



## Spring Issue

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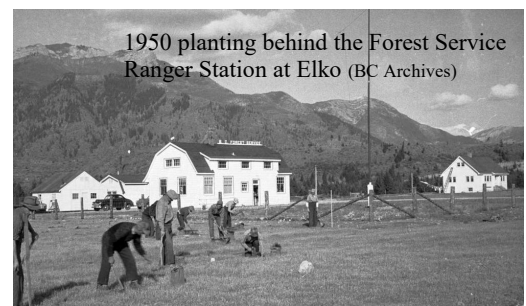


## Start of Reforestation in the Interior

*Retired forester Dave Wallinger has written of the beginnings of a reforestation program in the Interior.*

"By about 1947, it had been determined that reforestation on the Coast was well in hand.

Planting of the Bloedel Fire between Campbell River and Courtenay was almost complete, and a third Forest Service nursery had been developed at Duncan to provide seedlings for planting large clearcut areas in the upper Cowichan

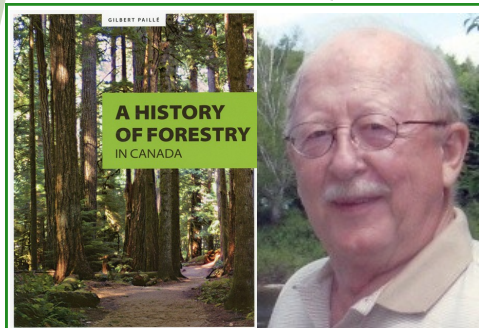


River Valley. The Forest Service decided to undertake a reforestation program in the East Kootenay as a means of gaining wider planting experience and, at the same time, restocking some of the large areas of the southern Interior's ponderosa pine – Douglas-fir types. Most of these had been logged in the 1920s and 1930s, badly burned by slash and wildfires, and were being used as open range." ("Growing Up in the Interior", in FHABC Newsletter issues [March 2002](#), and [June 2002](#) )

"A young forester, W.D. (Bill) Grainger, was given an office in the basement of the Cranbrook Ranger Station and assigned the responsibility of getting the interior reforestation program underway – nursery operations, planting, site selection and preparation, regeneration surveys, and seed collection.



*Machine planted section of the Fall 1950 planting, at Elko, in 1975 Survival and growth of the machine-planted seedlings was superior to the hand-planted ones. The foreman in charge of the 1950 planting was Hank Sorensen.*



### (An English translation of Gilbert Paillé's 2013 HISTOIRE FORESTIÈRE DU CANADA)

"This unprecedented sweeping review of the literature will captivate all those who are interested not only in forestry, but also in the political, social, economic, cultural and environmental aspects of the forestry sector."

**For a short time, all FHABC members (and members-to-be) are eligible to receive a copy of the translated Gilbert Paillé book.**

**This will be a one-time opportunity to share the limited number of books we have. An email message with ordering information will be distributed shortly, with a deadline of June 15.**

Thanks to our friends, the Société d'histoire forestière du Québec, for making these English books available!

More info on the book can be found on [a news release](#):



(Continued from page 1)

Wilf Berg was placed in charge of the nursery operation. He had been assistant nurseryman at the Quinsam Nursery near Campbell River. (He retired in Parksville and passed away in 2005).

The nursery site selected was behind the Elko Ranger Station. ... However, it became apparent that this site was not suitable for continued development – the soil was too stony, and there was not room for expansion. Therefore, in the fall of 1949, the operation was dismantled, and all of the one-year old seedlings were lifted and taken to the permanent site which was being developed near Wycliffe [NW of Cranbrook]. There, the seedlings were transplanted, using transplant boards, to be grown for another season.

In the meantime, the Elko site was leveled, and, in the fall of 1950 was planted with some of the 1-1 age-class seedlings which had been started there. On part of the site, 16,000 pine seedlings were planted by a machine which had been converted from a celery transplanter (acquired from the U.S. Forest Service) and drawn by a small tractor.

The unit had a double-footed ploughshare which could be controlled for depth and which

opened up a furrow into which the seated operator would place seedlings. The furrow would then be closed by dual-angled packing wheels. Adjacent to the machine-planted area, 11,700 pine seedlings were planted by hand with grub hoes. This became the first plantation in the Interior.”

(see [“The First Forest Nursery and Plantation in the Interior”](#))

Dave Wallinger himself joined the Reforestation Division in 1954, and his first assignment was planting project at Elko – the last of the Forest Service reforestation projects in this vicinity.

He returned to sites of the original Fall 1950 planting and subsequent Elko projects on few occasions over the years since. The accompanying photographs document these pioneering Interior reforestation projects.

Dave Wallinger has suggested that the site of the first Interior nursery and plantation should be appropriately commemorated – and the plantation named the “W.D. Grainger Plantation – The start of reforestation in the Interior”.



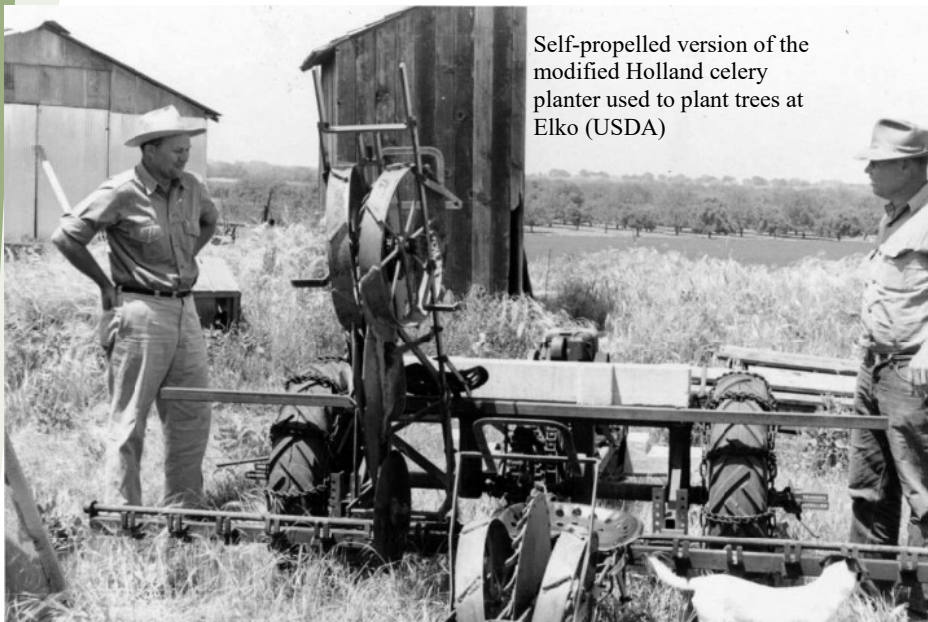
Photo of the Fall 1950 planting at Elko (small block of lighter-crown trees at centre) taken by Dave Wallinger in Sept. 1996



Edge of Fall 1950 planting at Elko, hand planted - photographed in September 1996



Fall 1950 planting near Elko, in August 2001



Self-propelled version of the modified Holland celery planter used to plant trees at Elko (USDA)



## Membership: New or lapsed member?

\$15.00 annually, or three years for \$40.00

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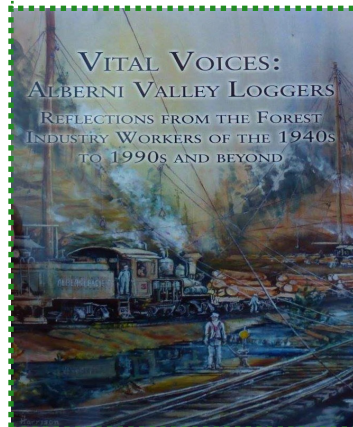
## About Bill Grainger

W. D. (Bill) Grainger (1922-79) was a long term career forester in the B.C. Forest Service, an ardent hunter and fisherman, and a noted cross-country skiing enthusiast.

Bill was born in Saanich, B.C., where he completed his primary and secondary schooling. Upon graduation in 1939 he joined the British Columbia Forest Service and worked in various disciplines - cruising, tree planting, regeneration surveys. In 1942, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces continuing on active service in Europe until his discharge in 1945. After completing prerequisite courses, Bill then entered the University of British Columbia in the Faculty of Forestry, graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Applied Science and Forest Engineering degree. His career as a forester began with the British Columbia Forest Service as Forester in charge of reforestation. Within three years, he transferred to Nelson, B.C. as an assistant Silviculturist. By 1960 Bill had moved to Prince George, and through a series of promotions, became Assistant District Forester in 1975 until his retirement on December 29, 1978. Bill was a member of the Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters and a solid supporter of the Canadian Institute of Forestry - Cariboo Section. He is survived by his loving wife, Joan, children Philip, Michael and Susan and brothers, Bert and Richard.

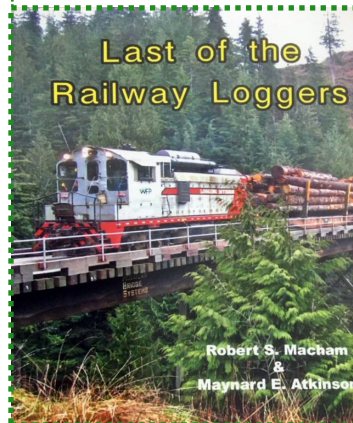
(From the Bill Grainger obituary contributed by John Revel to the June 1979 issue of *The Forestry Chronicle*.)

## Two recent books - Vancouver Island forest history



***Vital Voices: Alberni Valley Loggers. Reflections from Forest Industry Workers of the 1940s to 1990s and Beyond***

Interviews with local veterans of the logging industry. Available in limited numbers for \$35 through [Alberni Valley Hospice Society](http://AlberniValleyHospiceSociety.org), 3088 3rd Ave., Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2A5 (or call 250-723-4478).



***Last of the Railway Loggers***,

by Robert S. Macham & Maynard E. Atkinson

This book chronicles the history of Canada's Nimpkish Valley Railway from 1908 to 2017.

\$65 plus taxes and shipping. Available by special order from the [Museum of Campbell River](http://MuseumofCampbellRiver.org). Call 250-287-3103 or e-mail [museum.shop@crmuseum.ca](mailto:museum.shop@crmuseum.ca)



The machine planted section in September 1996 "The fall 1950 plantation survived and developed very well until the 'Famous Freeze' of November 11, 1954, when temperatures in the East Kootenays fell almost 50 degrees Fahrenheit overnight. Fortunately, the planted trees had hardened-off for the winter, but most of them still suffered terminal bud damage. Because the seedlings were so young, lateral leaders took over in the spring and no disfiguration resulted over the long term. There was some damage by porcupines when the trees became saplings-size but the most severely damaged trees were removed during the spacing and pruning which took place in the early 1970s. At that time, the machine furrows were still quite visible."



# William Shannon – Lumberman, Forest Policy Lobbyist and Reformer

By Eric Andersen

*Part I of this article, which discussed William Shannon as a pioneering entrepreneur and explorer and surveyor of B.C.'s forests, appeared in issue 99, June 2017, pages 5 and 8. (available online) This installment, Part II, will discuss the latter phase of his career.*

## SHANNON THE LUMBERMAN

From shortly prior to his setting up in Vancouver in 1887, William Shannon's timber land activities grew in pace with the industry, as did his reputation with industrialists, bankers and public agencies for his resource evaluations and expertise.

From 1890, and increasingly over the next two decades, Shannon was engaged as a broker and advisor for American timber industry investors, from Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and California.

By 1906-07, William Shannon was one of the largest owners of B.C. coast timber rights outside of the Vancouver Island E&N Ry. Crown grant lands, with holdings extending from the Lillooet River to Knight Inlet and Graham and Moresby islands. A September 1906 Vancouver newspaper letter criticized this "timber grabbing":

*"When Mr. Shannon and a few more get through with the timber lands of the province, what is left will not be worth troubling about."*

Shannon would defend his activity in timber licences and relations with American clients during this period, referring to his perspective on developing the province:

*"There are two factors indispensable in order that the country may be prosperous: capital and people, and we should be glad to see that both are coming to the country now with a possibility of our great*

*resources being developed. I have been in this country over forty years, and I have been aware most of this time that the country is immensely rich, but of what use was this knowledge to a few of us scattered throughout the province. We had no means of developing these great resources, but our object now ought to be to encourage the investment of capital in every legitimate manner.*

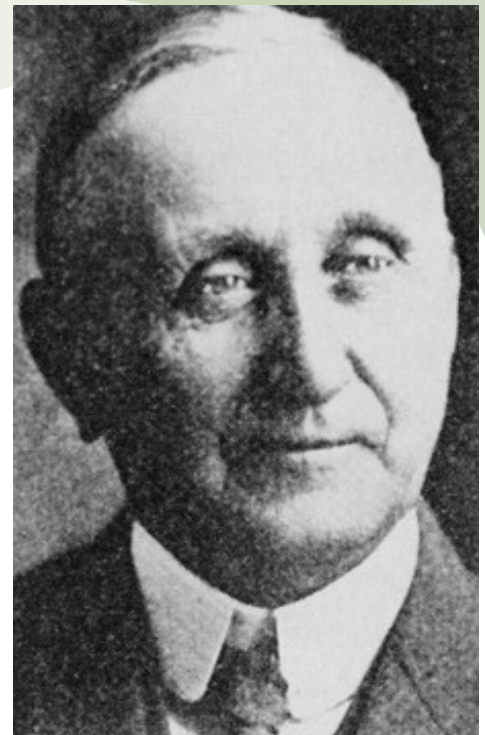
*"American capital has done more to develop the resources of B.C. than the capital from any other country, and it seems foolish to me to hear some of the talk about American capital. Americans are of our own flesh and blood, we are the same people and we want just such men as they to help develop this province."*

That William Shannon was not simply, or at least no ordinary speculator in timber is shown in his ongoing interest to identify sawmill sites, product markets and transportation infrastructure needs to enable industrial development.

Shannon had been brokering and selling foreshore lands and advocating road and railway transportation improvements for potential lower Fraser River sawmill sites since 1890. Several major transactions between 1904 and 1906 involving Shannon timber holdings – at Toba Inlet, Johnstone Strait, Squamish Valley, and Graham Island – included sites or consideration for local sawmilling.

Shannon was also directly engaged in advising on railway construction timber contracts, in investigating southern California markets for Graham Island Sitka spruce lumber, and was active over several years in pursuing the Mexican market for cedar poles.

Arranging for Masset Inlet and Dixon Entrance navigation improvements to enable planned



William Shannon ca 1910s  
(City of Vancouver Archives)

Graham Island timber processing industries was a major part of William Shannon's collaborations with the Graham Steamship, Coal & Lumber Co. to which he and partner George Martin had sold over 100,000 acres of their timber holdings.

Transportation improvements benefitting development of agricultural, mining and forest industries of the province were a lifelong interest of William Shannon, involving many letters and deputations to Victoria advocating strategic investments for various districts. Shannon was a longstanding (from 1891) and influential advocate of a diagonal railway route connecting Burrard Inlet/ Howe Sound with the central interior and northeast – the eventual route of the PGE Railway.

## FOREST POLICY LOBBYIST

William Shannon was always active as a lobbyist and advisor on government policy and legislation concerning local government, agriculture, mining and timber. In 1873 he participated in drafting B.C.'s first Municipal Act. In 1902 he was

*(Continued on page 5)*



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appointed to assist in the rewriting of the “Placer Mining Act”.

From early 1903, first as spokesperson for the B.C. Lumbermen’s Association, William Shannon began a period of sustained lobbying activity related to timber legislation lasting up to and beyond the passing of the 1912 “Forest Act”.

In response to shortcomings of 1901 timber tenure legislation, Shannon spearheaded a petition to the provincial government calling for stabilized licence fees, larger timber licence areas, transferable and longer term licences (“with all proper protection against speculation”), and alleviation of new log export restrictions.

*“The present condition is practically one of monopoly [controlled by those with large tracts of crown grant timber] and the small capitalist, who wants to make a living and develop the trade of the country at the same time, finds himself in a very difficult position.”*

In February 1907 a preliminary meeting toward the formation of what would become the British Columbia Timber and Forestry Chamber of Commerce took place in the offices of Martin & Shannon. On November 27, 1907 the association was formally constituted with these purposes:

*“To bring together the persons who are interested in timber or lands ... and to promote their mutual interests. To consider ways and means for the protection and preservation of the forest resources of this province, especially against fire, and to suggest the enactment of legislation conducive to this end.”*

The new organization, which employed professional forester Dr. Judson F. Clark as secretary, was the first British Columbia forestry organization with a provincial mandate, cross-sectoral representation (“among timber owners, millmen,

loggers, cruisers, and capitalists”) and addressing forest conservation among explicit purposes.

William Shannon was elected Vice-President and appointed executive committee chairman. The following year he was designated Honorary President, succeeding B.C. Mills’ John Hendry.

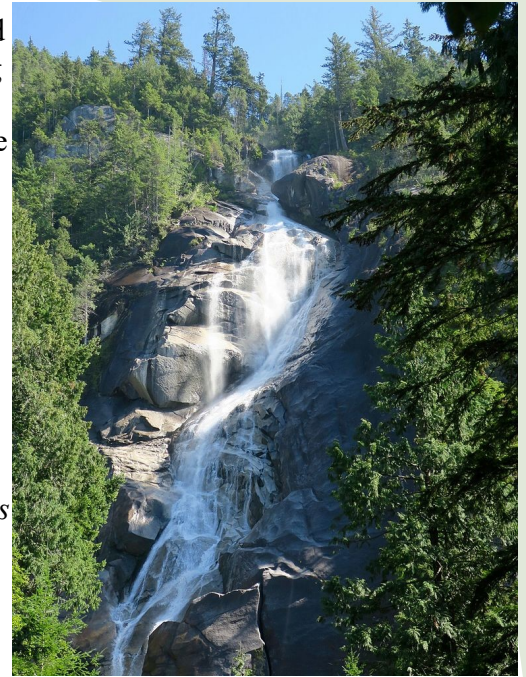
He was able to contribute his experience in helping to organize the provincial mining industry organization, some few years earlier:

*“They never got good mining laws in this country until they got the mining men moving in their own behalf and practical men conferring with the government. The same with timber. Unless [we have] practical men to confer with the government we would not have laws beneficial to the people engaged or to the country.”*

In 1907 and 1908 newspaper interviews, Shannon commented on implications of government revenue policies for forest conservation and the public interest:

*“The present policy of the government is wrong. The lumbermen would not be averse to the royalty being made higher if the ground rent on the property were made lower. ... It stands to reason that the 22 cents an acre a year is soon going to eat up any profit accruing to the holder unless the lumber is cut off the property quickly. Once this is done the lumberman’s duty is over. In the meantime the forests of the province are being depleted and nothing is done to have them looked after and the proper means taken to look after the future.”*

*“The government has the right to raise the royalty at any time, thus preventing, in my opinion, the possibility of a monopoly. Also, should the timber become more valuable the royalty can be raised. By this means the government secured the public as partners in the timber industry and all this talk about*



Shannon Falls (Provincial Park) on the Sea to Sky Highway is one of several place names around B.C. connected to William Shannon

*speculators and men holding up the country is, in my opinion, nonsense.”*

While we have no direct information on William Shannon’s role in the hiring of professional forester Judson Clark as Chamber of Commerce secretary, he certainly played a key role in pulling together the financial support to retain him and saw “a world of work before them” in forest management policies, beyond the current petitions they were directing to government.

The BC Timber and Forestry Chamber of Commerce was very prominent in providing input to the 1909-1910 Fulton Commission, and broadly successful with respect to timber tenure related outcomes and a number of recommendations realized in the 1912 “Forest Act”.

The organization seems to have faded out of existence by the end of the Fulton Commission work. William Shannon, however, continued



(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

to maintain an active profile as “timber industry expert” and lobbyist into his late 70s, advising on amendments to the “Forest Act”.

During 1918, Shannon played a prominent role in the provincial government implementing policies of reimbursing cruising costs for unsuccessful timber sale applicants and relaxing timber licence fee payment arrangements during the difficult conditions of the war.

## HOME GROWN REFORMER

In most treatments of British Columbia forest history and the beginnings of modern forest administration emphasis is given to the important contributions of forestry professionals or administrators arriving from and educated elsewhere – men like H.R. MacMillan, Judson Clark, their mentor Bernard Fernow, and also Martin Grainger and Overton Price.

The contributions of William

Shannon are part of an underemphasized story, of forest management expertise, perspectives and reform initiatives “home grown” – derived directly from British Columbia experience and practical needs.



## Loggers Can't Keep Their Money

*The late Monty Mosher found a handwritten letter in an old box of files at Chemainus years ago, that he had transcribed. Son Chris Mosher has kindly passed this interesting item on to the FHABC newsletter.*

**Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co. Chemainus mill manager E.J. Palmer letter to Wisconsin lumberman J.E. Glover, January 3, 1902:**

*Re Logging: I regret to say that we have made no material reduction in the cost of putting in logs. It is simply Hades to try to do anything with men in this country. Yesterday we had but 26 men to work, and only two engineers – running the other donkeys with boys, or any one we could pick up – the bookkeeper running one of them. They will simply get up and go, giving you no notice or warning. To make matters, worse, the Government have recently passed a law, compelling us to employ licensed engineers. When this is put in force, it looks as though we might as well stop trying to do business, for knowing that they had us in the hole, they would certainly take advantage of it.*

*Hastings [Mill] have just adopted a new system, on the same lines as some of the larger operators on the [Puget] Sound. That is, they have established a Saloon and boarding*

*house, and allowed prostitutes to come in, at their salt water landing, which is six miles from their camp. They allow no whiskey to go to camp, but they sell the men all that they want, at the landing. They will give them whiskey and board as long as the proceeds of their time cheques last, but absolutely refuse to give them a single meal, after they have spent all that they had. They say, the results are, that by keeping between three and four hundred men around, they are enabled to have 150 men to work all the time.*

*They say that the men will come down to the landing, and instead of getting to Vancouver and leaving them with a large plant (4 locomotives, 10 miles of railroad, etc.) idle, as they did formerly, that by the time the steamer comes in, they have no money to pay their fare to Vancouver, and will go back to work. That this is what the men seem to want ... that they have tried faithfully for 25 years to deal honorably with them, but that they cannot do it. Mr. [R.H.] Alexander remarked the other day that a \$2,000 whiskey bill would pay a \$20,000 pay roll. It seems very hard lines when a business firm has to resort to this.*

*The Simpson Logging Co. have bought up all the shore rights for six miles, at the big operation of Hood's Canal, and will allow no other steamer to land at their dock, except their own. They allow no whiskey in Camp, which*

*is ten miles from the landing, but run a Saloon at the landing. Mr. Anderson told me, that he paid off, on the morning of the 24th, with about \$6,000, and the steamer left there on the afternoon of the 25th for Seattle, and in that time, he had taken in over the bar \$2,700, with a profit of about \$2,300. They also lease land to a house of prostitution.*

*The Lord knows what the results are going to be, if this state of affairs continues, as the men will go there and work, when they will not come here, where they get their cash at the end of every thirty days, and treated as men.*

*With kindest regards to your family, and wishing you a prosperous New Year, I am,  
Yours truly, E.J. Palmer*



E.J. Palmer (Chemainus Valley Historical Society)



# 125 years of BC Loggers' Sports

Organized loggers' sports competitions as entertainment for the general public have a long history in British Columbia. The annual Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at New Westminster, forerunner of the P.N.E., began incorporating loggers' sports in 1893. More information can be found at the [Canadian Logger Sports Association](http://www.canadianlogger.org) website.



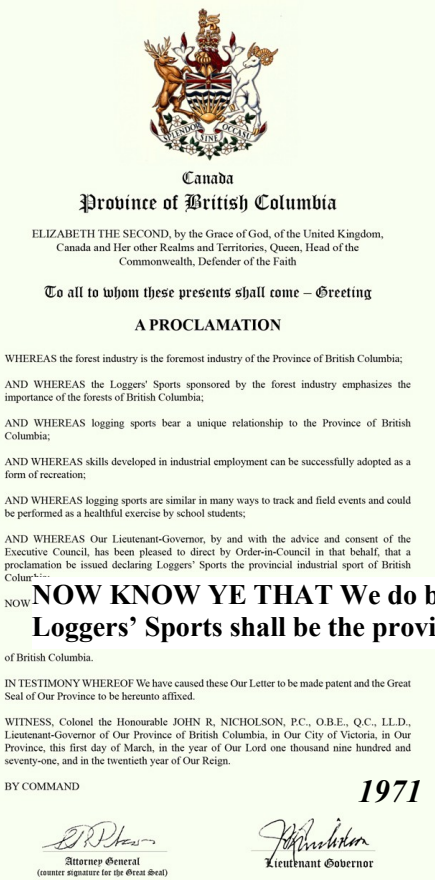
*Loggers' sports veteran Alan Boyko of Port Alberni, interviewed by Gordon Smillie, October 21, 1996: What's your most memorable moment in Loggers' Sports?*

I did axe throwing for Queen Elizabeth in 1971. I went to Ladysmith and threw axes during the Royal Tour. Before the Queen got there, Scotland Yard asked who was doing the axe throwing. I told them I was, and they asked me how far I could throw the axe. I said that I was throwing 20', but I could throw up to 40' if I had to. So, they looked to see where the target was, and where the Queen would be! I was doing good in the warm-up, hitting pretty close to the bullseye every time, but when the Queen was there I hit the damn leg of the target, and knocked it over! It was a real boo-boo – got on national television. I went and straightened up the target and threw 3 right down the middle. After I was done the Queen came up ... and said to me, "Were you nervous?" I said yes; and she said, "I thought that the idea was to knock the target over." She got me a little dig over that. We had a laugh over that.

[Courtesy CANLOG archives]



Loggers' Sports fan Queen Elizabeth with Les Stewart and Art Williams at Ladysmith, 1971



BILL MOORE places gold 'Boss of the Woods' hardhat on Premier Bennett, following the proclamation, March 1, 1971

## Royal Agricultural & Industrial Society —OF— BRITISH COLUMBIA. —AND— EXHIBITION

—AT—  
New Westminster, British Columbia.  
—ON—  
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY  
Sept. 26, 27, 28 and 29, 1893.

This Exhibition Celebration is the Largest in the Dominion West of Toronto, and the Liberality of the Premium List and Prizes is Unequalled in Western Canada.

ENTIRELY NEW FEATURE OF  
A LOG-CHOPPING CONTEST,  
In which a large number of the best axemen in the Province will take part. This competition is open to all comers, and handsome Gold Medals will be awarded the winners.

Victoria Daily Colonist  
October 25, 1893

## SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Brewster, of Victoria, After the Log-Chopping Championship.

### ATHLETICS.

#### LOG CHOPPING CHAMPIONS.

WESTMINSTER, Oct. 25—(Special)—At the log chopping contest in connection with the exhibition celebration in this city, last month, J. A. Murray won the gold medal and championship of the Province. A Brewster, of Victoria, was second. Brewster claimed at the time that he was out of condition, and now is anxious to meet the champion, and willing to back his skill as an axeman with money. C. Brewster, brother of the aspirant for the title has arrived in the city for the purpose of extending a formal challenge to Murray, and to arrange a match for \$2,000 a side and the championship. The principals will meet this evening to talk matters over, and if Murray is willing the match will be closed. Alexander McLean, Murray's partner, was in town to-day, and expressed his willingness to back the champion for any amount up to \$500.

Victoria Daily Colonist  
October 26, 1893







Gilley Bros. Logging Company in 1900 photo (Heritage Burnaby HV976.44.14) Gilley Bros. were sponsors of the first New Westminster Exhibition loggers' sports competitions of the 1890s. **FHABC member Dick Jones of Teal-Jones Group**, which itself has a considerable history and involvement in community project sponsorship, reminds us that the Gilley family is still very prominently involved in the Lower Mainland business community.



Kat @ Kaslo



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David Morgan  
Eric Andersen, Newsletter Editor  
Dave Florence, Newsletter layout

**Webmaster**  
David Brownstein



Powell River LS 2017

## BC Loggers' Sports 2018

*Click links for their website*

<a href="#">Revelstoke</a>	<a href="#">May 19</a>
<a href="#">Kaslo</a>	<a href="#">May 19-21</a>
<a href="#">Port McNeill</a>	<a href="#">June 15-16</a>
<a href="#">Powell River</a>	<a href="#">July 13-15</a>
<a href="#">Squamish</a>	<a href="#">Aug 2-6</a>
<a href="#">Campbell River</a>	<a href="#">Aug 10-12</a>
<a href="#">Smithers</a>	<a href="#">Aug 25</a>
<a href="#">Port Alberni</a>	<a href="#">Sep 9</a>

## Upcoming 2018 Events

**May 24-27:** [BC Historical Federation](#) Annual Conference and AGM; Nakusp, B.C.

**Sep 18-20:** [Canadian Institute of Forestry](#); National Conference and AGM; Grand Prairie, Alberta.

**Sep 23-29:** [National Forest Week](#) (many local events)

**October:** [FHABC Annual General Meeting](#); location; exact date TBA.

**October 21-23** [BC Museums Association Convention](#): Kelowna. Theme: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Keeping pace with acceleration.

## We want your email address!

Please help the FHABC modernize our communications. If you are holding a paper copy of the newsletter, **please update your email address. Even better .... please opt for the online version and permit us to not mail you the black & white print version. Why?**

1. Underlined text links you to extra online information on the [website version](#), and
2. the online version is in colour. (Costs to produce physical copies and send them out in the post are rising fast. Even if you still want to receive the B&W paper version, having your email address makes it easier to send out important announcements in between issues.)

So, please send us an email at [info@fhabc.org](mailto:info@fhabc.org). and state your preferences for newsletter delivery: Online in colour, or paper in B&W by mail.