



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

Professionally run field trips for teachers
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FESTIVAL OF FORESTRY

MONSTERS NO MORE

BY SANDY MCKELLAR

With tours and education, the Festival of Forestry improves the public's perception of the industry

For many British Columbians, thinking about forestry conjures up images of monsters raging through the forests of their province, leaving behind waste and destruction. This message is unfortunately easy to spread and difficult to diffuse. The Festival of Forestry works diligently to tame the monster – not by changing what happens in the forest, but rather, by taming the monsters that live in the imaginations of the public.

Thirty-nine years ago, concerned about the perceptions of the public, and teachers in particular, a logger named Bill Moore took action and formed an organiza-



tion dedicated to telling the truth about forestry in British Columbia. Moore, a young logger from Winter Harbour on northern Vancouver Island recognized the critical need for urban teachers to understand B.C.'s forest management practices. In 1967, he pulled together a group of dedicated individuals from industry, unions, education and governments to create the Festival of Forestry – a non-profit educational society. Today, the B.C. Festival of Forestry continues to thrive, providing quality educational experiences for teachers. By 2005 they had



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. ☘



hosted more than 1,600 teachers on their forest tours. Moore's involvement in forestry started while he was still in high school. At the age of 21, he took over the helm of a 50-man logging camp where he began a career that would keep him in caulk boots for 55 years.



And yet, this rugged woodsman was also an eloquent spokesman and poet. The year he started up the Festival of Forestry, Moore had just completed a two-year term as president of the Truck Loggers Association (1964-65). He was also president of the Pacific Logging Congress and a director of Forest Industrial Relations. Who better to sing

the praises of an industry in need of some good public relations work?

November 24, 2000, the forest sector mourned the loss of this influential man; but his spirit lives on and is fostered through the TLA's Bill Moore Legacy Fund, a sponsorship program set up to support the Festival of Forestry teacher tours initiated by Moore so many years ago. Looking back at Moore's achievements, it is no surprise that he should take on the role of spokesman for the sector.

The Festival of Forestry strives to provide an interactive learning experience to enhance teachers' understanding of the complexities of sustainable forest management issues, and methods to integrate information into their classroom curriculum. Twice a year, 20 teachers from Greater Victoria and the Lower Mainland are taken to a resource-dependent community in British Columbia. These unique tours provide a complete experience for the attendees. Teachers have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a resource-based community and interact with the people most connected to the issues. The two-day tour includes hikes in various forest ecosystems, visits to research sites, parks and protected areas, active logging and tours of processing facilities.

Presenters on the tour represent a wide range of interest areas and provide a balance of perspectives.

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

Do teachers feel that their time has been well spent on these tours? Anik Tauson, a teacher from William Bridge Elementary School in Richmond, B.C., certainly thinks so. "I had a lot of misconceptions and very little knowledge regarding the forest industry before this tour; now I have some knowledge, some understanding and I want to learn a lot more. I'm leaving with an understanding and appreciation of the true importance of the B.C. forestry industry. If B.C.'s forests are healthy, B.C. is healthy. We are lucky to have such a diversified, useful, multi-faceted, renewable resource. My experience was positive and I truly appreciate it. To have walked in the streets of a resource-based community and talked to people about issues from their perspective and understanding has opened my eyes to many things and is absolutely priceless."

With assistance from professionals in the local communities, volunteer board members of the Festival of Forestry coordinate and oversee each tour. All those involved in providing the tour experience agree the tours are addictive, especially as testimonials like Tauson's are the standard response from teachers. They may come into the forest expecting monsters, but they leave believing that the people who work in woods are the most dedicated tree-huggers of all.





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+

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Truck Loggers Association



BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC Ministry of Forests and Range



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program (SFI)



International Order of Hoo-Hoo Vancouver Club

Participants will travel by bus from Vancouver and Victoria Wednesday morning. Tours take place Thursday and Friday. Teachers return to Vancouver and Victoria Saturday 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. Information will be provided one week prior to the tour and includes what to bring where to meet and what to expect.

TOUR APPLICATION FORM

JOIN US IN 100 MILE HOUSE MARCH 21-24, 2007



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 MARCH 9TH, 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 March 13th, only successful applicants will be contacted.

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