



# NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2006

# FESTIVAL OF FORESTRY

Professionally run field trips for teachers  
Learn about our FREE pro-d opportunities

### FESTIVAL OF FORESTRY TEACHERS' TOUR WOWS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION STAFFER

By Amanda Brittain, Director of Communications, ABCFP

About ten days before the Teachers' Tour, I was told that there was a spot for me. Like most people, my initial reaction was "great, but I'm far too busy to go." However, I rearranged some work priorities, packed my hiking boots and climbed on the bus. From that moment forward, I didn't regret it for an instant!

Although I have worked at the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) for almost a year, I am a corporate communica-



tor and have no background in forestry. I know that BC has a lot of trees and that forestry brings a huge chunk of money to the provincial coffers. In my year at the association, I feel as though I have scratched the surface of issues like the mountain pine beetle epidemic, but I still didn't have an idea of how forestry worked. That all changed on the tour.

Each stop we made on the tour was like another piece of the forestry puzzle falling in to place. We visited a working logging site, a block that was being replanted,



## WHO ARE WE?

The BC Festival of Forestry is a non-profit organization committed to providing quality professional development experiences for school teachers.

We run tours twice a year taking 20 Lower Mainland and Victoria area teachers to rural communities in BC. The tours provide an interactive learning experience to enhance teachers' understanding of the complexities of sustainable forest management issues, and methods to integrate information into their classes.

Teachers have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a resource-based community and interact with the people most connected to resource issues. Our two-day tours include hikes in various forest ecosystems, visits to active forest management areas, protected areas, and tours of processing facilities. Presenters on each tour represent a wide range of interest areas providing a clear balance of perspectives.

Tours include mini-courses on tree identification, wildlife habitat issues, water quality and other riparian considerations in forest management, soil characteristics, ecosystem management, conservation and preservation of sensitive and special areas of the forest, as well as the social and economic values we gain from the forest. ☘

## OUR LATEST ADVENTURE - THE FRASER VALLEY

a nursery, a fish hatchery, a dryland sort yard, a mill and even the UBC research forest. We spoke with representatives from the Chilliwack First Nations, the Ministry of Forests and Range, forestry companies and even the ABCFP.



All of a sudden, these different puzzle pieces started to make sense to me. It's like I'd been doing the puzzle upside down and now I could see the picture on the front. For example, I knew tree planting was physically demanding, but I didn't know the planters had to walk through

all the slash looking for spots to plant their trees. Nor did I know that someone checked to see the trees were planted properly in order to ensure good regeneration of the site.

I also didn't realize that the trees the planters were using were grown to order for that specific site from a specially collected cache of seeds. I guess I thought silviculture worked more like McDonalds: "I'll have 300 Douglas-fir with a side order of hemlock."

Even the relatively simple things like logging trucks struck a chord with me. At the active logging site in Chilliwack, we had to stand aside to let a fully loaded log truck pass. We were told that the driver had to back his truck up this road, which was on an incline and had a fairly sharp curve in it, to reach the spot where he was being loaded. As I have trouble parallel parking my Toyota Echo, I realized how skilled the truck drivers have to be. I also realized how important site layout, road layout and construction are. Before the tour, I had never given such things any thought.

As I am a staff person at the ABCFP, I took the opportunity to listen to what the teachers and counselors were saying about the tour. They were fascinated! They couldn't get enough information. I was especially impressed by the reaction of the career counselors. One particular counselor worked in one of the highest income neighbourhoods in the Lower Mainland. She told me that all her students wanted to go to medical or law school. After the tour, she said that she was going to start suggesting that some of them head to forestry school as it was just as challenging and rewarding as medicine or law.

The Interior Logging Association's Forestry Education Van was a huge hit with everyone – but especially the elementary school teachers. This van is a mobile classroom. Outside are amazing murals depicting forestry of yesteryear and today. The interior is packed with displays and educational games. We were especially interested in the forest fire and mountain pine beetle displays. I overheard a couple of teachers working on a plan to bring the van down to their area for a visit.

This tour also included two students from BCIT and two from UBC. The students were put in the unique position of providing information to the teachers instead of the other way around. They were able to answer questions about specific trees and other plants as well as why certain species tended to grow together. They also got a lot out of the tour. I think it gave them focus and helped them see the light at the end of their education tunnel.

I'd like to extend my personal thanks to the Festival of Forestry for allowing me to go. Also, very special thanks go to the tour organizers Susan Muhlberger and Jay Rees and tour guide Steve Finn. They did a fabulous job! ☘





## WHAT THE TEACHERS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

“I feel very privileged to have participated in this program. It was exceptionally well organized and each presenter spoke with enthusiasm and passion.”

“This was an outstanding tour and exceptional opportunity for teachers. Thank you so much for this professional development experience.”

“I thought everything was great. The speakers/guides were very informative. I have a new appreciation for the forest industry and a lot of information to teach my students.”

“What a great tour. I am quite amazed at the many who are committed to educating teachers.”

“We need to get more teachers out!”

“Jam packed with info and really opened my eyes to the world of forestry and what goes into running a sustainable forest. Lots of great tools and resources for the classroom. Very applicable to the curriculum. An experience very teacher should have!”

“This tour was great. I think it is really important for more forestry education and awareness to occur in elementary and secondary schools in order to present forestry as a career option to students who might not know about the opportunities available in forestry.”

# A+

## Festival Gives Top Grade to Our Sponsors!



**Truck Loggers Association**



**BC Ministry of Forests and Range**



**The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program (SFI)**



**International Order of Hoo-Hoo Vancouver Club**

Participants will leave Vancouver and Victoria Wednesday evening. Tours take place Thursday and Friday. Teachers return to Vancouver and Victoria Friday evening. Accommodation is shared, two per room, and will be provided by the Festival of Forestry at a local hotel. We cover accommodation, meals, and transportation to and from Vancouver or Victoria and the tour destination. Orientation sessions take place one week prior to each tour and provide information on what to bring, what to expect, and a short overview of BC's forests.

## TOUR APPLICATION FORM

### JOIN US IN 100 MILE HOUSE OCTOBER, 2006



### REGISTER TODAY

APPLICATION FORM FOR BC FESTIVAL OF FORESTRY  
FREE EDUCATIONAL TOUR



#### SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name:	School Principal:	
Street/Mailing Address:	Web Site:	
	Phone Number:	
City:	Fax Number:	
Province:	Postal Code:	Email:

#### TEACHER INFORMATION

Your Name:	Grade(s) Taught:
Home Address:	Subject
	Home Phone Number:
City:	Your email (if different from above):
Province:	Postal Code:

Have you applied to attend a tour in the past?  Yes  No

Have you attended a tour in the past?  Yes  No If YES, where did you go?

#### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NOTE: Your application **must** be accompanied by a short paragraph explaining how attending this tour would benefit your teaching.

**PLEASE FAX OR MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, TO:**

FESTIVAL OF FORESTRY

FAX: 604-687-3264

1030 - 1188 WEST GEORGIA STREET

VANCOUVER, BC V6E 4A2

Selections will be made by the Festival of Forestry by October 6th, only successful applicants will be contacted.

WARNING - Festival of Forestry Tours can become addictive, join us at your own risk!!