

FINAL AGM Held December 16, 2021

The 32nd Annual General meeting of Canadian Women In Timber was held by conference call on December 16, 2021. After general housekeeping and annual reports were read, the Board elections were held. The former Board members were once again re-elected. After a lengthy discussion of the future of Canadian Women In Timber, it was decided that we have done all we can do right now and due to lack of activity during COVID, and dwindling membership and active members, it was time to dissolve our group. A formal resolution to dissolve Canadian Women was passed and the procedure was started at our last Board meeting on June 8, 2022. A sub-committee consisting of Sandy McKellar, Ann Polson and Betty-Ann McDonald was elected to proceed with settling any liabilities and dispersing remaining assets to qualified recipients.

32nd AGM Chair's Report – Sandy McKellar

Sandy did not have much to report as CWIT was fairly inactive the past year. She noted that many Charities and non-profits have been struggling with memberships and activities and future considerations for CWIT would be discussed further down the agenda.

32nd AGM Education Report - Betty-Ann McDonald

Once again we were inactive because of COVID and the cancellation of events and conferences. We did have one request for some of our Splinter activity books and Forest and Wood Facts book but that was all.

32nd Membership Report – Betty-Ann McDonald

We waived our CWIT membership fee this year and all paid memberships from last year are in good standing until September/2022. So because of this we still have 57 members but unfortunately our numbers have been declining every year and more than likely next year will be a lot less.

32nd AGM Shuswap Branch Report - Ann Polson

The Shuswap Branch decided it was not viable to continue as a branch as they did not have a source of income and had only 3 active members so they closed their bank account and returned \$270.60 to the Board account. They did give one final bursary to a graduating student furthering their education in forestry.



The forest industry is one of the highest paying industries in the province and directly employs about 50,000 people across BC, including more than 5,300 Indigenous people.

This includes loggers, mill workers, forest managers, engineers, biologists, log buyers, truck drivers, and tree planters.

Last Events of Canadian Women In Timber

COFI Conference 2022 - Betty-Ann McDonald

In April, Betty-Ann and Ann attended the 2022 COFI conference in Vancouver. COFI once again kindly donated a booth and exhibitor tickets for the functions. It was very well attended with about 800 delegates, and 54 exhibitors.

We gave out lots of our books and handouts and had great conversations with people from all over, including Tennessee, New York and Europe. COFI President and CEO, Susan Yurkovich, as always, took the time to stop by and have a chat with us. It was so nice to connect with people after 2 years. Many people did seem disappointed that Canadian Women In Timber were dissolving.

We did go outside to see what a commotion was all about, and tried to have a chat with a protester, a girl who had glued her hand to a window in the lobby of the hotel. Interestingly enough she didn't seem to know what she was protesting and when we tried to talk to her, another person, clearly the designated spokesperson, came up to confront us. We managed to get a few facts out there but there really was no reasoning with the protesters. After a few minutes we were asked to go back into the hotel. This wasn't the first confrontation we've had with protestors and we've always managed to counter much of their rhetoric.



COFI 2022 - Betty-Ann McDonald Ann Polson Sandy McKellar

ILA Trade Show - Ann Polson

In May, Ann and Betty-Ann attended the ILA Trade Show in Kamloops. We had a booth representing Canadian Women In Timber and also the ILA and its Forest Education van. It was the first trade show in 3 years. Easing back into it, they did not have a banquet or silent auction this year.

Friday was fairly busy with a steady flow of people and Saturday was even busier with lots of families and kids of all ages. The toy logging display was a huge draw from little kids to adults and the bug display was also a big attraction. Our hand-outs were once again very popular. We gave out all our Splinter book supply, about 250 paper shopping bags and lots of our Wood and Forest Fact books as well as Splinters Timber Log.

The Minister of Forests, Katrina Conroy, and her entourage stopped at our booth for a chat and Betty-Ann demonstrated our cloth learning tree to her. We had conversations with so many people of all walks of life - many men and women who work in the forest industry and retired loggers with many stories to tell. People seemed disappointed to hear this would be our last function as Canadian Women In Timber.

Betty-Ann and I had mixed emotions - so happy to be there, but sad to know it was our last event representing Canadian Women In Timber.

We would like to acknowledge the phenomenal support Canadian Women In Timber has received from COFI and the ILA through the years. Their support along with many other forest companies and organizations has made it possible for CWIT to carry out our Forest Education activities and projects. It's been an honour and a pleasure to work with them and to proudly present positive and factual information about our forests and Forest Industry.



A Final Farewell from the Canadian Women in Timber – Sandy McKellar

It is with a heavy heart that I write this final message from the Chair to our members and friends. Yes, after more than 30 years, the Canadian Women in Timber are dissolving our organization. Since 1989, our branches and provincial board have enthusiastically championed the forestry and logging sectors in British Columbia. We've collectively touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of school children, parents, teachers and community members - fostering an interest and passion for the natural science of forestry; management and operations/harvesting. Our educational materials have been republished many times (with support from our sponsors) and are part of classroom sets and family bookshelves around the province and across Canada.

Our founders - Myrtle Siebert, Pat Fechtner and Brenda Armstrong - saw a need in BC for a grassroots voice that could represent the forest sector, sharing the good works of the industry in individual communities as well as reaching out to broader stakeholders such as educators and government. I believe that we have upheld that vision with a strong, science-based, balanced view of forest land use issues.

In this last newsletter, we would like to thank everyone who has been a member of the Canadian Women in Timber - your contributions are so important and valued. We would also like to thank our supporters and friends - forestry companies, industry associations like the ILA and the TLA, governments and forest ministers who have participated in our events and programs, all the post-secondary forestry programs, and all of the many schools around the province who have welcomed us into their classrooms.

Our partnership with the Interior Logging Association and the Forest Education Van was a key part of our program, especially as our regional branches closed down. The van gave us a means to engage with people one-on-one, with hands-on tools and interactive displays that will continue to provide value to the sector long into the future. Thank you to Wayne Lintott who was always our champion!

We will be donating our surplus materials to like-minded non-profit groups. Our website will remain online for a few more months as a resource for downloading our booklets and activities.

A heartfelt goodbye from our board of directors, Betty-Ann McDonald, Ann Polson, Wayne Lintott, Steve Baumber, Marg Hagardt, Laurie Septav, Molly Hudson, Melinda Morben, Lucy Adirim, and myself, Sandy McKellar. We wish you all the best - and encourage everyone to continue our pledge of **Forest Awareness Through Education!**

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who supported me over the past 30 plus years I have been a member of Canadian Women In Timber. There are so many companies and individuals who have given CWIT many opportunities to help spread a positive outlook toward the Forest Industry. Through our school programs, trade shows, conventions and other forestry related events, we have met many interesting people, and it's been very rewarding for all of us. Also to all CWIT members, past and present, thanks for all your work and input. I will certainly miss the socializing, networking, and fun times I've had throughout the years - **Ann Polson**

British Columbia planted just over 301 million trees in 2021, a record 304 million in 2020, 258 million in 2019 and 255 million in 2018. More than 1.1 billion trees have been planted since 2018. Nov 10



So Long Canadian Women In Timber

When I joined Canadian Women In Timber 30 years ago I didn't know a lot about our forests and the Forest Industry even though many members of my family, including my husband and I, were in the industry. I was upset with all the protesting and negativity towards the forest industry and the people working in it. I found it easy to educate myself through workshops, forestry events, networking, and doing my own research and soon found that so many false facts and misinformation about the forest industry was being spread around. Attending many different public venues, conferences and doing classroom presentations gave us the platform to present factual, positive information and was very rewarding. Our forest education materials that we produced and distributed were very well received and have been requested by various groups and educators all over BC and Canada, and sent overseas and across the border. I am very proud of the Splinter activity books that Ann Polson and I created and our input on the other CWIT projects. Meeting and talking with so many people from all walks of life was so interesting and enjoyable and gave us many opportunities to spread the good word about the forest industry.

I am proud to say my family and I are, or have been, a part of the forest industry and am confident that our forests will be intact for the future and they will still be there for my great, great... grandchildren. It is okay to be in the forest industry and it's okay to be a logger. Contrary to popular belief our forest are being looked after and the forest industry is an essential contributor to our province and the people in it.

Thank you so much to all the companies and individuals who have supported CWIT through the years and to all our members past and present who have kept us going for so long and for supporting our Forest Awareness Through Education projects and programs.

I have met so many amazing people and made many new friends through CWIT and will miss the comradery and socializing. We had a lot of fun but I also feel we made a valuable contribution towards a better understanding and appreciation of our forest industry. Being a Canadian Women In Timber has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable times of my life and I will miss it. - **Betty-Ann McDonald**



B.C. is a world leader in sustainable forest management with leading-edge environmental practices. Roughly 95 percent of BC forests are publicly owned and governed by stringent laws and environmental regulations. This allows the province to sustainably manage forest resources. And over 85 percent of the province's forest land has been legally designated for multiple uses. BC forest companies must consult British Columbians before any harvesting is approved by the government. Crucial to the industry are innovative, best practices.



FOREST AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATION

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