

Forest History Association of Alberta
12th Annual General Meeting
March 16, 2016
Days Inn and Suites, Edmonton

The quorum requirement of a minimum of 15 members was met with just over eighty 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 18, 2015 meeting and a copy of the draft financial statement. Also included on the tables was a fRI Research note on the Forest History Program provided by Bob Udell, and the latest edition of the Trails & Tales, hot off the press.

All directors were in attendance - Bruce Mayer, Peter Murphy, Cliff Smith, Rob Thorburn, Bob Udell, Bob Newstead, Norm Denney, Ken Yackimec and Butch Shenfield.

Guest speakers introduced were Arnie and Liz Mostowich and Rick Arthur.

Special thanks were given to Sammy (room set-up) and Twyla (bar) from the Days Inn; Chad Morrison and John Ivanc for the projector and sound system set-up; Janelle Lane, who helped video the evening presentations; Jane Price, Charlene Guerin and Tammy Decosta, who managed the front registration table; and Sheldon Belanger, who took still photographs throughout the night.

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

Opening Remarks, President Peter Murphy

Peter Murphy opened his remarks welcoming all the first time attendees and those who regularly attend. Thanks were given to Bruce Mayer for organizing the meeting and completion of the most recent Trails & Tales newsletter. He went on to say the Trails & Tales was more than a 'newsletter', it was a major report. Peter stated that Bruce is regularly contacted by members of families associated with forestry either with information, or looking for information. The most recent was the grandson of Ranger Larry Waikle, a name Peter remembered Eric Huestis talking about when referencing old rangers in the Clearwater, Brazeau and Edson area. Mr. Waikle's grandson was looking for what information we had on his grandfather, but unfortunately all we really knew was the timeframe he worked for the Alberta Forest Service, 1933 to 1943. Peter commented that was too bad, it would be nice if there was a footprint he'd left

behind by way of memoirs or diaries, but there wasn't. Peter went on to say to those in attendance that together we need to make some footprints we can leave behind. Start simply with a resume or biography of yourself and your friends for the record, information easy to keep with current technology. He further asked people to write their own stories, or stories about others, or do an interview. Maybe find someone who has photographs and ask them tell the story behind them, seeing if they could be borrowed for scanning. An example Peter used to emphasize the importance of 'the story' and information behind photographs, occurred while reviewing a 1954 Forestry Training School photograph Dave Blackmore had of his fathers. A number of names were identified, but based on its age, the rest likely never will be.

Peter also commented that saving history can be done in different ways, one example similar to what Marie-Pierre Rogeau has done in fire history. Using tree ring and dendrochronology techniques, she was able to parlay the information in a PhD, amazing. Cordy Tymstra, a current PhD candidate, has also saved an important part of history with his documentation of the 1950 Chinchaga wildfire, very well done. These are the types of things we should encourage.

Peter reminded all of us that the Forest History Association of Alberta is part of a national network, with British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Canada as partners. The Canadian Institute of Forestry also provides an important role with their Old Growth section in the Forestry Chronicle.

Another example of leaving a footprint is seen with the stories that Dan Jenkins has compiled. An articulate story teller, Dan was encouraged to write one story and he did, it was about a hunting trip. This then led to story after story, all hand written on foolscap paper, line after line. The combination of those stories is now a published book that Dan has shared.

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. The story is about forests, and there isn't anything more common in Canada that unites and bonds us like forests. The boreal forest for example is coast to coast, and when you see it on a map it is pretty impressive. Doug continues to work with top professional photographers and videographers using the latest in technology. This is a great story, but there is a long way to go.

Kat Spencer, Logger Sports coordinator

Passionate and tenacious is how Kat describes herself with logger sports. She first provided thanks to West Fraser, specifically Terry Kristoff, and Tolko, both in Slave Lake, for being consistent sponsors that have allowed the logger sport event go on year after year. 2016 will be the third year for logger sports in Morinville, where the goal is still a permanent facility. Kat had a thank-you for the contacts she has made through the Forest History Association, particularly Peter Murphy. When first pitching the logger sports idea to Town Council in Morinville, they asked what they have in common with the sport. Talking with Peter, Kat was able to show council that one of the first water powered sawmills was located near the community on the Sturgeon River. The 3rd logger sports event is being planned for Morinville during the St. Jean Baptiste Festival on June 25 and 26, 2016. Kat also explained that she was heading to Rocky Mountain House shortly to interview their local logger sports committee on how they kept the passion in the sport for so long.

Teresa Stokes, Forests without Borders

Teresa provided an overview of Forests without Borders. Forests without Borders is a registered charity in Canada established by members of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Understanding the synergies between proper forestry practices and sustainable development, Forests without Borders works independently or with existing non-government organizations to protect, conserve and restore forested lands, and to educate the public about the importance of healthy forested ecosystems nationally and internationally. Teresa explained that Alberta has a local chapter with a number of volunteers, chaired by Pat Wearmouth. The local chapter is organizing a film night on April 7, 2016 to raise funds, and Teresa was extending an invitation to all in attendance.

Bob Udell, Forest History Program, fRI Research

The handout on each of tables, Bob explained, was a summary of the fRI Research Forest History Program, that began in 1996. The program is winding down with only a few projects left to complete, the last being the 25 year anniversary of the Foothills Model Forest, now fRI Research. Bob wanted to provide thanks to many in attendance for their help in the past on projects completed:

- Peter Murphy and Bob Stevenson for their support from the very beginning;
- Bruce Mayer and the FHAA for their support over the years;
- Bob Bott, primary author, Peter Murphy and Bob Stevenson for work on the first book, Hard Road to Travel;
- Rob Mueller and Peter Murphy on Mountain Trails;
- Steve Ferdinand and Bob Stevenson for the Resilient Forest;
- Tom Peterson, who has worked on a number of the projects, ensuring all aspects of local history were explored and captured; and
- Fred Pollett for writing and supporting the Northern Rockies Highway Guide.

Editor's Note: Special recognition is extended to Bob Udell for his drive and leadership in the Forest History Program. Many important publications have been created for future generations capturing important forest history. A great 'footprint'. Congratulations.

Brett Spady, Junior Forest Ranger Specialist

Brett began by thanking people for their support of the 50th JFR anniversary year, recognizing that youth are tomorrow's work force. He had the chance to hear from hundreds of alumni over the year, with tree planting celebrations held throughout the province. Over 5,000 alumni (members, leaders and administration) have been through the program since 1965, with 60% of the JFRs pursuing a career in natural resource management. A short overview video was shown on the 50th anniversary.

Editor's note: Special thanks to Tracey Stewart, Brett Spady and Kim Edwards for their continued work on the Junior Forest Ranger program, especially the 50th anniversary. Recognition is also due to Travis Fairweather for his work creating the anniversary video.

Past Years Activities

Adoption of minutes from the March 18, 2015, 11th Annual General Meeting – no changes made. MOVED by Cliff Smith, SECONDED by Dave Wall; Motion carried.

Activities and accomplishments from 2015:

- Trails & Tales newsletter – published in March 2015. Special thanks to Michelle McBride and Sheldon Belanger for their 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 Lois Fleck from her father Charles White; Len Stroebel from his father Ernie Stroebel; and Dave Blackmore from his father Gordon Blackmore. Carl Leary donated a number of photos during the AGM. One was a 1966-67 Peace River Forest Headquarters staff pictures, with names.
- Tim Juhlin joined the interviewer club by completing interviews of Russell Rowledge, Earl Johnson and Gordon Johnson. The Johnson Brothers Sawmills logged in the Crowsnest Pass for many decades. Gordon Johnson and his wife asked when the book was going to be published, "we're pushing 90, so you'd better hurry".

Business Items

2015 Financial Statement

Assets include the appraised value of the three donated Robert Guest paintings that are currently at the Hinton Training Centre. Expenditures in 2015 were linked to the Annual General Meeting, Robin Huth and Marion Kelch travel and accommodation, March 2015 newsletter, travel and accommodation for Peter Murphy and Cordy Tymstra to the Grassland of the Forest (1919 presentation) conference, website work and photo recovery of hard drive tapes. One hundred and thirty-five memberships were received in 2015, 122 individual, 6 family and 7 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 Tim Juhlin; 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 2016 AGM were the government position held by Butch Shenfield, the forest industry position held by Norm Denney and the public position held by Rob Thorburn. All three people were acclaimed for another three-year term.

The Board of Directors for 2016 comprises:
Government: Butch Shenfield, Ken Yackimec, Bruce Mayer
Industry: Norm Denney, Cliff Smith, Bob Udell
Public: Rob Thorburn, Bob Newstead, Peter Murphy

Other Business

Aboriginal Firefighter Training 50th Anniversary – Janelle Lane was invited to provide an overview of the documentary video developed celebrating the last 50 years of Aboriginal firefighter training in Alberta. Bruce Mayer thanked Janelle for her work in doing the voice over on the video, and Travis Fairweather for his work on the videography editing work. Video was played before the break.

Motion to adjourn business meeting MOVED by Rob Thorburn; SECONDED by Darren Tapp; Motion carried.

Door Prizes – Autographed TransCanada Ecotours Northern Rockies Highway Guide by Bob Udell and Peter Murphy, autographed Chinchaga Firestorm book by Cordy Tymstra and Mountain Trails books were the donations. Winners were Dan Jenkins, Arnie and Liz Mostowich, Stephen Mills, Jean-Paul Bielech, Byron Grundberg and Corrie Fordyce.

Evening Presentations

Arnie and Liz Mostowich – Mostowich Lumber

Arnie and Liz gave an entertaining overview of Mostowich Lumber, from Steve's first sawmill in 1944 off the Cynthia Road to his last and newest sawmill in 1986, east of Fox Creek.

Rick Arthur – Using Historical Photographs to Identify Indigenous Burning Patterns

Rick presented on his research paper on Indigenous burning and comparing historic and current landscape vegetation using paired photographs from the Mountain Legacy Project. The photographs together with the documents show a pattern of burning in the late 1800s and early 1900s that can be attributed to Indigenous peoples for their use in hunting and gathering.

Attendees – March 16, 2016 Annual General Meeting

Bob Bott	Bob Stevenson	Bob Udell
Doug Krystofiak	Wes Nimco	Bill Bereska
Wally Born	Bruce MacGregor	Hugh Boyd
Cliff Henderson	Andy Gesner	Butch Shenfield
Stephen Mills	Graham Legaarden	Kristofer Heemeryck
Chad Morrison	Kevin Freehill	Patrick Loewen
Deanna McCullough	Teresa Stokes	Janet Schilf
Byron Grundberg	Michelle Shesterniak	Rick Arthur
John Collins	Dan Jenkins	Ed Pichota
Greg Baxter	Marie-Pierre Rogeau	Cordy Tymstra
Kat Spencer	Doug Hutton	Brett Spady
Janelle Lane	Daryl D'Amico	Liz D'Amico
Corrie Fordyce	Tony Sikora	Con Dermott
Carl Leary	Cliff Smith	Marty O'Byrne
Jean-Paul Bielech	Morgan Kehr	Cal Dakin
Bill Tinge	Bernie Schmitte	David Finn
Fred McDougall	Bob Newstead	Bernie Simpson
Norm Denney	Robert Mills	Bob Morton
Dave Kiil	Dave Morgan	Herb Cerezke
Tim Juhlin	John Ellison	Liz Mostowich
Arnie Mostowich	Rob Thorburn	Bill Allen
Quentin Spila	Darren Tapp	David Wall
Gordon Sanders	Dave Blackmore	Terry Kristoff
Collin Williams	Derek Bakker	Dave Patterson
Dan Lux	Dave Heatherington	Stephen Ferdinand
Chris Kallal	Shawn Barraclough	Ken Yackimec
Peter Murphy	Therese Yacyshyn	Bruce Mayer
Sheldon Belanger	John Ivanc (set-up)	

Assisted – Tammy Decosta, Charlene Guerin, Jane Price