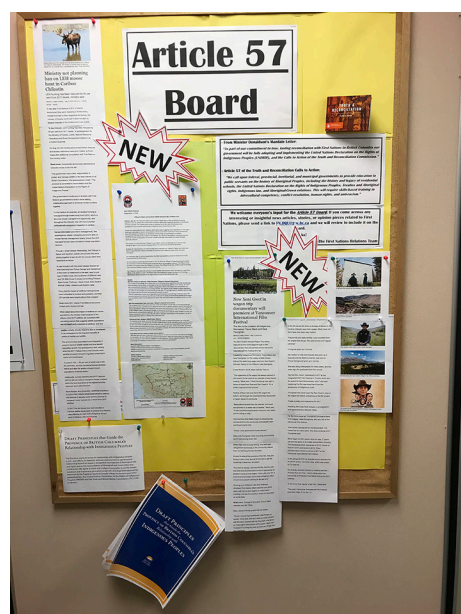
Verbal Judo instructor, Aaron Gervais (left) consults with NROs completing scenario based learning.

Reconciliation Week – Quesnel Natural Resource District

Submitted by: Nicole Pressey, Regional Agrologist, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast, Ministry of Agriculture

How do you approach reconciliation as a government employee? You make it informative, fun and approach it as a team. The First Nations Section of the Quesnel Natural Resource District was asked to recognize Reconciliation Week September 17-21, and they delivered. The team worked to create a board in the office that offered staff information about BC First Nations & Indigenous Peoples, common place names originating from Indigenous words, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its work, and common myths about First Nations.

To make it fun, they challenged us to a quiz, and gave this competitive office time to study. While leading up to the quiz, staff were encouraged to watch APTN's First Contact, a three-episode series where six non-Indigenous people visited Indigenous communities throughout Canada. It was offered in the boardroom each morning, followed by Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation's webinar, "Guiding Principles and How We Live Our Work: Examples from the field". Friday was the big draw, people gathered and winners were announced. Indigenous-related books, stickers, art work, and other gifts were handed out and discussion ensued.



To make sure that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work is remembered, the same staff have developed an Article 57 board in the office, which is changed regularly to inform us of the 94 Calls to Action.

I want to thank the District Management Team for empowering their staff to be creative in engaging staff on an at-times uncomfortable topic that is not easy to understand or implement. However, kudos really go to Kirby Booker, Shannon Street and Suzi Taylor, First Nations Section, Quesnel Natural Resource District, FLNRORD for organizing and delivering on a week-long event that brought many staff together to deepen their understanding of, and role in reconciliation.



BCTS "Best in the Bush" Relay Team - Campbell River Salmon Festival

Submitted by: Don Hudson, Timber Sales Manager, Campbell River Timber Sales Office,
Strait of Georgia Business Area, BCTS



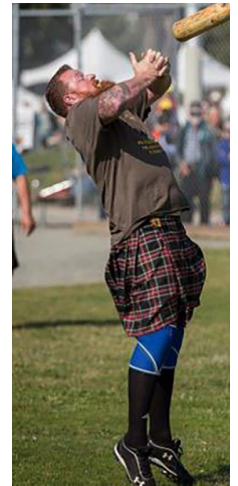
Two prime Northern Vancouver Island industries are forestry and fishing; and the Campbell River Salmon Festival, or SalmonFest, is a longstanding tribute to both of them. Always the second weekend in August, the festival is now in its 51st year.

The Campbell River Logger Sports festival depicts past and present logging practices through entertaining competitions between lumberjacks and jills, and it is presently one of the largest competitions in Canada in terms of prize money and number of events. Over the course of two and a half days, this year's festival events included 3 World Championships and 8 Canadian Championships along with 45 other Men's Novice, Intermediate and Open events, Ladies Novice and Open events, plus several Youth and Teen events.



The Campbell River Salmon Festival Society hosts SalmonFest every year and was proud to add the Highland Gathering into this year's schedule. The Highland Gathering ran in conjunction with Logger Sports and consisted of piping and drumming competitions, dance competitions and heavy games. Many of those who attended hope this new addition will become an annual tradition for SalmonFest.

Along with the classic Logger Sports competitions was a four person, four event "Best in the Bush" relay, which targeted amateur competitors. This fun event is intended to encourage new participants to enter the sport, and often sparks some friendly competition between major licensees, contractors, loggers and the like!



For the second year in a row, BC Timber Sales' Strait of Georgia Business Area entered a Best in the Bush team. Last year's group came in second place in a field of eight teams. This year's team finished strong, coming in third. Congratulations to BCTS participants Lindley Little, Laura Chessor, Nicola Littleton and Dave Little (family member affiliation!). The Best in the Bush relay consists of four events—stock saw, choker race across the birling pond (thank you, Laura, for being game to take on this dangerous component of the relay!), double buck cross-cut saw and axe throw.

In addition to participating in the weekend's competitions, BCTS sported a community engagement information booth, ably attended by Mona Petersen, Don Hudson, Jim Voth, Lindley Little, Heather Soo, Jeff Hamilton, Norm Kempe and Bharat Adhikari. We were also instrumental in helping to bring in a forestry heavy equipment simulator to the festival from Vancouver Island University. The simulator is designed to see if people have the knack for heavy equipment operation in a simulated environment—apparently Lindley does not!



A big thank you to everyone who participated as either a competitor or organizing/participating volunteer. Hope to see you all next year as we continue to build on this new BCTS tradition.

Powell River Logger Sports

Submitted by: Rosalea Pagani, Auxiliary Forest Technician, BC Timber Sales – Chinook, Powell River Field Team



The sound of roaring chainsaws fades as the Powell River's 23rd Logger Sports show comes to a close. Logger Sports is one of the largest events in Powell River each year, with competitors coming from all over the world, including New Zealand, Australia, the US, and Germany. This year, brought together over 70 competitors who went axe-to-axe and saw-to-saw to determine who would win first place in each event. Five World Championship titles and 16 Canadian Championship titles were won over the July 13rd weekend, giving Powell River the most championships achieved at any Logger Sports show in North America.

Powell River's Logger Sports is the second biggest in competitor attendance and prize money of its kind in the world, with Sydney, Australia, being the first. Over 6000 people walked through the gates on Saturday alone, and in addition to the many events there were activities like the battle axe throwing cages and booths from local and industry sponsors to keep crowds entertained and introduce the logging industry to new generations.

There were 37 booths on the grounds, with the BC Timber Sales' (BCTS) being one of them. Throughout the weekend, several BCTS staff volunteered their time to host the booth—A big shout out of appreciation to Noel Poulin, Stacey Gould, Cheryl Turner, Russell Brewer, Robert Van der Zalm, Eliot King, Megan Laing and Mike Romalis. Their support and commitment made BCTS' participation possible.



This is the second year BCTS had a booth at Logger Sports. It continues to be a great opportunity to engage and connect with people in the community, answer questions and share who BCTS is and what we do.



Rosalea's summer term has ended as she is back to school, but she has been instrumental in preparing the BCTS booth in Powell River for the last two years and is also a competitor in the logging sports, participating in the axe throw (third place), chokeman's race (third place) and competed in the Husky Challenge Stock

Saw contest. Rosalea has worked the last four summers as an auxiliary for BCTS as she continues her education at Vancouver Island University.

Rosalea first started in forestry as a student supervisor for the Sunshine Coast forest district and went to become a forest technician. Rosalea is currently taking a geography degree and plans to complete her education at UBC for her RPF through the Masters of Sustainable Forest Management program. BCTS is very fortunate to have Rosalea work in our program area and continues to benefit from her participation each year.



Gay Nejedly Retires

Submitted by: Gay Nejedly and Sheila Tucnik, both Senior Contract Procurement Specialists with Corporate Services

FLNRORD is losing a great natural resource, and her name is Gay Nejedly. Gay, a Senior Contract Procurement Specialist with CSNR, is closing this chapter of her life (Chapter 6 – Procurement of the Core Policy and Procedures Manual included) as she gets set to retire. Those who have had contract and procurement questions may have received her sage advice. Her knowledge of procurement and of the natural resource ministries is extensive (and she knows where all of the bodies are buried??). With some grovelling on my part Gay agreed to tell us about her career in the public service. I'll sign off now, as I'm letting Gay have the last word.

Gay: It just seems like yesterday when I started work with the Provincial Government. I began this great career in 1992 as a Finance Clerk at Kootenay Lake Forest District in Nelson. Those were fun times.

I worked with the Silviculture department and there were lots of planting, spacing, site prep etc. contracts to prepare. All documents were typed up using manual typewriters and carbon paper to make copies. That didn't last long though as before we knew it all the Resource Clerks and the 'steno pool' had access to Wang professional computers and the use of copying machines!

Kootenay Lake District is also where I worked in the Protection duty room (now BC Wildfire Service). Things really got hopping during fire season and everyone on the team worked the hard and long hours. The clerks would man the radios keeping track of staff, contractors, air ops and of course take orders like 'tell so and so to bring up a 'dozen brown eggs' to the camp'.

As a result of the re-org in 2003, the Nelson Region office was to be closed. Senior Regional staff moved into the district office and I was laid off. It wasn't all bad though, I landed upright on my feet as a Resource Clerk with BCTS in Vernon. BCTS was in its infancy and we all worked very hard to get and keep the ship afloat. The Okanagan was a great place to spend time. I was fortunate enough to work with a super group of people from Revelstoke to Salmon Arm and all the way down to Penticton.

I've been with Finance Branch now for the last 12+ years and again have been fortunate enough to work with a great group of people in the office and talk with contracting staff from all over the province.

Every office I have had the pleasure of working in had awesome teams that clicked like family; not all of them were dysfunctional (you know who you are...). So my fondest Public Service memories will be of all the people I have had the pleasure to meet, work with and play with along the way.



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

You can contact Sheila directly at Sheila.Tucnik@gov.bc.ca. Don't forget our [Facebook](#) page!

46th Annual Provincial Golf Tournament

Submitted by: Harold Stolar, District Manager, Cariboo Natural Resource Region



The 46th Annual Provincial Golf tournament was held at Williams Lake Golf and Tennis Club on September 8th and 9th. We had participation from across the province, numbers were a bit better than past years, but coming off back to back extreme fire seasons we are below the norm. The weather held out for the Saturday's round, but some golfers did encounter rain on Sunday afternoon.

The final results have some familiar names:

Rob Bardossy won the tournament with a low gross score of 165 for the two days.

Todd Flanagan won low net score for the two days with a score of 135. Rachelle Satrum added her name yet again to the Ladies Low Gross trophy with 185.

Brian Foote took home the retiree trophy with a score of 171.

The committee would like to thank everyone that participated this year and hope to see you all next year, special thanks to our retirees that continue to come out as they are the back bone of the tournament. The committee is already thinking about how we can make this tournament even better and reaching out to encourage new players to this tournament, which is one of the longest standing ministry events. Our 50th is only 4 years off and we really hope to make it the biggest and best. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to send me an email. A few pictures of the event so you can see all the fun and...

Cheers and see you next year.



The Dirt Photographers!

Due to the lack of photos received for this edition we will try to resume the contest in the next edition. Any photo submitted for this edition and the December edition will be judged for the next photo contest. Get your photos in no later than November 30, 2018.

You don't want to miss out on a prize!

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 5 images per category.
- We are looking for recent photos; please limit your entries to shots taken within the past 2 years.

Prize Inventory

Don't forget to try your hand at writing a limerick or poem. Send [The Dirt](#) Advisory Group your ideas!

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 (see Prizes available);
- Individuals can win only one prize; and
- All winners will be announced with their photo in the edition of the newsletter.

Technical Specifications/Requirements

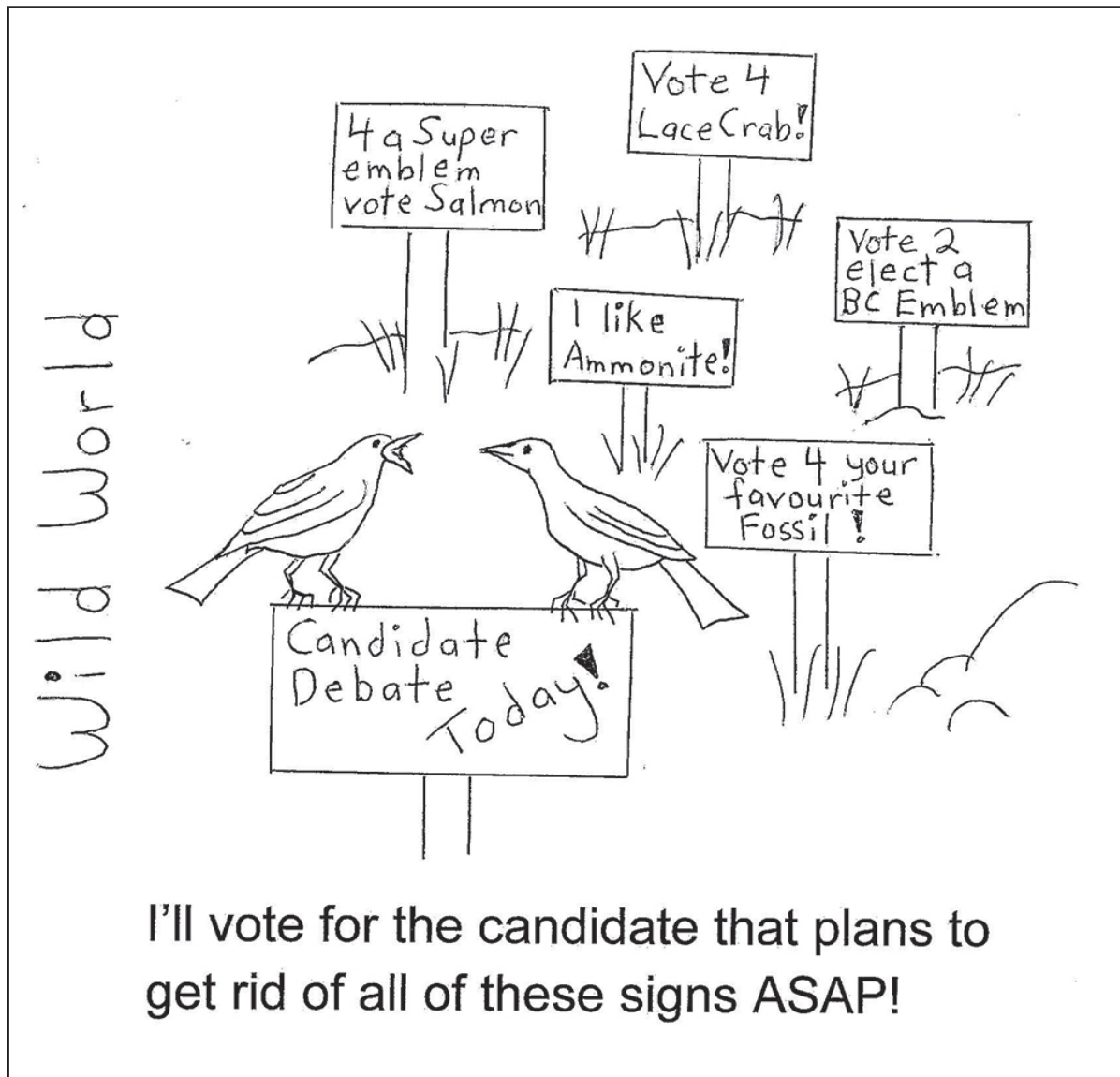
The following specifications and requirements have been established to ensure that images can be used in a variety of applications.

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 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 is to be included – category or image and location.
6. All images submitted, whether or not selected as a winning image, may be published in future issues of the newsletter or potential other sources (The [Dirt Facebook](#) account)

For further information, contact:

FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 30, 2018.



Sheila Tucnik

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

Sonia Donison is providing management, coordination and production 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 for an article prior to writing the story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition (March, June, September, December). Article deadlines for the next edition is November 30, 2018.



[SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)