

**Forest History Association of Alberta**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**March 16, 2011**  
**Coast Edmonton Plaza, Edmonton**

The quorum requirement of a minimum of 15 members was easily met with a total of 66 members in attendance, the largest attendance ever.

Bruce Mayer opened the meeting with introductions and provided an overview of the documents on the tables which included the draft agenda, minutes from the March 17, 2010 meeting and copy of the financial statement. Mr. Robin Huth and Dr. Ken Armson were introduced as guest speakers for the evening.

There were no changes or additions to the Agenda. MOVED by Wayne Williams, SECONDED by Morgan Kehr; Motion carried.

**Opening Remarks, President Peter Murphy**

Peter Murphy gave a special welcome to Robin Huth and Ken Armson, two people he goes back a long way with. Thanks were given to Bruce Mayer for organizing the AGM with note on the last newsletter, where he had 'raised his own bar'. Peter wanted the audience to recognize that many good things were going on in Alberta with regards to forest history, and that Alberta was part of a bigger picture. A number of years ago the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada set up the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE). Composed of a national network of research people, they set-up a sub-committee that focussed particularly on forest history. This group is run out of the University of British Columbia with a cooperative link to the University of Western Ontario. The group combined forces with the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina to gather information on Canadian forest history resources and provide recommendations on how forest history groups might collaborate more fully. FHAA executive members are scheduled to meet with researcher David Brownstein to discuss the project.

The Canadian Forest Service through the leadership of Jim Farrell recognized forest history as a legitimate research activity and recently provided a number of grants to further forest history in Canada. A grant of \$50,000 was given to the Canadian Institute of Forestry to encourage forest history work across Canada; \$10,000 for work in the Forestry Chronicle, and \$10,000 each of the four Canadian forest history associations. Alberta's application included expanding work on its website, continuing with collection of oral history interviews and to work on a better way to collect and catalogue photographs and make them more shareable.

Peter also made the group aware of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British Columbia Forest Service that was going to be celebrated in 2012. Their first chief forester was H.R. McMillan who had transferred from the Dominion Forest Service and who also had roots in Alberta. Mike Apsey is the chair of the centennial celebration.

## **Past Years Activities**

Adoption of minutes from March 17, 2010, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – no changes. MOVED by Con Dermott, SECONDED by Andy Gesner; Motion carried.

Action items from 2010 AGM:

- Recognition for Arden Rytz – Peter Murphy provided an overview of Arden's career and support of forestry and forest history at the November 2010 Forest Industry Lecture Series; Trev Wakelin did a similar overview in March 2011.
- Regional meetings – a focus for the future, just has not been addressed.
- Theme based idea's for website – will incorporate with future development of the FHAA website.
- Newsletters – October 2010 and February 2011 are the two most recent. There are always lot of material for the old Alberta Forest Service, but the intent is not to focus entirely on government articles; forest industry stories are required as well. All submissions are welcome.
- Canadian Institute of Forestry funding – FHAA received \$10,000 in grant funding as identified above in the President's report.

## **Business Items**

### **2010 Financial Statement**

Assets include the appraised value of the three donated Robert Guest paintings that are currently at the Hinton Training Centre. Not a lot of expenditures occurred in 2010. One new project worked on was an editorial review and donation of \$1,000 towards production of the history of Don Hamilton, owner/operator of Airspray 1967 Ltd. Dedicated funding was provided to the FHAA towards the Lookout book project, the compilation of the Tim and Hope Klein historic calendar collection, and the historic cabin survey. No timelines have been identified to finish.

Financial report MOVED by Bruce Mayer; SECONDED by Darrell Latimer; Motion carried.

## **Elections of Directors**

There are total of 9 directors within the association on a 3 year rotation; 3 from government; 3 from forest industry; and 3 from the public. Positions up for election at this AGM were the government position held by Bruce Mayer, the forest industry position held by Bob Udell and the public position held by Peter Murphy. All three individuals were re-elected for 3 year terms.

## **Other Business**

Motion to adjourn business meeting MOVED by Darrell Latimer; SECONDED by Rick Blackwood; Motion carried.

Door prizes were completed first thing after the break: Mountain Trails book – Norm Denney; Romeo Whisky book (stories written by Alberta lookouts) – Ian Whitby; Olin print – Tom Archibald.

## **Evening Presentations**

### **Robin Huth – Snapshots of the Life of a Forest Ranger in the 1940s**

Robin provided a great history of what it was like being a forest ranger in Alberta in the 1940s and early 1950s where he was stationed in Coalspur, Lynx Creek and Jumping Pound.

Born in Brandon, Manitoba, Robin began adult life as a fur trapper in the wilderness of northern Manitoba. Then when Canada went to war, he joined an unusual unit of the Army called the First Special Service Force - also known as the Devil's Brigade. They were commandos, and were trained in parachuting and enemy infiltration.

After the war, he married, and became an Alberta forest ranger in Coalspur, Lynx Creek and Jumping Pound where he lived with his family for five years before becoming a policeman for the City of Calgary in 1951. After five years in the city, and pining to get back to the bush, he accepted the position of timber cruiser with North Western Pulp & Power in Hinton, and eventually became their personnel manager. He later became Industrial Relations manager for Fibreglas Canada in Edmonton.

After twenty-six years of city life, he and his wife built a house on the Arrow Lakes in BC and resided there until moving to Salmon Arm in 1998.

His hobbies include free-lance writing, cross-country and downhill skiing, and mountain climbing. He has scaled many of the peaks in the Rocky Mountains.

Robin is the author of four books:

1. The Five Minute Break
2. Outdoor Junkie
3. From Horses to Helicopters, a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project for the Alberta Forest Service
4. Guardians of the Forest - A History of the Alberta Forest Service

He is a recipient of the Alberta Centennial Award.

### **Ken Armson, President of the Forest History Society of Ontario**

Ken finished off the evening with an overview of forest history in Ontario and the establishment of the Forest History Society of Ontario.

Ken Armson is a professional forester who after graduation from the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto worked for the Ontario Department of Lands and Forest for two years. He then joined the staff of the Faculty where, apart from a year at Oxford, he remained until 1978 in teaching and research, primarily in forest soils and silviculture. At Oxford his research centered on tree nutrition and soil fertility.

During 1975-76 at the request of the Ontario Government he undertook a study of forest management in Ontario, and subsequently joined the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to bring about implementation of Forest Management Agreements (FMA's). While with the Ministry he was successively Chief Forester and then Provincial Forester. Before retiring in 1989 he played a major role in the Ministry's presentations before the Environmental Assessment Board's Hearings on timber management on Crown Lands.

Beginning in 1990 he was involved with promoting third party audits of forest management and drafted the seed paper for the Canadian Standards Association when they established a committee to develop standards for such audits.

Throughout his career he has been interested in the history of lands and forests, particularly as affected by human activities and became concerned about the loss and ignorance of the history of forestry. In 2009 with major changes occurring in the forest sector in both industry and government he gained the interest of several others and formed the Forest History Society of Ontario which had its founding meeting in February, 2010.

## Attendees – March 16, 2011 Annual General Meeting

Brady Whittaker	Jason Boucher
Trev Wakelin	Greg Schellenberg
Jim LeLacheur	Mike Putzke
Bob Morton	Peter Murphy
Rob Anderson	Brent Schelpe
Dave Smith	Jeff Henricks
Bill Tinge	Jim Maitland
Rick Blackwood	Darryl Johnson
Marty O'Byrne	Clyde Corser
Aaron Corser	Robin Huth (guest speaker)
Marion Kelch	Darren Tapp
Greg Branton	Tom Archibald
Katherine Archibald	Roger Loberg
Norm Denney	Mark Handel
Norm Rodseth	Ed Gillespie
Cliff Smith	Con Dermott
Stephen Ferdinand	Don Fregren
Dick Dempster	Bob Udell
Gary Davis	Lou Foley
John McLevin	Bill Bereska
Dave Patterson	Paul Short
Dave Morgan	Dave Coish
Andy Gesner	Morgan Kehr
Trevor Lamabe	Doug Smith
Wayne Williams	Shawn Barraclough
Hugh Boyd	Keith McClain
Bob Fessenden	Teresa Stokes
Evelynne Wrangler	Darrell Latimer
Paul Elliott	Cherise Elliott
Ian Whitby	Rob Thorburn
Mel Meunier	Allan Bell
Bruce Mayer	Ken Armson (guest speaker)
Tim Klein	Butch Shenfield