

BC

Forest PROFESSIONAL

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2016

Update on Professional
Practice Guidelines:
**Riparian
Assessments**

**Water Issues in
the Okanagan**

XIV World Forestry
Congress : Report from
South Africa

**National
Forest Week:**
All the Winners and
Festivities



VIEWPOINT
Forest Hydrology: Follow the Flow



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Forestry Through Your Eyes

We want to see forestry in BC through your lenses! If you capture a great shot and want share it with your colleagues, send it to Doris Sun at: editor@abcfp.ca for a chance to get published.

BC Forest
PROFESSIONAL

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Photo: Steve Lorimer, RPF

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"In the field it has saved us time and simplified field surveys. In the office it has saved us a significant amount of staff time"...

Ricardo Velasquez,
District Silvicultural Forester
Ontario Ministry of
Natural Resources



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Should International Forestry be Managed Locally

A challenging conundrum lies hidden in the interesting November – December issue of **BC Forest Professional**. Stacey Boks' 'Forests without Borders in Madagascar' article lauds the success of the Mitsinjo project because "...its projects are driven by community interests. It is run by local residents...". In the following 'International Forest Policy Deliberations,' Dr. El-Lakany concludes, "The international forest policies would be more effective if global forest issues are discussed and decisions are taken in a high-level forest forum..." Can these viewpoints be reconciled?

The record of top-down development in Africa, starting with the notorious Groundnuts Scheme in 1945 in Tanganyika [now Tanzania], a litany of expensive failures, casts a dark shadow over Dr. El-Lakany's claim while several small-scale local projects involving locals and run on shoe-string budgets are achieving modest success; BC-based ACCESS in Kenya and Zimbabwe Gecko Society are just two of several to set alongside the Mitsinjo one.

The apparent contradiction raises the questions whose are the forests and for whom are they managed? The late Jack Westoby's telling phrase "forestry is not about trees but how trees can serve people" should be at the forefront of all forestry development thinking and his 1987 compilation of essays, papers and speeches, "The Purpose of Forests," should be required reading for everyone preparing a forest development project.

Roy Strang, RPF(Ret)

Reflections on Ethical Requirements

Practising in the areas of watershed management and forest hydrology requires knowledge of forest soils, forest ecology, forest health, hydrologic factors, and a merging of that science with knowledge of other activities on the land. This will allow for an evaluation of the risks to the environment and social values. Forest management decisions are made more uncertain when forest professionals need to adapt past practice to projections regarding climate change.

In order to be effective professionals, ABCFP members should become engaged in activities such as participating in local communities of practice, volunteering for professional committees, advocating for improved practices and policies and supporting research — thus contributing to advancing scientific and professional knowledge in watershed management (Bylaw 11.4.2).

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Have a Compliment or Concern?

The **BC Forest Professional** letters section is intended primarily for feedback on recent articles and for brief statements about current association, professional or forestry issues. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters and encourages readers to keep letters to 300 words. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Please refer to our website for guidelines to help make sure your submission gets published. Send letters to:

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Should We Manage Forests for Volume or Value?

Doug Williams' article, "Economics in the AAC Determination Process," in the July-August issue of **BC Forest Professional**, about our method of determining the allowable annual cut, is a timely critique of an important issue of forest policy. The way we decide how much timber we can harvest each year undoubtedly has greater economic implications for British Columbia than any other decisions made by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO). But decision-making on this issue seems to be based on confused policy objectives, and deserves forest professionals' attention.

Most of us would agree that to make good policy decisions it's essential to start with clear objectives. As Williams points out, FLNRO objectives in calculating the allowable cut are anything but clear. The *Forest Act* and other policy instruments instruct the chief forester in determining the allowable cut in each management area, vaguely to consider the government's economic and social objectives (without identifying them). Another section of the Act requires the Ministry to encourage an efficient manufacturing sector (with no mention of the primary sector). And the government has added a curious goal of creating more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada. These disparate objectives are not clearly defined, and they obviously conflict.

Faced with this confusion, Williams concludes that FLNRO objective in calculating the allowable cut is, as a practical matter, to "maximize the allowable cut in order to maximize jobs and the health or competitiveness of the forest industry." This conclusion, based on his extensive experience in forest modelling and analysis, might well be correct, but it is a bit of a leap from FLNRO's formal, inconsistent, instructions. It also implies a misunderstanding; the allowable cut might indeed affect the size of the forest industry, but it has almost nothing to do with its competitiveness.

Williams explains that FLNRO determines the allowable cut in each management unit by examining the volume of timber it contains and its rate of growth, to determine the maximum sustainable harvest. In contrast, private forest owners, free from governmental cut controls, can be expected to organize their management and harvesting regimes with a view toward maximizing the economic return or value of their forest production. These are quite different calculations, of course; one based on cubic metres of wood, the other on dollars. They lead to different forest management prescriptions

as well, because the pattern of a forest's growth in volume over time is quite different from its pattern of growth in value, which leads to differing rotation periods, harvest levels and advantageous levels of silviculture and utilization, among other things. By definition, the maximum volume criterion will always lead to more volume and less value of timber production over time, and the differences are often substantial. This raises an important question; why does our government, in managing Crown forests dedicated to commercial use, endeavor to maximize the volume rather than the value of forest production?

Disregard of the value of forest production is only one shortcoming of the maximum sustained yield policy. Another is that it does not offer an unambiguous target for forest management, because the 'maximum' yield varies with silvicultural and recovery practices, among other things. It offers no particular environmental or silvicultural advantages. And, as it is applied in British Columbia, the specified harvest is usually not sustainable, but must be reduced periodically until all the original forest is replaced with second growth. These and other limitations of our allowable cut system have repeatedly been investigated in recent years by internal reviews, commissions and conferences* but, nevertheless, the traditional concept of maximum sustainable yield of cubic metres of wood remains stubbornly entrenched in our forest policy.

But change is becoming unavoidable. The whole timber supply system is now beset with unprecedented pressures resulting from the mountain pine beetle epidemic in the Interior; escalating costs of recovering the remaining old growth on the coast; new provisions for First Nations; and the effects of climate change on forest health and growth. Surely the best place to begin preparing for the impending change is to clarify whether our objective is to maximize the volume or the value of forest production.

Peter H. Pearse C.M., RPF(Ret)

* See, for example, *Determining Timber Supply & Allowable Cuts in BC*, Association of BC Professional Foresters, 1993; Review of the Timber Supply Analysis Process for BC Timber Supply Areas. (Final Report Volume I) Ministry of Forests, 1991; Timber Rights and Forest Policy in British Columbia (Ch 17), Report of the Commissioner, Royal Commission on Forest Resources. Victoria. 1976.

Charting the Path Ahead

In May of 2015, Sharon Glover announced her intention to resign

from her position as CEO of the ABCFP at the end of her contract (January 2016). Since then, council embarked on one of its most important responsibilities – identifying and hiring a new leader of the organization.

Of all the things council does, including setting strategic direction (foresight), providing good governance (oversight) and reflecting on our past learnings (hindsight), ensuring we have the right executive at the helm of our ship is the most important.

Council struck a search committee in May to make sure we would have a new CEO by January 2016. The committee was constructed to ensure a variety of perspectives contributed to developing and executing the search for the new CEO. The committee included: Morgan Kennah, RPF; Chris Stagg, RPF; Dan Graham, RPF, LLB; past president Al Balogh, RPF; and me. Our team represented diversity in many ways: geographic, government/industry/consulting perspectives, demographics, previous association experience, executive hiring experience, etc.

With the help of council, we developed a recruitment profile that highlighted what we were seeking and then we worked with a professional consulting firm specializing in executive searches to help us organize the recruitment. We received a healthy amount of interest in the position and were able to shortlist and interview several very strong candidates in November. I am proud to say that our association would have been well served by any of these individuals.

Despite such a strong field, there was one candidate who stood out and impressed our team with her combination of leadership experience, strategic thinking, knowledge of issues and stakeholders, and passion for the association's business.

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce Christine Gelowitz, RPF, as the new CEO of the ABCFP. Christine joins our association having most recently served as the Executive Director of the Corporate Initiatives Division for the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Christine was also president of the ABCFP in 2013 and brings a strong understanding of the association's governance model.

Although new to the role as a CEO, we are confident that Christine's abilities to bring council's strategic direction to life by providing thoughtful and dynamic leadership to the ABCFP's high-performing staff, will help the ABCFP continue to grow its position as a respected leader in all things forestry.

The year ahead of us will be an important one as council looks to create a brand new strategic plan and help position Christine for continued success. To do this, we will be reaching out to stakeholders and travelling around the province to meet members to solicit input about the challenges and opportunities they see ahead. We hope to connect with many of you in Vancouver in February at the Branching Out Conference and AGM and hope you will take the time to introduce yourself to our new CEO.

Christine, you will have some big shoes to fill as Sharon Glover's successor, but we are excited to have you as our new leader. On behalf of council and our entire membership – congratulations and welcome to the team. ✖



Parting Thoughts

In my last column before I leave the ABCFP, I wanted to share my thoughts on two key issues that I think are important to the profession.

Forestry and Sustainability

"In the long-term, social and environmental issues become financial issues." That's a quote from the world's top performing CEO in the November 2015 issue of the Harvard Business Review. While the magazine has been providing a ranking of global leaders every year based on their financial performance — this year they decided that financial performance alone as a measure for CEOs simply isn't good enough. In fact, they've added a new measure to CEO performance, called the ESG, or environmental, social and governance. Financial results now make up 80% of their rating, while ESG performance is ranked at 20%. I'm going to focus on the E and the S of ESG in my comments.

This balancing of environmental, social and economics is nothing new to forestry. In fact, it could be argued that in terms of thinking about the three-legged stool, as it's usually referred to, the forestry sector has been a leader in talking through just what the balancing act means.

I can recall the debate a few years into my work with the profession that examined non-statutory expectations — or in other words, all of those expectations that the public and others have of forest professionals which are not spelled out in law, but form part of the 'social contract' of forestry.

Many have taken the position that if something isn't articulated in the law — they don't need to pay attention to it. However, the association and forest professionals who practise forest management know differently. They

know the profession is highly trusted by the public and that in order to keep the public's trust — and the right to manage forests — attention must be paid to things that are not spelled out in legislation.

The association struggled for years with the concept of non-statutory expectations and had conversations with many members along the way. Successive councils of the association discussed what seemed like an intractable problem — how to provide guidance to our members on an issue that had no basis in legislation. But intuitively we knew we had to try and bridge the gap between things forest professionals must do, because of forest practices legislation and accompanying regulations, and things that forest professionals must do in the broader public interest.

We finally settled on a series of guidance papers on non-statutory expectations with directions to members on how to approach these issues, drafted by Mike Larock, RPF, the association's director of professional practice and forest stewardship.

Key to this series is our guidance paper entitled "Non-Statutory Expectations Series — Applying the Obligation to Weigh and Balance in Professional Service." There are many risks to forestry in the years ahead — climate change, forest health and cumulative impacts just to name a few big issues. But I think the one that puts forestry at the greatest risk is non-statutory expectations — and the desire by the public to ensure these expectations are taken into account.

So here's my parting message for forest sustainability. Forest

professionals must continue to lead this discussion to find the right balance with the E and the S. The difference now is that it's not only the public, but shareholders who are going to be paying attention to how this balance is achieved.

Professional Reliance

Continuous improvement is an essential ingredient for today's businesses. It is why we all look for improvements to FRPA and professional reliance. There are some things that clearly need work — such as public input. Professional reliance is one of the foundations of FRPA and it has evolved over the last several years. Early on, we tried to discuss professional reliance as an object, even though it is not a framework, or an event, or a procedure. Professional reliance is simply trust in the judgement and direction from the forest professional. It is the same trust that society has in any of its other registered professionals, with one important difference, in BC the forest resources belong to everyone. BC's forests mean homes, timber, recreation, water storage, jobs, culture and wildlife habitat, to name just a few. Therefore, the independent thought and application of professional practice by forest professionals is essential for achieving it all.

Forest professionals must continue to pay attention to what the Forest Practices Board reports on, to the FREP monitoring reports, to local communities of practice and to continuously improve forest practice wherever their employer happens to be. As the forest ecosystems change and the challenges on the ground increase — practices need to adapt and improve. Forest professionals are in the best position to tell us how both management and use should be adapted.

Over the last nine years I have always been impressed by how forest professionals do such a great job of managing incredibly difficult situations. My advice is to keep at it and use your professional independence to further increase your influence. Short-term thinkers will continue to focus on the financial benchmarks of the next quarter. However, forest professionals have the skills to look beyond the short-term pressures and see the broader implications of managing the forest resources. You keep watch as to where our businesses and society are going. It's why forest professionals are hired and it's what the public counts on. It's also what is meant by professional reliance. In the long run, your success at looking after the BC forest ecosystem and in achieving the benefits society wants from its forests will evolve into economic success for the province.

Thank you for allowing a non-member of your profession to work with you and for you for the last nine years. It has been an honour. I've met many of you over the years and have always been incredibly proud of the work you do. I'd like to thank the many men and women who have either run for council or volunteered on our committees. So many people have contributed to my success and have explained the complicated world of forestry.

To those who have not yet volunteered — it's probably time you did. And finally to the dedicated staff of the ABCFP: Thank you for your support and your excellent work. It's been fun. ☘



Congratulations to the Valedictorians

This year's valedictorians are Austin Tate Teti, RPF, who scored 84% on the RPF exam, and Sarah Quickfall, RFT, and Craig Campbell, TFT, who both scored 89% on the RFT exam! Congratulations on this excellent result! Sarah, Austin and Craig will be attending the *Forestry: Branching Out* conference in Vancouver in February as guests of the ABCFP and will be speaking at the Inductees' Recognition Luncheon.

Are You Planning to Retire Soon?

We have a retired membership class for members no longer practising professional forestry. Please ensure that you are nearing your retirement date before you apply for your retirement designation. Visit the Retire section of the Status & Name Changes page on our website for more information.

Submit Your Business and Advisory Resolutions

The resolutions session will take place on February 25th as part of *Forestry: Branching Out* conference in Vancouver. The deadline for submitting your business resolution is Thursday, January 21, 2016 (at least 35 days before the AGM). Advisory resolutions are also being accepted now. You can learn more about resolutions (including the differences between business and advisory resolutions) on the Resolutions Session page of the conference website.



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All Members Welcome at the AGM

The ABCFP's 68th AGM will take place on February 25th from 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm as part of the *Forestry: Branching Out* conference in Vancouver. All members are invited to attend the AGM portion of the conference free of charge and pre-registration is not required. The AGM will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel, 791 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. The agenda will include the following items:

- Adoption of minutes of the previous annual general meeting;
- Adoption by resolution of annual report;
- Adoption by resolution of the audited financial statements;
- Appointment by resolution of auditors;
- Appointment by resolution of one (1) or more the returning officer and scrutineers for the purposes of Bylaw 4.7;
- Reporting of council election results;
- Ratification by resolution of actions taken by council and staff on behalf of the association in the preceding year; and
- Any other business specified in the notice of meeting.

Only registered members in good standing may vote at the AGM.

Webinar Recordings Available on Our New Website

Recording of recent webinars are now available on the Professional Development page of the website. Members, you will need to sign-in in order to access the page and recordings.

New Year, New Look!

You may have noticed the magazine underwent a minor makeover. These changes were thoughtfully planned to enhance your reading experience. Major features include:

- **Font change:** We revamped the font to maximize clarity while allowing us the most leeway to design a page based on the fluctuating word counts of our articles.
- **Vivid imagery:** We increased the sizes of our cover image and Moment in Forestry photo to give you a better visual experience.
- **Dynamic placement of headshots and biographies:** Instead of placing author details in the same static position, we are making the page dynamic by placing them where it flows naturally with an article.
- **Headings adopt a new look:** We shrank the font but didn't shrink the impact! Look for headings to appear more modern, sleek but graphically punchy.

If you have comments or concerns about our new look, write us at editor@abcfp.ca

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The Ebbs and Flows of Forest Hydrology

WATER AND THE FORESTED LAND BASE ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED IN OUR PROVINCE.

Whether connected to resource management decisions, climate change, industry actions, and the like, water quality and supply are often dependent on decisions made by forest professionals.

Although the provincial government is ultimately responsible for much of the forested land in BC, it upholds stewardship in collaboration with a number of partners, including the ABCFP. In this issue of **BC Forest Professional**, we preview the ongoing updates to the professional practice guidelines that the ABCFP, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and other professional bodies are currently working on. The guidelines are intended to strengthen existing Assessment Methods and provide greater enforceability of the *Riparian Areas Regulation*, which will fall under the jurisdiction of the soon-to-be enacted *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA).

The WSA itself is examined in greater detail through our expanded Legal Perspective. In it, we examine a number of priority disputes between competing users over water use from the same source. While not all aspects of the WSA are directly applicable to the work of forest professionals, it is, nonetheless, significant from a forest stewardship and natural resource management perspective.

Other articles that accompany these Viewpoints pieces include one that outlines the importance of small stream riparian management in BC, as well as a case study on the restoration of fish passage in the Harrison River Watershed Group.

The first issue of 2016 is also home to our annual National Forest Week photo and art contest results. The winning image, featured on this cover, was submitted by Kelly Cameron, RFT, who is no stranger to taking top honours — this is her second win! We also love showcasing the work of our young student artists, who provide refreshing artistic interpretations of what the forest means to them. The contenders in all three categories were strong this year so be sure to check it out.

We also begin our editorial year with two compelling Interest articles — one that recaps the learnings arising the XIV World Forestry Congress in South Africa and the other that addresses action being taken to maintain safety in road construction sites. We hope you find this issue varied and interesting. If there is a topic you'd like to see covered, feel free to get in touch by sending an e-mail to: editor@abcfp.ca ✉



The Principles of Stewardship¹ and Forest Hydrology

Practising forestry within British Columbia, one becomes very familiar with management of the 11 values regulated under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and associated *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR). Of these values, the value that is most intertwined with the other 10 values is 'water.' Not only is water managed through its own FRPA objectives but water quality measures are also contained in the FRPA objectives for "fish, wildlife, and biodiversity in riparian areas."

The objective set by government is to conserve at the landscape level, the water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity associated with riparian areas (without unduly reducing the supply of timber from BC's forests). Additionally, if FRPA soil objectives are compromised, slides may occur, potentially resulting in negative impacts to visual quality.

In forestry operations, water must be managed with an adaptive approach which encourages forest professionals to incorporate new information and frequently review practices to minimize risk to environmental values, business operations and societal expectations. Forest stewardship is the responsible use of forest resources based on the application of an ecological understanding at the stand, forest and landscape levels which maintains and protects ecosystem function, integrity and resilience. It is based upon an ethical responsibility to the land and people for current and future generations¹.

In the face of unprecedented dynamics caused by climate change, we are seeing more acute weather events such as longer droughts and more intense precipitation events. More than ever, forest professionals are relied upon to communicate, gather timely scientific data for consideration and adapt practices for the long-term management of water and other values.

¹ The main document can be seen at http://member.abcfp.ca/WEB/ABCFP/Practising_in_BC/Practising_in_BC.aspx

Restoration Of Fish Passage

ON ELBOW CREEK, SOUTHWESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

In the May-June 2015 issue of *BC Forest Professional*, we brought you the story of BC's Fish Passage Technical Working Group (FP-TWG), which included members from the BC Ministries of Environment (MoE); Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO); and Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI); and the BC Timber Sales (BCTS) program. This group is working to remediate fish passage at stream crossings on BC's forest roads.

In this issue we visit one of TWG's remediation sites, using it as a case study to describe how remediation takes place. The site is in the Elbow Creek watershed, located in the Harrison River Watershed Group, near Harrison Mills (100 km east of Vancouver).

In 2011, TWG-funded BCTS contractors conducted fish passage assessments at all stream crossings in the Harrison River Watershed, and identified a number of culverts that potentially restricted fish access to upstream habitat. Two of these culverts occurred where the Chehalis Forest Service Road (FSR) crossed Elbow Creek. When the contractors conducted follow-up habitat assessments, they confirmed that the culverts were impeding the ability of coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout to access high value habitat. The TWG consulted with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the project biologist in early 2012 and decided to prioritize these sites for restoration, with the initial plan being to replace the two offending culverts with bridges.

Sarah Boon, PhD, has 15 years experience as a hydrologist, and as a freelance science writer and editor.

Ian Miller, RPF, has been a manager with Resource Practices Branch of FLNRO in Victoria since 2006. He is the past chair of the Fish Passage TWG and works with many diverse teams on forest hydrology, visual resource management, effectiveness monitoring and forest practices policy and legislation.

The TWG also includes: Brian Chow (FLNRO), Dave Hamilton (BCTS), Dave Maloney (FLNRO), Craig Mount (MoE), Holly Pulvermacher (DFO), Richard Thompson (MoE), Peter Tschaplinski (MoE), Sean Wong (MoTI), and Terje Vold (Contractor).

BCTS's Dave Hamilton did a revised site assessment in June 2012, and realized that — instead of installing two bridges — a 410m section of the Chehalis FSR could be moved 35 metres west, out of the riparian zone, and the existing road could be deactivated. There were several benefits to this approach: it could be implemented over a shorter timeframe, would provide greater habitat benefits at a lower cost, and would also reduce sediment inputs to Elbow Creek. The revised design was also logistically easier to implement,

as it was no longer necessary to close an active haul road that was also used extensively by the public.

This revised project remediation plan was directed jointly by the TWG and local FLNRO staff and funded through a partnership agreement between DFO's Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program (RFCPP), the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and FLNRO's Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS). The final project cost about \$100,000 less than if the originally planned bridge structures had been used, and opened the door to future partnerships with PSF.

Once DFO approved the new plan, a team of contractors and personnel was assembled to complete the work. These included

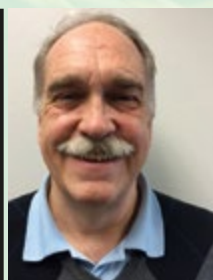
Infinity Pacific Stewardship Group (Mike Petrie: road design, deactivation plan development, and project management), B & D Excavating (Frank Boccia: road construction and deactivation), MC Wright & Associates (Brandalyn Musial: sediment management plan and onsite environmental monitoring), and FLNRO Chilliwack District (Jeff Ladd: engineering officer).

The bypass road was constructed in July 2013 to the appropriate build standards

required for a public road, and all traffic was redirected to this new road. In August of the same year, the two culverts from the old road were removed, and the stream channels at these locations restored. The old road was then deactivated by de-compacting the road bed, top-dressing with slash and other vegetation to improve stability and encourage regeneration, and seeding with grass. Follow-up work in spring 2014 included the planting of 600 trees and additional grass seeding. An informal camping area on the old road section near Elbow Lake was also decommissioned, as it was a source of pollution problems.

Both fish passage and ongoing road sediment delivery issues were solved by eliminating the two stream crossings and restoring the stream channel, and moving the road away from the creek. The project re-established fish connectivity both to Elbow Lake and to tributary streams to Elbow Creek, providing fish access to an additional 2.2 km of habitat.

Several stakeholders also benefitted from the project, as the Elbow Community Watershed supplies local communities and water licensees. One of the key water users was Eagle Point Development, a large residential subdivision. Residents there were initially concerned about additional impacts from sedimentation caused by moving the Chehalis FSR, as in the past they'd had to install a chlorination plant due to coliform problems from the informal campsite near Elbow Lake. Following project completion, however, Eagle Point was happy not only with the reduction in sedimentation issues, but also with the deactivation of the informal campsite. The local Sts'ailes First Nation was also involved; though there were no culturally significant sites in the area, BCTS employed a First Nations fisheries technician to assist the environmental monitor on the project.





The road will be monitored by the forest licensee as per its road maintenance schedule and obligations. Given its easy road access, the Elbow Creek project also facilitates ad-hoc monitoring by field staff on the way to other sites in the lower Fraser Valley area. Sediment catch basins were installed in the event of any sediment mobilization following road reconstruction; however, none has occurred thus far. The site will also be used as a tour stop to showcase integrated resource management to a variety of audiences. A field trip by the FP-TWG in September 2013 identified the project as a huge success, and the project (among others) resulted in BCTS's Dave Hamilton being nominated for a P.J.J. Hemphill Award for Engineering Excellence.

The project was completed on time, under budget, and with a great team — just one of several success stories from BC's Fish Passage Technical Working Group. 🌿

Clockwise from top left:

Closeup of a culvert identified as detrimental to fish passage along the Chehalis FSR (note the road in the background).

Free-flowing creek after removal of the culvert that was blocking fish passage.

Construction of the bypass road on the Chehalis FSR. Note the old road at the left of the image, and the bypass road on the right.

New bypass road on the left of the image and deactivated forest road on the lower right of the image. This remediation work moved the road away from the stream bed and removed the need for culverts.



Forest Development Planning

There is a long history regarding forest development planning and water in the Okanagan. In the 1980s, there were concerns regarding the impacts from the mountain pine beetle on peak flows and the timing of runoff. The 1990s was the decade of watershed restoration. During the first decade of this century the concern was the loss of the mature lodgepole pine stands. In the second decade, forest development planners must balance the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* requirements for community watersheds with a limited timber supply and a changing climate.

Watersheds in the Interior of BC, including the Okanagan, have a snow dominated hydrology where there is a single annual peak flow derived from melting snow. The impacts of forest development in Interior watersheds is reasonably well understood as a result of the extensive research into snow hydrology undertaken by Dr. Rita Winkler¹. However, over the past few years, there are indications that the runoff regime may be changing. In 2013, for the first time, the peak flow in Mission Creek was generated by rain, not rain-on-snow, just rain. This produced the highest flow ever recorded in the watershed. Was this an anomaly or is the hydrologic regime in the Interior changing?

If the hydrology of our watersheds is shifting from being snow dominated to rain dominated or some hybrid of the two, it could have a profound impact on forest development planning. In a snow dominated watershed, peak flows are generated from the snow melt in the 'snow sensitive zone' (the upper 40-60% of a watershed). Changes to forest cover in this zone can have significant impacts on snow accumulation and melt, causing changes to the runoff. From a forest planning perspective, with regards to hydrologic impacts, changes in the snow sensitive zone that affect runoff have been the primary concern. Although development throughout the watershed is a concern,

the impacts on the hydrology (particularly peak flows) is less of an issue in the lower zone since there is less snow. It usually melts and contributes to runoff early in the spring and has little to no impact on peak flows.

The impacts of forest development on runoff in a rain dominated watershed are different from those in a snow dominated regime for a number of reasons. First, rainfall that contributes to runoff typically occurs over the entire watershed, whereas in a snow dominated environment it is the upper watershed that typically produces peak flows. Second, the peak flows generated by rain are affected differently by the loss of forest canopy. Research in the coastal environments has confirmed that for a rain dominated hydrology, rainfall and snowmelt are different processes and hydrologic recovery must consider rainfall interception recovery, snow accumulation and melt recovery, and, rain-on-snow recovery.

As reported in Technical Report TR-032², "*While streamflow in Interior watersheds is dominated by radiation snowmelt producing a single annual peak flow event, coastal watersheds are subject to a mixture of processes with multiple peak flows, and the effect of forest harvesting on rainfall interception is at least as important as its effect on snow interception and melt.*"

How might a change in hydrologic regime impact forest development planning in the Okanagan? It could mean that hydrologic assessments should be expanded to consider the potential hydrologic risks associated not only with snow melt, but also from intense rain events. Many of the watersheds in the Okanagan are designated 'community watersheds' that supply drinking water for most of the nearly 350,000 residents where maintaining water quality is a requirement set out in the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*³. Community watershed

1 Hydrologist, Forest Sciences Section, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Kamloops.

2 An operational method for assessing hydrologic recovery for Vancouver Island and south coast BC. Robert Hudson and Glynnis Horel. BC Forest Service, Forest Research Technical

Report TR-032, March 2007.

3 Objectives set by government for water in community watersheds. Section 8.2, Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, Section Forest and Range Practices Act, BC Reg. 14/2004

and Water in the Okanagan


Photo: Chris Gardner

licensees have worked with the provincial ministries and the forest licensees for many years to protect not only the quality of the water, but also the quantity and the timing of runoff. Forest planners take the protection of the water resources in the Okanagan very seriously, so potential shifts in the hydrologic regime that could further limit or complicate forest development is a major concern.

A shift to more rain and less snow, where there could be multiple peak flow events caused by a variety of hydrologic processes, would be a 'game changer.' The cumulative hydrologic impacts from the loss of forest cover (due to the mountain pine beetle) plus those from logging, have resulted in equivalent clearcut areas (ECAs) that have shifted the peak flow hazard from low to moderate, in most watersheds, to high. As a result, additional harvesting will have a high risk of increasing peak flows resulting in degraded water quality and increased risks of downstream flooding. In addition, since much of the remaining preferred

accountable for the planning decisions they make under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. There is also the matter of what information is 'known.' With regards to the issues presented in this article, what is known is that ECAs in the Okanagan have generally increased in recent years and the potential hydrologic risks in many watersheds are in the moderate to high range. The issue of a changing hydrologic regime is postulated but is not confirmed at this time. Forest professionals, the ABCFP and the forest industry associations should encourage FLNRO and the universities to aggressively investigate climate change issues to determine if the hydrologic regime in the Interior may be changing and to provide direction. They should request that the Joint Practices Board ensure that climate change is a component of the review of the watershed assessment procedures currently in progress and that the review be completed as expeditiously as possible. In the interim, with regards to the current legislation, planning foresters should confirm that qualified professionals completing watershed assessments for them are using the best available procedures and information and have included consideration of the potential impacts of climate change.

In summary, the impacts from a diminished wood supply and a change in climate will create some interesting new challenges. From the forest development planning perspective, the limited wood supply combined with a possible shift in hydrologic regime will further aggravate the difficulties in finding sufficient timber to meet the current annual allowable cut. For the water suppliers, a changing climate, with more rain and less snow, could mean less snow in the upper watersheds. Therefore, maintaining the natural timing of the melt will be critical to sustaining the water supplies. This could mean that forest development planning and water management planning could be on a collision course — not an enviable position for either party to be in. ❄



Don Dobson is a professional engineer who has worked extensively in forest hydrology throughout BC, providing advice on the impacts of forest development on water. He has been chair of the Forest Management Institute, chair of the Joint Practices Board and chair of the Division of Engineers and Geoscientists in the Resources Sector.

available stands are in the snow sensitive upper elevations, these high ECAs can result in an earlier snow melt in the spring. This shift can produce an earlier demand for water in reservoir storage and can also lead to late season water supply shortages.

So how should planning foresters respond to these challenges? Professional reliance requires forest professionals to be

Update on Professional Practice Guidelines:

Riparian Assessments Under the *Riparian Areas Regulation*, and Watershed Assessment and Management

RIPARIAN ASSESSMENTS

The *Riparian Areas Regulation* (2005) is a regulation under the *Fish Protection Act* and is largely related to urban or rural development permitting and approvals by local governments. Under this Regulation, a riparian assessment by a Qualified Environmental Professional is required before development may proceed within specified riparian zones. The *Riparian Areas Regulation* does not apply to forest land development that is regulated either by the *Forest and Range Practices Act* or by the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. However, it would apply to other privately owned forested land that is subject to local government bylaws where they have been enacted to adopt the *Riparian Areas Regulation*. Riparian assessments under the Regulation are most commonly completed by professional biologists, but a few are done by members of the ABCFP.

The *Water Sustainability Act* is scheduled to be brought into force in spring 2016. When that happens, the *Riparian Areas Regulation* will fall under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

Background

The *Riparian Areas Regulation* comes into effect when it is adopted in local government bylaws. Authority under the Regulation is divided between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and local government. Not all local governments have enacted bylaws to implement the Regulation. Most that have done so are in the Fraser Basin, the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. In some cases local governments have enacted bylaws that exceed the requirements of the *Riparian Areas Regulation*.

The professional practice guidelines are being developed in response to a recommendation from the Office of the Ombudsperson of BC (March 2014), who initiated an investigation in response to complaints about how assessments were being carried out and about a perceived lack of enforcement of the Regulation. Among its findings, the Ombudsperson found that the existing assessment methods appended to the Regulation provide insufficient guidance on conducting assessments and do not hold individuals who conduct assessments to an enforceable standard of professional conduct. The Ombudsperson recommended that FLNRO work with the professional associations to draft professional guidelines to address this. While the Ombudsperson's report does not give examples of unacceptable assessment reports, it indicates that there is no quality control in place to ensure that assessment reports follow the assessment methods.

Developing the Draft Guidelines

In November 2014 the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) and the College of Applied Biologists (CAB) established a small working group to develop draft guide-

lines. FLNRO has supported development of the guidelines and has contributed \$10,000 to APEGBC and CAB towards their development costs.

In January 2015 the first draft was submitted to FLNRO, ABCFP, BCIA and ASTTBC¹ staff for review. The ABCFP's Professional Practice Committee reviewed the draft. At the same time, discussions were initiated between the five associations with respect to having all five associations adopt the professional Guidelines to apply to their members' professional practice (subject to review of final documents and approvals by their respective councils.)

The assessment methods currently appended to the regulation are highly prescriptive and do not align with professional practice with respect to professional accountability, direct supervision, delegation and professional qualifications. Further, they contain language from the predecessor regulation (*Streamside Protection Regulation*) that is inconsistent with the current regulation and this is problematic for professional reports prepared according to those methods. Because they are appended to the regulation, to revise the existing assessment methods requires a change in the regulation. FLNRO staff have indicated that the Ministry may not be willing to seek a change to the regulation to revise the assessment methods at this time. Accordingly, the working group has developed two versions of the draft guidelines.

Version 1: This version includes a revised and updated version of the assessment methods in an appendix to the guidelines. The working group has proposed this as the preferred version, because having the assessment methods as part of the guidelines would remove the need for regulatory changes when the document requires updating. However, at the request of FLNRO, the working group has also considered the option of replacing the existing assessment methods with these revised methods as a schedule to the Regulation. Either way would require a change to the Regulation.

Version 2: Interim Guidelines: This version aligns with the existing assessment methods, recognizing that this is still problematic for professional practice. The associations would continue to engage with FLNRO with the objective of changing the Regulation to fully implement the guidelines and remove or replace the existing assessment methods.

Next Steps

The draft guidelines were submitted to the five associations and to FLNRO staff for review. Reviews commenced in November 2015, with the objective of having a final draft ready for the councils of the five associations to consider early this year.


¹ A few members of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC), the BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA), and the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) also conduct riparian assessments.

WATERSHED ASSESSMENTS

Background

Watershed assessments in the forest sector investigate geomorphic and hydrologic processes in watersheds and how these may be affected by disturbance, including forest and non-forest development. Under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, watershed assessments are not a regulatory requirement as they were under the *Forest Practices Code*. However, ABCFP Standards of Professional Practice require forest professionals to sustain the forest's ability to provide the many values assigned to it by society; including hydrologic values. Therefore, to make a proper assessment of potential risks to hydrologic values from forest management activities, many Forest Stewardship Plans either commit to carrying out watershed or hydrologic assessments or have a process for triggering such an assessment under certain conditions. Similarly, watershed assessments are not required on private forest lands managed under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and regulation, but for the same reasons, forest professionals sometimes have watershed assessments carried out on the private lands under their management.

In 2013 a letter signed by 10 forest hydrology practitioners from both the ABCFP and APEGBC pointed out to their Joint Practices Board that while forest managers are retaining professional hydrologists to meet their legal and non-statutory goals, there is no guidance as to what a hydrological assessment is, or when and how hydrological assessments should be carried out; and this has resulted in inconsistencies in how forest professionals' stewardship obligations in this area are being met.



Glynnis has 40 years of experience as a geological engineer in terrain evaluation, slope stability and landslide assessments, watershed assessments; and road construction, maintenance and deactivation. For the last 20 years she has worked in the forest sector in BC. She has completed watershed assessments on approximately two million hectares of forest land on Vancouver Island and the coastal mainland.

In a 2014 special investigation of community watersheds, the Forest Practices Board found significant deficiencies in both the management and the assessment of community watersheds. The Board's recommendations included:

- The ABCFP and APEGBC should develop guidance on the appropriate content of a watershed or hydrological assessment including:
 - The elements necessary to address government's objective for community watersheds;
 - Procedures for considering cumulative hydrological effects at the watershed scale;
 - Integration of the needs of licensed waterworks; and
 - Examples of recommendations providing clear direction for implementation
- Forest Stewardship Plans should provide greater clarity for results and strategies pertaining to community watersheds that are measurable or verifiable.

In response, the ABCFP and APEGBC directed their Joint Practices Board to prepare draft guidelines for watershed assessment and management, and the Joint Practices Board established a task force to undertake the work. The task force comprises three members each of APEGBC and the ABCFP and is chaired by Bill Grainger, P. Geo., who is also the current chair of the Joint Practices Board.

Developing the Draft Guidelines

Commencing in July 2015 the watershed task force has met several times and development of draft guidelines is in progress. There are two parts to the guidelines: guidance for forest professionals to develop a framework for watershed management; and guidance for watershed specialists carrying out watershed analysis. Target date for the task force to submit a preliminary draft to the Joint Practices Board is March 31, 2016. ☒



Photo: James Wheeler

Small Stream Riparian Management

Small stream riparian management is an important watershed management topic in British Columbia because of the functions small streams perform and their sensitivity to disturbance. Small streams are defined here as fish or non-fish-bearing streams with a width of less than 1.5m between banks. These streams are important because they comprise the majority of channel length within a watershed and are known to provide valuable habitat for invertebrates and fish as well as providing water, nutrients and energy to downstream areas.

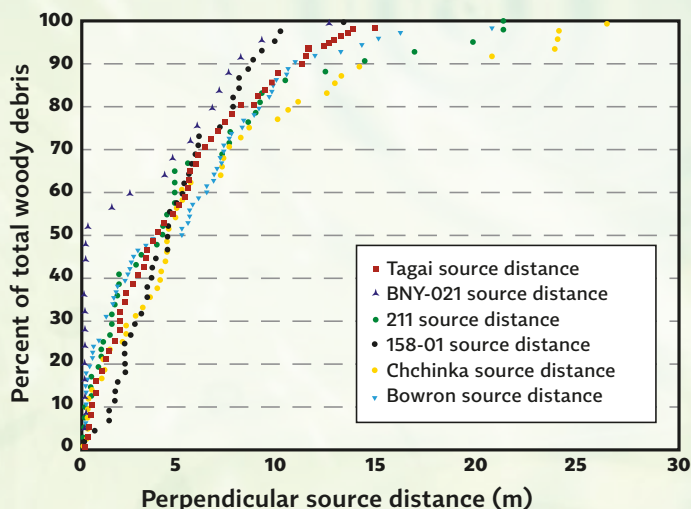
Due to their size, small streams are sensitive to development activities, which may be problematic because small streams are generally more abundant and therefore commonly encountered during land-use development. Small streams often have little to no legislated tree retention but guidelines or best practices for small streams are evolving and in some cases have been recently updated. For example, in Alberta 'transitional streams,' which have a width between 0.4-0.7m, can have 10m reserves while permanent streams greater than 0.7m can have 30m reserves. In Washington, a permanent stream greater than 0.5m can have a reserve width of 9m (eastern Washington) or 15m (western Washington). In British Columbia, S4 and S6 streams are fish and non-fish bearing small streams identified under *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR) s. 47(4) that are less than 1.5m and 3m in width respectively. These streams have no designated riparian reserve zones but rather riparian management zones where tree retention is determined by the forest professional and can range from zero to full-retention buffers of 30 m wide (S4) and 20 m wide (S6) in accordance with local conditions and objectives.

Prescribed retention levels for S4 and S6 streams submitted in forest stewardship plans (FSP) can vary across the province but they

must all meet or exceed the minimum riparian management areas of 30m (S4) and 20m (S6) areas identified in the FPPR s. 47(4) and mentioned above. The minimum prescription is provided as one possible strategy to ensure timber supply is not unduly restricted while maintaining channel bank stability, water quality and quantity, fish and wildlife habitat, as well as biodiversity. Under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), these minimum prescriptions can be augmented by forest professionals in response to site-specific conditions as well as application of findings from riparian management research and/or post-harvest monitoring results for ecological functioning condition of streams and riparian areas such as that provided by the Forest and Range Evaluation Program.

The small stream research program was initiated in the Omineca Region in 2000 with the Prince George Small Streams Project. That project was designed to assess the effectiveness of the Prince George district manager's policy for small stream retention. It ran for more than eight years and tested riparian and stream response to the retention strategy of retaining 10 stems of merchantable timber (15cm diameter at breast height) per 100m of stream bank length. This level of retention led to measurable changes in the physical, chemical and biological conditions of all monitored small streams over the study period. Although measurable change was expected, the scale of change particularly for stream and air temperature, as well as large woody debris dynamics, was deemed a management concern.

The minimum prescription kept stream shade levels at 50-70% of pre-harvest levels but riparian air and treatment stream temperatures increased substantially. Riparian air and stream mean weekly maximum temperatures increased up to 60°C, which could exclude these streams as suitable habitat for some temperature sen-



sitive fish species. Large woody debris (LWD) modelling identified that repeated application of this prescription on a 100-year rotation would lead to reduction of in-stream LWD of approximately 60% volume over several rotations. A loss in LWD of this magnitude will lead to long-term changes in channel morphology and in-stream habitat conditions.

Peter J. Tschaplinski, PhD, PAg, is a research scientist specializing in fish biology, fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. Components of this research include fish-forestry interactions, stream-riparian ecological functions and the effects of climate change. Currently, Peter heads the Ecosystems Science Unit in the Ministry of Environment's Ecosystems Branch.

Dave Maloney, BSc, MSc, PAg, started with the Ministry of Forests in 1994 as a research hydrologist. Since 2005, he's worked with the Resource Practices Branch at FLNRO as the forest water management officer. He is currently forest water management officer and focuses on providing technical advice and guidance to resolving watershed-related issues including fish habitat, stream and riparian management, drinking water and hydrology.

John Rex, PhD, PAg, is a research hydrologist with FLNRO in Prince George. He has worked in the hydrology and aquatic ecology fields for government, as a consultant and as an adjunct professor at the University of Northern British Columbia. His research focuses on fish-forestry interaction, riparian management and aquatic ecology.

To identify where in-stream LWD originated, a source inventory was completed which identified up to 98% of in-stream LWD originated *within the first 10m* of the stream bank edge (Figure 1). Similar studies elsewhere have also noted that the majority of in-stream wood is recruited from near the streams (within 10-20m). Based on these research findings and information from other studies, it was recommended that retention be increased within the first 10 metres.

Figure 1: Cumulative distribution of in-stream woody debris source distance from several study sites within the Prince George Small Streams Project (Source: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/En/En100.htm>)

At the provincial scale, FREP evaluations for riparian and stream condition identified that outcomes for streams are generally positive. Approximately two-thirds of all S4 and S6 streams assessed were found to be in the low to very low impact condition. The remaining third were found to be in moderate to high impact condition. High-risk conditions were found in approximately eight to 25% of all S4 and S6 streams, which indicates there is opportunity for improving outcomes. Changes to the level of riparian retention may improve outcomes for small streams because it plays an important role in determining stream condition. FREP data indicates that small streams with a minimum 10m buffer width showed the least degree of development impact across all regions within the province. Positive outcomes for streams with 10m buffers was noted by the assistant deputy minister of resource stewardship and it was suggested that 10m buffers be considered on all S4 and perennial S6 streams draining into fish-bearing or potable supply streams.

Defining S4 and S6 Streams

A S4 stream is a fish stream or a stream located in a community watershed with a stream width less than 1.5 m.

A S6 stream is not a fish stream, is located outside of a community watershed, and has a width of 3 m or less.

Several new projects have been initiated to build upon these research and FREP findings. These projects will investigate riparian retention and longer-term outcomes for small streams. One of these projects will investigate and develop small stream riparian management options in consideration of potential impacts to the timber harvesting land base. Results of this project will be used to inform professional discussions on how best to improve forest practices adjacent small streams throughout the province while minimizing impact to the timber harvesting land base.

Small stream riparian areas serve to buffer stream conditions and provide terrestrial habitat to support biodiversity. As our knowledge about these habitats and the effect our development practices have on them increases, it is important we apply the knowledge we gain in an informed and balanced manner. Doing so improves the likelihood that small streams continue to provide the social, economic and environmental services we require. 🌱

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Finding New Markets will Ease Impact of Softwood Lumber Agreement Expiry

This year is beginning to feel like 2001. Once again, a *Softwood Lumber Agreement* (SLA) with the United States has expired without a successor. Once again, the loud and protectionist US lumber lobby is threatening trade action against our softwood industry. Yet Canada, ever the optimist, is hoping for a deal in the face of a pile of evidence suggesting the opposite will happen.

While BC softwood lumber exporters are enjoying the current freedom from export charges placed on lumber sent south, it will not last long. A clause in the recently expired Canada-US SLA prevents the US from launching a trade challenge and slapping duties on Canadian lumber — but only until October 2016.

The US has shown little interest in inking another SLA with Canada. It is not just that the two countries want different things; while the Canadian industry and provinces are aligned in preference for another SLA identical to what we operated under for the last decade, the US Lumber Coalition is opposed to a rollover.

The larger issue is that the US has been focused on other priorities. The SLA involves the trade of one commodity; the US has been leading negotiations of the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and working to secure a trade agreement with the 28-state

While BC has the most diversified softwood trading portfolio of all the provinces, more than 90% of its softwood lumber exports in 2014 were shipped to three markets — the US, China and Japan. Three large customers are better than one, but the best scenario is to be a preferred supplier with high demand in a multitude of markets.


The Canada West Foundation's recent report, *Branching Out: Preparing for Life without a Softwood Lumber Agreement*, recommends a dual strategy to maintain a strong softwood sector despite the absence of an SLA. The two prongs are: continuing and enhancing initiatives within the US market to strengthen the Canadian brand and mitigate disputes; and renewing focus on market diversification, paying particular attention to markets where demand for softwood lumber is growing.

If Canada signs on to the TPP — and we should — the 11 other signatories will receive the same preferential access to all TTP member markets we do. The big attraction of the TPP to the Pacific Rim countries is preferential access to the US market, access only Canada and Mexico have enjoyed. Within the TPP, Canada will also be competing with Chile and New Zealand, large exporters of softwood lumber, for market share in countries with growing demand for the commodity, like Mexico and Vietnam. And these countries are more aggressive and capable than Mexico was 20 years ago when it joined NAFTA.

Canada's softwood lumber exports to Vietnam have been on the decline since 2009, yet that country's demand for softwood is increasing, thanks to expanding furniture and packaging sectors. Chile and New Zealand have picked up on this and are aggressively targeting Vietnam. There is no apparent reason Canada cannot be a player in this region; BC already holds a majority share of the Philippines' softwood lumber imports.

After the US, Mexico is the most accessible market to western Canadian softwood. Yet the US, Chile and even Brazil, a country Mexico does not have a trade agreement with let alone a rail connection to, export more softwood into that market than Canada. Less than half a percent of Canadian softwood exports went to the Mexican market in 2014. There is room for growth.

The TPP will also reduce barriers in markets BC is already active in. For example, Japan will eliminate its six percent tariff on imported lumber over 15 years, while Australia will eliminate its five percent lumber tariff as soon as the agreement is implemented.



*Naomi Christensen is a policy analyst at the Canada West Foundation, a think tank focused on finding practical solutions to challenges facing western Canada. She recently authored *Branching Out: Preparing for life without a Softwood Lumber Agreement*, available at cwf.ca. Naomi holds a Master's of Public Policy (University of Calgary) and has worked in both the federal and Alberta governments.*

European Union. With the US presidential cycle well under way, it is unlikely the current administration will spend its last days in office on softwood.

While Canada's customer base for softwood lumber is more diverse than when the SLA came into force, the US remains our number one customer — by far. In 2014, more than half (53%) of BC's softwood lumber exports were destined for the US. As in the past, protectionist tariffs imposed by the US would place a significant financial burden on Canadian exporters. And we cannot rely on another SLA being in place before the moratorium on trade action lifts.



What is the TPP?

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) is a 12-country trade deal that will create the world's largest free-trade zone. Negotiations began in 2008 and concluded in the fall of 2015; it is now up to each participant country to ratify the text of the agreement in their domestic legislatures.

MEMBERS

Besides Canada, the TPP members are: the United States, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, Chile, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and Brunei.

TRADE

It is important to bear in mind that the TPP will update and expand, or essentially replace, the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) because it contains new rules on preferential trade access. Along with lowering tariffs, it deals with trade in services and the movement of people, among others.

In 2014, more than 62% of BC's total exports were sent to TPP countries, the majority to the US (49%) and Japan (10%).

In 2014, 67% of BC's softwood lumber exports went to TPP countries.

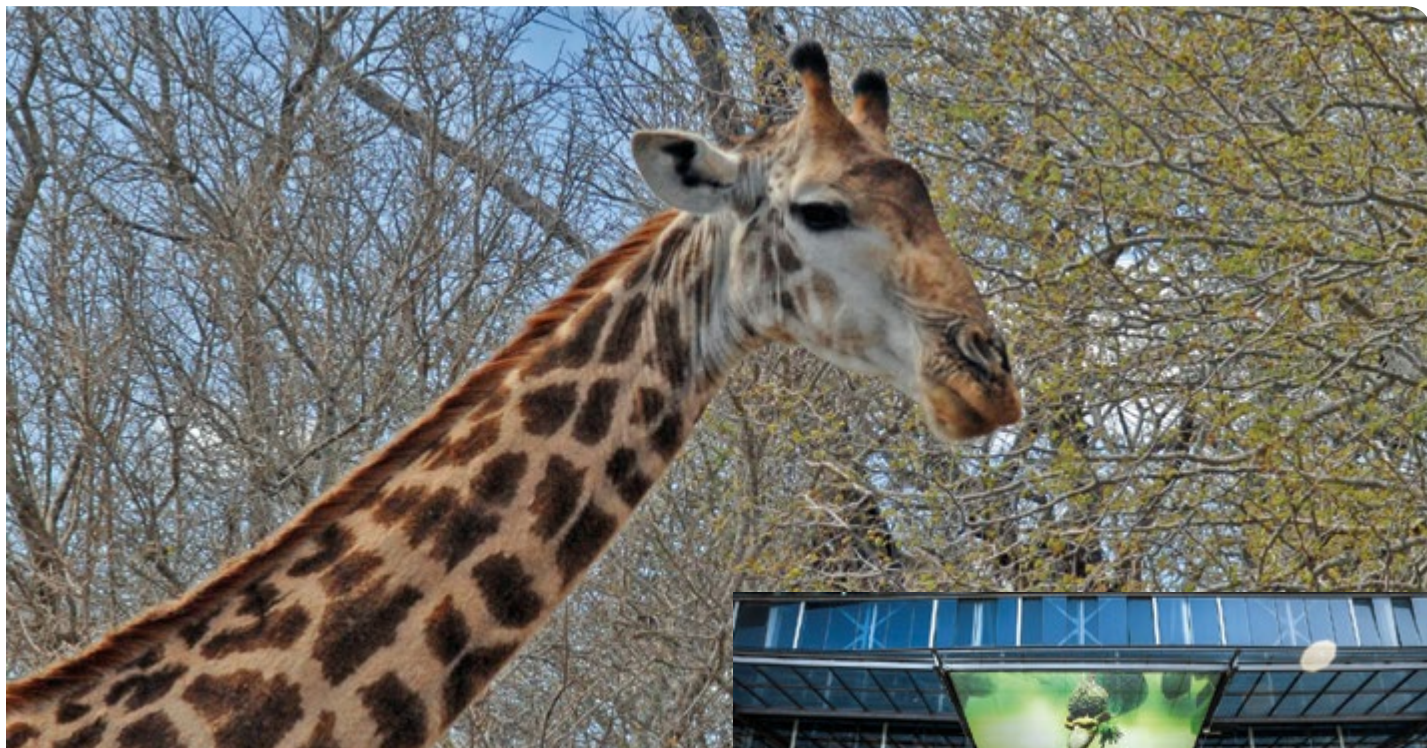
The Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement, signed last year, will eliminate South Korea's five percent import tariff on Canadian lumber by 2017. Although small, Korea is a stable market and wood is becoming a more attractive building material as a means of meeting the country's net-zero emissions building policy.

It may seem counter intuitive to renew focus on market diversification when BC's long-term timber supply is declining and the US housing market is rebounding. By the end of the decade, timber harvest levels in the province are expected to be 20% lower than levels prior to the mountain pine beetle infestation. In 2015, for the first time since the 2008-09 recession, US housing starts rose above

one million. Yet given the slim probability of securing another SLA, Canada cannot afford to revert back to over-reliance on the US. Diversification is a much-needed hedge.

The TPP and other trade agreements will not solve the softwood lumber dispute. But expanding our customer base will make us less reliant on the US, and therefore less vulnerable to the consequences of future US trade action. The softwood lumber sector's New Year's resolution for 2016 should be to hedge its bets by further pursuing international markets. It is our best chance at ensuring our softwood lumber industry thrives despite uncertainty in our relationship with the US. ❧

A Brief Overview of the XIV World Forestry Congress in South Africa



The World Forestry Congress (WFC) occurs once every six years and this year it was held from September 7 to 11, 2015 in Durban, South Africa. The Congress was hosted by South Africa and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is a huge event that was attended by almost 4,000 delegates from 138 countries with approximately 500 speakers presenting papers or participating on panels. This was the first time the Congress was held in Africa.

Opening ceremonies included comments from South Africa's deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa, Prince Laurent of Belgium and other high-ranking FAO and South African dignitaries. A high level dialogue featuring ministers and deputies from over a dozen countries including Canada's assistant deputy minister of Natural Resources Canada, Glenn Mason, followed. They explored how investments in forests, forestry and forest communities can best contribute to implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the future climate change regime. In his presentation, Mr. Mason commented on Canada's commitment to sustainable forest management being firmly rooted in a science-based approach to balancing environmental, social and economic needs.

The central theme of the congress was *Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future*. From the central theme the program was divided into six sub-themes: *forests for socioeconomic development and food security; building resilience with forests; integrating forests and other land uses; encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade; monitoring forests for better decision making; Improving governance by building capacity.*



South African fire fighters, some of who had been in BC fighting wildfires, march past in opening ceremonies to the XIV World Forestry Congress.

Some 825 technical papers and 269 posters were submitted over the course of the Congress, covering a wide range of topics from all parts of the globe. Some of the messages noted throughout the week included:

- The world's forests must be recognized as 'more than trees;'
- Forests and trees must be integrated with other land uses such as agriculture in order to address deforestation and land use conflicts;
- Sustainably managed forests must be an 'essential solution' to combating climate change, recognizing their ability to absorb and store carbon and to provide other environmental services;
- More investment in forest education, communication, research and creation of jobs is critical, as is the need for more partnerships among the forest, agriculture, finance, energy, water and other sectors;
- Necessity of strong engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities;

- Forests are critical to achieving sustainable development goals;
- Increasing understanding among governments and other stakeholders of both the challenges and opportunities that climate change presents.

The WFC was the forum where the FAO released its Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015, which provides statistical data and metrics on change over the past 25 years for some 234 countries and territories. It includes select information on forest area and characteristics, production, protection functions, biodiversity and conservation, disturbances, ownership, economics and progress towards sustainable development.

The Congress also saw the launch of an international five-year forests and water action plan to recognize the role of trees and forests in maintaining the water cycle and to ensure appropriate management of one of the world's largest sources of freshwater.

In addition to the plenary and dialogue sessions there were numerous 'side events' that allowed partners to present delegates with information on specific research, programs and initiatives that were ongoing. I attended several side events including two with Canadian content:

- The *Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement* 'from conflict to collaboration' which, with the aid of a very large floor-sized map illustrating the size of the boreal forest in Canada and the dialogue between panelists, informed delegates of the challenges and opportunities this relatively new agreement promises.
- The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management (APFNet) presentation on integrative approaches to improve sustainable forest management under climate change. This session included projections for Douglas-fir indicating that the 'Climate niche distribution of Douglas-fir is expected to increase by 40% by 2050.' These implications have resulted in policy changes to the seed transfer regulation in BC. Dr. John Innes, UBC, was moderator of this session and he summed it up nicely by suggesting we must 'move from mitigation of climate change to adaption!'

In addition to the formal sessions, perhaps one of the most interesting and rewarding aspects of attending a conference like this was meeting a variety of people with interests in forests and forestry from all over the world, including the graduate student from the Seattle area studying in South Africa, the government forester from Pakistan, the UK aid advisor from Glasgow and the Canadian trade commissioner from Pretoria, South Africa. They and many others added to the rich diversity of experience at the conference.

The XIV World Forestry Congress ended September 11 with three main outcome documents: *The Durban Declaration, Message on Climate Change from the XIV World Forestry Congress and Message from XIV World Forestry Congress to the United Nations General Assembly Summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Copies of these messages as well as detailed information regarding the Congress, the presentations, presenters, special



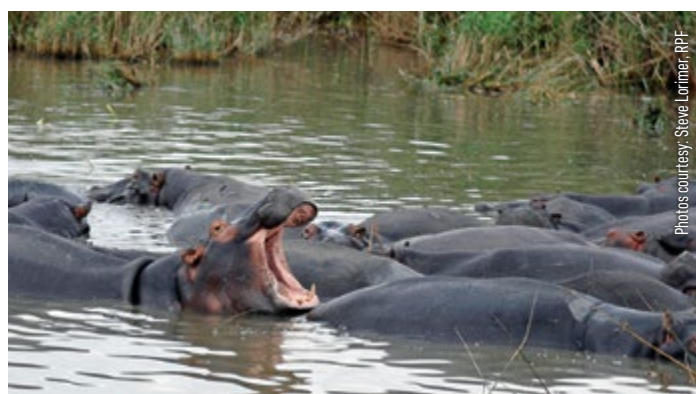
The Canadian Trade Commissioner from South Africa, Trindard Makunike, and Steve Lorimer.

events, papers and posters can be found on the World Forestry Congress website: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/en/>.

Looking to the future, should local forest professionals be interested in getting involved in or attending a World Forestry Congress? I'd suggest that if you have an interest in seeking new information and ideas related to forestry, making contact with others from different jurisdictions, gaining a better understanding of different priorities and approaches to forest management in different parts of the world, and seeing first-hand another part of the world, then the WFC has a lot to offer. Understanding that all information gleaned from the gathering may not relate directly to BC, there are many ideas, concepts and applications presented that deserve consideration for applicability and possible implementation or adaption to BC.

Alternatively, there is opportunity for practitioners, researchers and others to present information, results and findings of their work to the Congress. If you're involved in research, innovative forest management, successful community engagement or other forestry-related projects or programs, you and your team of collaborators might want to consider sharing your BC successes at such an event.

The next World Forestry Congress is planned for 2021 and the two countries that have indicated an interest in hosting it are South Korea and the Russian Federation. See you there! ☘



Photos courtesy: Steve Lorimer, RPF

It wasn't all serious business and technical meetings. Part of the five days spent in South Africa involved visiting some of the country's most famous cultural ambassadors!



BATTLE OF THE NFPS:

It's a Trefecta for Campbell River!

They say good things come in threes and for Campbell River resource professionals, that is definitely the case! For the third year in a row, Campbell River took home the title in the Battle of the Networks of Forest Professionals (NFPs)! Once again, they pulled out all the stops, mobilizing numerous member volunteers to organize some well-attended events during National Forest Week, engaging both kids and adults alike.

For 2015, the group chose to focus on events that brought attention to wildland fire. Given the particularly active fire season on Vancouver Island and Coastal BC this past year, the theme could not be more fitting. Highlights of the week included:

Rain Forest Interpretive Tour: More than 550 students benefited from a walk through the temperate rain forest of the Beaver Lodge Forest Lands with dozens of resource professional volunteers. Busloads of students from ages as diverse as Kindergarten to Grade 10 spent hours learning about local ecology, trees and plants. Stations were set up that offered a closer look at counting tree rings, harvesting practices and more.

Newspaper Forestry Supplement: Campbell River NFPs worked closely with the Campbell River Mirror to put together a newspaper

supplement that highlighted a range of relevant forestry stories, from one student's experience in the Carihi forestry class, one member's work with the city to update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the local museum's opening up of its archives on the Battling of the Great Fire of 1938.

Classroom Walks: Students went on educational walks in the woods to learn about soil, tree diseases, forest growth, different types of streams and biodiversity — just to name a few subjects. Thomas Hartz, RPF, volunteered to take three elementary school classes, as well as a Grade 10 biology class, to Beaver Lodge Forest Lands to get a firsthand perspective on these important topics.

Professional Lunch and Learn: Pete Laing, RFT, held a lunch and learn session that attracted dozens of fellow resource professionals and a handful of students from Carihi's forestry class. Pete summarized the 2015 fire season on coastal BC and answered questions at the informative session.

It's a huge organizational feat to bring together tour guides, volunteers, sponsors and teachers. The ability of Campbell River NFPs to do so — and in such a thoughtful and extensive way — indicates a passion deserving of the win. Congratulations to everyone involved! ❧



Photos above: Scores of students from a variety of different ages participated in the Beaverlodge Forest Lands interpretive tour and forest walks.
 Photo below: The forest fire fighting crew at Menzies Mainline put on a demonstration for students. They set up pumps and other fire gear for the students to handle and lift to compare for weight.



National Forest Week Young Artists Shine Bright

What does the forest mean to you? That's what young students from around Canada were asked to depict in drawing at the ABCFP and Truck Loggers Association's (TLA's) National Forest Week Art Contest. As always, dozens of thoughtful entries were received, showing all sorts of scenes including fun family excursions, trees of all shapes and sizes, pets mingling with wildlife, and more. It was difficult to select just one winner and two runner ups in each age

category but after much deliberation, the judges narrowed down their choices.

In addition to appearing in these pages, all of the selected pictures will appear in the TLA magazine and on both organizations' websites. The winners in each category also scored \$50 gift cards from Chapters. We thank everyone who entered and congratulate this year's winners and runners up! 🌲

Age Group	Winner	Runners Up
4-5 years	Winner - Azrael Carlson, age 5, Port McNeill	Alissa Koehler, age 4, Ottawa and Runner Up - Emily F, age 5
6-8 years	Winner - Jazmine Crombie, age 8, Williams Lake	Runner Up - Kaity Mercer, age 7, Nanoose Bay and Runner Up - Matt Mercer, age 7, Port Hardy
9-12 years	Winner - Rayah Dustin, age 10, Port McNeill	Runner Up - Tessa Wirtanen, age 10, Sooke and Runner Up - Kai Shively, age 9, Burns Lake

Age Category 10-12 years



1 Rayah Dustin, age 10, Port McNeill



2 Tessa Wirtanen, age 10, Sooke



3 Kai Shively, age 9, Burns Lake



4 Jazmine Crombie, age 8, Williams Lake

4



5



6

6 Matt Mercer, age 7, Port Hardy



7 Azrael Carlson, age 5, Port McNeill

7



8



9

9 Emily F, age 5

8 Alissa Koehler, age 4, Ottawa

Stream classification based on Forest Planning and Practices Regulations 47(4)

Stream width	Fish bearing	Stream class	Minimal Riparian Reserve (m)*
Over 20m	Yes	S1*	0-50
Between 5 and 20m	Yes	S2	30
Between 1.5 and 5m	Yes	S3	20
Less than 1.5m	Yes	S4	0
Greater than 3m	No	S5	0
Less than 3m	No	S6	0

* For S1 streams, reserves vary depending on existing floodplain width

* No harvest is permitted within Minimal Riparian Reserve. Those reserves are a legal minimum and most often those reserves are wider based on FSP targets.

Priority Disputes Over Hydraulically Connected Surface and Ground Water Under the New Water Sustainability Act

The Water Sustainability Act (WSA) received Royal Assent in May of 2014 and is expected to finally come into force in the Spring of 2016. The delay relates to the need for government to prepare extensive regulations contemplated in the legislation. That said, important changes to the existing regime of water regulation are already apparent.

Among these are changes to the regulation of groundwater. While groundwater is not entirely unregulated (legislation and regulations exist with respect to the construction of wells, bulk exports of water, drinking water safety, and so on), the current *Water Act* (that the WSA will repeal and replace once in force) does not regulate consumption and use of groundwater. Generally speaking, those who drill wells may lawfully consume as much ground water as they want, for whatever purposes they want, for free.

Once in force, Section 6 of the WSA will require an 'authorization' to divert and use water in BC, whether from water sources on the surface or in the ground. An 'authorization' will usually mean either a pre-existing license issued under the former *Water Act* or a new license issued under the WSA. Of course, given that consumption and use of groundwater is not regulated under the current *Water Act*, no pre-existing licenses for groundwater currently exist.

The requirement for a license under the WSA to use groundwater means that the amounts and purposes of groundwater usage will become restricted (as is currently the case with surface water consumption), and that groundwater users will have to pay for their consumption. For the time-being, however, diversions for 'domestic purposes' are excepted from these requirements (though the WSA provides government with the regulatory authority to require licensing of domestic users should the need arise).

The WSA also recognizes the hydrological interconnectivity between streams and aquifers, and will regulate the use of connected surface and ground water sources as though they were, in effect,

But pre-existing licenses to use surface water remain in effect under the WSA. The priority date for these licenses is established when the license was originally issued. Both the WSA and the *Water Act* dictate that a water license transfers with a sale of the land associated with the license. Accordingly, a new owner of land that is associated with a pre-existing license to use surface water will enjoy the priority date of that license regardless of the how much time has passed since the license was initially issued, or how many different owners have held the license.

The transitional provisions in section 140 of the WSA set out a process whereby existing, non-domestic, users of groundwater will obtain licenses under the WSA with respect to their groundwater use. Section 140 appears to contemplate that existing groundwater users will have a priority date that is only grand-parented back to "the person's date of first use," not to the "well's date of first use." So, if a priority dispute arises between licensed users of hydraulically connected groundwater and surface water sources, the user of the surface water under a pre-existing license may get priority so long as the pre-existing license was issued before a competing ground water user's personal "date of first use" (rather than the "well's date of first use"). And this is regardless of whether the ground water user's well was originally established and in use long before the pre-existing surface water license came into existence.

A similar result could also arise in a dispute between competing users of groundwater from the same aquifer since, as noted, the WSA's transitional provisions appear to establish the date of precedence for new groundwater licenses with reference to the first use date of the license holder (rather than the first use date of the well). Take, for example, a new owner of land associated with a non-domestic purpose well that has continued in operation under previous owners for 25 years. That new land owner could lose out in a priority dispute with a similar well that has existed on the same aquifer for, say, only five years provided that the tenure of the second well's current owner exceeds that of the first well's current owner (again, even though the first well was established and in operation long before second well).

Not that there's anything wrong with this. It's just different than how first-in-time priority is applied to surface water licenses, and certain advantages and disadvantages may flow from this difference. ✕

Jeff Waatainen is an adjunct professor of law at UBC, has practiced law in the forest sector for nearly 20 years, and currently works in the Forestry Law Practice Group of DLP Piper (Canada) LLP's Vancouver offices (formerly Davis LLP).

a single water source. While this makes eminent sense, the difference between how the WSA establishes priority for the holders of pre-existing licenses for surface water, on the one hand, and for pre-existing unlicensed groundwater users, on the other hand, is potentially asymmetrical.

Section 22 of the WSA imports the principle of 'first-in-time, first-in-rights' from the *Water Act* to resolve water use conflicts among licensed users of the same water source. First-in-time, first-in-rights effectively means that precedence with respect to the same water source or hydraulically connected water sources is established with reference to the "priority dates" established in the competing licenses.



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Effective April 17, 2015, Davis LLP combined with DLA Piper LLP, and adopted the name DLA Piper (Canada) LLP.

Forestry Law Group

The DLA Piper (Canada) LLP Forestry Law Group advises and represents clients across Canada and abroad on virtually all issues affecting the forest sector.

In Memoriam

It is very important to many members to receive word of the passing of a colleague. Members have the opportunity to publish their memories by sending photos and obituaries to editor@abccfp.ca. The association sends condolences to the family and friends of the following members:

Elbert Stanley Reid

RPF #346

1923 – 2015

Bert Reid passed away peacefully on July 5 in Duncan, BC, predeceased six months earlier by his wife of nearly 70 years, Edith. He is survived by daughters Elizabeth and Margaret, and sons Doug, David and Dick.



Born in Chilco, BC, Bert attended school in Vanderhoof, graduating in 1941. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was assigned to the Pathfinder Squadron, leading bombing missions over Europe. In 1945, Bert enrolled in Forest Engineering at UBC and, after obtaining his degree, started a career in forestry consulting at T&H Engineering and Forestry in Vancouver. Under Bert's guidance, T&H carried out two of the largest industrial forest inventories undertaken in BC — one of which in the Kitimat area pioneered the use of helicopters to transport and re-supply field crews.

In 1961, Bert and Jim Collins (BASc'52 UBC, RPF) joined up to found Reid, Collins and Associates (RCA). The first years for the fledgling company were tough, with few local projects coming through the doors, so Bert accepted a long-term secondment to a UNDP/FAO tropical forestry study in Ecuador. Bert uprooted his family for a five-year sojourn in Quito while RCA, under Jim Collins, expanded its domestic consulting capabilities. Returning to RCA in 1969, Bert focused on international business development and project management. When he retired in 1985, RCA had grown into one of the largest forestry consulting companies in the world. That same year, Bert became president of the UBC Alumni Association after serving as vice-president in 1984/85. Bert continued independently consulting until the mid-1990s.

Bert had a courteous and easygoing personality and a fine sense of humour, not above playing a gentle prank on his colleagues. His business dealings were always honourable and fair; in a word, to those who knew him, he was a gentleman.

Submitted by Melva and Gordon Bradshaw, Gary Kenwood, RPF(Ret), with contributions from the Reid family.

William F Waldie

RPF #230

1931 – 2015

With sad hearts, we announce the passing of W. Frederick (Fred) Waldie at Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops on November 14 at the age of 84, following post-surgical complications.

Fred is survived and lovingly remembered by Ann, his loving wife of 59 years, whom he married in Robson on December 29, 1955. He is also survived by his four daughters, Karen Waldie (Pat), Gail Sheasby (Bob), Gwen Brown (Trevor), Janet Newbery (John); his eight grandchildren (Corey, Sherrill, Tyler, Jesse, Tanis, Stephanie, Eric and Valerie); his three great-grandchildren (Nina, Hunter and Sage); his two sisters Dawn Waldie of Castlegar and Norma Jean Loveland (Cecil) of Spokane Washington, plus his numerous nieces and nephews. Fred is predeceased by parents Bill and Marjorie Waldie, sister Lillian Flynn and brother Keith Waldie.



Fred was born in Robson in 1931 and received his schooling in Robson and Trail. At the age of 16, he was granted admission to UBC to study, earning a degree in Forest Engineering in 1952. Fred began his career as a professional forester in Nakusp, with career moves taking him to positions in Terrace, North Vancouver and Quesnel. As a working man, Fred also enjoyed an active life with family and friends. His many pastimes included badminton, skiing, gardening, curling, golfing, camping and card playing with friends.

In 1994 Fred and Ann retired to the community of Blind Bay, where they quickly made many new and lasting friendships. Swimming, golfing, curling and travel, as well as entertaining their visiting family, kept their retirement life busy. In 2012, they chose to downsize and relocated to Salmon Arm where Fred continued to enjoy curling, golfing and caring for his wife Ann.

Fred is remembered as a devoted and loving husband and father. Those who knew him well will remember his motto — Keep It Simple.

A memorial service and reception was held November 19 at the Bowers Funeral Services Chapel in Salmon Arm.

As Fred discouraged winter travel during his later years, the family plans to gather for a celebration of life in the spring of 2016.

The family suggests those wishing to make a donation to do so with a charity of their choice. Condolences for the family can be offered online at the Bowers Funeral Service website.

Submitted by Karen Waldie.

Membership Statistics: ABCFP — October 2015

NEW RPF

Matthew Angelo Alves, RPF
 Babita Bains, RPF
 Michelle Leah Baker, RPF
 Tyson Kane Berkenstock, RPF
 April Mabel Bilawchuk, RPF
 Christopher Neville Burke, RPF
 Brier Adrienne Cadden, RPF
 Jordan Duncan Carter, RPF
 Jocelyn Marie Ciarniello, RPF
 Michael Richard Crone, RPF
 Emily Marie Francis, RPF
 Marissa Jeannie Hallaway, RPF
 Yvan Andreas Kathriner, RPF
 Andrew Kelly Low, RPF
 Corey Wayne Mathieson, RPF
 Acacia Rae Nethercut-Wells, RPF
 Federico Guillermo Osorio, RPF
 Christopher Samuel Schacke, RPF
 Austin Leigh Tate Teti, RPF
 James Robert Todd, RPF
 Steven Jeffrey Trommel, RPF
 Franck Tuot, RPF
 Robyn Signy Van Iderstine, RPF
 Jayson Laine Warkentin, RPF
 Colin Philip Wenman, RPF

NEW RFT

Tyler Matthew Barrett, RFT
 Russell Dale Boucher, RFT
 Kevin Ho King Chau, RFT
 Jeffrey Peter Eustache, RFT
 Simon Joseph Christie Fodor, RFT
 Alan Geraghty, RFT
 Thomas Finn Haukaas, RFT
 Tara Jocelyn Holmes, RFT
 Trevor Ryan Horne, RFT
 Shelley Lynn Kupryk, RFT
 Anicette Lucille Labonté, RFT
 Joshua Ellis Hubka Macy, RFT
 Travis Reid Mitchell, RFT
 Adrian Thomas Edward Morse, RFT
 Sean Mark Neufeld, RFT
 Luke Martin Oomen, RFT
 Christopher Joseph Perry, RFT
 Eddy Joal Plant, RFT
 Sarah Elizabeth Quickfall, RFT
 Michael James Ramsay, RFT
 Joseph Mark Rushton, RFT
 Todd Robert Singer, RFT
 Daniel Wayne Strobbe, RFT
 Richard Glenn Swift, RFT
 Alexandre Vignola, RFT

NEW ATE

David Edward Craven, ATE

NEW FIT

Natalie Miriam Clark, FIT
 Brittany Dawn Dewar, FIT
 Jessica Anne Duncan, FIT
 Montana Goddard, FIT
 Fraser Stewart Grey, FIT
 Michael John Harhry, FIT
 Hanlu Huang, FIT
 Laura Caitlyn Kozak, FIT
 Benjamin William Kwiatkowski, FIT
 Jade Alyssa Laramie, FIT
 Fraser Michael Larock, FIT
 Henri Michel Leclipteux, FIT
 Lukas Peter Malvet, FIT
 Alesia Dedaa Ofori, FIT
 Taylor James Sprangers, FIT
 Brian Andrew Sye, FIT

NEW TFT

Adam Martin Angevaare, TFT
 Samantha Gail Birkedal, TFT
 Warren James Houde, TFT
 Courtney Mari Lyn Kenny, TFT
 Matthew Jerome Kienapple, TFT
 Harvey David McKinnon, TFT
 Mark Edward Siemens, TFT
 Katelyn Christa Stevens, TFT
 Bradley Mark Wolgram, TFT

TRANSFERRED FROM FIT TO TFT

Antonio Varias Pega, TFT, ATC

REINSTATEMENTS

Michael Stuart Wall, RFT
 Robert James Wellsman, RFT

REINSTATEMENTS FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

David Lloyd Hale, RPF

DECEASED

Douglas Fraser Homer-Dixon, RPF(Ret)
 Karel Klinka, PhD, RPF(Ret)
 Eric W. Robinson, RPF(Ret)
 Frank D. Szy, RPF(Ret)

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE NOT ENTITLED TO PRACTISE PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY IN BC:

NEW RETIRED RPFs

Mark J. Faliszewski, RPF(Ret)
 Gertrude A. Goold, RPF(Ret)

Shirley Mah, RPF(Ret)
 Frank D. McAllister, RPF(Ret)
 John D. McClary, RPF(Ret)
 John D. Nelson, PhD, RPF(Ret)
 Ronald L. Tetrault, RPF(Ret)
 Leave of Absence (Registered)
 John (Jackie) Victor Brown, RFT(on LOA)
 Christopher Nowotny, RPF(on LOA)
 Andrew Eric Oetter, RFT(on LOA)
 James A. Sayle, RPF(on LOA)
 Barry L. Trenholm, RPF(on LOA)

NEW RETIRED RPFs

Mark J. Faliszewski, RPF(Ret)
 Gertrude A. Goold, RPF(Ret)
 Shirley Mah, RPF(Ret)
 Frank D. McAllister, RPF(Ret)
 John D. McClary, RPF(Ret)
 John D. Nelson, PhD, RPF(Ret)
 Ronald L. Tetrault, RPF(Ret)

NEW RETIRED RFTs

Daniel A.J. Bélisle, RFT(Ret)
 Catherine Lea Laursen, RFT(Ret)
 Albert Murray Philipp, RFT(Ret)
 Donald Allan Dallas Rorison, RFT(Ret), ATE
 David John Wickstrom, RFT(Ret)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (REGISTERED MEMBERS)

Tara D. DeCourcy, RPF(on LOA)
 Tony Mario Falcao, RFT(on LOA)
 Malcolm Bradley Martin, RFT(on LOA)
 Michael Thomas Toews, RFT(on LOA)
 Gregory Paul Van Dolah, RFT(on LOA)

RESIGNATION (REGISTERED MEMBERS)

Kenneth H. Baker
 Kathleen Mary Ann Burkart
 Robert James Cuthbert
 Rhonda Lori Dougherty
 Steven M. Galliazzo
 David Stephen Hall
 Richard D. Stewart
 Ian Michael Wilson
 Michael George Zaklan

RESIGNATION (ENROLLED MEMBERS)

Gregory Paul Van Dolah, RFT(on LOA)*

*RFT(on LOA); resigned from FP program only

See next page for November statistics

Membership Statistics: ABCFP — November 2015

NEW REGISTERED FOREST TECHNOLOGIST

Katelyn Rae McMahon, RFT

NEW FORESTERS IN TRAINING

Jonathan Awineboma Abagre, FIT

Colin Wesley Jack Langston, FIT

NEW TRAINEE FOREST TECHNOLOGISTS

Gordon Richard Emery, TFT

David Thomas Fleming, TFT

Karlisle Christopher Karn, TFT

DECEASED

Alan David Petrie, RFT(Ret)

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE NOT ENTITLED TO PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY IN BC:

Resignation (Registered Members)

Andrew Arnold Alstad

Alan G. Barber

Kenneth R. Dupilka

Mary Jane Jojic

Peter Gordon Verschoor

RESIGNATION (RETIRED MEMBERS)

Bernie F. Chapman

Kenneth G. Cunningham

Ernst I. Stjernberg

Benjamin Van Drimmelen

RESIGNATION (ENROLLED MEMBERS)

Aleksandar Ognjanovic

REMOVAL OVER ENROLMENT

Richard William Dunham

Tyler Richard Pellegrin

Christopher William Wickman

Kevin B. Wright

REMOVAL NON-COMPLETION

Thomas William Blank

John F. Pumphrey

Ricky Brian Ranger

In the first two articles in this series, we explored what public trust is and whether we (as a profession and as individual professionals) have the public's trust. In this article we're going to talk about the work the ABCFP does to earn the public's trust on behalf of the profession and our members.

How Does the ABCFP Achieve the Public's Trust?

By Mike Larock, RPF, and Megan Hanacek, RPF, RPBio

The ABCFP works hard to both earn and maintain the public's trust. We put processes in place to ensure only qualified people play a role in managing the forests. We try to be transparent with these processes – especially the complaints and discipline processes – to ensure the public can participate or observe what we do. We engage employers and others on the value of forest professionals' skills and the social recognition of these skills through the *Foresters Act*. Finally, we try to provide balanced perspectives – forestry is challenging and there are very few black and white answers.

Some of the processes we have include registration requirements to ensure only people with the right education and training can practise forestry. Once you become a registered member, you must abide by our *Code of Ethics* and Standards of Practice, maintain your competency through the Continuing Professional Development program, as well as other bylaws.

The ABCFP also provides guidance for members on such things as professional independence – a key indicator of public trust. This type of guidance helps us assure the public that even though forest professional work for a specific employer, they also provide their expertise and service in the public's interest. In most cases, the benefit to the employer is that the professional is independent and a necessary foundation to their own social licence.

We have attempted to be as transparent as possible with our processes and procedures. All information about registration requirements, complaints and discipline, our bylaws and more is publicly available on our website. We even created a number of videos aimed at the layperson to explain the complicated concept of professional reliance in natural resource management and to walk people through how to launch a complaint.

One way we can measure the success of our transparency efforts is through regular surveys and polls to judge the public's trust in forest professionals and forest professionals' trust in each other. If you have the opportunity, please participate in these surveys and polls. The results provide us with excellent information that we use for internal planning as well as to take to government.

Finally, we strive to provide a balanced perspective. Have you ever sat in a planning meeting with others and wondered "is this action in the best interests of the public?" The ABCFP can and does provide a balanced perspective for the government and managers on forest land. At the same time we provide advice and guidance to our members based on what we learned. Professional dialogue between multiple parties with interests in forests is the key to improving the public's trust in our profession and a basic requirement for good forest stewardship.

Everyone loses perspective sometimes. The ABCFP tries to provide a balanced perspective when we see things getting out of whack. We're also happy to help out when members need us – we answer questions from members on a weekly basis. We respond to news stories – both publicly and privately. We also bring stories to journalists when we think the public needs to know about an issue. And, we also challenge media coverage when we feel the whole complicated story of forestry is not told correctly with informed facts.

So that we don't lose perspective, we try to engage with the right people and strive to expand our network of advisors. We work with other organizations (such as the Forest Practices Board) to stay on top of stewardship issues around the province. Our stewardship committee always has a long list of issues that need to be considered. And when the profession decides on the best issue and approach then, the stewardship committee will investigate the issue and produce a report, or other information for members. One important area of work right now is the necessary climate change adaptation tools for forest professionals.

The ABCFP pursues the public's trust in several ways. Our qualification and competence processes, the complaints and discipline process, working with employers and government on stewardship issues, and reporting to members are a few of the ways we pursue public trust. Most importantly, we try to provide balanced perspectives to the public. The forest professionals continue to be trusted and respected sources of information regarding their forests, forest lands and forest resources. ✕



A Moment in **Forestry**

Winter Wonderland *Submitted by Eoin Carey*

A frozen swamp on a chilly but sunny day. Taken by a forestry employee while working on a block at Crystal Mountain, near Beaverdell, BC.

Paper-Free Forms for your Operation!

Let us modernize your paper checklists, inspections, and audits!

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Works Offline 
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Ricardo Velasquez,
District Silvicultural Forester
Ontario Ministry of
Natural Resources

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