

Trails & Tales

PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST HISTORY
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

MARCH
2024
ISSUE #22



1958

BERTIE BEAVER SAYS:



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WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

STAMP OUT FOREST FIRES

GOVERNMENT OF
ALBERTA



DEPARTMENT OF
LANDS & FORESTS



PREVENT FIRE

GOVERNMENT OF
ALBERTA



DEPARTMENT OF
LANDS & FORESTS



CO-OPERATION PREVENTS FOREST FIRES

GOVERNMENT OF
ALBERTA



DEPARTMENT OF
LANDS & FORESTS



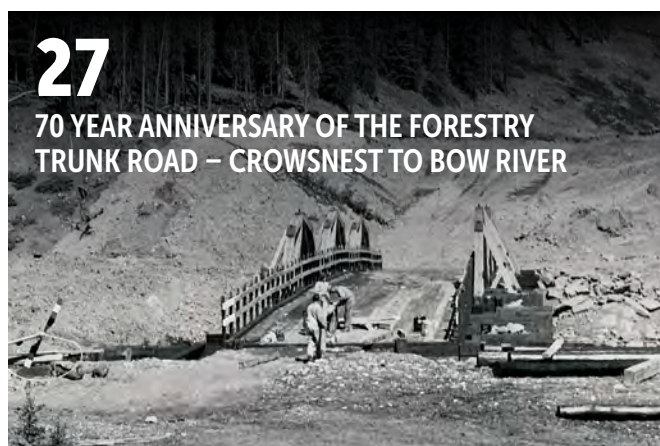
BE SURE YOUR CAMPFIRE IS OUT

GOVERNMENT OF
ALBERTA



DEPARTMENT OF
LANDS & FORESTS

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ON THE COVER:

Bertie Beaver joined by Alberta Forest Service staff on a Klondike Days float.

Back Row (L to R): Marvin Tully (forest officer),
Cathy Conway (administrative staff), John Beraska
(aircraft dispatcher)

Front Row (L to R): John Biederman
(small engine mechanic), Not
Identified

Edmonton Klondike Days Parade; July 1981



2023 MEMBERSHIP: 141 (MEMBERSHIPS TRACKED ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS)

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL AGM DRAWS OVER SIXTY PEOPLE

On March 15, 2023, the Forest History Association of Alberta held its 18th annual general meeting. Getting back on track from the lack of in-person meetings because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 49 people attended in-person, and another 15 members joined online.

Bruce Mayer opened the meeting with an overview of the agenda, and instructions on how to use the various functions within Zoom. A special thanks was given to Todd

Nash for the use of the MNP Zoom account, and to Daniel Chicoine for figuring out how to use it! Thanks were provided to the Chateau Louis staff, those providing the audio visual support, Travis Fairweather for taking photographs, and to Lynn Schimanski and Wendy Yeomans for managing the reception desk. Door prize donations were provided by the Forest History Association of Alberta, Delta Helicopters, and the Peter Murphy estate. Bob Petite donated a two-volume hardcover book set by

Larry Milberry, titled *"Air Transport in Canada"*, a \$155 retail value. Don Page was introduced as the guest speaker. Directors in attendance were Bruce Mayer, Gordon Sanders, Deanna McCullough, Sarah Gooding, Katie Lamoureux, and David Wall. Graham Legaarden joined online. A total of 64 people attended this first combination in-person and online annual general meeting.

Katie welcomed the group and commented how impressed she was

Group picture of attendees at the 18th Forest History Association of Alberta annual general meeting; Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre; Edmonton; March 15, 2023



that work still carried on while we were all dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and that we were able to have an in-person meeting this year. She was also excited with all the accomplishments and looked forward to this upcoming year.

The Trails & Tales newsletter, Issue #21 was published in February 2023. This COVID-19 edition covered both 2021 and 2022. Special thanks to Judy Fushtey at Broken Arrow Solutions for her creative flair and layout skills in the newsletter, and to Bob Newstead for his support in reviewing and editing draft newsletter content. Judy also created a new fillable membership and donation form for the FHAA website. In 2022, work continued scanning slides and photographs from collections of Elmer Johnson, Henry Desjarlais, Peter Nortcliffe, the AFS Crowsnest Pass office, the AFS Wandering River ranger station grand opening, Revie Lieskovsky, and Rick Blackwood's Foothills Model Forest photographs. As well, over 100 mini and cassette tapes from Peter Murphy's interview collection were digitized. Matt Fisher and colleagues at Silvacom CS

continued working on Phase 2 of the Forest History Media Catalogue.

There are nine directors within the association, elected on a three-year rotation; three representing government; three representing forest industry; and three representing the public. The directors provide oversight, guidance and focus on the yearly work of the Forest History Association of Alberta. Deanna McCullough was acclaimed for the public position, Todd Nash was elected to the industry position, and Bruce Mayer was acclaimed for the government position.

Sara Gooding provided an overview of the background work of the social media committee. The proposal made at the annual general meeting was to send a survey to members and gather feedback on the various platforms used, what the platforms were used for, and if members would be interested in supporting the administration of a social media presence. A report back on decisions made will be provided at the next annual general meeting. Bruce Mayer provided an overview of interviews

completed in the past, and asked those in attendance for names of potential people to be interviewed, and those who would be willing to support conducting interviews. It was recognized that without a formal interview program, most interviews completed would be more opportunistic.

1. Door prize table at the Forest History Association of Alberta annual general meeting
2. Secretary Treasurer Bruce Mayer opening the annual general meeting and reviewing the proposed agenda





1. L to R: Lynn Schimanski and Wendy Yeomans

2. President Katie Lamoureux giving opening remarks at the 18th annual general meeting

3. Sarah Gooding presenting the social media committee report

4. Attendees voting for FHAA directors

5. L to R: Pat Guidera, Rory Thompson, Lorne West, and Andy Gesner



2023 FHAA Executive

Katie Lamoureux
President

Graham Legaarden
Vice President

Bruce Mayer
Secretary Treasurer

Ken Yackimec
Director

Todd Nash
Director

David Wall
Director

Sarah Gooding
Director

Deanna McCullough
Director

Normand Dupuis
Director

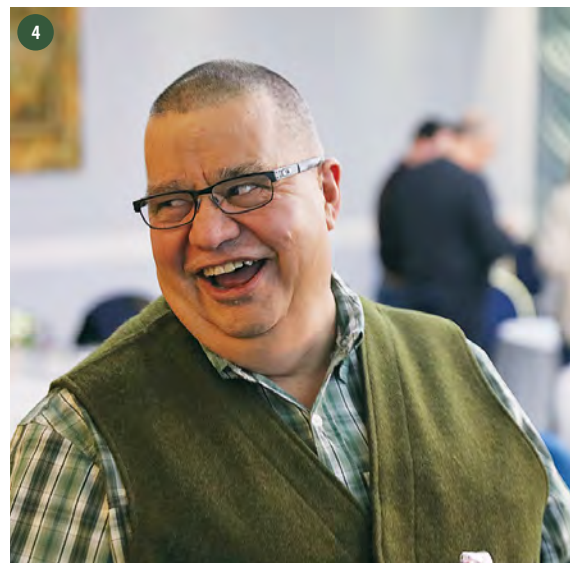


1. Bruce Mayer presenting information from the interview committee

2. L to R: Kevin Gagne, Terry Jessiman, and Wayne Williams

3. L to R: Andy Gesner and Bob Stevenson

4. L to R: Ken Vanderwell and Erla Stevenson



1. Chad Morrison
2. L to R: Daryl D'Amico and Dave Patterson
3. L to R: Gordon Graham and Ed Dechant
4. Morgan Kehr
5. L to R: Bas Delaney and Wendy Yeomans at the door prize table





1. Richard Briand
2. L to R: Daryl D'Amico and Gordon Sanders
3. L to R: Don Pope and Anne McInerney
4. Shawn Barroclough with his 'new pen' from the door prize table
5. L to R: Bob Petite, Bill Bereska (back to picture), and Bernie Schmitte



1. L to R: Shawn Barroclough and Deanna McCullough
2. Ed Pichota
3. Gary Davis reading through the Trails & Tales Newsletter Issue #21, March 2023
4. L to R: Quentin Spila and John Belanger
5. L to R: Wendy Yeomans and Terry Jessiman at the door prize table



1. Bev Wilson
2. L to R: Deanna McCullough, Todd Nash, and Ken Glover
3. L to R: Bob Newstead and Bruce Mayer (back to picture)
4. L to R: Dave Cheyne and Deanna Zelt
5. Chris Walsh
6. David Wall at the door prize table

THE ORIGIN STORY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY CORPORATION

Submitted by Don Page

Alberta is in a fortunate position of having hundreds if not thousands of digital mapping layers covering all or large portions of the province. These mapping layers are accessible through Geographic Information Systems (GIS), that consist of software, hardware, and people to collect and maintain the data. Mapping and spatial analysis that was once the realm of cartographers and specialized GIS analysts can now be done by anyone who has access to the software and data, and a decent computer.

It's hard to image that just over 70 years ago the province was poorly mapped. Right up to the early 1950s, there were large lakes and rivers that were mapped in the wrong township on the few small-scale maps available at the time, and the federal 1:50,000 (equivalent) maps only covered a very small portion of the province. Both world wars resulted in dramatic changes to mapping technology. During the Second World War, much of the photo reconnaissance in Europe was conducted by the Royal Air Force (RAF) out of an estate called RAF Medmenham, England. The coordination and interpretation of air photography was conducted through Medmenham under the guidance of Wing Commander Douglas Kendall, where they worked on projects such as the

search for the V1 and V2 German weapons, and building 3D models of the dams that were breached during the famous Dam Buster's raid. The RAF claimed that 80 per cent of all allied intelligence came from aerial photography.

After the war, Kendall came to Canada and set up the Photographic Survey Corporation (PSC) in Toronto, after they won a contract to fly and interpret Ontario's Forest inventory. Unable to find anyone to run the company, Kendall ended up staying in Canada. The techniques, people and equipment employed during the war were applied by the PSC to mapping in Canada, and they were also involved in the federal National Topographic Series (NTS) mapping program. Kendall received the Order of Canada in 1986 for his work in mapping and aviation electronics.

In the mid to late 1940s, Alberta found itself in the middle of a massive oil boom, with very few maps to support the exploration and development of the oil and gas sector. As well, there were concerns about the over harvesting of timber, and the province wanted to move towards sustainable forest management practices. In 1948, the Green, White and Yellow Areas were established, and a year later the Alberta Forest Service contracted the PSC to fly the entire province at ~1:40,000 to build the province's

first large scale base maps; and another set of air photos at ~1:15,000 to create our first "modern" forest inventory for portions of the Green Area. This became known as the Phase 1 Broad-Scale Inventory. The PCS air photos, along with older air photos dating back to the 1920s, were used to establish the Provincial Air Photo Library. These air photos and maps were the first in a 70-year evolution of mapping, culminating in today's base mapping and Alberta Vegetation Inventory programs used by GIS by both the government and private sector. Interestingly, the original PSC maps and air photos are still in use today, and are used in projects such as human footprint monitoring and to track wetlands over time.





2. Don Page presenting a history of the Photographic Survey Corporation at the Forest History Association of Alberta annual general meeting; Edmonton; March 15, 2023

2. Photographic Survey Corporation tent camp, northern Alberta, 1951. Bill Bloomberg is sitting on the far right. He became one of the first instructors at the Alberta Forest Service Forestry Training School in Kananaskis in the early 1950s

3. Crew from the Photographic Survey Corporation standing by their truck in Dawson Creek, B.C.; 1952. Second from the right is Robert Steele, who was the deputy minister of the Alberta Forest Service from 1973 to 1979

4. Unknown forester working for the Photographic Survey Corporation; 1951

5. John Hogan in the middle with other foresters working for the Photographic Survey Corporation; 1951. Hogan was in charge of forestry training from 1953 to 1956, director of the Alberta Forest Service surveys branch from 1964 to 1968, and then in charge of the construction branch from 1968 to 1971





WHO WAS JAMES ALEXANDER HUTCHISON?

Submitted by Margaret McLaughlin, grand niece of J.A. Hutchison

Editors Note: In 2017, Peter Murphy and Bruce Mayer began a search for “who was James A. Hutchison”. Hutchison rose to senior ranks in the Dominion Forestry Branch, the Alberta Forest Service, and later Parks Canada, but little was known of where he came from, his training or education. The files Peter had gathered showed Hutchison’s public service work with the federal and provincial governments, and reference to his service in both World War’s I and II. But many gaps still existed. In early 2023, Margaret McLaughlin, grand niece of Hutchison, contacted the FHAA offering information on James Hutchison. Ms. McLaughlin was able to provide a biography, as well as a collection of photographs and documents belonging to Hutchison. Thanks to Ms. McLaughlin, a large gap has been filled.

Born May 7, 1893 in Fordwich, Ontario, James Alexander Hutchison was the 4th of eight siblings. His father was the village blacksmith who encouraged his children to get a proper education, and avoid following in his footsteps. James attended Fordwich primary school and went on to complete his secondary school education at Harriston High School. Starting his working career in the automotive industry, he was discharged by the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan, when it was discovered that he was under their hiring age. In 1910, he went west to Calgary, Alberta looking for work. He used to say he couldn’t list all the jobs he had, but did remember losing one. He played for the 1911 Calgary Roughriders but had to give it up because it was not sponsored by his employer at that time. He eventually ended up in construction with the Grand Trunk Pacific & Canadian Northern Railways in the Rocky Mountains.

In the spring of 1912, he joined the Dominion Forest Service, Department of the Interior as one of its first forest rangers. He ended up in the northern section of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve. In 1913, he was promoted to assistant ranger in the Athabaska Forest Reserve along the Big Smoky River, and in 1914, he became assistant supervisor in the Brazeau Forest Reserve. At the time he took his military leave for WW I, he had

worked his way up to acting deputy superintendent of the Brazeau and Athabaska Forest Reserves, under superintendent Stan H. Clark.

In June 1916, James Hutchison (also known as Jim or Hutch) enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) in Edmonton, and was appointed Probationary Sub-Lieutenant. He proceeded to eastern Canada for training, but when confronted with delays, he resigned, eventually being commissioned with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) in September 1916.

Correspondence from Stewart K. Taylor, a WW I historian, records Hutchison posted as a replacement pilot assigned to 16 Squadron, RFC on April 27, 1917. At that time the squadron was stationed at Bruay, France, under Major P.C. Maltby, DSO. Late in May 1917, the squadron moved to Camblain L’Abbe, France, where Major C.F.A. Portal took over command. A document titled “Routine Orders” dated Tuesday, January 1, 1918, identifies 2nd Lieut. J.A. Hutchison as temporary officer-in-command of the squadron during the absence of Major Portal, who was on leave. Hutchison served with 16 Squadron until January 11, 1918, when he became Captain, and was transferred to 4A Squadron. Hutchison was repatriated May 5, 1919, after nearly three years of service. On July 7, 1919, he returned

to the Dominion Forest Service in Alberta from the military.

Between 1919 and 1930, Hutchison was forest supervisor for the Bow River Forest Reserve. In 1930, natural resources were transferred from federal to provincial jurisdiction resulting in Hutchison's promotion to assistant director of forestry for Alberta, working for director Ted Bleggen. Newly based in Edmonton, he was assigned the responsibility of game commissioner and forest protection head for the entire province. These new responsibilities were quite extensive, involving planning and installation of a northern Alberta radio network, administration of the *Prairie and Forest Fires Act*, and administration of the National Forestry and Youth Forestry Training programs.

On December 30, 1930, James Hutchison married Calgary native, Dorothy Lougheed (formerly Mrs. Nolan Hussey), daughter of Senator James and Lady Lougheed. After WW II was declared, Hutchison rejoined the RCAF in September 1939, serving as a recruiting officer in Edmonton. One of the original officers in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan who organized No. 1 Initial Training School (ITS), Toronto, Hutchison was put in charge of instruction. Appointed as chief instructor at No. 2 ITS in June 1940, he relocated to Regina, assuming command of this training centre in March 1941. Hutchison returned to Edmonton in June 1941, to take over command, organization, and operation of No. 4 ITS. The station was honoured with a visit by Prime Minister Mackenzie King on July 4, 1941. Just over one month later, on August 13, 1941, Air Commodore, The Duke of Kent, and his entourage inspected the station to review the entire group of aircrew trainees.



1. James Alexander Hutchison with the National Parks Branch; 1947
2. James Hutchison playing for the Calgary Roughriders football club; June 1911
3. Collection of J.A. Hutchison's photographs and documents provided to the Forest History Association of Alberta by his grand niece, Margaret McLaughlin; June 9, 2023



In an anniversary issue of No. 4 ITS magazine, Hutchison was quoted as identifying his primary goal, *"to provide high grade instruction with complementary Station facilities such as sports, recreation, meals and lodging so that aircrew would go on well equipped to cope with the next stages of instruction, and eventually, the enemy."* On January 2, 1943, Group Captain Hutchison was included on the King's New Year's Honour List, and was awarded the Order of the British Empire. The following citation was found: *"Wing Commander Hutchison has been Commanding Officer of Initial Training Schools in this Command for the past two years. During this period, he has devoted his time and energies exclusively and whole-heartedly to organizing and training. He succeeded in overcoming quickly all the usual difficulties to be experienced at new units, and a marked degree of efficiency in schools under his command has already been evident."*

In January 1943, Hutchison was posted overseas, and in May assumed command of the RCAF Personnel Reception Centre Bournemouth, England. This would become the first stop for all RCAF personnel arriving on British soil for further training. He would meet many flyers who had passed through his hands at No. 4 ITS. In June 1945, he assumed command of the reception and repatriation centre at Torquay, England. He remained there until the centre was closed in February 1946. James A. Hutchison was "honourably released" from the RCAF to the Reserve on May 14, 1946, with an Order of the British Empire, a Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, and a Defense Medal.

In August 1947, Hutchison was awarded the United States Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm with the following citation: *"Group Captain James Alexander Hutchison, Royal Canadian Air Force, performed meritorious services from June 1941 to March 1946. As commanding officer, No. 4 Initial Training School, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, through his resourcefulness, tact, and attitude of helpfulness, he rendered services of inestimable value to the United States Forces in Canada. The cordial and effective co-operation he constantly displayed was an important factor in the successful accomplishment of the joint objective."*

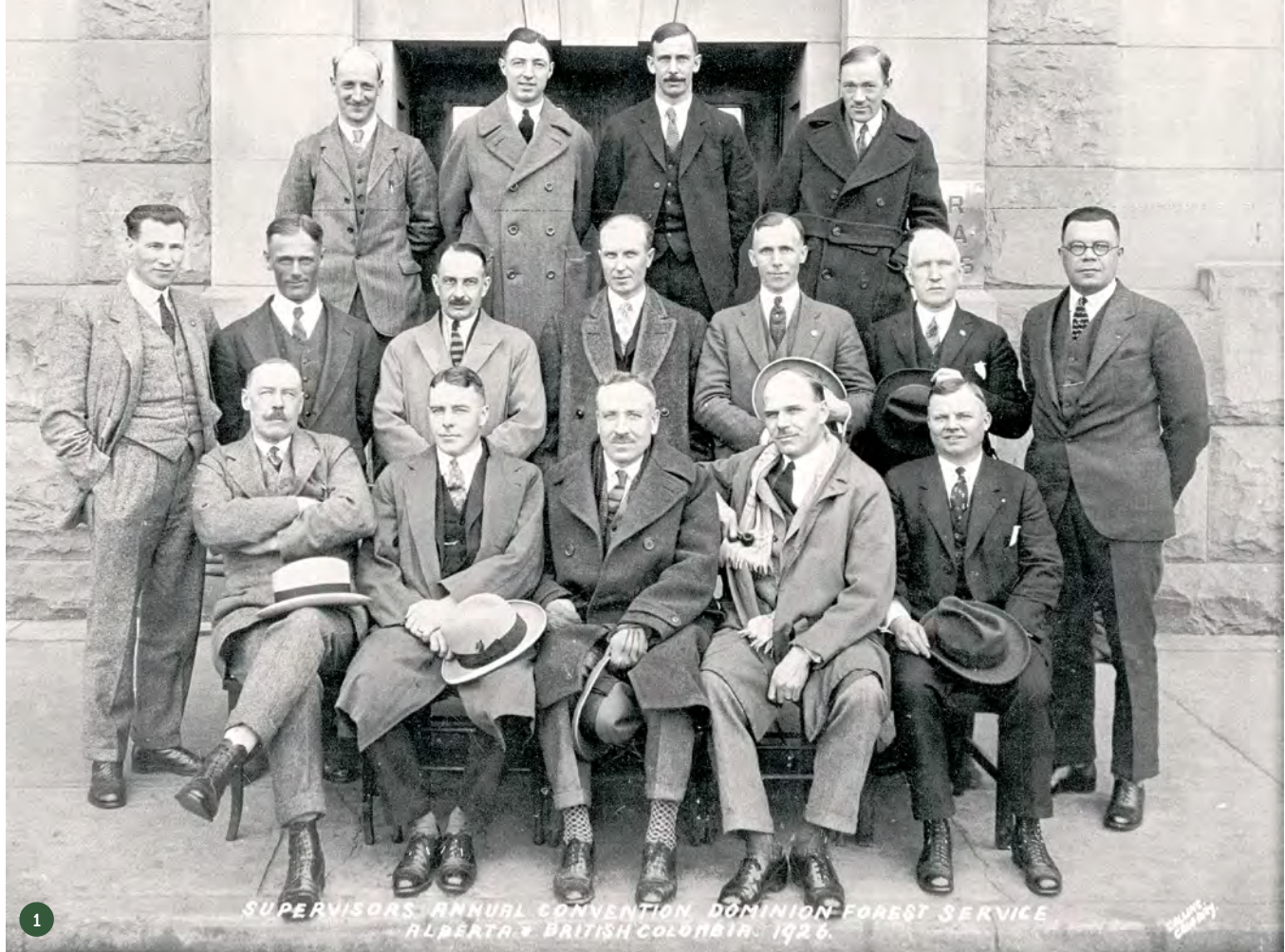
Having resumed his post with the Alberta Forest Service upon his return to civilian life, James Hutchison was appointed superintendent of Banff National Park in May 1947. In addition to managing the town-site of Banff, this appointment came with an extensive list of responsibilities, including tourism, public safety,

infrastructure, and conservation of wildlife. He was honoured to organize a tour and entertain Princess Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip at the Superintendent's House on October 18, 1951. In 1953, Hutchison was promoted to director of the National Parks Branch with headquarters in Ottawa, after serving as acting chief of the Historical Sites Division for over a year. He toured many of the country's National Parks during this period with the civil service.

James Hutchison requested early retirement as his wife Dorothy had been unwell for some time. Director Hutchison retired on August 15, 1957 with a lengthy record of public service. His wife Dorothy passed away on August 22, 1958. After her death Hutchison travelled extensively. He passed away in his sleep on one of these trips in Devon, England. James Alexander Hutchison died on September 8, 1969 at 76 years of age.

Prevent Forest Fires "Save Your Forests" Canadian Forest Week advertisement in the Calgary Daily Herald, July 15, 1927





1. Dominion Forestry Branch staff in 1926. Many transferred to the Alberta Forest Service when it was created on October 1, 1930

Back Row (L to R): Tom Burrows, Forest Supervisor Athabaska Forest; Charles McDonald, Assistant Supervisor Bow River Forest; R.M. Brown, Forest Supervisor Crowsnest Forest; Harry L. Holman, Forester, Calgary

Middle Row (L to R): C.K. Le Capelain, Civil Engineer, Calgary; Harry A. Parker, Forest Supervisor Cypress Hills Forest Reserve; A.G. Smith, Cooking Lake Forest Reserve; Symen Nelson, Accountant, Calgary Office

Front Row (L to R): Col. Robert H. Palmer, Head Edmonton Fire Ranging District (E.F.R.D.), Edmonton; **James A. Hutchison, Forest Supervisor Bow River Forest**; Charles H. Morse, Inspector of Forestry, Calgary District; James Smart, Assistant Inspector of Forestry, Calgary; Ted F. Blegfen, Forest Supervisor Lesser Slave Forest Reserve. Ted Blegfen became the first director of Forestry with the Alberta Forest Service in 1930; James Hutchison was his assistant director



2. The Calgary Daily Herald article "Forestry Men Win Packing Contest" Calgary; July 15, 1927. Freddie Nash, ranger at the Highwood forestry station (left), and Jim Hutchison, supervisor of the Bow River forestry reserve (right), who packed their ponies and tied the diamond hitch in 2 minutes and 47 seconds during the street display. They received 60 points for tying and 40 points for neatness of the pack, making the possible total of 100 points



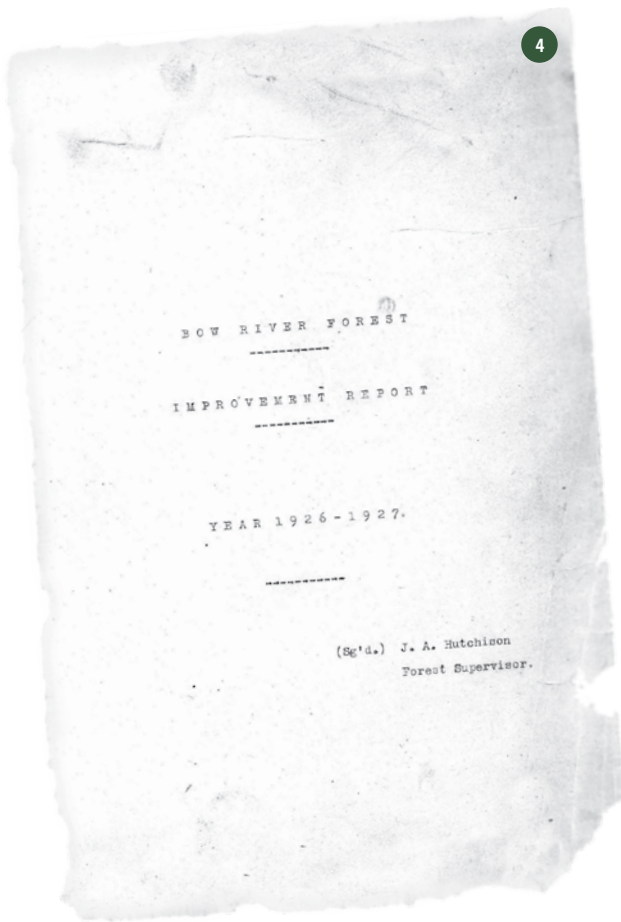
1. Example of rangers tying a diamond hitch; Upper Sentinel area of the Highwood River; 1917. Rangers Tom Wildigg, Harry Holman, and J. Archer



2. James and Dorothy Hutchison's house in Edmonton where they lived from June 1931 to November 1944; Glenbow Archives ND-3-6205



3. The Hutchison house from the 1930s still stands in Edmonton; September 2017



4. Cover of the 1926-1927 facility improvement report by James Hutchison, forestry supervisor, Bow River Forest; March 1927. This 132 page report is a remarkable historic overview of all forestry related facilities and improvements within the Bow River Forest, including a wide range of photographs



5. Wing Commander J. A. Hutchison, Commanding Officer of No. 4 Initial Training School; Edmonton; June 1941

6. Testing and evaluation of the new Johnson H.O.K. fire pump; early 1930s

L to R: John Harvie, Deputy Minister, Lands and Mines; **James Hutchison, Assistant Director, Forestry**; R.G. Reid, Minister, Lands and Mines; Ted Blefgen, Director, Forestry



Seven Sawmills Destroyed, Four Endangered By Forest Fires-Hope for Rain Grows

**TIMBER LOSS HEAVY FROM VALHALLA TO SMOKY RIVER
—FRESH OUTBREAK AT WOKING—AERIAL SURVEY
OFFICIAL REPORTS SITUATION "EXTREMELY BAD"—
EXPECT FLYING AT EDMONTON RESUMED TODAY**

EDMONTON, June 23 (C.P.)—Seven sawmills and 90 per cent of the timber berth were destroyed by forest fires ranging north of Sexsmith from Valhalla to Smoky River, reports said today. Four more sawmills were reported in immediate danger from blazes. Forestry officials said only heavy rains can stop the fires. Hope of rain grew as northern temperatures dropped and the wind swung to the northeast, indicating a weather change. Light rain fell overnight at Notikewin in the Peace River area and other points were reported cloudy and smoky.

Machinery was removed from two sawmills north of Lacage, north of Grande Prairie, endangered by flames. A fresh outbreak at Woking was turned aside after destroying one small cabin. Halted for more than three days by poor conditions, flying from Edmonton was scheduled to resume today.

EDMONTON, June 23.—(C.P.)—A soft, southeast wind carried hope of rain last night to 700 men battling widespread forest fires in Northern Alberta and a hope for people in Central Alberta of a cloudy sky to replace the smoke haze of the last few days.

Clouds that gathered in Southern Alberta left welcome rains at Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, a shower at Edmonton and showed indications of drifting farther north. Weather forecasts, however, called for "scattered showers," and forestry officials declared a downpour would be needed to stamp out the fires.

Throughout the Peace River district, east around Lesser Slave Lake and further east still at Lac La Biche, fires were reported burning fiercely. J. A. Hutchison, Alberta's assistant director of forestry, remained grounded at Peace River on an aerial survey of the fires.

Bad Situation
In a report back to his office, Mr. Hutchison said the situation was "extremely bad." Every available piece of forest fire-fighting equipment had been sent from Edmonton and equipment from Rocky Mountain House, 160 miles southwest of Edmonton was being transferred north. At Rocky Mountain House a wet spring cut danger of fires to a minimum.

Four new fires were reported to the Alberta Forestry Branch, all of them in outlying districts. Two were situated near Keg River, 300 miles northwest of Edmonton, another near the British Columbia boundary west of Keg River and the fourth on the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake.

Under Control
A fire at Goldfields, Sask., on the shores of Lake Athabasca, was brought under control after it had burned its way over the top of

Beaver Lodge Mountain and down the other side of the Little Long Lake mine, a mile from the town. More than 150 men aided in bringing the fire under control.

At Whiteclaw, 225 miles northwest of Edmonton, two large bush fires were reported creeping close to a sawmill. Further north several trappers' cabins were consumed by the flames but so far no farm buildings or settlements have been reported burned.

Dense Smoke
A check by forestry officials in Calgary showed no fires burning south of the Canadian National Railways main line running west of Edmonton. Smoke from the Peace River fires, however, was so dense at Nordegg, 100 miles southwest of Edmonton, that a halt was called in coal mining operations.

Light Shower
Clouds that gathered in Central Alberta could not be seen because of the smoke. A light shower at Edmonton brought the only evidence of their existence. Because of the smoke airplanes at Edmonton remained on the ground.

The smoke haze was counted as a blessing in disguise by central Alberta farmers. The foggy blanket, cutting the sun's rays, prevented crop lands from burning and kept intact the ground's moisture supply.

1. Newspaper article describing wildfires in the Grande Prairie and Peace River areas that had destroyed seven sawmills. Assistant director of forestry J. A. Hutchison is quoted as saying the situation was "extremely bad"; June 23, 1938

2. Alberta Forest Service Executive meeting, held at the Edmonton Royal George Hotel; November 22, 1946

Back Row (L to R): Ed Noble, Wyllie, Jack Janssen, Ted Keats, McKay, Eric Huestis, Tony Earnshaw, Jack Rogers, Grimwood, Ted Hammer, Ranche, Bill Woods

Middle Row (L to R): Bill Kronk, Fred Smith, Frank Neilson, Ted Blefgen, McKinnon, John Harvie, Harry Taylor, James Hutchison, Vic Mitchell

Front Row (L to R): Count, Burleigh, Tony Urquhart, Donald Buck, William McCardell, Walter Ronahan, Carter, Scotty Lyang, West

Editors Note: Unfortunately, first names of these attendees have not been identified.



BERTIE BEAVER TURNS 65



Submitted by Melissa Story

Created on the drawing boards of Walt Disney's Buena Vista studios, Bertie Beaver was a gift to the people of Alberta in 1958. Two years earlier, forestry staff and Walt Disney's film crews worked together in Kananaskis Country on several wildlife documentaries as part of Disney's True Life Adventure series. One of those documentaries was about the life of beavers. During the mid-1950s, the image of Smokey Bear was a familiar symbol of fire prevention. While a few Canadian provinces adopted the American image of Smokey Bear as their fire prevention mascot, Alberta resisted. Eric S. Huestis, Alberta's Forestry Director and Game Commissioner, felt strongly that Alberta should have its own distinctive character to champion fire safety. Walt Disney agreed, and set his staff to work on

fire prevention poster designs for Alberta.

Over the years, Bertie Beaver has appeared on aircraft, rock wall murals, wildfire posters, buttons, pins, forest maps, recreation area signs, student activity books, toys, and puppets. Bertie Beaver has marched in countless community parades, visited hundreds of schools, and has hugged and "high fived" tens of thousands of children. Sixty-five years later, he is still tirelessly promoting forest conservation and environmental education in Alberta.

This year, Bertie Beaver has attended many events and marched in a number of parades to celebrate his 65th birthday. As wildland firefighters battled an unprecedented 2023 wildfire season, Bertie Beaver was

right there beside them, with his image on the tail of Alberta's CL215T skimmer airtankers fighting the spread of large-scale wildfires across the province. Our old friend was there to remind Albertans of the role we all play in wildfire prevention, and his message is as important now as it ever was.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
BERTIE BEAVER,
HERE'S TO
ANOTHER 65 YEARS
OF WILDFIRE
PREVENTION.**



1. Director of Forestry and Game Commissioner Eric S. Huestis with a new Bertie Beaver sign; Edmonton; 1960

2. Alberta Forest Service painter and artist Joe Lieskovsky making Bertie Beaver wildfire prevention signs; Provincial Forest Fire Centre Depot; Edmonton; 1960

3. Alberta Forest Service DC3 (CF-IAE) on take-off from the Edmonton municipal airport. The DC3 has an image of Bertie Beaver on its tail; Edmonton; mid-1960s

4. A Bell 47J helicopter and other Alberta Forest Service aircraft with images of Bertie Beaver; Slave Lake; mid-1960s

5. Alberta Forest Service Dornier (CF-AFC) with a Bertie Beaver image on its tail; Slave Lake; mid-1960s





1. Placemat with a wildfire prevention message handed out for restaurant use; 1960s
2. Bertie Beaver with a welcome message to the Alberta Forest Service Depot opening; June 20, 1969
3. L to R: Walt Disney and Bertie Beaver; McCall airfield, Calgary; 1965
4. Bertie Beaver mural painted on a rock outcropping near Prairie Creek, along Highway 752, southwest of Rocky Mountain House. The painting was completed by an inmate on a minimum security crew doing road and trail maintenance for the Alberta Forest Service. Prairie Creek ranger Ron Lyle is at the bottom of the painting in this black and white photograph; Prairie Creek; spring 1966
5. Color photograph of the Bertie Beaver painting near Prairie Creek; September 1967
6. Forestry seasonal staff repainted the Bertie Beaver mural near Prairie Creek, including 310-FIRE as the prevention message; 2008
7. Bertie Beaver (old style outfit) with kindergarten children; 1970s





1. Bertie Beaver (old style outfit) hopping into Whitecourt Forest superintendent Cliff Henderson's vehicle; Whitecourt; May 6, 1986
2. Land-use Forester Ed Dechant with the Honourable Helen Hunley (Lieutenant Governor of Alberta) and school children; Whitecourt; May 6, 1986
3. Bertie Beaver (new style outfit) visiting with school class; Alberta Forest Week, May 1995
4. Artwork to celebrate Bertie Beaver's 30th birthday; May 1988
5. L to R: Nicole Marvin, Georges Laraque (Edmonton Oiler), and Bertie Beaver at the 2006 Capital Exhibition; May 2006
6. L to R: Bertie Beaver and Bruce Mayer (Director, Wildfire Management Branch) cut cake for Bertie Beaver's 50th birthday; May 2008
7. Artwork to celebrate Bertie Beaver's 50th birthday; May 2008
8. Bev Yee with Bertie Beaver at the May 2013 Alberta Forest Week barbeque; Edmonton; May 8, 2013







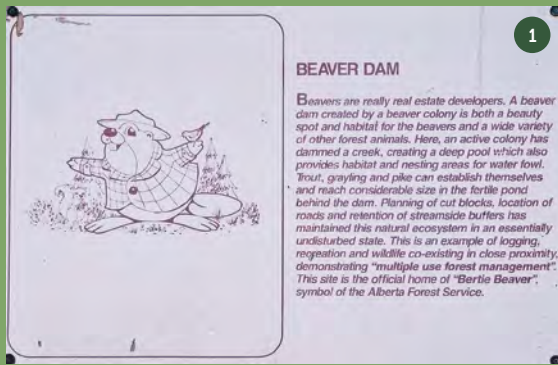
1. L to R: Christie Tucker, Bertie Beaver, and Todd Loewen (Minister, Forestry and Parks) cutting Bertie's 65th birthday cake; Penhold airport; May 2023

2. Wildland firefighters from Rocky Mountain House Forest Area join Todd Loewen (Minister, Forestry and Parks) and Bertie Beaver for Bertie's 65th birthday. In the background is an Alberta CL215T skimmer airtanker with an image of Bertie Beaver on the tail

L to R: Rob Anderson (forest officer), Anthony Stewart, Jonah Koller, Jens Fiegler, Minister Todd Loewen, Bertie Beaver, Daniel Rudy, Alexander Brennan, Rori Bell, and Billy Clapp; Penhold; May 2023

3. L to R: Bertie Beaver and Todd Loewen (Minister, Forestry and Parks) pose for Bertie's 65th birthday; May 2023

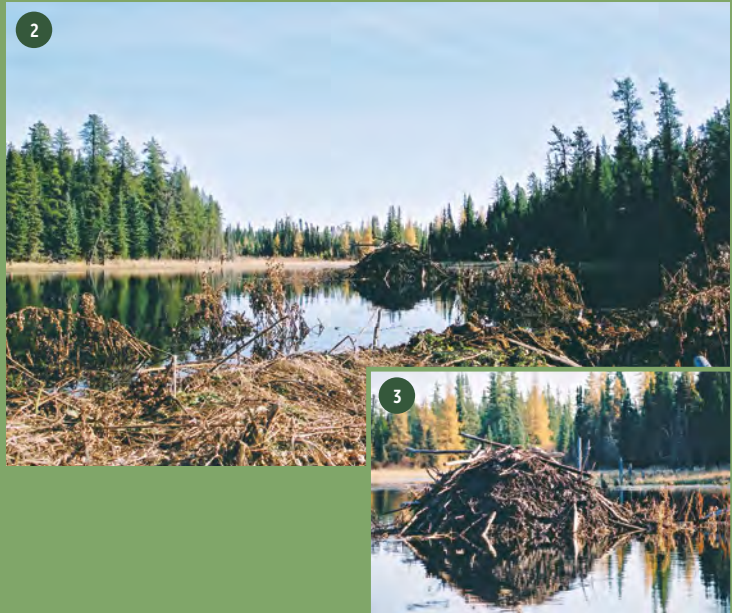
4. L to R: Melissa Story, Bertie Beaver, and Her Honour Salma Lakhani (Lieutenant Governor of Alberta); Edmonton; September 1, 2023



1. Sign describing role of beavers in the environment and showing Bertie Beaver's home; Huestis Demonstration Forest, Whitecourt; July 1990

2. Waterbody with beaver dam and house; Huestis Demonstration Forest, Whitecourt; July 1990

3. Beaver house; Huestis Demonstration Forest, Whitecourt; July 1990



Black Days in July

(Sung to the tune of Gordon Lightfoot's "Black Day in July")

Written by Tom Hutchison

Black days in July
Black days in July
The pines they are a fading
And the beetles soon will fly

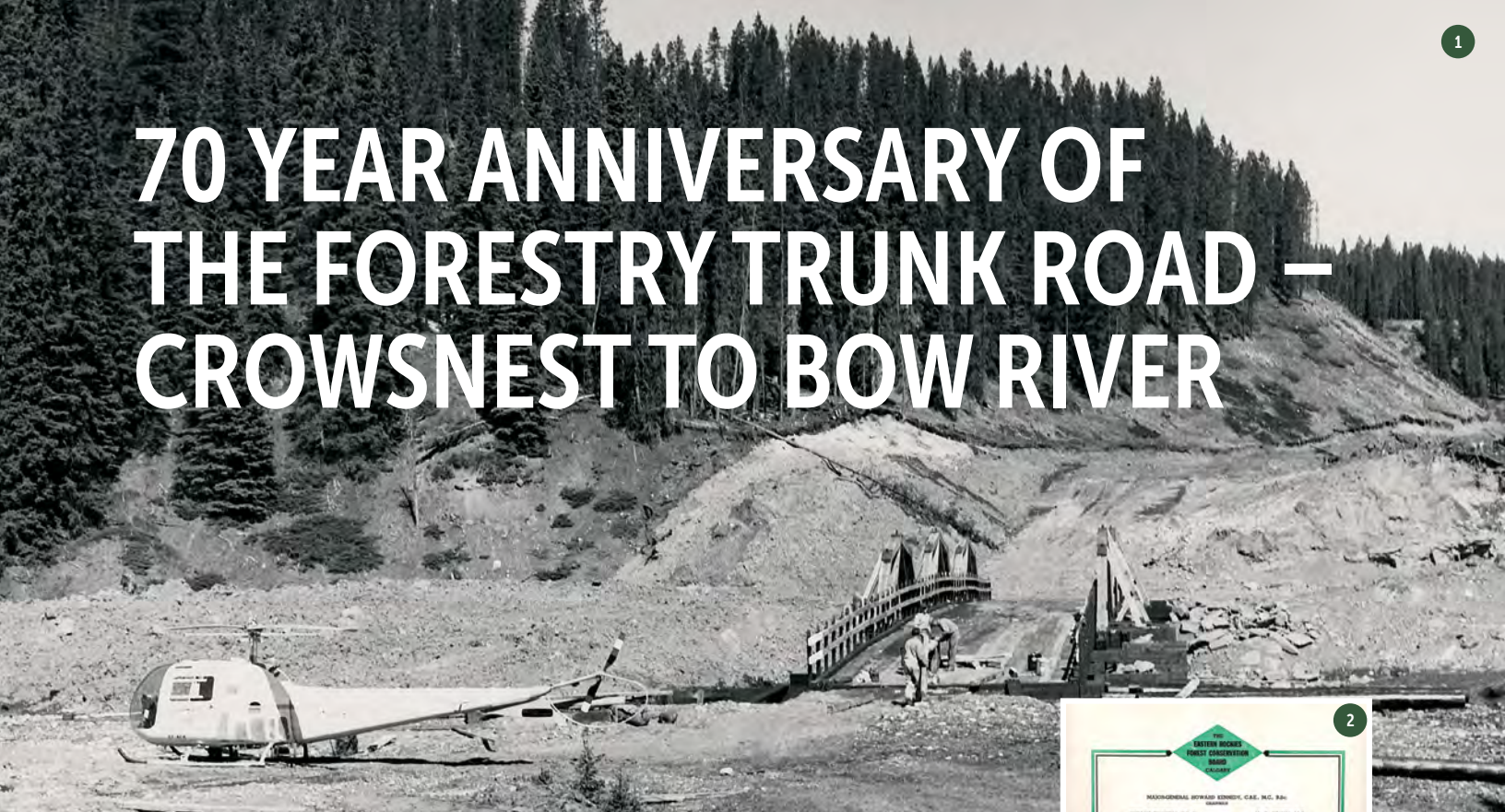
So there's crews up in the Willmore
And they'll fall and then they'll burn
All the trees that are chlorotic
And the ones that soon will turn

Black days in July
Black days in July
The pines they are a fading
And the beetles soon will fly

There's beetles in the Kakwa
And the Sheep and the Jackpine
And the crews will keep on falling
And we hope it will be fine

Black days in July
Black days in July...

70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORESTRY TRUNK ROAD – CROWSNEST TO BOW RIVER



A remarkable construction project and legacy, July 22, 2022 was the 70th anniversary of the opening of the forestry trunk road from the Crowsnest Pass to the Bow River. The Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board (ERFCB) was created in 1947, by a twenty five-year agreement between the governments of Canada and Alberta. This was a joint federal-provincial agreement in which both governments recognized that the three southern forests, the Crowsnest, Bow River, and Clearwater, were important watershed areas, and that both governments shared concern about Alberta's financial ability to protect and manage them. The rationale for federal participation was based on the Saskatchewan River system connecting with the three prairie provinces. It was estimated that 85 per cent of the flow in the South Saskatchewan River originated on the 15 per cent of the headwaters area lying in the Forest Reserves and National Parks. As a start, the federal government contributed \$6 million in capital for roads, ranger stations, fire control facilities and equipment. Both governments shared the cost

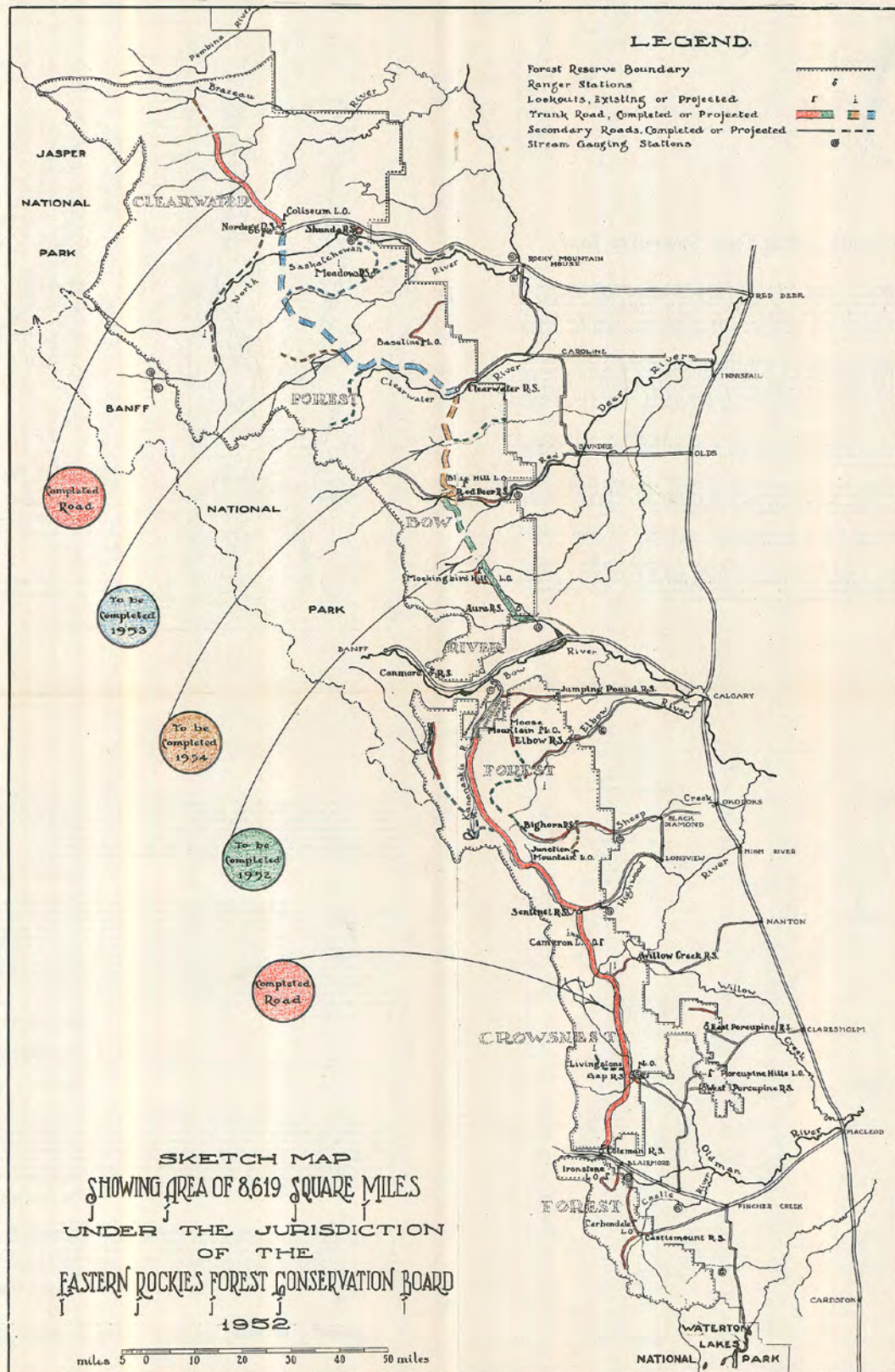
of operation for 14 years. ERFCB policy and direction was set by a joint federal-provincial board, on which federal members were initially the majority. The major legacy of the ERFCB was the Forestry Trunk Road, running north from Blairmore to Kananaskis, and eventually to Nordegg, providing for fire, grazing and timber access, and supporting tourism. Initial construction was sound, and the road has served well for more than 70 years. The forestry trunk road now extends further north linking Hinton and Grande Prairie. Administrative control of the trunk road was returned to the Alberta Forest Service in 1959, after 12 years of operation under the ERFCB.



1. Alberta Forest Service Bell 47J helicopter near one of the bridge crossings on the new forestry trunk road; 1960
2. Cover of the programme for the opening of the forestry trunk road from the Crowsnest Pass to the Bow River; July 22, 1952
3. ERFCB employee Ted Fellows photograph of the Wilkinson Summit on the forestry trunk road; 1951
4. ERFCB employee Ted Fellows photograph of the bridge on the Highwood River on the forestry trunk road; 1951



ERFCB map of the forestry trunk road; 1952



NATIONAL FOREST WEEK CELEBRATION IN SLAVE LAKE

For the first time in many years, the Canadian Institute of Forestry Rocky Mountain Section (RMS) joined forces with multiple forestry partners to hold a National Forest Week celebration in Slave Lake, Alberta. The RMS sponsored a free barbecue lunch at the family-friendly event, where approximately 150 people took part in guided forest walks, and many other activities. Cori Klassen, Executive Director of the Lesser Slave Lake Forest Education Society provided the photographs from the event.

1. L to R: Sherman Horsman (Tolko), Gabriel Angelescu (Slave Lake Pulp), and Lyndsay Kohn (Slave Lake Veneer) cooking up hamburgers for attendees at the National Forest Week celebration; Slave Lake; September 23, 2023

2. Participants in the National Forest Week celebration field hike; Slave Lake; September 23, 2023



MACKENZIE REGION OF NORTHWEST ALBERTA, FORESTRY CAPITAL OF CANADA FOR 2024!

At the September 2023 Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) national awards ceremony, the Mackenzie Region of Northwest Alberta was awarded the designation of Forestry Capital of Canada for 2024. Photographs were provided by the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

The Forest Capital of Canada Designation was established in 1979, and focuses on the valuable role forests play in the socio-economic and environmental health of our communities – past, present and future. Originally delivered by the Canadian Forestry Association, the CIF-IFC now administers the legacy program, and designates a community or region to host a celebration of its forest resources for a period of 12-24 months. The

Mackenzie Region is 80,000 square kilometres within the boreal forest of Northwest Alberta, and everything they do is connected to the forest or the land in some way. Their land mass is substantial, about the size of New Brunswick, and over 70 per cent of the region's citizens are involved with, rely on, or work in the forest in some capacity. The Mackenzie Region is made up of forestry, energy, agriculture, trapping, tourism, and a whole lot of history and vibrant cultures.

1. L to R: Doug Reid, outgoing president of the Canadian Institute of Forestry; and Lisa Wardley, Councilor Mackenzie County, and chair of the application committee; Nanaimo, B.C.; September 25, 2023

2. L to R: Doug Reid, outgoing president of the Canadian Institute of Forestry; Josh Knelsen, Reeve, Mackenzie County; Lisa Wardley, Councilor, Mackenzie County, and chair of the application committee; and Allan Bell, chief forester, Tolko; Nanaimo, B.C.; September 25, 2023



FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WETLAND STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE WINS AWARD

The Forest Management and Wetland Stewardship Initiative (FMWSI) was the 2023 recipient of the Canadian Forest Management Group Achievement Award at the September 2023 Canadian Institute of Forestry annual general meeting in Nanaimo, British Columbia. *"The Canadian Forest Management Group Achievement Award was established in 1998, and exists to recognize outstanding achievements by teams or groups of natural resource managers, researchers, or non-government-organizations in the field of forest resource related activity in Canada,"* said Mark Pearson, CIF-IFC Executive Director. FMWSI is an award-winning, innovative partnership focused on finding sustainable solutions to operating in and around boreal wetlands.

The partnership, initiated in 2016, brings together Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Canfor, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Forest Products Association of Canada, Tolko Industries, West Fraser, and Weyerhaeuser. Over two three-year terms, the group has collaboratively selected wetland and waterfowl stewardship projects with the goal of generating knowledge and developing resources for forest practitioners.



L to R: Doug Reid, outgoing president of the CIF; Allan Bell, Tolko Industries; Kylie McLeod, Ducks Unlimited Canada; and Bob Mason, Canfor were in attendance to accept the Award and provide a few remarks on behalf of FMWSI; Nanaimo, B.C.; September 25, 2023

QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL

The Honourable Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry, Parks, and Tourism, presented the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) to outstanding forestry, parks and tourism leaders at Government House in Edmonton on February 27, 2023.

Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal recipients

Back Row (L to R): Deputy Minister Shannon Marchand, Mike Henderson, Ray Hilts, Ken Vanderwell, David Goldstein, Jason Krips, Mike Forbis, and Minister Todd Loewen; Front Row (L to R): Mackenzie (Mac) Millar, Wendy Crosina, Glen Zavisha, and Todd Zimmerling; Edmonton; February 27, 2023



CLASS OF 1968 REUNION

The NAIT Forestry class of 1968 held their 55th reunion from August 15 to 17, 2023 at the Prairie Creek Inn, southwest of Rocky Mountain House. Boche Ball and a golf tournament were some of the events. Also, a silent auction was held to raise money for the Brydon Ward Memorial golf tournament in Lac La Biche.

1. Back Row (L to R): Ken South, Kelly O'Shea, Bryan Allan, Ian Brace, Harold Evanson, Rick Bambrick, and Walter Hochachka; Front Row Kneeling (L to R): Ed Pichota, Brian Aaberg, and Larry Lafleur

2. The "real rangers" of the family at the 55th reunion! L to R: Joan Evanson, Janice Pichota, Janet South, Agnes Aaberg, Marjorie Hochachka, Lynda Allan, Audrey O'Shea, Susan Ward, and Sharon Bambrick



CLASS OF 1969 REUNION

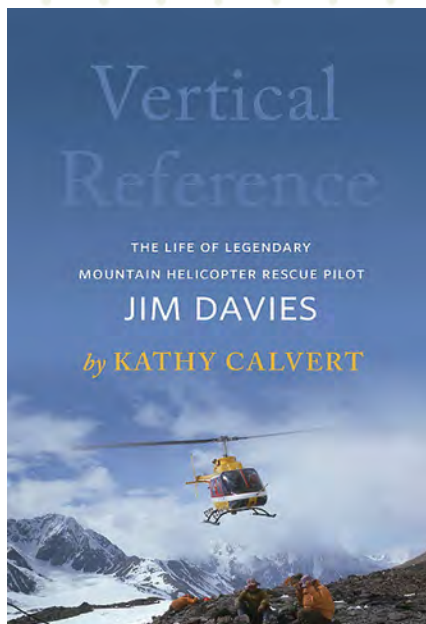
The NAIT Forestry class of 1969 held their 54th reunion from June 13 to 15, 2023 near Cow Lake, southwest of Rocky Mountain House.

Middle Row (L to R): Don Badger, Terry Turner, Brad Gibson, Randy Fluker, Gerald Sambrooke, Terry Thompson;
Back Row (L to R): Jim Skrenek, Larry Harbidge; Front Row Sitting: Wayne Bowles



HOT OFF THE PRESS

An exciting and heart-pounding look at one of Western Canada's most adventurous individuals, known as a pioneer pilot of the heli-ski industry and as the first mountain-rescue pilot in the Canadian National Parks system. Jim Davies is an icon of competence and courage as the first heli-skiing pilot in Canada. But it is his groundbreaking work as a helicopter rescue pilot for Parks Canada that made him a legend to all who worked



with him. His stellar career as a pilot overshadowed his other talents as a ski racer and artist.

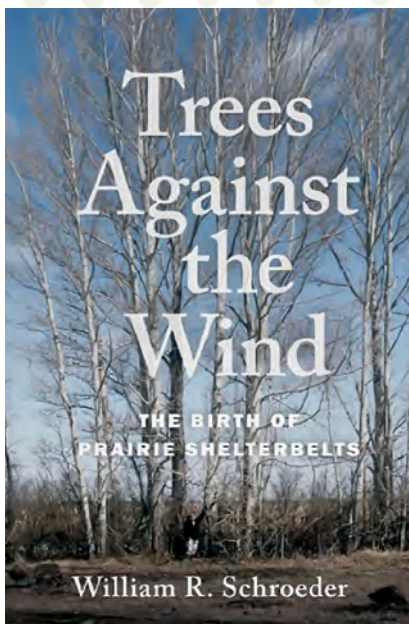
Jim received several awards for his work in mountain rescue, including the Helicopter Association

VERTICAL REFERENCE: THE LIFE OF LEGENDARY MOUNTAIN HELICOPTER RESCUE PILOT JIM DAVIES

International – Pilot Safety Award of Excellence, the Alberta Achievement Award for excellence in helicopter flying, the Summit of Excellence Award at the Banff Film and Book Festival, and the Robert E. Trimble Memorial Award for “distinguished performance in helicopter mountain flying.” He is now retired and living in Banff, pursuing his love of painting and photography.

TREES AGAINST THE WIND

With Nature Saskatchewan's newest publication, *Trees Against the Wind*, author William R. Schroeder provides an engaging response to what started as a personal curiosity. Beginning work at the PFRA Tree Nursery in 1981, Schroeder discovered the genetic material he was working with had been brought to the Canadian prairies almost a century earlier as part of a government tree planting initiative. In spite of the significant challenges involved in growing trees in a dry land, the results had been dramatic. Eighty years on, the program was flourishing, and open prairie had effectively been transformed into a tapestry of treed



farmyards and planted shelterbelts. Schroeder scoured archives in Indian Head, Regina, and Ottawa to

learn more about the people whose foresight and conviction had made this success possible. With the help of over 130 archival photos and maps, *Trees Against the Wind* tells the story of the program's origins, its first superintendent, Norman M. Ross, the dedicated staff and the thousands of innovative prairie farmers who planted trees to shelter their homes and land. This 288-page book provides thought-provoking perspectives on prairie history and a heightened appreciation for the trees in your life, especially those that still grace farmyards and fields, providing valuable biodiversity and habitat.

REFLECTIONS FROM RETIREES: LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

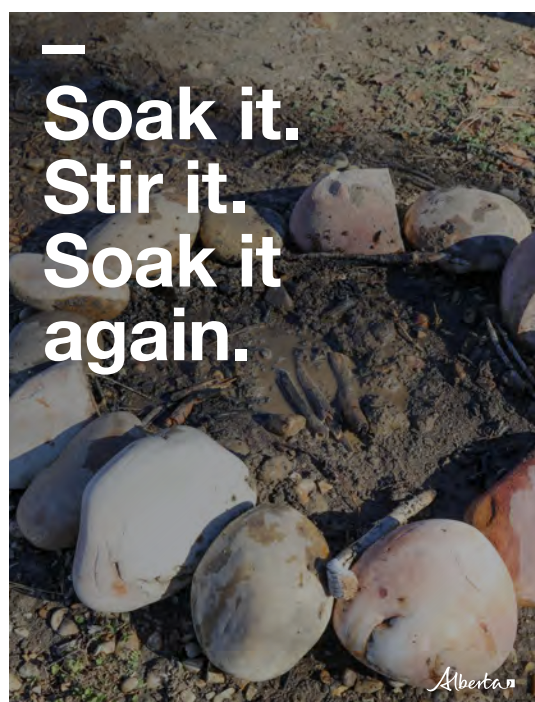
During 2021, the Canadian Forest Service celebrated the 50th anniversary of the operation of the Northern Forestry Centre (NoFC) in Edmonton, Alberta. As part of the celebration, NoFC retirees volunteered to make virtual presentations (roughly an hour in duration, giving time for Q&A) over the course of 2021 on various topics related to the general theme of "Reflections from Retirees: Linking the Past to the Present." The objective of these events was "To provide an historical context of NoFC and research undertaken in the early days, the drivers and state of information needed at the time, and how various subject fields and technological advances have evolved into the research being undertaken today."



Marty Alexander coordinated three field-based experimental burning projects carried out in various different conifer forest fuel complexes in the Northwest Territories (Porter Lake and International Crown Fire Modelling Experiment) and Alberta (Big Fish Lake), over the span of 20 years from 1982 to 2001. The data generated during the experimental burning projects formed, in part, the empirical basis for the national Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System, that is, in turn used operationally by Canadian fire management agencies for pre-

suppression and suppression planning purposes; and by fire researchers in the development of decision support systems (e.g., Canadian Wildland Fire Information System, Burn-P3). Interestingly enough, the field data is still being utilized in various fire behavior modelling studies.

Alexander, M.E. 2021. Wildfire behavior research in western and northern Canada. Northern Forestry Centre (NoFC) 50th Anniversary Event – Reflections from Retirees: Linking the Past to the Present, 27 May 2021. <https://www.frames.gov/catalog/65865>



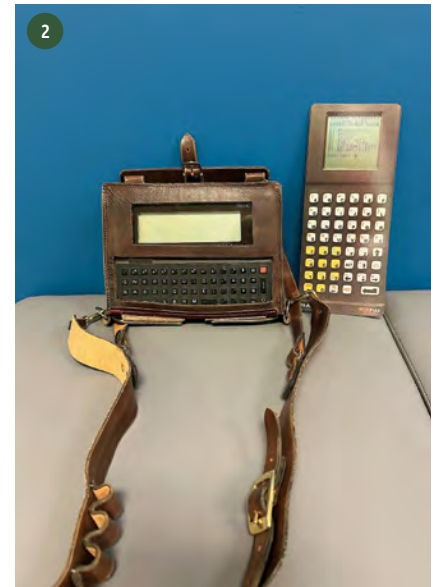
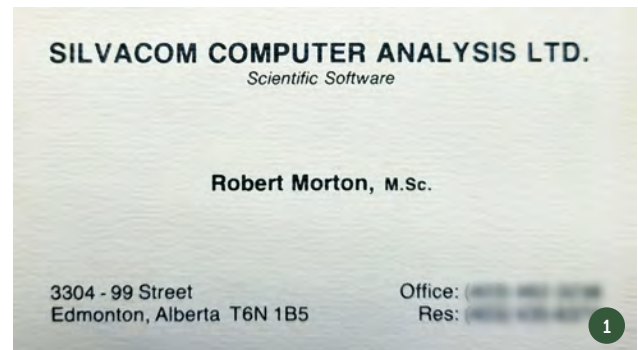
SILVACOM – LOOKING AT 40!

Self professed “*data nerds*” or “*propeller heads*”, Silvacom partners and friends Bob Morton and Tom Grabowski, celebrated 40 years of business together in 2023. *Silva*, Latin for tree, and *com*, short for computer, provided the business name describing their forestry computer analysis company. Bob, a graduate of forestry at Lakehead University, and Tom, a graduate of forestry at the University of Alberta, both found themselves sharing the same office in 1979, at the University of Alberta, while obtaining their masters in forestry. While working different jobs for various companies, they saw an opportunity to use new computer technology to advance their analytic skills, supporting needs of government and forest industry. They opened their first office in 1983, building their company and reputation on the theme of “*if you can dream it, we can build it*”.

Early clients were the Alberta Research Council and the Alberta Forest Service, where Silvacom completed seedling growth analysis for the Pine Ridge Forest Nursery and developed the first tree taper models for all forest management units in Alberta. This involved field cruising and sampling, plus the quantitative analysis to develop the various tables. By the end of the 1980s, industrial interest and activity in forestry in Alberta had grown considerably, providing opportunities for Silvacom to create the growth and yield data and analysis required for companies to submit proposals and develop preliminary detailed forest

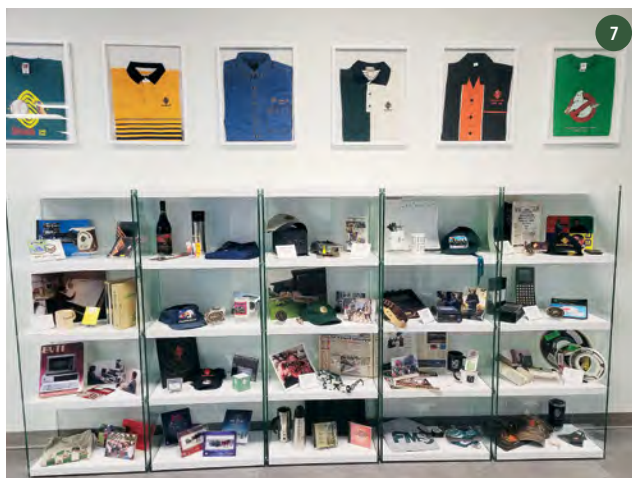
management plans. At this time, Silvacom was advancing geographic information system (GIS) technology, developing tools for forestry clients, including the government of Canada, where Silvacom provided AVI and GIS data for most forested First Nation Reserves in Alberta. In 1989, Silvacom developed software solutions to support Alberta Pacific Forest Industries in the implementation of the first of its kind GIS technology on GPS-equipped logging trucks, supporting central tire inflation technology, and gathering and analyzing data to maximize haul routes, schedules, and truck weights.

With 130 staff, Silvacom is 100 per cent employee owned, and has been a pioneer in web based geospatial solutions. One hundred per cent of the data they share now is internet based. In 2002, Tom and Bob trademarked the term, *Data is Our Core Business*, recognizing their core strengths were related to a passion and ability to manage big data sets containing complex geospatial information. Focused as being an employer of choice, Silvacom continues to be recognized as one of Alberta’s Top Employers, and one of Canada’s Top 100 Small and Medium Employers. The Silvacom Group of Companies now includes Silvacom, Altalis, MNC, Jambo, FMS and Silvacom CS. The company and employees focus on the practical application of technology to solve real world challenges. They excel at big data, software development,



advanced analytics (including AI/ML), and geospatial technologies (GIS, drones, remote sensing, LiDAR, multi and hyper spectral imagery).

Bob and Tom are especially proud of their staff and their unqualified support for Classrooms for Africa, a non-profit group focused on education for poor African youth. Silvacom has been funding the construction of classroom infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa for over ten years, with 95 per cent of every donor dollar going to bricks and mortar in Africa. Every year, over 5,000 kids are educated in classroom facilities that Silvacom has directly funded.



1. Bob Morton's first business card with his and Tom Grabowski's new company Silvacom Computer Analysis Ltd.
2. Husky Hunter and Dap Technologies ruggedized field data collectors used by forest industry and the Alberta Forest Service in timber cruising and scaling activities. Silvacom created the software needed to modernize otherwise manual data collection; 1980s
3. Before and after pictures of the St. Paul Musekera Primary School in Kasese, Uganda; Classrooms for Africa
4. Bob Morton and Tom Grabowski standing in front of their Classrooms for Africa photo display; Edmonton; February 20, 2024
5. L to R: Tom Grabowski and Bob Morton showcasing new data collectors they introduced for forestry field work; 1983
6. Bob Morton (top) and Tom Grabowski entering data into an early model computer, one with an option of a floppy disc; Edmonton; 1983
7. Display of 40 years of Silvacom history located at Silvacom's office
8. Silvacom staff standing outside their new office in southeast Edmonton; 2023

SPRAY LAKE SAWMILLS TURNS 80!

Spray Lake Sawmills, one of the last long standing family-operated sawmills in Alberta, celebrated their 80th year in business in 2023. The company was founded in 1943 as Mjolsness Brothers in Sundre by Chester Mjolsness. His brother Lloyd partnered in 1946. The company name was changed to Spray Lake Sawmills in 1954, when operations commenced in the Spray Lakes area south of Canmore. A permanent mill facility was constructed in Cochrane in 1974. Second generation Mjolsness's purchased the company in 1980, with Barry becoming the sole owner in 1989.

The 80th anniversary celebration year kicked off with a movie night at the Cochrane Ranchhouse Theatre with a 35-minute video on the history of Spray Lake Sawmills, including a narrative from owner Barry Mjolsness. In addition, they invited STARS air ambulance to their spring BBQ and presented them with a cheque for \$80,000 to commemorate their 80 years. There were also a number of give-away items for their employees and associates, including a custom designed shirt, ball caps and Yeti mugs.

The celebration continued through the sponsorship of Layne MacGillivray's chuckwagon tarp for the Cowboys Rangeland Derby at the Calgary Stampede. Layne picked up the Guy Weadick award on the final Sunday and after an exciting week, won the Dash for Cash and ended up as the overall winner. Spray Lake also sponsored Layne for the final race of the year at Century Downs, where he once again came away with the top prize after winning both the aggregate and the dash for cash.





On September 13, 2023, Barry announced that Spray Lake Sawmills had been sold to West Fraser Timber. Barry noted that *"This has been a pivotal year for us as we have secured the future for Spray Lake Sawmills, and it is very rewarding to be ending on such a high note. We are pleased to be handing over the reigns to West Fraser, a solid and reputable company."*



1. Lorna and Barry Mjolsness with the Spray Lake Sawmills 80th anniversary cake

2. Barry and Lorna Mjolsness, trackside at the World Professional Chuckwagon Association finals hosted at Century Downs

3. Cupcakes to celebrate Spray Lake Sawmills 80th anniversary

4. The executive team presenting their 80th anniversary gift to Barry. L to R: Pat Findlater, Vice-President Finance and Chief Financial Officer; Jodi Blain, Executive Assistant and Office Manager; Barry Mjolsness, President; Arnold Fiselier, Chief Executive Officer; Ed Kulcsar, Vice-President Woodlands; and Howard Pruden, HR/Safety Manager and Community Relations

5. Barry and Lorna Mjolsness, with Layne MacGillivray in the winner's circle at Century Downs; August 27, 2023

6. A very muddy night at the July 2023 Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby

7. Josh Nash from STARS, presenting a STARS gift of appreciation to Barry and Lorna Mjolsness, for their long history of support from Spray Lake Sawmills. L to R: Arnold Fiselier, Josh Nash, Barry, and Lorna Mjolsness

8. Layne MacGillivray's chuckwagon, with the Spray Lake Sawmills sponsored tarp, getting ready for a race at the July 2023 Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby

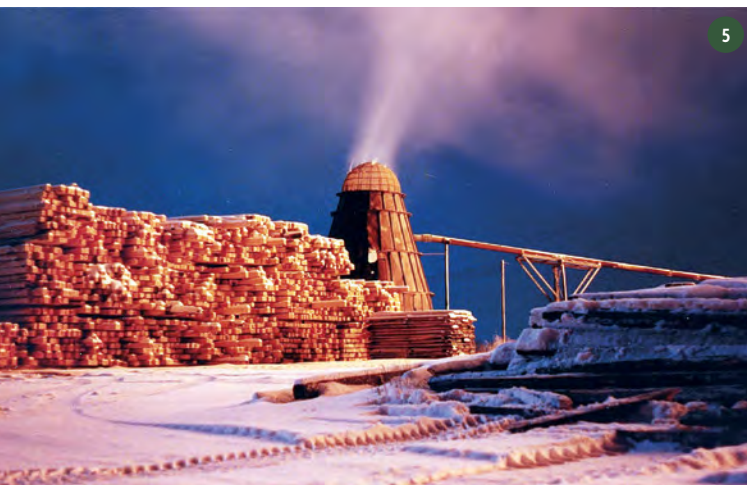
9. Barry and Lorna Mjolsness presenting STARS Josh Nash with an \$80,000 cheque to commemorate Spray Lake Sawmills 80th anniversary. L to R: Arnold Fiselier, Josh Nash, Barry, and Lorna Mjolsness

ZAVISHA SAWMILLS TURN 80!

Zavisha Sawmills is a third-generation family business that was started in 1943 by Henry Zavisha and his brother-in-law Pete Screpnek, when they purchased a sawmill 15 miles northeast of Hines Creek to harvest softwood timber. Henry's son Glen, and his son Greg now operate the company. The original mill was powered by a steam tractor with the company selling rough sawn lumber. A planer mill was purchased two years later, allowing Henry to access more markets. Most of the products were sold green and shipped direct from the bush operations to a box car on the Northern Alberta Railway railroad in Hines Creek. Glen started with the sawmill in 1960, and Zavisha

Sawmills Ltd. was incorporated in December 1963. In 1965, the sawmill was moved to Hines Creek and full-length trees had to be hauled on Alberta highways to the sawmills. Zavisha sawmills has sold to export markets in Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Algeria, Iran, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates. Today, most of Zavisha's production is sold to the North American and Japan markets. Zavisha produces and develops a wide range of quality products based on the on-time demands of its customers.

Zavisha Sawmills turned 80 in 2023.



ZAVISHA SAWMILLS TURN 80!

1. Glen Zavisha presenting his family sawmill history at the Forest History Association of Alberta annual general meeting on March 15, 2017
2. First planer mill 1945
3. Timber piling, end of the season
4. Aerial view of the Zavisha sawmill; Hines Creek; April 26, 2023
5. Sunset picture at the Zavisha Sawmill in Hines Creek, dry piled lumber, burner, 1980s
6. Sawmill in Hines Creek, burner, 1970s
7. Lumber loaded on train cars for shipment to market, 1990s
8. Sawmill in Hines Creek, 1970s
9. Dry pile lumber, Hines Creek planer mill
10. Zavisha's first bucking saw in 1950



7



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ALBERTA PACIFIC FOREST INDUSTRIES CELEBRATES THREE DECADE MILESTONE

In December 1988, Premier Getty formally announced the approval of what would be Alberta Pacific Forest Industries. This was at a time when Alberta was looking for opportunities to utilize the untapped deciduous forests in northern Alberta, creating economic investment, and jobs for smaller communities. Construction of the pulp mill was scheduled to start by the fall of 1989, and start-up was predicted in June

1991. In early 1989, Environment Minister Ian Reid announced that an independent panel would review Alpac's environmental assessment and conduct public hearings. This new process was a result of concerns raised by local residents and the environmental community. This delay allowed Alpac to focus and communicate their new approach to forest management, taking into consideration mixedwood

management, wildlife and fisheries habitat, and biodiversity over the entire landscape. Official signing of the Alberta Pacific Forest Industries forest management agreement occurred on August 30, 1991; and in September 1993, the Alpac greenfield pulp mill north of Grassland, began producing bright white pulp fibre for the papermakers of the world.





1. Aerial view of the Alberta Pacific Forest Products pulp mill; north of Grassland; May 25, 2012

2. Alberta Pacific Forest Products leadership team; north of Grassland; 1994

L to R: Masayasu (Mike) Inoue, Bill Hunter, Jerry Fenner, Wayne Staudt, Masatoshi (Mark) Kawakami, and Fumikazu (Fumi) Matsuura; Sitting: Shukuro Ishikawa

3. Crestwood Forest Products leadership team, the core executive group charged with making the Alberta-Pacific project a success; early 1990s

L to R: Bob Ruault, Wayne Staudt, Ed Taylor, Jim Stevens, George Jackson, Ted Jackson, and Jerry Fenner; Sitting: Stuart Lang

4. Alberta Pacific Forest Industries pulp mill, with aspen reforestation in the foreground; north of Grassland; summer 1995







1. Crane lifting logs from a logging truck to the log deck; north of Grassland; fall 1994

2. There from the very beginning, Keith Windeler has spent 31 years with Alberta Pacific Forest Industries in a variety of roles, most recently as woodlands manager

3. Official signing of the Alberta Pacific Forest Industries Forest Management Agreement; Edmonton; August 30, 1991

Back Row (L to R): Kerry Day (Milner Fenerty), Ken Krohman (MacKenzie Fujisawa), Doug Sklar, Rick Keller, Bob Ruault (Alberta Pacific), Cliff Smith, Al Brennan, Ken Higginbotham, Vonn Bricker, Kirk Andries, Denny Thomas (Milner Fenerty), and Tim Freedman

Front Row: Mack Kubo (Kanzaki Paper), Keith Fujieta (Mitsubishi), Mike Cardinal (MLA), Leroy Fjordbotten (Minister), Stuart Laing, Karl Gustafson (Crestbrook), and George Jackson



4. L to R: Assistant Deputy Minister of Resource Development Al Brennan, and woodlands operations manager east side Ken Plourde, on a field trip inspecting deciduous harvesting operations; Heart Lake area; 1994

5. Alberta Pacific Forest Products site visit; north of Grassland; early 1990s

L to R: Bob Ruault, Gary Liethead, Stuart Lang, Ken Plourde, and Cliff Smith

6. Construction of the Alberta Pacific Forest Products pulp mill. Trailer accommodations held nearly 2,000 people for construction and start-up work; north of Grassland; October 1992



EARLY AIR PATROLS IN THE WEST

Reprinted from Western People, March 26, 1987

Written by Robin Huth



At 10 a.m., September 7, 1920, the little two-seater Tiger Moth bounced into a takeoff from the hay meadow. On the ground, the small gathering of spectators cheered. They were witness to the inaugural flight of Alberta's first fire protection aerial patrol at Morley. Air patrol for spotting smoke on the eastern slopes of the Rockies, as well as in parts of Manitoba and British Columbia, was the result of an agreement between the Air Board of Canada and the Forestry Branch of Canada's Department of the Interior. By the spring of 1921, the government completed an aerodrome at High River. Shortly after that, two airplanes patrolled the three-million acres of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve, one flying north, and the other flying south. Under the command of Major Cuffe, the 37 RCAF officers and men at the High River Air Station maintained the forestry aircraft with little more than scrap iron and ingenuity. A Leyland lorry, a relic of the First World War, provided the power to turn their lathes and supply light.

Flying was an adventure. Each flight took the pilot over mountain peaks and subjected him to sudden downdrafts in deep mountain draws. Occasionally, forest superintendent J.P. Alexander, or his assistant, E.S. Huestis, went along for the

ride. Alexander, a former wartime aviator, was familiar with the close confinement of a tiny cockpit. "One time when we were turning home, the plane didn't have the power to get over the mountains," Alexander said. "We had the choice of going many miles out of our way or taking a chance flying through a narrow pass with sudden downdrafts. We chose the pass, and for its entire length, the pilot and I willed the plane to stay above the tree tops just a few yards below us." On one of the patrols, the pilot always landed at Pincher Creek Forest Headquarters for lunch. By flying low, he let Alexander and Huestis, who were stationed there at the time, know that he wanted to land. They would then jump into forestry's Model A pickup and trundle out to the airstrip. If the day was windy, a little ballet would take place.

Landing into the wind, the pilot would cut his motor as soon as the wheels touched the ground. When the plane had slowed down enough, each of the forestry men would grab a wingtip to hold it down when it stopped, otherwise the wind would flip it over onto its back. If either man fumbled the wingtip, the pilot gunned his motor and took off for a few feet into the air. Then cutting the motor again, he let the wind blow him backwards until he was in a position

to come in for another landing. "To get the pilot airborne again after lunch, we had to invent something that would flip the propellor of the plane to get it started," Huestis said. "From a Model T Ford, we attached an arm with a gadget on the end which fitted into the centre of the propellor. It was geared by a chain to the car's transmission."

The plane which patrolled the southern part of the province took in the Livingstone valley, south and west of Calgary. Before starting out, the pilot always checked the wind direction. If the blow was from the west, he knew he usually could depend on a downdraft at the top end of the valley, and an updraft at the bottom end where there is a gap in the Livingstone Range. On one trip, the wind suddenly changed. Expecting an updraft at the end of the valley, they suddenly dropped 1,000 feet, and ahead of them was a rocky barrier. "The pilot gunned the motor while I unconsciously pressed both feet hard to the floor," said Alexander. Slowly the plane gained enough altitude, and the two shaken men groaned with relief. There were enough incidences of the Moth not being able to clear some of the mountain peaks to convince officials to substitute the DH4 First World War bombers. Big and powerful, they were capable of flying at 30,000 feet.

However, they were expensive to operate, and in 1925, the one-seater Avro replaced them.

Without modern safeguards such as radar and protection from electric storms, the pilots were at the mercy of the elements. One plane on patrol was struck by lightning. Flying at 4,000 feet, the pilot felt as if something had hit him in the back of the neck, and he immediately lost consciousness. When he came to, his machine was in a nose dive and only 500 feet from the ground. With skill and presence of mind, he pulled out of it just in time. When a pilot spotted smoke, he sent the location of the fire by Morse code over wireless telegraph. His message was picked up by Edmonton's forestry headquarters or the High River Air Station. The operators in those places relayed the location by telephone to the forest ranger nearest the fire.

There were occasions when the pilots had to heed the call of nature while in the air. A tribute to someone's ingenuity, was a piece of garden hose with a five-inch funnel on one end, and the other end dropped through a hole in the bottom of the aircraft. In 1924, E.M. Finlayson, director of Forestry, enthusiastically reported to the deputy minister of the Interior, "... the fact that aircraft can be used successfully in forest protection is now established." But the transfer of the natural resources from the Dominion government to the provinces in 1930, brought to an end all flight patrols. Alberta couldn't afford to continue the air patrols in 1930, and many years went by before aircraft were again used to detect forest fires in Alberta.

1. Tiger Moth air patrol from the High River Air Station flies fire detection routes along the eastern slopes, 1921. Flights were at 13,000 feet, mostly in open cockpits
2. Fairchild aircraft (1928) were commonly used on northern Alberta fire patrols; some were based at Cooking Lake near Edmonton



19TH ANNUAL FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION AGM

March 13, 2024 7PM – 10PM

Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre
11727 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB

Contact Bruce Mayer at Ranger2@shaw.ca
or (780) 916-3604 for further information

RETIREMENTS



DON GELINAS

Submitted by Don Gelinas

Don Gelinas grew up in Griesbach, an army brat, and had no connection to forestry whatsoever. His high school record caught the attention of the school councillor, who asked him what he had planned to do after grade 12. Having never given it any thought, he was directed to find a post secondary choice from various university and college calendars. Treating it as a homework assignment, he found it easier to cross off those options he didn't like, to simplify the selection process. As it turned out, the only choice he didn't cross off was forestry... because it involved the outdoors and was something he knew absolutely nothing about. He was not disappointed, although it took Dr. Bruce Dancik's dendrology course to arouse and maintain his interest, considering it was the only forestry course the UofA forestry program offered in first year. Don graduated from the UofA with a BSc in forest management, and a minor in forest engineering in 1977. Summer employment was divided between the provincial government

and industry (Footner Lake, Canfor and Fort McMurray), with the provincial government winning out as a career choice after graduation. Starting in the Timber Management Branch, he spent six years working on forest management unit plans before moving to the Forest Land Use Branch for the next six years to work on integrated resource plans. This was followed by seven years in Whitecourt, during which time he was enrolled in the Alberta Forest Management Institute, becoming one of the first graduates of this intensive silviculture program. Returning to Edmonton in 1996 for the last 24 years of his career, Don's focus was on landscape planning, enforcement, and manager of the revenue section. A career of 42.5 years that he fondly looks back on.

Don's interest in forestry went beyond work. In this regard, he was very active in the Rocky Mountain Section (RMS) of the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF), starting as secretary treasurer, followed by two years on council, and then vice chair, chair, and director. As a Registered Professional Forester, he was quite active with the Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association, and with the Alberta Forestry Association. In fact, Don served as a director in all three organizations at the same time, facilitating the coordination of activities between all three. His accomplishments were recognized by the RMS with the awarding of the Tree of Life. He was also asked to serve on the National Executive of the CIF, which involved a four-year commitment, during which

time he interacted regularly with the Society of American Foresters (SAF), culminating in the 2004 joint annual general meeting between the CIF and the SAF, hosted by the RMS in Edmonton. Retirement in December 2019 opened the door to travelling with his wife Chris, who has been by Don's side now for over 42 years.



IAIN JOHNSTON

Submitted by Iain Johnston

I think my interest in forestry began at a young age as I loved going fishing and hunting with my Dad. Growing up in Red Deer, I spent a lot of time hunting and fishing west of Rocky Mountain House. My interest in the outdoors led me to decide to take Forest Technology at NAIT in 1984, graduating as a forest technologist in 1986. My first permanent forestry job was at the Grande Cache Forest Products sawmill in Grande Cache in 1987. I started off scaling, and then doing layout, and making annual operating plans. In 1988, while driving through Jasper National Park to meet some friends to go camping, I realized I was subconsciously planning cutblocks in the park as I

was driving. This is not a good sign I thought, and realized I needed a change. The Alberta Forest Service was hiring, and I got a job in November 1988, at the Clear Hills Ranger Station in Hines Creek as a project forest officer.

That December, I applied for the eligibility list to try and get a permanent forest officer position. In the interview, they asked if I'd go to Rainbow Lake or Fort Chipewyan. "*I'm your man*", I said. They asked me the same question again, thinking I'd obviously misunderstood. Anyways, in March 1989, I got a call from chief ranger Brian Wudarck offering me a permanent forest officer position at the Slave Lake Ranger Station. To be honest, I only intended to spend two to three years in Slave Lake, and then transfer somewhere else. Well almost 35 years later I'm still in Slave Lake and loving it! I worked as a forest officer for 16 years until 2005. In 2005, I became a compliance officer until Jim Lunn offered me the wildfire prevention officer position in 2007. In 2010, I became a lands manager, followed by wildfire manager in 2012, which eventually evolved into the forest area manager position, which I held until I retired on December 30, 2022.

Slave Lake has been good to me. I met my wonderful (and long-suffering) wife Colleen on the banks of the Saulteaux River, at a fly-in planting camp in 1992, when she was on the timber management crew. We were married in a little church at the Diamond Willow Campground near Marten Beach in 1994. We have three amazing daughters Megan, Kimberly and Rachel born in 1995, 1998 and 2000. The highlights of my career were the

opportunity to work with so many talented, dedicated, hard-working, fun-loving, and team-oriented people both in Slave Lake and throughout the province. Their comradery will always be cherished. In retirement I am continuing to enjoy the great outdoors whether it be kayaking, canoeing, camping, walking the dog, fishing, hunting, berry picking, gardening, or any other excuse to be outside.



DERRICK DOWNEY

Submitted by Derrick Downey

I grew up in a small town called Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland, approximately 80 kilometres south of Corner Brook, along the west coast. I became interested in forestry while chasing my father in the bush hunting, fishing, and picking berries, and because of the logging activity and history in the area. Following high school in 1982, I attended a nine-month forest ranger program focussed on logging operations, sawmilling and silviculture. In 1985, I graduated from the forest resources technology program at the then Fisher Technical College in Corner Brook. Once this baby boomer graduated, the onerous challenge of obtaining employment was underway. That season, I was employed as a tree planter, the following season as a tree planting

foreman, and finally, from 1987 to 1995 as a forestry technician, all with the Newfoundland department of Forest Resources and Lands. I moved to B.C. in 1995, where I worked as a compliance and enforcement forest officer with the Ministry of Forests in the former Morice Forest District in Houston. In March 2000, I moved to Fort Vermilion as a forest officer and then senior ranger with the Alberta department of Environment. In 2002, I became the wildfire prevention officer in the High Level Forest Area, and in 2008, the wildfire operations officer. I retired in February 2023. Though I remained residing in Fort Vermilion during my employment in the north, I commuted to and from High Level. I very much enjoyed my time in the area, and in Alberta, and I very much appreciate the opportunities that I was offered and subsequent experiences that were provided to me by what I will refer to as "The Forestry". I have met a lot of great people within the organization including past managers, coworkers, peers and friends and I wish them all well in the challenging times ahead. Like most people who came from the east, I've returned to a place in northern New Brunswick, outside of Campbellton, on the Quebec border, in a community now called Bois Joli (pretty wood), with my partner Donna (schoolteacher whom I met in Fort Vermilion), and dogs Maggie and Merle. Retirement will include spending time here on the acreage cutting firewood, fire smarting the property, playing guitar, and travelling down to Newfoundland to visit family more often. There will be fishing and hunting when there is an urge, but otherwise I'll be spending time in the man cave reminiscing of days gone by.



DON LIVINGSTON

Submitted by Don Livingston

Although brought up in Edmonton, I spent a lot of time in the outdoors. I signed up for the NAIT Forest Technology program with the intent of completing the second year wildlife option, but when I got into first year, the wildlife option was cancelled. I then continued in forestry, graduating in 1985. The rest is history. After graduation, I left right from Hinton and headed to High Level as an aerial observer. There I worked various positions over the next few years on initial attack, and also did cruising, scarification and thinning through the winter months. In the summer of 1986, I was hired as a forest officer (FO I) in Rainbow Lake, transferring to Nordegg as an FO 1 in the fall of 1990. I was promoted to senior ranger in Nordegg in 1998. In 2001, I transferred into Rocky Mountain House as the land use officer, remaining in Rocky Mountain House until I retired on April 14, 2023, after 37 years. While there my roles changed from land use officer to planning forester, approvals manager, to finally the recreation, ecosystem, and land management manager for the south half of the province. Over the years wildfire and recreation were my passions. I went to work in the lands division once the departmental

reorganizations happened in the early 2010s, and was still able to participate in type 1 overhead teams. Wildfire operations was my specialty and I spent a lot of years as a type 1 incident commander.

Over the years I had a passion for community and spent over 15 years involved in structural firefighting as a volunteer. This proved valuable on the overhead teams while on interface fires in small communities. I also spent 31 years with Rocky Mountain House Volunteer Search and Rescue and their mountain rescue team. Martial arts (Muay Thai) has been a passion over the last 14 years. I travelled to Thailand many times to train and fight, and in the summer of 2023, I received my black belt. I love hunting and have been guiding moose hunts for non-residents. I guide on horseback west of Nordegg in the areas we used to patrol on horses as rangers.



KEITH BERASKA

Submitted by Keith Beraska

I was born and raised in Lac La Biche where I grew up enjoying life by the lakeshore, fishing, snowmobiling, or playing hockey on the lake. I had an interest in aviation as well, so after high school I learned to fly an airplane and received my pilot's license when I was 18. This interest led me to spend two summers working as an aerial observer in the

Lac La Biche Forest patrolling the skies in a single engine Cessna airplane. I remember a couple of times when we were granted permission to fly through the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range following storm paths, where we invariably became a training target and got investigated close-up by the military jets (CF-5s and CF-104s at the time). My choice to go to the NAIT Forestry program 1982 was certainly influenced by my summer job experience with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS), and by family members John Beraska and Bill Bereska, who were both rangers at the time.

I graduated from NAIT in 1984, along with classmates Wally Born, Roy Campbell, Garth Davis, Michelle Shesterniak, Paul Ronellenfitch, and others. Permanent jobs in Alberta were hard to come by at the time, so I accepted a position as an assistant resource management officer with the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Fort Simpson, NWT, where I remember working with Bernie Gauthier, Bill Mawdsley, Brian Hoover, and Nick Galan. During this time, I was fortunate to travel throughout the western NWT and Mackenzie Valley, all the way up to the Arctic Ocean. It was an amazing experience, however after a couple of years the federal government began a devolution process to transfer the forestry and wildlife management programs to the territorial government. I wanted to return to Alberta anyway, so I moved to Footner Lake, where I worked as a wage forest officer on the superior tree program along with Darren Tapp for the winter of 1986-1987. In the spring of 1987, I transferred to the Whitecourt Forest where I spent a year doing timber management duties and leading the timber management crew. I recall applying for a position in the Bow Crow Forest during this time, however when superintendent Cliff Henderson found

out he called me into his office and stated, "*Beraska, if you don't withdraw your application, your career in forestry is over!*" So, I promptly withdrew my application. Looking back, I know that Cliff was looking after my own best interests.

In the spring of 1988, I was selected off the eligibility list and offered a permanent forest officer job in the Grande Cache District, where I worked with Don Podlubny, Jim Cochrane, Paul Steiestol, Phil Robert, and others. I loved every minute of being a "Mountain Ranger", especially the backcountry patrols of Willmore Wilderness Park (both hiking and on horseback). I recall a couple of 5-day horseback patrols with a local guide named Tommy Wanyandie. Tommy didn't speak much English and I only knew a few words of Cree; however, we made it work, and I learned a lot from him.

I transferred to the Edson District in the fall of 1991, where I worked with Ray Olsson, Rob Gibb, Gary Dodsworth, Quentin Spila, and many other great people. After four years I transferred again to the Grovedale District working with Stan Clarke, Brent Bochon, Rick Prince, John Bradley, Garth Davis, and Michelle Shesterniak. Sadly, during this time the Grovedale office was closed, and we moved into the headquarters building in Grande Prairie. After a couple of years here (and during the Klein era cutbacks), I left the Alberta government (along with many others), and took a position as an environmental consultant and licensed land agent working in northwest Alberta and northeast B.C., eventually becoming the manager of a regional office for a large environmental consulting firm.

After eight years in Grande Prairie, my wife and I decided to move to

Edmonton to be closer to family, where I took a position as a land management specialist with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, where I worked with Dave Bartesko, John Begg, Dianne George, and Elma Finley. After three years I accepted a management position with the new Aboriginal consultation unit, where I worked with Dennis Driscoll, John Belanger, Dave Coish, Ken Yackimec, Henri Soulodre, and Mark Storie. I spent the next phase of my career working in the field of Indigenous relations, consultation, and engagement, providing guidance to staff and working directly with communities. During this period, I also spent a couple of years on secondment to Alberta Parks as a senior manager and director of policy. My final position before retirement in June 2023, was as director of Indigenous initiatives with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas. It has definitely been a rewarding career full of amazing experiences, with many friends made along the way.



TOM HUTCHISON

Submitted by Tom Hutchison

On July 31, 2023, I stood at the door of my mostly empty office. I was looking in for perhaps the last time ever. Mixed emotions described my feelings: happiness, melancholy, excitement, trepidation – the whole gamut. Never in my younger self's wildest dreams would

I have imagined having an office in Athabasca, Alberta. Nor would I have thought I'd be working out of it for twenty-three years. However, that was the case and now it was coming to an end. Reflecting on my career in forest health over almost a quarter of a century is difficult. I know it's impossible to summarize everything here. So, I'll try to bite things into manageable chunks covering where I came from and some events during the journey that was my career with the government of Alberta (GoA).

Prior to 2000, I was working as a forestry contractor in the Robson Valley, B.C. For the previous five years, I had worked on a variety of contracts, often related to forest health. Largely, I sub-contracted for another forestry contractor, Steve Gillette. Much of the work was doing bark beetle survey and control for the Robson Valley Forest District. It was physically demanding work. The slopes in the Robson Valley are steep, the snow can get really, really deep, and the trees are often very large. I had a 36-inch bar on my chainsaw and, many times, would still have to come in from two sides to make my undercuts. I was getting beaten up. In about a year's span, I had torn the rotator cuffs in both my shoulders, broken my wrist, jammed my hip, and gotten stung so many times by wasps and hornets, that I developed a sensitivity to their stings. I said to myself "*I need a new job.*" Preferably one with an office. I saw an online forest health officer (FHO) job posting with the GoA, and I applied.

That spring, Steve and I started a contract for which I needed to get my silviculture surveyor certification. I completed the test for that (which was quite difficult) in Prince George. I had just returned to my home in McBride, when my wife informed me that Alberta Environmental Protection had called while I was gone. They

wanted me to come to Slave Lake for an interview. Unfortunately, the interview was scheduled for the next day. I called to say I couldn't possibly make it to Slave Lake in time, so we agreed to a phone interview. I had to cram like crazy to prepare. I knew virtually nothing about forestry in Alberta. I knew even less about boreal forests or the pests affecting them. I must have studied well enough, however, a few weeks later Steve informed me he'd had a call from the Alberta government, checking my references. A short time later, I got a job offer, which (after a brief visit to Athabasca, Slave Lake, and Lac La Biche) I accepted. I planned to give it five years, and then re-evaluate my career path.

When I started with the GoA, there were four regions in Alberta with FHOs: Parkland, Bow, Prairie; Northern East Slopes; Northwest Boreal; and Northeast Boreal. The latter region, for which I was to be responsible for, was huge. However, it did get significantly smaller shortly after I arrived. A ministry reorganization removed Slave Lake and the Marten Hills from my purview. In fact, not only did the regional boundaries change, so too did the ministry name, region name, department name, area name, my manager, and the office I reported too...virtually everything in the organizational structure. These "re-orgs," or "tune-ups", or whatever they were called, occurred frequently over my career. I soon learned that the only constant in the GoA was change.

A couple first impressions of forest health in Alberta stuck with me. First, the staff (regional FHOs and Edmonton staff) were generally quite young. I was given the nickname "Old Man Hutchy" right off the bat. Second, the major focus of forest health provincially, was spruce budworm (SBW) management. This left my

region as an outlier because SBW was not very active in the northeast at that time. The GoA had been conducting very large spray programs for the control of SBW populations for many years, particularly in the northwest part of the province. In 2003, the head of forest health in the province (Hideji Ono), with the direction of the assistant deputy minister at the time, introduced a policy outlining shared roles and responsibilities between the GoA and the forest industry for forest pest management. It stipulated that any future forest pest control programs would be done on a "cost shared" basis between the GoA and industry stakeholders. This effectively ended the SBW management focus for the forest health section provincially.

Without SBW management, the forest health section lost much of its profile. It was a struggle to stay relevant and forest health concerns seemed, at least to me, more often a reactive afterthought, rather than necessary inputs into natural resource management. Which is why, during my career, I always promoted forest health education and awareness. In the northeast, we also put a lot of effort into a cooperative pest management working group. This included representation from industry (forestry as well as oil and gas), and various GoA partners. I maintained this working group for many years. It was useful for disseminating forest health information as well as conducting various cooperative pest survey, control and research projects. I am quite proud of the number of the things we accomplished with a small budget.

By July 2005, I was rolling over my five-year plan to a 10-year plan. I still wasn't sure that forest health was going to be my long-term career, but I figured another five years wouldn't be so bad. That year was a turning point

for forest health in Alberta. Mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestations had been found in the Willmore Wilderness Area in unknown, but obviously unprecedented, amounts. I was the only FHO with any experience conducting aerial surveys for MPB. So, I was flown to Grande Cache to heli-GPS the locations and extent of fading pine from MPB attack. Turns out it was huge. I went through a half a dozen puking co-surveyors before getting the extent of the infestation established. The provincial government, I think rightly, treated this massive influx of MPB as an emergency. A beetle base was established, crews and helicopters brought in, and a massive fall and burn operation started. Responsibility for MPB activities was placed under Dan Lux, who assumed a new role as the provincial MPB coordinator. It was a big deal at the time.

As big as the initial MPB incursion into the Willmore was, it was dwarfed by the inflight of MPB from B.C. that occurred in 2006 and subsequent years. Much of northern Alberta, as far east as Lesser Slave Lake, was blanketed by a colossal MPB invasion. Thus began a decade and a half of MPB being the major focus for the forest health section. Once again, the northeast was an outlier as, although detected widely, MPB never really established itself there. I remember attending an interprovincial conference in Radium Hot Springs a few years earlier, at which two Canadian Forest Service presenters (Terry Shore and Bill Riel) suggested (thanks to changing climatic conditions) MPB would breach the Rockies and establish themselves in new areas in Alberta, within a decade. I didn't think that would happen, and boy oh boy, was I wrong. MPB established itself, and thrived, over a large swath of Alberta's boreal forests. The GoA, to its credit, continued to aggressively combat MPB, providing

tens of millions of dollars per year for the cause. The forest health section conducted very impressive survey and control operations. MPB considerations were included in forest management plans (FMPs) and associated spatial harvest sequences. Alberta became a real leader in pine beetle management.

During this time our forest health group grew considerably. The number of regional FHOs increased to eight, several forest health technicians were hired, a science officer, dedicated GIS staff, and more Edmonton staff. Later we amalgamated with the Alberta Tree Improvement Seed Centre and became the Forest Health and Adaptation (FH&A) section. It was “all hands on deck” to help stop the spread of MPB. So, even though we didn’t have a lot of MPB in the northeast, participating in MPB projects took up a lot of my time for many years. Meanwhile, SBW was becoming a significant problem in the Fort McMurray area, which inspired the following haiku:

Foliage feeders
Winter’s slumber almost done
Juicy buds await

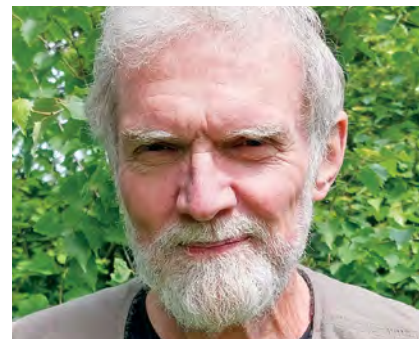
I had set up a network of SBW mortality plots whose results indicated a lot of spruce were dying or were in decline, particularly along the Athabasca River valley and other drainages (such as the Clearwater), around Fort McMurray. Additionally, spruce on oil sands reclamation areas were adversely affected. In 2010, the situation was made a provincial emergency and a couple of million dollars were dedicated conducting a large-scale spray operation. However, population forecast surveys (egg mass and second larval instar (L2)) indicated a population collapse. With much help from Edmonton staff, and our cooperative pest

management working group, I planned and conducted a scaled-down spray program targeting “hot spots” identified from the L2 surveys. The first SBW spray program since the 1990s. Unfortunately, despite a general collapse of SBW populations, spruce continued to decline, leading to widespread mortality in areas we didn’t spray. Which was a surprise as detection of defoliation to the population collapse in areas such as the Clearwater River, was only about four to five years. Typically, we would expect seven years of severe defoliation to cause such mortality. In my opinion, these large areas of dead, standing spruce contributed to the intensity of the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire.

In 2014, I accepted a position as the province’s senior forest health officer. By then, I determined that I was going to finish my career with the GoA. For the next nine years I was a provincial resource, working on such things as, assessing the forest health content in FMPs and other planning documents; developing and updating forest health survey procedures; coordinating and conducting forest health training, both internally (for aerial surveys) and externally (delivering the forest health course at the Hinton Training Centre); taking a lead role in developing a new pest online diagnostic system and; helping out with various surveying and monitoring throughout the province.

A difficult period for me and for many other folks in Agriculture and Forestry came in 2020-2021. Massive layoffs were planned for our ministry. I thought I would lose my position before I was eligible for full retirement. I felt like the sword of Damocles hung over me for a year. When the cuts occurred, and I wasn’t let go, then I felt like I had survivor’s guilt. However, one thing I knew for sure was that my FH&A career would soon end, and I started planning for retirement.

Despite my disillusionment after the 2021 cuts, I have to say my career overall with the GoA was great. The work was challenging, yet enjoyable and varied. I don’t think I could have found a better career as a forester. I liked it, and I loved the people I worked with. I was a forest health officer for longer than anything else I had been in my life. It was a huge part of me. I never intended a career in Forest Health. It happened quite by accident. However, I guess that’s not too unusual. I heard an interview with American novelist R. L. Stine recently. He said that all careers are accidental. No one ends up where they thought they would. I am truly grateful for the career I had with the GoA. So, I stood at the door of my mostly empty office, and I thought good-bye. It’s been good.



RICHARD “DICK” DEMPSTER

Born in the County of Devon in southwest England, Dick was very much into nature at an early age, bird watching, hiking, rambling, and cycling. This essentially led to an interest in forestry. As a teenager, during school holidays Dick did manual work for a private forestry company, like weeding of new plantations; and later worked for the UK Forestry Commission. In this job, he was given more opportunities to understand forestry, with surveying, marking stands for thinning, and even a short stint on a lookout tower. Dick graduated from the University

College of North Wales in Bangor with a degree in forestry in 1968. In 1971, he graduated with a PhD, after researching germination and early growth of Scots pine. Interested in travel following school, Dick was hired as an assistant conservator of forests with the Jamaican government on their pine plantation development program. Here he married his wife, Marion, whom he had first met in Bangor. Two years later, Dick had to choose between staying in Jamaica, and two other job offers, one from Australia, the other from Newfoundland, Canada. He chose the latter and ended up as a management forester working for Al Brennan, with the Newfoundland Forest Service. In 1975, Dick was hired by Norm Brocard and moved to Alberta to develop a forest management plan for Simpson Timber out of Blue Ridge, working for Daryl D'Amico. There he was involved in implementing new tools and technology, using small scale color infrared photography and multistage sampling for the company's forest inventory, and Timber RAM for their annual allowable cut modeling.

In 1977, Dick was hired by Peter Murphy, dean of forestry at the University of Alberta as an associate professor, teaching integrated forest resource management. Looking to do more extension related work, Dick was hired by Al Brennan, now director of forestry in Alberta. The job was initially to develop a formal forest policy, but Dick spent most of his time providing analytical support for new forestry expansion opportunities. This experience led to Dick setting up his own consulting firm, W.R. Dempster and Associates. From 1981 to 1990, Dick and his colleagues worked with companies on feasibility studies and proposals for expansion and new forest industry development. In 1990, Dick

sold his company to H.A. Simons Ltd. and became vice president of forestry, spending the next nine years managing and working on forestry projects in Canada, China, southern Africa, south America, Indonesia and the Caribbean. With the sale of H.A. Simons to an American firm, Dick chose to return to consulting on his own. From 1999 to 2007, he worked for the Foothills Model Forest as the director of the Foothills Growth and Yield Association (FGYA). Dick found this work very rewarding, with nine companies and the government working together on a common goal of understanding the growth and yield of pine reforestation following harvest. The results provided companies and government with information to support silvicultural and allowable cut decisions.

In 2007, while on the road to retirement, Dick and his wife moved to their current home near Chagford, England, in Dartmoor National Park. Here he continued as a research and development associate analyzing the data collected through the FGYA. Dick was able to see the FGYA expand to what is now known as the Forest Growth Organization of Western Canada (FGrOW). Dick retired in 2022, with his official retirement held on June 20, 2023. During Dick's career in Alberta, he was instrumental in developing tools like the Reforestation Standard for Alberta (RSA) and the Foothills Regeneration Interactive Planning System (FRIPSY) for use by companies and government to ensure the practice of sustainable forest management. According to friend Bob Udell, Dick also plays a mean banjo. While living in Alberta at Carvel Corner, he and his wife Marion hosted an annual bluegrass weekend. Bob Udell and Dick were also a duo on stage at the first bluegrass festival in Stony Plain, that later became the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival.



TED GOODING

Submitted by Ted Gooding

Looking back at my career in forestry, it all started with a love and appreciation for the outdoors through family camping, canoeing, and hiking trips in the forests of northern Ontario. I grew up in Oakville, Ontario and attended the University of Toronto from 1977 to 1981. Like many of my university friends, apart from concentrating on our studies, we spent lots of time getting involved in extracurricular activities - intramural sports, grad hockey, social events, and the Woodsmen Team. It was through these activities that I met Sarah, my lifelong partner and wife of 40 years and counting.

Upon graduation, I worked over 10 years in northwest Ontario for what was then Great Lakes Forest Products based out of Thunder Bay. Most of this time I worked out of live-in logging camps in roles ranging from harvesting supervisor to FMA forester. During this period, I was fortunate to be involved in the development and operational implementation of new scarification equipment. This provided me the opportunity to work in all aspects of industrial forestry from planning and harvesting through to regeneration. Returning to areas that you harvested and regenerated decades later really reinforces the dynamic and cyclic nature of the boreal forests and how they can be sustainably harvested. Some of my harvesting footprint is

now critical habitat within wildland parks.

Like many in forestry, economic swings influenced my career and when layoffs provided the catalyst for change, I went back to school in 1993 for my Masters of Science in Forestry at Lakehead University (under Laird van Damme). Going back to school after a decade away was a challenge, especially when in this time Sarah and I had started our family (Alison 1988 and Ian 1991). In discussing this with the Dean at the time, (John Naysmith), he commented that my forestry experience would trump my transcript and would serve me well. My response was that I could focus the time I spent on partying during my undergrad degree on study and family time - so it would be doable. Not sure that this was the best sales approach in applying for a graduate degree, but it worked. The interesting thing was that prior to starting my MSc, I had not used a personal computer (being stuck in a logging camp and my only previous experience was with punch cards), but I still decided on a thesis engulfed in computer simulations, focused on economic timber supply and alternative silviculture systems.

Our family moved to Alberta over Christmas of 1995. Based on a thesis presentation in Winnipeg, Jonathan Russell hired me on retainer with Millar Western Forest Products working for Timberline Forestry Consultants while I finished writing and defending my thesis. In summer of 1996, I was hired full time with Timberline as a Timber Supply Analyst. In 1998, my desire for entrepreneurship and greater control of my career led me to acquiring an ownership stake in The Forestry Corp, now Forcorp, where I remained for 25 years until retirement. I was fortunate to be involved with a group of like-minded individuals (originally

Brian Maier, Olenka Bakowsky, Willi Fast, and transitioning to Grant Burkell, Bob Christian, Kerry Nice and Mitchell Bosecke) believing in growth through transparency, quality, and deliverables. I was involved in a wide range of projects across western Canada during a period of rapid change in computers, information processing, forest management and public perception of environmental issues and the profession. Maintaining and handing off a strong company while thriving and embracing the changes over the decades has been fulfilling.

During this time, I wanted to become more involved in the profession, so I asked if there were any committees that needed some assistance, and the next thing you know I was a councillor leading the development of the College of Alberta Professional Forester's (CAPF) first website. This was followed by a term as CAPF President for the 2009-2010 year. I enjoyed my time on CAPF, it allowed me to meet and create friendships with foresters I would not normally have crossed paths with. I highly recommend putting time into these types of volunteer positions. I've experienced great changes over my career. While the technology changes have been vast, so has the capacity to understand and quantify our impacts. I like to believe that I have contributed to increasing this understanding. From a young naive kid from the city watching large mechanical harvesting machines consuming whole trees and thinking that all the forest would be gone in no time; to the understanding of silviculture and timber supply modelling and their use to quantify and sustain our forest. Applying and communicating this understanding has been a large part of my work.

I have also been involved with the wider environmental focus of timber harvesting. I can still remember the frantic call I received over my truck

radio (circa 1984) while preparing to cross a river during winter road line construction. Standard practice for crossing at the time was to fill the river with aspen trees to allow water flow during the winter months, and cover it with snow. The radio call halted that process, forcing us to immediately innovate and develop means to also address fish movement. Although frustrating at the time, I believe these changes and many others since then have been beneficial to the forest ecosystem, aligning with why I chose forestry as a career. In reflecting upon my career, while the science and art of forestry is fascinating and worth many bottles of scotch for reflection and debate, it's the people and the relationships that are developed that's the real gift. While some are sadly no longer with us, the memories remain to be added to the fulfilment of life and future memories.



ELLEN MACDONALD

Submitted by Ellen Macdonald

On August 31, 2023, I officially retired as a Professor in the Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta. I was born in London, Ontario; our backyard was filled with elm, beech, and maple trees and I loved playing outside there and in the nearby ravines and wooded areas. Although my favourite TV show was "The Forest Rangers" it took me awhile to find a career linkage to forestry. We moved to

Saskatoon when I was 11, where I quickly learned to love the prairies. My original ambition was to become a veterinarian, but with my first university course in ecology I found my passion. This was biology about how the world works, where you could work outdoors and learn about things that mattered. I was introduced to research during my BSc in Environmental Biology at the University of Calgary. As a summer research assistant, I joined a field trip to the Athabasca Sand Dunes in Saskatchewan. It was a mind-blowingly amazing place, and I immediately began devising a plan to get back there and stay longer. Upon graduating with my BSc, I entered the PhD program with my thesis research focused on one species of plant that has amazing ability to grow and survive in diverse habitats (*Stellaria longipes*, a kind of chickweed) – the sand dunes, the boreal forest, grasslands, and in the alpine. It is pure coincidence that this also allowed me to do field work in all those places. As I neared graduation Dr. Dick Pharis, plant physiology professor at University of Calgary, told me that the Forest Science department at the University of Alberta was looking for postdocs. They had received federal government funding that aimed to build more forest science research expertise in Canada.

I applied and began working with Drs. Rich Rothwell and Vic Lieffers on March 1, 1988. I attended my first Forest Industry Lecture Series just a few days later and was amazed by this remarkable event: the connection of researchers to practitioners, the support given to students, and the opportunity to do research that would make a difference in how our forests are managed. Within a year, two faculty positions opened due to the retirement of silviculture professor Dr. Kare Hellum, and the move of Dr.

Ken Higginbotham to the provincial government. I was fortunate to be hired and began as an Assistant Professor of Forest Ecology June 1, 1989. The next 34 years flew by. I taught forest ecology, plant biology, restoration ecology, environmental assessment, graduate-level statistics, and my favourite - field school, which I taught at 30 times. I was arm-twisted into some administrative appointments: Associate Dean in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, and I was Chair of the Department of Renewable Resources from 2016-2021.

There were lots of changes and challenges over the years: merger with the department of soil science, start up of the BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences to complement the BSc Forestry programs, losses of staff due to budget cuts, and of course the pandemic during my time as department chair. I feel that through everything we remained focused on providing an outstanding educational experience for our students and doing research that matters. I am proudest of the 57 MSc and PhD students I supervised to completion – and of the hundreds of undergrad students, who hopefully learned something worthwhile from the classes I taught. I hope my teaching and research has made a positive difference in the way we manage our forests. I very much appreciate the wonderful departmental colleagues and the very supportive department chairs I had over the years. I am also incredibly grateful to my husband Brett, and sons Logan and Graeme, for their steadfast love and support of my career – and for making my non-work life so much fun. I am still puttering away as a Professor Emeritus – finishing off research projects and writing a few more papers. I have lots of other fun things planned: more golf, biking, hiking,

skiing, snowshoeing and camping; more quilting; travel (east Africa in February; Scotland this summer with my siblings to explore our highland roots); and doing “wellness dog” visits with our golden doodle, Koko. I hope to stay connected with forestry colleagues.



STEVE BLANTON

Submitted by Steve Blanton

My Great Canadian Adventure! After graduating from Fleming College in the spring of 1980, I kicked around Ontario for a few months working on various crews. In my never ending search for a better job, I answered an advertisement in the Toronto Daily Star looking for people to work on a three-year project in Alberta. I was successful in getting the job. I had never been to Alberta before, so I thought that I would go there for the three years, and then come back to Ontario with that experience and get a good job. In October 1980, my then girlfriend and now wife, Sherry and I got in my car, and four days later we arrived in Edmonton. My version of this part of the story differs from Sherry's version, but that is for another day! The job was working for the Resource Evaluation and Planning

(REAP) Branch of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources. I was working on the Phase III inventory project under the supervision of Basil Delany and Richard Nesby. Shortly after I started, Sherry also got a job with REAP. After about a year and a half, it became clear to me that this project was not going to last the advertised three years.

During my Phase III work, we would travel to various Alberta Forest Service (AFS) districts to complete some field work. We usually stayed in bunkhouses and contacted the local district staff to help us with access. I got to know a few of the forest rangers and thought that they had pretty good jobs. So, the naive me went to the AFS provincial headquarters (in the Bramalea Building at that time) looking for a ranger job. As it happens, Lorne Goff was in Edmonton hiring summer staff. I met with him, and he said that he couldn't offer me a ranger job (you older guys will remember the "eligibility list"), but he did offer me the timber management (TM) crew assistant party chief job in the Lac La Biche Forest for the summer of 1982. This was in the days that the Alberta government completed more forest management activities than now, and the TM crews completed valuable timber cruising, block layout, and planting quality check projects.

Sherry stayed in Edmonton, and I worked a 10 and 4 shift in Lac La Biche. In the early summer of 1982, the May Tower fire started. In just a few days, it was realized that this fire was going to be a bad one, and the TM crew was seconded to the fire to help. What followed was the most exhilarating month of my short career. Long hours (an overtime miracle), lots of flame and smoke, excitement every day, lots of forest rangers around doing ranger stuff.

What a rush! Next came the eligibility list interview. Seven senior AFS staff making me sweat it out and firing questions at me. I suppose that I did okay because I made the list. Shortly after that, I was given the choice to take a forest ranger job in either Spirit River or Keg River. Not knowing where either of these places were, I looked at a map and decided that Spirit River was the place for me.

My now wife Sherry and I decided to take a trip from Edmonton to Spirit River on one of my weekends off to look around and meet the staff. We drove north of Grande Prairie and turned west at Rycroft. From there, we could see the grain elevators in Spirit River. Sherry asked if that was it. I said yes, and she started crying. This was not getting off to a good start. Chief Ranger Bob Glover, FO III Mike Hancock, FO's Dave Scott, Kevin Heartwell, and a year later Bill MacDonald were my workmates. A young Kevin Hakes was the initial attack crew Leader. Good guys all of them. At that time, we got our uniforms after working for one year. Kevin Heartwell received his, but refused to wear it because he was not going to work for government very long. On his second year anniversary, he came to the office dressed in his uniform! He ended up having a good career with government.

After a few years, it became clear that the path to promotions was through fire experience. In 1986, I took a transfer to Fort Vermilion in order to get that experience. We moved in January 1986, and it was blistering cold. I, my wife Sherry, and daughter Sarah crammed into the front of our single cab pick up truck with our cat and dog, and away we went. Chief Ranger John Graham (later replaced by Lyall Gill), FO III Doug Ellison (later replaced by John Brewer), and FO's Brent Bochon, Dave Heatherington,

and Gary Walsh were there. A robust crew to say the least. John playing his banjo, not very well, but very loudly at every get together! Lifelong friends were made. Sherry and I still stay at Brent and Annie's house when we go to Grande Prairie. Two short years later, I was offered a promotion to FO III in Rainbow Lake. I accepted the position, and my growing family was on the move again. We had gained a son, Tim while we were in Fort Vermilion. Chief Ranger Dennis Halliday and FO's Aaron Doepel, Don Livingston, Michelle Shesterniak, Bill Allen, Barry Onysty, Stuart Carter, Therese Yachyshyn, Ken Yackimec, Tracey Stewart, Ken Snyder, and Mike Templeton all worked there with me over the six years that I was stationed there. Lots of young rangers at their first posting kept me hopping.

Rainbow Lake had a reputation as being a tough place to work, end of the pavement, almost as far away from Edmonton as you can get and still be in Alberta, an oil town. It was all of those things, but Sherry and I made some more lifelong friends there. Steve Sparling and his family, and Steve Wright and his family. They worked for Husky Energy, and the three families became friends. All of our kids have grown up together and are each others best friends. The three Steves, (another story, but I think that Bruce wants me to move on) and families still get together!

In 1993, the AFS underwent a big reorganization. Up until then, there was a clear career path for a guy like me. It suddenly became murkier. I wasn't that happy about it. At the same time, the government, as a cost cutting measure, stopped all transfers. So, here I was, six years in Rainbow Lake with no transfer on the horizon and an unclear career path. I needed a change. I decided to leave the government and take a job

in the woodlands department at the brand new Manning Diversified Forest Products (MDFP) sawmill in Manning. We now had three children. Another daughter, Jessie was added when we were in Rainbow Lake.

When I first talked to Sherry about leaving the government, she was okay with it as long as we went south of Peace River. We didn't make it. Here we were, a family moving south to Manning (that doesn't happen very often). No more rubber boots. The kids could go outside in shorts and a t-shirt without fear of their blood being sucked out of them by the black flies, mosquitos and horse flies. Paradise to us! The job at the mill was very exciting. A new mill and a new woodlands department. JP Bielech was the woodlands manager, and as an independent sawmill, we did not have anything to model after. We invented everything as we went. Who knew that I would be there for the next 30 years. JP left in early 2007 to pursue other interests, and I was asked to step into the woodlands manager role.

The mill had nine partners, and some of them were also contractors. It was interesting negotiating rates with a contractor who was also a partner in the business! At first, there was just the sawmill and two kilns. The planer was added in the second year, and over the years we added more kilns, a pelletizer, and a larger energy system to provide heat for the kilns and to generate power. The facility became one that used 100 per cent of the fibre that came across the scales. The silviculture program is one that I am particularly proud of. We plant the summer after harvest, have a tree improvement program, and have excellent silviculture results. MDFP was purchased by West Fraser Mills Ltd. in 2015. We went from being an independent sawmill to a small

division of a large corporation. The growing pains were many, but a great woodlands team in Manning, and important corporate assistance made it happen.

There were many people that walked through the doors of the woodlands department. Keith Wells, Clarence Budal, Stuart Adkins, Andy Shandro (yes, that Andy Shandro!), Tyler Stone, Jacques Caron, Al Wardale, Boyd Laing, Colin Hryciw, Steven Sylvestre, Warren Keeler, Shannon Rogolino, Sarah Railton, Suzanne Van Brabent, Sam Thompson, and Saionne Patershuk. All professionals, and all appreciated by me. There are also a number of West Fraser corporate people that had an impact; Richard Briand, Larry Gardner, Greg Neale, and D'Arcy Henderson to name a few. I also had the opportunity to work with some great contractors. My last day of work at West Fraser was August 11, 2023. It was the day before my 65th birthday. The date has some significance for me, I can always say that I retired before 65, and it also represented 30 years in the woodlands department. I suppose that I should add that I am not completely retired. I am still doing a bit of work here and there. Sherry is not completely happy with it, but she is putting up with me. I want to thank everyone that I have worked with over the years. Working for the Alberta government and then the Alberta forest industry has been a great pleasure of mine, and all of you have in some way shaped me into who I am today. If I have missed anyone that was close to me, I apologize. It is difficult to remember all the names in a 43-year career. As I was putting this together, I noted that there are several (too many) of my past colleagues that are no longer with us. My condolences go out to their families.



KEITH WINDELER

Submitted by Keith Windeler

I was raised in Port Hawkesbury, NS, where I received my high school education. Not knowing what I wanted to do upon graduation, I got a job with the Port Hawkesbury paper mill cutting eight-foot pulp logs. This involved cutting a strip of spruce and fir into eight-foot lengths and stacking them into a cord to allow a forwarder to pick it up, and forward it to road side. It didn't take long before I decided I needed an education. I applied to go to the Maritime Forest Ranger School in New Brunswick and was accepted. The only issue I was 19, and their entry requirement was 21. Not wanting to wait two years, I applied and was accepted at Lakehead University where I received both my Forestry Technician Diploma and Honours Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry. In 1986, I started my forestry career with Domtar Forest Products in Red Rock, Ontario. Over the next seven years I did haul, harvesting, and road supervision. In 1992, we decided to move west, as Domtar had essentially shut down its woodlands operations, and was purchasing chips. Alpac was advertising for a main roads coordinator position which I applied for and was hired. Those first couple of years being involved with a start-up operation was exciting. Over the next 31 years I held numerous positions at Alpac, starting with

main roads coordinator, operations business unit leader, woodlands operations specialist for continuous improvement, business unit leader integrated land services, assistant woodlands manager, and finally woodlands manager. Alpac has been a wonderful place to work, and I am very thankful for the opportunities and friendships it has provided me. Although I will miss seeing everyone, I am excited about the next phase of my life following retirement at the end of April 2024.



MARC FREEDMAN

Submitted by Marc Freedman

I grew up in Kingston, Ontario, and moved to Jasper in 1981. Here I heard about the bad fires in Alberta on the radio and experienced the smoke in the air. I was intrigued by the description of wildland firefighters and made it a goal to pursue. I trained in general business and then returned to school in 2004, achieving my NAIT Forestry Diploma, in a department supported forestry class. As a seasonal employee, I talked my boss into sending a few of us to be the first seasonal staff to attend the advanced fire and the fire behaviour analyst courses. I also completed the UofA Management Development Certificate program, and numerous other short courses in wildfire. I started as a wildfire crew member in Jasper National Park in 1985,

and then moved to the Alberta Rappel program in 1987. I worked as crew member, crew leader and the provincial program coordinator, five seasons in each role. Somewhere in there, I worked at the Hinton Training Centre during winter months helping design training programs. In 2006, upon graduating from NAIT, I took a job as a forest ranger for the Edson Forest Area. Over the next few years, I was promoted to wildfire technologist and then to the wildfire prevention officer. Raising four boys in this type of work environment is a highlight of my career, although most of the credit should go to my wife Nancy. I returned to school at the same time as Nancy was taking a Masters, so that was interesting.

I'm most proud of the work I performed on wildfires and achieving incident commander status by working through the entire system. That included interesting work in aviation management as an air operation branch director, then later as an operations section chief and incident commander on most of the largest wildfires in Alberta. As well, I was proud of the improvements we made through various wildfire working groups, seeing those changes happen the next wildfire season. Following retirement in January 2024, I will be spending time helping my aging father in Ontario. Nancy and I will be doing a little more travelling to interesting spots, as well as more time visiting our four boys and Nancy's family in Mexico. I also have a garage to build and other renovations at home as well. I hope to squeeze in more dirt biking, boating, and the many other outdoor activities that I never had time for in the summer. I will also be doing a little consulting work on projects of interest and working with some local nonprofit groups.



SARAH GOODING

Submitted by Sarah Gooding

Sarah grew up in Gloucester, Ontario, a township east of Ottawa. Her father was a fire protection engineer for the Canadian Wood Council working on increasing the use and safety of wood products under the Canadian Building Code. As a teenager, she was able to join him on several conferences where she was introduced to the forest sector and all it had to offer. In grade 13 (yes Ontario had grade 13 then), she had the opportunity to go on a 10-day canoe trip in Algonquin Park. These experiences coupled with many summers spent camping solidified her focus on forestry as a career.

She started her forestry degree in September 1980, at the University of Toronto (UofT) and spent the summers working in White River and Thunder Bay, Ontario as a timber cruiser, a tree planting supervisor and a harvesting supervisor. It was at UofT that she met Ted, where they both participated in intramural sports, grad hockey, forest society events and the Woodsmen Team. Sarah graduated in 1984 at the top of her class, and was awarded the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) Gold Medal.

After graduation, she was hired by Great Lakes Forest Products as a mechanical harvesting supervisor in one of the live-in logging camps. This

was quite an experience. As the first woman supervisor, she was relegated to the cook's quarters, missing out on all the post work discussion and fun. After a few months she convinced them to move her to the supervisor's quarters... much better. There was lots to learn, and many great co-workers and employees willing to teach the new recruit things like: What does electric over hydraulic over hydraulic mean? How do you lay out roads to facilitate delimbing and slashing? And just as importantly, how to play cribbage on night shift. Harvesting winter road lines in northern Ontario was cold, and walking those road lines on night shift to visit the crews of Koehring Feller Forwarders was eerie, especially when the wolf packs were howling, or your flashlight started flickering. But this was a great introductory forestry job, learning at the ground level. As a note, Sarah was in camp 602, and Ted was doing the same job in camp 603, half an hour north. Was there production competition? You bet.

In 1986, she decided on a change and accepted the position of teaching lab technician at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. It was also in 1986 she married Ted, and shortly after they started their family, Alison (1988) and Ian (1991). As the lab technician, she ran the labs for forest mensuration, forest inventory, stand dynamics, growth and yield, biometrics, and any other course that had 'too much math'. Every year, she spent the first week of September with the first-year cohort introducing them to forest navigation and measurements at the University Woodlot. Her past summer jobs and time at the logging camp provided great real-life examples for her students. She was an active member of the CIF Northern Ontario Section, organizing the ring ceremony and many field trips and events.

Sarah and Ted moved their family to Alberta over Christmas in 1995. Sarah was hired as a growth and yield analyst with Timberline Forestry Consultants. She worked under Willi Fast providing G&Y curves, temporary and permanent sample plot analytics for forest management plans. In 1999, she moved over to Forcorp to continue working with Willi in the area of growth and yield. She joined the CIF Rocky Mountain Section Executive Committee; passionate about forestry outreach she helped coordinate the Tech Sessions. The CIF was a great way to meet the Alberta forestry crowd, many of whom continue to be close friends.

In 2003, she joined the University of Alberta as a research coordinator in the Department of Renewable Resources. In this position, she supported new professors setting up their research programs and introducing them to people and companies in the forest, energy, and agriculture sectors. This was extremely gratifying, creating relationships, processes, and structures to ensure success in research and innovation. In 2013, she was moved to the role of assistant chair (Research) for the department, which added the department budget to her portfolio. Working alongside Vic Lieffers and Ellen Macdonald as department chairs, she supported them in both research coordination and budget management. During these periods, she worked closely with the researchers and their partners to create seven NSERC Industrial Research Chairs, five Canada Research Chairs, two Campus Alberta Chairs, and most recently the Endowed Chair in Forest Growth and Yield. She was part of original team to create the Western Partnership for Wildland Fire Science, working alongside Mike Flannigan, Bruce Mayer, John Spence, Tim Sheldan,

and Cordy Tymstra. She continued to be active in the CIF and served as the RMS Director in 2011. Traveling to the CIF Annual Meetings was how she kept up her relationships with classmates, colleagues, and former students. In 2013, at the Newfoundland annual general meeting, she was honored to be awarded the CIF Presidential Award.

In 2019, just as the pandemic was starting, she started a new role within the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences as director of research tasked with centralizing research support. But with the pandemic, much of the research was put on hold. Working with the vice president's office she helped to ensure that critical research was able to continue. In 2022, she moved away from research and returned to the department level as the academic department manager. Working with three department chairs, she supported the operation and management of the departments of Renewable Resources, Human Ecology and Resource Economics and Environmental Sciences with a focus on department operations and budgets, graduate students, teaching, and facilities. Sarah retired on December 31, 2023, but will be assisting her new replacement until March 31, 2024 on a part time basis while living at their new house on Lake Wabamun. Sarah and Ted plan to relax at the lake and take more fun trips with great friends and family.

B25 MITCHELL AIRTANKERS

1. L to R: Emanuel Doll and Francis Donnelly, former classmates of the first NAIT Forestry class in 1966, standing beside a B25 Mitchell airtanker, formerly registered as CF-OND; July 29, 2023

2. Northwestern Air Lease of St. Albert, Alberta, operated B25 Mitchell's CF-OND (44-28866) N225AJ, and CF-MWC (44-30254) N41123 as airtankers from 1974 to 1991. CF-OND is now known as "Maid In the Shade", owned and operated by the Commemorative Air Force in Mesa Arizona; July 29, 2023

3. Mitchell B25 CF-MWC requiring a pull start from a grader, Slave Lake airport; 1967



OBITUARIES

LOUIS KILARSKI

Born on September 5, 1945 in Edmonton, Louis passed away in Grande Prairie on August 5, 2019 at the age of 73 years of age. Raised on the family farm near Bon Accord, he graduated from the first NAIT forest technology course in Hinton in 1966. Following graduation, Louis moved to Port Alberni to work for MacMillan-Bloedel. Arriving to find the operation on strike, Louis returned to Hinton and worked for Northwest Pulp and Power until 1971. He then moved to Slave Lake working for Ziedler Plywood. In September 1972, Louis and family settled down in Grande Prairie where he worked for Canfor until 1985. He then expanded his career into construction, oil and gas, and sales. Louis was known for his humour, generous heart, and caring nature. He was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus, and loved to spend his time travelling, camping, and attending his grandchildren's activities.

MELVIN TRONIAK

Born on August 24, 1944, Mel passed away in Pierceland, Saskatchewan on March 31, 2023, at 78 years of age. Mel owned Star Helicopters, and as a pilot worked closely with both Alberta and Saskatchewan wildland fire operation personnel. A short hop across the border, the wildfires Mel fought in Alberta were around the LaCorey and Beaver Lake districts

in the Lac La Biche Forest. Retired forest officer John McLevin said, *"Mel was always a great firefighter, respected throughout the forest service and helicopter industry. We could always count on Mel to action any fire that we had."*

GERALD FENNER

Submitted by Robert Bott

Born in Denver, Colorado on January 21, 1942, Jerry passed away in Fort Steele, B.C. on May 18, 2023 at the age of 81. He was the pulp mill manager for Crestbrook Forest Industries in 1988 when Crestbrook joined with Japanese partners to propose what was then the world's largest single-line bleached kraft pulp mill, to be located near Boyle, Alberta. He worked with engineers to develop the mill design and then was named president when the company was incorporated. He continued in that role until he retired in 1996. Jerry became the public face of Al-Pac during the contentious debates, hearings, and negotiations leading to government approval in December 1990. He often surprised critics by agreeing with them. *"I think in many cases people found it difficult to deal with me because they expected an industrial bad guy and they found just another person who really was just as concerned as they were about the environment and impacts on people,"* he said in a 2002 interview with Robert Bott. *"We had to live with our neighbours."*

When the project was finally approved, he promised doubters that Al-Pac would offer *"a new way of doing business,"* not just in producing elemental-chlorine-free bleached kraft pulp, but also innovative management, a team-based workplace, and support for local and Indigenous communities. He said he wanted to avoid the mistakes he had seen during his career in the B.C. forest industry. He provided strong backing for woodlands vice-president Bob Ruault and ecologist Daryll Hebert as they established Al-Pac's progressive approaches to ecosystem-based forest management. After the successful startup in 1993, and several *"pretty good years"* of mill operations, he said that by 1996 he was *"bone weary"*, and wanted time to enjoy family life and horses at his ranch near Fort Steele, B.C. About the same time that he left, the Alberta Chamber of Resources named him *"Resource Man of the Year."*

BERNIE SIMPSON

Born in Stetler on October 13, 1934, Bernie passed away in Drayton Valley on June 20, 2023 at the age of 88 years. In 1953, while looking for a summer job, Bernie went to the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) office in Calgary, where he was hired by Des Crossley. The job was in the Strachan area west of Rocky Mountain House. The Crossley research involved determining the best way to harvest lodgepole pine and then have successful

regeneration. At the end of summer, he went to work for Poole Construction in Calgary, and then was accepted into the 1954 fall forestry class at Missoula. During the summer of 1955, Bernie worked for the CFS doing site index surveys in the Two Creeks area northwest of Whitecourt. In the summer of 1956, Bernie worked as a smoke jumper for the United States Forest Service, getting four wildfire jumps in that summer. The next summer, Bernie worked for the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board doing range surveys north of Highway 1 to the Red Deer River. He was then put on a cruising party, cruising timber around the Tay River, southwest of Rocky Mountain House, east of the Clearwater Ranger Station. Following that the crew joined two others, cruising timber near Rundle Creek. Fred Facco, the assistant ranger at Nordegg, cooked for the crews. Following graduation in April 1958, Bernie was hired on as a forester in the Clearwater Forest by Bob Steele, the forest superintendent. In the fall of 1959, Bernie, his wife Joan, and a newborn son, moved to Blairmore, where Bernie became the assistant superintendent of the Crowsnest Forest under John Hogan. The next move was to Slave Lake in 1965, as the fire control officer working for superintendent Neil Gilliat, and dealing with the dangerous 1968 wildfire season, including the Vega wildfire that threatened Slave Lake. In June 1971, Bernie and family moved to the Yukon, where Bernie took a role as superintendent of Yukon North, working out of Whitehorse for regional superintendent Edo Nyland. After seven months, he was moved to Fort Smith as the regional superintendent. In July

1973, Bernie made his last work move to Hinton as the director of the Forest Technology School. He retired there in July 1990, moving to their acreage and woodlot near Buck Lake.

Bernie was a loving husband, father, grandfather, friend, and educator. Throughout their 64 years of marriage, Bernie and Joan enjoyed many adventures together; taking them to Whitehorse, Fort Smith, Blairmore and Hinton. For 17 years, Bernie taught at and was the head of forestry school in Hinton, and found great pleasure in his career as a forester. His love of the woods, and the outdoors allowed him to enjoy the beauty when golfing, camping, fishing, or hunting; he was especially proud and found great joy in the wood lot on his land. When not working, he and his wife Joan were happy to travel, never staying too, too long in one place; venturing throughout the U.S.A. with their truck and camper and enjoyed destinations such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

BILL MACDONALD

Submitted by Mike Poscente

Born in Edmonton on May 22, 1954, Bill passed away in Rocky Mountain House on July 2, 2023 at 69 years of age. While raised in Edmonton, we do not know what drove Bill's interest in forestry, but he enrolled into the NAIT Forest Technology program, graduating in the class of 1975. After graduation, Bill worked for a few months as a tree planter for Northwest Pulp and Power in Hinton. While in forestry school, Bill, Gary Houle and Hugh Boyd had applied for and were accepted for work as exchange students with the New Zealand Forest Service in Rotorua

(North Island). A few months after graduation Bill, Gary and Hugh flew to San Francisco where they boarded a ship to New Zealand, making stops in Hawaii and Fiji. Bill described the trip as "*travelling to hell in the bowels of the ship*", so we can assume he did not have a balcony suite. Upon arriving in Auckland, NZ, the trio bought bicycles, and loaded with all their worldly possessions pedaled their way to Rotorua. Can anyone who knew Bill imagine him making this trip by bicycle? He was a little skinny wiry guy at this time, so it is feasible! After arriving in Rotorua, they sold the bikes, bought a car, and toured the island until their employment started. Their employment with the New Zealand Forest Service lasted six months, after which Gary and Hugh returned to Canada. Bill continued a worldly adventure, spending quite a bit of time in Australia before venturing to Bali, Indonesia where he toured the country for many days by bus. We don't have all the details, but from Indonesia, Bill made his way to Great Britain where he resided for several years. By the time Bill arrived in Great Britain, he was out of money and needed to work to pay for his ticket home. He got a job at a sawmill. I remember him telling me how crappy the timber was, especially the timber imported from Canada, which was bowed and gnarly. While in Great Britain, Bill ventured across the channel several times to tour various countries in Europe. This resulted in him spending instead of saving for his trip home! Alas, he wrote home and asked his dad to wire him some money that he had put away for use when he got home.

After nearly three years of travel, Bill made his way home to Edmonton in 1978. He worked seasonally for the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) on timber management crews in Fox Creek and Peace River, then on the initial attack crew (IAC) in the Rocky Mountain House ranger district. At this time the AFS operated a greenhouse just behind the warehouse in Rocky. A young local girl, Cathie Greer was working at the greenhouse, preparing for the seeding program, and prepping planting stock for the season. The Rocky IAC was sent to help with the heavy work at the greenhouse. This is where Bill met Cathie, a meeting that would sprout and blossom into a lifelong relationship. In 1980, Bill started a full-time position as a forest officer (FO) in the Fort McMurray ranger district. He worked under chief rangers Vic Hume, followed by Ken South, and Rick Hurtle who was the FO III. Other rangers at the Fort McMurray district were Don Pope, Steve Tuttle, Mike Poscente, and forester Rory Thompson. This is where I met Bill, resulting in a life-long friendship, with both of us standing as best men at each other's weddings. Bill married Cathie in September 1981, resulting in Bill having to buy furniture for his apartment.

Bill had a couple of adventures in Fort McMurray that were memorable. First, Bill was not comfortable driving a standard transmission truck, nor hauling trailers. One day Rick Hurtle decided to do a jet boat patrol up the Clearwater River, launching on the Snye. Rick and I were in the jet boat at the boat launch, and Rick ordered Bill to back up the truck and trailer into the water. Bill protested, but Rick was demanding. A minute later, we were floating free on the water, and Rick observed

his forestry truck slowly being submerged into the Snye, finally coming to rest with the top of the cab slightly above the water surface. Bill had climbed out of the cab and was standing on the roof, yelling at Rick, *"I told you I cannot drive a standard"*! The AFS was delivering a robust forest recreation program at this time. Vic Hume put Bill in charge of designing and building a cross-country ski trail into the Horse River valley. Nobody in the district or in forest headquarters were avid skiers, so this was all new to us. Bill designed and constructed a beautiful ski trail. After construction, Bill and Vern Dane, an Edmonton headquarters forester, tried out the trail on skis. They soon discovered you cannot have a sharp turn at the bottom of a hill, and a run-out needed to be constructed.

In 1983, Bill was transferred from Fort McMurray to the Spirit River ranger district as a FO II. He worked for chief ranger Dave Brown, followed by Bob Glover and Kurt Wenzel, who was the FO III. After Kurt left the district, Bill was promoted to FO III. During these years with the AFS at Spirit River, Bill worked with many rangers including, Blain Renkas, Dan Brink, Victor Boisvert, Steve Blanton, Tom Archibald, Shawn Harris, Paul Ronellenfitch, and likely several others unknown to me. It is incredible how many rangers passed through this small quiet district. Bill did struggle in adjusting from Fort McMurray to Spirit River. In Fort McMurray, when a smoke report was received, you immediately threw your fire kit in the truck and headed out, not knowing when you might come home. In Spirit River, when a smoke report came in, Bill acted similarly, immediately ready to

respond. The other rangers would say, *"hold on, what is your hurry, its probably farmer John lighting up his burning barrel...its farmer Fred burning stubble, etc."* The transition from working in a fire district to a largely agricultural district having few wildfires took some time to adjust. Bill never really liked fire operations, and gradually specialized in the supply and service functions, becoming a certified service chief II. He also took a liking to managing land use. Important family milestones for Bill during this time were the birth of his son Ben in 1984, and the birth of his daughter Becky in 1986. Bill was extremely proud and supportive of his family. I also remember him getting a big hound dog, I forget its name, but he had a great howl. Bill retired from the AFS in 1996, having his first of several retirement parties in his career.

After retiring from the AFS, Bill worked with Roy Northern, a consultancy operating in the Peace Country. Bill conducted environmental field reports, site audits and was a land agent, signing up oil and gas lease agreements on private land. These were the days when Weibo Ludwig was causing problems in the oil patch. One day Bill returned to his truck after a day of field work to find the tires slashed. He never could prove it was associated with the terrorism occurring at the time but had his suspicions. Another retirement party in 2002, and over a new horizon.

In 2002, Bill started his third career, working at Ainsworth Lumber. Bill worked closely with Dave Cook, Grant Richardson, and Dave Beck. It was difficult to nail down a position or title for Bill at Ainsworth. He proudly displayed many signs on

his desk and wore many hats, self identifying his positions as head of land use permitting, chief of fire control, timber salvage director, and head wood purchaser. The range of duties Bill performed certainly reflected the many talents and skills Bill acquired in his career.

While at Ainsworth, Bill became very good friends with Dave Beck, commencing a tradition of an annual golf trip to the Kootenays. Bill also bought a house in Grande Prairie at this time for his son Ben to live in. One winter, heavy snow caused ice dams to form on the roof. To limit the damage, Dave and Bill tenaciously climbed up on the roof to shovel off the heavy snowpack. Cathie watched from below as they timidly went about the task, worried about falling. Disappointed with the slow progress, Cathie climbed the ladder and with high confidence, showed these men how to get the job done. Bill always chuckled about that, having no shame over his fear of heights and respect for the capability of Cathie. Another retirement party upon Bill's departure from Ainsworth, at which Bill's son Ben made the best speech ever. I quote Ben's speech in its entirety, *"Bill is a great guy"*.

After 25 years living in Spirit River and three careers (AFS, Roy Northern and Ainsworth), Bill and Cathie moved onto a raw acreage west of Rocky Mountain House. Breaking the ground, improving the road, and installing power, Bill and Cathie built a fine new home with some very nice landscaping, gardens, and outbuildings. But Bill was not finished working, he had a final career. For two years Bill worked as a private consultant, primarily

conducting environmental field reports for new developments. In 2010, Bill started seasonal work with Public Lands (Environment and Parks), working under Kevin Heartwell. Bill traveled throughout the west country, conducting land use inspections. Bill then transitioned over to the Forestry department, becoming a fire patrolman in the Rocky Forest Area, working alongside old timers Bob Lenton and Norm Begin. Bill also remained committed to the firefighting program, working as a mixmaster for ignition teams. Bill's love of work was mainly for the social encounters, whether they be with colleagues or rural residents he regularly issued burning permits to. In 2022, he was diagnosed with cancer and could not return to work. Dedicated as he was, Bill stayed in touch with the forestry folks and mentored the new patrolperson. He did not want or ask for a retirement party. He was determined to survive and keep on living.

Bill's time in Rocky was rewarding. His daughter Becky got married and Bill and Cathie gained two beautiful grandchildren, William in 2017 and Evelyn in 2021. Bill spent many hours playing hockey with William and pushing Evelyn in the swing in the back yard. Bill served on the board of directors of Rocky Support Services for eight years, three of those as Chair. This agency provides housing, life and employment supports to persons with disabilities. Bill remained active by golfing, curling (including attending the annual Heustis forestry bonspiel), and bowling with Ben. Bill would often call upon his many friends to get sports betting advice. I don't know if he took any of the

advice, he never admitted to it, and sometimes he won the bet. Bill and I regularly attended Oilers hockey games, never missing an Oilers/Flames matchup. Bill surprised me with his knowledge of domestic plants, he could rattle off the name of any of the plants in Cathie's garden. Bill had a 69-year birthday bash in May 2023, at his acreage. He cherished having so many friends and family over to celebrate. There never was a final retirement party, only this birthday celebration with friends. As with all of us who knew Bill, the party is never over until Warren Zevon sings, *"I saw a werewolf with a Chinese menu in his hand. Walking through the streets of SoHo in the rain. He was looking for the place called Lee Ho Fooks. For to get a big dish of beef chow mien. Ah-hoo, werewolves of London"*. Rest in peace my friend. You are missed by many.

CHARLIE VAN WAGNER

Reprinted from University of Toronto

Charlie Van Wagner, a distinguished alumnus of UofT's Forestry program and a world-renowned forest fire researcher with the Canadian Forest Service, passed away in late July 2023, at the age of 98. Originally trained as a chemical engineer, Charlie shifted his trajectory, and driven by his passion for the outdoors, joined the University's Forestry program, completing his studies in 1961. He spent his research career at the Petawawa National Forestry Institute (which later became known as the Petawawa Research Forest). Through his scientific contributions over the decades, he left his mark across a broad range of forest science, notably his seminal contributions

to forest fuel moisture modelling, understanding crown fire initiation and spread, and fire ecology. Much of his wildfire research forms the foundation of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System, a crucial operational tool used throughout Canada during every day of the fire season.

Throughout his tenure working at the Petawawa National Forestry Institute, Charlie engaged with numerous Faculty of Forestry researchers and undergraduate students up on the station for the annual spring field camp. Even in retirement his commitment to forestry and wildfire-related work remained unwavering. In 2007, Charlie came to Toronto and took part in an afternoon and evening session on Fire Research, organized as part of the celebration of the Faculty of Forestry's centennial celebration. Residing in the Ottawa Valley until recently, Charlie could always be drawn upon to share his experience during the Master of Forest Conservation Program winter field camp tours, teaching new generations of foresters about forest succession after fire and harvesting against the backdrop of the research forest. While his research legacy will endure, his absence will be deeply felt within the Canadian forestry and wildfire community.

EDWARD BOBOCEL

Born in Vilna on May 15, 1942, Ed passed away in Lac La Biche on September 8, 2023 at the age of 81 years. His family lived in McRae, Alberta until 1955, when they moved to Owelseye. From a very young age, Ed worked with his father George at their sawmill in Heart Lake, Alberta. Even at 12 years old he could be found on an

apple box seat of a lumber truck, just seeing above the steering wheel. Ed often spoke of driving truck loads of lumber from the Heart Lake mill to their farm at Owelseye. At around age 19, he drove truck for a lumber company near Edmonton, later moving to Topley Landing in the Burns Lake area, British Columbia, where he continued driving truck for a large sawmill. In late 1968, Ed moved to the Lac La Biche area, where he continued hauling logs to sawmills in the area. Towards the late 1970s, he purchased land two miles west of Lac La Biche and set up his own sawmill, which is the site of Ed Bobocel Lumber today. For decades, Ed has worked together with his family, selling lumber, and loading the thousands of lumber trucks that have entered his yard, being very involved right up to the end. He truly enjoyed the time he could spend in the bush, pushing brush piles with his dozer, and grading the roads for the log trucks.

STANLEY CLARKE

Born August 11, 1940, Stan passed away in Grande Prairie on October 3, 2023 at 83 years of age. During the late 1950s, Stan was chosen with three other prairie Sea Cadets to join a ship as a deckhand and sail to Hawaii. The prairie Cadets were the only ones who did not suffer sea sickness. In 1959, he was chosen to be an escort for Princess Margaret's tour of Esquimalt and Vancouver Island. When Stan graduated from High School in 1960, he joined the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) at the South Wapiti Ranger Station working with Dave Shenk as an assistant ranger. Married in 1961, Stan and Carol-Ann lived in a two-room log cabin without electricity

or water for nine months, while the AFS built the second cottage. From September to December 1961, Stan attended the three-month basic training course at the Forestry Training School in Hinton. The Clarke's moved to the Debolt Ranger Station in the fall, 1963. In the fall of 1969, Stan returned to Hinton for the six-month advanced ranger course. In July 1970, the family moved to the McLennan Ranger Station, and in May, 1972, they were on the move again to the Manning Ranger Station, where they stayed until the fall of 1973. The next move was to Footner Lake, where Stan took on the role of fire control technician. When the new ranger station was built in High Level, Stan was promoted to chief ranger, and the family moved the eight miles south from Footner Lake to High Level. In 1978, Stan moved to the Grovedale District as the chief ranger, retiring in 1995 from the Alberta Forest Service, after a 35-year career. Three days later, he started his second career as a consultant with his new company Silver Fox Management. His final retirement was in 2005.

Fighting wildfires was Stan's passion. He was a pioneer in the heli-torch, or aerial ignition program, spending many hours lighting back burns to halt rapidly spreading wildfires. He was fire boss on one of the six Alberta overhead teams, and was exported all over Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Ontario, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska, and Oregon. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved taking his kids and grandkids fishing, hunting, camping, frogging, or whatever else they could get into. Stan and Carol-Ann had three children, nine grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren

WAYNE ROBINSON

Born in Sexsmith on November 7, 1940, Wayne passed away on December 4, 2023 in Vernon, B.C., at 83 years of age. Wayne was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed camping, fishing, and hunting. This love of nature led him to a 34-year career with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS), from 1961 to 1995. Wayne graduated from the AFS Forestry Training School basic training course in 1961. He worked in Grande Prairie, Edson, Hinton, and Hines Creek. Wayne retired as chief ranger in 1995, and spent a few years doing consulting work.

WILLIAM GLADSTONE

Born on July 18, 1946, in Amsterdam, Holland, Bill passed away on December 15, 2023 in Pincher Creek at 77 years of age. Bill was raised in the Crowsnest Pass, his father was a warden at Waterton National Park. With an interest in the outdoors, Bill graduated from the NAIT forest technology program in 1969, beginning to work as a forest officer in the Hinton district out of the Entrance Ranger Station. He then enrolled in the new forestry program at the University of Alberta, graduating in 1974. During one of his summers, Bill supervised the Junior Forest Ranger program in Hinton. Following graduation, Bill worked in Edmonton with the Forest Land Use Branch as a resource specialist, reviewing industry disposition applications. In the late 1970s, Bill moved to Calgary as a forester involved with forest management operations and silviculture work, retiring in October, 1995. Following Bill's retirement in Alberta, he moved to Whitehorse, Yukon and worked with Jeff Monty as an operations forester with the Department

of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Fellow forester and friend Jim Nowasad said: *"I am very saddened to learn of the passing of Bill. Having worked for 15 years with him as a fellow forester in the Bow Crow Forest, I came to appreciate his dedication and hard work to his profession. Bill was instrumental in the containment of the mountain pine beetle program in the 1980's, which helped to keep the East Slope forests 'green.' His experience, knowledge and skills in reforestation has allowed him to leave a legacy of new forests in southern Alberta."*

ROBERT MUELLER

Born in Barrhead on November 1, 1967, Rob passed away in Calgary on December 30, 2023, at 56 years of age. Following graduation in forestry from the University of Alberta in 1991, Rob began working as a field sampling crew member and forestry aide for the Alberta Forest Service in the Fort Assiniboine District, Whitecourt Forest. He moved to the Hinton District, Edson Forest in 1997, as a timber planning and approval forester. In January 2004, Rob moved to the Calgary Forest Area as a forest management forester, a position held until his passing. His passion for his job was evident, as was his love for the outdoors. Rob enjoyed travelling abroad and had numerous hobbies which he shared with many friends.

ROBERT CARMAN

Born in Chatham, Ontario on July 13, 1932, Bob passed away on January 7, 2024, at 91 years of age. Following in his father's footsteps, Bob graduated from the University of Toronto, BSc forestry in 1954. Bob's distinguished public service

career with the Government of Ontario commenced as a forester for the Department of Lands and Forests in 1954. He worked for 35 years in the Ontario Public Service with progressively responsible positions in the Department of Lands and Forests, before moving to Management Board of Cabinet from 1972 to 1977. Bob served as Deputy Minister for Community and Social Services from 1978 to 1981, returning as Secretary of Management Board until 1985. Bob was appointed Secretary to the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council from 1985 to 1989, and as Special Advisor to the Premier of Ontario from 1989 to 1990.

Bob's private sector career included a four-year term as Chief Silviculturist at Northwestern Pulp and Power in Hinton, Alberta in the mid 1960s, where he was hired by Des Crossley to design and build the very first containerized seedling nursery in Alberta. He also instigated the first post-harvest silviculture survey program to inform reforestation decisions. In his short term at Hinton (1964-1968), he also instigated several research programs which continued to be monitored after his departure. He also worked with Weston Foods from 1990-1993 and Government Policy Consultants from 1995 to 2003.

Bob served as board member and board chair of MMM Group from 2003 to 2011, board member for Bridgepoint Hospital from 2001 to 2010, director and executive committee member for the Niagara Institute from 1984 to 1994 and board member for the Cobourg Hospital from 2012-2013 to 2021. Bob was recognized for his exemplary public service receiving the Vanier Medal in 1988, became

a Member of the Order of Canada in 1995, and was saluted by the Public Policy Forum in 1989 for outstanding contributions to public policy and public sector management in Canada. Bob received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. Bob's greatest passion was his family and his many friends. Bob loved their 100 acre tree farm in Colborne, Ontario, downhill skiing throughout North America and Europe, travel, hiking, and the natural world. Bob remained close with his graduating class 5T4, and planned and attended reunions every few years until recently. Bob will be missed. A former colleague noted that Bob was a gentleman and public servant of the highest calibre and integrity. He served all Ontarians with a rare dedication and determination. He will be remembered for his high ethical standards, principled leadership, his passion for accountability and always doing the right thing.

Colleague Bob Udell, class of 6T6, said of Bob on his passing, *"As a young graduating forester from UofT it was a pleasure for me to work with Bob Carman at North Western Pulp and Power (NWP&P) in Hinton, Alberta. I learned much from him. Bob was an inspired leader who accomplished much in his four years at NWP&P. He established the first containerized seedling program in the Province of Alberta and also lead many innovations in the silviculture program, including the Management Opportunity Survey Program, another first for Alberta, matching the ecological conditions of a harvested area to the reforestation prescription appropriate to the site."*

NEIL BARKER

Born in the small town of Cereal, Alberta on February 10, 1956, Neil passed away in Sherwood Park on January 15, 2024, at 68 years of age. Neil grew up in Grande Prairie, fostering a love for nature that would shape his entire life. In 1972, he moved to Edmonton, where he later graduated with a BSc in forestry from the University of Alberta, in 1979. His professional journey began with the Alberta Forest Service in 1979, a commitment that spanned over three decades, until his retirement in 2011.

Throughout his career, Neil made significant contributions, showcasing his leadership and passion for forestry. From managing the Pine Ridge Tree Nursery from 1990 to 1996, executive director of the Northeast Boreal Forest, to concluding his career as the executive director of the Oil Sands Branch, Sustainable Resource Development in Edmonton, Neil's impact was felt across various regions, including Whitecourt, Hinton, Edmonton, Smoky Lake, Lac La Biche, and other communities across northern Alberta.

A man of many talents and passions, Neil found solace and joy in the great outdoors. Whether camping with his family, tending to his flower beds, or sailing on his catamaran, he reveled in the beauty of nature. Neil's love for adventure extended to renovations, where his "jack-of-all-trades" spirit thrived. From building additions to retrofitting homes, his fearlessness knew no bounds. In 2011, Neil retired from the government, transitioning to consulting. However, health challenges arose, leading

to a diagnosis that explained his struggles, a rare form of Alzheimer's. Despite the challenges, Neil faced this adversity with resilience and grace. In November 2021, he entered care, surrounded by the love and support of his family.

ROBERT GLOVER

Born May 13, 1943 in Melfort, SK, Bob passed away on January 24, 2024 in Rocky Mountain House at 80 years of age. Finishing his high school in Rocky Mountain House, Bob went to work with the Alberta Forest Service, for what would be a 42-year career. Working for Bill McPhail, Bob started in the warehouse in Rocky Mountain House, then was spare towerman and then towerman at Baseline lookout. His first permanent posting as assistant ranger was at the Clearwater Ranger Station, under Frank Jones, then moving to the Nordegg Ranger Station. In 1972, Bob completed the advanced forestry course at the Forestry Training School in Hinton. He then moved to the Rocky Mountain House office, before transferring to the Wabasca Ranger Station, Slave Lake Forest. Bob took a lateral transfer as chief ranger to Spirit River, Grande Prairie Forest, in 1977. In the spring of 1988, he made one last move back to Rocky Mountain House as chief ranger, then as land-use officer until his retirement in 2002. Bob served for years as a service chief on Stan Clarke's provincial overhead team, being exported to Boston Bar and Canal Flats in B.C., Fort McPherson in the NWT, and Eugene, Oregon.

BRIAN “BUCK” DRYER

Born in Calgary on April 1, 1955, Brian passed away in St. Albert on January 26, 2024, at 68 years of age. He grew up in the Glenbrook neighborhood and attended Viscount Bennett High School. In 1977, Brian graduated from the forestry program at NAIT and entered the career of his dreams as a forest officer for the Alberta Forest Service. His first forest officer job was in Whitecourt, where he also trained for and joined the volunteer fire department. As a young 23-year old firefighter he responded to an emergency call that greatly impacted his life. He was injured in that house fire and suffered severe life altering burns to his body. Despite this tragic event he was not deterred from pursuing his career with forestry, eventually achieving a career highlight as an air attack officer. He transferred to Turner Valley in March 1982, and then the Elbow Ranger Station in September 1984. While at the Elbow, he began training for air attack and was scheduled for a few shifts every season. In July 1986, he left the Bow Crow Forest and transferred to Fort McMurray, Athabasca Forest as a full-time air attack officer. In November 1988, Brian transferred to the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in Edmonton. Brian took early retirement in 1992 but continued to work as a contract air attack officer, and then returned to work for forestry. His last retirement from the government was in January 2017.

Brian, coach Bucky, was a very beloved football coach with St. Albert Minor Football and Bellerose High School over the years. Having played high school football at Viscount Bennett he was thrilled when his sons showed an interest in football at a young age. That love of the game became a family passion that lives on and led him to have the opportunity of coaching his grandchildren the past four years. It's difficult to imagine that someone who is a dedicated football coach and a seasoned forest officer would have an artistic side – his family enjoyed the harmonica, endured the accordion but, never one to be quiet, his favourite instrument of choice was the bass trombone. Brian was so proud to be a member of the St. Albert Community Band and the Jazz Band and to perform in their concerts. Brian also loved to swim and was known for his regular presence at Fountain Park, Servus Place and Grosvenor pools. As much as he loved to swim and work out, he also thrived on the companionship he had with his fellow swimmers.

CYRIL LANCTOT

Born on January 22, 1936 in Melfort, SK, Cyril passed away in Whitecourt on February 1, 2024, at 88 years of age. Cyril joined the Alberta Forest Service and was stationed at the Cabin Creek Ranger Station (also referred to as the Muskeg Ranger Station), from the spring of 1960 to 1966. He attended the basic ranger training course at the Forestry Training School in Hinton in 1960. He then transferred to the Entrance Ranger Station in 1966, then again to the Robb Ranger Station in 1975. All postings to date were in the Edson Forest. In the fall of 1974, Cyril completed the advanced forestry training course in Hinton. Cyril's last move was to Whitecourt in 1978, retiring as a land-use officer in 1991. Cyril was known for his big smile, and his wife Annetta said, *"He loved being a Forest Ranger and all that the job required, especially being in the outdoors"*.

FORESTRY PHOTO CORNER

HOWARD MORIGEAU COLLECTION

Howard Morigeau joined the Alberta Forest Service as an assistant ranger at Slave Lake on June 21, 1955. He was promoted to district ranger at Sunset House in May 1956, moving to the Kinuso Ranger Station in June 1959. Oilfield activity on the north slope of the Swan Hills, kept Howard and his rangers very busy with construction and reclamation inspections. In 1965, Howard and family moved to the Castle Ranger Station in the Crowsnest Forest, west of Pincher Creek. There he also spent six-months attending the advanced ranger course at the Forestry Training School in Hinton. In 1967, Howard moved to the Wabasca Ranger Station as the senior ranger. Wabasca was a larger district with eight lookout towers, three assistants, a summer suppression crew, and very few roads. After two years in Wabasca, Howard moved to Edmonton as an aircraft dispatcher at the Forest Protection Depot. At the time, monitoring aircraft was centralized, with the dispatchers monitoring up to 30 aircraft working throughout the province. This was a time when aircraft use was new to the Alberta Forest Service. In 1970, Howard took on a timber auditor position in Timber Management in Edmonton. His field experience with timber operations helped immensely, learning the accounting part in no time. In 1974, Howard was promoted to the supervisor of the timber audit section, retiring in 1990, after 35 years of service.





1. Howard Morigeau in front of a grandfather clock he restored: Lacombe; June 20, 2023

2. Howard Morigeau (second row, middle) attending the two-week ranger refresher course held at the Forestry Training School in Hinton, February 1963

Front Row (L to R): John Holden, Don Dawson, and Colin Campbell;
Middle Row (L to R): John Elliott, Howard Morigeau, and Gerry Stuart;
Third Row (L to R): Ken Janigo

3. A busy day in the Forestry Depot. Teletype and radio messages for each aircraft in use each day were kept in the pigeon holes. We could have 25-30 aircraft in the air from early daylight until almost dark each day. After they all landed at night, we still had one to two hours of reports to complete. At dawn the next morning it started all over again. Three dispatchers rotated shifts during the summer, 48 hours on, and 96 hours off. As Howard said, *"For a field man to find himself in this situation without ever leaving the office, or actually seeing any of the fires or projects worked on was a shock to the system, to put it mildly"*

4. Loading sawn lumber and dozer on a highboy truck from a sawmill in the Kinuso district, 1962

5. Slave Lake Forest Division ranger meeting, Slave Lake, March 1956

L to R: Ted Greening, Pat Foley, Phil Nichols, Buck Rogers, Jack Macnab, Des Woodman, Arnold Lingberg (radio operator), Howard Morigeau, Elmer Johnson, and Fred Riley

6. Castle Ranger Station sign, Crowsnest Forest, 1965. Howard Morigeau is on the right

7. Castle Ranger Station, spring 1965

8. Sunset House Ranger Station, June 1956

9. Ranger Howard Morigeau at Sunset House, June 1956

RUDY WISELKA COLLECTION

Born and raised on a farm outside of Athabasca, Rudy quit school in grade 11 in 1955, to start bucking trees on a landing for his brother George and Mike Padlewski. The two had recently purchased a patch of timber east of McCullough Lake, south east of Calling Lake.

A year later, Rudy purchased a D4 dozer with funding support from his Dad and brother, where he started skidding timber from the bush to the various sawmills he worked at. Purchasing a D6 dozer a few years later, Rudy continued to log and did road construction work around Red Earth, and in the Calling Lake area. In 1971, Rudy and partner Frank Rojowski purchased the defunct Calling Lake Logging and Sawmilling Cooperative in Calling Lake. With new buildings and sawmill equipment, Double R Forest Products logged, sawed and planed lumber until they sold to Tara Forest Products in 1992.



STATEMENT
Dec 30, 1962
M. Wiselka Bros.
In of With Lisa Martynuk

312.11 @ 1.35 per hr.	422.50
DEL. BOARD OF DUES	42.00
Jan. 11 " "	65.00
FEBRU. 11 " "	47.50
	157.50
DEL. FUEL FERRY COMMISARY	12.00
	171.75
DEL. FUEL FERRY DRAW	34.25
	266.50
WAGES	477.50
DEDUCTIONS	266.50
TOTAL	211.00





9



11



13



15



10



12



14



16

1. L to R: Rudy Wiselka, Jerry Bauer, and Wilf Brooks discussing logging operations in the Calling Lake area from the 1950s and 1960s, including the small sawmill that Jerry's brother Mike operated near Rock Island Lake; Athabasca; March 23, 2023

2. Aerial view of new Double R Forest Products sawmill at Calling Lake; winter 1971/72; Rudy Wiselka photo

3. Wiselka Bros pay stub for Steve Martynuk from December 1, 1961 to February 24, 1962. Steve was paid \$1.25 per hour with board deducted. Steve brought this pay stub to Rudy at Rudy's 80th birthday celebration

4. New sawmill building with trees in the yard; Double R Forest Products; winter 1971/72; Rudy Wiselka photo

5. Arch truck hauling logs to sawmill landing; February 1962; Rudy Wiselka photo

6. Trees hauled into the Double R Forest Products sawmill yard; winter 1971/72; Rudy Wiselka photo

7. Wiselka sawmill east of McCullough Lake; March 1962; Rudy Wiselka photo

8. Tara Forest Products (old Double R) sawmill at Calling Lake, spring 1995; Bruce Mayer photo

9. New sawmill at Calling Lake; Double R Forest Products; winter 1971/72; Rudy Wiselka photo

10. New Double R Forest Products sawmill building at Calling Lake; winter 1971/72; Rudy Wiselka photo

11. Safety booth for head saw; Double R Forest Products; winter 1971/72; Rudy Wiselka photo

12. Wiselka sawmill east of McCullough Lake. George Wiselka and Mike Padlewski (sawyer) purchased timber and set-up the sawmill, Mike Padlewski to the right. Rudy Wiselka was bucking logs on the landing. April 1956; Rudy Wiselka photo

13. Rudy Wiselka's D4 cat with winch; August 1958; Rudy Wiselka photo

14. Two trucks loaded with sawn lumber for market. The lumber was loaded by hand. Fall 1958; Rudy Wiselka photo

15. Rudy's brother-in-law Mike Padlewski at Fort Edmonton Park in Edmonton. The lumber on the sides of the fort was sawn by Mike at the Double R sawmill in Calling Lake; fall 2004; Val Frattin photo

16. Double R Forest Products sawmills at Calling Lake, summer 1986; Jeff Henricks photo

BERNIE SIMPSON COLLECTION

A forestry graduate from the University of Montana, Missoula, Bernie Simpson had a 35 plus year career, working for the Canadian Forest Service, the United States Forest Service, the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board, the Alberta Forest Service, and the federal government in Whitehorse and Fort Smith. Over 25 of those years were with the Alberta Forest Service. In July 1990, Bernie retired as the director of the Forest Technology School in Hinton, moving to his acreage and woodlot near Buck Lake.





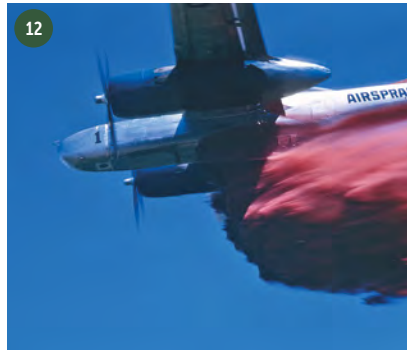
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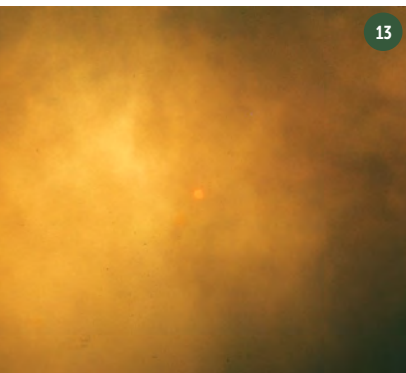
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16

1. Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board forestry cruise party clearing a fallen tree around the Tay River southwest of Rocky Mountain House, Rocky Forest, summer 1957

2. Castlemount Ranger Station, Crowsnest Forest, late 1950s

3. Bernie Simpson on horseback in the Crowsnest Pass, early 1960s

4. Forest officer inspecting sawn lumber at a bush sawmill site east of Rocky Mountain House. Note the sawdust pile and the slab pile being burned, Rocky Forest, early 1960s

5. Alberta Forest Service Bell 47J helicopter CF-KEY lifting off from forestry field work, Crowsnest Forest, early 1960s

6. Alberta Forest Service prevent forest fires Bertie-Mobile float in the Slave Lake Canada Day parade, July 1, 1968

7. Alberta Forest Service Bertie Beaver "Keep Alberta Green" float in the Slave Lake Canada Day parade, July 1, 1968

8. Slave Lake Forest Headquarters office, Slave Lake Forest Division, 1966

9. Conair's newest edition to their fire bombing fleet, DC6 CF-PWF; Slave Lake; spring 1967

10. Skyways Aviation Avenger bomber aircraft working on the May 1968 Vega fire, Slave Lake airport, Slave Lake Forest Division, May 1968

11. Skyways Avenger and Avalon Aviation PBY (Canso) bomber aircraft, with a Sikorsky S-55 helicopter in the smoke at the Slave Lake airport, Slave Lake Forest Division, May 1968. Also visible is the Alberta Forest Service Helio Courier fixed wing aircraft

12. Air Spray 1967 Ltd's B26 tanker 1, CF-PGF; Slave Lake; spring 1967

13. Smoke covered sun during the May 1968 Vega wildfire, Slave Lake Forest Division

14. Crown fire outside of Slave Lake during the May 1968 Vega wildfire

15. Aerial view of the Sweathouse lookout yard, with the tower name and radio call sign (XMB 85) outlined in white rock, Slave Lake Forest, 1967

16. Alberta Forest Service parade float celebrating 50 years of forestry in the Crowsnest Pass, Blairmore, July 1, 1961

PAUL WALLACH COLLECTION

Paul Wallach logged in the Calling Lake and Wabasca areas starting in the late 1940s. He also had a planer mill on his farm outside of Athabasca, where he planed his and other sawmillers lumber during the summer months.



Editors Note: If you know any of the unidentified people in the 15th and 16th Lumber Safety and First Aid School photographs, please contact the FHAA at fhaa@albertaforesthstory.ca.





1. Two of Paul Wallach's fallers falling a white spruce tree with a cross-cut saw; Calling Lake area; 1948

2. Some of Paul Wallach's sawmill crew including his wife Anne, the camp cook; Calling Lake area; 1948

3. Paul Wallach with a load of planed, or "dressed", lumber at his summer planing yard, ready for delivery to Edmonton; Athabasca area; August 1975

4. Paul Wallach standing in front of the first truck he purchased for hauling lumber from his sawmill site; Calling Lake area; 1948

5. Paul Wallach custom planing rough lumber for another sawmiller in the Athabasca area; summer mid-1950's

6. The 15th Lumber Safety and First Aid School held in Edmonton, attended by Paul Wallach. Paul is standing in the back row third from the left; October 24-29, 1955

7. The 16th Lumber Safety and First Aid School held in Edmonton, attended by Paul Wallach. Paul is standing in the back row second from the left; October 29 to November 3, 1956

8. An unidentified worker standing in front of Paul Wallach's headsaw, edger and power unit; Calling Lake area; 1948

9. Paul Wallach setting-up his planer to plane rough lumber. This was one of the first planers he owned; Athabasca area; 1954. During the summer, Paul Wallach would also custom plane for farmers and other sawmills around Athabasca

10. Remnants of Paul Wallach's old planer mill; Athabasca area; August 1975

11. Sorting sawn lumber on the green chain at Paul Wallach's sawmill; Wabasca area; 1970s

12. Paul Wallach sawing "at the stick", logs at the headsaw, assisted by his canter Alex Makar, on his left; Calling Lake area; 1948

13. Rough lumber being loaded by hand onto Paul Wallach's lumber truck; Calling Lake area; 1948

14. Spruce trees logged by Paul Wallach; Wabasca area; 1970s

15. Rough lumber hauled and stacked during the winter from Paul Wallach's sawmill in the Calling Lake area to his yard southeast of Athabasca, for planing later that spring and summer; Athabasca area; April 1961

16. Head saw on the Paul Wallach sawmill; Wabasca area; 1970s

17. Sawing 2x8s or 2x10s at the Paul Wallach sawmill; Wabasca area; 1970s

FOREST HISTORY CORNER





1. Associated Helicopters pilot Lloyd Anderson took this photo in 1958 of two individuals (forest rangers or pilots) in front of the Alberta Forest Service Bell 47J helicopter CF-KEY. The two individuals are unknown, do you know who they are? The location is unknown as well but assumed to be along the east slopes somewhere

2. L to R: Clayton Thayer, Bob Wilson, Art Robinson, and Bob Glover; Rocky Mountain House; 1960s

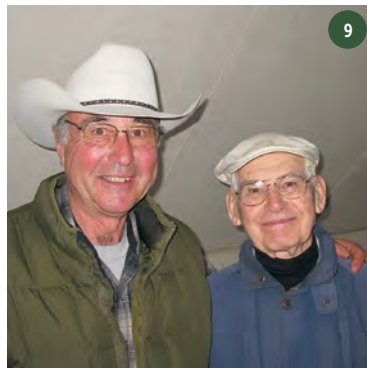
3. Cyril Lanctot in the field, obviously enjoying the day; mid 1980s



4. L to R: Dave Hargreaves, Line Boss (BCFS); John Hall, Fire Boss (BCFS); Preston (unknown last name) (BCFS); Pete Valk, Air Operations Coordinator (BCFS); Rob Thorburn, Air Operations Coordinator; Bill Davidson (BCFS); Dale Huberdeau, Fire Boss; Terry Van Nest, Plans Chief; Dennis Cox, Line Boss; Bob Glover, Service Chief

5. L to R: Dennis Friske, Bob Winship (Weyerhaeuser), and Bob Glover at the National Forest Week open house; Rocky Mountain House; May 1996

6. Overhead team meeting, Swan Hills Fire Base, Whitecourt Forest, spring 1994



Service Chiefs (L to R): Jamie McQuarrie, Leon Graham, Bob Glover, Collin Williams, Don Podlubny, Dave Lind, Dave Brown, and Henry Grierson

7. L to R: Chris Killoran, Kurt Wentzell, Bill MacDonald, Judy Gushlak, Bob Glover (Chief Ranger), and Tom Archibald; Spirit River District, Grande Prairie Forest; winter 1987-88

8. L to R: Charlie Van Wagner and Peter Murphy at the Wildfire Canada conference in Kananaskis, October 3, 2012



9. L to R: Dennis Quintilio and Charlie Van Wagner at the Wildfire Canada conference in Kananaskis, October 3, 2012

10. L to R: Dennis Quintilio, Charlie Van Wagner, Brian Stocks and Peter Murphy at the Wildfire Canada conference in Kananaskis, October 3, 2012





1. L to R: Vic Fischer, Mansel Davis, Gordon Campbell, and Cyril Lancot with a cake celebrating those rangers who were posted to the Muskeg Ranger Station; Grande Cache; August 13, 2006

2. L to R: Norm Hawkes and Bob Glover; March 25, 2011

3. L to R: Dennis York and Cyril Lancot at Evert Smith's retirement party; Whitecourt; April 27, 2012

4. L to R: Gordon Crowder and Cyril Lancot at Brian Wallach's retirement party; Whitecourt; May 31, 2013

5. Wildland firefighters getting a well-deserved pizza break; Edson Forest Area; summer 2019; Delta Helicopters photo

6. Remnants of the Wolf Lake forestry cabin that burned on May 5, 2023 on wildfire EWF-031-2023; Cold Creek area; May 5, 2023

7. Don Page (kneeling) with the Cold Creek (Nojack) initial attack crew at the Wolf Creek forestry cabin; Cold Creek area; spring 1995

Back Row (L to R): Brian Willet, Scott (last name unknown), and Dan (last name unknown)



8. Forestry retirees share a coffee while reviewing the latest Trails & Tales; Rocky Mountain House A&W; May 31, 2023

(Facing the camera): Ed Pichota, Gary Mandrusiak, and John Vavrek; (Back to camera): Bob Lenton

9. Forestry retirees share a coffee while reviewing the latest Trails & Tales; Rocky Mountain House A&W; May 31, 2023

(Left side): Lois Rollier and Dianne Thompson; (Right side): Toni Loga and Cheryl Flexhaug



10. Forestry retirees share a coffee while reviewing the latest Trails & Tales; Rocky Mountain House A&W; May 31, 2023

(Left side, front to back): Bob Glover, Ed Pichota, Gary Mandrusiak, John Vavrek (hidden behind Gary), Lois Rollier, and Dianne Thompson

(Right side, front to back): Floyd Schamber, Murray McDonald, Bob Lenton, Toni Loga, and Cheryl Flexhaug



Editors Note: The Rocky Mountain House retirees coffee was at the A&W, not the Tim Horton's as shown on Page 146 of the Trail & Tales March 2023, Issue #21 newsletter.





1. History enthusiasts join to visit the Fort George and Buckingham House interpretive centre outside of Elk Point; April 18, 2023

L to R: Wilf Brooks, Calling Lake Community Society; Cheryl Mahaffy, Calling Lake Community Society and Writer; Blair Jean, Author and Historian; Marvin Bjornstad, Elk Point Historian; Kathy Stubbs, Calling Lake Community Society; Bruce Mayer, Forest History Association of Alberta; Billie Milholland, Author and Historian; Vicki Brooker, Reporter and Historian; Elk Point; April 18, 2023

2. John Brewer and Doug Smith; Victoria; March 29, 2023

3. L to R: Andrea Sharpe, Caroline Carboneau, Tracy Parkinson, and Marcus Husch at the Edson Trade show; Edson; April 28, 2023

4. Friends visit Bill MacDonald for his 69th birthday; Rocky Mountain House; May 2023

L to R: Chad Gardeski, Bob Lenton, Kevin Heartwell, Bill MacDonald (sitting), Michelle and Mike Poscente, and Dave Beck

5. L to R: Ross Risvold and Bob Newstead, with Pieter van der Schoot behind Ross's right shoulder; Bernie Simpson memorial near Buck Lake; July 15, 2023

6. L to R: Cliff Henderson and Murray Summers being interviewed for the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta's 25th anniversary; Edmonton; July 25, 2023

7. L to R: Zachary Fritz interviewing Cliff Henderson and Murray Summers for the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta's 25th anniversary; Edmonton; July 25, 2023

8. L to R: Les Welsh, Pat Guidera, and Thor Knapp; Bernie Simpson memorial near Buck Lake; July 15, 2023

9. L to R: Leanne Quintilio, Don Crawford, and Darlene McDonald; Bernie Simpson memorial near Buck Lake; July 15, 2023





1. L to R: Sherra Muldoon and Butch Shenfield; Bernie Simpson memorial near Buck Lake; July 15, 2023
2. L to R: Dennis Quintilio and Cliff Henderson; Bernie Simpson memorial near Buck Lake; July 15, 2023
3. L to R: Ken South and Bruce Mayer; Bernie Simpson memorial near Buck Lake; July 15, 2023
4. Forestry personnel attending the Stan Clarke Memorial; Grande Prairie; October 15, 2023

Back Row (L to R): Ralph Woods, Kevin Dewhirst, Mort Timanson, Jean Lussier, Carol-Ann Clarke, Bernie Wiens, Bill Black, Bill Beraska, and Bob Yates

Front Row (L to R): Shaun Zwerzinski, Rick Prince, Michelle Shesterniak, and Brent Bochon

5. Instructors and staff from the Hinton Forest Technology School (L to R): Dennis Quintilio, Ken South, Lorraine Wheat, Phillis Davies, Ross Risvold, Bernie Edinger, Murray MacDonald, Merv Edgecombe, and Pat Guidera; Bernie Simpson memorial near Buck Lake; July 15, 2023

6. Students and forestry professionals attend a Canadian Institute of Forestry Rocky Mountain Section tour of Vanderwell Contractors private land thinning operations; October 12, 2023. Mike Haire (orange jacket facing camera), Woodlands Manager at Vanderwell, providing an overview of the private land program

7. Coordinators of the Calling Lake reforestation tour standing in front of one of the site information signs; Calling Lake area; November 8, 2023

L to R: Derek Sidders (Canadian Forest Service), Dave Cheyne (retired Chief Forester, Alpac), and Mike Haire (Woodlands Manager, Vanderwell)

8. Calling Lake logger and sawmiller Rudy Wiselka standing in front of an information sign as part of the Calling Lake reforestation tour. Rudy was involved in the original harvesting and site preparation of this site; Calling Lake area; November 8, 2023

9. L to R: Krista Morrison, Wildfire Dispatch Supervisor and Ambrose (Jake) Jacobs celebrate Halloween; Slave Lake; October 31, 2023







1. L to R: Trevor Lamabe, Bernie Schmitte, Dan Lux, Marc Freedman, Ken Greenway, and Patrick McIlwaine at Marc's retirement recognition; Edmonton; January 18, 2024

2. L to R: Bruce Mayer (retired) and Jeff Scammell (Woodlands Manager, Northland) on the Calling Lake reforestation tour; Calling Lake area; November 8, 2023

3. L to R: Mike Haire (Woodlands Manager, Vanderwell) and Jeff Scammell (Woodlands Manager, Northland) on the Calling Lake reforestation tour; Calling Lake area; November 8, 2023

4. L to R: Stan Clarke and Dale Huberdeau on wildfire export to Oregon; 1987

5. Alberta wrapped lumber at the Salmon Arm Home Hardware; Salmon Arm, B.C.; November 29, 2023

6. Forestry retirees from the northeast boreal region gather at the Nimco residence; July 13, 2023

L to R: Paul Rizzoli, Bill Black, Andy Gesner, Bruce Mayer, Bruce MacGregor, and Wes Nimco



WILDFIRE SEASON 2023





1. Canadian, Australian, United States, and New Zealand wildland firefighters attend a safety briefing on wildfire SWF-069-23; July 2, 2023

2. United States Forest Service Snake River Hotshots on a wildfire in the Grande Prairie Forest Area; June 23, 2023

3. Loader person loading retardant into an Air Spray Electra Longliner; High Level airport; June 26, 2023

4. Helicopter Transport Services CH-54B Sikorsky Skycrane N722HT supporting wildland firefighters on the Boone Lake Complex (wildfires GWF-035, GWF-038); June 23, 2023

5. Canadian and Australian firefighters at the Edson airport; June 11, 2023

6. Slave Lake forest officer Charlie Walton providing briefing to wildland fire crews at a wildland fire camp in the Slave Lake Forest Area; June 25, 2023

7. Fort Chipewyan wildland firefighters; National Indigenous Day; June 21, 2023

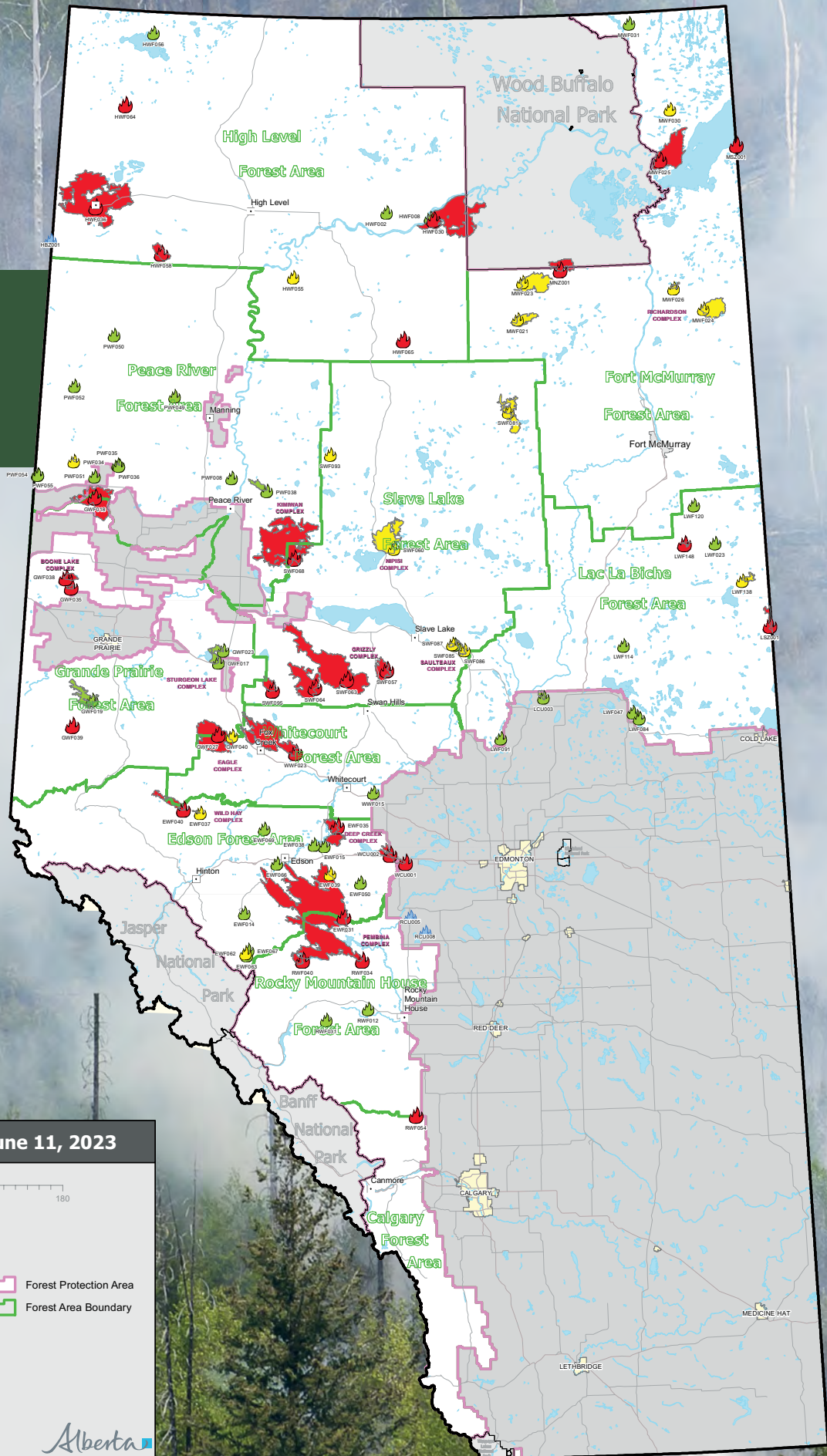
8. Standing beside the Whitemud Cabin and an old cupola, the Yukon wildland firefighters are preparing to head home after their export trip to Alberta; Grande Prairie Forest Area headquarters; June 18, 2023

9. Wildfire briefing at a wildland fire camp in the Edson Forest Area; June 19, 2023

10. Grande Prairie Forest Area helitack crew setting up pumps on wildfire GWF-035-23; June 27, 2023

Status of wildfires in Alberta

JUNE 11, 2023









Fire Status - 08:14 June 11, 2023

0 30 60 120 180
Kilometres

Active Wildfire

Fire Status

-  Out of Control (29)
-  Being Held (17)
-  Under Control (36)
-  Mutual Aid Fire - Actively Assisting (3)

-  Forest Protection Area
-  Forest Area Boundary

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Produced By: Harris Smith
Date: June 11, 2023

Alberta
Government



1. Canadian, South African, and Australian firefighters in Edson; July 6, 2023

2. Wildfire in the Edson Forest Area; May 5, 2023







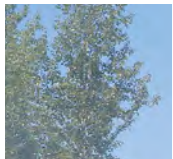
1. Zama Tower damaged by wildfire; High Level Forest Area; May 14, 2023

2. South African and Alberta wildland firefighters work on a dozer guard on the Pembina Complex (wildfires EWF-031, EWF-039 and RWF-034, RWF-040); June 16, 2023

3. Helitack crew beside their helicopter, with a wildfire in the background; May 4, 2023

4. Alberta CL215T Tanker 203 dropping foam and water on an Edson Forest Area wildfire; May 28, 2023

5. Dozers building a fire guard on an Edson Forest Area wildfire; May 2023







1. Information officer Caroline Charbonneau on the right, learning how to melon roll hose; Edson Forest Area; June 17, 2023

2. Firefighters waiting to board a helicopter; Kimiwan Complex (wildfire SWF-068-2023); Slave Lake Forest Area; June 17, 2023

3. Retiree's supporting wildfire operations in Fort Chipewyan

L to R: Doug Smith (retired), Mike Milner (Alberta Wildfire), Morgan Kehr (retired), and Philip Langford (contractor); Fort McMurray Forest Area; July 2023



4. Wildland firefighters from Chile learning how to operate and repair Wajax Mark III pumps; Long Lake Complex (Rainbow Lake); High Level Forest Area; June 18, 2023

5. Canadian and Australian firefighters clearing dead trees from the Wolf Lake Campground; Edson Forest Area; July 8, 2023

6. Wildland firefighters from multiple agencies supporting wildfire operations on wildfire MWF-025-2023; Fort McMurray Forest Area; July 2023



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A man wearing a red jacket and sunglasses is crouching next to a campfire. The fire is burning brightly, and the man is looking towards the camera. The background shows a wooded area with bare trees, suggesting a cool season. The ground is covered with dry leaves and small rocks.

Know before you go

Check for fire bans

Trails & Tales

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