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### **IMPORTANT NOTICE: 2009 AGM AND CONFERENCE**

**Exploring our Roots: Forest History in our Communities** 

September 17 - 19, 2009 in Prince George, B.C.

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The history of B.C. forests extends far beyond that of harvestable natural resource or dynamic natural environment. The history of our forests encompasses the history of our communities, our social networks, our culture, our livelihoods, and even our individual and familial identities.

B.C. forests have created, sustained, inspired, and maintained our communities for centuries. Forestry is intrinsically linked with the rooting of familial ties, the development of socio-economic constructs, and the definition of self and place that has spanned and evolved over generations in this province.

However, this significant aspect of forest history is often outshone, by the economic, political, ecological and/or technological issues surrounding our forests. Therefore the intention of this conference is to bring the history of the forests and its peoples to the forefront. Because this is only the second time in its history that the Forest History Association of B.C. has held its AGM outside the Lower Mainland, the focus of the conference will be on what forest history means to the people and communities within the Central and Northern Interior of B.C.

This conference intends to explore this dynamic relationship between our forests and its people through presentations, exhibitions and open discussion. Invited speakers will present a number of diverse topics, each imbued within the history of our forests and its communities.

### NOTE: A complete information/registration package is attached to this newsletter

A special round of APPRECIATION to the organizing committee who have worked long and hard to make this conference a reality: **Erica Hernández** and **Ramona Rose** of the UNBC Archives; **Melanie Karjala** and **Mike Jull** of the Alexa Lake Research Forest; and **Ranjit Gill** and **James Tirrul-Jones** of the Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum. Thanks for your enthusiasm and diligence!

### CONGRATULATIONS DR. MIKE APSEY

The FHABC applauds one of its own, Mike Apsey, or rather Dr. Mike Apsey, on receiving a well-deserved Honorary Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from UBC during the May 25, 2009 convocation. *UBC This Week* (<a href="http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcthisweek/2009/09feb05.html">http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcthisweek/2009/09feb05.html</a>) describes him as "one of Canada's most influential and decorated forestry professionals." FHABC President Stan Chester shares the following comments excerpted from a celebratory dinner invitation:

Dr. Mike Apsey has extensive working experience in Government, Industry, Consulting, and in Industrial Associations in Canada and on assignments in numerous countries throughout the world. From 1978-1984 he served as Deputy Minister of Forests for the Province of British Columbia and from 1984-998 he was President and CEO of the Council of Forest Industries. Mike is past Chair of the Tree Canada Foundation, the National Forest Strategy Coalition and Wildlife Habitat Canada. He also serves on numerous boards and is Chair of the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society and the President of the B.C. Forest Service Centenary Society...The criteria for [this] degree are excellence, eminence and accomplishment, characteristics that Mike has consistently exhibited.

In his address to the graduates, Mike wisely enthused:

You will give leadership in your own particular calling. You will be global in your outlook even though you may choose one field in one area. You will never stop learning and you will enjoy what you do. Like me, you will never grow old and you will have a happy and fulfilling life...if you have a sense of humour, keep it – if you don't have a sense of humour, get one. You are going to need it!

(**Editor's note**: To get a better sense of who Mike is and what he is all about, read his biography: *What's All This Got to Do With the Price of 2x4's?* University of Calgary Press, 2006. This book kept me up until 2:00 AM, refusing to let me go until I turned the last page. For a comprehensive review, check out the following link: <a href="http://www.psf.ca/07media/Apsey\_July\_23\_2006.doc">http://www.psf.ca/07media/Apsey\_July\_23\_2006.doc</a>.)



### **BEAR STORIES**

by Bjorn Norheim

Back in 1954, I was a "working circle assistant" with the B.C. Forest Service. Industrial Forest Service (IFS) helped to set up the working circles within each ranger district. I was delegated to the Crooked River Working Circle at Summit Lake under ranger Keith Irwin. The job was mainly logging inspections, liaison with cruising and marking crews, and silviculture work. Forest Protection had a cabin at Davie Lake, north of Summit Lake, and I made that my home for a while. As I was travelling in the bush just about every day and all alone, I encountered many bears and wolves over a few years up there. Here are a couple of stories about bears.

It was a very hot day in July, 1954, and I was busy with the "Lin Fire" at Lincoln Sawmill in the Crooked River near Red Rock, north of Davie Lake. Around 14:00, I came back very tired after being out all night. I went into the cabin to rest for a while. As I was hungry, I got out some bread, milk and sardines and tomatoes. Then I lay down on the bed with the cabin door open because of the heat and fell asleep. During my sleep, I felt something around my face—I woke up to look straight into a pair of brown eyes, a long nose, and a slimy tongue licking the sardine oil off my mouth! The bear finally turned around. I jumped out of bed, following the bear out of the open door with a big shout.

Another time, Keith Irwin, the ranger, and I made an agreement to meet in the bush to axe-blaze a timber sale boundary. I was out early in the morning and started blazing from the north end; Keith was supposed to start from the south end and meet me about half way. I kept shouting to Keith as I blazed my way south, but no answer from Keith. About half way down, I could hear an off-and-on noise in the direction I was going. I thought Keith was pulling a joke on me so I kept on going. I came upon a heavy clump of balsam growth

ahead and went around it to continue on the other side with the compass line. As I walked back in on the compass line, I ran right into a big grizzly. Luckily there was a breast-high windfall between us—the grizzly put his front legs up on the windfall which made the animal about eight feet tall. We both stood there looking at each other about five feet apart; both too surprised to know what to do next. I started to talk in a whisper, and the bear cocked its head and bobbed it up and down. I did the same. This socializing lasted maybe half a minute, then I backed off slowly while the grizzly did the same. The ranger never did come out that day!



### **BORN FOR THE JOB**

by Bill McGhee

The chronological history of Rayonier Canada in a previous issue of the B.C. Forest History Newsletter prompted me to tell the following story primarily for my family and especially for my two oldest children who were born in Port Alice. It reminded me not only of my father's tremendous influence on my life—both at work and at play—but also of his management skills with people.

A young immigrant (who, despite his Scotch ancestry, called himself Irish because he was born in Larne, Ireland) arrived on the construction site of the Port Alice pulp mill in 1917, via the Union Steamship SS Cardena to Port Hardy, a walk across the Island to Coal Harbour, and finally via a small boat to his destination. His name was Peter McGhee, and Port Alice was to be his home for years.

Having learned the accounting business in the shipyards of Belfast, his new job was cost accountant for the construction company building the mill. When the mill was completed in 1918, he was given the job of accountant in the mill office. Assured of steady employment and a company house, he returned to Burnaby to marry Grace George, the daughter of a pioneer family. They returned to Port Alice where they made their home for the next 34 years. During that time, Dad rose from mill accountant, to office manager, to comptroller, and finally to mill manager in 1935. He was known simply as "Pete" to most of the long-time employees. Dad retired in 1953, moved to Victoria, then Burnaby where he died in 1972.

Due to the lack of good hospital facilities, mother traveled to Burnaby for my birth on November, 8<sup>th</sup> 1919, and we arrived back in Port Alice in December via the steamship Princess Maquinna from Victoria. The town was my home for the next 34 years.

The resident mill manager in Port Alice, (a town with no road access until 1964) was solely responsible for the entire town's 1200 residents, their accommodation, and their jobs. In addition, he was responsible for the hospital, general store, school, community hall, two restaurants, theatre, and of course all services.

Three examples of Dad's people skills come to mind. In the early 30s, he gave an unmotivated but very intelligent carpenter the job of initiating the mill's Safety Program which in two years won several awards. Seeing the talent and knowledge of another unmotivated millwright, he promoted him to the vacant position of sawmill superintendent with complete success. And finally, he gave an unhappy lab technician the job of mill statistician, making him a happy employee with the responsibility of reporting daily to the mill manager.

Before I was old enough to work in the mill, I earned a few dollars working on the golf course weeding and hand-mowing the greens under the supervision of one of the more experienced golfers in Port Alice, Jim Gilmour, the Chief Electrician. Not only did he give me some life-lasting golf tips, but more importantly, he supervised my first job in the mill in the summer of 1936, teaching me a work ethic that served me well throughout my life.

Around this time (1934-35) the B.C. Forest Service decided to permanently locate a government log scaler at Port Alice. His name was Archie Kerr. Because I showed an interest in his work, he taught me to scale logs in booms coming in from the logging camps. This training resulted in my becoming an Acting Official

scaler one summer when log production from the local logging operations was at a summer peak. There was no need to send for an additional scaler from Vancouver.

However, local log production in Quatsino Sound throughout the year was insufficient to keep Archie fully occupied so the company arranged with the Forest Service to have him work for the company part-time, supervising several small logging contractors. As this job included locating small "logging shows" in company-owned timber, Archie employed me as his axe-man, compass-man etc. This was my first taste of forestry work.<sup>1</sup>

My second taste came in the summer of 1937. Back in 1935, the company had hired a Norwegian forester, to establish a series of thinning plots in ten-year-old second-growth hemlock on Dahlstrom Point in Holberg Inlet. In 1937, I worked on them as an axe-man when they were re-measured. As both my father and Archie Kerr had encouraged me to enter UBC with the goal of becoming a forester, and I liked the work, I took their advice and registered in September 1937. I hustled home after final exams in 1938 only to find the mill closed down and no job. It was during this closure that I first met Gordon Gibson Sr. and my interesting experiences with him then and later were published in the September and October 1993 issues of the B.C. Forest History Newsletter. He arrived in Port Alice with the barge Malahat<sup>2</sup>, towed by the tug Dola, to load a cargo of Douglas-fir that had accumulated at the mill and was not used for pulp. After working as a boomman loading the barge—the only job I had that summer—I hitched a ride to Vancouver on the Dola, to return to UBC at Dad's expense. A memorable event of that journey was passing Campbell River during the great 1938 forest fire when the smoke was like fog as we passed historical Ripple Rock (since removed from Johnstone Strait). Because the Port Alice mill was still closed down in the spring and summer of 1939, I got a job as an assistant to Ranger Charlie Holmes at the BCFS Langford Ranger station at \$75.00 a month. As my room and board with a local family was \$50.00/month, and the Forest Service made me pay \$75.00 for damage to a pick-up that I rolled over, Dad had to come to my rescue again for my UBC fees.

With the advent of WWII that summer, I intended to obtain my B.A. and then join the Navy, but the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941 changed my mind. I quit UBC at Christmas and joined up at the Naval base in Victoria. While waiting for the call to duty, I returned to work in the Port Alice mill which was desperately in need of workers due to the evacuation of the whole Japanese community. After several months I was ordered to report to the Deepbrook Nova Scotia naval training base—my wartime experience is another story.

Needless to say, life in Port Alice during the war years was abnormal. However, while on leave from the Navy in December 1944, I met my wife-to-be, Mary Ann Craig. Both her father and sister had moved to Port Alice for work, and she joined them as the bookkeeper in the general store. After the war, I married Mary Ann in November 1945, and together we returned to UBC in January 1946. With the fantastic assistance of biology and botany professors Dr. Hutchinson and Dr. Davidson<sup>3</sup>, I obtained my BA that year, and my BSF in April 1947. I then went to my first post-war job on the logging engineering crew at the B.C. Pulp & Paper Company's logging operation at Holberg, B.C. As this was a float camp with no married accommodation, my wife went to live with her parents in Port Alice, 40 miles away, with no roads in between.

During the war large volumes of Sitka Spruce logs had accumulated in the log storage at Port Alice. In the summer of 1947, they were purchased by the B.C. Forest Products Company for their sawmill on False Creek in Vancouver. I was transferred to Port Alice to supervise shipping the logs out in barges which were

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Archie Kerr left Port Alice about 1945, became a BCRF and established his own forest engineering business working on the west coast out of Victoria.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The barge Malahat had a previous history as a sailing vessel running liquor during prohibition in the USA 1920-1933.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Dr. Davidson's unique help to complete my BA is described in my letter on his web site which coincidentally was created by my granddaughter Lindsay McGhee in 1987 when she was in her 4th year at UBC assisting the author of Dr. Davidson's story (http://botanyjohn.org/en/in-depth-study/william-mcghee-letter.)

converted steel hull sailing ships. In addition, I was made responsible for the mill log storage grounds, which had suffered from lack of maintenance during the war years and also for the supervision of several small logging contractors. Despite a shortage of housing in town, my wife and I were fortunate to get a steam-heated apartment—our first home. During this period, and due to a shortage of local log production, we received and broke down several Davis Rafts from Seymour Inlet and several Gibson Rafts from the West Coast. We actually built a Red Cedar Davis Raft with a borrowed B.C. Forest Products crew from Port Renfrew for shipment to Vancouver. Breaking down a Gibson Raft was very tricky. We sure heard from Gordon Gibson when we drowned a couple of the long wires used to bind the raft together. As well, during the next couple of years, the pulp mill was increasing production without an associated increase in local log production in Quatsino Sound.

While a new major logging operation was being developed by Gordon Gibson at Jeune Landing, I made a trip up the west coast with a self-loading log barge towed by the tug, Island Navigator. We loaded hemlock pulp logs at Bamfield, Tofino, and Kyuquot—quite an experience. Then finally, came my first real forestry job since graduation. Those thinning plots that I had worked in during 1937 were re-measured by UBC forestry professor Dr. B. Griffith a few years later. In 1949 I took leave from my job in Port Alice to measure them again. The resulting study became the subject of my report required to become B.C. Registered Professional Forester No. 135 on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1951. However, prior to this date (January 1<sup>st</sup> 1951) two very significant things had happened: B.C. Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd was purchased by Alaska Pine Company (later Alaska Pine & Cellulose Company), and in anticipation of my registration, the company appointed me Resident Forester for Tree Farm Licence No.6—a job that had not existed beforehand.

With the appointment, I was given my first and immediate task of submitting a three-year logging plan for TFL No. 6 which included operations at Holberg, Jeune Landing, and Winter Harbour—all on Quatsino Sound. At these operations, preparing logging plans was a normal task of the logging engineers. But before the TFL was issued, these plans were rarely for three years. My first job was to arrange with the respective logging managers to develop the necessary plans and then assist the engineers in preparing them for submission to the B.C. Forest Service.

Although I was well acquainted and on good terms with our logging personnel, I needed an office and a boat to travel from my headquarters in Port Alice to the three major logging operations. There were no connecting roads at that time. These two problems were quickly solved. Dad found me a corner in the mill office at Port Alice, and the company purchased a former water taxi from the owner, Frank Hole, in Coal Harbour. It was ideal for my job and for the two-hour trip from Port Alice to Holberg.

While the sale of the B.C. Pulp & Paper Co. was a bit of a shock, it had one big advantage for me in that Alaska Pine had a forestry department in Vancouver and a chief forester—Ross Douglas—who became my boss.

Following completion of the current logging plans, my first task was to set up weather stations in the three logging operations. Then we began the major task of taking a forest inventory of TFL No. 6. An assistant forester, Maurice Ayers, was hired to join me, and in 1951-52 our first task was to check all the old logged-over areas for reproduction. In 1953, we began an inventory of the old growth forest. While we were camped out in the Winter Harbour area, we had a visit from Ross Douglas. To his credit, he had travelled from Vancouver to Winter Harbour and had hiked out to our campsite to tell me that he was combining the Port McNeil and Port Alice forestry operations. Dick Vivian, the forester at Port McNeill would be in charge. I found this decision unacceptable, and with my wife's agreement, resigned from my job and subsequently went to work for Purves Ritchie Ltd. in Vancouver selling power saws and other machinery.

However, I did not enjoy selling and through a fortunate meeting in Port Alberni with John McGlaughlin (an ex-naval officer with whom I had served) I learned of a job available with Crown Zellerbach (CZ) Canada

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Davis Rafts were used to transport logs through the rough seas of the Queen Charlotte Straits before they were replaced by log barges. The Gibson Raft was Gordon Gibson's slightly different version and used on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Ltd. After two meetings with Vice-president Otis Hallin and some forestry personnel, I was hired as forester for CZ's northern coastal operations in December 1955, a job that was based in Vancouver with some additional responsibilities. My previous experience in Quatsino Sound fitted well with being in charge of forestry programs in the Queen Charlotte Islands and at Kitimat, Bella Coola, and Beaver Cove on northern Vancouver Island. New to me was the responsibility for examining forest properties for sale both on the coast and in the interior of B.C.

Just prior to hiring me, CZ Canada Ltd had acquired Canadian Western Lumber Co. which, in addition to operations in the Comox-Courtenay and Ladysmith areas, included substantial timber holdings in the east Kootenays containing some very small contract loggers. As a result, a very interesting part of my initial job, in a part of the province unfamiliar to me, was examining these timber holdings and recommending further action in their regard. Thus began a very satisfying forestry career that lasted for 26 years with the same company.

In March 1960 I was made Staff Forester, responsible for all forestry activities in the company, and in December 1964 I was made Chief Forester for CZ Canada. A very important phase of my work was maintaining a close relationship with our parent company forestry headquarters in Portland, Oregon. They were well advanced in some second-growth forestry programs which were just developing in B.C.

And another phase of equal or greater importance was working with the B.C. Forest Service in Victoria. I (or my delegate) was expected to participate in associations connected to the forest industry, such as the Council of Forest Industries, The B.C. Loggers Association, The Canadian Forestry Association, The Forest Fire Control Group, The Tree Improvement Board, and The Western Forestry & Conservation Association headquartered in Portland, Oregon. In all of these organizations I served on key committees at one time or another.

In 1965, CZ Canada decided to expand lumber and plywood operations into the B.C. Interior and found that the S.M. Simpson Co. in Kelowna was for sale. After a favourable appraisal of the mills and the available timber supply (work in which I was involved), CZ purchased the company. Simpson's Woods Manager, Alan Moss, resigned shortly after the purchase—I asked for the job and got it.

Thus a whole new phase of my career began when I reported for work in Kelowna on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1966 under my new boss, Horace Simpson. My wife and I decided not to move our home to Kelowna until the end of the school year and so I commuted to North Vancouver every couple of weeks until we moved in June.

I stayed in that job for six years and loved it. Probably its most unique feature was that I had four different bosses during that time. I was responsible for the management of two Tree Farm Licences, the log supply for the sawmill and plywood plants in Kelowna, and the log supply for sawmills in Lumby, Armstrong, Falkland, and Monte Lake.

By the early 70s, our logging—especially in the Kelowna area, but also at the other operations—was reaching into the higher elevations where the trees were smaller in diameter. As a result, most of the logs arriving at the sawmills and plywood plant were becoming too small for the existing machinery to process efficiently. A special team, including the mill managers and me, was formed to modernize the whole Interior operation so that these smaller logs could be utilized more efficiently. The end result was the closure of three small sawmills, a \$25 million dollar project to modernize the Kelowna mills, and the construction of a new lumber and plywood plant at Armstrong.

Concomitant with this development was a decision in 1972 to divide the Interior forestry operations in two with separate headquarters at Kelowna and Armstrong. Although I was told I could stay in Kelowna with reduced responsibility, I was also told that the company wanted me to take on a completely new job due to the increasing pressure of the environmental movement with respect to logging practices on the coast. After discussing the move with my wife, I agreed to take the new job, titled Director of Environmental Protection for Coast Logging Operations, with a considerable increase in salary and a move back to the coast.

To my delight, my new office was located at Fraser Mills in Coquitlam, eliminating the need to commute to the company office in downtown Vancouver. We bought a new house in Coquitlam which was only two miles from my office, to my further delight only a mile from the Vancouver Golf Club where I had been a member since 1956.

I believe my new job was the result of environmental groups putting the pressure on the coast logging industry to clean up their act. One company, B.C. Forest Products, had already produced a manual requiring their loggers to operate with more concern for the environment, in particular road building. I decided an environmental guide for our logging operations was my first task.

With the backing and participation of the president of CZ Canada, and the general logging manager for the coast, we produced a manual and a slide presentation showing how the company expected our logging operations to reduce and potentially eliminate their negative effects on the environment. I presented the slide show to all supervisory personnel in our logging operations and to some of the more vocal environmental groups who were willing to listen. Finally, I made the presentation to our Interior logging personnel, particularly in relation to road construction and log dumps. I retired in 1981 after 26 great years with CZ Canada leaving the environmental program well established and in the hands of the company's foresters.

I received a send-off like no other at a retirement party at the Vancouver Golf Club attended by many of my peers from both industry and government. Thus ended my career as a Professional Forester which I have always felt was a natural for a kid who grew up in Port Alice.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The company town of Port Alice, with exception of the mill, was razed in 1964 when the current instant municipality of Port Alice was established about four miles down the inlet. Some of the better houses were moved to logging communities.



### **EDITOR'S EXTRAS**

In order to spread the word about the *Exploring our Roots: Forest History in our Communities*Conference, the FHABC is electronically distributing this issue free of charge. We hope that those reading this newsletter for the first time will be inspired to join our ranks—membership information can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Check out this video on the history of B.C. Parks: <a href="http://ekoscommunications.com/node/723">http://ekoscommunications.com/node/723</a>. The folks at EKOS Communications have produced "a historical overview of the development of British Columbia's spectacular protected area system from its beginning in the creation of Strathcona Provincial Park in 1911 to the challenges of today." The B.C. Forest Service was an integral part of this history.

In their new book on silviculture, *A Critique of Silviculture: Managing for Complexity*, authors Klaus J. Puettmann, K. David Coates, and Christian Messier offer fresh perspectives of the practice of silviculture—situating silviculture in contemporary philosophical, social, and ecological contexts. But they also discuss the historical lineages and interrelationships of silviculture and ecology. Well-written and comprehensive, this book is highly recommended. See the publisher's online description: <a href="http://www.cef-cfr.ca/uploads/Actualit%E9/messier\_book.pdf">http://www.cef-cfr.ca/uploads/Actualit%E9/messier\_book.pdf</a>.

As a forester studying creative writing at UNBC, I simply must share some titles of a more creative vein:

- o Rhymes of a Western Logger by Robert E. Swanson; 1992; Harbour Publishing
- o Chainsaws in the Cathedral: Collected Woods Poems by Peter Trower; 1999; Ekstasis Editions

- The Arbutus/Madrone Files: Reading the Pacific Northwest by Laurie Ricou; 2002; Oregon State University Press—this UBC English professor (retired) includes two chapters on "woodwords." He quotes Peter Trower (1974): "Logging's a bit like writing poetry."
- Flicker by Rob Budde; 2005; Signature Editions—the second chapter, entitled "Crazy Wood," is prose poem describing an elderly man's relationship to (and memories of) the woods, filtered through the eyes and experiences of a young man who arrives one summer/fall to help him gather firewood. According to Rob, who teaches creative writing at UNBC, "wood" meant crazy in Old English.

A book suggestion from John Parminter: *Timber Sale: A British Columbia Literary History about Alexander Duncan McRae, Maillardville, The Comox Valley and the Canadian Western Lumber Company 1907 - 1916* by Rosemary I. Patterson; 2008; BookSurge Publishing. A fictional account of the Canadian Western Lumber Company (see author's website: <a href="http://www.canadianauthor.org/">http://www.canadianauthor.org/</a>.)

Call for submissions (and ideas) for the UNBC online magazine *Reflections on Water*. The next issue will address Forestry as Culture. History is a large part of that culture. I am looking for commentary, poetry, prose (fiction, nonfiction), artwork, music, etc. Contact Barb at <a href="mailto:bjcoupe@telus.net">bjcoupe@telus.net</a>.

Check out singer/songwriter Murray Boal and his album entitled "Bud's Sawmill"—the title song is a nod to the era of small sawmills that dotted the Cariboo landscape. On Murray's website, <a href="http://www.murrayboal.com/albums.aspx">http://www.murrayboal.com/albums.aspx</a>, you can listen to a partial version of the song. And on his Myspace site there is a song called the "Horselogger's Waltz" (<a href="http://www.myspace.com/murrayboal">http://www.myspace.com/murrayboal</a>).

NOTICE: The 2009 Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron annual rendezvous will be held on August 1, 2 and 3 at the Silva Bay Marina on Gabriola Island. <a href="http://www.silvabay.com/site/content:home/lang/can/">http://www.silvabay.com/site/content:home/lang/can/</a>. The boats will be open to the public on Sunday afternoon, August 2 from 13:00 to 15:00, but current and former B.C. Forest Service employees with a connection to our former coastal boats can visit most anytime. Additional information can be obtained from Robin Lakenes, the squadron historian, at <a href="mailto:rlakenes@embarqmail.com">rlakenes@embarqmail.com</a>. Photos of many boats and of some previous rendezvous are on this webpage <a href="mailto:http://www.members.shaw.ca/marineimages/">http://www.members.shaw.ca/marineimages/</a>.

APPRECIATION: Much gratitude to those who helped with the production of this newsletter (Stan Chester, Mike Apsey, and John Parminter). Special thanks to our story contributors: Bjorn Norheim and Bill McGhee for donating their tales—from bear encounters to a career well-lived. The FHABC appreciates your generosity, gentlemen.



This newsletter is the official publication of the Forest History Association of British Columbia. Please submit newsletter material and send changes of address to the Editor: Barbara Coupé, # 312 – 3033 Ospika Blvd S, Prince George B.C. V2N 4L5; Phone: (250) 562-1051; E-mail: <a href="mailto:bjcoupe@telus.net">bjcoupe@telus.net</a>.

Membership is \$10 yearly, or \$45 for five years. Please send dues to the Treasurer: Art Walker, 564 Oliver Street, Victoria B.C. V8S 4W3; Phone: (250) 598-4455; E-mail: jaws564@telus.net.

The President, Stan Chester, can be reached at 5686 Keith Road, West Vancouver B.C. V7W 2N5; Phone (604) 921-9880; E-mail: stanchester@shaw.ca.

Website: <a href="http://fhabc.org/">http://fhabc.org/</a>

Back issues (courtesy of the MoFR library):

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/Library/lib\_Forest\_History\_Newsletter.htm



Annual Conference of the Forest History Association of B.C.



September 17-19, 2009, Prince George, B.C.

### Conference Overview

### Thursday, September 17, 2009

### Tour of the Upper Fraser Valley & the Aleza Lake Research Forest (ALRF)

Spend the day discovering the *One Hundred Year History of the Upper Fraser* on a highly informative tour led by Mike Jull, M.F., R.P.F., Manager of the ALRF; and Dr. Greg Halseth, Professor of Geography at the University of Northern British Columbia. This tour will take participants along the famous "East Line" between Willow River and Hansard. This area embodies the interconnected evolution of forestry, research, transportation systems, communities and land uses in the Prince George region. Participants will interact with special guests who will share their stories and experiences in the area. Partial funding for this event was made possible through the generous support of Integris Credit Union.

Space is limited so register early for this popular event!!

Aleza Lake Research Forest

Transportation, Tour & Lunch: \$10 Date: Thursday, September 17, 2009

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:00pm

Location: First Pickup 8:30am: CN Centre parking lot by the CN Centre sign;

Last Pickup 8:45am: Veterans Cenotaph at Prince George City Hall

[see attached maps]

### Friday, September 18, 2009

### 1) AGM, Lunch & Guided Tour of the Prince George Railway and Forestry

**Museum** Friday begins with the AGM of the Forest History Association of B.C. followed by a catered lunch and a highly informative tour of the Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum. A visit to the Museum will include an introduction to more than 60 artifact items of rolling stock, 9 historical buildings and smaller artifacts. **Please note the AGM is a FREE event** – cost is for lunch & tour *only*.

Buffet Lunch & Tour: \$15 Date: Friday, September 18, 2009

**Time:** 9:30am – 12:30pm

Location: Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum

[850 River Rd.—see attached map]



### II) Conference Workshop: "How to Conduct an Oral History Interview"

This dynamic and highly informative workshop will be lead by Dr. Theresa Healy, Regional Manager for Healthy Community Development with Northern Health. She also holds an adjunct appointment at UNBC's School of Environmental Planning and with the Gender Studies Program. She is also a founding member of the Prince George Oral History Group. Funding for this event was made possible through the generous support of Prince George Oral History Group.

Space is limited so register early for this popular event!!

Workshop: FREE

Date: Friday, September 18, 2009

**Time:** 1:30 – 4:30pm

Location: Geoffrey R. Weller Library, University of Northern British Columbia

[3333 University Way–see attached map]







September 17-19, 2009, Prince George, B.C.

### Friday, September 18, 2009 cont'd

### III) Conference Banquet

Join fellow delegates in attending the 2009 FHABC Conference Banquet. This evening's events include a delicious banquet followed by a Keynote Presentation (TBD) and an exclusive showing of "The Eagle Lake Sawmill" (Wally West Productions, 1963). This silent film depicts the entire process of sawmill operations at Eagle Lake from harvesting trees to finished lumber products. A narrator will be on hand to provide context to this highly informative film.

Buffet Dinner (cash bar): \$44 Date: Friday, September 18, 2009

**Time:** 6:30 – 9:30pm

Location: Bentley Centre (Rm 7-172), University of Northern British Columbia

[3333 University Way–see attached map]

### Saturday September 19, 2009

Forest History Association of B.C. Main Conference Sessions at the University

of Northern British Columbia The Exploring our Roots: Forest History in our Communities Conference sessions intend to explore the dynamic relationship between our forests and its people through presentations, exhibitions and open discussion. Sessions will begin with a keynote address by former Deputy Minister of Forests, Mike Apsey. Invited speakers will present a number of diverse topics, each imbued within the history of our forests and its communities. Delegates will also be introduced to many of the various heritage organizations established within the Central and Northern Interior through a concurrent "Heritage Fair". Space is limited so register early!!

Conference Sessions, Coffee & Buffet Lunch: \$50.00-\$80

(see registration form for breakdown of conference fees)

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2009

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Lecture Theatre 7-158, University of Northern British Columbia

[3333 University Way–see attached map]

### THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS:





PRINCE GEORGE ORAL HISTORY GROUP

UNBC



Northern BC Archives & Special Collections, UNBC Nortnern BC Archives & S Geoffrey R. Weller Library



**NICHE** 

Nouvelle initiative canadienne en histoire de l'environnement **Network in Canadian History and Environment** 





Annual Conference of the Forest History Association of B.C.



September 17-19, 2009, Prince George, B.C.

### Saturday Sessions at a Glance

### 8:00 - 9:00 am

### Delegate registration

Location: UNBC, Bentley Centre

### 9:00 - 9:30 am

### Traditional Welcome to Lheidli T'enneh Territory; Keynote Address by Dr. Mike Apsey

Location: UNBC, Lecture Theatre 7-158

### 9:30-9:45 am

### Refreshments Break

Location: UNBC, Bentley Centre

Sponsored by the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE) - Forest History Group

### 9:45 - 11:00 am

### 1) Looking to the Past to Inform the Future? Forest History within a Contemporary Context

Location: UNBC, Lecture Theatre 7-158

### Panel Discussion

Four distinguished panelists, each experts within their own fields, will speak to this question of the significance of forest history and how a knowledge of this historical precedent can lead to a comprehensive understanding of the state of forestry today.

### Moderator: Dr. Mike Apsey

### **Speakers:**

- **Dr. Greg Halseth,** *UNBC, Geography Program*
- **Dr. Darwyn Coxson,** UNBC, Ecosystem Science and Management Program
- Mr. Horst Sander, retired President & CEO, Northwood Pulp & Timber, Ltd.
- TBD

### 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

### 2) "Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management": the Tl'azt'en Nation - UNBC Community University Research Alliance Project (CURA)

Location: UNBC, Lecture Theatre 7-158

### Traditional Session

Researchers with the Tl'azt'en Nation - UNBC CURA project speak from their unique and valuable perspectives on how their project's four fundamental research streams (Improved Partnership, Ecotourism, First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and Science and Environmental Education) provide a means of partnering a community's traditional relationships with its forests, with current academic discourse and professional practice towards a future objective of culturally and ecologically sustainable natural resource management.

### Moderator: TBD

### **Speakers:**

- **Dr. Pamela Wright**, UNBC, Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management Program / Principal Investigator for "Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management"
- TBD
- TBD



### Annual Conference of the Forest History Association of B.C.



September 17-19, 2009, Prince George, B.C.

### 12:00 - 1:20 pm

### Buffet Lunch & Heritage Booth Tour

Location: UNBC, Bentley Centre

### 1:20 - 2:00 pm

### Forestry History in Our Communities: Robson Valley & Prince George

Location: UNBC, Lecture Theatre 7-158

### Traditional Session

Author, Marilyn Wheeler discusses how forestry has shaped the social, economic and cultural landscape of British Columbia's Robson Valley region; while author Valerie Giles speaks to this impact on the Prince George region.

### **Moderator**: **Melanie Karjala**, *Aleza Lake Research Forest Society* **Speakers**:

- Marilyn Wheeler, McBride historian, researcher and author: "The Robson Valley Story: A Century of Dreams" (2008)
- **Dr. Valerie Giles,** Prince George historian, researcher and author: "Celebrating Prince George: Past, Present and Future" (2000) & primary researcher for "I Remember...Forestry in the Fifties" exhibit at the Central B.C. Railway & Forest Industry Museum (2008-09)

### 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### **Exploring Our Roots: Forest History Research Methodology**

Location: UNBC, Lecture Theatre 7-158

### Traditional Session

This is a traditional panel composed of three speakers who will each discuss their research projects, past and present, and how the incorporation of forest history research methodologies influenced their findings.

### Moderator: Dr. Ted Binnema, UNBC History Program

### **Speakers:**

- Dr. Tracey Summerville, UNBC, Political Science Program / UNBC, Upper Fraser Historical Geography Project
- Mike Jull, M.F., R.P.F., Manager, Aleza Lake Research Forest Society
- Barb Coupé, R.P.F. and M.A. Student at UNBC

### 3:00 - 3:10 pm

### Refreshments Break

Location: UNBC, Bentley Centre

Sponsored, in part, by the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE) - Forest History Group

### 3:10 - 4:00 pm

### From Exploration to Development: Bringing Forest History Forward

Location: UNBC, Lecture Theatre 7-158

### Panel Session

The speakers in this session will shed light on the opportunities available for professional, amateur, and even armchair forest historians to become connected and stay connected with other forest history enthusiasts.

### **Moderator: Dr. Ted Binnema**, *UNBC History Program* **Speakers:**

- Stan Chester, President, Forest History Association of British Columbia
- Emily Jane Davis, Coordinator, Forest History Group, Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE)
- Dr. Anne Marie Goodfellow, Network Manager, the History Education Network (THEN/HiER)





Annual Conference of the Forest History Association of B.C.

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### Local Accommodations Listing

### ATTENTION DELEGATES!

Please note: there is no official conference hotel, therefore the following listing has been provided to assist you in determining your individual accommodation requirements during this conference.

ESTHER'S INN Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation (3½ \* Hotel)

"Team" Rate: \$74/night, Queen, double occupancy

1151 Commercial Crescent Phone: 250-562-4131; Toll Free: 1-800-663-6844; www.esthersinn.com Two tropical indoor garden courtyards, hot tubs, steam sauna, indoor pool, seasonal waterslides. No pets allowed. Some RV parking available.

**ANCO MOTEL** Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation

Standard Rate: \$79 – Queen, double occupancy (limited availability for Sept.)

1630 E Central St., Phone: 250-563-3671; www.ancomotel.ca

Convenient location featuring 62 rooms; kitchenettes, air-conditioned; complimentary in-room coffee; free local calls & free in-room wireless internet access; restaurant; seniors & corporate discount; weekly rates. Pets welcome: \$10/night

**GRAMA'S INN** Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation (2½ \* Motel)

Standard Rate: \$84/night – Queen, double occupancy

901 West Central Street (Hwy 97 Bypass) Phone: 250-563-7174; Toll Free: 1-877-563-7174 www.gramasinn.com

Conveniently located to attractions; suites & kitchen units; home-cooked meals, guests are welcome to enjoy the amenities of our sister hotel Esther's Inn: indoor pool, Jacuzzis, sauna, seasonal waterslide. Pets welcome: \$8/night. Some RV parking available.

**RAMADA HOTEL** Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation (3½ \* Hotel)

"Government" Rate: \$94/night – Queen, double occupancy

444 George Street Phone: 250-563-0055; Toll Free: 1-800-830-8833; www.ramadaprincegeorge.com

The Ramada Hotel is a full service hotel located in the heart of downtown Prince George. Hotel amenities include a full service restaurant, room service, sports pub, pool, sauna, hot tub, business centre, covered parking and complimentary wireless Internet access. No pets allowed.

BEST WESTERN CITY CENTRE Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation

Standard Rate: \$110/night – Queen, double occupancy

910 Victoria St., Phone: 250-563-1267; www.bestwesternbc.com

Located downtown, air-conditioned, suites, cable tv, indoor pool, sauna, fitness room, laundry, restaurant on site, next to Civic Center and leisure facilities, non-smoking available. Pets welcome: \$25/night. Some RV parking available.

SANDMAN INN & SUITES Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation (3½\* Hotel)

Standard Rate: \$124/night - Queen, double occupancy

1650 Central Street (off Hwy 97) Phone: 250-563-8131; Toll Free: 1-800-SANDMAN www.sandmanhotels.com Convenient location, complementary in room coffee/tea indoor pool, sauna, 24 hour restaurant, room service, smoking available, small pets ok, extra charge applies.





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FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation (4\* Hotel)

Standard Rate: \$140/night – Queen, double occupancy

1790 Hwy 97 S Phone: 250-564-7100; Toll Free: 1-888-564-7105; www.fourpointsprincegeorge.com 74 Luxurious rooms; jetted tub suites; fitness centre; hot tub; restaurant & lounge; non smoking facility; No pets allowed.

TREASURE COVE HOTEL & CASINO Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation (3½ \* Hotel) Standard Rate: \$159/night - Oueen, double occupancy

2005 Hwy 97 South Phone: 250-614-9111; Toll Free: 1-877-614-9111; www.treasurecovehotel.net Conveniently located at the crossing of Hwy 97 & 16; complimentary European continental breakfast buffet; high-speed internet; waterslide; pool; fitness centre; Jacuzzi; restaurants; casino; show lounge.

**COAST INN OF THE NORTH** Tourism BC 2008 Approved Accommodation (4\* Hotel)

Standard Rate: \$180 - Queen, double occupancy

770 Brunswick St. Phone: 250-563-0121; Toll Free: 1-800-663-1144; www.coastinnofthenorth.com
The Coast Inn of the North is a well appointed full service facility located in the heart of Prince George;
three restaurants, pool, sauna, gym, lounge, corporate rates, non-smoking hotel. Pets welcome: \$25/night.

### **RV Parks**

### BEE LAZEE RV PARK & CAMPGROUND

Full Hook-up: \$20-\$25 based on 2 people; extra person over 6yrs old - \$2

15910 Highway 97 South, Prince George, BC

Tel/Fax: 250-963-7263; Toll Free: 866-963-7263; Email: info@beelazee.ca; http://www.beelazee.ca/

### SOUTHPARK RV PARK

Full Hook-up: \$32 based on 2 people

9180 Cariboo Highway (Highway 97 South)

Tel: 250-963-7577; Reservations: 877-963-7275; Email: info@southparkrv.com; http://www.southparkrv.com/

### SINTICH RV AND TRAILER PARK

Full Hook-up: \$32 based on 2 people

817 Highway 97 South

Phone/Fax 1-250-963-9862; info@sintichpark.bc.ca; http://www.sintichpark.bc.ca/



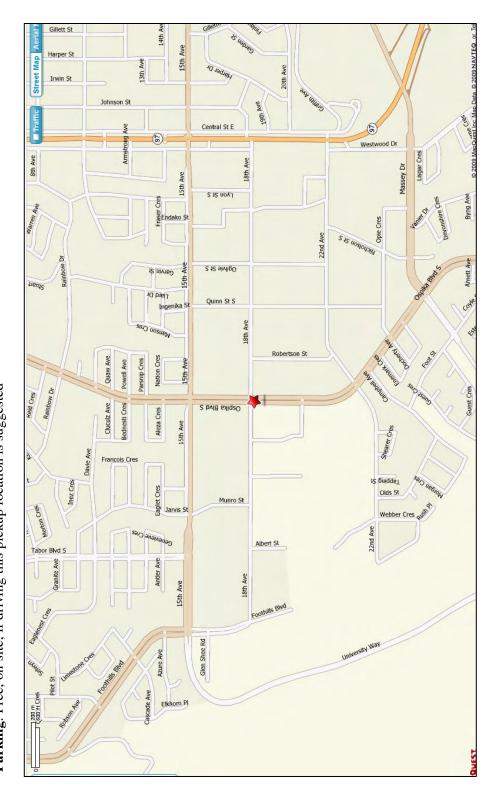
September 17-19, 2009, Prince George, B.C.

## Maps for Events & Activities

## Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Guided Tour of the Upper Fraser Valley & the Aleza Lake Research Forest: First Pickup Location

First Pickup Location: CN Centre parking lot, next to the large digital CN Centre sign, 2187 Ospika Blvd. S. (see marked star below) Time: Be at your pick-up location NO LATER than 8:30am (the bus leaves at 8:40am sharp) Parking: Free, on-site; if driving this pickup location is suggested







September 17-19, 2009, Prince George, B.C.

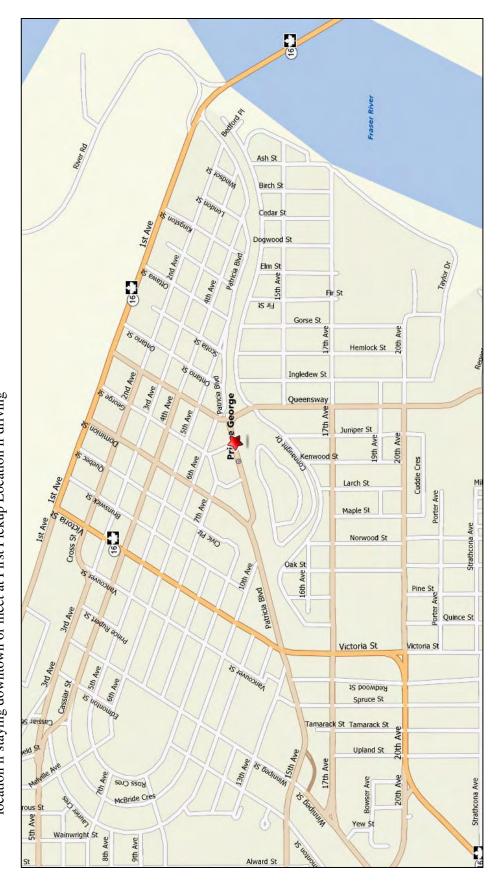
### Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

# Guided Tour of the Upper Fraser Valley & the Alexa Lake Research Forest: Last Pickup Location

Last Pickup Location: Veterans Cenotaph, City Hall, 1100 Patricia Blvd. (see marked star below)

Time: Be at your pick-up location NO LATER than 8:45am (the bus leaves at 9am sharp)

Parking: Street parking downtown is free for up to 2hrs after which you must move your car or get a \$30 ticket, it is suggested to walk to this location if staying downtown or meet at First Pickup Location if driving







September 17-19, 2009, Prince George, B.C.



## AGM, Lunch & Guided Tour of the Prince George Railway & Forestry Museum

Location: 850 River Rd. (see marked star below)

**Time**: 9am – 12:30pm; [AGM begins at 9am]

Parking: Free, on-site







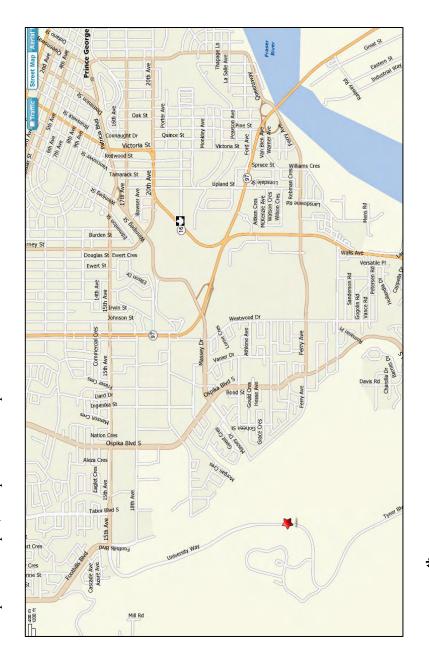
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### Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Forest History Association of B.C. Conference Workshop & Conference Banquet

Location: Workshop in Geoffrey R. Weller Library; Banquet in Bentley Centre, UNBC, 3333 University Way (see marked star below) **Time:** Workshop 1:30-4:30pm; Banquet 6:30-9:30 pm



Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 "Exploring Our Roots: Forest History in Our Communities" - Main Conference Sessions of the F.H.A.B.C.

Location: Lecture Theatre 7-158, University of Northern British Columbia, 3333 University Way (see marked star above) **Time:** 8:00am-4:00pm

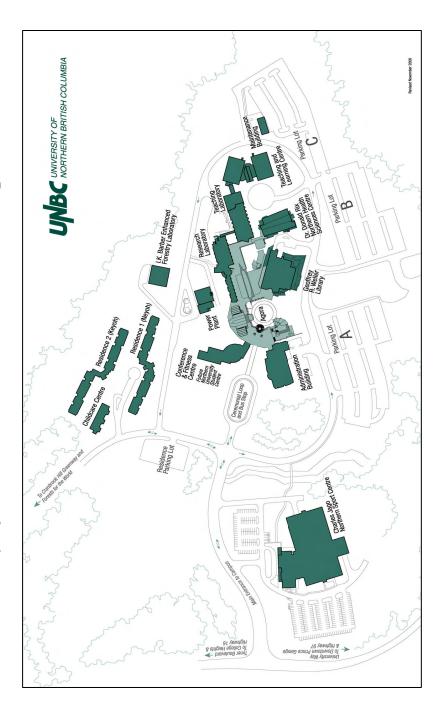


Conference of the Forest History Association of





## University of Northern British Columbia Campus Overview



**Parking:** Pay Parking is in effect. A valid ticket stub from any of the ticket dispensers must be CLEARLY & FULLY VISIBLE on the driver's side of the dash. Parking ticket dispensers accept coins only. Tickets (\$30) will be issued for expired or missing ticket stubs.

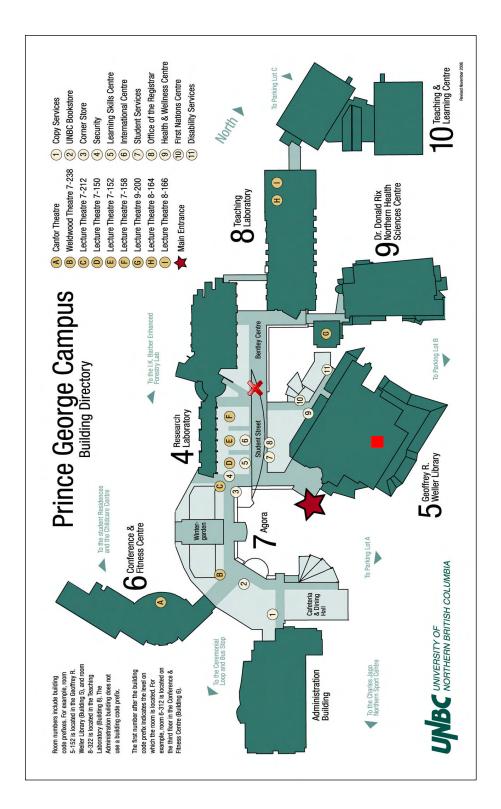
Minimum amount = \$0.25 - for 1 hour

\$1.00 = 4 hours

\$2.00 = 8 hours



September 17-19, 2009, Prince George, B.C.



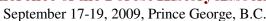
### Location of FHABC Pre-Conference Workshop (Friday, Sept. 18th)

× Location of FHABC Banquet & Conference

(Friday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> & Sat. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>)



Annual Conference of the Forest History Association of B.C.





### Welcome to Prince George!



For thousands of years, First Nations have lived in the area around the meeting point of the Nechako River and BC's greatest river, the Fraser - a natural staging point for river trade and transportation by the Lheidli T'enneh people. Two miners from the Bahamas searching for gold were the first non-aboriginals in the area and were led through the Giscome Portage by their Lheidli T'enneh guide where they quickly recognized the importance of the Giscome transportation corridor. Today Prince George is home to a multicultural mosaic that represents a broad mix of peoples from across the globe.

### Where is Prince George?

Prince George is located 786 km (472 miles) north-east of Vancouver, BC and 789 km (474 miles) north-west of Calgary, Alberta and 2,800 km (1,680) miles south-east of Anchorage, Alaska - almost at the geographic centre of the province.

### **Our History**

The origins of the name "Prince George" can be traced to the North West Company's fur trading post of Fort George, founded by Simon Fraser in 1807. That post was named for King George III. When the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway required a name for its new townsite near Fort George, it wished to keep continuity with the fur post name but also to distinguish it from nearby rival townsites, South Fort George and Central Fort George. It decided upon Prince George to honour the Duke of Kent. The popularity of the name was confirmed by plebiscite during the first municipal elections in 1915.





### **How Many People Live Here?**

The population of the City of Prince George is approximately 79,000.

### **Our Weather**

Spring and fall can be unpredictable with an early or lingering winter.

- Average July temperatures vary between 8°C and 22°C.
- Average January temperatures vary between -7°C and -16.5°C.

### Prince George is a city of action!

Whether you're getting together with friends for an intimate evening of theatre or letting it all hang out on the side of a mountain, you'll never be at a loss for something to do. Walk, run, bike, hike, ski, snowboard, snowshoe, skate, swim, rollerblade or simply hang a fishing rod off the back of your boat. You're always on the move in a city that has literally thousands and thousands of acres of wilderness as its own private backyard.

And Prince George isn't just the hub of wilderness adventure in northern British Columbia. It is the cultural centre of the northern half of the province as well. So even when your body is sitting still, there are plenty of things to keep the mind active. Theatre, dance, art, music, history and education as well as good food and plenty of leisure activities are all integral to city's urban flavour.







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### **Arts and Culture**

### Prince George's museums and galleries celebrate our pioneer past and cultural present.

Virtually everything within a two hour radius of Prince George is drenched in a unique blend of aboriginal, pioneer and industrial history.

The centrepiece of the local art scene is the *Two Rivers Art Gallery*, that regularly pairs exhibitions of nationally and internationally recognized artists with the work of local and regional painters and sculptors. An on-site gift shop also carries a diverse array of local art that you can carry away with you.

Or take a trip down to the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers to the *Railway & Forestry Museum*, where the flavour of wood chips and coal-fired steel greets you as you step through the living pages of the industrial history of the area.





An 8,000 square foot addition, extensive archives, rotating exhibits and plenty of hands-on activities makes *The Exploration Place* the place to be if you want to experience the past and dream about potential futures.

A still-operational First Nations burial ground sits in the middle of the city's largest park. North of town is the *Huble Homestead*, a fully-restored turn-of-the-century trading post on the banks of the Fraser River.

Further afield, you can discover *Fort St. James National Historic Park*. And two hours southeast is the gold rush town of *Barkerville*, perhaps the most famous historical site in the Central Interior of British Columbia.

### Prince George – Yours to Explore!!











For more information on Prince George and its many attractions visit

Tourism Prince George at <a href="http://www.tourismpg.com/">http://www.tourismpg.com/</a>



### **Annual Conference Registration Form**

Exploring Our Roots: Forest History in Our Communities
September 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Prince George, BC

### **Section One: Registrant Information**

Name:		Institution:		
Mailing Address:				
City:	Country:		Postal Code:	
Phone:	Fax:		Email:	

### **Section Two:** Main Conference Sessions Registration Fees

(includes lunch & coffee - Saturday Sept. 19, 2009)

Registration Type	Fee	Check Applicable
Student Rate	\$50.00	
Early Bird Rate (for registration on or before Aug. 21, 2009)	\$75.00	
<b>Regular Rate</b> (Aug. 22 – Sept. 19, 2009)	\$80.00	

### **Section Three: Register for Tours and Additional Activities**

(Please identify the number of tickets needed for each activity)

#	Tours & Additional Activities	Cost / Ticket	Sub-Total
	Upper Fraser Valley & Aleza Lake Research Forest -		
	<b>Tour &amp; Lunch</b> (Thursday, Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 – space is limited)		
	AGM, Lunch & Tour of the Prince George Railway and	\$15	
	Forestry Museum. <i>Please note</i> the cost is for lunch and tour		
	only; AGM attendance is <b>FREE</b> ( <i>Friday</i> , <i>Sept.</i> 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2009)		
	<b>Conference Workshop</b> : "How to Conduct an Oral History	FREE	<b>\$0</b>
	Interview" presented by Dr. Theresa Healy at UNBC		
	(Friday, Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 – space is limited)		
	<b>Conference Banquet</b> at the University of Northern British	\$44	
	Columbia (Friday, Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2009)		

### **Section Four: Payment & Options**

Registration & Ticket Fees		
conference registration fee payable	\$	
tours & activities fees payable	\$	
sub-total before tax	\$	
5% GST	\$	
total amount paid	\$	

GST applies on all goods & services delivered in British Columbia.

Mail completed registration form to the address below along with your Cheque or Money Order payable to the *Aleza Lake Research Forest Society:* 

Forest History Association of B.C. - 2009 Conference c/o Aleza Lake Research Forest Society 3333 University Way Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9