

What does this code mean?

By David Brownstein, FHABC Webmaster

The Museum of Vancouver recently received donation of the pictured 5" x 13" Douglas fir beam-end. The block was cut off the end of a 20' beam, one of 64 timbers salvaged from an historic building near the Toronto waterfront that was demolished in 2018. While the end with the code went to the MOV, the rest of the beam and associated timber was repurposed as part of a grand staircase at the first U.S. Roots store (Boston, MA), and for the large table bases at the Roots Cabin store in Toronto.

The CWP logo represents the Canadian White Pine Division Sawmill, owned and operated by the H.R. Macmillan Export Co. (predecessor to MacMillan Bloedel, Limited). It was one of the oldest mills on the West Coast, and the last operating sawmill in the city of Vancouver, closing in 1999/2000. [UBC archive fond for CWP](#)

Do the numbers in the photo represent a lumber grade classification from the "Export R List"? Can you unlock the secret meaning? Any information would be helpful! Please contact us at info@fhabc.org.



Kamloops AGM Details

September 27th - 29th, 2019

Accommodation: [Best Western Plus](#)
660 Columbia St W, Kamloops, BC
(250) 374-7878
Group Name: Forest History Association of BC

Friday September 27th
2:00-4:30pm Tour Kamloops Fire Centre,
4000 Airport Rd
7 pm Dinner, Brownstone Restaurant, 118 Victoria St
Speaker: TBA



Saturday September 28th
10 AM: AGM @ Thompson Rivers University
[Executive Centre, 805 TRU Way](#)

- PM: **Field Tour** Leader/speaker: Trevor Jeanes, who has 65 years experience in the area, including the Kamloops BCFS fire sector, industry activities, multiple responsibilities and resulting insights.

Sunday September 29th
- Group activity if wanted.



Upcoming Events

2019

Sep 22-28: [BC National Forest Week](#)
(many local events)

Sept 27-29 [FHABC Annual General Meeting](#)

to be held in **Kamloops**.

...details at the bottom of the page

Sep 30-Oct 2 [BC Museums Association Convention](#): Prince George.

Oct 6-9: [Canadian Institute of Forestry](#); National Conference and AGM; Pembroke, Ontario.

Ongoing: THE FOREST An exhibition at the [North Vancouver Museum & Archives Community History Centre](#). Photographs, maps, video and museum objects that explore our relationship with the North Shore forests.

2020

Jan 16-18 [Annual TLA Convention & Trade show](#) Vancouver BC

Next Issue: Dec 2019

- About H.R. Robertson – inventor of the log raft. By E Andersen
- Experiences of a young forestry student in the Okanogan in the 1950s. By M. Meagher
- An International Forester story, edited by David Morgan, and
- Your Story? Contact us at newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

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Sept 2019

look for #104 Dec 2019
Ideas deadline Oct 1

AGM Sep 27-29
at Kamloops
Details Page 8



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From the President

By Richard Dominy

Come to the woods, for here is rest.

(John Muir)

Welcome to the Fall issue of the newsletter. There was so much great material to put together! Congratulations to the newsletter team listed on page 3. Some of the highlights:

- Lots to look forward to in the future, there are many articles starting in this edition but will be continued in future editions.

There are links in the newsletter to articles too long for the newsletter, so these items are located on the website (International Foresters of BC, Eric Robinson family history);

Part 2 of Settlement and Logging at Quatsino, BC;

Book reviews – Burke and Widgeon, A History, From Flunky to Faller (thanks to David Morgan and Dave Florence);

Membership – there is a new membership form posted on the website; you will be notified via email regarding your membership if you have had an oversight and it is expired or close to expiry;

Membership payments can now be accepted electronically; this is explained on the web via e-transfer;

The AGM is scheduled – set the dates aside in your calendars: September 27 – 29 in Kamloops, details on page 8 along with the Upcoming events calendar.

Hope to see you at the AGM!

Upcoming Newsletter articles

By Dave Florence, newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

Hiding in plain sight in our newsletter files have been two sets of articles that we're looking forward to publishing in this and upcoming issues.

One is a set of **four articles by Gerry Burch**, a founding member of FHABC and well known retiree with a distinguished career as a BC forester.

"*An Ode To Bill--An Unsung Hero of BC Forestry!*" is a tribute to Bill Moore, his friend and contemporary.

"*Forest Management and Silvicultural Planning*" provides some of Gerry's views on forest management from the 1950s through to this century.

"*BCFP Resource Planning Group and why it formed*" offers fascinating insights of logging decisions in the pre-Clayoquot Sound era.

"*A Dugout Canoe at Sitka, Alaska*" shares an interesting story about how a BC log became an Alaskan Tlinget canoe in 1967.

The latter story is on page 6 of this issue, and the other three are planned for the next three newsletter issues.

A second set of articles, entitled "**The International Foresters of BC**" was provided to FHABC by the late George Nagle with assistance from many colleagues. (*Sadly, George passed*

away in 2014.) This series features one introductory document, too long for this newsletter, that can be read or downloaded from [our website](#)

We have seven (so far) follow-on "international" articles written by other BC foresters with out-of-country experience. I plan to publish these in seven future newsletters beginning with #104 in December.

You can find an extract of the 16-page overview document and more information about the BC International Foresters series on page 2.

Another long document we received (35 pages) is a **family history of Eric Robinson**, written autobiographically and completed in 2012 prior to his passing in 2015. It was edited this year by Bruce Devitt, RPF Ret., and Jeannie Haug. We have posted it on our website, it can be [read online](#). An extract appears on page 7.

We have received several other articles that will appear in future newsletters, but more are always welcome so that we can meet our goal of at least three newsletters per year.



The International Foresters of BC

By the late George Nagel, co-authored by Don Laishley, Martin Vennesland, Bob McFarlane and other international BC Foresters whose stories about their work abroad will appear in future newsletters.

Extract (from pages 4-6 of the 17 page document.)
Read or download the full document [from our website](#)

The Workplace

The bulk of this history unfolded in the less developed tropical forests - in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania. Significant developments were also undertaken with help from BC foresters in temperate forests of the southern hemisphere (e.g. Argentina, Chile), at high altitudes in the tropics, in NE China, the Himalayas and in the Middle East.

The following image is derived from the work experience of members of Canadian International Forestry Advisors Roster (CIFAR) developed for CIDA by Nawitka Renewable Resource Consultants Ltd (Victoria) and Darveau Grenier Lussier (Quebec City) in the 1990s. It helps to visualize the geographic experience of BC foresters and engineers since WWII.



The tropical rainforest is the principal storehouse of biodiversity on land. There can be as many species in a few hectares as in all the forests of Canada. But total forest diversity of the tropics is even broader - there are many dry deciduous forests, desert savannas, palm forests, mangroves, and a rapidly growing area of plantations (mostly exotic).

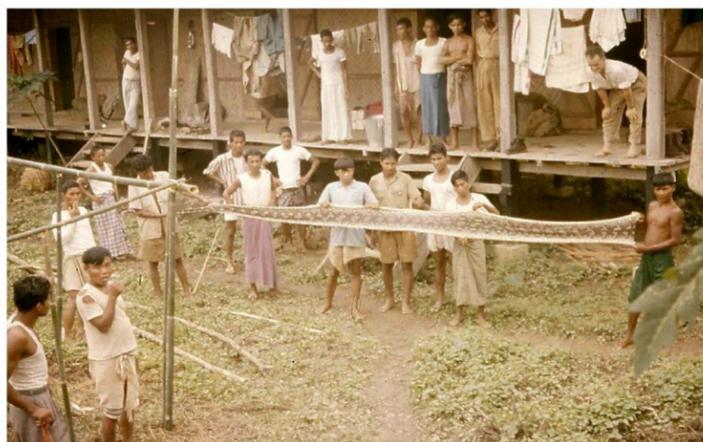
In the tropical forester's realm, all is not a bed of wild orchids and flowering trees, although these are spectacular. Many thorny plants bear 1-2 inch stiff spikes, which more than rival the devil's club. Many plants are more irritating or toxic than poison ivy.

Cool clean BC streams can be very appealing when one learns one could go blind from a parasite in the African stream one just waded through. In places there may be a 20 foot crocodile or 3 ton hippo in that appealing swimming hole.

Even the annoyance of blackflies in June pales in

comparison with malaria, black fever, denga fever, sleeping sickness and other effects of some tropical insect bites.

Several snakes are more poisonous than the rattler, and more aggressive. There are those 200-500 pound constrictors. The good news is that they make a gourmet meal for a large crew, with substantial amounts of curry.



Grizzlies are in a class all their own among omnivores, but tigers, lions and leopards are bigger than cougars, and more willing to hunt a man. Even a grizzly would probably yield the trail to a rhino or an elephant. The field "work safe" environment of the tropics presented many challenges, and claimed many victims.

Even so, the forest environments held far fewer risks to project success than the political and institutional environments. BC forest sector people have been on site for practically every political upheaval in the world since WWII. Examples include the foundation and separation of India and Pakistan, the stormy birth of Bangladesh, military takeovers in Indonesia and the Philippines, the fall of the Shah of Iran, the Biafran war, the creation and destruction of corrupt "rulers for life" all over Africa, plus revolutions and counter-revolutions across Central and South America.

As Gerry Burch often said - "trees don't have problems, people have problems." The BC people in international forestry confront very special people problems.

Read or download the full document [from our website](#)

WebLinks: if you are reading the online versions of our newsletters in your browser, don't forget that you can click the underlined text to go to relevant info on the web.



Eric Robinson memoir

We received a 35 page **family history of Eric Robinson**, written auto-biographically and completed in 2012 prior to his passing in 2015. It was edited this year by Bruce Devitt, RPF Ret., and Jeannie Haug. We have posted it on our website; [read it here](#).

An Extract, pages 17, 18:

One summer, I believe it was 1942; I spent with Bloedel, Stewart and Welch (later M and B) at Franklin River, Camp B, on the Alberni Canal.



Courtesy UBC Rare Books and Special Collections, MacMillan Bloedel Ltd fonds, RBSC-ARC-1343-BC-1930-19-56

I was quite small and wore glasses so they started me off on the railway gang which was mostly a Chinese crew. However I begged and pestered to get on a skidder as chokerman.

Book Review: From Flunky to Faller

Stories of a West Coast Logger, by Robert Alan Williams, Book 1 Self-Published, 2018

for purchase, contact robert.alan.williams.author@gmail.com
ISBN: 978-1-7752977-0-3

- Second Printing: available in Victoria BC. for \$20 if picked up from the author.
- Includes many stories, a few songs and poems, no photos
- 448 pages; contains an extensive 104 page glossary
- Well written, well edited, well printed,
- Attractively priced paperback

Reviewed by Dave Florence, Editor

I bought two recent books by Robert Williams, and thoroughly enjoyed reading Book 1. I look

Finally one morning the push said "Come on dude, get your lunch pail and some cork boots and the train's leaving in 15 minutes and we're going to try you out with Joe Dibble's crew on skidder no. 4". So I was a Skidder Chokerman at a raise in pay and I flew around with boot laces flying and made the train in good time.

In the short time I was there I saw men killed, men thrown in the air by the haul back, and a whistle punk get both his legs broken by a snag caught in the turn. I worked cold deck piles with 23 foot chokers, and logs so big that dynamite was used to make an opening under the logs before we could choker them. This was quite enough for me - too many people getting hurt and killed - so it was time to move along but not before Joe begged me to stay. Skidder 4 was one of the most productive and we had a good crew. Competition was keen.

In 1943 Guy Cawley and I worked together in and around Alberni for Bloedel, Stewart and Welch Ltd. on regeneration studies. We gathered information for HR's submission to the 1943-45 Royal Commission on Forestry. HR MacMillan's forester at the time was John Gilmor and we

forward to reading Book 2 "*From Graves of Loggers Past*", 2019, and reviewing it in a future issue.

Robert is a retired west coast logger who set out to write a book about loggers from an insider's perspective. Book 1 follows a fictional character's life from living in a float camp with an A-Frame logging family up through working most of the jobs on old-growth cable-logging shows such as whistle punk, chokerman, hook tender, and finally faller.

The lead character tells his stories in first person, and he is so convincing, it felt more like reading an auto-biography than fiction. I have read many books about loggers, but none have taught me as much as this book about the lifestyle, terminology, hopes, fears, motivations, strengths, and

were hired and worked under his direction. He was quite a boozier and as Guy and I didn't drink we used to give him our liquor coupons. Because of the war most things were rationed and required coupons. John Gilmor was a famous figure in forestry circles but in all the time we knew him his time was spent in the office and on the phone to us.

Guy and I spent a good part of the summer at APL camp one (Alberni Pacific). They had a super good cook and the meals were out of this world and the loggers had real appetites. Rather than a small bowl of mush or a piece of pie they would eat the whole bowl or whole pie. While working out of this camp we teamed up with a BC Forest Service crew doing the same work under George Silburn. I was very impressed with him and how they performed so I asked George for a job. He arranged for an appointment for me with FS McKinnon, then IC of the Economics Division. As a result of this I was hired with this division in September 1944 and went to work at Victoria in the Parliament buildings under 'Alex' Alexander. I stayed with the B.C.F.S. For 35 years.



weaknesses of this rare breed of men who have worked in BC logging camps.

Even the glossary is fun to read; it clarifies many interesting BC Coastal logging terms.

I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to learn more about BC loggers' work and their lives.



A Dugout Canoe at Sitka, Alaska

By Gerry Burch *A founding member of FHABC, and UBC's "Volunteer Alumnus of the year". Following a distinguished career in forestry, Gerry has remained a longtime participant and author for FHABC and many other publications. Read more about Gerry's [publications at the UBC Library](#).*

The Chief Forester of a company receives many odd requests, some troublesome and some interesting. So, in the fall of 1966, a fairly large forester appeared at my office door, requesting a meeting about a very important project for Alaska. He explained that although he was the Chief Forester for the Alaska Pulp and Paper Company, he was representing the Organization Committee for the Alaska Centennial Committee, which was trying to recreate the centennial signing of the sale of Alaska from the Russian government to the United States. Apparently, this signing occurred in 1867 and involved an American destroyer, a Russian gunboat and a native contingent in a war canoe.

The forester's name was Dick Herring, who eventually immigrated to Canada (B.C.), and was employed by Canfor in Chetwynd and their Head Office. He explained that a major problem presented itself when they discovered that a large canoe could not be found in Alaska, plus the fact that none of the local Indians have ever carved a canoe. So, Dick was given the assignment to locate a large cedar log (about 60 feet long and 5 feet in diameter.) He stated that he had travelled to Prince Rupert and the Queen Charlotte Islands and reported no canoes or logs had been found. Then, he learned that my company, BCFP, who owned a cedar sawmill in

the lower mainland might have booms or stands containing such a log.

I explained to him that our log production was mainly standard lengths of 32 feet, and occasionally 40 feet, but, I would canvass our logging divisions to determine if any large cedar stands were slated for logging in the near future. Eventually our divisional forester in Port Renfrew, Jack Toovey, offered a patch of large cedar trees that were to be logged, and that Dick should examine the stand on the ground. The logging crew indicated that additional care and attention, and costs, would be involved to produce such a log, including banding the butt log, directional falling by cables, careful yarding and the use of two trucks to deliver the log to the dry land sorting area some 15 miles away. After examination, Dick approved the stand, and stated that the additional cost would be discussed with his committee in Alaska.

Eventually, after three trees were felled and bucked, a suitable log 55 feet by 5 feet was felled, and transported to the beach. I then informed Dick that BCFP would donate the log to his committee provided that the Forest Service would forgo stumpage and royalty, and export fees, and if they would come and pick up the log.

To everyone's surprise, a Tlingit chief from Sitka, Alaska,



Herman Kitka, eventually arrived with his fishing boat in Port Renfrew, threw a tow line on the log and after 4 to 5 days, towed it to Sitka. But, the story does not end there! Herman returned to B.C., and after an introduction to the Thunderbird Park in Victoria, learned how to carve such a canoe. Upon returning, they split the log in half-length-wise, and proceeded to carve the canoe. However, then the fishing season occurred and the crew abandoned the carving for a few months. A fire occurred while they were away, which damaged the partially carved canoe. So, a second half of the log eventually became the canoe, which is now in Harrigan Centennial Hall (under a canopy), in Sitka, Alaska. I do not know if it ever made the Centennial celebration in Sitka harbor, but, it is a noble end to a noble tree and log!



FHABC: But enough business. What do you like to do off the job?

In my spare time I enjoy hiking in the woods with my Australian Cattle Dog while learning to identify the trees I read about at my desk--each one so different and spectacular.



approach to archival work.

FHABC: How can researchers learn more about UBC forest history archives?

Researchers can check out http://guides.library.ubc.ca/forestry_history, or contact me by email: Claire.williams@ubc.ca or by phone at 604-822-6430.

(Continued from page 5) C. Williams all those who might access and use Forestry related records. By learning about the way these unique groups draw upon the history of Forestry, these relationships serve as an important foundation to my understanding of the records in our custody and help me shape my

Membership: New or lapsed member?

\$15.00 annually, or three years for \$40.00

To correspond by mail:

Forest History Association of B.C.

1288 Santa Maria Place
Victoria BC, Canada V8Z 6S5

Email: info@fhabc.org Website: fhabc.org

Please help the FHABC modernize our communications. If you are holding a paper copy of the newsletter, please update your email address.

Even better please opt for the online version and permit us to not mail you the black & white print version. Why?

1. Underlined texts link you to extra online information; and
2. The online version is in colour. (Costs to produce physical copies and send them out in the post are high. Even if you still want to receive the B&W paper version, having your email address makes it easier to send out important announcements in between issues.)

So, please send us an email at info@fhabc.org and state your preferences for newsletter delivery: Online in colour, or paper in B&W by mail.

Those members whose membership expired this year on December 31st will be receiving an update reminder electronically or included in their next newsletter.

Note: The FHABC Board is considering an adjustment to membership fees such that those wishing to receive a mailed version of the newsletter will pay a larger fee than those opting for the email version.

An extract from BCFP magazine Mar Apr 2015. The full obit is in the International BC Foresters piece [on our website](#)

George S. Nagle

RPF #939
1936 – May 17, 2014



George died at age 77 on May 17, 2014 at home. His childhood was spent in Manitoba. He earned his BSF from UBC in 1958. He married his wife Mary in 1959. They travelled with their young family to Bangladesh where George worked from '61-'63. They lived in Connecticut from '63-'67 while George attended Yale. The family lived in Rome from '71-'74 when George was working for FAO. George's work took him to over 40 countries over the years, which he enjoyed immensely. He was a consultant primarily in tropical forestry, working for World Bank (USA), UN FAO (Rome) and CIDA (Ottawa).

FHABC Newsletter team:

Editor: Dave Florence **Assistant Editor:** David Morgan

Reviewers: Eric Andersen, John Parminter, Mike Meagher;

Webmaster: David Brownstein;

Print copy production and mailing: Richard Dominy

Issue #103 article contributors: Don Avis, David Morgan, Gerry Burch, George Nagel, Bruce Devitt, Claire Williams, David Brownstein, Dave Florence

Submissions??: Yes, Please!

email us at newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

2018 /19 FHABC officers:

President, Richard Dominy
Vice Pres., Terry Simmons
Secretary, Mike Meagher
Treasurer, TBA (Pres. acting)

Webmaster:

David Brownstein

Six Directors at large:

Eric Andersen
John Parminter
Katherine Spencer
Gordon Weetman
Dave Florence, Newsletter Editor
David Morgan, Assistant
Newsletter Editor

Recent Book *Reviewed By David Morgan*

Burke and Widgeon, A History

Lyle Litzenberger has recently completed "Burke and Widgeon, a History, Volume One", which covers early pioneering, settlement and industry in the Coquitlam area. He devotes two chapters to logging. The first includes numerous early commercial enterprises by such pioneers as Moody, Nelson and Co., which started in the 1870s; Brunette Saw Mill Company Ltd; and British Columbia Mills, among others. The second chapter documents later steam logging operations during the 1920s and 1930s including Robert McNair Shingle Company; Smith Dollar Timber Co. Ltd; Canadian Robert Dollar Co. Ltd.; and Thurston-Flavelle Lumber Co.

The author has extensively researched Provincial and Federal archival sources and provides annotated maps of the various Railway Belt timber berths and aerial photographs of the logging operations. In many instances the timber berth boundaries, railway spurs and camps are overlaid on modern municipal maps showing the spread of urban growth into these forgotten logging sites on the former old-growth slopes of Burke Mountain.

A second volume is planned which will include post-war logging operations.

Published by Pebblestone Publishing, Port Coquitlam, BC, May 2019. To order this book, visit

www.burkeandwidgeon.ca



Part 2 to A HISTORY OF SETTLEMENT AND LOGGING AT QUATSINO, BC

(Part 1 appeared in [issue #102, June 2019](#))

By Don Avis, who is a long-time FHABC member, has logged in the Quatsino area where he continues to own 320 acres of Managed Forest, mostly 30 – 35 year old hemlock and alder. With FHABC edits by David Morgan.

In 1958 an A-frame logging show set up shop in the west end of Quatsino Sound. Keith Atwater of Atwater Logging ran the show and it involved a mixture of private (parts of the original Charles Nordstrom title) and Crown timber. Atwater was one of several independent contractors and A-frame loggers in Quatsino Sound in the 1950s. Atwater unfortunately went bankrupt during this job.

One of the neighbours included some of his private timber in this 1958 show and was stuck with a stumpage bill from the Crown, as a result of Atwater's bankruptcy. A descendant who still resides on site maintains a lifelong distrust of loggers and many others.

A Quatsino neighbour of mine was in his early school years at the time and told me that an older tough guy dropped out of school to be the whistle punk for the logging show. Unfortunately, he wasn't any good at blowing whistles and didn't stay on. His replacement was the wife of the school teacher who proved to be very capable. The Quatsino Chronicle newspaper relates a story where the diminutive teacher's wife, the whistle punk, was dismissed to attend Bridge Club during one of the frequent breakdowns.

Most of the small A-frame operators faded out after the establishment of the monopoly, TFL 6, owned by Alaska Pine and Cellulose and later by Rayonier. The last of the independent A-frame contractors, WD Moore Logging, after success over many decades in Winter Harbour, [sold out in 2017](#). WD Moore Logging came to Quatsino Sound in 1920 from Swanson Bay.

The Quatsino Government Road, or Waggon Road from early days, was improved over time. In the 1960s cars and trucks used the road regularly. Section 4 (now Section 956) of the BC Highways Act granted the Ministry of Highways the authority to maintain and improve roads which had been established or improved with government funds. These "Section 4" roads and highways occur throughout BC and are often the subject of disagreements. This would also be the case with the Government Road in Quatsino.

In the 1920s hand crank telephone service came to Quatsino, replaced by dial telephones in 1964. In early 1973 Hydro power also came, via submerged cables from Coal Harbour and thence over land. The poles and the often unregistered rights of way followed the Government Road with its mix of legal definitions and interpretations over the properties.

New owners of titles relied on selective interpretation to promote their theories of road-use. This often involved endorsing their rights while attempting to deny the road use rights of others. The Ministry of Highways office in Courtenay did not manage the issue effectively while the road disputes continued to fester. Over the years there were threats (legal and verbal), illegal gates, blockades, firearms drawn and calls to the police.

MacMillan Bloedel and Powell River Ltd. owned two Timber licenses immediately behind the settlement of Quatsino. In addition they also started to acquire private lands within Quatsino as the lands were excellent for growing trees. MB logged their timber licenses and their private lands in 1973 and 1974 and during 1983 to



1987 and then sold the private lands in 1999. MB's timber licences have reverted and now lie within TFL 6.

In 2002, a new owner (the author) logged a patch of remaining 1908 blowdown at the site of the former A-frame show on the original Charles Nordstrom title. The timber consisted of hemlock, balsam, spruce, Douglas Fir, cedar and alder at 1500m³/ha. This volume was sold to Weyerhaeuser in Port McNeill. Roughly 100 loads were hauled on the Quatsino Government road to a local log dump.

The road dispute was much discussed during this logging operation. Oversized logging equipment was barged to the site as it was too wide and too tall to get past narrow bridges, fences, gardens, trees, shrubs, boulder walls, low wires and other assorted homemade and natural obstacles. Finally, landowners who disputed the road accepted private assurances of maintenance and did not attempt to stop log hauling. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Highways stayed hidden in their Courtenay office.

In 2007, more timber was logged and 150 loads were hauled from the area which had been logged in 1958 on the Nordstrom title. This 50 year old hemlock and alder was thick at

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) ...Quatsino History...

800 m³/ha. The hemlock was sold to Northwest Hardwoods. Once again log hauling was not obstructed by the locals.

The resurrection of the Port Alice Pulp mill by new owners created the opportunity for the 2007 logging during a rare peak in pulp prices. Western Forest Products had shut the mill in the early 2000s and then entered bankruptcy protection. WFP kept the timber and the mill was sold by receiver to LaPointe Partners who operated for little more than a year. LaPointe cleaned out the inventory, depleted the asset and flogged it. Neucel Specialty Cellulose took over in 2007 and today, over 100 years old, the mill is entering the third year of a temporary shutdown. A skeleton crew was kept working and the hope was that the mill had not been completely abandoned. However, in early March of 2019 a permanent closure was announced.

The three titles the author purchased from MB – all original Charles Nordstrom lands – have been sold to neighbours. The sale proceeds were invested in lands elsewhere where there were fewer road disputes and neighbours. However, disputes and disagreements over the Quatsino Government road continue.

The forests on the titles are unplanted, unmanaged

We are pleased to report



that Claire Williams plans to attend our AGM in Kamloops Sep 27-29. We asked Claire about herself and her work.

FHABC: What's your connection to BC Forest History?

I currently work as a Forestry Archivist at the University of British Columbia's Rare Books and Special Collections Library, Vancouver campus, located

on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. However, I grew up in the countryside in California's Sonoma County, surrounded by Manzanitas, Madrones, Oaks and other trees. We had a woodstove for heating in our home and I guess my very first connection to forestry was taking a dump truck with my dad into the hills and watching him operate a chain saw while I threw what seemed like very heavy logs on the truck to take to the woodshed back home!

FHABC: What have you learned about Forestry in BC?

I have come to appreciate the significance of natural resources to the history of the province of British

and completely ignored. A recent visit showed healthy, dense hemlock and alder forest racing for the sky, waiting for the next time the forest has some value and the challenge of getting the logs to market is met. The author continues to own 320 acres of managed forest, mostly 30 to 35 year old hemlock and alder in Quatsino.

There have been a couple of articles in the FHABC newsletter about Quatsino Sound: "[Born for the Job](#)" and "[A Chronological History of Rayonier](#)."



Quatsino has a small museum run by volunteers.

The publications "History of the Quatsino Colony" by George Nordstrom and "Quatsino Chronicle" 1895-2005 by Gwen Hansen are available at the museum. There

are also small museums in Port Hardy, Coal Harbour, Port Alice and Port McNeill, all of which contain interesting forest history of northern Vancouver Island.

Columbia. The people who worked in and for these industries; the technology that brought about shifts in labour practices; the political parties and government policies that shaped how and where companies and individuals could harvest raw materials; the roads, railways, and boats that were built to transport wood and metals and water; the processing plants which helped fuel and build the cities and towns we live in today—all of this is fascinating to me! Now I'm trying to learn a bit more about each of the processes involved in forestry, from the timber harvesting to the pulp mill to a piece of paper I could hold in my hand.

FHABC: What have you been working on lately?

My primary task as a Forestry archivist has been focused on increasing the discovery of and access to the historic materials of industry giant, [MacMillan Bloedel](#). I have been updating a 600 + page finding aid to digital format, enhancing archival descriptions of historic materials, and assessing preservation issues in the over 500 boxes of archival records.

FHABC: What will you be doing next?

When this project is complete I will continue to work with our other forestry related collections. I am also interested in building ongoing relationships with Indigenous peoples, forestry professionals, researchers, historians, union groups, and



(Continued on page 6)

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