Upcoming Events

2017 Annual General Meeting

The fall 2017 FHABC AGM will take place in the province's interior. Watch this space for details as they are announced.

A warm thank you to some special people

Thanks for the hard work and tireless commitment from four retiring board members. All will continue to be active as regular Association members:

Stan Chester, President for the past 16 years, stepped down; Mike Apsey, recently active with the B.C. Forest Service Centenary Society, also ended his term as a board member; Edo Nyland was a founding member of the FHABC in March 1982, and was the first secretary/treasurer. He served as Treasurer until 2006 (24 years!); Barbara Coupe, a former newsletter editor from 2009 to 2014, has also vacated her board seat.

One new face has joined the board: Eric Andersen of the Squamish Sea to Sky Forestry Centre Society. Eric is stepping into the newsletter editor role, and we look forward to hearing much more from him in the future. Please send your article submissions to info@fhabc.org.

Forest Inventory Program History

Updated by John Parminter

Last year the FHABC published an “e-book” version of Ralph Schmidt’s history of the BC Forest Service's inventory program from 1912 to 1940 by placing it on our website and that of the BCFS/MFLNRO library. Since then we discovered that many of the early forest survey reports held in that library have been digitized and are available online.

A list was made of all the 180 reports for 1912 to 1971, organized chronologically and then by author with the link given for each report available online. Some reports have not yet been scanned. A shorter list of those reports dated 1912 to 1940 was added to the appendix of Ralph Schmidt's report and the online version of that report was updated. Copies are available online at fhabc.org and at nrsg.

Work is underway editing and formatting volume two of the inventory program history, written by FHABC member Bob Breadon. It covers the period from 1940 to 1960 and will include a list of the forest survey reports available for that time period.

Some photos from the AGM held Sep 23-25 in Powell River BC

We want your email address!

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

With time it costs more to produce physical copies and send them out in the post. Even if you still want to receive a paper version, having your email address makes it easier to send out important announcements in between issues. So, send us an email at info@fhabc.org.

Also use this address to alert us to changes in your contact information.

Thank you!

British Columbians are justifiably proud of the province’s extensive forests and record-sized trees – notably Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce, western red cedar and black cottonwood. Over the course of a century and a half, four large Douglas-firs were exported to England, to be fashioned into flagpoles and put on display in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew (16 km west of London). The first two of these large specimens were sent courtesy of Captain Edward Stamp, pioneer sawmillier at Alberni and Burrard Inlet. The third and fourth massive Douglas-firs were gifts from the B.C. government, the fourth for both a centennial and bicentennial celebration.

In 1857 Edward Stamp wanted to cut some large spars at Pachena, south of Bamfield on Vancouver Island, but the local people lacked the necessary felling and yarding equipment. So he contracted with a mill at Port Gamble, Washington. In 1858 he sent spars, ship’s timbers and other Former Big Trees

by John Parminter

(Continued on page 6)
Ex-BCFS Vessel Squadron 2016 Rendezvous by John Parminter

The annual rendezvous of the current owners of some of the former BC Forest Service coastal vessels was held at the Ladysmith Community Marina on the BC Day long weekend July 30-Aug. 1. In attendance were Alpine Fir II, Arbutus II, Cherry II, Coast Ranger, Dean Ranger, Forest Ranger II, Maple II, Nesiika, Oak II, Silver Fir, Tamarack, Western Yew and White Birch.

The local press publicized the rendezvous, as did the marina, and many people came to have a look at these floating artefacts of BC’s coastal heritage. A number of retired long-time BC Forest Service employees went aboard the boats to rekindle memories of time spent on the water and the places they visited in the course of their duties. Vessels were coincide with a reunion of many retired BC Forest Service ranger staff. The 2012 rendezvous took place in Victoria as part of the centenary celebration of the BC Forest Service. For more information on the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron see https://westcoastwood.wordpress.com/

The owners also held their annual general meeting and had a potluck dinner. There was ample time to relax in the sunshine, swap stories, compare notes on vessel maintenance and exchange ideas. The first rendezvous was held in 1992. The 1995 rendezvous was held at the Vancouver Maritime Museum and coincided with a reunion of many retired BC Forest Service ranger staff. The 2012 rendezvous took place in Victoria as part of the centenary celebration of the BC Forest Service. For more information on the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron see https://westcoastwood.wordpress.com/
Douglas-fir by shipping a 150-foot (45.7 m) long flagpole to London. Unfortunately it broke apart while being installed at Kew Gardens. As Stamp had neither the funds nor the sawmill in B.C., it is likely that this flagpole came from the Olympic Peninsula and was processed by the mill at Port Gamble.

In December 1858 Stamp went to England to arrange financing for a sawmill to be built in B.C. During the spring of 1860 he hired timber cruisers Jeremiah Rogers and John Walton to inspect the forests along the Alberni Canal. Stamp was impressed enough with their report to continue lobbying the colonial government for a land grant with timber, settlement and development rights. It became known as the Stamp Land Scheme and his Crown Grant was subsequently issued with a 21-year term. The sawmill was built between the summer of 1860 and May 1861 and using two gang saws could produce up to 18,000 board feet (42.5 m3) per day. The products were exported to Europe, South America, England. It was 159' (48.5 m) long, weighed about 18.2 tons (18.5 tonnes), four times that of its predecessor. The first 100 rings occupied 115' (35.0 m) it was 22.5" (57 cm) at the base was 33" (84 cm), at the top (at 214' or 65.2 m). The diameter at the base was 33'' (84 cm), at 115'' (35.0 m) it was 22.5'' (57 cm) and at the top it was 12'' (30 cm). There were 360 annual rings at the base. The first 100 rings occupied 17.75'' (44 cm), the 100 rings took 7'' (18 cm) and the third hundred were compressed into just 3.5'' (9 cm). It weighed about 18.2 tons (18.5 tonnes), four times that of its predecessor. The flagpole left Vancouver on November 8, 1915 aboard the

- General for British Columbia in London, wrote to McBride and also endorsed the proposal. The offer was accepted on February 25, 1914. Eleven suitable trees were located at Stillwater (by the mouth of Jervis Inlet) and felled by logging crews of Brooks, Scanlon and O’Brien. Estimates have the chosen tree measuring from 280’ to 300’ (85.3 to 91.4 m) to the tip of the leader. It was felled and reduced to 220’ (67.0 m). It was 48’ (1.2 m) at the butt and 14’ (3.5 m) at the top. The tree was taken by logging railroad and water to Vancouver for shaping. It was then square from the base to 15’ (4.6 m), octagonal to 15’ (47.8 m) and then round to the top (at 214’ or 65.2 m). The diameter at the base was 33” (84 cm), at 115” (35.0 m) it was 22.5” (57 cm) and at the top it was 12” (30 cm). There were 360 annual rings at the base. The first 100 rings occupied 17.75” (44 cm), the 100 rings took 7” (18 cm) and the third hundred were compressed into just 3.5” (9 cm). It weighed about 18.2 tons (18.5 tonnes), four times that of its predecessor. The flagpole left Vancouver on November 8, 1915 aboard the

- decking Meliorthershire and was dropped into the River Thames at the London docks on December 29, 1915. After being towed upriver to Kew “the largest individual piece of timber ever brought to Europe” was floated ashore on a high tide then placed by the flagpole mound, where it rested on supports beside its much smaller predecessor. The Canadian Forestry Corps were unable to erect the pole but supervised the installation of large concrete blocks at the base and four anchor points. Professional mast riggers raised the flagpole on October

In 1861 Stamp sent a replacement Douglas-fir flagpole to England. It was 159’ (48.5 m) long, weighed 4.5 tons (4.6 tonnes) and made from a tree judged to have been about 250 years old. It was installed at Kew Gardens, repaired and reinstalled in 1896 and finally dismantled in 1913 due to serious dry rot. Stamp was working his Alberni land grant in 1861 and probably the source of the big tree. He resigned in January 1863 and the next mill manager, Gilbert M. Sproat, closed the facility in 1864 due to the high cost of transporting logs from the forest.

In 1911, Premier Richard Turner, the Agent for British Columbia in London, wrote to McBride and also endorsed the proposal. The offer was accepted on February 25, 1914. Eleven suitable trees were located at Stillwater (by the mouth of Jervis Inlet) and felled by logging crews of Brooks, Scanlon and O’Brien. Estimates have the chosen tree measuring from 280’ to 300’ (85.3 to 91.4 m) to the tip of the leader. It was felled and reduced to 220’ (67.0 m). It was 48’ (1.2 m) at the butt and 14’ (3.5 m) at the top. The tree was taken by logging

from Newsletter Editor Eric Andersen: a useful colleague David Brownstein for taking the lead in assembling issue #98! This newsletter has always been an enjoyable and profitable read for me over the years. To help a FHABC newsletter that will continue to entertain, offer resources, foster networks and stimulate research and writing in support of B.C. forest history should be very satisfying.

Print Readers - please opt for the online version and invite us to not send you the print version. Why?
- underlined text are hot links on the website version of the newsletter.
- Emailing saves costs and helps keep the membership fee low.
- Online version is in colour.

Mossom Boyd collection donated to several BC Museums.

By Tim Woodland  Editor's note: Earlier this year the Maple Ridge News reported that Tim won an award for his efforts. It came from the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission “for his Significant Contribution for the Preservation of an Historical Collection.”

I was contacted by a Vancouver Island dealer, who knows me to be a BC forest historian and collector, and offered a wonderful archive from the Mossom Boyd family estate. Mossom and a half-brother had been involved in lumbering in the Cowichan Valley in Ontario area in the mid-1800s, and purchasing timbers and a sawmill in BC's Cowichan Valley in the 1890s. They also owned land and timber on BC's mid-coast, in Port Moody, and around Alouette Lake in Maple Ridge, which was subsequently logged by the Abernethy Lougheed Logging Company.

I gave a presentation on logging history to the Maple Ridge Historical Society, based partially on material from the Boyd's records, and invited us to not send you the print version. Why?
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Powell River Forestry Heritage Update

By Dave Florence, President of the Powell River FHS, who has joined the Newsletter team as the layout person

A December 1988 article by Edo Nyland in the Forest History Association of BC’s newsletter reported the grand opening of the Powell River Forestry Museum. The present article provides an update to the Forestry Heritage scene in Powell River since then.

The Forestry Museum is in the same space as in 1988, but displays have been improved over the years, including a major chainsaw display, information on fires in the local area, a forest service display, and some natural history displays. The outdoor display area, now called the Willingdon Beach Trail, has developed significantly. Signature pieces along the trail are a large Empire steam donkey #357 circa 1918, which was flown from its resting place in the forest by helicopter in 2001; a boom boat; a D6Cat; a Byers cable shovel circa 1942; and a trestle bridge built in 2003. We are proud to report that the Powell River Forestry Museum is a member of the Forest Heritage Association of BC’s newsletter.

The 2.2 metres of textual records and an enormous pile of bound, hand-drawn and coloured maps represent a mandatory passage point for any researcher seeking insight into forest management on BC’s coast. A collection of air photos was transferred to the UBC Geography Department’s “Geographic Information Centre.”

The bulk of the collection covers the 1950 through 2001 period, though some of it does reach back into the 1930s. The records describe forest operations up and down the entire coast of British Columbia, from Haida Gwaii in the north to Powell River in the south, and Port Alberni on Vancouver Island. The collection reflects the forestry operations and projects undertaken by Western Forest Products and its predecessors. The material covers subjects on tenure, stumpage, forestry projects, silviculture and plans for cutting areas. Beyond the Western name, the records came from a wide range of predecessor companies, including traces of MacMillan Bloedel, Weyerhaeuser, Canadian Pacific, Canfor (Englewood Logging Division), British Columbia Forest Products Ltd, Rayonier Canada Limited, Cascadia Forest Products and Pacific Logging. The donation is courtesy of a connection at the March 2014 Kelowna AGM of the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

Lisa Perrault of WFP thought that she knew of some material in need of archival protection and time proved her right. In Campbell River, WFP executive assistant Gwen Hamling invited us to create an inventory of the collection so that the company could determine what was still needed for current operations, and what might be donated for future research.

With an inventory completed, this began a lengthy discussion with several archives to balance collection integrity, institutional mandates and the financial pressures of transportation. Kristina Laszlo, archivist with UBC RBSC, made two trips to Campbell River: one to evaluate the material and another to decide how much UBC could accept. She selected this smaller subset of material from a much larger accumulation held in two storage lockers. Her decisions were guided by advice from WFP retirees Peter Kofoed and Martin Buchanan, and Forest History Association of British Columbia members Gerry Burch and Kofoed. She selected this smaller subset of material from a much larger accumulation held in two storage lockers. Her decisions were guided by advice from WFP retirees Peter Kofoed and Martin Buchanan, and Forest History Association of British Columbia members Gerry Burch and Kofoed.

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