

BC Forest

MAY - JUNE 2012

PROFESSIONAL

**Beyond
British
Columbia:**
Linking Forest
Professionals
Internationally

Another Perspective
on Climate Science

**Everything
to Everyone:**
The Art of Forestry



VIEWPOINT
BC's Forest Economy

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Author Paul MacRae Adds His Two Cents

In its March/April issue, **BC Forest Professional** ran three letters criticizing a positive review of my book *False Alarm: Global Warming—Facts Versus Fears*. I don't mind criticism, but I was disturbed by the underlying message of the letters: that the vast majority of climate scientists have spoken and should not be questioned by the non-scientists, including journalists (or ex-journalists) like me.

The climate science majority have demanded radical political and environmental policies, including punitive carbon taxes that will make most Canadians poorer. However, few Canadian journalists have chosen to critically examine these extreme, even apocalyptic claims.

One journalist who did investigate is Lawrence Solomon. He began his *National Post* series "The Deniers" asking one simple question: Is it true that there is "100 per cent consensus" among climate scientists that the planet is warming, that humans are the primary cause of this warming, and the consequences will be catastrophic?

As he interviewed scientists, Solomon found a curious thing. Scientists at the top of their field in, say, atmospheric physics, knew that the catastrophic, human-caused warming hypothesis was wrong in *their* area of expertise. So, a hurricane expert strongly opposed the claim that hurricanes were increasing due to warming. Solar physicists knew the climate models underplayed the role of the sun. And so on. But in most cases, the experts assumed that the alarming climate conclusions in *other* disciplines, with which they weren't familiar, were likely correct.

After looking at the bigger picture, Solomon concluded: "It would be impossible for any investigative reporter ... to objectively delve into global warming and conclude that the science was settled." After my own two-year investigation, I could not agree more.

A 19th-century cartoon in *Punch* shows a young curate dining with his bishop. The bishop says, "I'm afraid you've got a bad egg." The curate replies: "Oh, no, my Lord, I assure you that parts of it are excellent."

Similarly, parts of majoritarian climate science are excellent. Other parts are, quite simply, rotten, and the rotten parts, as in the egg, have contaminated the whole discipline. Anyone who reads my book, which has extensive and easily checked references, or does his or her own critical investigation, will almost certainly reach the same conclusion.

PAUL MACRAE
VICTORIA

Supporting False Alarm

I enjoyed reading the review of Paul MacRae's book titled *False Alarm* by Cam Leitch, RPF, in the January/February 2012 issue of **BC Forest Professional**. The provocative title should catch foresters' interest and attention.

I'm hoping Cam's review will inspire many thought-provoking discussions among the membership instead of just critical arguments. Readers should know Mr. MacRae dedicated the book to his UVIC colleague, Dr. Andrew Weaver. His dedication is a clear a signal to me that he's trying to make an argument for a point of view; not just having an argument with Dr. Weaver.

The recent scientific debacle involving Dr. Andrew Wakefield and 12 others is a good example of serious problems (aka, "material adverse effects") resulting from bad medical science. How can forest professionals be certain they use only the best science to guide their decisions? Benjamin Franklin offered up some good, old-school, 18th century wisdom when he stated, "But in the world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes."

BOB KOPP, RPF (RET)
DUNCAN

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Climate Change and Correct Thinking

The gurus of correct thinking have spoken. We, the ordinary forest professionals have been reminded:

- a) That we should not misrepresent facts even if these 'facts' are theories based on computer models,
- b) That to have a different opinion about these 'facts' is cruel, and as such might be a breach of the Code of Ethics,
- c) That the theory of global warming is now part of professional practice in BC, and our opinions on the matter can be adjudicated by the ABCFP since we are obligated to express a professional opinion only when it is based on adequate knowledge and experience,
- d) That local English instructors have no credibility to speak on the issues of global warming, whereas local tree planting contractors do,
- e) That responsible forest professionals are those who are busy interpreting climate adjusted seed zones, while irresponsible forest professionals thoughtlessly read wrong books (i.e. acquire inadequate knowledge), and
- f) That ordinary forest professionals do not have enough capacity to evaluate the argument critically and therefore will be better off adhering to the majority opinion.

Since we do not live in the People's Republic of China (you know, the country that fights global warming with 710 page reports), I would like to respectfully disagree with such dictum.

To become a member of our association one has to possess a certain level of intelligence, judgment and well-rounded experience. We do not need anyone to provide us with "reviews" on the matter of global warming with "suggestions" of how to "critically appraise claims." Surprisingly enough, we are capable of doing this on our own. We are even capable of agreeing with the majority opinion if, after careful scrutiny of facts, such a theory makes sense to us.

So, many thanks to Cam Leitch for a great review, and for initiating this debate.

KRIS ZMUDZINSKI, MBA, RPF
PRINCE GEORGE

Put in Your Two Cents

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 in **BC Forest Professional**.



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Distorting Perceptions on Inventory

I commend the association for writing a paper advocating greater inventory work. Inventory is crucial. However when outlining why inventories are important, I recommend greater emphasis on our need for accurate AACs because of the link to sustainability, community prosperity, maintenance of values such as riparian and biodiversity. Instead the weighting in the public document appeared skewed. The introduction's sole reason was we need accurate inventories because without them we "can't advise potential investors... in order for them to make important investment decisions." I think we've lost our way as professionals and as an association if economics is so heavily weighted in our balancing. Perhaps it was just the way it was written. But this apparently narrow thinking distorts perceptions and affects our inherent value systems.

JUDY THOMAS, RPF
PRINCE GEORGE

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President's Report

By Steve Lorimer, RPF



Telling Our Story

My major goals as president this year are to work on awareness building and advocacy. Awareness building and advocacy must work hand in hand because how are we going to get people to pay attention to us when we go to them with an important issue if they've never heard of us?

Building awareness is not something that can be done overnight nor is it new to the ABCFP. While staff has been working on promoting the profession, all members can play a role. On the staff side, advertising, National Forest Week events and social media have played key roles in the efforts to tell the public about the ABCFP and the profession of forestry. However, there is another activity that plays a huge role...student recruitment.

Staff Contacts:

Contact Sharon Glover, MBA, CEO, if you would like some advice on talking with your local MLA or other elected officials. 604.331.2323

Contact Brenda Martin, senior communications specialist and editor, if you are interested in career fairs, school presentations or participating in a community event. 604.639.8103

Staff and member volunteers visit dozens of schools each year to make presentations and attend career fairs. Many young people do not know that careers in forestry exist until they visit our booth or hear a member speak to their classes so this is awareness building at its most basic level. Usually, once the kids hear about careers in forestry they want more information for themselves or their friends.

Members can play an important role in awareness building by getting involved in your community. Most towns have festivals or events that lend themselves well to talking to people about forestry. Set up a table on behalf of your company or the ABCFP. Talk to people about the role forestry plays in the community. We can even help you out by providing brochures, banners and a forestry quiz for children, as well as covering reasonable career fair or trade show registration costs.

Another important way to build awareness of the ABCFP and the profession is to meet with your MLA, mayor or other elected officials. While the council executive would love to meet with every MLA and mayor, it is just not possible. We meet with many elected officials in various meetings, UBCM and local government area conferences, but you can also take the time to explain how forestry affects your community such as fire mitigation, jobs or attracting tourists because of the viewscapes.

Advocating for Good Forest Stewardship

We've been working on our advocacy mandate for a number of years. Remember that the *Foresters Act* only allows us to advocate for good forest stewardship (as opposed to thinks like increased pay for our members) so we have to be careful about what topics we take on. Recently we've had some advocacy successes with the release of our mid-term timber supply report last fall and then this past February we released our inventory report (both are available on the website).

We met with senior officials at the ministry including Minister Thomson to discuss each report. In addition, we met with Bob Simpson,

an independent MLA from Cariboo North who has an interest in forestry issues, and most recently with Norm Macdonald, the NDP's forestry critic. As I'm writing this report we are also setting up a meeting with Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation.

I'm pleased to report that our meetings are going well and government and others are paying attention to what we have to say. For example, Minister Thomson announced more funding for the Inventory Branch at our annual conference as a direct response to our report.

One of the reasons for our success has been the fact that we only bring important issues to these meetings with government officials. We back up these issues with facts, research, background reports and advice from our members. I believe that government is learning that when the ABCFP comes to visit, we provide them with valuable information and do not waste their time.

The stewardship committee is the main driver behind these advocacy topics. The committee, which is made up of member volunteers, examines upcoming stewardship issues and decides which ones the ABCFP will tackle next. Supported by Mike Larock, RPF, director of professional practice and forest stewardship, the committee researches and writes advocacy reports. In most cases, the committee asks members for feedback and incorporates this feedback into a final report that we take to government or other relevant groups.

In addition to government, the ABCFP also works with other natural resource professionals such as engineers, geoscientists, biologists and agrologists through their professional organizations. We attend AGMS, meet with staff and council members to discuss topics of mutual interest, and keep each other informed of the work we are doing.

Volunteers are the prime reason we are seeing so much success on the awareness building and advocacy fronts. Volunteers spend many hours vetting topics, reviewing report drafts and visiting schools. We all owe these volunteers a big thanks for a job well done. 🌲



CEO's Report

By Sharon L. Glover, MBA

What's New in the ABCFP's Advocacy Toolbox

Our new president Steve Lorimer, RPF, talks about the importance of building awareness of the ABCFP and doing advocacy work in his report in this issue. I thought I'd update members on some of the specific advocacy work we've done in the past year.

Mid-Term Timber Supply

We released our report last November and updated it with new information on Visual Quality Objectives in January. As with all of our advocacy reports, we sent copies to interested groups, the Chief Forester, as well as to elected officials such as Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson and Norm Macdonald, MLA, the forestry critic. The report was well-received and the Chief Forester was able to use the report to inform his analyses of the mid-term timber supply situation. We also promoted the release of the paper on social media such as our Twitter feed. The aftermath of the tragic fire in Burns Lake brought mid-term timber supply to the public mind and the report has been quoted numerous times by many media outlets. We are pleased that our report has helped to educate journalists and their readers on this important topic.

Inventory Report

Forest inventory came up in the public sphere earlier this year with the release of an Auditor General's report. The ABCFP moved up the release of our report to the end of February in order to provide more information to the debate. This report was sent to our usual forestry contacts as well as journalists via a traditional and social media release. The response was immediate as many media outlets wrote stories about forest inventory, interviewed ABCFP staff, and attended a media tour held in conjunction with our annual conference. We have posted a video of Casey Macaulay, RPF, resource operations specialist, on our YouTube channel (you can get to it via our homepage) talking about forest inventory. As important as the publicity was, the best result of our work in this area was Minister Thomson announcing an increase in funding to the Inventory Branch and asking for our input as to how the funds should be allocated. The minister chose to make this announcement during the Minister's Luncheon at our annual conference so our members were able to hear the news first.

Meetings with Elected Officials

The ABCFP met with Minister Thomson twice in the first couple months of 2012. We took the opportunity to discuss forest inventory concerns and our report on the mid-term timber supply. We gave the minister suggestions on where within the Inventory Branch he could allocate the extra funding and explained our concern about work being carried out in Burns Lake.

We also met with independent MLA Bob Simpson (Cariboo North). The mid-term timber supply was important to both MLA Simpson and Minister Thomson. In terms of the mid-term timber supply report, we discussed how important it was to ensure the communities facing a reduction in the annual allowable cut are consulted. We also emphasized that we do not support making sacrifices today for short-term economic gain.

NDP MLA and forestry critic Norm Macdonald met with council at their March meeting. At this casual dinner meeting, MLA Macdonald asked about numerous topics and took questions from council members. Some of the highlights of the evening's conversation included:

- Professional reliance – how well does the ABCFP think it is working and what tweaks need to be made?
- Land management/mid-term timber supply – what should be taken into consideration when making decisions regarding timber supply for today and the future?
- Forest health – what are the main forest health issues now that mountain pine beetle is waning? If more funding was available, where should we spend it?

At the end of the meeting, MLA Macdonald invited the ABCFP to meet with Adrian Dix, Leader of the Official Opposition.

We are also meeting with councillors, mayors and other local representatives at various local government area meetings. In April, the ABCFP had a trade show booth at both the Kootenay and Boundary Local Government Association conference in Trail as well as the Southern Interior Local Government Association conference in Revelstoke. The ABCFP presented and had a trade show booth at the North Central Local Government Association conference in 100 Mile House in early May.

Advocacy Moving Forward

We are working on a number of different advocacy projects right now. We will continue to meet with government, elected officials, our fellow natural resource associations and interested parties to discuss good forest stewardship. If you have any suggestions for topics or people to meet with, don't hesitate to contact me at sglover@abcfp.ca or 604 331.2323. 🍀

Have You Heard About Project NRP?

The ABCFP is modernizing and has designed this pilot program to attract students who will be practising some aspects of forestry upon graduation. Because many people are practising a small aspect of professional forestry already, we feel it is in the best interest of the public to have these practitioners be a part of the forestry team where they have rights and responsibilities and where they are professionally accountable for their work.

Natural Resource Professionals, or NRPs, have an education in forestry conservation, management of renewable natural resources, and landscape and local level planning for aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Graduates from programs like UBC's Natural Resource Conservation with a major in Science and Management or Thompson Rivers University's Resource Science programs would be eligible for immediate enrollment in the ABCFP. UNBC will be added to the pilot later this year.

NRPs must complete a two-year articling program and pass an exam before being given a limited licence to practise a specific set of skills. Their scope of practice is very narrow and therefore it is unlikely that an NRP would be able to do the same work as an RPF or RFT; however, RPFs and RFTs may like to hire NRPs to do very specific work because they can be assured of their qualifications and skills. Information will be posted on our website soon. The application process for TRU and UBC students will begin in October 2012.

ABCFP Workshops Coming to a Centre Near You!

Brian Robinson, RPF, director of professional practice and member relations, and Amanda Brittain, MA, director of communications, will be conducting workshops in Kamloops, Campbell River and Prince George in May and June. The workshops are timed so you can take one, two or all three with minimal travel and time out of the office.

KAMLOOPS

May 29, morning, Best Exam Possible

May 29, afternoon, Professional Reliance

May 30, all day and May 31, morning, Professional Ethics and Obligations

CAMPBELL RIVER

June 12, morning, Best Exam Possible

June 12, afternoon, Professional Reliance

June 13, all day and June 14, morning, Professional Ethics and Obligations

PRINCE GEORGE

June 19, morning, Best Exam Possible

June 19, afternoon, Professional Reliance

June 20, all day and June 21, morning, Professional Ethics and Obligations

Register for these workshops on the Workshops page of the ABCFP website.

In the News

The ABCFP has been in the news quite a bit lately with coverage of our annual conference as well as the release of our mid-term timber supply and inventory reports. You can find links to all media coverage on the In the News page on our website. Two recent additions to that page include a Media Planet feature that includes a small article and ad from the ABCFP as well as Casey Macaulay, RPF, resource operations specialist, talking about our inventory paper.

New Discipline Case Digests Have Been Added to the Website

Have you looked at the Discipline page of the website? As each case is resolved, we add a digest to let you know what happened. Here are three of the most recently resolved cases:

2009-05 – Conditional submission and negotiated settlement approved by the discipline committee. This case involved concerns with a fuel management project that was prescribed and supervised by a member. The member is named in the digest and is forbidden from performing the type of work in the case independently for one year.

2010-07 – This complaint was lodged by a member of the public in regards to the conduct of an ABCFP member who was engaged in providing access across private land. While the member was found to be acting in good faith and does not face any disciplinary action, the registrar recommends that access agreements be received in writing.

2011-04 – Decision by Arbitration Panel of the discipline committee. This case involves two members who purposefully moved cruise plots that resulted in unreliable cruise data. The two members, who are named in the digest, were each fined \$5,000 and are required to apply for accreditation as timber cruisers.



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BC's Forest Economy

Photo: iStockphoto

Applying the Principles of Forest Stewardship to:

THE FOREST ECONOMY

The ABCFP's Forest Stewardship Principles have been updated over the past few months as a result of member feedback. The principles provide further weight to one of the critical objects¹ within the *Foresters Act*, while also providing new criteria against which forest professionals evaluate their own work.

Economic influences affect most activities conducted in the forest and can therefore have an impact on forest stewardship. When the forest economy is strong, there is surplus funding for research initiatives, restoration work and program innovation; however when the forest economy struggles, this funding can become limited. In a prolonged period of economic constraint, such as what we are witnessing today, forest professionals must work within confined budgets while writing and implementing plans that address the long-term stewardship of our natural resources.

The stewardship principle of "Social Foundation" recognizes the importance of economic and social values in forest management decisions. A second Principle, "Temporal Options," provides further direction for forest management strategies in consideration of balancing values for current and future generations. It is through the weighing of these principles, that forest professionals recognize economic factors while still ensuring the sustainability of our resources.

IN THIS ISSUE OF BC FOREST PROFESSIONAL, WE BRING YOU A BRIEF LOOK at the BC forest economy. First, Russ Taylor, MBA, RPF, BSF, and Alice Palmer, MBA, BSF, from International WOOD Markets Group Inc. provide a log and lumber outlook. They touch on several factors including the US housing market, the China market and mid-term timber supply. Then Alan Potter, PhD, MBA, brings tells us how the Forest Products Association of Canada and FPInnovations plan to transform forest products as we move into an era of developing world industrialization. John Allan, RPF, from the Council of Forest Industries also contributed to this issue; his article focuses on the Asian markets and the Softwood Lumber Agreement. Our final Viewpoint article is by Tom Neimann, RPF, who works for the Competitiveness and Innovation Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. His article highlights some interesting and really useful reports his branch publishes on the economic data about the forest industry. You could write books about BC's forest economy, but we hope this snapshot is useful to our readers.

Also in the issue is the special feature for this year's conference and AGM. Everything to Everyone: The Art of Forestry was resounding success and we've had excellent feedback from our attendees. Read the feature to find out what went on at the conference and if there's anything you would like to follow-up on. Presentations are still available on the conference website: www.abcfp.ca/conference.asp.

Finally, we have two motivating Interest articles. The first article, "Beyond British Columbia: Linking Forest Professionals Internationally," by John Innes, PhD, the dean of forestry at UBC, talks about the Commonwealth Forestry Association and the chance it provides forest professionals to look beyond BC and see how their practice of forestry links into the broader world. The second article, "Another Perspective on Climate Science" is by Kathy Hopkins, RPF, addresses an ongoing conversation in the magazine about climate change.

This issue of the magazine has a wide variety of topics and I hope all our members will be able to find something that interests them. 🌱

¹ Foresters Act S.4(2)(b)

The BC Forest Economy: Log and Lumber Outlook



Viewpoints

By Alice Palmer, MBA, BSF and
Russ Taylor, MBA, RPF, BSF

FOLLOWING THE DRAMATIC UPSWING OF THE MID 2000S, BC'S SOFTWOOD lumber production retreated by 42% from 2006 to 2009. Since then, there have only been marginal improvements. Will 2012 and 2013 see the anticipated market recovery pushed out even further or is positive change finally on the horizon?

US housing is still mired in uncertainty

Since the early 1990s, about two-thirds of BC's lumber production has been destined for the United States. With the collapse of the US housing market from 2007 to 2009, prices sank, BC export volumes to the US dropped by 59%, and the US's share of BC exports dropped to about 50% of BC's production. Market conditions, log shortfalls, and industry rationalization have resulted in the permanent closure of 26 BC sawmills and veneer mills since 2005, and there have been seemingly unending curtailments.

In 2011, Americans started 607,000 new homes, down from 2.1 million in 2005. The long-term trend is about 1.5 million units. How long will it be before the US gets back to this level? Probably not for another five years. The unsold housing inventory is still high relative to the pace of sales, and there is additional "shadow" inventory of foreclosed (or soon-to-be foreclosed) homes that banks are holding off the market—for now. If the signs of stability we have seen over the last few months (such as rising real estate sales rates and housing starts) continue, 2012 will be a year in which excess housing inventory is sold off and prices stabilize. The good news is that US housing starts and wood products consumption will gradually increase in 2013 and soar through 2014 and 2015.

China is picking up the slack

China was the export story of the year for both 2010 and 2011. From a scanty 140 million board feet in 2006 (0.6% of BC production), Chinese imports of BC softwood lumber nearly doubled each year, growing to 1.9 billion board feet in 2010 and 3.1 billion board feet in 2011 (25% of BC production). While the Chinese building boom (about 15 million housing starts annually) has gained the most attention by global media, it is the increase in Chinese lumber and log prices that has most impacted North American producers. With China paying globally competitive prices for the lower grades of lumber, some mills on both the coast and in the Interior have been able to reopen or add capacity.

Pine beetles will limit the extent of BC's recovery

Although lumber demand is now recovering, BC production will not recover to pre-crash levels (17.4 billion board feet in 2005 and 2006). Indeed, from a 2011 production level of 12.4 billion board feet, output will likely only hit about 13.5 billion board feet by the middle of the decade before the mountain pine beetle-killed timber in the BC Interior get too old and brittle to economically harvest and mill. Eight to 10-year-old beetle-killed logs are already testing the limits of many sawmills in the epicentre of the epidemic. By 2020, BC lumber production is set to decline to about 11 billion board feet, in tandem with the mid-term AAC and timber harvest.

Prepare for the global lumber "super cycle"

By about 2015, an improving US housing market, ever-increasing demand in Asia and a thawing European market will run up against

a tight to declining global softwood timber supply. The BC Interior, Quebec, Ontario, and the western US are running into potential harvest reductions or constrained supply/demand scenarios. The trend toward US forestland being managed by timberland investment management organizations (TIMOS) instead of integrated forest products companies is causing increases in log prices and tighter supplies. Sawlog prices throughout Europe have remained at record levels since 2009 (over \$130/m³ Cdn), as has the cost of logging and transportation in Russia. This global demand/supply imbalance is expected to result in lumber price levels not seen for a decade!

Increasing lumber prices in the US will likely shift the balance of trans-oceanic trade and, especially, shipments from Canada to the US. Chinese lumber prices will need to rise to keep up with US prices in order for China to retain their North American supply. New Zealand and Russia will have the opportunity to sell even more logs and lumber to China to fill a potential supply gap. European sawmills will likely re-enter the US market and help fill the expected supply/demand gap in this region. Engineered wood products and competing building products will certainly gain a stronger foothold in the North American market.

Anticipated opportunities for BC

With the expectation of stronger demand and rising prices, the BC producers will see new opportunities, particularly on the coast. For perspective, BC coast lumber production peaked at over 4.7 billion board feet in 1987 and plummeted to just 1.1 billion board feet in 2009. Currently, lumber prices have been too low to allow BC coast sawmills to pay enough for their logs to keep coastal loggers in business. (Log exports have provided additional employment in some forest-dependent communities and have increased the supply of affordable logs to BC mills.) Rising lumber prices would allow BC sawmills to restart or add production and invest in new mill technology. As lumber prices increase, the re-entry of BC coastal sawmills will create better opportunities for local communities, and potentially reduce the need for log exports.

The Interior producers who are still operating after the 2006-2009 market crash should generally find business to be much better starting in the next few years. The silver lining of the last decade's mill closures is that fewer sawmills will need to close in the future: about two-thirds of the mountain pine beetle-necessitated operational sawmill/plywood capacity reduction has already occurred. Higher lumber prices will support the salvage of logs from increasingly distant cutblocks. Additionally (and perhaps more importantly), lumber producers will have the cash to re-invest in their mills, to optimize the value obtained from each log. So, while the next decade will not be without its challenges, there will also be plenty of opportunities and good prospects. 🌱

Russ Taylor, MBA, RPF, BSF and Alice Palmer, MBA, BSF are, respectively, president of and a consultant with International WOOD MARKETS Group Inc., a consultancy which conducts timber and wood products market analysis and business assessment/investment projects for numerous North American and global industry clients.

Extracted from various multi-client reports researched and produced by WOOD MARKETS. For more details, visit: <http://www.woodmarkets.com/>. Detailed summaries appear in WOOD Markets Monthly International Report.



Photo: iStockphoto

Transforming Forest Products

THE DEVELOPING WORLD IS DEMANDING, AND WILL ACHIEVE, A STANDARD of living comparable to the one we enjoy in Canada. This creates great new product opportunities for Canada. Our challenge is how we meet this demand without causing irrevocable environmental harm. I believe forest products, derived from a sustainable forest, are part of the solution.

Forest Products Association of Canada has articulated a clear vision through its National Forest Sector Transformation Strategy. The strategy has four pillars; each one has an innovation aspect.

Increasing Productivity and Competitiveness

More efficient and effective business processes with respect to current production activities

Expanding & Diversifying Markets

Faster and efficient expansion of product sales to new and emerging markets. This includes both new geographic markets and new product applications.

Leveraging Environmental Credentials

Systematically looking at opportunities to leverage environmental stewardship and unique environmental attributes of forest products.

Maximizing Fibre Value

Creating and assessing opportunities to develop new fibre-based products such as new cellulose, hemicelluloses and lignin materials, and bio-products made from biochemicals derived from wood.

To help meet the innovation challenge, FPIinnovations is supporting a renewed forest industry innovation system which is helping the sector diversify its products and markets. The long-term

strategic objectives are to develop new value streams, to ensure operational excellence in delivering new and existing products, and to optimally utilize a sustainable Canadian wood supply.

While there are many promising new technologies, there are no silver bullets. FPIinnovations is building on its strong collaboration with industry, federal and provincial governments, and actively seeking help from the academic community across Canada.

Here are some key research areas that are being pursued by the forest sector innovations system:

Wood-Based Building Systems

A renaissance of wood-based building systems directed primarily at the multi-story residential sector (driven by the need for sustainable urban densification) and non-residential industrial construction. The thrust is twofold, new macro designs and the inclusion in the systems of new structural/non-structural engineered wood products derived from less frequently used Canadian wood species.

Finished Wood Products

Imparting increased durability, and aesthetic appeal of finished wood products (window frames, floors, exterior siding, interior walls) made from Canadian wood species through the application of new finishing methods based on nanotechnologies. For example, Lauzon Flooring in Quebec has installed plasma treating technology to surface harden wood flooring products and significantly increase the durability of the hardwood flooring product to wear and tear.

Micro- and Nanofibres

The extraction and surface modification of micro- and nanofibres from Canadian wood species and their conversion to future



Photo: iStockPhoto



engineered bio-composite materials. A particular focus is on developing a new generation of functional and readily compostable materials for future 'green' packaging applications.

Zero-Impact Manufacturing

The creation of zero environmental impact forest sector manufacturing clusters through the implementation of processes which are energy self-sufficient and have no overall water, air or solid waste discharge. For example, Meadow Lake Saskatchewan, one of the newest pulp mills in Canada, is a zero-discharge mill. There are no water effluent emissions; all water is reused.

Biofuels and Biochemicals

The development of economically viable conversion technologies to convert wood residues and surplus chips to either biofuels or biochemical intermediates for future biopolymer products. In tandem with developing conversion technologies that use the existing pulp and paper manufacturing infrastructure to extract further value-added products.

Logistical Decision Support Tools

The implementation of logistical decision support tools which characterize the attributes of the mixed species in Canadian forests then precisely direct the forest harvest to the appropriate forest products manufacturing facilities.

Robust Transportation Modules

The development of more robust and flexible transportation modules to economically ship a larger variety of Canadian forest products to global markets. For example, at the wood supply end, novel designs in log hauling trailers are allowing greater payloads

of logs to be delivered to wood manufacturing facilities without compromising safety or increasing wear and tear on forest roads.

The Canadian forest sector can reposition and transform itself by optimizing value from Canada's forests and responding to emerging market opportunities. Canada's forests are sustainable, with more forest area certified for sustainability than any other country. The country has a diverse forest resource which can produce sustainable economic values, specifically renewable feed stocks for new forest products manufacturing. There is also a growing appreciation and global demand for wood-based products due to their environmental attributes—healthy forests support a clean environment through large scale water and air recycling, and carbon sequestration.

With the right business hosting conditions, the sector can be prosperous, provide a more diverse basket of traditional and new products to the market and become a leader in an emerging bio-economy.

The path to this future prosperity will be arduous. It will take commitment and financial investment from industry and governments. But I am convinced the future is bright. 🌱

Alan Potter, PhD, MBA, is executive vice president with FPInnovations. In recent years Alan has participated in a number of strategic efforts to define a new future for the forest sector in the emerging bioeconomy. These resulted in investments by the federal government in FPInnovations to pursue technologies which will transform Canada's forest sector. Prior to FPInnovations, Alan was vice president, technology and environment, for Nexfor, the holding company for both Norbord Industries and Fraser Papers. Alan holds a PhD and BSc in Chemistry from St. Andrews University, Scotland, and an MBA from the University of British Columbia.



The BC Forest Industry: Its Economic Future is Bright



THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST INDUSTRY holds great promise. Industry is cost competitive, produces green sustainable products, generates thousands of well-paying jobs and has a great story to tell about the role of wood in society. Market expansion and diversification is underway and new high tech solid wood and bio-economy products are emerging. As the *The Economist* put it recently there is a “New World Order” in the BC forest industry.

But what happened to drive the forest industry in this new direction? Was it all planned in advance or was it a natural evolution? Actually it was neither. Rather it was a strategic response to the impact of a number of provincial and global policy driven events. The focus of this article is on one aspect of that response: markets in Asia and the United States.

Events of 2006-09

In April 2006, Canada and the US announced an agreement in principle to end five years of litigation over Canada’s exports of softwood lumber to the US. While Canadian exporters had paid US \$5 billion in cash deposits (duties), they had also recorded record levels of lumber production and exports in response to an extremely robust US housing market. The Random Lengths Framing Composite Index (RLFCI) was US \$367/mfbm (thousand board feet).

In that same month, the BC government introduced revised Interior log grades and quickly followed in July with a new market based Interior timber pricing system. These policy changes subsequently proved to be of critical and far reaching importance as they

were grandparented in the 2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) and are now the subject of arbitration under the Agreement.

Over the summer of 2006, the forest industry led the overall economy into what eventually became a recession as the US housing sector began its long and deep collapse. Lumber prices fell dramatically and hit rock bottom in March 2009 with the RLFCI at \$195/mfbm. From 2006 through 2009 the industry strived to reduce costs while conserving cash. For most of this period industry operated on a cash negative basis.

Our Market Response

The China story is now well known. Under a federal and provincial government/industry partnership, exports from BC have grown from a few hundred thousand board feet to 3 billion in just three years as China discovers the many attributes (carbon sequestration, seismic performance and energy efficiency, for example) that wood has as a building material. This increase in shipments has offset about 75% of our lost US market (where Canada’s market share has fallen from 34% to 25%) and has started us well down the road of market diversification. BC mills are now dedicated to serving the China market and our earlier investment in working with Chinese officials on building, fire and safety codes is paying off. It is important to realize that we were only able to increase our shipments because we had earlier developed the technical groundwork and government was assisting in opening the door a bit wider.

The Japanese market is evolving as the population ages. As a result our focus has switched from 100% single family home construction to



Photo: 123RF

about 50% housing and 50% multi-storey public buildings, apartments and retirement homes. COFI technical work on fireproofing has been of great assistance in making this transition.

Korea values wood highly as a building product with strong environmental values as can be seen from their Low Carbon, Green Growth legislation. COFI technical work on fire and acoustic issues is assisting in development of four storey wood frame apartments. We also look forward to negotiations on a Canada/Japan Free Trade Agreement.

Finally there is a huge untapped market in India but for a number of economic and cultural reasons that market is ten years away.

Canada/US Cross Border Response

The Canada/US Softwood Lumber Agreement came into effect in October, 2006. Under the SLA, when lumber prices are in the low range, various levels of border tax or quota (with a smaller tax) apply to all exports of softwood lumber from Canada to the US. At higher prices, there are no export constraints.

Recently Canada and the US announced a two year extension to the SLA to October 2015. This extension has the support of the industry on both sides of the border as it will provide increased cross-border certainty and a clear planning horizon through to the time period when US market recovery is expected.

But the key question is always: has the SLA worked? In short, yes.

First, very politically inspired US import duties were eliminated in return for rules based market driven export controls. Second, the Canadian industry received \$5 billion in cash deposit refunds which assisted

transition through the market downturn. Third, from a US perspective, our market share declined from 34% to 25% commensurate with reduced U.S. lumber consumption. Finally, above all, industry achieved ten years of border peace, subject of course, to arbitrations that may be advanced under the SLA.

For the most part, arbitration proceedings to date have involved allegations by the US that Canada has offset an export measure by a government action. Currently, there is an ongoing arbitration concerning log grading and timber pricing systems in the Interior with a final outcome expected in late 2012. A key issue in this procedure relates to the earlier point about these systems being grandparented in the SLA and therefore not subject to an unsubstantiated arbitration claim.

Conclusion

But is it all good news? The SLA arbitration and market fluctuation challenges remain. The devastating impact of the mountain pine beetle on Interior pine timber supply, replacing the HST, the future of the carbon tax, and the competition green buildings face from substitute products also speak to the need for industry and government to keep focused on our relative competitiveness. However, the pattern has been set and industry is clearly fixed on being in a far superior position by 2015 than it was from 2006-10. In many respects industry has seized the future. 🌲

John Allan is president and CEO, Council of Forest Industries, President, BC Lumber Trade Council and Board Chair, BC Bioenergy Network. Previously he held several positions at the deputy minister level in the BC government.



Easy Tracking of the BC Forest Economy

WITHIN THE COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION BRANCH OF THE MINISTRY of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), I lead a team focused on economic analysis. Among other things, Jim Johnston and Jie Shu provide economic data about the forest industry. Three products may be of particular interest to ABCFP members wishing to understand and monitor BC's forest industry.

All three, and others, are posted online at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/economics.htm>.

Forest Industry Snapshot

Every month we prepare a Forest Industry Snapshot document that includes a selection of monthly statistics, with some analytical commentary and other items of interest, to provide current information about the economic state of BC's forest sector. About every other month, the Snapshot takes a closer look at special topics of interest, such as the February issue's look at the China market.

Annual Economic State of BC's Forest Sector Report

The annual Economic State of BC's Forest Sector report reviews key economic indicators for BC's forest industry. This reveals trends in important indicators such as product prices, export markets and employment. The report is in an easy-to-read Power Point format.

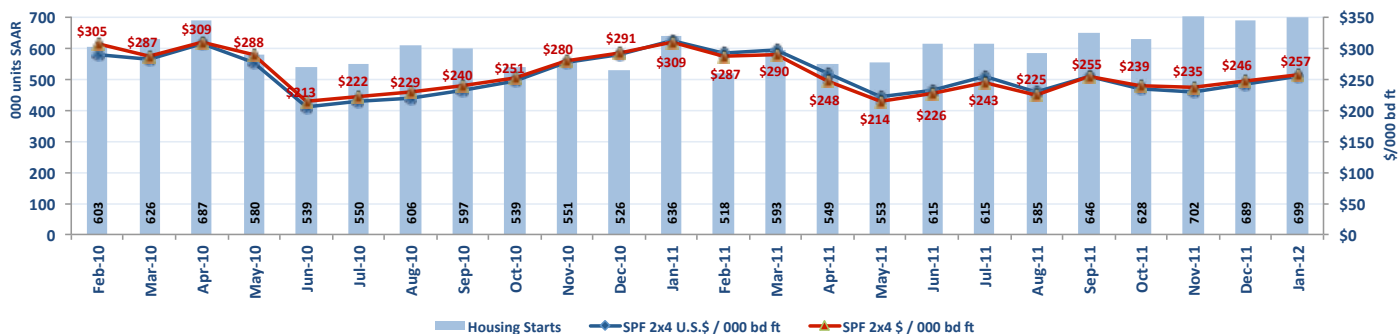
BC Mill Status Report

The BC Mill Status Report is a quarterly update on closed and re-opened timber processing facilities in the province. This includes comments on recent trends such as employment and major investment announcements.

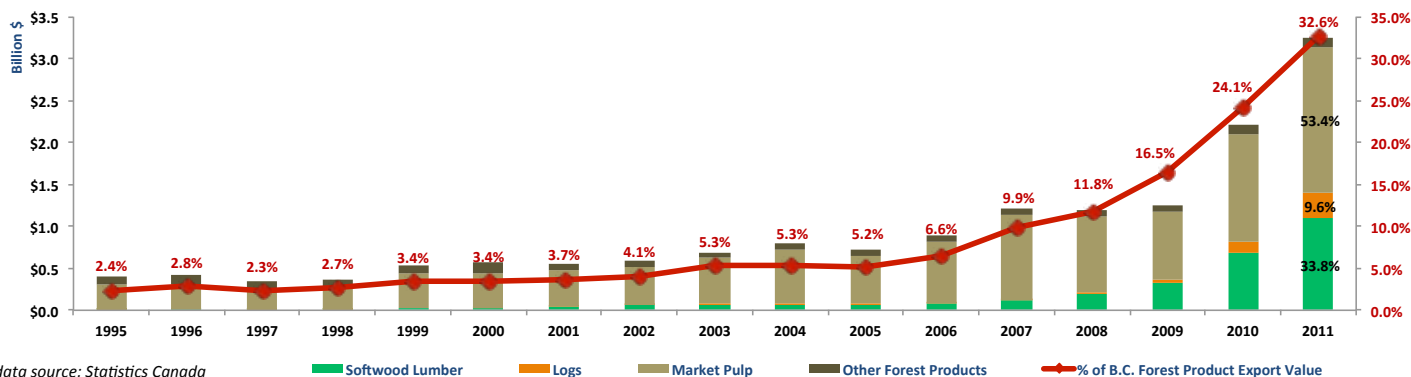
Below is a selection of graphs from the most recent Forest Industry Snapshot to give you a sample of what the report entails.

Before his current position as Manager of Log Export and Economic Analysis, Tom wrote the first two reports on The State of BC's Forests and managed emerging climate change and forest carbon issues.

U.S. Housing Starts* and SPF 2x4 Prices



B.C. Forest Products Exported to China, 1995 - 2011



data source: Statistics Canada



ABCFP Forestry Conference and Annual General Meeting

Fairmont Empress & Victoria Conference Centre

Victoria BC, February 22 – 24, 2012



Photo: Fairmont Hotels

OVER 300 PROFESSIONALS ATTENDED the 64th AGM and forestry conference held in Victoria. The conference opened with a traditional song and welcome to Coast Salish territory by Greg Sam, an elder of the Tsartlip First Nation. Greg's words of welcome included "hy'chqa," a thank you to the delegates for bringing the energy of their wisdom, passion and curiosity to the conference. City Councillor Chris Coleman welcomed delegates to the city of Victoria, commenting on the necessity for municipal leaders to communicate to their urban communities the importance of forest resource use.



Greg Sam of the Tsartlip First Nation gave us an excellent and heartfelt welcome.

Special Feature photos: Sandy McKellar, Tree Frog Creative, except where noted

Professional Development

Rick Monchak, RPF, delivered the lead-off session under the formidable topic of *The Art of Forestry*. He delivered an insightful and personal reflection on the things “he didn’t learn at school,” broken down into four ideas; the art of growing trees; the art of staying connected; the art of making decisions; and the art of building relationships. Rick reminded us that skeptics are the good guys and encouraged us all to embrace global thinking.

Jacques Corstanje, RPF, and Mike Larock, RPF, presented *Should You Be Everything to Everyone? Defining Professional Scope of Practice*, a session that engaged members who felt stretched in their professional practice. In *The Art of Advocacy*, Trevor Swan, RPF; and Ken Zielke, RPF, moderated a lively discussion proving a continued appetite for exploring the advocacy role of the Association.

Another hot topic for many members was *When Everything to Everyone is Not Enough: Non-Statutory Expectations* presented by Bob Craven, RPF; and John Dunford, RPF. They gave good examples of true professionalism outside of the statutory framework and encouraged the association to continue their guidance on this topic. Brian Barber, RPF, provided an update to the 2010 and 2012 professional reliance surveys in *The Art of Professional Reliance*. Many professionals continue to struggle with achieving the vision and intended outcomes of a professional reliance framework.

Al Gorley, RPF, chair of the Forest Practices Board, delivered a summary of the board’s *Report on NSR*. This session filled in the gaps for many who have been following the ongoing debate regarding provincial not sufficiently restocked areas. The *Science and Art of Seed Transfer*, with Nick Ukrainetz, RPF, helped to clarify the task of seedling selection in the face of uncertain future climates. Bob Joseph brought an abridged version of his trademarked course, *Dealing Effectively with Aboriginal Peoples* giving us the benefit of his deep understanding in this area. For those professionals spending more time in the office than the bush, Sarah Hood, BComm, MALT, CHRP, gave a crash course on *The Art of Managing People*. And for those relying on forest inventory information (and who doesn’t?) Taylor Davis and Albert Nussbaum, RPF, presented *From Pixels to Trees: Remote Sensing in the Digital Age*.

Safety

A pre-conference session entitled, *Taking Root*, set the tone for a series of safety talks. Stephen Chaplin, RFT, CRSP, and Laura Maguire spoke on the importance of developing a culture of workplace safety. Special guest presenter Duncan Davies, president and CEO of International Forest products Ltd., joined Peter Lineen, CRSP, and Reynold Hert



(From top left) Steve Baumber, MSc, RPF, was host committee chair. Chris Turner was the conference’s keynote speaker. Nick Ukrainetz, RPF, talked about seed transfer. Rick Monchak, RPF, led off the conference with his talk on *The Art of Forestry*.

to discuss *Leading Safety: The Shared Responsibility*. Since 1999, a push to raise awareness of safety issues across the forest industry dropped fatalities by 50% and serious injury by 33%. Duncan gave a deeply personal account of two recent accidents that illustrated personal loss and the difficulty in achieving ‘zero accidents.’ Marius Jacobs delivered a sobering reflection on the *Delusional Approaches to Safety Management* and the need to avoid the misdirection and complacency of traditional safety programs.

Looking to the Future

The future of forestry is rooted within the students of today and in *Bringing Everything to Everyone: The New Professionals*, Doug Corrin, RPF, ATC; Barbara Hawkins, PhD, RPF; John Innes, PhD; John Karakatsoulis, PhD; and Paul Sanborn, PhD, PAg, brought their various perspectives on the need for investment in research, internships and hiring coop students as a way of keeping students engaged in forestry. They called on members to increase mentorship in their

communities in order to spark interest in natural resource management programs. Alternative uses for forest lands were introduced by Mac Lowry, RPBio, FIT; Douglas Singbeil; and Mike Wise, PEng, FEC, in *Water, Wind and Fibre: The Art of Renewable Energy*. The panel made it clear that forest professionals are integral in the planning and implementation of renewable energy projects. Keynote speaker Chris Turner delivered a passionate argument that society needs to take *The Leap* to a more environmentally sustainable way of living and working. He gave examples from green energy production in Germany and the implementation of ‘feed-in tariffs’ that revolutionized their energy sector. Further to this theme, Bruce Fraser, PhD, ABCFP Honorary Member, and Ben Parfitt presented on the local obstacles we face in moving to a more sustainable economy. *Changing Horses: The Transition Between Two Economies* was an insightful look at how BC is struggling in the transition from resource exploitation to sustainable resource use.

State of the Sector

In *Big Industry’s New Forestry*, Kerry McGourlick, RPF; Ric Slaco, RPF; and Bill Waugh, RPF; spoke on how they’ve kept their operations afloat through tough economic times. They stressed the need to maintain a streamlined business and among their approaches were ensuring flexibility in their operations, maintaining a focus on customers, and using safety and environmental monitoring systems to ensure continuous improvement. Chris Hollstedt, RPF; Rod Bealing; Darrell Errico, RPF; and Jennifer O’Connor addressed *Global Challenges: Certification and the Art of Procurement*. They looked beyond forest management certifica-



(Clockwise from top) The Queen joined us for the President's Awards Banquet. Rod Bergen piped the inductees into the Inductees' Recognition Luncheon. Valedictorians Marley Chewter, RPF, and Robin Strong, RFT, both gave excellent speeches. Past Chief Foresters Larry Pedersen, RPF, and Jim Snetsinger, RPF, enjoyed the conference.



tion schemes to the world of green wood products. Life cycle analyses and environmental product declarations will be key to improving consumer demand by demonstrating that wood products have a lower environmental and carbon footprint than other materials. Bill Bourgeois, PhD, RPF, spoke to the grassroots initiative he is spearheading through Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities: The Dialogue on BC Forests. Their objective is to generate an awareness of the community values they believe should be driving local resource management decisions. In the closing session of the conference, Forest Management in BC: Reflections of BC's 15th Chief Forester, Jim Snetsinger, RPF, expressed optimism about forestry and the future of the forest sector in BC. He stressed that BC had a "solid regulatory framework" that would survive through tough markets and periods of provincial agency reorganization.

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Awards and Recognition

On Wednesday evening the traditional Ice Breaker (sponsored by Strategic Forest Management Inc.) event showcased the sold out trade show. Mike Apsey, RPF(Life) (Canadian Forestry Association), emceed a ceremony where Mark Kube, RPF (Alberta) (Canadian Institute of Forestry), and Ian Emery, RFT (ABCFP President), presented the Honourable Steve Thomson (Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) with both the national and provincial designations of Forest Capital 2012, bestowed upon the province as a whole. Al Richmond and John Massier gave a recap of events from the Cariboo Region, the 2011 provincial forest capital. On Thursday the Inductees' Recognition Luncheon (sponsored by Interfor) welcomed the newest registrants to the profession. The crowd warmly received the young delegates as they were piped in. Rick Brouwer, RPF; Alan Fry, RPF; and Stan Chester, RPF(Life), gave heartfelt charges to the inductees, with responses from valedictorians Marley Chewter, RPF, and Robin Strong, RFT. Later that evening the President's Awards Banquet (sponsored by Canfor) was held in the stunning Crystal Ballroom. Local comedian Carolyn Sadowska, dressed as the Queen of England, started the banquet off with a hilarious royal address. Filled with clever jokes, she also 'knighted' three lucky members (Gordon Weetman, PhD, RPF(Life); Gerry Burch, RPF(Life); and Candace Parsons, RPF). After an address by Tom Lewis (regional manager with Canfor), the official transition was made to the 2012 ABCFP council with Steve Lorimer, RPF, as president. The awards portion of the banquet featured a recognition of distinguished foresters, honorary memberships presented to Gordon Prest and Glynnis Horel, PEng and Forest Technologist of the Year presented to Jonathan Lok, RFT, Musicians Bill Beese, RPF; Andy McKinnon, RPF, and Mike Fenger, RPF, provided some light-hearted post meal entertainment. On the final day the Minister's Lunch featured an address by the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. He spoke of the government's commitment to inventory and recognized the recent input from the association on the shared responsibility for sustainable forest management and the need to collaborate on issues such as mid-term timber supply.

Hy'chqa siem to all our conference sponsors, delegates, presenters, trade show attendees and volunteers! 🌲

(Counterclockwise from top) Participating in the national and provincial Forest Capital 2012 designations were John Massier, Al Richmond; the Honourable Steve Thomson; Mike Apsey, RPF (Life); Ian Emery, RFT and Mark Kube, RPF (Alberta). Larry Pedersen, RPF; Rick Monchak, RPF and Gerry Burch RPF (Life) enjoyed the trade show. Children's art from the ABCFP's National Forest Week contest decorated the registration area. Many artists displayed their wares at the conference, including Phil Cottell, RPF (Ret) and Darrell Thorne.

ABCFP 2012 Awards



Forest Technologist of the Year: Jonathan Lok, RFT

The Forest Technologist of the Year Award recognizes a Registered Forest Technologist for outstanding, recent service to the profession of forestry and for furthering the principles of the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

Jon's nominators cited his dedication to his company, community and profession as the reason he deserved this award. In addition to his success running one of the largest forest management consultancies in BC, Jon helped his community to be named the Forest Capital of BC in 2010. Jon is a director on several boards, including: the North Island Community Forest, the Port McNeill Marine Rescue Society and the Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce.

Professionally, he was instrumental in ensuring RFTs were accepted into the ABCFP as equals and served as the ABCFP's first RFT president. Now that his term on council is over, he continues to volunteer on the both the ABCFP's Board of Examiners and serves as president of the Consulting Foresters of BC.

One of his nominators who served on the ABCFP's council with Jon says: Jon always seems to take the time to weigh all the issues, consider other's opinions and gather his thoughts before succinctly getting to the point in a way that was respectful and intelligent."



ABCFP Honourary Membership: Glynnis Horel, PEng

The highest award the ABCFP presents to non-members is the Honourary Membership award. Individuals presented with this award are made members of the association to honour them for what is usually a lifetime of work for the betterment of forestry in BC.

Glynnis has earned the respect of forest professionals for her dedication to improving forestry practices, her willingness to share her knowledge, and her desire for constant improvement.

Glynnis has created practice improvements that have led to enhancements in the stewardship of all forest resources. She specializes in watershed and riparian zone management and her knowledge in this area has led to better construction and maintenance of forest roads, advancements in the management of sensitive slopes, and improved management of riparian areas and streams.

She regularly shares her knowledge with forest professionals, ENGOS, First Nations, government and industry. She is never content with what she knows and is continually learning and studying to improve her knowledge.



ABCFP Honourary Membership: Gordon Prest

The highest award the ABCFP presents to non-members is the Honourary Membership award. Individuals presented with this award are made members of the association to honour them for what is usually a lifetime of work for the betterment of forestry in BC.

Gordon has dedicated 50 years of his life – his entire career – to forestry in BC. He spent 25 years working for the BC Forest Service ending as the Forest Operation Superintendent of the Lillooet Forest District. He then switched careers and started to work with Aboriginal students to help them get the education they needed for careers in forestry. He left a lasting legacy in the form of laddering programs between Nicola Institute of Technology forestry programs and forestry degrees at UBC as well as his personal mentorship of at least 20 Aboriginal RPFs.

After he 'retired' from paid employment, Gordon continued to care for BC's forests and Aboriginal peoples through his six years of work on the ABCFP Council as a lay member. He was instrumental in fostering relationships between the ABCFP and Aboriginal groups around the province.

Thank You

The Host Committee

A huge thank you to the volunteer host committee who committed themselves to delivering a fantastic event.



From left to right:

Brian Barber, RPF (Entertainment and BCFS 100th Liaison)
 Kevin Bertram, RPF (Sponsorship Chair)
 David Haley, RPF (Authors' Corner and Artists' Showcase)
 Annette Constabel, RPF (Registration and Delegate Packages Chair)
 Matt LeRoy, RPF (Program and Audio Visual)

Jack Louie, RPF(Ret) (Sponsorship)
 Steve Baumber, RPF (Host Committee Chair)
 Rhonda Morris, RPF (behind Steve) (Entertainment & Special Events Chair)
 Mason McIntyre, RFT (Signage, Volunteers, Transportation and Security Chair and Program)
 Larry Pedersen, RPF (Sponsorship)
 Paul Rehler, RPF (Program)

Laura Coward, RPF (Program Chair)
 Kevin Simpson, RFT (Trade Show Chair)
 Martin Watts, FIT (Silent Auction Chair)
 Rob Wood (Finance and Facilities Chair)
 Not in picture: Mike Buell, RPF (Silent Auction), Maureen Scott, RPF (Spouse Event and Entertainment) and Brenda Martin (ABC FP staff member).

The Logo Designer

The 64th AGM logo was designed by Victoria-based graphic artist Randy Ross. The tree represents the multiple values a forest possesses, supporting the townscape in the background that represents the social and economic pressures on the forest. At the centre is the contemplative forest professional who must reconcile what is desired with what is possible.

Forestry Associations

Thanks to the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Canadian Women in Timber, the Forest History Association of British Columbia, and the BC Forest Service Centenary Society for presenting information to our delegates. Volunteer organizations such as these are the heart and soul of community outreach for the BC forest sector.

Forest Authors and Artists

The Author's Corner was continued from last year's conference with an added Artist's Showcase. Several of the artists and authors invited to participate were ABCFP members, and all shared a connection to our inspiration provincial forests.

Fundraisers

This year's Silent Auction and the informal auctioning of the President's Awards Banquet table centrepieces (created by Debbie Poldrugovac) raised \$3,362 for ForesTrust, the ABCFP's registered charity, to create endowments for bursaries and scholarships at post-secondary institutions across British Columbia.

Sponsor Recognition





Interest

By John Innes, PhD

Beyond British Columbia: Linking Forest Professionals Internationally

Photo: iStockPhoto

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, WE ARE SEEING A GROWING INTEREST AMONGST our forestry students and younger forestry professionals in international activities. This represents a palpable change from 10 years ago, when there was a much more exclusive focus on British Columbia.

In part this change reflects the increasing globalization of the profession of forestry, with people realizing the enormous opportunities that exist globally for well-trained forestry professionals. British Columbia could play an extremely significant role in encouraging the development of professional standards of forestry around the world in coming years.

However, even with this new international perspective, it is easy to forget how many of our activities are determined in part by international events and decisions. Regulatory actions, such as international legally binding agreements that Canada agrees to and then are passed on to the provinces, scientific developments, such as advances in our understanding of forest ecosystems and their management, and new managerial techniques, such as the development of novel forms of silviculture, can all be affected by international actions.

Keeping abreast of these international developments can be very time consuming for busy professionals. So, as the current chair, I'd like to recommend the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) to BC's forest professionals as a way of staying in touch with the international forestry community.

The objective of the CFA is to promote the conservation and sustainable management of the world's forests and the contributions they make to peoples' livelihoods through improved communication amongst forestry professionals and all those with an interest in the world's forests. It does this in a number of ways:

- sharing information with members, policy makers and the public,
- educating and training members,
- facilitating of national and international capacity building,
- recognizing excellence in the field of forestry,
- coordinating the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry, and
- providing representation at international meetings.

The CFA is also responsible for making the Queen's Award for Forestry, with recent recipients being Canadian forest economist, Shashi Kant and South African forest pathologist, Jolanda Roux.

While it is easy for the CFA to talk about promoting sustainable forest management, it is often more difficult to do it. A recent example of significant progress is the partnership between the CFA, the Institute of

Foresters of Australia and the New Zealand Institute of Forestry to develop training and education for forestry professionals in Pacific Island countries. This included an examination of what is already being done and will lead to greater cooperation between forestry sector training and education bodies at all levels (vocational, technical and university) in the future. This is a great example of what can happen through collaboration, and the CFA would be very interested in promoting a similar venture between the professional forestry community in Canada and Caribbean states.

See **Beyond BC** on **Page 28**

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Another Perspective on Climate Science

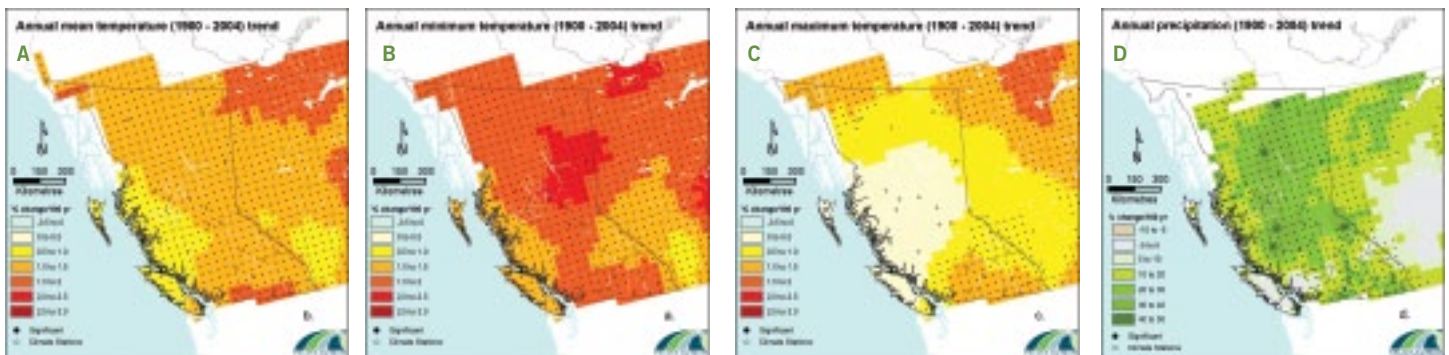
AFTER MANY EXCELLENT CLIMATE CHANGE ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THE BC Forest Professional magazine, the book review on page 26 of the January – February 2012 edition must have left many forest professionals puzzling about the state of climate science. True, climate science is complex: many factors both contribute and interact over time scales ranging from decades to millennia. Fortunately most of us have first-hand experience of both weather and climate upon which we can draw. Anyone who's been in a hot car on a summer day has experienced the greenhouse effect. Both glass and some gasses can trap energy and cause a system to heat up.

What's the difference between weather and climate? It's impossible to discern a true climatic signal within a single fifteen year period. Climate scientists compare long-term temperature trends, typically thirty year periods with other thirty year periods. Cherry-picking the data and using shorter periods of time can lead to erroneous conclusions. Other errors can occur if one seeks information to support a belief instead of proposing a hypothesis and looking objectively at all of the evidence.

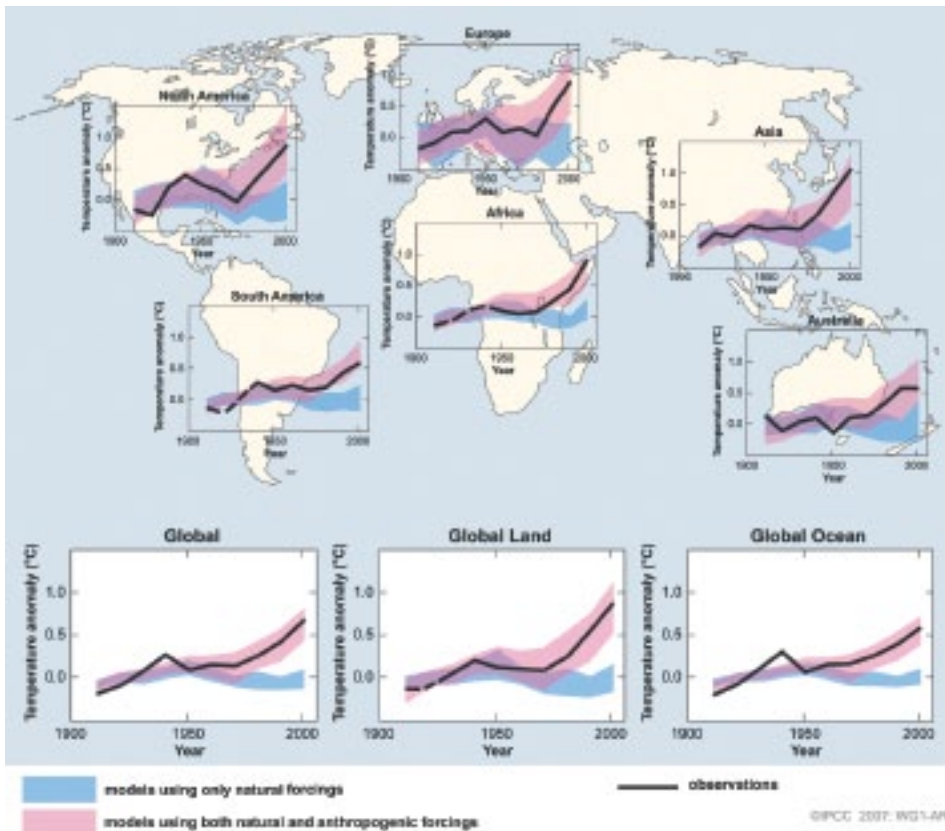
Where can we look for reliable weather and climate information? Data from weather stations is a good start. Maps below show BC's temperature record over a hundred year period. The BC coast warmed at about the global average of 0.74°C (mean annual temperature) from 1906 to 2005. The Interior warmed at about double that rate. Temperature rose faster in winter than in other seasons.

How can scientists tell whether the observed changes are due solely to natural causes, or otherwise? In essence, they develop and calibrate computer models to accurately reproduce past climate, and then use those models to project how the climate may change over time. The results: globally and over continents, climate models that use only natural forcing (such as volcanoes and solar radiation) cannot account for the past temperature record. Only when the effects of greenhouse gas emissions are added in, do the modelled temperatures align with the past temperature record (Source: IPCC AR4 WG1).

Where can we look for credible information? Indeed, climate science is complex. It's taken the combined efforts of meteorologists, biologists, botanists, oceanographers, and other disciplines more than a century to distil a climate signal and arrive at today's understanding of the implications. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to evaluate climate science and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts as a basis for informed policy action. Since then, IPCC scientists have been looking at all the peer reviewed scientific journal articles worldwide that inform our understanding of climate science and reporting out about twice per decade on what the combined results of the studies are telling us. I'm unaware of any other scientific body in the world that has such a rigorous and inclusive process for their scientific process. True,



Adapted from Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium 2007 Figure 2.1.1 – Annual trends in (a) mean, (b) minimum, (c) maximum temperature and (d) precipitation for British Columbia. Results are based on 1900 to 2004 data and calculated as degree Celsius change per century. Source: CANGRID (50 km) data; adapted from Zhang et al. 2000. (white: 0 to +0.5°C; yellow +0.5 to 1.0°C; orange +1.0 to 1.5°C; red +2.0 to 2.5°C; brick +2.5 to +3.0°C change per 100 years. Precipitation: % change/100 yrs: white -5 to +5%; pale green +5 to +10%; yellow-green +10 to 20%; green +20 to 30%; olive +30 to 40%; dark green +40 to 50%)



Comparison of observed continental and global scale changes in surface temperature with results simulated by climate models using natural and anthropogenic forcings. Decadal averages of observations are shown for the period 1906 to 2005 (black line) plotted against the center of the decade and relative to the corresponding average for 1901-1950. Blue shaded bands show the 5-95% range for 19 simulations from five climate models using only the natural forcings due to solar activity and volcanoes. Red shaded bands show the 5-95% range for 58 simulations from 14 climate models using both natural and anthropogenic forcings (FAQ 9.2, Figure 1). IPCC AR4 Working Group 1 2007.

they also run a political gauntlet in order to publish their summary report. For example, nations that rely heavily on fossil fuels have a voice at their publication table. Still, there's a reason that Al Gore and IPCC scientists won a Nobel Prize in 2007 and most of us didn't.

What happened with the Climate Gate scandal? Following hacking of e-mails of climate scientists at Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia, in three separate inquiries last year, IPCC scientists were exonerated of any wrongdoing:

- A British House of Commons' Science and Technology Committee found no evidence to support charges of data-tampering nor subversion of the peer review process, but called for more transparency including sharing of raw data;
- The Muir Russell inquiry found that the rigour and honesty of CRU scientists was not in doubt, and found no evidence of behaviour that might undermine the conclusions of the IPCC assessment; and,
- An international panel set up by the University of East Anglia found no evidence of deliberate scientific malpractice, and suggested that the authority for releasing raw data should stay with those who collect it.

The accusations against climate scientists were strategically timed to detract from the negotiations at Copenhagen which aimed to reach an accord on climate action. Other climate scientists who were also accused were similarly cleared of charges against them.

How broad is the scientific consensus? While it's less than 100%, fully 95% to 97% of active climate scientists publishing in peer-reviewed scientific journals endorse the consensus posi-

tion on human-caused global warming (See Skeptical Scientist, Consensus on Global Warming). That, of course, doesn't mean that we all share the consensus view. A few scientists challenge it (which is healthy); many of us have an inadequate basis for drawing conclusions; there are vested interests in the fossil fuel economy; and the media strives for 'balance' in providing a spectrum of views regardless of how well-informed and widely held those views are.

Having considered a broad array of peer reviewed scientific journal articles and consulted with many scientists over the last seven years, from my perspective, the evidence of human caused global warming is so persuasive and the consequences so large that we as a society cannot afford not to act. A great deal of excellent work is underway at universities and other institutions in BC to help forest managers address issues such as increased disturbance from fire and insects. For more information on how climate change is already affecting BC, check out the resources available from UBC and the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (<http://pacificclimate.org/>).

What can we do to reduce risks and capture opportunities? Fortunately, most actions to respond to environmental change are things we would do anyway in good forest management. Many actions can help, and new tools are rapidly emerging. See for example, the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Forest Stewardship Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and resources on the Chief Forester's website.

The Legal Perspective

By Jeff Waatainen, LLB, MA, BA (Hons)

Occupiers Liability and Resource Roads

ON MARCH 7, 2012, THE *Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Statutes Amendment Act*, 2012 (Bill 6) was introduced into the BC Legislature for first reading, and included an interesting amendment to the *Occupiers Liability Act* (the Act). The amendment will give the designation 'limited liability entity' to 'maintainers' (any person statutorily obliged or authorized to maintain a resource road) and government. It will also limit the liability exposure of limited liability entities for resource roads under the Act.

By way of background, the Act is a statutory supplement to the common law of negligence as it relates to the condition and maintenance of a 'premises.' The Act defines the duty of care that an 'occupier' of a premises owes to people who enter the premises: the 'care that in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that a person, and the person's property ... will be reasonably safe.'

Under the Act, a 'premises' includes 'land and structures or either of them,' and an 'occupier' includes both persons in physical possession of a premises, and persons who have responsibility for and control over the condition of the premises, the activities undertaken on the premises, and the persons allowed to enter the premises. Resource roads may therefore constitute a 'premises,' and government and maintainers could owe a duty of care under the Act to anyone who enters upon a resource road.

That said, the Act provides that an occupier only owes a lower duty of care for 'risks willingly assumed.' If risks are willingly assumed, then the occupier only assumes liability if it creates a danger on the premises with the intent to harm a person, or acts with 'reckless disregard' for the safety of a person. For sake of certainty, the Act deems that a person willingly assumes risks in specified circumstances, and Bill 6 will add to those circumstances to address the liability exposure of government and maintainers under the Act with respect to resource roads.

Bill 6 specifies that anyone who uses a resource road is deemed to have willingly assumed all risks and that a limited liability entity (government or a maintainer) only owes the lower duty of care (discussed above) to that person. That said, Bill 6 will ensure that a limited liability entity must meet the higher standard of care (discussed above) if the person is an employee, contractor or agent of the limited liability entity and is required to use the resource road in connection with the employment, contract or agency. The higher standard also applies with respect to anyone who a maintainer transports on a resource road.

Undoubtedly, this clarification and limitation of liability for resource roads is a welcome development for government and maintainers. It is also unlikely to decrease safety standards on resource roads: a limited liability entity still owes the higher duty of care to employees, contractors and agents. While others may not have the same legal recourse against a limited liability entity, that entity will still have to maintain its resource roads to a standard that will satisfy the higher duty it owes to employees, contractors and agents. Moreover, the limitation of liability contemplated in Bill 6 only applies to civil liability—there are still many other liabilities that government and maintainers are exposed to on account of resource roads. Under the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, for example, a maintainer must ensure that the industrial users may safely use the road. This applies even if the industrial user has nothing to do with the operations of the maintainer. Similarly, the *Workers Compensation Act* requires an 'owner' of a 'workplace' to ensure that the workplace is used in a manner that ensures the health and safety all 'persons' at or near the workplace, not just employees, contractors and agents. The definition of "owner" includes a 'licensee or occupier,' and 'workplace' includes any place a worker is likely to be engaged in work (such as a resource road). Finally, insofar as a member of the ABCFP supervises operations in respect of a resource road, that member has an ethical responsibility to the public 'to have proper regard in all work for the safety of others.' 🌲

Jeff Waatainen is a past adjunct professor of law at UBC, has practised law in the forest sector for over fifteen years, and currently works in the Forestry Law Practice Group of Davis LLP's Vancouver offices.

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Discipline Case Update

Discipline Case: 2009-05

Subject Member: Mr. Greg Lay, RPF

Referred to: Discipline Committee

Date of Decision: January 2012

Type: Conditional – Submission and Negotiated Settlement
Approved by Discipline Panel

This is an abridge version. To read Discipline Case Digest 2009-05 in its entirety, please visit our website (www.abcfp.ca) and click on: Regulating the Profession, Complaints & Discipline, Discipline Case Digests.

THE COMPLAINT

On March 23, 2009, the ABCFP received a complaint from a member of the public. Following the release of an investigation report by the Standing Investigations Committee dated November 9, 2010 the ABCFP cited member Lay on May 2, 2011 as follows:

“That, in the development of a prescription for the Kaslo Interface Fuel Management Project and in his oversight role regarding the implementation of that prescription, during 2008 and 2009, Gregory Lay, RPF, has:

1. incompetently engaged in the practice of professional forestry; and/or has engaged in conduct unbecoming a member of the ABCFP; and/or
2. breached the ABCFP bylaw 11.3.1 in that he failed to advocate and practise good stewardship of forest land based on sound ecological principles to sustain its ability to provide those values that have been assigned by society; and/or
3. breached the ABCFP bylaw 11.3.3 in that he failed to have proper regard for existing legislation, regulation, policy and common law; and to seek to balance the health and sustainability of forests, forest lands, forest resources, and forest ecosystems with the needs of those who derive benefits from, rely on, have ownership of, have rights to, and interact with them; and/or
4. breached the ABCFP bylaw 11.3.5 in that he did not work to improve practices and policies affecting the stewardship of forest land; and/or
5. breached the ABCFP bylaw 11.4.1 in that he failed to inspire confidence in the profession by maintaining high standards in conduct and daily work.”

The Settlement

The following are the key terms of the Settlement:

Member Lay:

1. has fully disclosed his conduct in this case;
2. admits that he incompetently engaged in the practice of professional forestry and/or acted in a manner unbecoming a member of the ABCFP in developing the prescription and in his oversight role regarding the implementation of the prescription;
3. admits that he breached Bylaws 11.3.1, 11.3.3, 11.3.5, and 11.4.1;
4. will provide a written apology for his actions to the ABCFP; and

5. will not engage in any independent work involving fuel management or fire interface prescriptions for a period of one year, and will demonstrate to the satisfaction of the registrar that he has taken appropriate additional training before resuming such work in the future.

The ABCFP:

1. will publish a Discipline Case Digest naming member Lay;
2. will put a letter of reprimand on member Lay's file; and
3. will take no further disciplinary action provided member Lay made no misrepresentations and complies with this settlement.

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In Memorium

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 **BC Forest Professional**. The association sends condolences to the family and friends of the following member:

Peter Kenneth Wallis

RPF #3602
1958 – 2011



After a short but courageous battle with cancer, Pete passed away on June 30, 2011 at the age of 52.

Pete was born in Red Deer, Alberta, on November 30, 1958; the fourth of five sons born to Colonel Alan and Florence Shirley Wallis. He had a great childhood with his brothers Doug,

Mike, Rick, and John and loved his family with devotion that encompassed his life. The very close relationship with his brothers and extended family was maintained until his last hours.

Being a son of an air force colonel, Pete spent many years residing in different parts of the country with his family. This gave him a finely-tuned sense of others, and a lifelong appreciation of the value of loyalty and family. He went to Esquimalt High School in Victoria, where he was recognized as a formidable athlete, graduating in 1976 and going on to BCIT's forestry program to complete it in 1982. Between 1977 and 1980, Peter worked in the Chilcotin area for the BC Forest Service, first at Puntzi Tanker Base as a loader for air tankers, and later, out of the Tatla Lakes Ranger Station, as a suppression crew straw boss. Shortly after his graduation, he began his forestry career with the Ministry of Forests in Lillooet Forest District starting as a forestry technician and later as silviculture forester. He became a Registered Professional Forester in 1998. With the creation of BC Timber Sales in 2004, Pete and family moved to Kamloops where he assumed planning forester position with the Kamloops Business Area.

The town of Lillooet will forever miss Pete's contributions where he coached local teams, volunteered his time with the schools, and annually kicked-ass in loggers' sports competitions, as well as participating in a host of other social and community activities.

Pete was a forester with great integrity and passion. Coming from a strong moral background he upheld very high standards in his work and had an incredible work ethic. Pete appreciated a good laugh and had a well-developed and truly Canadian sense of humor. He was modest, a fine example to others and positively impacted more than his fair share of people.

Pete was a beloved husband to Cindy and devoted father of their three children: Chris, Jenny and Lindsay. He was an exceptional man, an excellent forester, and a great colleague and brother, who will be dearly missed by his family, friends and co-workers.

Submitted by Zoran Boskovic, RPF; and John Wallis, RPF; with contributions from Pete's family and friends.

Beyond BC continued from Page 23

Another particularly important aspect of the CFA is the links being forged between forestry professionals and civil society. Civil society organizations cover a diverse range of groups, including non-governmental organizations, labour unions, professional associations, parts of the media and academia and community groups. They are an essential part of a democratic society, yet many of the people involved in such groups have little knowledge of the importance of forests or the need for the sustainable management of forests, for the well-being of everyone. By working with such organizations, the CFA is seeking to provide forest professionals and the forestry profession in general with a voice in political decision making.

Created in 1921, the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) is the world's longest established international forestry association. The association links people from around the world with an interest in professional forestry and focuses particularly on the exchange of information and experience. While the CFA still has some ties to the Commonwealth of Nations, a voluntary association of 54 independent countries including 2 billion people and just over 20% of the world's forest resources, it is becoming increasingly global. Our governing council includes prominent forestry professionals from around the world and has an executive director based in the UK. With a President based in Italy and the chair and vice chair both based in Vancouver, the organization is truly international.

Membership of the CFA can be either at the level of individuals or organizations. Details of how to join can be found at www.cfa-international.org.

John Innes, PhD, is Chair of the Commonwealth Forestry Association. He is also Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. His research concentrates on the interactions between communities and forests, with recent emphasis being placed on the adaptation of forestry to the effects of climate change.

Footnotes and Author's Biography continued from Page 25

Kathy Hopkins, RPF, has been engaged since 2006 in understanding and addressing the implications of climate change and variability for forest management in BC. She works in Victoria for the provincial government.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Cameron Leitch, RPF. False Alarm: Global Warming – Facts Versus Fears.
- 2 See Science Daily: Confirmation Bias http://www.sciencedaily.com/articles/c/confirmation_bias.htm
- 3 Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. Climate Overview 2007: Hydro-climatology and future climate impacts in British Columbia. D. Rodenhuis, K. Bennett, A. Werner, T. Murdock, and D. Bronaugh. http://pacificclimate.org/sites/default/files/publications/Rodenhuis_ClimateOverview.Mar2009.pdf
- 4 IPCC AR4. Climate Change 2007. The Physical Science Basis. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch3s3-es.html
- 5 <http://www.skepticalscience.com/naomi-oreskes-consensus-on-global-warming.htm>
- 6 <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/climate/index.htm>

Membership Statistics

ABCFP—March 2012

NEW RPF

Janie Katherine Kester, RPF

NEW RFT

Ryan Christopher Marcel Arsenault, RFT

NEW ENROLLED MEMBERS

Curtis John Lincoln Bennett, FIT
Jonathan Louis Dehouwer, FIT
Benjamin Peter Harper-Heir, FIT
Darcy Ray LeBourdais, FIT
Tanner Gary LeBourdais, FIT
Cynthia Fane Lu, FIT
Stephen John Lenio, TFT
Curtis William Macdonald, FIT
Donald Jeffrey Marshall, FIT
Robert Gordon Nash, FIT
Jordan Jeffrey Pyette, TFT

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Tammy Syslak, SAS

REINSTATEMENTS

Patrick G.J. Bussiere, RPF
Timothy S. Caldwell, RPF
Walter Charles Dagenais, RFT
Beverly Ann Frittenburg, RPF
Shauneen Ann Gibbons, RPF
Randall G. Hart, RPF
Donald R. McMillan, RPF
Heidi Elizabeth Reinikka, FIT
Luc C.J. Turgeon, RFT
Brian William Watson, RPF
Wade James Watson, RPF

REINSTATEMENTS FROM LOA

Les G. Barlow, RPF
Suzanne Cairns, RPF
Thomas William Cummings, RFT
Victor Drohomirecki, RPF
Steven M. Galliazzo, RPF
Mary Jane Jojic, RFT
David Norman Riddell, RFT, ATC
Sehleeah Metahwee Schevers, RFT
Beverley Christine Schulte, RFT
D. Craig Donald Sutherland, RPF

DECEASED

Henry C. Sweatman

The following people are not entitled to practice professional forestry in BC:

NEW RETIRED MEMBERS

Robert William Dice, RFT (RET)
Carman J.M. Smith, RPF (RET)
Anita R. Wolfe, RPF (RET)

RESIGNATIONS

Bradley Jay Bushill, Kevin Frank Carter
Adam Neil Escot, Robert Michael Grant
Randall G. Hart, Geoffrey Recknell
Kimberly Anne Walters

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Conrad Earl Browne, RFT (onLOA)
Edward David Folk, RFT (on LOA)
Rena Mary Gibson-Protzner, RFT (on LOA)
Michael J. Girard, RPF (on LOA)
Frank Peter Heller, RFT (on LOA)
Qinglin Li, FIT (on LOA)
Sherri-Lynne Madden, RFT (on LOA)
Clayton Peter Neuner, RFT (on LOA)
Suzanne Beverly Pelletier, RFT (on LOA)
Christopher A. Waite, RPF (on LOA)

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A Moment in Forestry

Submit your moment in forestry to Brenda Martin at: editor@abcfp.ca



Forest Fire Fighting Submitted by Trever Krisher, TFT. Photo by VANJAM Initial Attack Crew, NIFAC 43, PGFC, WMB

This photo shows Tanker 449 and Birddog 131. Tanker 449 has just dropped a load of fire retardant.
Fire# G50361 , August 16, 2008, Fort St. James, BC



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