

Forest History Association of Alberta
15th Annual General Meeting
March 20, 2019
Executive Royal Hotel, Edmonton

The quorum requirement of a minimum of 15 members was met, with over one-hundred and twenty members in attendance.

Bruce Mayer opened the meeting with introductions of those in attendance and provided an overview of the documents for review, which included the draft agenda, draft minutes from the March 21, 2018 meeting and a copy of the draft financial statement. Also included on the tables was the latest edition of the February 2019 Trails & Tales, hot off the press.

A History of Forestry in Canada by Gilbert Paille, published by FPIInnovations in 2013, was provided as a gift for all those in attendance by the Société d'histoire forestière du Québec.

Directors in attendance were Bruce Mayer, Peter Murphy, Katie Lamoureux, Norm Denney and Ken Yackimec.

Guest speakers introduced were Allan Goddard with the Breton Museum, and Barry Mjolsness from Spray Lake Sawmills. Barry also generously provided a copy of the Spray Lake Sawmills 75 Years history book.

Special thanks were given to Travis Fairweather for the projector and sound system set-up; Jane Price, Tammy Decosta and Rick Harrison, who managed the front registration table; and Travis Fairweather and Randy Sneep for taking still photographs throughout the night.

There were no changes or additions to the Agenda. The chairperson actually failed to call for a motion to accept the Agenda, meeting moved along. Duh!

Opening Remarks, President Peter Murphy

Peter opened up commenting on the impressive group, lots of familiar names and faces. He said driving to the meeting, he had heard on the radio it was National Happiness Day, a theme he was happy to see in the room. Peter first gave thanks to the vision of Arden Rytz for all he had done to get the forest history association to where it is today and thanks to Bruce Mayer for his work supporting the association. To provide context of the importance of the association, Peter went through a PowerPoint he had developed for the meeting. When the CPR was built through Alberta in the early 1900s, the sense was the forests that were burning was a result of CPRs actions. Some, for sure was a result of the CPR, the reality could also have been the weather conditions and older forests. The Dominion Forestry Branch hired John William McLaggan in 1908

to oversee the right-of-way clearing and brush disposal from Edmonton to Jasper. McLaggan also had the unpleasant job of notifying and evicting Metis families from Jasper Forest Park. In 1910, McLaggan was appointed as the first superintendent of Jasper Forest Park. He was recognized for the work he did supervising the CPR clearing, and was appointed Chief Fire Ranger for Northern Alberta in 1911. The southern boundary went from the Red Deer River east and then north, to the Northwest Territory border. With the help of FHAA members Kevin Parkinson and Graham Legaarden, contact was made with Bill Gano, the great great grand nephew of McLaggan. To Peter, this showed the power of the work done through the forest history association, and linked 100 years of history.

Guest Speakers

Cynthia Strawson

Cynthia provided an overview to the attendees of the UofA forestry 50th anniversary planned for 2020. The first class started in 1970, and since then over 1,600 people have graduated the various forestry programs. An email would be going out to all graduates looking for pictures to create a 2020 calendar.

Ken Yackimec

Ken provided an overview of the project he has spearheaded the last number of years. He has gathered most all the old NAIT Forest Technology yearbooks, scanning approximately 2,100 pages. From 1966 to 2000, Ken was still looking for yearbooks from 1988, 1994 and 1999. The yearbooks are available now digitally for those who are missing theirs.

Past Years Activities

Adoption of minutes from the March 21, 2018, 14th Annual General Meeting – no changes made. MOVED by John Belanger, SECONDED by Morgan Kehr; Motion carried.

Activities and accomplishments from 2018:

- Trails & Tales newsletter, Issue #18 – published in March 2019. Special thanks to Michelle McBride for her creative flair and layout skills in the newsletter; and to Bob Newstead for his support in reviewing and editing draft newsletter content.
- History of Canada book
- FRIAA and FRIP funding – help defray costs, finalizing a submission
- Photo history database – working in partnership with AFPA, Silvacom and FRIAA to access FRIP funding. Draft proposal planned for end of March
- Additional photo collections were provided by:
 - Bud Sloan, through widow Viney Sloan
 - Charlie Ghostkeeper collection, through Con Dermott
 - Herb Walker collection, from Herb himself

- Whitecourt office collection, through Cory Rhett
- Frank Lewis collection, through widow Margaret Lewis
- Albert Smith collection, from Albert himself
- NAIT Forest Technology 50th anniversary collection, through Ed Pichota
- Interviews were conducted with Norm Dupuis, Paul Rizzoli and Albert Smith
- 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

2018 Financial Statement

Assets include the appraised value of the four donated Robert Guest paintings that are currently at the Hinton Training Centre.

Expenditures in 2018 were linked to the Annual General Meeting, photo scanning, website renewal, travel for Peter Murphy and Mark Kuhlberg to the Canadian Institute of Forestry Annual General Meeting in Grande Prairie, postage for the Paille history books, and publication of the newsletter. In 2018, 146 memberships were received; 129 individual, 5 family and 12 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. A thank-you was provided to forest industry support to the design and publication of the March 2019 newsletter.

The 2018 Financial report was submitted and MOVED by Bruce Mayer, SECONDED by Wayne Williams; Motion carried.

Elections of Directors

There are nine directors within the association, elected on a three-year rotation; three representing government; three representing forest industry; and three 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 2019 AGM were the government position held by Graham Legaarden, the forest industry position held by Norm Denney and the public position held by Rob Thorburn. Graham Legaarden (government) and Norm Denney (industry) were acclaimed, with Sarah Gooding elected to the public position.

The Board of Directors for 2019 comprises:

Government: Ken Yackimec, Bruce Mayer, Graham Legaarden

Industry: Norman Denney, David Wall, Gordon Sanders

Public: Peter Murphy, Katie Lamoureux, Sarah Gooding

Other Business

No further business was brought up.

Motion to adjourn business meeting MOVED by Andy Neigel; SECONDED by Gary Ehrentraut; Motion carried.

Class Picture

Travis Fairweather coordinated taking a picture with all the attendees at the March 20, 2019, Forest History Association of Alberta Annual General Meeting.

Evening Presentations

Allan Goddard, Breton Museum – John Walter

Allan Goddard, manager and curator of the Breton and District Historical Museum provided an overview of the museum itself and the history of logging and sawmilling in the Breton and Winfield areas. Allan divided his presentation into two parts, the first discussing the era of the river drives on the North Saskatchewan River from the turn of the 20th century until the early 1920s; and the second, focussing on the lumber industry in the Breton area from the mid 1920s until the mid 1950s.

Barry Mjolsness – Spray Lake Sawmills 75th Anniversary

Established in 1943, Spray Lake Sawmills turned 75 years old in 2018. Second-generation owner, Barry Mjolsness provided an overview of Spray Lake Sawmills history.

He began with a video presentation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIgorTlbshc>) and provided a personal account of the challenges and successes over the years. Located in Sundre, Alberta, Mjolsness Brothers was founded in 1943 by Chester Mjolsness. His brother Lloyd partnered in 1946. The company name was changed to Spray Lake Sawmills in 1954, when operations commenced in the Spray Lakes area south of Canmore, Alberta. A permanent mill facility was constructed in Cochrane, Alberta in 1974. Second generation Mjolsness's purchased the company in 1980, with Barry becoming the sole owner in 1989. In 1996, Spray Lake Sawmills opened up their Top Spray operation, a facility that provides a range of mulches and composts for landscaping needs, and in 2005 a post and pole treating plant was added to the operation. Spray Lake Sawmills employs over two-hundred full-time staff, with another fifty seasonal positions. During the anniversary ceremony, Barry focussed first and foremost on the staff recognizing them as family, stating that "people are our strength". Barry then went on to say "*Back in those days (referencing the early 1950s), there were no computers, there were no iPhones, there were no iPads. It was like I work, I sweat, I persevere.*" The family owned company itself has persevered through the various economic downturns over the decades, and has successfully worked within the eastern slopes, one of the most sensitive landscapes in Alberta.

Attendees – March 20, 2019 Annual General Meeting

Norm Denney (D)	Barry Mjolsness	Peter Murphy (D)
Bob Bott	Dave Goff	Garry Goff
Lorne Goff	Bernie Simpson	Maria Sharpe
Bruce MacGregor	Wayne Bowles	Ted Gooding
Sarah Gooding	Cynthia Strawson	Katie Lamoureux (D)
Dave Morgan	Herb Cerezke	Al Benson
Ross Spence	Brian Lopushinsky	Tom Patreau
Allan Goddard	Wayne Williams	Shawn Barraclough
Trevor Lamabe	Jeff Henricks	Sean MacNeil
Kevin Parkinson	Wayne Werstiuk	Bob Newstead
Forrest Barrett	Gord Glover	Marty Alexander
Carl Leary	Cliff Smith	Fred McDougall
Con Dermott	Garry Ehrentraut	Shane Neigel
Andy Neigel	Kathy Neigel	Ken Vanderwell
Adam Gossell	Olena Loskutova	Michelle Shesterniak
Jeremy Bluetchen	Wes Nimco	Bernie Schmitte
Darren Tapp	John Belanger	Morgan Kehr
Hugh Boyd	Ken Yackimec (D)	Rory Thompson
Peter Van der Shoot	Dalibor Houdek	Pat Guidera
Dave Patterson	Steve Ferdinand	Dan Lux
Anne McInerney	Stan Kavalinas	Evelynne Wrangler
Jan Schilf	Deanna McCullough	Toso Bozic
Tanis Blocka	MJ Munn-Kristoff	Terry Kristoff
Richard Briand	Dave Blackmore	Ed Pichota
Ed Dechant	Gerald Carlson	Gary Davis
Fred Paget	Rick Smith	Herb Walker
Lucas Ullyot	Tanya Sawicki	Kelsey Gibos
Todd Lynch	Ed Trenchard	Bob Young
Dan Ferguson	Kevin Vander Haeghe	Patrick Loewen
Kevin Gagne	Dale Thomas	Jason Pankratow
Terry Jessiman	Jen McCormick	Leah Lovequist
Christie Tucker	Doug Smith	Derek Bakker
Dave Coish	Barry White	Bruce Mayer (D)
Kirk Hawthorn	Tim Heemskerck	Janis Braze
Mona Liza Rehn	Craig Rose	Pat Rehn
Don Pope	Brant Broome	Mike Kingsbury
Tracy Parkinson	Caroline Charbonneau	Lynn Dania
Jason Handfield	Daniel Martin	Kris Heemeryck
Bob Morton	Mike Williamson	Kelly Burke
Paul Ebert	Owen Spencer	Rick Harrison

Assisted – Rick Harrison, Jane Price, Tammy Decosta, Travis Fairweather, Randy Sneep
(D) – Director, Forest History Association of Alberta