



BRANCHING OUT

FEBRUARY 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (FRIAA)



Industry relief grows from seedling money

The Forestry Worker Employment Program is credited with helping sustain Alberta's silviculture sector through the economic downturn and paving the way for expanded growth in 2011 and beyond.

"The industry experienced lean times with the meltdown of the U.S. housing sector, and this program coming in 2009 and 2010 certainly helped pull us through," says Catherine Newhook of Next Generation Reforestation based in Beaverlodge. "It's a great program, and it allowed

us to expand our replanting window by nearly two full weeks compared to the previous years."

Funded by Western Economic Diversification and the Alberta departments of Sustainable Resource Development and Employment & Immigration, the \$6-million Forestry Worker Employment Program has been administered by the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta. The funds were for forest tending and replanting activities over and above the forest industry's legal obligations.

Companies gained access to the program through a couple of proposal calls. The money provided opportunities to Alberta-based silviculture contractors, allowing local companies to keep their experienced and skilled workers on payroll, while carrying out important forestry improvement work. In the case of reforestation contractors as just one example, these companies were able to plant more seedlings than would otherwise have been possible, which also offered a trickle-down effect



Program helped nurseries and planters through lean times

MediaMatch West

to nurseries feeling the crunch.

"Because of this program, our orders have been up compared to our initial expectations," says Scott Formaniuk of Coast To Coast Reforestation in Edmonton. "It allowed contractors to start replanting burned or damaged areas that needed attention."

Formaniuk says the program allowed operations like Coast To Coast Reforestation to sustain momentum and maintain staffing levels. "This program was important in allowing us to maintain production levels in a very lean year, and helped get us through to better times."

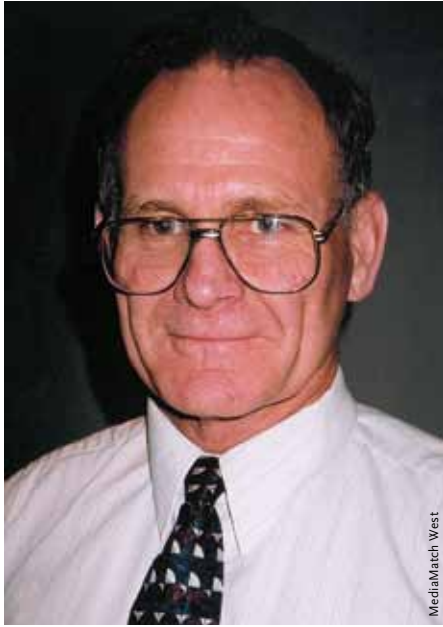
FRIAA reports that program results for 2009 included: 2.2 million seedlings planted; 2,180 ha tended or site prepped; 136 person-months of employment generated and \$2.5 million spent.

Results for 2010 included 3.4 million seedlings planted, 782 ha site prepped; 371 person-months of employment generated and \$3 million spent

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Multiple programs made for a busy and productive year

FRIAA has been very busy over the past year and I am very pleased with what we have been able to accomplish in terms of delivering programs that contribute to the enhancement of Alberta's forests.



Trevor Wakelin

With eight programs currently being delivered, FRIAA has proven its commitment to enhancing the forests of Alberta. This includes funding work aimed at mountain pine beetle control, fire hazard reduction activities, planting new areas that are not the responsibility of industry and conducting additional silvicultural work in areas that can benefit from it most.

Delivering programs and initiatives that enhance Alberta's forests is a core aspect of FRIAA's mandate. In addition to serving our mandate, we have also been able to apply FRIAA's expertise in program management and delivery to support additional objectives of the provincial and federal governments.

Funding from Alberta Sustainable Development, Alberta Employment and Immigration and Western Economic Diversification has been provided to FRIAA to provide for employment and economic objectives while benefiting the forest. The three newest programs, the Fire Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Program, Forestry Worker Employment Program and CRP Enhancement program have received total funding of more

than \$42 over two years. These three programs have contributed much to employment and contractor business opportunities throughout the forestry sector while enhancing our forests and forest management. I look forward to reporting on these three programs in the coming months as they come to a close and final results are measured.



BRANCHING OUT

BRANCHING OUT is the newsletter of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA)

BRANCHING OUT is published quarterly to communicate the objectives and activities of the association to members and other interested parties.

The purpose of FRIAA is to enhance the timber and non-timber forest resources of Alberta for the benefit of all Albertans. It encourages improved forest management activities over and above those required by government regulation.

Undeliverable copies should be returned to MediaMatch West Communications Inc., #4, 10028-29A Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T6N 1A8

For more copies of this issue or to be added to the mailing list, please contact FRIAA in Edmonton
Phone (780) 429-5873
Fax (780) 428-5190

ISSN: 1703-1044

Editorial material in this newsletter may be reproduced and disseminated with the following credit attached: "Courtesy of Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta."

Canada Post Corporation
Agreement # 40009376
Customer # 01056026

FRIAA

Board of Directors, 2010-11

President:

Trevor Wakelin, Millar Western Forest Products Ltd., Edmonton

Vice-President:

James Bocking, Hinton

Second Vice-President:

Bruce Mayer, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Edmonton

Treasurer:

Murray Summers, Blue Ridge Lumber Inc., Whitecourt

Directors:

Dave Kiil, Public Member, Edmonton

Bruce Macmillan, Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd., Edmonton

Jurgen Moll, Whitecourt

Dwight Weeks, Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Grande Prairie

Manager:

Todd Nash, Edmonton

FRIAA administration:

Phone: (780) 429-5873

Fax: (780) 429-4026

E-mail: admin@friaa.ab.ca • Website: www.friaa.ab.ca



Bruce Mayer

NEW DIRECTOR . . .

Forestry ADM Bruce Mayer joins Boardyear

FRIAA is pleased to welcome Bruce Mayer as its newest director on the Board.

As the appointee of the Minister of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Bruce will provide a valuable link between the government and the association. Bruce has a long history in forestry in Alberta and has long been a supporter of FRIAA. As the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Forestry, Bruce brings a keen interest in developing and delivering programs and initiatives that support good forest management and that help deliver the department's objectives.

"I am very pleased to be a part of FRIAA and look forward to helping guide FRIAA's operations over the coming years" says Bruce. "FRIAA has proved its worth by delivering some key programs very effectively, for instance the Forest Resource Improvement Program since 1997, the Wildfire Reclamation Program since 1998 and the Community Reforestation Program since 2000".

FRIAA's Board of Directors includes five voted by the membership, one director appointed from the public, one director appointed from small operators that pay reforestation levies and one director appointed by the Minister.

FRIAA has 30 members, including all of the FMA and quota holders in the province. The list can be viewed at www.friaa.ab.ca.

Amanda Stoik joins FRIAA's administration team

That voice on the other end of the line when permit holders and FRIAA partners phone in belongs to Amanda Stoik.

She joined FRIAA last year when administrator Anna Williams moved on, and now serves as first point of contact for permit holders. She handles their payments, prints their cheques, sends out statements and generally makes sure everything is on track. Amanda also provides general administration for all of FRIAA's programs, preparing reports for the Board and taking care of all kinds of paperwork.

"I was with Meyers Norris Penny for the last two years, doing administrative work for the management consulting group," says the Edmonton native. "My work included searching for business opportunities through Requests For Proposals, putting together proposals, working with clients."

Before that Amanda provided administrative support at InterCall Canada conferencing services, backstopping sales teams across Canada.



Amanda Stoik

PROGRAM UPDATE . . .

Activity benefits employment and environment

The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta continues to administer a broad slate of programs that bring significant environmental and employment benefits to Albertans.

Incoming funds for the **Forest Resource Improvement Program** have dropped to little or nothing since the U.S. market crash, because FRIP dues paid by forest companies directly reflect market prices for lumber. However, prudent management of accumulated funds and interest means there continues to be some activity within the file, mostly to complete ongoing projects. Very few new projects are being initiated.

The **Community Reforestation Program** exists to pool resources and ensure the best possible reforestation results when areas have been harvested by smaller timber operators. This program serves an important economic sector within rural community life, but it too has been affected by the downturn.

Lower market prices have meant less logging, and hence less demand for reforestation. Improvements in the market will undoubtedly lead to a rise in program activity in coming years.

In the two years prior to May 1, 2005, the average annual harvest area under this program's area of responsibility was approximately 3,000 ha, and in 2005/06 FRIAA administered the planting of approximately 3.3 million seedlings on just over 2,100 ha.

By comparison, in the two years prior to May 1, 2010, the average annual harvest area was approximately 1,100 ha and in 2010/11 FRIAA administered the planting of just under 1.2 million seedlings on 1,000 ha.

Efforts to keep jobs and skills within the province were boosted with a federal contribution of \$6.5 million that contributed to additional stand tending activities in the



Reducing fire hazard in the forest was one objective of FRIAA programs

summer and fall of 2010. Recent figures show that 6,400 ha were tended under this program.

In the **Mountain Pine Beetle Program**, 48 projects were approved in 2010, with 29 now complete and 19 still underway. Activities costing a total of about \$6.1 million included an aerial survey, containment baiting, 10 dispersal pheromone projects, ground surveys, logyard management, seed collection, single-tree control and regional planning.

Larger companies are responsible for replanting harvested forest areas at their own expense. However, when wildfire wipes out these new stands, FRIAA's **Wildfire Reclamation Program** steps in with funds to help replace the plantations. Last year the provincial government provided \$372,288 to reforest 201 fire-damaged ha on areas

managed by five companies.

The past year has seen considerable activity within the **Fire Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Program**, designed to encourage activities that reduce fire, pest and disease threats to Alberta forests. The funding program ends March 31, 2011, but as of mid-January, activities since spring 2009 have included disbursement of over \$24 million, over 7,000 ha treated, an estimated 2,171 person-months of employment created, and over 240 businesses engaged in providing services.

The **Incidental Conifer Program**, which reinvests specific reforestation levy dollars in enhancing the growth of coniferous trees on Alberta's public land, comes to an end after one final project near Slave Lake is planned and approved.