

**Forest History Association of Alberta
13th Annual General Meeting
March 15, 2017
Days Inn and Suites, Edmonton**

The quorum requirement of a minimum of 15 members was met with just over one-hundred and ten 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 16, 2016 meeting and a copy of the draft financial statement. Also included on the tables was the latest edition of the Trails & Tales, hot off the press.

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

Guest speakers introduced were Sheila Willis, Glen Zavisha and Marie-Pierre Rogeau.

Special thanks were given to John Ivanc for the projector and sound system set-up; Jane Price, Charlene Guerin and Tammy DeCosta, who managed the front table 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 Craig Rose; Motion carried.

Opening Remarks, President Peter Murphy

Peter Murphy opened his remarks by saying he was “blown away, and so impressed with the company tonight, the range of introductions and breadth of spirit”. He then went on to thank Bruce Mayer for the recent work on Trails & Tales, another testimony to the spirit we’ve got as an organization. When considering his opening remarks, Peter had jotted down a number of activities that were underway, and “said it was too damned long to read out”, but that we all should be proud of the work we do to preserve forest history in Alberta. A summary of some activities is provided within these opening remarks.

Peter reminded all of us that the Forest History Association of Alberta (FHAA) 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. The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) strongly supports the broader history network by hosting conference calls every couple of months. In recognition of Canada’s 150th in 2017, the CFS is also arranging a meeting in Quebec City in August, in conjunction with the Forest History Society’s meeting.

The FHAA continues to focus on collecting photographs on Alberta's forest history. Peter mentioned he enjoys getting emails from Bruce, with a photo and a question of "do you know who is in this picture, or where and when it was taken?". Additionally, the FHAA is still searching for that right photo program that we can use, similar to what was used in the AXIA production to capture the Dominion Forestry collection. The Quebec City meeting might identify options to consider.

Peter passed on a request from Doug Hutton looking for any horse-logging operations within a 100-mile vicinity of Edmonton, as he'd like to take some high definition film for his Canada's Forest Treasures project. Peter gave recognition to Dave Morgan for photographs his sister-in-law retained of her grandfather, Harry Parker. Many of the pictures are unidentified, but typical of what would be expected back in the 1920s. In doing further research, it was discovered Harry Parker attended the forestry program at the University of Toronto, volunteered with the Canadian Army in 1917 in the First World War, and then returned to complete his degree. In 1920, Parker was appointed head of the Cypress Hills Forest Reserve, a flagship forest of the Dominion Forest Reserves at the time. [Editors note: A short reference is provided in the February 2017 Trails & Tails, Pages 38 and 39.]

Yellowhead County is building a set of interpretive panels just above the hamlet of Brule, to commemorate David Thompson's travels and the beginning of the fur trade through the area. Material for historical accuracy was supplied by Peter and others. Research on tie logging operations in the Whirlpool during the 1920s that Peter has been doing with Tom Peterson and Mike Dillon will be put on display at the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives later in 2017. Peter closed by saying forest history is generating interest outside of our own group and many other research activities are underway, including the work that Robert Udell and Robert Bott are doing with fRI Research on their 25-year history.

Guest Speakers

Noel St Jean

Noel St Jean provided a quick introduction of the 2018 Canadian Institute of Forestry national conference to be held in Grande Prairie, September 16 to 19, 2018, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Section. Follow-up will occur by meeting with individual companies and emails via the Alberta Association of Forest Management Professionals. The theme for the conference is *Sustaining Resources and Enhancing Communities, Looking Back and Going Forward*. The intent is to recognize and incorporate learnings from the past as we move forward in forest and land management.

Kat Spencer, Veronic Boucher and Kevin Martens – Logger Sports

Kat began by saying in 2016 she was unsure if the logger sports event would occur in Morinville, as there were no climbing poles and sponsorships had fallen through. Following the 2016 FHAA AGM, Kat had support to have two climbing poles installed and other financial support for a successful logger sports event in June. Now, Kat says,

the local agricultural community looks at her and asks, “*why is there no poser running to those poles in the field?*”. To provide context of what the climbing poles mean, Kat has been working with Peter Murphy and a donation from the FHAA to install an interpretive display, explaining the early history of forestry in the area. Kat has been able to partner with NAIT for Bull of the Woods, and with the University of Alberta the Frozen Lumberjack Challenge, to be held March 25, 2017.

Kat then introduced Véronic Boucher from the UofA, who through her work developing the Frozen Lumberjack Challenge has been coordinating with the NAIT, the University of British Columbia and Lakeland (Portage) College to create a bigger community and network, and get students more involved in sports related to their forestry degree; and Kevin Martens from NAIT who as well is trying encourage students to embrace logger sports and promote the forestry programs at the various schools.

Rick Arthur

Rick provided an overview of the project he has been working on with Agriculture and Forestry to collate all the old wildfire files from 1930 to the 1970s, where pages were scanned and saved individually. As part of the initiative he is collating the names of rangers and other individuals, with their districts and locations. The work to date was posted on the walls in the meeting room, where attendees could fill in the blanks and provide more linkages or information, either on names, locations, Northern Alberta Forest District numbers, etc. The information will be a valuable piece of the old forest service history when completed.

Past Years Activities

Adoption of minutes from the March 16, 2015, 12th Annual General Meeting – no changes made. MOVED by Dave Wall, SECONDED by Wally Born; Motion carried.

Activities and accomplishments from 2015:

- Trails & Tales newsletter – published in February 2016. Special thanks to Michelle McBride and Sheldon Belanger for their creative flair and layout skills in the newsletter.
- Additional photo collections were provided by:
 - Harry Parker collection, through his granddaughter Teresa Craig-Morgan, sister-in-law to Dave Morgan
 - Ernie Stroebel collection, through his son Len
 - Herb Cerezke collection, forestry cruising pictures from the 1950s
 - Buck Rogers collection, through his daughter Sue Worbecki (and friend Rob Thorburn)
 - Rudy Bluetchen collection, through grandson Jeremy
 - Rolland (Rolly) Jourdain collection, through son Randy
 - Carl Leary collection, forest service pictures from Peace River
 - Gordon Blackmore, through son Dave

- Ray Hill collection, through son Cal
- Hank Ryhanen collection, through widow Hazel and niece-in-law Cindy Bishop
- Cliff Henderson and Bob Stevenson completed a historical article on Ted Loblaw in the recent Rocky Mountain Wilderness Society newsletter.
- The CIF is still looking for articles for the Forestry Chronicle Old Growth section, the FHAA hasn't submitted recently, need to look and see what might be done.

Business Items

2016 Financial Statement

Assets include the appraised value of the four donated Robert Guest paintings that are currently at the Hinton Training Centre. Expenditures in 2016 were linked to the Annual General Meeting, photo scanning, website renewal and appraisal of the fourth donated Robert Guest painting. In 2016, 113 memberships were received; 102 individual, 3 family and 8 corporate. Dedicated grant funding is 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.

The 2016 Financial report was submitted and MOVED by Bruce Mayer; SECONDED by John Belanger; Motion carried.

Elections of Directors

There are a total of 9 directors within the association, elected on a 3-year rotation; 3 representing government; 3 representing forest industry; and 3 representing the public. The directors provide oversight, guidance and focus on the yearly work of the Forest History Association of Alberta. Positions up for election at the 2017 AGM were the government position held by Bruce Mayer, the forest industry position held by Bob Udell (who resigned following his move to B.C.) and the public position held by Rob Thorburn. Butch Shenfield ran the election, Bruce Mayer and Rob Thorburn were acclaimed, with Gordon Sanders being elected to fill the forest industry position.

The Board of Directors for 2017 comprises:

Government: Butch Shenfield, Ken Yackimec, Bruce Mayer

Industry: Norman Denney, Cliff Smith, Gordon Sanders

Public: Rob Thorburn, Bob Newstead, Peter Murphy

Other Business

One question arose on where the pictures are stored that are collected. Currently many reside at the Hinton Training Centre with Bruce Mayer and Bob Stevenson having others at their residences. Were slides and photographs have been scanned, those scans reside on a number of back-up drives and a few shared drives. The current gap

that exists, is the ability to share the information through a system available to the broader public.

Ken Yackimec asked for time at the meeting to tell attendees that he was in the process of organizing a 35th reunion for the NAIT Forest Technology 1983 graduating class, likely in the fall, 2018. He recognized that many other classes have been doing these events on a regular basis.

Motion to adjourn business meeting MOVED by Craig Rose; SECONDED by Andy Neigel; Motion carried.

Class Picture

Sheldon Belanger coordinated the taking of a picture with all the attendees at the March 15, 2017, Forest History Association of Alberta Annual General Meeting.

Evening Presentations

Sheila Willis – Friends of Historical Northern Alberta Society

Sheila Willis provided an overview of the new software application that the Friends of Historical Northern Alberta Society developed called *History Check App*. This application is a collaborative initiative supporting the efforts of various northern historical organizations; is Apple IOS and Android friendly; and will capture the history of northern Alberta that is slowly being forgotten. The information gathered also combines history of an areas with traveller information, making travels entertaining for the whole family. The *History Check App* is planned for launch in May, 2017. Their website is <http://fhnas.ca/>.

Glen Zavisha – Zavisha Sawmills

With third generation Ashley Zavisha in the audience, Glen Zavisha provided an entertaining history of the Zavisha sawmill operations in Hines Creek, dating back to 1943, nearly 75 years. Beginning with Henry and Lena Zavisha, Glen's story showcased advancements over time, from the original bush sawmills, to the first steam powered sawmill, crawler tractors used for road building and skidding trees, the first skidder and bucking saw, the planer mill, and eventually the new sawmill operations in Hines Creek and product diversification.

Marie-Pierre Rogeau – The Story of Fires and Fire Regimes in Alberta before 1950

Having recently completed her PhD through the Canadian Partnership for Wildland Fire Science, M-P Rogeau provided a historic overview titled *The Story of Fires and Fire Regimes in Alberta before 1950*. As a 'detective', M-P searches for evidence of wildfires in old photographs, historic documents, on standing dead and live trees previously burned, and more importantly, from fire scars left in growing trees. The information is useful in forest restoration projects, forest harvest planning, FireSmart planning, and education programs.

Attendees – March 15, 2017 Annual General Meeting

Mike Tucker	Terry Jessiman	Caleen Warren
Kristofer Heemeryck	Jason Cottingham	Kevin Parkinson
Paul Ebert	Daniel Martin	Derek Bakker
Maria Sharpe	Mark Newman	Ryan Good
Graham Legaarden	Ed Trenchard	Mike Williamson
Brent Rabik	Kevin Gagne	Marie-Pierre Rogeau
Peter Murphy	Butch Shenfield	Andrew Gesner
Ed Pichota	Doug Hutton	Chris Breen
Ashley Zavisha	Glen Zavisha	Carl Leary
Marilyn Leary	Dan Lux	Craig Rose
Michael Lutz	Bill Bereska	Bruce MacGregor
Cliff Henderson	Rob Thorburn	Gerald Carlson
Gary Davis	John McLevin	Wayne Johnson
Brian Lopushinsky	Shawn Barraclough	Marc Freedman
Bernie Schmitte	Garry Ehrentraut	Cliff Smith
Bert Ciesielski	Pat Rehn	David Harman
John Belanger	Morgan Kehr	Rory Thompson
Wally Peters	Bob Stevenson	Cordy Tymstra
Herbert Cerezke	Dave Kiil	Dave Patterson
Dave Morgan	Keith McClain	Ross Spence
Jean Lussier	Rick Arthur	Arnie Mostowich
Andrew Mostowich	Fred McDougall	Norm Denney
Kathi Neigel	Andy Neigel	Con Dermott
Bernie Simpson	Katherine Spencer	Véronic Boucher
Kevin Martens	Ken Yackimec	David Heatherington
Therese Yacyshyn	Sheila Willis	Jan Schilf
Byron Grundberg	Deanna McCullough	Wes Nimco
Kevin Freehill	Michelle Shesterniak	Mathew Christie
David Wall	Dave Coish	Leonard Barnhardt
David Blackmore	Gordon Sanders	Ray Ault
Kelsy Gibos	Quentin Spila	Magne Steiestol
Olena Loskutova	Wally Born	Tulene Steiestol
Dale Thomas	Jason Pankratow	Patrick Loewen
Wayne Williams	Doug Krystofiak	Bruce Mayer
Noel St Jean	Bob Morton	Tim Heemskerck
Owen Spencer	Chad Morrison	Todd Lynch
Sean MacNeil	Stefan Best	Chris McGuinty
Derrick Downey		

Assisted – Tammy DeCosta, Charlene Guerin, Jane Price, Sheldon Belanger, John Ivanc