

28th Annual General Meeting

The 28th Canadian Women In Timber AGM was held on October 27, 2017. Due to time restraints and low confirmed attendance we decided to hold the AGM by conference call. This was made possible by recent changes to the Societies Act. An AGM conference call is a good option should the need arise but we will strive to hold future AGM's in person.



Makenzie Leine completed her 2nd term as Chair and gave this report:

"Welcome everyone. Thank you for attending Canadian Women in Timber's 28th AGM. It's too bad we can't meet in person but with busy lives we can't do it every year!

I would like to extend my appreciation for everyone's ongoing support of the organization. Whether you are a member, on the board, a volunteer or just spreading the word about what we do, every little bit helps. Without all of the efforts combined none of this would get done.

It was another busy year for Canadian Women in Timber. We continued to attend events and conferences keeping our industry aware of the service and tools we provide. Our ongoing school tours kept our youth engaged. Forestry remains a fascination for young people which are a great platform for us to share information. Our recent partnership with National Forest Week has provided a new channel and value for Splinter with the specially branded materials and hundreds of copies going to National Forest Week events. We also lent our support to a forestry educational facility applying for grants to move their efforts forward.

With all of that, our activity books remain as the keystone of the organization. We still are met with great delight when people leaf through them. With another year of thousands flying off the shelf, their relevance speaks for itself.

Membership remains paramount to keep these important efforts going. Our future remains in the hands of those who support us through membership. Our longstanding members remain, who we are so grateful for, but what about new? How do we ensure we continue to inspire people to support us? This will be the charge for next year's board and branches."

After general housekeeping and annual reports were read, the Board elections were held. The 2016/2017 Board members are: **Chair**-Sandy McKellar, **Vice Chair**-Steve Baumber, **Treasurer/Secretary**-Betty-Ann McDonald
Directors - Alison Anderson, Laurie Septav, Vicki Smith, Ann Polson, Marg Hagardt, Melinda Morben, Molly Hudson, Joanne Kineshanko, Penny McDonald, Wayne Lintott

Newly elected Chair, **Sandy McKellar** thanked Makenzie for her dedication and hard work leading Canadian Women through the last 4 years. Makenzie has stepped down from the Board of Directors but will continue to lead the Vancouver Island Branch of Canadian women In Timber as their Chair.

The **Shuswap Branch** bursary, given to a graduate continuing studies in some aspect of Forestry, was won this year by a student who is attending UBC, He is the 3rd generation of a family involved in the forest industry in the Shuswap area.



Festival of Forestry 2017 Tour in Port Alberni

- From Ancient Trees to Christmas Trees

On August 23, 2017, 18 eager school teachers came together from a range of schools across the Lower Mainland and Southern Vancouver Island—their common thread was a desire to learn more about the forest sector in British Columbia. Hosted by the Festival of Forestry tour guides Michel Vallee and Ryan Dvorak, they were ready for three days of forest-immersion.

This year's tour was based in Port Alberni — a hub for forestry on Southern Vancouver Island. Port Alberni is a deep port city which lies within the Alberni Valley at the head of the Alberni Inlet, Vancouver Island's longest inlet. On the West side of Vancouver Island there is a long history of timber harvesting, and many of today's forests are third growth stands (meaning they've been replanted two times in the history of logging).

The tour kicked off in the MacMillan Provincial Park at Cathedral Grove, here the teachers were dwarfed by 800-year-old towering Douglas-firs. This beautiful land was donated to the Province of BC by the iconic lumber baron and forester, HR MacMillan, in 1944 and has been a popular site for tourists and locals alike ever since.

From old-growth to commercial forests - the next stop was a Christmas Tree farm run by the Alberni District Secondary School and home to the Project Based Learning program. Ryan Dvorak is the forestry instructor at the school, and is in charge of the farm. Here students learn about the planning cycle of forestry, from harvest to planting, and all points in between. The tour then moved on to a Crown woodlot managed by Dave McBride of Greenmax resources where a variety of forest management techniques and practices were discussed. This stop was followed by a visit to Island Timberlands' private lands where teachers were treated to a good discussion on some of the similarities, differences, and legislative practices as they relate to Crown versus Private lands. The teachers also got to learn how logs are processed, sorted and sold, and issues around land management, silviculture, ecosystem management and First Nations values were also addressed.

The next day was a whirlwind tour of the west coast forests of Vancouver Island. Guided by Erin Badesso as the lead with Western Forest Products and Ken Epps of Island Timberlands, the teachers were given a Masters level class in forest management, harvesting, and the complexity of the forest industry on the BC coast. Western pulled out all the stops and treated the teachers to an amazing show, including an up close and personal view of hand-falling old growth timber. It was a long and bumpy day but the excitement was palpable and the teachers had many excellent questions.

Along the way, special guests joined the group to share their expertise and answer questions. They included Makenzie Leine, forester and communications director from Island Timberlands, Warren Lauder, manager of Hupacasath First Nation forestry, Ken Epps of Island Timberlands, and Rhonda Morris, the district manager for the South Island Natural Resources District.

Continuing the story of forest management, the following day, stops included a tour of the Western Forest Products Alberni Pacific Division milling operations and dryland sort. Here they got a full spectrum look at how logs are managed after harvest and converted into products for market. They toured a large sawmill, where the latest technology is used to process logs into lumber, extracting the highest value and volume of wood from each log. After lunch, they visited the Hupacasath First Nation and learned about their forestry operations and connection to the land.

The **Canadian Women in Timber** are proud to support the Festival of Forestry teachers' tours. We provide every teacher with a complete set of our education materials, including our two Splinter activity books and the Forestry Facts book. We hope that these and other resources lead to greater forestry content and balanced information about forests in BC classrooms.



Canadian Women in Timber - Vancouver Island Branch hosts: "Don't Wish For It. Work For it. - A student-forest industry networking night"

On October 19, **CWIT-VI** Branch hosted an evening of networking at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. The event was designed to bring together future forestry workers and today's Coastal industry leaders, and the support was overwhelming! A sold-out event along with great feedback indicated to the organizers that this type of networking is appreciated by employers and future employees alike.

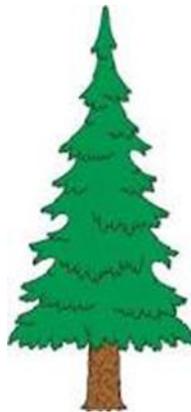
In total, over 50 students and 30 industry representatives attended and enjoyed food provided by the VIU Culinary Arts program. Attendance for students was generously paid for by industry attendees, and multiple forestry-related programs were represented: Forest Resources Technology, Heavy Mechanical Trades, Welding, and Heavy Equipment Operator Programs. Draws throughout the night distributed door prizes donated by industry as well as a \$500 bursary! The most popular draws were undoubtedly for the 16 job shadow opportunities donated by industry, which ranged from shadowing a heavy duty mechanic at Island Timberlands' shop to accompanying a tugboat operator for a day at Victoria Tug and Barge. Finally, all industry representatives went home with a complimentary membership to Canadian Women in Timber - Vancouver Island.



Vancouver Island Branch members
Makenzie Leine, Molly Hudson, Melinda Morben



All in all, a successful event! The organizers were impressed with the eagerness of the students and the support of industry, and are already planning on how to improve for next year!



*The heft and feel of a well-worn handle,
The sight of shavings that curl from a blade;
The logs in the woodpile, the sentiment of huge
beams in an old-fashioned house;
The smell of fresh cut timber and the pungent
fragrance of burning leaves;
The crackle of kindling and the hiss of burning logs.
Abundant to all the needs of man, how poor the world
would be without wood.*

Everard Hinrichs - quoted by Eric Sloan in "A Reverence For Wood"



CWIT has just run a 5th print of "Fun In The Forest" and a 3rd print of "Logging With Splinter". We are currently securing funding for a 3rd print of our "Forestry Facts" booklet. CWIT books are very popular :)

The Salvage Puzzle - by Steve Baumber, MSc, RPF

There is an old adage that holds true for many professions; if you ask two experts a question you'll likely get three opinions. Or more. Which often means that instead of a definitive answer we are told that "it depends." This ambiguity certainly holds true for the multiple values that forests provide when we seek to sustain economic, social, and environmental benefits.

The 2017 wildfire season is now in the record books, with over 1.2 million hectares of land impacted, an immense area that is 6 times greater than the amount of forest that is harvested across the entire province each year. The wildfires moved indiscriminately through communities, mature forests, young regenerating plantations, range lands, cutblocks in the midst of being harvested, and some of the driest and most sensitive ecosystems in the province. In the aftermath of battling these intense fires it's tempting to carry the same heroic energy into the effort of helping these areas recover, and charge full steam into 'salvage' operations. But in the face of such widespread and varied devastation, where we place our energy and resources must depend on our commitment to a sustainable balance of forest values. Where nature has been arbitrary, we must be deliberate.

The rural communities of the Cariboo and Chilcotin are no strangers to the complex conversation about salvage, when only a decade ago they were at the forefront of addressing the impacts of the provincial mountain pine beetle infestation. However, the BC government's Wildfire Recovery Strategy, announced in October, has significant differences from these previous salvage operations. The most important distinction is the diversity of timber types and ecosystems impacted by the wildfires that must be addressed, as opposed to the relatively specific forest stands the mountain pine beetle affected. We chased the beetle as it marched across the province in a steady progression, incorporating infested areas into each year's harvest. Salvage in this sense was simply a calculated shift in the amount and location of harvests. In contrast, wildfires burnt many areas to bedrock while leaving adjacent areas untouched, they progressed irregularly in jagged directions, and our fire protection efforts have left behind a jumble of fireguards, emergency roads, and felled timber.

The pieces of the salvage puzzle include assisting the recovery of the people, communities and forest licensees affected, and working with local governments and First Nations to deal with the losses of range land fencing, decked wood, forest service road bridges, homes, machinery, and mills. A primary focus of forest professionals will be building a strategy for land base recovery. Salvage operations in this sense take on a broader context to encompass not only timber recovery, but reforestation, and fish and wildlife rehabilitation. The millions of tree seedlings, of numerous species, that must be sown, grown and planted over the next three to five years is staggering. And we must place these efforts within the context of a vibrant provincial forest sector which continues to operate outside of the areas affected.

The salvage puzzle we are facing is not the completion of a single picture. In the aftermath of the 2017 wildfire season our activities on each piece of ground will depend on addressing the ambiguity of our vision, of assessing what each future forest stand should be. The pieces we choose to combine will need to strike the balance among what is best for the forest, what we value for our communities, and a precise investment of our limited resources.



*Best Wishes For A
Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year*


**Canadian Women
in Timber**

FOREST AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATION
www.canadianwomenintimber.com