



FOREST HISTORY NEWSLETTER



[Back-issue
Link](#)

Spring Issue

From the Editor

By Dave Florence newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

So many stories in this packed issue!

We're so pleased for the opportunity to interact with the ABCFP community at their 2021 virtual Conference, and welcome more than 100 of our booth visitors to our Facebook Group *Page 8*

We have a strategic planning session underway. Survey results here. *Page 1*

With old trees in the news these days, this Gerry Wellburn story is timely *Page 14*

No logger sports this year, so here's a history of a well-known one *Page 13*

Enjoy a nostalgic retrospective on a famous Bill *Hint: 'keep out of the bight' Pg 4*

We posed two questions to all our Directors, display four sets of replies here, and provide links to the rest *Page 6*

Read memories of a helicopter rescue, in Wells Gray Park *Page 9*

How did war prisoners adjust to life back in BC? Read one story here *Page 7*

R.I.P Terry Simmons, an activist and FHABC charter member *Page 3*

Another in our International Foresters series by the late George Nagle *Page 10*

After an absence of several years, here's a real book review! *Page 2*

Learn how a steam donkey went away for 57 years and came back home! *Page 12*

Whew!! Let's dive in.

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FHABC Members Survey Results

By *Kat Spencer* In December we sent members an email request to complete a seven-question survey, and later posted the request to the Facebook Group. We received 70 responses from members, and a few more responses after the Facebook post went out. The results are shown below.

Q1 *What group of people do you think might be the best source of additional members for FHABC?*

Responses: Government and industry employees in the forestry field; Retired first, and Active second.

Q2 *In your opinion what do you feel are the highest value activities FHABC conducts currently?*

Responses: the Newsletter ranked first, followed by "Cooperate in support of archival activities relating to forest history related records and artifacts" then "Encourage the publication of materials relating to the various facets of forest history"

Q3 *If the FHABC were to refocus its activities, which do you feel are the lowest value activities?*

Responses: The bottom three were: "Bibliographies of classic and frequently cited resources"; "Organizational outreach and promotion at affiliated events"; then "Fieldtrips, talks or lectures"

Q4 *What 3 words do you feel best represent what FHABC relationship goals with other organizations should be in the future?*

Responses: The top three: Collaborator, Connector, Facilitator

Q5 *How many new members do you think we could reasonably attract (We currently have about 100 members)?*

Responses: 47% said 300, 28% said "many more"

Q6 *Please list 3 organizations or groups you feel FHABC should be collaborating or connecting with.*

Responses: We received 37 suggestions, and will be following up with many good ones we hadn't thought of.

Q7 *Are there any other activities or approaches you feel the FHABC should be taking to remain sustainable, relevant or influential?*

Responses: we received a terrific set of comments. Here are a few examples:

a. forest history should be part of any forestry education, although history seems to attract little attention in our schools history

b. Embrace new ZOOM meetings rather than face to face within the

(Continued on page 16)

Book Review: Science and Hope: A Forest History

By John Dargavel and Elisabeth Johann. 2013. White Horse Press. 269p. ISBN 978-1-874267-73-7 / 978-1-874267-87-4

Reviewed by Allen Hopwood, RPF, who served as President of ABCFP in 1982-83 and manages Woodlot 0082, an eco-forestry operation near Courtenay BC, as shown in this [2014 Youtube presentation](#).

This is an interesting and surprisingly readable effort at capturing the evolution of forest science and the profession of forestry. Most books on the history of forestry relate the origins and development of forestry, focusing on countries or regions, and on the people, regulations and institutions involved. This one attempts to explain what the science of forestry actually is and "to bridge the gap between the histories and the textbooks." It excludes logging technology, concentrating "on the core concerns of managing forests to achieve some vision of their future." The authors call forestry "the hopeful science and trusting art" because of its long-term nature and complexity.

The authors are: Dr. John Dargavel, Visiting Fellow in the Fenner School for Environment & Society at the Australian National University; and Dr. Elisabeth Johann, a guest lecturer in the Institute for Socioeconomics at the University of Natural Resources & Applied Life Sciences, Vienna. Both have extensive backgrounds and publishing credits in forest history.

The authors state that scientific forestry began in 1664 with the publishing of John Evelyn's *Sylva or a discourse on forest trees and the propagation of timber in His Majesties Dominions to the Royal Society*. (Other experts say it started in the Renaissance.) The Dargavel and Johann history begins at the end of the eighteenth century.

The book is laid out in the following sections, mainly in chronological order:

- **The Foundations of Forestry** describes the "classical" era of European forestry from the end of the eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. It deals with measurement, silviculture, economics and regulation – foresters

had to become applied scientists; forestry schools sprang up.

- **The Extension of Forestry** deals with the spread of forestry by the introduction to Europe and her colonies of exotic trees, the conversion of mixed forests to monocultures, and the application of silviculture across Europe's empires. The timeframe is the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

- **The Development of Scientific Forestry** covers the scientific advances in forestry since the 1950s; i.e., the technology applied to intensively managed industrial plantations.

- **The Divergence of Visions for Natural Forests** examines multiple use, reserves, and social / participatory forestry from the 1970s to 2000 – the rise of environmentalism.

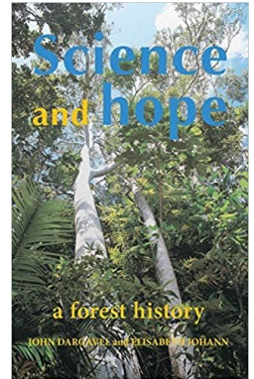
- **The Millennium** explores the role of forests and forestry in dealing with climate change – the juxtaposition of politics and science in the twenty-first century.

References to Canada are few. BC (not listed in the Index) gets the odd, brief mention: the BC Forest Service's (1971) and MacMillan Bloedel's fertilization trials (1950s); David Douglas' botanical studies (early 1800s); riparian reserves and maximum clearcut size under BC's Forest Act. The Bibliography includes, and references are made to, textbooks by Hamish Kimmins and Peter Pearse, and a book on aboriginal elders' wisdom co-authored by David Suzuki. John Innes' cited article and book predate his appointment as Dean of Forestry at UBC. No BC foresters or forest scientists rate mention.

As with many recently published books, this one is poorly edited. There are many careless mistakes in composition. Without going beyond the few

scientific references which relate to BC, I found these errors:

Pseudotsuga menziesii and *Populus tremuloides* are misspelled; *Pinus albicaulis* is called "Western white pine."



This is a good primer for people thinking of becoming foresters and it will provide instructive insight into the complexities of forestry for interested politicians, environmentalists and the general public, should they make the effort to read it. The book clearly puts into perspective the longstanding contradiction within forest management between increasing fibre supply and protecting biodiversity ("the ever-growing economic, political and population pressures on the [world's] forests"). The authors avoid fixing blame for the continuing depletion of the world's forest resources. However, they do recognize the professional dilemma of foresters who have inevitably faced "the overwhelming demands of industries with political muscle," looking for short-term profits.

The authors set out "to tell the story of the hopeful science and trusting art of forestry" – the hope of foresters and other forest scientists "to understand the forests more deeply" and the "trust that their knowledge could ensure an enduring sylvan future." The authors have succeeded in their objective, but what do they conclude about the achievements of foresters and other forest scientists in ensuring that the future of the world's forests is assured? The answer: "...the hope to understand the complexity of the world's forests will continue. It will not be enough, but it is not inconceivable."



Book and Media Reports

... selected from our

Facebook Group Page

Over 300 members, and growing!

FHABC director Eric Andersen and others shared several links:



A feature article in the latest *BC Forest Professional* magazine summarizes 100 years of the Research Branch in the BC Forest Service, co-authored by long-time FHABC contributor and pioneer Newsletter Editor John Parminter.

Correspondence: Active member Gerry Burch told us about the rafting of timber down the St. Lawrence in the 1800s which he heard from his friend Bill Calvin, a descendent of the family that did the rafting. The story is nicely told in the June 2020 issue of thousandislandslife.com

FHABC Newsletter team

Editor: Dave Florence

Committee: John Parminter, Mike Meagher, Dave Lang, Eric Andersen, David Brownstein

Submissions??: Yes, Please!

email us at newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

2020/21 FHABC officers:

President, Richard Dominy
Vice Pres., Eric Andersen
Secretary, Dave Lang
Treasurer, TBA (Pres. acting)

Eight Directors at large:

Katherine Spencer Mark Clark
Sarah Giesbrecht Richard Olak
Mike Meagher Dave Florence
Ira Sutherland Claire Williams

Webmaster: David Brownstein

(Online? Click here to read more about our Directors and Officers)

BC Labour Heritage Centre partnered with WorkSafeBC to produce three six-minute videos that highlight the history of health and safety in BC's forest industry, featuring three pioneers in that field:

[Verna Ledger](#), [Al Lundgren](#), and [Jack Munro](#)

R.I.P. Terry Allan Simmons, JD, PhD (April 12, 1946 – November 14, 2020)

By David Brownstein, PhD, a friend, fellow geographer, and webmaster at FHABC

Very sad news--FHABC director Terry Simmons died in mid-November. Terry was one of our charter members, having been a strong supporter since 1982.

In recent times Terry's legal expertise helped our board navigate the requirements of a new Provincial Societies Act, but his greatest organizational innovation was probably our membership structure. In the 1990s and early 2000s, Terry lived in Nevada where he pursued a career in mediation and arbitration. In that era, before widespread internet adoption, it was cumbersome to pay a yearly organizational subscription in a different currency. At Terry's suggestion, our three-year membership was born!

Originally from Yuba City, California, in 1968 Terry attended Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, to undertake a Masters in Cultural Geography. During that tumultuous time, in addition to his research on the Skagit River/High Ross Dam controversy, Terry initiated the Sierra Club of BC. Shortly thereafter he participated in the "Don't Make A Wave committee", protesting US nuclear testing in Alaska. That voyage was the birth of the organization known today as Greenpeace.

Terry was a voracious reader and he consumed everything that he could on the role of fire in the forests of western North America.



Photo by Eric Andersen

For a more complete biography, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_A._Simmons

Above photo: Terry at Vancouver Maritime Museum in 2020.

Left: Terry attended FHABC events whenever he could, such as the 2013 AGM in Kamloops, along with many FHABC colleagues. (Front row from right: John Hammons, Bob Robertson, Terry Simmons, Stan Chester, George Nagle, ?, Frances Vyse, Mike Meagher. Back row from right: David Brownstein, Art Walker, Alan Vyse)



Photo by George Nagle



“An Ode To Bill--An Unsung Hero of BC Forestry!”

By **Gerry Burch**. This “Ode to Bill” presents Gerry’s personal perspective on the significance of Bill Moore to BC Forestry. More material on Bill Moore is available on a [tribute website](#) maintained by the family, where the photos contained below have been kindly authorized for this article. This piece is the eighth in a series of Gerry’s writing for FHABC (Issues #97 and #103 –present). Gerry’s biography can be found in the UBC Library’s [Gerry Burch fonds](#).

I realize that it may seem strange that such an individual is actually a logger. A contract logger, to be exact! His name is Bill Moore!

Bill was the only son of a logger who worked on the B.C. coast from Swanson Bay in the north to the west coast of Vancouver Island. Although Bill was raised on a logging float camp, he obtained his high school education in Vancouver, returning



the “off” period, during the winter, he would attend jazz festivals, usually in California.

His second claim to fame involved his interest in logger's safety, a topic which was rarely mentioned within the industry at this time. And, to further his efforts for more regulations, he started writing a column in the local industry magazine (The BC Lumberman), ending [each article](#) with his signature “Keep out of the Bight”. Everyone read it, and soon, more safety programs and regulations were adopted. His articles, which carried on for over 20 years, are still referred to as the “[Bible for Loggers Safety in the Industry](#)”

But, Bill was just beginning to roll! He organized an annual jazz festival at Winter Harbour, not only involving as many jazz artists as he could attract, but also to coincide with the annual visit of BC's Lieutenant Governor to isolated communities on BC's west coast. The Lieutenant Governor would arrive in a Navy destroyer which anchored in Winter Harbour and put the navy band ashore to join in the event! Bill called this the *Festival of Music* and it soon became the event to attend! In time, Bill had to cancel the festival because the unannounced



attendance of the “hippy element”, and drugs, both of which became too much to handle.

So, Bill turned his attention to the



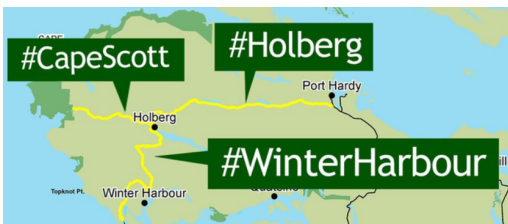
Festival of Loggers Sports. He had this great idea that the BC public should know what loggers did, and approached the PNE in Vancouver to allow loggers sports to be an open venue of competing BC loggers, to which they reluctantly agreed. At this time, he needed financial support for spars, equipment, and prizes for the winners. At this time, he approached myself, representing the Council of Forest Industries, Vic Heath, of BCIT, Oscar Sziklai for UBC, and Jerry Holmes for the equipment companies

(Continued on page 5)



each summer to work with the logging crew. But, as he was finishing his last year of school, his dad, who by this time was a market logger, died. This left Bill to go back to the float camp as a young lad, to an isolated area called Winter Harbour on Northern Vancouver Island, and try to run a camp of grizzled loggers to make some money. Today, Winter Harbour is at the end of the road, but, in the 1940s, it was only accessible by boat or airplane.

Well, Bill and his company (which



[operated until 2017](#)), survived. He married and had three sons, the oldest of whom was Patrick, a renowned pioneer of Greenpeace. Bill began to develop outside interests, the first being a love of jazz music, which involved a large collection of most of the jazz artists of this period. And, in



(Continued from page 4) Ode to Bill Moore (as well as other acquaintances) to sit on a committee and obtain funding. It became a tremendous attraction, and very successful, even attracting overseas contestants who wanted to be involved. After a few years, the PNE thought that it was about time for loggers sports to “pay for space” at this annual event, which forced Bill to privatize the event, and step aside. The new organization evolved to become the [Canadian Loggers Sport](#)



[Association](#) and has become a standard attraction at most logging communities in BC, where the top loggers now compete in events around the world.

The next endeavour is another example of the fertile mind of Moore. *“We must try to educate school children in BC on the value of the forest industry, so, we need an organization to take teachers for a 3-4 day field trip to a forest setting (on their mid-term break), and expose them to all those involved in planning logging operations—government, industry, public and environmentalists.”* He called this organization the [Festival of Forestry](#) (FoF), and it is still in operation today.

Then, through the FoF, he thought that it was necessary to attract noted foresters from other countries to our province, to see what our industry is doing, and, in the hope,



that our foresters would get invitations to their countries. This worked very well, so, Bill moved on to his biggest idea yet-to build a Forestry Centre in the province-to sell the forest industry to our public. So, he called on his varied contacts to join his *Forest Foundation*. Surprisingly, he attracted Ray Smith (M&B's president), Jack Munro (IWA president), Lucille Johnson (RivTow president), Doug Maitland (Industry insurance rep), Dal Richards (a jazz acquaintance), Peter Pearce (UBC) and myself. We developed a plan to build a big forestry centre in BC, modeled after Portland's [“Western Forestry Center”](#) in their civic park, which is a huge attraction in the western US. I was chosen to head a committee to locate a suitable site. It soon became evident that it should be in the lower mainland to attract the most public, and, we hoped that the land would be donated. We chose three possible locations - at the entrance to Stanley Park, in the Pacific Spirit Regional Park at UBC, or at the UBC Research Forest in Haney. All that was needed was the funding (roughly \$2 million) to build and staff the building. Even Tom Waterland offered the Crystal Garden in Victoria, which had just come into government hands. When we turned down this offer, Tom offered the Foundation a sum of money that had been donated to the provincial government for such a purpose by a recently deceased logger (I believe it was \$150,000) for operating funds in the meantime. Then, the severe recession of 1984 struck, and all of our financial supporters backed away. But, this, to Bill, was only a bump in the road. So, in the meantime, he arranged for a large space on Granville Island to

be made available to us during the summer months to build an “interpretive centre”, mainly for school children. We hired a designer and a graduate forester, (Melissa Hadley) to promote our centre. For two years, it was a great success, but, it soon became obvious that support for our building would not be forthcoming for some time, and the



Forest Foundation folded.

The Junior Forest Warden program was failing in BC at this time, so, Bill stepped in with a new program involving logging contractors and small-town mayors in BC to establish, and fund, new clubs. Immediately, and for the next decade, JFW flourished in the province, thanks to Bill!

In all these endeavours, Bill still found time to be on the BC Ferries Board of Directors, and be President of the Truck Loggers Association and the Pacific Logging Congress.

A true supporter of safety, the forest industry, loggers, and foresters, Bill Moore deserved more credit, but, to my knowledge, never received true recognition!

Sadly, Bill Moore died in 2000!

A [tribute website](#) is maintained by the family.

A research resource for the archived FHABC Newsletters (Issues 1—107)

Many of us had found that searching our [past newsletters archive page](#) was useful when researching a person or topic, because Webmaster David Brownstein had indexed the titles.

But Director Dave Lang came up with a better idea: he made one big pdf file

of the first 107 issues, which enables a full search of the full text in all newsletters since 1981. (Caution, it is a large 94 meg file, but when online, you can [download it from right here](#), or find it on our website [archive page](#).)

Issues 1 (Dec 1981) through issue 85

in 2008 were produced by Editor John Parminter. Subsequent editors were Barbara Coupe, Stan Chester, Eric Andersen and, currently, Dave Florence.

We'll update the large file each year by adding the most recent four issues.

Welcome to our newest FHABC directors

We are pleased to have four new Directors with FHABC, and asked them for responses to two questions.

Our complete list of Directors is shown on page 3 of the newsletter.

We asked the same two questions to our other Directors and Webmaster. [All responses can be read here.](#)

Dave Lang Secretary

A graduate student (MA, History) at the University of Victoria, and Assistant Archivist with the Ridington Dane-zaa Archive.



What sparked your interest in BC forest history?
Like most people living in this province, the forest industry has had a role to play in my life. My grandfather cut railroad ties. Friends and family worked in the mill. Smoke from the beehive burner across the street covered the field at school when the wind blew the right way. When I returned to university, I found there was a "gap" in the history of log export controls, and that is my area of research.

What are some things you want to do while Secretary at FHABC?

I'm interested in digital archives and record keeping and I'd like to work with the FHABC and its partners to ensure that the valuable historical information this organization has access to is both preserved for, and presented to, researchers in the future.

Ira Sutherland Director

A [researcher and PhD candidate](#) at UBC in Vancouver BC



What sparked your interest in BC forest history?

Initially, it was my experiences exploring, documenting, and working to better manage old-growth forests in BC. These experiences led me to think deeply about time and its relevance in forests. More recently, I've designed my PhD at UBC (currently in my third year) to compile a geospatial history of forestry across BC. As I compile historical forestry data and maps, I've also learned a great deal about the broader history of BC, and I hope to share it with others.

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(Ira Sutherland, continued)

What are some things you want to do while a Director with FHABC?

In 2016 I founded a website called the [Vancouver Big Tree Hiking Guide](#) which aims to inspire residents of Vancouver to learn more about the history and ecology of forests around Vancouver. I want to disseminate the philosophy that underpins my website: the best way to learn and create value is through experience, and learning about history through experience can be fun, cool, and relevant to a wide range of people. Now is an exciting time for that at FHABC as we expand our reach and relevance on social media. I hope to help facilitate that effort and I hope you all follow along.

Richard Olak Director

An [independent film producer](#) and forest history buff in Burnaby BC



What sparked your interest in BC forest history?

My father and much of my extended family worked in forestry while I was growing up, so I was surrounded by the stories and culture.

The more I learn about BC Forest History the more I feel connected to my own history.

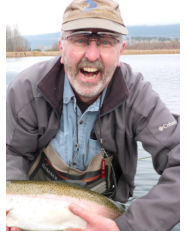
What are some things you want to do while a Director at FHABC?

Using my background in filmmaking and producing I'd like to explore new ways FHABC can reach out and engage with the community.

I also look forward to participating in the creation of meaningful projects that promote BC's Forest History.

Mark Clark Director

A [forest industry professional](#) in Prince George BC.



What sparked your interest in BC forest history?

My wife would say that it's because I'm a pack rat at heart.

But really history is part of who we all are. I've always found value in being aware of how and why people do things in particular ways. And a lot of the time that is because of their history. So by studying and preserving history, we are keeping a little part of ourselves into the future. I've worked in the forest industry all my career, mostly in Prince George and Mackenzie, and now I'm toying with retirement and have got a collection of memories and artifacts I feel are part of me, and part of our collective conscience. So preserving that history is preserving a little bit of the others I've known and worked with over the years.

What are some things you want to do while a Director with FHABC?

I'd like the FHABC to increase the provincial scope of the organization, recording more forest history from throughout the Province. And I'd like to contribute to active committees, with active fellow members.



WWII Prisoner of War becomes a BC Forest Service Ranger

This is an abridged version of a document co-authored by Ian Macaskie's daughter Karin Yarmish, who lives in Prince George, and longtime FHABC Director and Newsletter contributor Mike Meagher RPF (Ret), from Victoria, who expanded and edited the article. The complete document can be found on our [website here](#). (Photos from the family collection)

Thousands of people have arrived in B.C. searching for a promise of a better and more secure life than they foresaw in their home's situation.



German P.O.W photo

British Army Captain Ian Bruce Macaskie survived World War II in German Prisoner of War camps for five years before his release in 1945. Colditz Prison, considered the

“pinnacle” of camps, was Ian’s last stop, due to his diligence in performing many escapes. Then he was posted to Washington, DC. to gain information on the Japanese treatment of prisoners. While there he evaluated his family’s future “back home”, found it lacking, and was persuaded to move to British Columbia by a fellow POW friend. He arrived in Cloverdale in 1948 to work on his friend’s farm.

His youth in Kent was spent rambling in the nearby country of fields, streams, and wooded areas, building a love of nature that fitted work in forestry. Accepted by the BC Forest Service’s Green Timbers Ranger School nearby, he began the courses involved, was hired to begin his career in Prince George during the summer seasons and returned to Green Timbers each fall until completing the studies in 1954.

Daughter Karen described Prince George in the 1950s as

“... a fairly rough town, ...dirt roads, wooden sidewalks and the lack of many accessories that he had before ...”

Also: *“When he first arrived he was sent to a big forest fire.”*
When he returned his wife

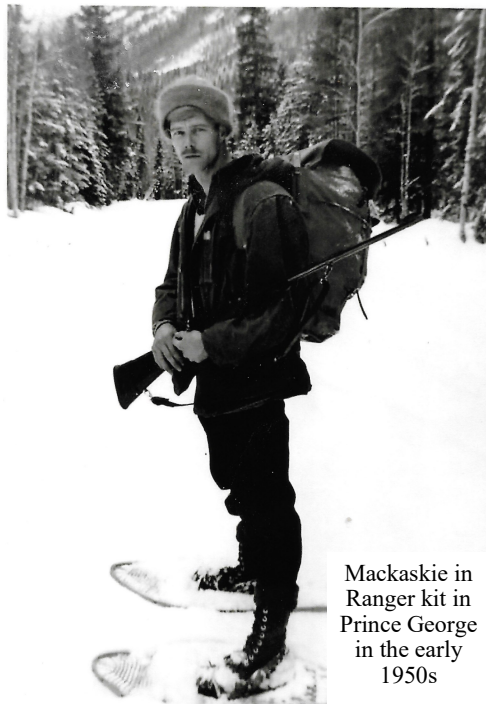
“hardly recognized him, ... he was black from head to toe.”

Further revelations included his work involving *“timber cruising, flying in floatplanes, traveling on trains, riverboats, and railway speeders to get about the area.”*

A 70-mile move to work in Penny for the local Penny Spruce mill increased Ian’s responsibility, but a decline in the market led to the family reconsidering their future.

A timely suggestion by Coastal friends resulted in a move in January of 1957 to Lantzville, where the broader options of better education and employment could engage the family more fully. Shortly after their arrival Ian landed a job in the M&B Harmac Pulp mill, followed soon by a switch to the forestry crew of the Northwest Bay Division under Frank Maber, RPF.

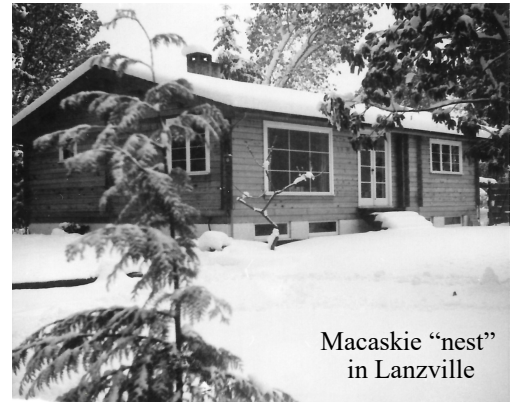
Their proximity to Nanaimo increased the range of employment options, resulting in an application for employment by the Federal



Mackaskie in Ranger kit in Prince George in the early 1950s

Department of Fisheries in Nanaimo and then employment later in 1957. Not long afterward a voyage to document the status of the Pacific Fur Seal was posted for which Ian applied successfully. He kept records of census data for each stop and recorded impressions and anecdotes that later were published in 1979 as *“The Long Beaches.”*

Further proof of Ian’s resolve was revealed when only he and wife Tina assembled a Pan-Abode house on their lot next to the coastline in



Macaskie “nest” in Lantzville

Lantzville.

The long years imprisoned caused long-lasting effects that led the family to return to Prince George for Ian’s last weeks.

Daughter Karen recalls that her Dad

“.. did not talk much about his wartime experiences. I think he worked at blotting out that part of his life. Wish I could ask him questions now.”

The complete eight-page document can be found on our [website here](#).



Outreach to the ABCFP 2021 Convention

By Dave Florence, with inputs from Ira Sutherland and other Directors.

The FHABC outreach to the TLA and ABCFP conventions during January and February went very differently this year. The 2021 *Truck Loggers Association Convention and Trade Show* was totally canceled, so we're hoping to attend next year at the Bayshore Inn from Jan 12-14, 2022.

But the ABCFP put on an excellent "virtual" Conference and invited FHABC to take part. Our participation was secured, developed and led by board member Ira Sutherland, who put together a popular booth for virtual visitors, and staffed it all week along with board member Mark Clark.

One highlight of our booth was a 55 second [YouTube video](#) prepared for us by board member Richard Olak.



Opening shot of the video. What else? It's a forest.

With a voice-over by FHABC President Richard Dominy, and containing many photos of the FHABC in action, it encouraged visitors to join our Association. Some of the message: *"This is an exciting time in the Association. By using the wide-ranging talents and diversity of our members, we are looking to bring BC forest history online through new projects, films, and social media. Please join our Association, and have a share in BC Forest History"*



From the Youtube video: AGM 2019, Kamloops.

Visitors to our booth were encouraged to join our [Facebook Group](#) in their quest for "bonus points" towards a terrific set of prizes collected by the ABCFP from sponsors. This resulted in over 100 new members for the Group, bringing us to over 300 members. Welcome to all our new Group members!

We were encouraged by comments posted on the "public wall" of the booth, words which included: *From Skeena-Hazelton* "It was rather nice to scroll through the posts, it reminded me of going to forestry museums as a kid."; *From Lillooet* "I enjoy looking back at our forest history!"

From North Vancouver "Great work on setting up this Facebook page"

From the Okanagan "Thanks for doing this. This looks like a great Facebook page. I'm now a new member. I also shared it with a bunch of people."

From some FLNRORD employees "Wish I had known about it sooner!"... "Very cool facebook page"; *From an independent consultant* "The links to the 1957 mapping are very cool. I just downloaded one for the area where I am presently working. Thank you!";

From others "Fascinating history brought to us by modern technology, this is great!"; "Love this! Not sure how I didn't come across this association yet in my career. Will follow along on Facebook for sure"; "I really enjoyed your Facebook page and hope to spend more time in there. History is a gift! Thank you for the good work."

For many years, FHABC has

enjoyed the honour of presenting book prizes during the Inductee Recognition Luncheon to the Class Valedictorians, who are the RFT and RPF who achieved the top marks in the forest professionals registration exam that year.

The virtual substitute for the event normally held Thursday during each convention was a [YouTube video](#) prepared in advance and released at 3 pm on February 4.



Trevor Swan, now immediate past President of ABCFP, was master of ceremonies for the event. The 126 names of members in the Class of 2021 Forest Professionals were scrolled on the screen. At the end of the video, he announced that FHABC would be sending our congratulations and books to this year's valedictorians: Devon Murray, RPF, from Port McNeill, and Kathleen Harfman, RFT, from Prince George.

Below: A [word cloud](#) showing the top 30 locations of our 520 visitors to the booth



CANADA'S FIRST MOUNTAIN HELICOPTER RESCUE - SEPTEMBER 23, 1950

By Ken Flowers, who researched and added on to a story written by his father about the rescue of his grandfather Albert Flowers from a Wells Gray Provincial Park fire lookout. The full story with many photos and insights into remote lookout life is contained [here on our website](#). We introduced the story on our [Facebook page](#) on the 70th anniversary of the event, Sep 20, 2020. The story was subsequently publicized by BC Local News in their [Oct 29, 2020 edition](#) and was cross-posted in [BC Forest Fire Lookouts on Facebook](#).

Edits: John Parminter and Dave Florence.

THE VANCOUVER SUN: Mon., Sept. 25, 1950

Injured Man Rescued by Helicopter

A Forestry Service lookout man, alone and injured on top of a 6500-foot mountain peak in the B.C. interior, was rescued Saturday by helicopter.

The dramatic rescue took place in the Clearwater-Azure Lakes district, 110 miles north of Kamloops, despite clouds and wind.

A. D. Flower, lookout man in that area, suffered a crushed right leg last week when a rock tumbled on him as he was clearing a trail. He was in touch with Kamloops by radio but did not ask for help immediately, feeling that hospitalization was unnecessary.

When the leg failed to heal, he radioed for help.

An Okanagan Air Service Ltd. helicopter, doing a flying job at Hope, was detoured to Kamloops then took off for the lookout station.

Pilot D. K. "Deke" Orr made the ticklish flight and put the big "windmill" down virtually on top of the mountain, in a small alpine meadow.

Flower's injury is not serious.

News of the rescue was broadcast over the radio and made newspapers across Canada. According to the Canada Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa Ontario, "It seems that you have uncovered Canada's first mountain helicopter rescue. We could not find other similar events that dated further back".

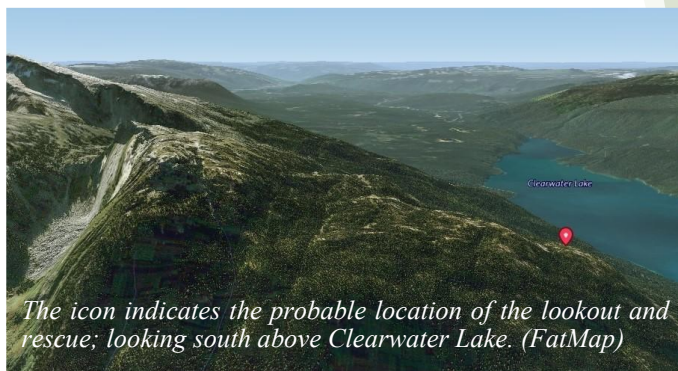
Albert David Flowers was working as a Forestry Lookout-man on a remote mountain in Wells Gray Park (along with his son Gerald). It was a two-day trek to get there and that's already from a remote homestead. Albert was tasked with getting out daily weather and fire reports. While there, he

suffered an injury to his right leg that got progressively worse so they radioed for a medical evacuation. An Okanagan Air Services pilot was called away while flying for a mining company operating high in the mountains south of Hope, BC. He arrived in a Bell 47B-3 helicopter, (CF-FZX) to fly Albert to the Kamloops hospital for treatment. It was actually lucky that his son Gerald was with him to clear an area for the helicopter to land. With his bad leg, Albert could not have done it. Gerald had just turned 15 and took several pictures of the rescue.

An excerpt from Gerald's account:

"They asked if a basket stretcher would work OK, but I didn't think it would as they would take too long, and dad's leg looked bad. Besides, I thought it would be very painful. Anyway, I told them a helicopter would be the best if it didn't have too much of a load. It was a slight downhill takeoff which would make it easier.

They must have really hustled because the next morning they called and said that a helicopter was on the way and asked me what the weather was like. Anyway, along comes the helicopter, makes a circle and he told me to cut down a few more trees which I did. Then he landed with a bit of forward motion, facing down the draw to the south. The registration was CF-FZX and it was a Bell. The cockpit plexiglass was open to the side and to the top. The tail boom was covered and said Okanagan Air Services. The pilot introduced himself and then went to get



The icon indicates the probable location of the lookout and rescue; looking south above Clearwater Lake. (FatMap)

dad and himself aboard. The helicopter lifted slightly and then the pilot flew forward and down the hill.

After dad took off in the helicopter, I started to pack things as I was told to by him. I thought I could stay there until the end of the season as it was just about over, but I guess rules are rules. I packed things up and called Jack Norman, the Clearwater Lake Patrolman to come and get me. I met him the next day at the foot of the trail and got a ride with him in the boat to his cabin at the foot of the lake where I stayed overnight."

The full 26 pages of the story can be read and downloaded [here on our website](#). Researcher Ken Flowers welcomes further information about this event at kenftech@yahoo.ca.

A.D. Flowers in the left seat, 'Deke' Orr or Carl Agar in the right (There are conflicting stories about who was the pilot). Restarting the helicopter during medical evacuation. Photo by Gerald Flowers



Gerry, Bud and the Tiger by the late George S. Nagle BSF PhD RPF (ret). We

are nearing the end of the "International Foresters of BC" series that was initiated in [Issue 103](#) We would like to have more of these stories, so if you know of anyone who might contribute, please contact the newsletter.editor@fhabc.org

The Vancouver company Forestal, together with Hunting Aerosurveys, conducted a forest mapping and inventory project in the Sundarbans Forest of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1958-1959, as part of a larger Sandwell project constructing a pulp/newsprint mill in Khulna.

The KNP mill was to use Gewa, a mangrove tree with white, milky wood, found in wide strips along the banks of rivers and khals (creeks) in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta (lighter green on the Google image below). This Sundarbans mangrove forest contains about 600,000 ha in Bangladesh, another 400,000 ha in India. It is perfectly flat, flooded by tides from the Bay of Bengal on a diurnal basis. Eurasian spotted deer are abundant, and at the time, so were large Bengal tigers. It has been managed as a forest reserve for over 150 years by successive national forest

departments.

The Forestal inventory crew of 50+ labourers and technicians lived on a large houseboat (retired steam-powered ferry) and an 1897-built steam-powered tug, with a steel barge alongside full of fresh water. This floating camp moved every day to random plot locations, with field crews moving about in small motorboats. As a result, no regular human traffic patterns were established. Many signs of tiger and a few sightings were encountered during the inventory. Each crew was armed, but no direct confrontation occurred.

The first week of Forestal-Sandwell logging trials commenced in early 1959, with logging manager Bud Ellis, and water transport manager Gerry Ferguson in charge. Bud was a quiet, experienced logger from the Pacific Northwest - not tall but beefy, with thinning blond hair and wire glasses that had thick lenses. Gerry was a giant Fraser River boatman with a black crewcut standing straight up above a high forehead and dark eyes. He had a big laugh and was an unending source of classic logger-boatman one-liners.

Gerry and his brothers from Chilliwack had run some of the very first jetboats up and down the Fraser, shepherding logs to Vancouver from Quesnel.

The two men were close friends, sharing many curries and happy hours plotting workable harvest, bundling, rafting, and towing operations for Gewa pulpwood in the Ganges delta. These systems were entirely new to the subcontinent, and as they developed, had many disbelievers. Sessions were conducted in FS Offices, the company house in Dhaka, in the housing complex and club at the mill site, and notably on-site in the Sundarbans, onboard the MV Juneau - the officers' launch. She was a sleek Fairmile Class motor launch left on the river by WWII.

The initial KNP Sundarbans logging camp was also floating, on another retired steam ferry and water barge, plus a flotilla of contractor 'country boats' - the crescent moon-shaped black dhows used for the transport of everything on the rivers of Bengal. The camp was semi-permanent, intended to be the base of several months' logging. Several hundred labourers and support staff were in residence. Before the first week was out, paths were pounded out by bare feet going to and from the landings, bundling works, and Johnson bars (crude toilet poles hung between two trees over the river bank).

At the end of the first week of this regular traffic, a 500-pound tiger took logger Ali Khan off a Johnson bar at dusk. His remains were discovered the next morning at first light. The whole crew was (not surprisingly) paralyzed with fright. There could be no further work at that location until the tiger was killed.



(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

It is worth remembering the water barges at this point. There is no potable water in the Sundarbans - all channels are tidal (saline) to some degree. This condition over the centuries prevented permanent human settlement, even in densely populated Bengal. However, fishing, shellfish gathering, collection of thatch material, and mangrove logging brought a continuous human presence - from canoes and country boats borne silently by the wind and tide. The result - every Sundarbans tiger was a potential man-eater - men were simply another form of prey - easier to catch than a spotted deer or wild boar.

In the rest of the subcontinent, man-eating tigers usually had some problem - age, youth, injury, famine, etc. In the Sundarbans, any tiger would take a man. The process was further abetted by dense cover in most areas of the mangrove, especially along riverbanks.

See - [Maneaters of Kumaon by Jim Corbett](#) for exciting details.

The colonial forest records of Bengal over the century 1847-1947 contain an

interesting annual balance sheet: the number of humans killed vs. the number of tigers killed. It is usually near balance, often over 100 of each, with many no doubt unrecorded. This grisly record was maintained for a decade into the annals of independent Pakistan - right up 'til Bud and Gerry met the problem head-on. So there was precedent, but none of the Canadian crew had expected such a sudden response from the big cats to the new operation. The counter-attack had to be swift if the logging trial was to continue. After heated negotiation, Bud and Gerry got the Muslim crew to permit the use of Ali Khan's remains as bait for a hunting operation that same night. This would have taken advantage of the usual tiger behav-

our of returning to its most-recent kill until consumed.

The crew quickly built two 'machans' in spreading Keora trees by the fatal river bank. Bengali manual skills and daos (short machetes) quickly bound Sundri and Keora poles with jute ropes into hunting platforms - at what they thought was a safe level above the forest floor.

Dusk was already re-settling when a rather rotund Forest Service guard with several tiger kills to his credit climbed into one machan with his single-shot 12 gauge and Large Grain (LG) shells. Bud and Gerry climbed into the other with .375 magnum Winchester rifles, mounted with long, powerful flashlights. Everybody spent a tense night, but the tiger did not return. The next day the crew properly buried Ali Khan. The worry about the tiger intensified - where had he gone - what was next?

Another try was planned for the second night. A goat which had been brought down in one of the country boats for food was tethered to a stake between the two machan trees. The trio of hunters resumed their vigil. The goat bleated for a while, then settled down, and all was very quiet.

Ellis and Ferguson were dozing on and off, when they were rudely awakened by the sounds of the goat being dismembered by the tiger, right below their machan. The two shooters knelt at the edge of the platform, according to a prearranged plan, and with silent signal - turned on flashlights. The tiger leaped off the goat - both men fired before it flashed into the brush. After much probing with beams into the undergrowth (from the machan), they concluded that neither had scored a hit on the shadowy target.

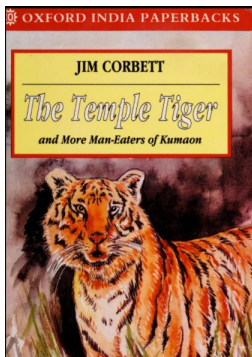
Thinking the tiger long gone, and their plans for a swift kill ruined, both were dozing again, rather uncomfortably on the hard bones of the platform. They were jolted awake as the forest guard in the other tree woke up and shot the dead goat below. The ghostly

white carcass jumped with a full load of LG shot. 'At least he's a good shot' said Gerry, always the joker.

The whole shooting crew was dozing again when Gerry felt the tree (a huge Keora) vibrate against his back. He was resting in a large fork, slightly above the poling platform, to ease his own aching frame. He swore later that the hair on the back of his neck bristled. He looked down, then up, over his shoulder - right into the face of a large tiger on his branch, above him. He remembered the face as big as a barrel, whiskers shining ghostly white, with large eyes. In front of the face was a large paw, reaching for him with claws extended in the playful manner of a curious kitten - the paw was within inches of his head.

His rifle was crooked in his elbow, with the barrel tucked in a fork of the branch, and could not be brought to bear on the tiger. Now seriously panicked (he would use more colorful language), Gerry grabbed the barrel just below the front sight, stepped down onto the platform, and gave the tiger his best full-ax swing - between the eyes - with the hardwood butt. The butt snapped off and spun out of the tree onto the ground. The tiger blinked, looked surprised with a 'that wasn't nice' kind of a look - according to Gerry - and leaped over him, over the sleeping Ellis, down to the ground and vanished again into the dark. Gerry's flashlight was still attached and burst to light as he gaped at deep claw marks in the branch and smelled a whiff of 'very bad' tiger breath.

Barely coherent, Ferguson cursed and kicked Ellis (his boss) awake - both were fully awake for the duration. This tiger was not worried by crews, equipment, flashes, bangs, and he climbed trees - he was dangerous. They shouted at the forest guard opposite them and he returned to his lofty perch.



Lardeau Valley Museum Steam Donkey Interpretive Panels

By Dave Florence, Newsletter Editor, with inputs and permission from the Lardeau Valley Historical Society

We've been following the story of the repatriation of a steam donkey on the [Facebook Page of the Lardeau Valley Historical Society](#), located south-west of the Duncan Dam in the Kootenays.

In December 2020, they published five interpretive panels that provide an outstanding record of their donkey's history, steam donkeys in general, and early 20th century Meadow Creek history. The panels will be installed beside their steam donkey display later this year when

it gets assembled.

Their steam donkey has a fascinating history: purchased for use in Meadow Creek in the 1920s, used for decades, sitting idle for decades, moved to a museum in Alberta for 57 years, and then repatriated to the Lardeau Valley in 2020.

You can read the [whole story on our website here](#).



↑ 13435 N. Hwy 31 ↓ Dave Carson on the donkey, circa 1926



(Continued from page 11) **Bud and the Tiger** They were convinced that the tiger was truly gone - all was perfectly still - when the dismembering noises resumed on the goat below. Again they crept to the edge of the machan - on flashlights - again the tiger leaped off the goat, two .375s barked in unison. It should be noted that Gerry was now shooting with only the pistol grip left on his stock. There was no apparent effect of either shot. Everybody was still wide awake as gray light crept through the mangroves. Behind some low bushes a few yards away a long striped body could be seen, lying still.

After much shouting, all three hunters descended carefully, guns at the ready. The tiger was dead, one .375 slug in the back of the head. Whether Bud, the short-sighted logger, or Gerry, the eagle-eyed boatman with no stock got lucky will never be known. The crew went back to work that same day.

This story is told second hand - told to me (consistently) by Gerry Ferguson and Bud Ellis in the mangroves, and in the Khulna Newsprint Officer's Club in 1959. I saw the .375 Winchester with broken stock and white hair in the broken edge of the pistol grip. I also saw the tiger skin with one neat hole in the back of the head. It is with Jack and Dorothy Eastwood in Victo-

ria at the last report.

The story has two tragic sequels: First - Gerry died a few years later in a head-on collision near Prince George - confirming that 'it ain't the tigers that gits you - it's the dogs'. Second - the Bengal tiger has been practically wiped out in the Sundarbans since a horde of weapons provided by the Indian Army vanished into the countryside of Bangladesh during the civil (separation) war with Pakistan in 1971. The international (mainly Chinese) price of a tiger skin is roughly 20x the average per capita income in rural Bangladesh.

The good news currently is that protection for the few remaining tigers ([several hundred](#)) in the Sundarbans is improving through international cooperation (UNESCO, CITES, (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), World Bank, etc.) and closer attention by the Forest Department of Bangladesh. Spotted deer are thriving in the absence of the big cats; there is plenty of food available. Nonetheless, occasional forays of stray tigers still occur in villages around the perimeter of the mangroves. Apparently they are still fond of goats.

Khulna Newsprint Mill, which was never large enough for fully economic

operation, has been closed for about 7 years. It achieved nearly 50 years of operation, with a significant positive impact on the local economy. The mill was also damaged in the independence war of 1971 but was restarted with assistance from CIDA.

The Ellis-Ferguson systems of harvesting, bundling, and river transport of Gewa logs were used throughout the life of the mill.

(More information about the Sundarbans) [Nat Geographic article](#) ; [Wikipedia](#)

[From the ABCFP Magazine April 2015](#)

George S. Nagle RPF #939 1936 – 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).



History of Logger Sports in the Alberni Valley

By Allen Boyko, long-time leader of the Logger Sports community in Port Alberni. Spouse and competitor Jean Boyco inspired many of the ladies who have joined the sport.

Allen
and
Jean



Derek and Brenda Pouchnik from Viola, Idaho

Access to the Alberni Valley in the 1860s was by water and an overland trail from the east coast. The potential for farming was a major factor for the arriving settlers, most of whom settled adjacent to the Beaufort Range, Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, and the Ash Valley.

To get access to the best lands and areas, the trees and foliage had to be removed. Consequently, farmers became loggers to get this done. The tools that they used were very basic, crosscut saws, axes, log jacks, etc. It is well documented in journals from before 1900 that during community gatherings where they displayed their animals, produce, and such that chopping and sawing events were held.

Until the logging companies arrived to harvest the abundant timber stands, people using these basic tools had to do their own sharpening. Some got better at it than others, and the competition amongst the farmers at these community events was very evident.



Sawyers Brenda Boyko, Viola, Idaho; and Sarah Mooney, Ucluelet

Labour Day weekend was the most usual time for these events to be held. One of the local competitors was Clive "Gunny" Brown, who was born in Hilliers in 1900. He related to me of one contest held on a Saturday in 1920. They shut Johnson Road down in front of the Arlington Hotel, felled a Douglas

-fir tree in the surrounding forest, dragged it to the site with a team of horses, and parbuckled it onto some blocking. At that time the hand sawing was on the butt end, chopping on the smaller end. I have a photo of him with his filer holding the saw that he won with, and he was named "All Round Logger" in 1928.

During World War II, these events were halted. After that, the local union and labor council hosted these Logger Sports, which were mostly held on May and September weekends at recreation park in Port Alberni.

For the tree climbing, standing trees were used, I can remember in the late 1940s one climber slipped and fell upside down and had to be rescued from this predicament. The log birling was in a round wood stave tank, erected on-site at midfield. These events were always well attended, with competitors from around Vancouver Island.

Later, as times changed, the local Elks Lodge ran these events at Sproat Lake Park. There was no tree climbing, and the birling was held on the lake. These events were very well attended by spectators and contestants at this perfect site.

To produce this event the Elks had assistance from local competitors, who in 1971 moved the site to permanent grounds at Shoemaker Bay Road. They also changed the prize monies from \$300 to \$3000, encouraging many competitors to attend, getting up to over 70 competitors for this event was combined with other communities.

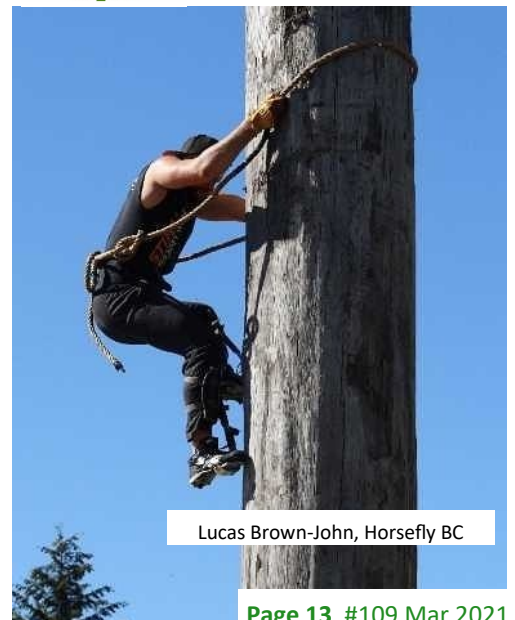


Boyko at the Standing Block, 1975. Alberni Times Photo

In 1983, Logger Sports was moved to the current location at 4090 Hollywood Street with a grant and assistance from the Alberni District Fall Fair. This new site and has produced many championship-level events guided by Alan Boyko, family, and friends; and is now sanctioned under

CANLOG, preserving this heritage event for the community.

(Photos courtesy CANLOG)



Lucas Brown-John, Horsefly BC

Gerry Wellburn and the 1300+ year trees

By Bruce Devitt, RPF (Ret) was President of the BC Forest Museum Society in Duncan from 1982-1984. He has been a long-time active contributor to FHABC and provides this anecdote about Gerry Wellburn (1900-1992), whom Bruce described as “a distinguished BC philatelist and lumberman, a master collector and story-teller”. As Bruce said, “old trees and old forests are once again in the news. Here is a story about a man and old trees”.

Gerry Wellburn, founder of the BC Forest Discovery Centre in North Cowichan near Duncan, BC was an extraordinary collector; his collections included stamps, old trees, forestry, and logging equipment. These collections were extraordinary because he chose them to create and illustrate a story. His insight as to what was important to collect and how to use it to tell a story was a special gift.

He is probably more widely known for his Canadian historical stamp albums, which included, for example, the “1858 Fraser River Gold Rush”, The “Historic (1862) Vancouver” (transformation from forest to city) Album and he once showed me items from an album that covered the period of mail delivery across Canada by Hudson Bay Company fur trade canoes; by sail around South America and by rail to the west coast. All of his albums were thoroughly researched and were hand-illustrated by him. Today the collection remains in several private hands and the only accessible ones are photocopies of eleven Wellburn collections in the National Archives of Canada. One album - the “Panama Railway Connection” - was recently offered for sale on December 12, 2020.

Gerry's largest collection and story by far covers BC logging and forest history located in a forest history museum that includes life-sized equipment, operating steam locomotives and speeders on a railway that goes over a lakeside trestle and loops around 100 acres, an old working sawmill camp buildings, a BCFS Ranger Station, a fire lookout tower, post office and trapper's cabin, dioramas, and other memorabilia. Gerry told me he wanted this place to tell the complete story of people and the forest through logging and forestry on the BC West Coast. The BC Forest Discovery Centre has now been in operation for over 55 years.

But little known is his story of the “oldest” Douglas-fir trees in Canada. Some will recall that Gerry Wellburn had the beginnings of the museum up in Deerholme at his homestead, which is where I first met him. George Silburn, the head of the BC Forest Service Reforestation Division and my boss, was a friend of Gerry from the old Victoria swim club days on the Gorge. Early in 1960, Gerry needed some trees planted so George sent me up to see if I could give him a hand. Little did I realize then that this job, planting trees at his place, would become more demanding and occupy a great deal of my time until my work, then as Chief Forester for Pacific Forest Products, took me to Vancouver in 1985.

In 1964, the Cowichan Valley Forest Museum Society was formed to house Gerry's logging/forestry collection. The property on Somenos Lake was purchased with industry donations and community support. Jim Macfarlane (Forest Engineer, MacMillan Bloedel, Shawnigan Division) and I (BCFS Forester at the Duncan Nursery) were the Engineer and Forester that Gerry relied on in the early stages of the development of the Museum property.

As I said, Gerry was a unique collector in that he collected things that told a story. It was a great experience just to hear him and see the world through his eyes. The “1000-year-old Mothers” exhibit in the museum was a good example. Gerry had saved an area containing 1000-year plus Douglas-firs on Waterloo Mountain behind Glenora on the former Wellburn Timbers holdings, then MacMillan Bloedel, Shawnigan Division. Gerry and I and, if I remember correctly, Jack Phillips his son-in-law, went up one weekend in the Spring of 1967, just after snowmelt, and dug up some Douglas-fir seedlings that had grown along the roadside under the old tree. We stored these lifted young trees in



[From BC Forest Discovery Centre history](#)

the seedling-cold storage plant at the BCFS Duncan Nursery until summer and then had 12 planted at the Forest Museum on July 1, 1967, as part of Canada's Centennial Celebrations. Wow! What a story that made – seedlings from “1000-year-old mothers”. Although coming from cold storage, the seedlings were in good shape, so they survived and grew well.

I did not realize until recently the full details of how the old trees came to be in this story. In 2019 I received an email asking me if I knew the source of the big Douglas-fir cookie in the Canadian Forest Service's Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria. I thought it might be the same source as the one in the Duncan BC Forest Discovery Centre. (A “cookie” in this context is a round of wood cut from a tree trunk showing the annual growth rings which can be counted to determine the age). I contacted Neil Maldon at the BC Forest Discovery Centre and obtained the following information from

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)
 their collection: A certificate on MacMillan Bloedel stationery dated October 3, 1957, and signed by Ralph Schmidt, RPF, BCFS Research Forester certifying the age of a tree over 1300 years and notarized by David Williams QC. Then there was a pamphlet "Tour of the forests" by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which was meeting in Victoria. Gerry led the tour dated October 4, 1957, through the MacMillan Bloedel Shownigan Division woodlands. This was followed by a picture showing the placement of a plaque on the Waterloo Mountain tree commemorating its age and the tour. There is also a map showing old tree locations. And last, on Canadian Institute of Forestry stationery dated April 1978, there is a notarized plantation certificate signed by Ralph Schmidt, then head of the BCFS Research Division, sealed by David William QC, a local Lawyer and museum supporter, and me stating the seedlings planted came from 1000-year-old mothers.

This brief summary shows the detailed attention that Gerry devoted to his storytelling and collecting. I am also sure that he designed the tour pamphlet and organized and led the tour on behalf of the local Chamber. He also had created a 1000-year tree cookie from an adjacent Waterloo Mountain tree which is now on display in the BC Forest Discovery Centre.

Now you know the full story about the plantation in the BC Forest Discovery Centre located south of the big log building past the big "General Grant offspring" Sequoia in the crescent

near the railway track. And, you can appreciate more about Gerry's unique storytelling and collecting gifts. He was indeed a master collector and storyteller and he was also a master at knowing whom to contact for help.

By the way, as others found out later, the Douglas-fir tree cookie at the Pacific Forestry Centre did not come from Waterloo Mountain.

Thanks and credit goes to Neil Malbon, Collections Curator, BC Forest Discovery Centre, for providing me

copies of the items from their collection.

Mosaic Forest Management foresters recently have confirmed that the ancient Waterloo Mountain tree is still to be found on the Mountain.

Additional images associated with this story can be found [on our website here](#).

MACMILLAN & BLOEDEL LIMITED

SHAWNIGAN DIVISION

DEERHOLME, DUNCAN, B.C.

October 3, 1957

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE OLD GROWTH DOUGLAS FIR TREE, SITUATED ON THE LOWER SOUTH SLOPE OF WATERLOO MOUNTAIN, TO WHICH A BRONZE PLAQUE IS ATTACHED IS AT LEAST 1300 YEARS OLD. THIS CERTIFICATION IS BASED ON AN ACTUAL RING COUNT OF A SAMPLE BORING OF THE TREE AND COMPARED WITH A FULL CROSS-SECTION OF A SIMILAR DOUGLAS FIR TREE WHICH GREW IN THE SAME LOCALITY AND WAS FOUND TO BE 1310 YEARS OLD.

Signed *R. Schmidt*
 R. Schmidt B.S.P., B.C.R.F.
 Assistant Forester
 Research Division
 British Columbia Forest Service

Signed *G.E. Wellburn*
 G.E. Wellburn
 Manager
 Shownigan Division
 MacMillan & Bloedel Limited

Signed Before *Lawrence*
 Notary Public





Upcoming Events

Jun 3-5 [BC Historical Federation](#)
Virtual Conference with Surrey Historical Society

[The Treefrog News](#) event listings

Membership: New or lapsed member?

\$20.00 annually, or three years for \$50.00

To join, or renew Membership by email and e-transfer:

- 1 Print a membership form from the website, complete, scan and email it to us at info@fhabc.org
- 2 Send an electronic fund transfer of your dues (\$20/year, or \$50 for 3 years) to treasurer@fhabc.org

To join, renew, or correspond by mail:

Forest History Association of B.C.

427 Walker Avenue

Ladysmith, BC V9G 1V7

Print a membership form from the website, complete, scan and mail, along with your cheque made payable to "Forest History Association of BC".

Next Issue: Jun 2021

- More of the Burch and International series'
 - - Your Story?
 - Contact us at newsletter.editor@fhabc.org
Website: fhabc.org

Printed Newsletters

We email links to both the 8.5"x11" version and the 11"x17" version of the current Newsletter to members, and invite those who want a printed version to make their own arrangements. Some prefer the 8.5"x11" version on a home printer; some prefer to take the tabloid 11"x17" version to Staples or other sources of tabloid printing and make it booklet-style. Some choose black and white, some print it in colour.



Interested in helping us deliver our forest history program financially? Donations can be made [here through Canada Helps](#), with a tax receipt arriving immediately.

(Continued from page 1) Survey Results

group and outreach to other groups

c. Yes! Social media are a great addition to the FHABC, but how about more in-person community-building (once pandemic over).

d. Wider distribution of our newsletter free of charge.

e. Focus efforts on relevant topics including coastal old-growth forest history and fire suppression history in interior

f. More use of digital imagery online and digital and archival preservation of members records and interviews.

g. The history of anything does not have a huge appeal for many people. Maintain the status quo with the high quality of the newsletter and make the archives available online to anybody who needs them.

h. Fair unbiased media coverage.

i. Enhancing membership on local and national basis most important

j. Evaluations of the pros and cons of past decisions and evolution of resource management, to help inform current discussions as to how to improve resource management. To do this, the FHABC needs to be more inclusive of differing values and perspectives - it is currently biased to short-term corporate forestry economic values and interests

k. local field trips to former logging sites of particular interest e.g. Nimpkish logging locomotives in restoration, exploratory trips to former logging railway camps, dumping grounds, and rail grades e.g. Timberland logging near the Nanaimo airport 1918-1932. Guides would have to prepare a tour and prepare to give a

talk with appropriate pictures

l. Publish at least one historical document annually

m. Perhaps MORE outreach to schools (K-12)

n. Stimulate historical articles relative to BC forest history for distribution to newspapers in BC and local publications.

o. coordinate collections with BC Archives and RBC Museum, fund-raising, membership increase

p. Within each edition of the BC Forest Professional (ABCFP) have a section that has an old photo showing some aspect of Forest History with a short caption.

