

ABC FP Conference

Ann and Betty-Ann attended the Association of BC Forest Professionals conference in February at the Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria. The theme this year was "Everything to Everyone: The Art of Forestry." CWIT was given a complimentary booth and had a picture display of school presentations, props - including a toy power saw and logging equipment, and models of a fir cone and a pileated woodpecker.



Many delegates took the time to stop by the booth and were very appreciative and supportive of our volunteer work and Forest Education materials. The handouts: Splinter books, pencils, magnetic clips and Splinter pins were also very popular with the delegates. It was a very encouraging and positive experience and made it well worth our time to be there. We had great conversations with some new contacts and with many people we have met at past conferences.



Ann and Betty-Ann also had a lively conversation with "old growth logging" protesters in the lobby of the Hotel. Security was close by in case things got out of hand. ☺



Steve Baumber meets the "Queen"



Sandy McKellar and Mackenzie Leine

Thank you to the Association of BC Professional Foresters for giving CWIT a complimentary booth at their conference. CWIT appreciates and values the support of the ABCFP.

COFI Community Dinner

Ann and Betty-Ann attended the Kelowna Region Community Dinner on April 12 hosted by the Council of Forest Industries. Forest sector people, Forest Education volunteers, Mayors, Councilors, politicians and media were invited to attend.

COFI chair, Nick Arkle was the commentator and guests were welcomed by Kelowna Mayor Walter Gray and Westbank First Nation Councillor Mic Werstuik. Mary Tracey, Executive Director of Wood Works spoke about the success of the Wood First Act and noted that 42 communities have passed the resolution so far.

The guest speaker was Hon. Steve Thomson Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The Minister spoke of the "Forest Sector Strategy" launched earlier in the day. The forest sector strategy is intended to advance economic and environmental sustainability in the forest sector as a whole. This strategy provides an update of actions or areas of focus consistent with the six priorities outlined in the report of the Working Roundtable on Forestry:

1. A commitment to using wood first
2. Growing trees, sequestering carbon, and ensuring that land is available from which to derive a range of forest products
3. Creating a globally competitive, market-based operating climate
4. Embracing innovation and diversification
5. Supporting prosperous rural forest economies
6. First Nations becoming partners in forestry.

We talked with many people we have met at other functions, as well as new people who were interested in our group and what we do. It was a very enjoyable evening and the meal was fantastic!

Websites for more information:

Forest Sector Strategy - www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestsectorstrategy

Wood First Act - www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/woodfirst

Wood Works - www.wood-works.org

Working Roundtable on Forestry - www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestry_roundtable

Splinter Salutes

COFI for hosting the Community Dinner and giving the community the opportunity to meet and talk to people in the forest sector and to listen to guest speaker, Hon. Steven Thompson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.



Chair's Report - Alison Anderson

The Lorax

I decided to take my two boys to the movies this weekend. Not paying much attention I selected the only one that wasn't rated PG13 as I didn't feel like watching a bunch of gore. We went to Dr. Seuss's The Lorax. After a short time I was angry that I was watching an anti-logging show. In fact I was so impressed that I fell asleep about 30 minutes into the film. After my nap and some rational thoughts I instead thought that this was a good teaching moment. I get angered when Hollywood thinks that they can push their "environmental message" which is usually out of context and lacking reality. Instead of ranting I decided to tell the boys more about harvesting of trees and how we live in a province that pays close attention to reforestation. I went on to say that in our lifetime we would never have to worry about living in a province without trees. So Mr. Lorax, CWIT believes that we can live in a province where the social and economic benefits of harvesting are balanced with sustainability. Aren't we lucky!



Splinter Rocks!

Private Forest Landowners Association post on Facebook about Logging With Splinter: **"We love this resource activity book. Chock-full of fun: word scrambles, puzzles, searches, colouring, forestry facts and more. Splinter rocks!"**

Comments from Grade 3/4 teacher in Richmond: **"The Splinter booklets have arrived and I am really pleased. My students will enjoy working in them. I think that if children enjoy doing something they will remember it longer."**

Upcoming Event

Interior Logging Association Conference and Trade Show

The ILA will hold its 54th Annual Conference and Trade show **May 10 - 12 in Vernon**. The theme this year is "Training Our Next Generation". There will be a full slate of inside displays as well as some equipment outside for contractors, truckers, forestry workers and the general public to view. The Conference is open to all and entrance to the inside displays are free of charge except for the evening ticketed events.

This year's theme is focused on what the forest industry requires for future employees for the licensees and trades. There is a real shortage of workers in the logging and trades sectors of the forest industry and this show will allow licensees and trades to advertise what jobs are available in their organizations.

Canadian Women In Timber will have an inside display and invite all participants to come by our booth. We will have lots of handouts and forest education material and free draws.

British Columbia Forest Facts

More than 14% of British Columbia is fully protected and much more is under special management where values such as wildlife habitat, biodiversity or recreation take precedence.

British Columbia has more than 14.1 million hectares (34.8 million acres) of protected lands where no forestry, mining or industrial development is allowed. This includes 4.5 million hectares (more than 11 million acres) of forests that meet BC's definition of old growth.

British Columbia's park system is the second largest in Canada - only the national parks system is larger. There are more than 970 parks and protected areas in British Columbia.

British Columbia's laws and policies protect land and forest values. Forest activities must meet the requirements of BC's forest laws and environmental standards.

Wood Products Harvested From Sustainable Forests

When one speaks of sustainable forestry, it's not uncommon for Canada to come up in the conversation. In fact, Canada - and British Columbia - is a world leader in sustainable forestry practices.

As building technologies evolve one material remains as in-demand as ever: wood. Wood costs less - economically and environmentally - and it's one of the most beautiful, versatile, durable and renewable raw materials available.

Wood-frame construction is faster, material costs are lower, and construction is simpler. Wood can be locally sourced and is usually less expensive than alternative building materials.

Wood-frame assembly and wood products are readily available, and generally, wood can be delivered in far less time than other materials, such as steel and concrete. Plus, most communities in North America have a large pool of experienced wood-framing tradespeople, which makes it easier to staff a construction job locally, and contributes to the local economy.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

We are interested in what is happening in your community regarding the Forest Industry and Forest Education and welcome questions, comments or suggestions for future Leaflets.

Please email your letters or inquiries to any of the following:

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