

Forest History Association of Alberta
11th Annual General Meeting
March 18, 2015
Days Inn and Suites, Edmonton

The quorum requirement of a minimum of 15 members was met with nearly one hundred members in attendance.

Bruce Mayer opened the meeting with introductions and provided an overview of the documents for review which included the draft agenda, draft minutes from the March 19, 2014 meeting and a copy of the draft financial statement.

Directors in attendance were Bruce Mayer, Peter Murphy, Cliff Smith, Rob Thorburn, Bob Udell, Bob Newstead, Norm Denney and Ken Yackimec. Missing was Butch Shenfield.

Robin Huth, his friend Marion Kelch, and Peter Murphy were introduced as guests and presenters for the evening.

Special thanks were given to Janelle Lane, on hand to video the evening presentations; Jane Price, Charlene Guerin and Tammy Decosta, who managed the front registration table; and Sheldon Belanger, who was to take still photographs throughout the night.

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

Opening Remarks, President Peter Murphy

Peter Murphy started off saying how invigorating it was to see the interest by all of those in attendance. He complimented the work on the newsletter, saying that it put the history association on the map. Peter singled out Rob Thorburn and thanked him for his effort to interview Lorne Larson and to scan photographs that Lorne had in his collection. A rare picture of surveyor M.P. Bridgland was in the collection and appeared on the cover of the March 2015 Trails & Tales newsletter. In considering doing interviews with people, Peter also talked about tailoring the sessions to the individual. Dan Jenkins wasn't comfortable with a formal interview, but spent time to write his personal story and after having the work transcribed, is now ready to publish his stories in a book of his own. Sam Fomuk, a 50 year lookout person with the Alberta Forest Service would only allow Peter to interview him by phone, at a time prescribed by Sam. Although this took time, another great collection of stories and personal history was recorded for future generations. Peter's view was that you can "create your own footprint, leave your own record for the future". Peter closed by reaching out to

any genealogy experts or enthusiasts who would be willing to do research on names from the past to see if there were current descendants that could be contacted for information on past relatives. A treasure trove of information might be found in any number of locations.

Guest Speakers

Doug Hutton, President, King Motion Picture Corporation

Doug provided a status update on the initiative he has undertaken called Canada's Forest Treasures, Celebrating 150 years of Natural and Cultural Heritage, 1867 to 2017. Forestry has bonded the country from its white pine masts and fur trade in the forests in the early years to urban forests, innovation, forest education and youth. Doug was also working with staff in the North West Territories to document the new forests coming to life from the wildfires they experienced in 2014.

Kat Spencer, Logger Sports coordinator

Introducing herself as a "little girl with really big dreams", Kat gave a quick overview of the 2014 Stihl Timber Sports Western Qualifiers that was held in Fort Saskatchewan, as a good stepping stone for reintroducing timber sports back into Alberta. Kat provided special thanks to Terry Kristoff for supplying the logs; logs which competitors were very complementary on as being the "best they'd seen in years". Kat announced the double headers planned – June 20th in Fort Saskatchewan and June 21st in Morinville for the St. Jean Baptiste Festival. She is looking to get education of the sport noticed again.

Brett Spady, Junior Forest Ranger Specialist, ESRD

Brett started off saying in 1965 the Montreal Canadians won the Stanley Cup, Canada got its new flag, and Peter Murphy started the Junior Forest Ranger program. Since then 5,000 alumni (members, leaders, etc.) have been through the program. In 1965, members earned \$5 per day, and in 1972, Rob Thorburn's pay stub showed \$7 per day with 20 cents off for taxes. Although celebrations would be throughout the year, the main event will take place at Bull of the Woods at Cold Creek in August. He is interested in stories, photographs, and names of people to add to the celebrations.

Past Years Activities

Adoption of minutes from the March 19, 2014, 10th Annual General Meeting – no changes made. MOVED by John Belanger, SECONDED by Pat Loewen; Motion carried.

Activities and accomplishments from 2014:

- Trails & Tales newsletter – one ready for publication for March 2015, available on-line for the March 2015 annual general meeting. Special thanks again go to Sheldon Belanger for his creative flair and layout skills in the newsletter.
- Website – slowly moving along on the redesign, still need to work on a searchable photo database to go with the site.
- Additional photo collections were provided by Joe Smith, Bill Adams (worked for the Corsers in the 1940s), Dave West, Kevin Dewhurst, Lorne Larson, Manfred Rein (his father Alfons worked at the Chisholm sawmill in the late 1920s), Jim and Ken Skrenek (photos from Spurfield and Chisholm), Jacquie Hanington (through another interview that Rob Thorburn completed), E.G. (Gunner) Wahlstrom (manager of Swanson Lumber at Chisholm and Sweetgrass Landing operations), Bill Weber (a forest ranger from the 1953 class who later became a Fish and Wildlife Officer in Grande Prairie, also father of current Forest Officer Richard Weber), and Jan Schilf (from her father-in-law Nick Sherstabetoff).
- Lesser Slave Forest Education Society – the FHAA was honored to be invited to share in the May 2014 evening events, the story Smack Dab in the Middle is included in the March 2015 Trails & Tales newsletter
- Colonel Robert Palmer – Peter has been doing research on Colonel Palmer, the first in charge of the Northern Alberta Fire Ranging District.
- Whirlpool logging – the quest continues with Peter Murphy on the history of tie logging in Jasper National Park.
- Forestry Chronicle May/June 2014 – two articles; “A fortuitous international meeting of two Yale foresters in 1908: H.R. MacMillan and W.N. Millar” – Peter Murphy and Bob Stevenson; and, “Growing the new forest – The application of applied silviculture in Alberta – Bob Bott, Peter Murphy and Bob Udell

Business Items

2014 Financial Statement

Assets include the appraised value of the three donated Robert Guest paintings that are currently at the Hinton Training Centre. Expenditures in 2014 were linked to the Annual General Meeting, scanning and research and FHAA lapel pins. One hundred and twenty memberships were received in 2014, 107 individual, 4 family and 9 corporate. Dedicated grant funding will still to be used for the Lookout book project (the compilation of the Tim and Hope Klein historic calendar collection), no timelines have been identified to finish.

Financial report MOVED by Bruce Mayer; SECONDED by Craig Rose; Motion carried.

Elections of Directors

There are a total of 9 directors within the association, elected on a 3-year rotation; 3 from government; 3 from forest industry; and 3 from the public. Positions up for election at the 2015 AGM were the government position held by Ken Yackimec, the forest industry position held by Cliff Smith and the public position held by Bob Newstead. All three people were acclaimed for another three-year term.

The Board of Directors for 2015 comprises:
Government: Butch Shenfield, Ken Yackimec, Bruce Mayer
Industry: Norm Denney, Cliff Smith, Bob Udell
Public: Rob Thorburn, Bob Newstead, Peter Murphy

Other Business

No Other Business

Motion to adjourn business meeting MOVED by Craig Rose; SECONDED by Wally Born; Motion carried.

Door Prizes – Signed TransCanada Ecotours Northern Rockies Highway Guide, Don Hamilton biography and Stantec donations. Winners were M.J. Kristoff, Bruce MacGregor, Greg Baxter, Stan Kavalinas, Norm Denney, Kris Heemeryck, Herb Cerezke and Kevin Gagne.

Evening Presentations

Robin Huth - The 55'ers and Alberta's First Pulp Mill

Robin Huth (writer, author, story teller, ranger, policeman, timber cruiser, human resource manager, etc.) told the story about his adventures and the many others who became known as the Hinton 55ers. This year, 2015, is the 60th anniversary of those hardy people (workers and family) that created forest history in the province!

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. Horses to Helicopters
4. Guardians of the Forest - A History of the Alberta Forest Service

He is a recipient of the Alberta Centennial Award.

Peter Murphy - The Great Fire of 1919, Lac La Biche

Peter provided a summary of the research he has been doing to tell the story of the "Great Fire of 1919". The "fire" (in reality multiple fires) stretched west from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to Lac La Biche, Alberta and is estimated to have burned two million hectares. The fire burned out the community of Lac La Biche on May 19, 1919. As an addendum to these minutes, Peter's research led him to Merle Massie, an adjunct professor at the University of Saskatchewan, who concurrently was independently researching the Great Fire as part of her recent doctoral studies. Their combined efforts have led to an article in the Forest History Today.

Peter is Professor Emeritus in Forestry at the University of Alberta, teaching from 1973 to 1995, serving as Chair of Forest Science and Associate Dean for Forestry in the Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry. Graduating in forestry from the University of New Brunswick in 1953, he worked for the B.C. Forest Service, moving to Alberta in 1954 to join the Alberta Forest Service (AFS). In 1956 he became head of the AFS Training Branch that led to establishing the Forest Technology School (now Hinton Training Centre) at Hinton in 1960.

He is author or co-author of five books and contributed chapters to two others, largely in the field of forest and fire history.

He has served variously as Chair of the Technical Committee (TC) on Sustainable Forest Management for Canadian Standards Association 1998-2004; President Canadian Institute of Forestry 1993-94, President of the Forest History Society Inc. (Durham NC) 1993-95, President, Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association 1985-86, President, Forest History Association of Alberta. Peter is currently on a forest management advisory team for the Grey Nuns White Spruce Park in St. Albert, a local old remnant stand of spruce.

Attendees – March 18, 2015 Annual General Meeting

Wes Nimco	Hugh Boyd	Wally Born
Michelle Shesterniak	Mike Tucker	Brian Lopushinsky
Brian Stanton	Bob Mazurik	Trevor Lamabe
Tom Archibald	Bernie Schmitte	Iain Johnston
Chad Morrison	Cory Davis	Kevin Parkinson
Sean MacNeil	Kevin Topolnikci	Dale Thomas
Jason Pankratow	Rob Thorburn	Kevin Freehill
Gerald Carlson	Bill Bereska	John McLevin
Dave Patterson	Rick Keller	Stephen Ferdinand
Bruce MacGregor	Cliff Henderson	Pat Rehn
Landan Rehn	Bob Udell	Bob Bott
Peter Murphy	Marion Kelch	Robin Huth
Cordy Tymstra	David Wall	Kat Spencer
Brett Spady	Dalibor Houdek	Kurtis Blaikie
Jerry Sunderland	David Blackmore	Gladys Blackmore
M.J. Munn-Kristoff	Terry Kristoff	Allan Bell
John Bell	Lorne Larson	Byron Grundberg
David Finn	Greg Baxter	Roy Campbell
Kelsy Gibos	Daniel Martin	Kevin Gagne
Kristofer Heemeryck	Jason Cottingham	Terry Jessiman
Dave Coish	Chris Valaire	Doug Krystofiak
Henry Desjarlais	John Belanger	Ken Yackimec
Doug Smith	Morgan Kehr	Wayne Bowles
Al Hovan	Dave Kiil	Bernie Simpson
Con Dermott	Cliff Smith	Bob Newstead
Janelle Lane	Mark Crowley	Derrek Bakker
Al Benson	Fred McDougall	Shawn Barraclough
Forrest Barrett	Kevin Quintilio	Gordon Glover
Herb Czerzke	Stan Kavalinas	Jan Schilf
Evelynne Wrangler	Darren Tapp	Keith McClain
Dave Morgan	Doug Hutton	George Robertson
Therese Yacyshyn	Ryan Good	Sheldon Belanger
Bruce Mayer		

Assisted – Tammy Decosta, Charlene Guerin, Jane Price