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**HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY OF CONSULTING
FORESTERS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
by the late Rudi Kind and G. Wayne Coombs
Part one of two**

The Early Years

During the fall of 1967, a group of consulting foresters within the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters (ABCPF) revived an old idea from 1960 to organize forestry consultants in B.C. They recognized the need for greater recognition of forestry consultants, as well as the need to improve standards of work, reduce malpractice, provide some guidance when setting fees, and provide a forum for the exchange of information that would improve business practices.



Recycled paper

A founding committee was formed with Robin L. Caesar as Chairman and W. Borre van Doorninck as Secretary/Treasurer. With the help of various sub-committees, a report was prepared outlining the proposed objectives for the new organization and its membership qualifications, as well as a draft constitution and bylaws. At an inaugural meeting on November 29, 1968, the "Consulting Foresters Group of the ABCPF" was formally constituted with 35 charter members and a five-member Executive. The mandate of the new Executive was to produce a fee schedule, achieve recognition by the ABCPF, and revise the bylaws in light of the various comments received at that inaugural meeting.

Very early on, the group started to deal with aspects of public relations, namely the search for a logo and a membership plaque. The consulting group was also instrumental in having the ABCPF adopt the initials "RPF" as the official title for its members, rather than the initials "B.C.RF." At the 1969 Annual General Meeting of the ABCPF, the group adopted the name "Consulting Foresters of British Columbia" with the acronym "CFBC."

To promote the work of CFBC, the Executive met with the Minister of Forests for the first time in June 1969. The discussions centred on the lack of good communication with senior ministry staff regarding policy changes within the ministry, and the lack of work opportunities for consulting foresters with the B.C. Forest Service – a direct contrast to government agencies of other provinces, foreign governments, and international lending agencies who did not hesitate to engage B.C. forestry consultants on a frequent basis.

To raise the profile of consultants, several members were charged with writing articles for trade magazines stressing the advantages of using consultants and outlining the capabilities of forestry consultants. In 1973, a survey of the CFBC membership found that forestry consulting carried out by CFBC members had a gross billing of \$6.5 million. The specific breakdown of the work carried out was 25% overseas, 50% B.C. forest industry, and 25% other work. This survey showed that there was practically no work conducted for the B.C. Forest Service.

Up to 1974, CFBC membership was limited to owners of consulting forest companies and to senior foresters of these companies. In 1974, it was the decision of the CFBC Executive to change the structure of the CFBC from individual members to corporate members, with proportional representation based on the number of registered professional foresters on staff in each member company.

During 1983, the ABCPF decided that separate groups within its membership would no longer be recognized. This decision pressured the CFBC Executive to consider incorporating the Society of Consulting Foresters of British Columbia as a separate entity under the Society Act of B.C.

Throughout the years, the problem of improving relations with the B.C. Forest Service was a major concern, particularly as the ministry was regularly discussing impending policy changes with the Council of Forest Industries (COFI), but not with forestry consultants, who were independent of government and industry and thus were in a position to give independent advice.

Typical of the Forest Service's misunderstanding of consultants was the Forest Service's refusal up to 1979 to allow the full costs of consultants for stumpage offset work. They justified this decision by stating that it would amount to a double allowance of overhead charges.

To promote work for its members with the B.C. government, CFBC produced a number of briefs to the Forest Service with the following titles:

Services and Expertise Available from Consulting Foresters
January 1984

Forest Inventory Capabilities of Consulting Foresters
February 1984

Computing Capabilities and Services
May 1984

Silvicultural Services
June 1985

Forest Protection and Pest Management Services
May 1986

Efforts to increase contracting with the ministry were never-ending. In 1984, a brief on how to select consultants was co-ordinated with the efforts of the Consulting Engineers. This brief proposed a two-envelope system - one envelope addressing the bid work plan and the other addressing the bid price - and was presented to the Ministry of Forests by CFBC and the Consulting Engineers. However, the ministry was not prepared to have price as a separate criterion for selection; they felt that the bid price should be considered while judging the bid proposals. To further explore the topics of contracting out and consultant selection, a panel of senior executives of government and industry presented their ideas at the annual meeting of the consulting foresters during the ABCPF Annual General Meeting in 1986.

A New Beginning

Encouraged over the years by some senior members of CFBC to become more focussed, the CFBC Executive in 1987 developed the rudiments of a Business Plan to the year 1990. This Business Plan included: CFBC brochure development, an information package for prospective members, a logo and newsletter to motivate the membership to become more involved, a long range plan to be updated annually, development of a manual of services and a policy and practices guide.

The purpose of developing a Business Plan, with specific goals and objectives, was to seek greater autonomy from the ABCPF.

After a long consultation process with the membership during 1990, it became clear that a majority of members were in favour of organizing and operating as a registered society of Consulting Foresters, and they charged the new Executive to act accordingly. Based on the advice and experience of the Consulting Engineers of B.C., the CFBC Executive then developed a draft of a constitution and bylaws for presentation at their general meeting during the ABCPF Annual General Meeting in 1991. During this general meeting, the Executive received the mandate to proceed with forming the proposed new society and making application to the Registrar of Companies. After minor amendments to the proposed bylaws, the CFBC submission to the Registrar of Companies was accepted and a certificate of registration for the Society of Consulting Foresters of British Columbia was obtained in May 1991.

On May 1, 1991, the previously elected Executive became the Board of Directors of the new society. Their main task was now to organize the new society, to get it off the ground, and to learn to live in the new environment of an association of companies, and not of individuals. It was decided that steps would be required to develop a higher profile and an awareness of the society and its members. To achieve this, it was agreed that CFBC required a new directory listing member companies rather than individuals and identifying the range of services offered by each member company. To increase awareness of the CFBC to potential clients and to the public, as well as to prospective new members, a new society brochure was developed.

To gain more information about the membership, a survey of member companies was conducted to fully inventory their size of business and type of clients. From this survey, it became clear that the amount of work from the Ministry of Forests had increased over all other work being carried out by the membership. To further raise the profile of the CFBC membership, various media outlets were contacted with details of the survey results and were given a list of senior CFBC consultants who could act as a media response team for potential enquiries.

In 1992, CFBC activities concentrated on public relations efforts promoting forestry consultants. In particular, the society lobbied the Ministry of Forests to contract out more work rather than increasing their own staff. In addition, discussions were held with the ministry to improve the contract language and wording of Requests for Proposals (RFP). CFBC also requested that the ministry allow more openness in the system of selection of contractors and in the rating of submissions, as well as a reduced requirement for security deposits by CFBC members.

Subsequent to these requests, the ministry developed a policy and procedures manual on contract administration and, to a great extent, information within this manual was based on comments and feedback received from CFBC. This manual has been amended over time and is being used by ministry contract administrators today. Nevertheless, there are still improvements to be made in the system.

The CFBC Board of Directors also recognized the need to attract more members in order for CFBC to fully represent forestry consultants in B.C. To this end, a new information package on CFBC was prepared for distribution to prospective members. In addition, a CFBC display board was developed for use at various conventions, meetings, and conferences where potential new members and clients might attend.

Shortly after the incorporation of the society, the question of how to obtain professional liability insurance for consulting foresters was discussed. Because of the concern that there may be a real need for professional liability, CFBC, together with the ABCPF, approached the membership of the association to determine the perceived need. Considering the poor response to this, the ABCPF made the decision not to pursue this further.

The CFBC, however, considered it important enough to pursue, and established a committee to solicit potential insurance companies as to conditions and potential fees for such insurance. The proposal by Morris and Mackenzie Insurance was selected, as this company offered a 10% discount on fees for members of the CFBC. By 1995, a total of 73 policies were written, with 33 being for consultants and 40 for industry or government employees.

Development of CFBC Bylaws

The CFBC bylaws provided for a six-member Executive with a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and three Directors to be elected for a one-year term at each annual meeting. The election of a Past Chairman was automatic. The Executive was empowered to appoint a Secretary/Treasurer that was not a member of the society. There was also a provision for remuneration for the Secretary/Treasurer, if approved by the membership. The entrance fees and annual dues were set at \$20.00 for each member. These fees, however, were not stipulated in the bylaws. In 1971, the bylaws were amended to allow the election of the Executive by letter ballot prior to the annual meeting.

The Society of Consulting Foresters as originally conceived was meant to be an association of owners of consulting practices and their most senior foresters. Thus, a senior forestry consultant who was responsible for all forestry work, but whose company was not owned by a registered professional forester in good standing with the ABCPF, could not join. In 1971, however, the restriction of membership to owners or senior foresters of companies owned by members was dropped.

In 1973, discussions were held to allow both firms and individuals to become members of the Society of Consulting Foresters. Voting privileges would be proportional to the number of registered professional foresters in the firm. However, this change was not approved by the ABCPF, as it was incompatible with the association's bylaws.



FOREST HISTORY HONOURS AND AWARDS NIGHT

The Forest History Association of B.C. (FHABC) and the Vancouver Island Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) are co-hosting the first ever "Forest History Honours and Awards Night." This ceremony will pay tribute to selected individuals and recognize their special contributions to the ongoing work of the FHABC and/or their work in documenting and preserving B.C.'s forest history. Several people already recommended for an award are well known not only to FHABC and CIF members but also to the forestry community as a whole.

A guest speaker; a display of photographs, logging equipment and forestry artefacts; and a publications and information table are also planned. Nominations for individual awards are currently being solicited and are due by March 15, 2003 to Dr. Mike Meagher, 666 Jones Terrace, Victoria, BC V8Z 2L7

The event will be held in Victoria, B.C. on Saturday, April 12, 2003 from 6:00 PM onwards at the Trafalgar / Pro Patria Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, 411 Gorge Road East. Tickets cost \$30.00 per person; are available from Geoff Bate, 2278 Cooperidge Drive, Saanichton, BC V8M 1N2 and must be purchased by March 31, 2003. A registration and order form is enclosed with this newsletter.

The planning committee for the Honours and Awards Night consists of Mike Apsey, Geoff Bate, Stan Chester, Mike Meagher, Art Walker and Dave Wallinger, representing both the FHABC and the CIF.



TIME TO RENEW?

Please check the expiry date above your address on the mailing envelope. If it reads 12/31/2002, your membership expired on December 31, 2002. Unless you have recently sent your dues to the treasurer, you must do so now in order to remain a member and continue to receive the newsletter. Please send your dues of \$10.00 (CDN) for one year or \$45.00 (CDN) for five years, to:

Forest History Association of B.C.
8793 Forest Park Drive
Sidney, BC V8L 4E8

We can't include a form with this newsletter or it will be overweight. A form will be sent with the next newsletter to those who haven't renewed by then.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

In association with a couple of other collaborators, I have been researching and writing up for publication, a history of the introduced mammal species here on the Queen Charlotte Islands. We have more introduced species than native ones, and there is an increasing interest in their impacts, hence this attempt to document when and how they came to be here. The one species that still confuses us is the squirrel, and especially how it got here in the 1950s.

Certainly there was one introduction to Queen Charlotte City in 1950 by the local officer of the B.C. Police, a fellow named Jack Fletcher. But there are rumours that the B.C. Forest Service also introduced squirrels about the same time to a number of islands in order to assist in the collection of spruce cones for seed. There are various theories from the old timers here, but no one has any actual facts. It seems plausible because the squirrels do have a curious distribution - on some islands but not others and especially on some islands with large spruce. We have searched through some old MoF archives looking for documentation but to no avail.

If any FHABC members who were here with the BCFS in the early 1950s, or who worked on a Forest Service boat on the islands, could shed any light on the arrival and distribution of squirrels we'd like to hear from you.

Keith Moore
Moore Resource Management
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Queen Charlotte City, BC V0T 1S0

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I am looking for information about the Columbia River Lumber Company which operated in Salmon Arm and Golden. The company purchased the Genelle mill, east of Tappen Station on the edge of Shuswap Lake, in January of 1899. The period of interest is from the mid-1880s to 1907.

Thank you,

Denis Marshall
33 – 1120 12th St NE
Salmon Arm, BC V1E 1B8

Phone: 250-832-5345
E-mail: dmarshall@jetstream.net



**B.C. FOREST SERVICE RANGER SCHOOL GRADUATES
by Geoff Bate**

Class of 1948

Dean: R.D. Greggor

Ass't. Dean: J.A. Pedley

H.B. Hammer	W.A. Antilla	A.A. Antilla	L. Quance
J. Mould	A.I. Ross	W.W. Reid	O. Paquette
K.N. Peterson	R.O. Christie	G.G. Jones	M.H. Mudge
H.A. Ferguson	L.C. Chamberlain	C.D. Haddon	W.P. Rawlins
F.R. Hill	H.S. Noakes	G.C. Palethorpe	

Class of 1949 - 1950

Dean: R.D. Greggor

Ass't Dean: J.A. Pedley

R.W. Jones	R.H. Morrison	R.G. Benson	R.L. Brooks
C.L. Yingling	H.T. Barbour	J. Woolsey	P.J. Piche
H.C. Hewlett	J.L. Humphrey	R.I. Patterson	J. Mellander
O.J. Kettleson	D.H. Owen	F. Tannock	G. Meents
H.R. Wood	J.B. Gierl	L.E. Cook	E. Connelly
R. Robertson			

This is the second in a series that identify the graduates of the Forest Service Ranger School. The first two classes, 1946 and 1947, were listed in Newsletter No. 67, August, 2002. Source: Forest History Association of B.C. archives.



This newsletter is the official organ of the Forest History Association of British Columbia. Please submit newsletter material and send changes of address to the Editor: John Parminter, # 3 – 130 Niagara Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1E9. Phone (250) 384-5642 home or (250) 356-6810 office. E-mail: jvparminter@telus.net

Membership in the association is \$10 yearly, or \$45 for five years. Please send dues to the Treasurer: Edo Nyland, 8793 Forest Park Drive, Sidney, BC V8L 4E8. Phone (250) 656-9276. E-mail: edonon@islandnet.com

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