

**Forest History Association of Alberta**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**March 20, 2012**  
**Holiday Inn Express, Edmonton**

The quorum requirement of a minimum of 15 members was easily met with over seventy members in attendance.

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 16, 2011 meeting and copy of the financial statement. Mr. Neil Gilliat and Mr. Bob Udell were introduced as guest speakers for the evening. Mr. Don Lowe was also introduced as joining his brother in-law Neil Gilliat for the evening.

Directors in attendance were Bruce Mayer, Butch Shenfield, Bob Stevenson, Bob Udell and Cliff Smith.

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

### **Opening Remarks, Vice President Butch Shenfield**

Butch Shenfield provided welcome to all that were in attendance, particularly for those attending for the first time. Butch indicated how he has enjoyed being a member over the last many years and offered to those new to the Association the value they would gain as members. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, even as simple as with a tape recorder and interviewing others. There are terrific stories out there that need to be captured as pointed out by Butch when both Peter Denney and Bill Luoma both passed away prior to having an interview done. Butch said that there isn't a lot of 'timeline' pressures on members or Directors to get things done, but that we all collectively need to move the history agenda forward.

### **Past Years Activities**

Adoption of minutes from March 16, 2011, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – no changes made. MOVED by Bob Udell, SECONDED by Andy Gesner; Motion carried.

Action items and accomplishments from 2011 AGM:

- Canadian Institute of Forestry funding – provide update on grant funding projects.

- Newsletters –February 2011 and October 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 Electronic Lecture Series, Looking Back Looking Forward: The Ongoing History of Canada's Forests – Mayer and Murphy presentation May 30, 2012

## **Business Items**

### **2011 Financial Statement**

Assets include the appraised value of the three donated Robert Guest paintings that are currently at the Hinton Training Centre. Expenditures in 2011 were linked mainly to 2011 Annual General Meeting. Dedicated grant funding has been provided to the FHAA towards the Lookout book project (the compilation of the Tim and Hope Klein historic calendar collection), the historic cabin survey and projects identified through the Canadian Institute of Forestry grant. No timelines have been identified to finish.

Financial report MOVED by Bruce Mayer; SECONDED by Rob Thorburn; 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 the 2011 AGM were the government position held by Cliff Henderson, the forest industry position held by Cliff Smith and the public position held by Bob Newstead. In addition, one other forest industry position was vacated by Trevor Wakelin's resignation. Cliff Smith and Bob Newstead were acclaimed each for additional three-year terms, Ken Yackimec was elected to the government position for a three-year term, and Norm Denney was elected for a one-year term to the second vacant forest industry position.

### **Other Business**

Motion to adjourn business meeting MOVED by Daryl D'Amico; SECONDED by Wally Born; Motion carried.

## **Evening Presentations**

Neil Gilliat provided an entertaining history of how a couple of 'English guys', Neil and his cousin Rex Winn, were hired by Eric Huestis and sent to work for the Alberta Forest Service in the Athabaska Forest, Entrance District. Neil recalled that the interview was about fifteen minutes long and that he and Rex "often wondered if we were that impressive, or were they looking for a couple of dummies to send into the bush". Work in their first few months consisted of working on the telephone line along the Big Berland River. As Neil recalled, "the forestry telephone system was something of a marvel in its day, it was technically possible to make a call from Entrance to the Crowsnest on the one wire bush line, but conditions had to be very good and was not very practical. Within the forests it worked remarkably well and was the prime source of communication." A video of Neil's presentation will be posted to the Forest History Association of Alberta's website in the near future.

### **Neil Gilliat – Early Days in the Alberta Forest Service**

(Neil William Winn Gilliat, married to Jean Lowe (Don Lowe's sister))

Neil was born in the United Kingdom and emigrated to Canada in the late 1940s with his cousin Rex Winn. The 'two English Guys' went to work with the Alberta Forest Service at Entrance. Following that Neil had a number of roles – Ranger in Hythe District in 1952, audit branch in Edmonton in 1956, Assistant Superintendent Edson 1956, Assistant Superintendent Rocky Mountain House 1959, Assistant Superintendent Whitecourt 1963, and Superintendent Slave Lake 1963. Was appointed coordinator Human Resources in 1968, a socio-economic programme in the northern region aimed at assisting native people to cope with the changing times. Neil left government in 1972 starting a number of new careers – founder of a waferboard plant in Slave Lake, Gilliat Motors in Slave Lake, worlds largest malt plant in Alix, Alberta, a biochemistry plant in Leduc, and now retired at 84 assists his daughter in the pub business at the Alix Hotel.

Neil is the author of two AFS centric books – If Moose Could Only Talk and Watch Over the Forest.

### **Don Lowe**

(brother-in-law to Neil Gilliat)

Don grew up in the Peace River country and started his career with the Alberta Forest Service in the Edson and Mountain District areas. He then transferred to Fish and Wildlife and then later to Highways. Don was in charge of the weigh stations and heavy truck transport for the province before retiring to Red Deer.

## **Bob Udell, Chair, Foothills Research Institute Adaptive Forest Management History Program**

Bob finished off the evening with an excellent overview of the new TransCanada Ecotours Northern Rockies Highway Guide that was in final edits and nearing publication. This book was co-written by Fred Pollett, Robert Udell, Peter Murphy and Tom Peterson. The following description is provided for the book:

The Foothills Research Institute (FRI) produced the TransCanada Ecotour Northern Rockies Highway Guide, a self-guided auto-based tour through the foothills and Rocky Mountains of the Northern Rockies tourist region. The Adaptive Forest Management History Program of FRI developed this Northern Rockies Highway Guide as part of its continuing program to educate, inform and stimulate the imagination of people who travel through and stay to visit the landscapes in this area. By understanding our past, we shape our future.

Canada's highways are countrywide corridors through an ever-changing museum rich in natural and human history. The TransCanada Ecotour program was developed initially by the Canadian Forest Service in the 1970s and continues today as a bias-balanced window into the landscapes and the natural and human factors that have shaped, and are shaping them. This will be the ultimate guidebook to the landscapes, ecology, culture and history of the Northern Rockies Region along major highway corridors and important byways. From Hinton to Valemount, Grande Cache to Cadomin, Jasper to Lake Louise. Rich photography, detailed maps, historical context and discussion of current issues illustrate the journey.

### **Bob Udell**

Bob Udell was raised in Melissa, Ontario, a small community located in forested country about 150 kilometres north of Toronto. Completing high school there, and following a summer working in a local sawmill, he enrolled in the forestry program at the University of Toronto. Summer work provided experience cruising with Canadian International Paper at Noranda, Quebec; road location with Kimberly Clark at Longlac; and forest pathology research with the Canadian Forest Service at Maple and across southern Ontario. In his graduating year, Des Crossley, Chief Forester for North Western Pulp and Power, Ltd. at Hinton, offered him a position. Crossley, in an interview with Peter Murphy later said "he prided himself on hiring only the best and brightest".

During his next five years at Hinton, Bob worked with Steve Ferdinand laying out cutblocks; re-measured company permanent sample plots with Jack Wright; and worked on silviculture projects with Bob Carman. In 1968, Bob then became Section Head for Development and Protection. In 1970, Bob returned to Kenora,

with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests as a management forester, and later as forest management supervisor in Fort Frances, Ontario. In 1975, Des Crossley invited Bob to return to replace Jack Wright who was to become Chief Forester. From that time Bob was largely responsible for forest management planning, including new initiatives in recreational use, trails and interpretation. He was selected in 1987 by Don Laishley to succeed retiring chief forester Jack Wright. At that point he became the forestry team leader within an expanded Forest Resources department.

During the next eventful 25 years his achievements included author of the 1977 and 1986 company management plans, leading the team to set up the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) for expansion in 1986-88, member of the Minister's 1990 Expert Review Panel on Forest Management, co-chaired with Dennis Quintilio the committee to develop the proposal that led to establishment of the Foothills Model Forest in 1992 where Bob then served as president from 1992 to 2005, served on a number of other industry committees and task forces (including the Alberta Forest Products Association's Forest Management Committee, the Forest Products Association of Canada's Forestry Section, the Alberta Chamber of Resources and the National Forest Strategy consultations), co-chaired an industry/government task force on an Enhanced Forest Management Policy for Alberta, led *Sustaining the Legacy*, a major history and timeline of the Weldwood operation at Hinton and is co-author of the books *The Resilient Forest*, *Learning from the Forest*, *A Hard Road to Travel* and the *TransCanada Ecotours Northern Rockies Highway Guide*. Bob as editor of the Jack Glen story *Mountain Trails*.

In retirement, Bob continued to work as a forestry consultant as well as doing volunteer work for the Forest History Association of Alberta and the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF). Among the achievements since retirement include recipient of the Alberta Centennial Gold Medal and the CIF Canadian Forestry Achievement Award. Bob has always been community minded. One of his major avocations continues to be music, first expressed through his bluegrass band "Stumped", later named "Loggerrhythm", which has played both locally and provincially and at CIF annual meetings. More recently Bob has been the Director and Chair of the Foothills Male Chorus, a 25-man chorus based in Hinton. He conducts the chorus, chairs the operating committee of the chorus, lead and sings bass in the Pilgrims Octet, a male chorus adjunct; he is also a member of the Blue Diamond Quintet, a mixed singing ensemble. Bob's talents also appear on the stage, where he has starred as Tevye in *Fidler on the Roof* productions, *Jud Fry in Oklahoma* and other roles in *Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot*.

## **Attendees – March 20, 2012 Annual General Meeting**

Kevin Freehill  
Phil Robert  
Doug Smith  
Darren Tapp  
Chris McGuinty  
Len Stroebel  
Bill Tinge  
Daryl D'Amico  
John Belanger  
Iain Johnston  
Michelle Shesterniak  
Roy Campbell  
Wally Born  
Morgan Kehr  
Brian Lopushinsky  
James MacKinnon  
Rob Thorburn  
Hugh Boyd  
Jeff Henricks  
Cliff Smith  
Bob Udell  
Dick Dempster  
Heather Massel  
Kevin Gagne  
Andy Gesner  
Bob Morton  
Jason Cottingham  
Brent Schleppe  
Bob Stevenson  
Martin Alexander  
Don Lowe  
Ian Whitby  
Bruce Mayer  
Dave Schroeder  
Kevin Parkinson  
Jessica Parker  
Roger Meyer  
Dave Finn  
Jessie Baron  
Steve Bata

Rick Arthur  
Brad Mckenzie  
Mark Crowley  
Ken Yackimec  
Kevin Quintilio  
Paul Ebert  
Gerald Sambrooke  
Wayne Williams  
Shawn Barraclough  
Cordy Tymstra  
Tim Klein  
Brett Walker  
Bob Mazurik  
Lou Foley  
Bill Bereska  
Ed Pichota  
Bruce Cartwright  
Jean Lussier  
Roger Littke  
John Brewer  
Bob Petite  
Fred McDougall  
Norm Denney  
Kristofer Heemeryck  
Dennis Driscoll  
Craig Rose  
Bill Black, Sr  
Bernie Schmitte  
Con Dermott  
Neil Gilliat  
Gary Davis  
Ed Gillespie  
Owen Spencer  
Steve Hvengaard  
Doreen Lechnitz  
Rick Bambrick  
Reg Ahlskog  
Bob Lenton  
Alice Ou