



Deputy Minister's Christmas Message

Season's greetings everyone. I've now been working with you and all of our FLNRO and NRS colleagues for over two months, and the time has flown by. Since the moment I set foot in my office in Victoria, I've been learning the details of our business, working on key priorities, forging a strong connection with our minister, and really coming to appreciate just how hard everyone here works at natural resource management on behalf of the people of BC.

One of the most significant things I've become acutely aware of over the last few months is the incredibly wide array of responsibility we have as a ministry. In meetings with stakeholders and other government agencies I range from talking about everything from wildlife issues, to forests and land use planning, mining projects, water management, ocean planning and back again.

This breadth of responsibility might be more daunting if the dedication and skill you all bring to your jobs wasn't as high as it is. It's a testament to your commitment, professionalism and abilities that I've been able to jump in and get involved as quickly

as I have, and I want to sincerely thank you all for that.

As I mentioned in my all-staff call last week, it has been an extremely busy year for the ministry. The holidays are your chance to relax a little, and, from what I've seen, you deserve it. While I do realize that things never truly slow down in our business, I want to encourage you all to fully enjoy the holidays, spend time with friends and family, and come back refreshed and excited for all the possibilities ahead in the new year.



The amount of goodwill and teamwork I've experienced as your deputy minister thus far have been well beyond my expectations (which were already high), and, with that in mind, I want to extend my own goodwill to you all: have a very happy, restful holiday.

I look forward to working with you in 2014.

All the best,
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 the group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

Issues of "The Dirt" will be posted online quarterly. The newsletter and facebook group are for all employees and former employees of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Sudoku - do you play?

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



Sudoku Solution



If you are still interested in BCFS memorabilia the ministry is continuing to manage the BCFS 100 website as a legacy project <http://www.bcf100.ca/bcf100/scripts/materials.asp>. You can download the centenary logos from the promotion and use them for apparel that can be arranged locally.

The Dirt Contents, December 2013

* Click on a # to jump to page/Review Facebook for all the pictures!

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Exercise Cougar Ready 1: S-100 Training with Canadian Military

Submitted by Donna MacPherson, Coastal Fire Centre, Wildfire Management Branch

Through the cold, damp coastal winter air you can hear the thud of pulaskis digging into earth, the swish of tossed tree branches and the clinking of tools hitting rock. These are the sounds of firefighters at work on the fire line, but where are they? Suddenly, they swim into focus as movement catches the eye, firefighters working in camouflage. It's an unusual contrast to the normal red and blue uniform, but this isn't just any group of firefighters.

The Wildfire Management Branch (WMB) was asked to provide basic firefighting training (S-100) to 114 military personnel, and this was the final exercise in the intensive two day training. Instructors from Pemberton, Sechelt, Merritt and Kamloops joined Fraser zone staff to deliver this fast-paced and interactive training session in Chilliwack on Nov 30 and Dec 1.

The first day of training covered the basics of firefighting, as students were taught how to deploy hoses, set-up pumps and bladders, use drip torches, and dig a fire guard. Interactive exercises required students to display their knowledge of wildfire fighting procedures, tactics and considerations.

The final exercise mimicked a real wildfire event. Student teams were given a latitude and longitude, and were challenged to a timed race to eliminate the target. They had to locate the simulated fire, dig a guard around it, and establish a hose lay to deliver enough water inside the guard's perimeter to fill three Stillwell bladders. The final task was to demobilize all their equipment back to their point of assembly.

The students are all soldiers from the 39 Canadian

Brigade Group, an Army Reserve Formation of 3rd Canadian Division. The brigade has served in times of war, humanitarian and disaster relief, peacemaking efforts abroad, and during times of civil emergency at home. Some of their soldiers helped with the 2003 devastating wildfires in the interior of B.C.



Private Michael Arellano is a rookie to the military force, and has been with the Seaforth Highlanders for about a year. As a carpenter's apprentice, Arellano devotes one evening a week to his training and usually one day a month to a

special exercise, such as this one. He particularly enjoyed the hands-on training, and anticipates these new skills will help him if he is ever called upon to assist with forest fire response.

Master Corporal Arthur Hunter has been with his unit for more than 17 years, and was part of the assistance provided by the military to fight wildfires in 2003. He thought the instruction received this year was far superior to 2003, which he recounted with a chuckle as a "bit rushed." He believed this training would be a good step to prepare his unit to provide support, if required, and also to help military personnel respond to wildfires on military bases and training areas. As one of five military observers evaluating how to deliver this training to other parts of the military, Hunter had high praises for the WMB instructors. In particular, he was impressed with the level of information delivered, the strong focus on safety, and how well expectations were outlined. Furthermore, he thought WMB was well organized and professional, and felt the instructors displayed familiar and effective leadership.

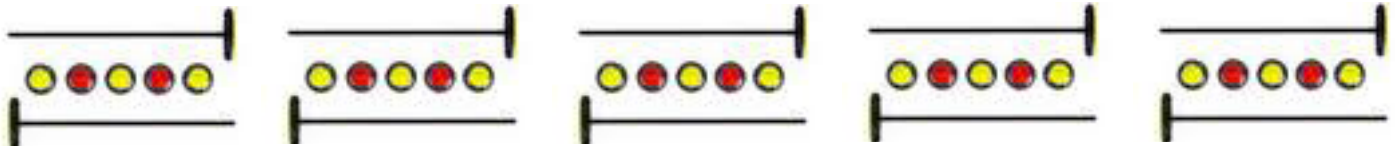
Exercise Cougar Ready 1: S-100 Training with Canadian Military cont...

Where ever trainees come from, the reaction to the work of firefighting always seems to be the same. As one soldier grabbed a fully charged hose, he grunted, "holy... this thing is heavy!" In response, one instructor said, "yeah, water's heavy," as she patiently demonstrated the best way to drain the hose as it's dragged away from the fire line.

At the end of the day, as the last of the pulaskis were sorted out, gas cans were piled, and radios were tracked down, one of the trucks pulled in with a huge wad of incorrectly rolled hose. The instructor's eyes widened as their experienced eyes calculated the time it would take to detangle the mess. There were many lessons learned over the last two days, but big grins and laughter amongst the group told the story of a successful exercise.

Each of the instructors received a Certificate of Appreciation from the military for their participation in the Cougar Ready 1 exercise. In return, the instructors handed out their recognition awards. The Last Place Puppy Dog was awarded to the team with the wad of hose, while the Wolf Pack award was handed out to the strongest team, and the Dragon Tamer award recognized the recipient's skill and positive attitude.

Over the course of the two days, the instructors and students formed camaraderie amongst each other and developed a strong appreciation for the service each organization provides for our country. They also learned that, yes, you can find wildfire in camouflage.



The FLNR/Natural Resource Sector Bonspiel will be held in Quesnel
March 21-23 2014

Stay tuned for more exciting details of what has been pegged:

"The must do event of 2014"



Tara White Award Recognition!

Submitted by: Michael Burwash, RPBio. Fish & Wildlife Section Head, Thompson Okanagan Region

Currently torrents of muddy water rage straight through Kelowna in a channelized river bed, but in the future Mission Creek will meander slowly across the flat land on its way to Okanagan Lake, as it did in the past. This is the goal of the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI), which began in 2002.

The MCRI is made up of a cross-section of community groups and agencies that have embarked on a project that could take decades to complete—to re-naturalize Mission Creek's course in its lower 12 kilometres. The effort has been lead by staff from FLNR and includes partners and representatives from the Central Okanagan Land Trust, Central Okanagan Regional District, City of Kelowna, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Friends of Mission Creek, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture, Mission Creek Compensation Bank, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Okanagan Basin Water Board, Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society and Westbank First Nations.

Tara White, Senior Fisheries Biologist was recently acknowledged by the Kelowna Capital News for her ongoing efforts as chair of the MCRI. Tara's dedication, initiative and leadership have been critical to the success of this project, and Tara was presented with a recognition plaque for her work.

The Initiative includes the acquisition of property where necessary, the setback of re-engineered dikes to provide a wider channel, reconnection to oxbows such as existed historically, replanting and other infrastructure work. The restoration will aid in controlling spring flood waters therefore preventing damage to properties and farmland. At the same time, the restoration also will restore at least a portion of the wildlife and fish habitat lost when the river was straightened and diked in the 1950s.

In that diking process, lost were more than 60% of the creek's length, 80% of the spawning and rearing habitat for trout and kokanee, and 75% of its wetland and riparian areas. The loss of the wetland and riparian areas adversely affected fish and wildlife—including species at risk and their breeding, rearing and overwintering habitats. At

one time, the creek was 30kms long in what is now 11kms in its lower reaches. Where it used to be 60-80m wide in places, today it's only 30 metres wide.

"It's been engineered to be straight, like a highway, and that's not what a healthy, functioning stream should be like," Tara explained.

Mission Creek is the largest single producer of stream-

spawning kokanee for Okanagan Lake and produces the lake's trophy 20-pound rainbows as well. The creek and its riparian area are home to a number of species on the endangered or of concern list, such as the tiger salamander, spadefoot toad, painted turtles, gopher snake, racer snake and Western rattlesnake, herons, black cottonwoods, sedges and cattails, Lewis' woodpecker, Western screech owl and yellow-breasted chat.

So far, the MCRI has acquired \$1.2 million in land along the stream, has initiated some in-stream restoration work and has spent \$40,000 on related studies. A website has been established to ensure public engagement on achieving the project's goals (www.missioncreek.ca).

Even today, Tara describes the Mission Creek Greenway and its natural surroundings as "a treasure in the middle of a downtown urban environment," and there will be even more of it as this project unfolds.



Another FLNR Engineer-in-Training Success!

Submitted by: Brian Chow, P.Eng., Chief Engineer, Engineering Branch

Steve Page recently became the third graduate of the FLNR, EIT program, successfully registering with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) as a Professional Engineer in July 2013. In 2009, Steve left his engineering position with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to join the FLNR, EIT program. Steve has spent four years, with the ministry in Smithers actively pursuing appropriate and sufficient experience in order to obtain registration as a Professional Engineer with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC.



to accelerate the trainees' ability to meet the registration requirements of APEGBC while acquainting the individuals with government aspects of professional engineering practice. A minimum of 4 years of progressive professional experience subsequent from graduation from a recognized university program under the guidance of registered professional engineer mentors who oversee the work of the EIT.

Professional mentors play a key role in the EIT program, and the success of the program is due in large part to their dedication and commitment. Howard Debeck,

P.Eng., Joe Kenny, P.Eng., Ray Getzlaf P.Eng. and Jason Olmsted, P.Eng., of the Northern Engineering Group, provided necessary mentorship in Steve's professional development.

The first formal EIT in the program to successfully obtain registration program was Drew Alway, P.Eng., who was accepted by APEGBC in the summer of 2009. Drew was subsequently successful in obtaining a position as a Bridge Engineer with the Southern Interior Engineering Group. The second EIT enrolled in the program was Richard Mills P.Eng., who received professional registration in October of 2010, is also a Bridge Engineer, with the Coast Engineering Group.

The ministry EIT program was initiated in 2007 as part of the MFR Succession and Recruitment Initiatives (SRI). A ministry review of critical positions identified engineering positions as being difficult to recruit and/or retain staff. The EIT program is seen as integral to contributing to maintaining professional engineering expertise within the ministry and government for the future. The objective of the EIT program is to provide focussed on the job training and experience

Along with Richard and Drew, Steve looks forward to continuing to support the resource districts and BCTS as a full fledged Professional Engineer. Steve, Richard and Drew have and are all contributing considerably toward the achievement of engineering goals and provincial initiatives in the ministry Engineering Program. We are pleased to advise that Steve Page, P.Eng., has now assumed a permanent position as a Bridge Engineer, with the Engineering Branch in the Northern Interior Engineering Group.

Congratulations to Steve for his success!



BCTS Safety Award Recognition!

Submitted by: Craig Tilander, RFT, BCTS HQ



L-R: Don Hudson, Noel Poulin contributed to successful SAFE Company certification achieved in 2008. He has continued his leadership role within his Business Area and in 2013 became the BCTS representative on the Coastal Harvest Advisory Group (CHAG). The CHAG is a task team commissioned by the major coastal tenure holders to improve harvesting safety performance and reduce the number of injuries and fatalities within the forest industry.

The BCTS Safety Award is awarded annually to a person that has made a significant contribution to improving the Safety Culture within BCTS. The award has been presented since 2008, and past award winners are: Tom Jackson (2008), Chris Lind (2009), Brian Chow, Tom Johnson and Don Tucker (2010), Cam Paterson (2011) and Jason Pederson (2012).

This year's award winner is Noel Poulin.

Noel is a long time leader in the area of safety. He was a member of the Safety Project Team that implemented the BCTS Safety Program in 2007. His work with the team

Congratulations Noel!



Christmas Fundraiser

Submitted by: Darius Low, RPF, Social Committee Chair, North Area

The Omineca Region and Prince George Natural Resource District teamed up this year to raise money for charities and families in need through an annual Christmas Basket Raffle.

Staff came together and prepared 18 separate baskets. Raffle ticket sales raised over \$3200.

Baskets ranged in value from \$100 to over \$300. Charities included PG New Hope Society, Third Ave Center for Men, Hart Seniors Center, AimHi, Hospice House, PG Brain Injured Group, and BC Children's

Hospital (financial donations only).

Total fundraising efforts in 2013 resulted in over \$4400 for Christmas charities and will go toward purchasing presents, building food hampers and handing out toiletry bags. A Christmas dinner is also being arranged with a local restaurant.

Way to go team for demonstrating your commitment to your community through your generous donations and organizing an extremely successful fundraising event!

[Link to Christmas Baskets](#)



FORESTREE POETREE

Submitted by: Grant Johannesen, RFT, Forest Tech., Silviculture, Quesnel Field Team

Trunk Junk

You may have twigged onto the notion
Wind puts leaves and branches in motion.

There are times we cannot see the forest for the trees.
Bark is a sound or outer shell, everyone agrees..

Bark beetles have put many a healthy tree under brutal attack.
Finding mature green pine – like looking for a needle in a haystack.

We can relate to a fading, falling leaf.
This stems from some deep rooted hockey fan grief.

'Tis the Season

This time of year people seek the perfect Christmas tree to show
Mother Nature tries to cover them in a blanket of snow

Some go out and purchase a metal or plastic tree
Others, real it must be, they state emphatically.

We drive to the woods or the mall and hum and ha
We pull out our money or we chop and we saw.

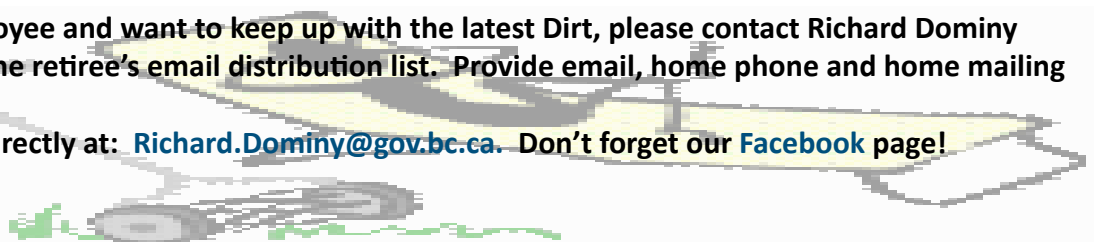
With tree chosen, little time on hand
Home we go in search of the tree stand.

With ornaments, tinsel, and lights electrified
I think I know why trees end up being petrified.

Retirees Receive *The Dirt*!

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

You can contact Richard directly at: Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca. Don't forget our Facebook page!



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

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



I mustache you a question but I will shave it for later...

Submitted by: Kelly Northcott, RFT, Land and Timber Technician, Mountain Resorts Branch

Based out of Kamloops, the Mountain Resorts Branch deals with the planning, development and ongoing maintenance of mountain resorts as well as all-season resorts like marina resorts and First Nations resorts. Who knew that the men of the office would also be capable of growing extremely fine mustaches?!? For a bit of office fun and camaraderie we decided

to form a team of “MO Bros” for the annual Movember fundraising campaign for 2013. For those that are unfamiliar the rules are simple:

1. *BEGIN THE 1ST OF MOVEMBER WITH A CLEAN SHAVEN FACE.*
2. *FOR THE MONTH OF MOVEMBER EACH MO BRO MUST GROW AND GROOM A MOUSTACHE.*
3. *THERE IS TO BE NO JOINING OF THE MO TO YOUR SIDE BURNS. (THAT’S CONSIDERED A BEARD)*
4. *THERE IS TO BE NO JOINING OF THE HANDLEBARS TO YOUR CHIN. (THAT’S CONSIDERED A GOATEE)*
5. *EACH MO BRO MUST CONDUCT HIMSELF LIKE A TRUE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.*
6. *FINALLY GET OUT THERE AND RAISE SOME AWARENESS AND SOME FUNDS.*

It was our first real attempt at Movember so we kept the fundraising efforts within our office, by bribing the staff of the branch with pumpkin scones for a

treat Tuesday, where someone brings in a treat and we all share it over afternoon coffee and a small donation is encouraged (which is a carryover event from our PECSF fundraising). The mint Nanaimo bar-fueled shave off and wrap up event revealed a grand total of \$202.00 dollars for a Movember 2013 contribution. This was a good showing for our office

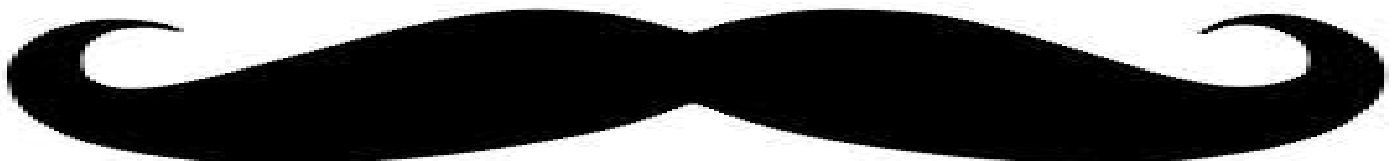


(Left to Right) Drew Frymire, Gord Humphrey, Ben Sampogna, Bill Hunter, Kelly Northcott, Reg Nolander

which in total has 16 staff in Kamloops, 3 based in Victoria and 4 JTST staff members who share our office space. It was definitely a fun experience and a team building opportunity that I am sure we would all participate in again.

The whole purpose behind the mustaches and participating in Movember is to raise funds and awareness for Men’s Health issues with a primary focus on Prostate Cancer, Testicular Cancer and Mental Health. I personally believe that one of the biggest gains is just getting men to think about serious health issues and reduce the apprehension that some men have in going to a doctor and getting checked out. I would highly recommend—in fact challenge—any offices or branches out there to participate next year in Movember. Please find the link below for the Movember organizations website; it is an excellent place to get started.

<http://ca.movember.com/?home>



The Dirt Readers!

Due to the lack of photos received for this edition we will try to resume the contest in the New Year with the March edition.

Get your photos in no later than March 14! You don't want to miss out on the great prizes!

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)

Tote Bag

Computer Bag

Fleece Blanket

FS Centenary Cooler Bag

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 March 14, 2014



*At this
most joyous time
of year, it is only appropriate that we
take time from our busy schedules to reflect on our
lives and count the many blessings we enjoy living in
British Columbia. On behalf of the newsletter Advisory Group we would
like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy
holiday season!*

All the best to you and yours in 2014!

Lynda Currie
Steve Dodge
Richard Dominy
Sonia Donison
Kimm Magill-Hofmann
Karlie Shaughnessy
Ricardo Toledo

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

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

Call for Stories/Ideas

The success of the newsletter depends upon the active engagement of staff throughout the organization. One way for people to support the newsletter is to share your ideas, news, stories, successes, experiences with revitalization and learning, celebrations and photos for use in future editions of the newsletter. People are asked to check with Sonia at 250-356-9638 or via [email](#) about their idea or ideas before writing a story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition—deadline for articles is March 14.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES