

# British Columbia



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## A MAJOR NEW FOREST HISTORY MUSEUM FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Edo Nyland

On Friday July 22, 1988 at 8:00 PM the new Powell River Forestry Museum was opened with a bang. Ribbon cutting didn't seem to be the appropriate thing. As the big old circular saw needed hammering anyway, your treasurer was given an ancient axe to do the bang-up official opening honours.

The grand opening of this museum coincided with the opening of the annual "Powell River Sea Fair" and a large crowd was on hand in the beach park beside the museum building. The new museum is the product of a devoted and highly motivated crew of stump jumpers. The beach building, which contains two large rooms, was turned over to the Powell River Forestry Museum Society. The exhibition hall is filled to overflowing with a remarkable collection of logging equipment, outboard motors, photos, etc. of bygone days, some of it pre-dating the steam era.

The second hall was equipped to show films and videos, accommodate forestry meetings and lectures (with a seating capacity of about 80 people) and will be the den of the Junior Forest Wardens group. An active bunch of Forest Wardens was in charge of this room during the official opening. They had a large variety of forestry handouts, hats for the kids, and buttons with conservation slogans for everyone. An interested crowd of mostly local people thronged through the displays where several of the Society's members were available to give tours, explain, reminisce, and tell tall tales.

Already the building is too small to do justice to the fast-growing collection and the Society is casting eager eyes on the much larger old arena building next door, which has been vacant for some time.

In addition to the beach building, the Society was given control over the strip of forest located along the coast between the town and the paper mill. This strip of old growth and second growth mixed forest is about one mile long, occupies the slope between the beach and the main road and covers well over 100 acres. It contains an old logging railway grade and an excellent trail system. This area will be developed to attractively display equipment which is too large or heavy to fit in a building. The first properly restored display is already in place. It is a very large wagon with pole road wheels (cupped to fit on a log track) loaded with 40 foot long large diameter logs. It was used in the 1890's to transport logs to salt water. An ancient pull grader is being readied for display and an enormous steam donkey will be next, as soon as transportation can be arranged from the bush where it still sits on its last job.

The colourful Sea Fair Parade featured two forest history floats. The first one was a vintage logging truck with a flat deck carrying a curious variety of restored equipment. The second was a modern logging truck loaded with 12 cords of alder firewood for the lucky ticket buyer, delivery included. Signs on this truck heralded the coming of a new era in appreciation for Powell River's past and urged people to buy one dollar tickets on the load. Luckily for the Society, it was a local resident who won the draw.

The executive of the society consists of: Jack McCuish, Chairman; Charlie Parsons, Vice-chairman; and Gerri Parsons, Secretary-Treasurer. The address of the society is - Powell River Forestry Museum Society, P.O. Box 186, Powell River, B.C. V8A 4Z6. Membership is \$10.00 per year.

Next time you are in Powell River don't forget to visit. If the museum isn't open, give one of the executive members a call and they will do their utmost to accommodate you.

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#### RECENT BOOKS

Chaster, G.H., D.W. Ross, and W.H. Warren (authors) and J.W. Neill (editor). 1988. Trees of greater Victoria: a heritage. Heritage Tree Book Society, Victoria. 96 p.

Chittenden, Curley and A.M. McCombs. 1988. The Harrison - Chehalis challenge. Treeline Publishing, Box 188, Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. V0M 1K0 \$11.95

Garner, Joe. 1988. Never chop your rope - a story of British Columbia logging and the people who logged. Cinnabar Press. \$19.95 (cloth) \$12.95 (paper)

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The executive of the FHABC for 1988 - 1989 are:

President: Bill Young

Past-President: Bill Backman

Treasurer: Edo Nyland

Editor: John Parminter

Regional Directors:

Northern Interior: Doug Little

Southern Interior: John Murray

Mainland Coast: Don McMullen

Vancouver Island: Bob DeBoo

Directors-at-large:

Special Collections: George Brandak

University: Jack Thirgood

Unions: Clay Perry

Retirees: Gerry Burch

### Newsletter

With a few exceptions, members are not coming through with articles and items for the newsletter. While a number of you have promised articles that's about all we have received so far - promises.

This is the fourth newsletter of 1988 and henceforth we hope to issue them quarterly. But we need a little more support from our members - so let's have those articles.

### Membership

Enclosed with this issue is a renewal form for individual memberships. Modest dues of \$5.00 includes four issues of the newsletter. Library, archives, and some institutions will continue to receive free subscriptions.

### Award of Merit

Two winners of the FHABC Award of Merit for 1988 have been selected. This is the first year that such awards have been presented and are designed to acknowledge contributions to an increased awareness of British Columbia's forest history. Arrangements are being made for the formal presentations and the names of the recipients will be announced in the next newsletter.

### Faculty of Forestry, UBC

Following up on a resolution passed at the 1988 Annual Meeting, the President wrote to UBC's Faculty of Forestry supporting the principle that forest history must increasingly be an essential and integral part of the faculty's emphasis. Dean Kennedy's response confirmed that this would be so.

### Green Timbers Arboretum

The President has written to the UBC Forestry Undergraduate Society suggesting that the refurbishing of this heritage arboretum (1930) be adopted as a 1988-1989 Forest Club project.

### Green Timbers Heritage Values

An aura of silence seems to be the order of the day with respect to Green Timbers and the future of its heritage values. The FHABC is attempting to follow up on our stated position on a continuous basis through interviews, letters, and the like.

### David Douglas

Many FHABC members participated in the David Douglas ceremony at Vancouver's Van Dusen Botanical Gardens on September 11. The unveiling of a bust of David Douglas was the main event.

The President participated in a ceremony in Scone, Scotland on October 1, 1988 where the newly-refurbished 1841 monument to David Douglas was rededicated. This participation included a presentation on the famous botanist's travels in British Columbia.

The 1988 Annual Meeting of the David Douglas Society of Western North America was held on December 5th in Seattle, Washington.

Submitted by W. Young

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### RECENT THESES

Bull, Gary. 1988. The Commission of Conservation: its influence on Canada's forest. B.S.F. Thesis, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia.

Chapman, Carol A.G. 1988. A history of logging in the West Kootenays. B.S.F. Thesis, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia.

Graeme, Angus R. 1988. The forest industry in the Cowichan Valley: its early development, 1862 - 1939. B.S.F. Thesis, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia.

Wagner, William Leroy. 1987. Privateering in the public forest? - a study of the forest industry's expanding role in the management of British Columbia's forest lands. M.A. Thesis, Department of Geography, University of Victoria. vii + 201 p.

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ARCHIVAL NEWS

The following two articles were submitted by FHABC member George Brandak, Curator of Manuscripts, Special Collections, UBC Library.

MacMillan Bloedel Limited Collection

The MacMillan Bloedel Limited Collection, at present comprised of some 100 lineal metres of material, was donated to the Special Collections Division of the UBC Library in June of 1988. Records include textual material and photographs, while a subsequent donation is to include a map collection, sound recordings, and additional records and photographs.

Records of predecessor companies include the Powell River Co. Ltd. (1909-1959), the H.R. MacMillan Export Co. Ltd. (1919-1951), and Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Ltd. (1920-1951). Records of MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Ltd. (1960-1966), along with those of the renamed MacMillan Bloedel Limited (1966-1976) include a photographic collection of some 875 prints and a substantial body of executive files (which will be restricted for periods ranging from five to twenty years).

Executive records include the corporate papers of G.D. Eccott (dating primarily from 1939 to 1969) secretary of succeeding company configurations. Eccott's files document company amalgamations as well as company discussions with legal and financial firms. Other executive files include those of E.G. Shorter (1958-1972), who had begun at the Alberni Mill in the 1940s and became an Executive Vice President; G.B. Currie (1958-1976) who served as Vice President, Finance and then as Chairman; D.W. Timmis (1966-1976), President and Chief Executive Officer (1973-1976), C.A. Specht (1963-1968), President; L.G. Harris, Vice President, Pulp and Paper Group (1963-1974); and J.O. Hemmingsen, Vice President and General Manager Logging (1962-1977). In addition, there are H.R. MacMillan's Corporate Papers (1920-1976) which document his activities and associations.

Subsidiary and otherwise related companies of all three parent organizations are well represented. Best documented are the records of Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Canadian Transport Co., Campbell River Timber Co., and Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Co.

Supervised by George Brandak, Curator of Manuscripts, Angela Schiwy began the arrangement and description process in July. Expected to take a year, the project is being funded by MacMillan Bloedel Limited.

From ABCA Newsletter, Vol. 14 No. 2 - Fall 1988

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What to do 'til the archivist comes

More companies should have a sense of history-in-the-making from square one. Many either keep everything or throw everything out; one is almost as bad as the other, for even a few years' accumulation of everything assumes unmanageable, overwhelming proportions.

Some experts say only 5% of records created by a business are worth preserving, and preservation of most is dictated either by law or common sense. Here, an idea of the material that should be kept to provide a balanced history of a company:

- the company charter, papers of incorporation, partnership agreement, license, whatever legal document records the original establishment of the firm.
- correspondence and papers of the company's founders (and succeeding key executives), both business and personal, relating not only to company business and philosophy, but also to its place within the industry and community, and the executives' activities in industry, civic, charitable and political spheres as well.
- minutes of meetings of the board, shareholders, executives.
- property records: land and building purchases, sales, leases.
- stock and bond records.
- annual reports, financial records, annual budgets, ledgers, etc.
- policy statements pertaining to all departments.
- personnel records: a sampling showing the size of the work force at various stages, salary and wage scales, fringe benefits, etc.
- labour agreements.
- production records: a representative sampling of products, outlines of production layouts and methods, etc.
- advertising: a sampling of advertising in all media, promotion pieces, and public relations campaigns.
- company publications, internal and external, and speeches.
- clippings from newspapers and magazines reporting on the company's activities.
- photographs of the company's board, executives, employees at work, premises, interior and exterior, and significant events.

"Time to check the records" by Kit Morgan  
Executive, May 1974

## JUNIOR FOREST WARDENS MARK 58 YEARS

On Sunday September 27, 1988 a gathering of foresters, industry executives, and Junior Forest Wardens and their parents took place in Stanley Park. The occasion was the placement of a new plaque indicating the "Junior Forest Warden Tree," a Douglas-fir planted on May 2, 1931 to mark the founding of the wardens organization a year before.

In the spring of 1930, officials of the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Forestry Association decided that the most fertile field for creating a "forest conscious" public was the youth of the country. The process of education was to be revised - youth were to be trained to teach adults.

From the outset the scheme caught on and grew like a veritable forest fire. A badge was designed and cast in bronze. School principals were asked to select the first candidates for membership, who were installed at public ceremonies. Each Junior Forest Warden became the representative for the Association in his district.

In the forties the wardens took on a greater role than that of volunteer forest fire prevention officers. They were provided with training courses, issued special manuals, and rewarded with badges and degrees. The Warden Clubs also commenced participating in local fairs, parades, and other public events to make people aware of conservation and environmental problems. They undertook such projects as community enrichment, improvement of fish and wildlife habitats, seed cone collecting, tree planting, and the enhancement of our surroundings.

With the emergence of a strong provincial organization in Alberta, sponsored by the Alberta Forest Service, it became necessary to create a national organization for the purpose of establishing common objectives, training programs, rules and regulations, and providing for provincial representation on a national level.

The Junior Forest Wardens Association of Canada was incorporated in Ottawa in 1940.

The main objective of the Junior Forest Wardens is to promote good citizenship among our Canadian youth through participation in a program of healthful outdoor recreation and service to the community. The association seeks to challenge the initiative of boys and girls to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the wise use of our woods, waters, soils, and wildlife. The affiliated members of the organization as well as the Junior Forest Wardens, Girl Forest Guards, and their adult leaders are people curious about nature and getting outdoors to hike, camp, or go on wilderness trips.

Memberships in one of these clubs offers a special kind of companionship with others who love and respect the environment. Also, instruction in outdoor skills and guidance on how to go about studying many living and non-living things around us. It combines learning, fun, and outdoor adventures for its young members.

There are some 5,000 youngsters enrolled in the provincial and affiliate member clubs of the organization. For example, Quebec 4H of the Quebec Forestry Association is an affiliate member.

The founders of the warden program believed that young people today are more than ever in need of outdoor experience. This is particularly true with the growing tendency towards urbanization. Many young people have never been out of the city. Youngsters with a natural spirit of adventure and love of all nature and living things should have the opportunity to participate in environmental education and action-type programs pertaining to conservation.

There is no intent to make wildlife officers or foresters of these young people, but one can be certain that they will become better informed adults and better citizens as a result of their training and experience.

Emphasis is placed on members developing responsibility for themselves and for the natural resources. All training courses, extra studies, hikes, campouts, and seminars are designed to achieve this goal. The program is based on the volunteer leader in the community and the adult council, consisting of three or four other interested adults. The whole idea is to develop a sound philosophy of life by a group interest and participation in natural resource experiences, education, and developing a knowledge of the environment.

Submitted by Chief Warden Bill Myring

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This newsletter is the official organ of the Forest History Association of British Columbia and is distributed quarterly at no charge to members of the Association, libraries, and to certain institutions. Items on forest history topics, descriptions of current projects, requests for information, book reviews, letters, comments, and suggestions are welcome. Please address all correspondence including changes of address to the Editor: John Parminter, # 1 - 949 Pemberton Road, Victoria, B.C. V8S 3R5.

**Membership** in the Association is \$5.00 yearly. Should you wish to join or obtain further information please write to the Treasurer: Edo Nyland, 8793 Forest Park Drive, Sidney, B.C. V8L 4E8. The President, Bill Young, can be reached at 6401 Conconi Place, Victoria, B.C. V8Z 5Z7.

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