



BRANCHING OUT

FOREST RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (FRIAA) NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2014



President's Message



Murray Summers

FRIAA contributes to Alberta's environmental, social, and economic well-being by funding projects to reforest cutblocks impacted by wildfires, control mountain pine beetle (MPB), rehabilitate forests damaged by insects and disease, and protect forests and communities from wildfires. Additionally, FRIAA is directly involved in ongoing reforestation activities, other silviculture work, and special projects that enhance Alberta's forest resources in areas that stand to gain primary benefit.

By working with a variety of members, stakeholders, and government representatives, FRIAA has continued to help sustain Alberta's forests for all Albertans. Many of our projects are delivered in collaboration with forestry professionals, researchers, educators, and local community leaders.

Thank you to all who attended FRIAA's annual general meeting. I was able to announce FRIAA's exciting decision to allocate \$3 million from the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) fund to a FRIP fund initiative for fiscal 2014-15. As in previous years, this investment will allow FRIAA members an additional opportunity to propose projects for enhancing Alberta's forest resources. We were also pleased to announce a call for proposals related to the Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Rehabilitation Program (MPBFRP). This will support innovative activities aimed at sustaining forests damaged by MPB.

In addition to standard agenda items, attendees viewed presentations relating to FRIAA's two new programs: the MPBFRP and the FRIAA FireSmart Program. The MPBFRP was established in 2013 to facilitate field operations to enhance forest growth and sustainability within areas impacted by the MPB infestation. The program has received \$14 million in funding from the province, with a total of \$9.1 million committed and 11 projects approved to date. Subsequent to year-end, an additional \$5 million in grant funding was received, \$3.7 million of which was committed to projects. FRIAA's FireSmart Program was established to build on the community-based efforts initiated under Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's FireSmart program. The initiative has received \$7.6 million from the province over the 2013-14 and 2014-15 periods. To date, \$6.5 million in funding has been allocated, and 31 projects have been approved.

Currently delivering seven programs, FRIAA has continuously proven its commitment to enhancing Alberta's forests. I am extremely grateful for the dedication shown by FRIAA's members, partners, and stakeholders to the wide range of projects completed over the past year and those planned for the upcoming year. The association's evolution and growth over the past 18 years would not have been possible without your support.

Murray Summers, President

After a thorough review and audit, the CRA has ruled that, effective October 1, 2014, FRIAA will no longer collect GST on reforestation levies or pay GST on any CRP-project-related invoices. If you have questions or concerns, please contact FRIAA at (780) 429-5873 or admin@friaa.ab.ca.

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The Des Crossley Demonstration Forest: A Life in Review

Desmond I. Crossley, the man after whom the demonstration forest is named in tribute, was a forester and a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Born in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, in 1910, Crossley graduated from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry in 1935 and joined the federal Department of Agriculture at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. In 1940, he was awarded an MSc from the University of Minnesota. Following demobilization from the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1945, he joined the Canadian Forest Service in Calgary, where he conducted groundbreaking research in the ecology and silviculture of lodgepole pine and white spruce for the subsequent decade.

In the 1940s and '50s, Alberta's forestry industry was shifting towards a socially responsible and sustainable model of harvest. On March 29, 1949, the provincial government passed a revised Forests Act authorizing collaboration between industry and government for the growth of continuous and perpetually successive tree crops. Until then, there had been no forest inventories and therefore no basis on which to develop management plans.

In 1955, Alberta's first large-scale forest enterprise—North Western Pulp & Power Ltd. (NWP&P)—was beginning operations in Hinton. The company offered Crossley the job of chief forester, with full authority to establish and implement a sustainable forest management program. The resulting program has been recognized both nationally and internationally.

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Branching Out

Branching Out is the newsletter of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). It 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.

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During his 20-year career with NWP&P, Crossley continued to study and adapt practices from research. He also worked extensively to achieve sustained yield management through natural reforestation. He pioneered the use of scarifiers for the regeneration of lodgepole pine and introduced alternate strip cuts for regeneration of white spruce. His approach, based on experience and knowledge, involved clear-cutting and site preparation for natural regeneration in order to shorten the recovery period following harvest.

Crossley believed in making a strong professional contribution. He wrote upwards of 40 papers and articles on silviculture and forest management for professional and trade journals. He was also active in the Canadian Institute of Forestry, as one of the founders and early chairs of the Rocky Mountain Section. In 1966, he was elected president of the institute and was the recipient of its Canadian Forestry Achievement Award in 1970 for consistent and exceptional contributions over a lifetime of dedication. Crossley was made a fellow of the institute in 1979. On October 31, 1975, he retired and entered a new phase of his career as a consulting forester.

Crossley passed away in 1986, but his work continues to influence forestry best practices. In 1997, to celebrate and recognize this contribution, NWP&P named the south half of its industrial forest the Crossley Forest. The north half was named the Loomis Forest after Alberta Forest Service forester Reg Loomis, another primary contributor to the development of forest management processes.

After more than half a century, foresters at the Hinton Wood Products operation continue to employ the adaptive management precedent implemented by Crossley. There have been remarkable advances in the practical applications of sustainable forest management, with accountability standards resulting in an industry-wide move towards the adoption of more efficient and effective practices. Through ecologically appropriate silviculture and revolutionary growth-and-yield programs, allowable annual cuts have been maintained and increased over time—part of the legacy of Crossley's trials at what became the Des Crossley Demonstration Forest at Strachan.

From Research to Learning

The Des Crossley Demonstration Forest is a 65-hectare section of forested land about 20 minutes southwest of Rocky Mountain House. It is a dense 125-year-old lodgepole pine stand and was initially the research site developed by Crossley during his work with the Canadian Forest Service in the 1950s. At its inception, the site supported studies to evaluate the silvics of different cutting systems for lodgepole pine regeneration.

In the late 1990s, Jim Martin of Inside Education and Tom Daniels of Sundre Forest Products met to discuss the development of a demonstration forest in the Rocky Mountain House area. It was determined that the Des Crossley Demonstration Forest presented a strong opportunity. Program development was led by Sundre Forest Products Ltd. in collaboration with Inside Education. Other stakeholders included representatives from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, the University of Alberta, the Canadian Forest Service, and Devon Energy.

The program was established in 1998 and has proceeded in several phases,

growing over time to incorporate additional audiences and activities. Since its inception, goals have evolved to include a number of awareness initiatives. The field-based learning facility presents an opportunity for the general public to develop awareness of the multiple uses of forests, integrated land management, and sustainable forest management. The ultimate goal of the program is to improve public understanding and appreciation of forest resources and engage the public in dialogue around effective resource management.

In August 1998, the site was prepared for use. Sundre Forest Products relocated the Strachan Ranger Station onto the site to provide cooking and sleeping facilities. A trail network was laid out and built to connect research plots. Additionally, integrated signage and a “kit” of learning tools were developed. The second phase, from September 1998 to April 1999, incorporated two elements: teacher professional development and school site visits. During spring and autumn sessions from 2003 to 2005, over 15,600 interested parties participated



in programming. This figure includes on-site field activities and school presentations.

Inside Education's Integrated Landscape Management program, launched in 2006, was an initiative developed with insight from a range of participants, including oil and gas and forest products industries, post-secondary institutions, and government. Integrated landscape management considers factors associated with land and resource management; environmental, social, and economic sustainability; wildlife; and recreation. This approach accounts for multiple uses and users, as well as analysis of the ecosystem as a whole, rather than in pieces. During the 2006

season, the program had 2,433 participants, and 90% considered it to be “very effective” in meeting learning objectives.

When the recession hit in 2008, the program was discontinued as the forest industry turned its attention to maintaining mill operations. With funding from FRIAA, the site reopened in 2012. A new clear-cut area was prepared, giving participants an opportunity to see logging in action on-site.

Currently, the site represents Central Alberta’s premier forest education centre. Students aged 9–17 can study forest development, regeneration, and interactions, as well as gain exposure to career opportunities. Inside Education actively promoted the forest at Alberta Teachers’ Association conventions, leading to two fully subscribed delivery seasons. During the 2013 offering, participants included 1,786 students, 65 teachers, and 256 other adults.

Author: Jessica Ambler, MNP Analyst



Employee Profile: Colin Paranich

For Colin Paranich, coming to work with FRIAA was not so surprising. “Working in this field certainly was no accident,” says Paranich, who completed a four-year bachelor’s degree in forestry in 2012 to become a registered

professional forester (RPF). “I’ve always been interested in the field, and I knew my degree would take me where I wanted to go.” Growing up on a farm near Lac La Biche, he developed a passion for the outdoors, where he spent most of his time camping, fishing, and hiking. Pursuing a career with an environmental focus was only natural.

While specializing in forest management during his time at the University of Alberta, Paranich worked with the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) Forestry Department as a student, gaining exposure to the Wildfire Program before going on to work with Greenlink Forestry Inc. performing forest inventory activities after graduation. His time with ESRD and his exposure to the forest management processes didn’t go to waste. “The experience gave me a lot of insight. It prepared me to work with other organizations and to view forest management from both a specific program perspective and at a broad level—that has provided me with the ability to consider short-term action and long-term initiatives,” Paranich says.

Paranich brings that experience to FRIAA, where he works as an analyst, a role he sees as having far-reaching potential. “I have the opportunity to work with any number of programs that FRIAA manages, including forestry improvement, wildfire rehabilitation, and others.” In his role, Paranich manages resources through the programs, including payment reviews, expenditure approvals, and operational reviews, all while getting a glimpse into how industry and nature meet and mingle. “I think what I’ve found most interesting through my new role with FRIAA is how involved they are in the forestry industry as a whole; the breadth of their involvement is impressive, and the working relationships the organization has with industry members are productive and effective.”

With so much happening in the industry, Paranich has no intention of slowing down. “I’m very interested in the business side of Alberta forestry. In my role with FRIAA, I’m looking forward to taking on more responsibility and growing in the position—there’s so much to learn about the organization and the industry as a whole, and I get to contribute to the improvement and maintenance of forest resources at the same time.”

FRIAA was established in 1997 to promote and initiate projects that enhance Alberta’s forest resources for the benefit of all Albertans.

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