



BRANCHING OUT

DECEMBER 2007
NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (FRIAA)



Dollars awarded for Open Funds projects

FRIAA announced in December the successful applicants under its sixth Open Funds initiative.

A share in the \$1.5 million available will be an early Christmas gift for many, said Open Funds panel chair and FRIAA board member Dave Kiil.

"We were impressed, more than ever, with the quality of the proposals," he said. "If we had more funds, we could have easily supported additional high quality projects." The winning projects enjoyed very strong support from members and non-members alike.

After two days of tough deliberations, the FRIAA board chose 12 applicants out of 40 proposals.

The five successful applicants of the \$1.3 million for province-wide projects are:

- Monitoring and decision support for forest management in a mountain pine beetle environments – Foothills Growth and Yield Association.
 - Hydrologic risk assessment framework for Alberta's green zone – University of Alberta.
 - Alberta grizzly bear research and products to support sustainable forest management – Foothills Model Forest.
 - Effects of mountain pine beetle attack on hydrology and post-attack vegetation in Alberta's lodgepole pine forests – Foothills Model Forest.
 - Forest field trip programs – Inside Education.
- The seven successful Local Projects proposals are:
- Nine Mile Creek interpretive trails at Slave Lake - Alberta Plywood Ltd.
 - Fall Creek bull trout spawning movement study – Alberta Conservation Society.



The bull trout is just one driving force behind FRIAA's 12 new Open Funds projects

Sustainable Resource Development

- Boreal Educator – Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory Society.
- Beaver boardwalk in Hinton, Phase II - Hinton Wood Products.
- Forest Educator Program – Grande Prairie and Area Forest Education Society.
- Riparian zones of small streams and wetlands in Boreal Alberta - Alberta Research Council.
- Review of techniques for estimation of small populations - Bighorn Wildlife Technologies.

For more information check the website www.friaa.ab.ca.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

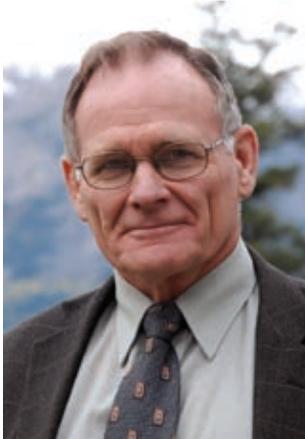
Slowdown in FRIP activities would be a concern for all Albertans

Poor economic conditions in the forest sector have a direct and significant impact on revenues for the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP).

FRIP dues, collected and administered by FRIAA, are linked to lumber prices. It should be no surprise therefore that no dues have been collected now for more than a year.

The sector did have a good year in 2004, and judicious management of our funds have allowed us to maintain FRIP spending at about \$15 million a year. Interest income and other fund management opportunities have also allowed FRIAA to continue with its Open Funds initiative, which has made an additional \$1 million to \$2 million per year available.

I think it is only reasonable and responsible, however, to face the fact that at some point the lack of dues income will affect operations of the program. Funds have been committed for FRIP projects in 2008, but



Trev Wakelin

eventually it's possible the well will run dry.

This is of concern to all Albertans, because FRIP enables research, operational and educational activities that are over and above the statutory activities required of forest product manufacturers. These activities give us a forest that is more vibrant and productive for the full range of social values, from habitat conservation to biodiversity to economic output.

Researchers and scientists in the urban centres, along with consultants and technicians throughout the forested area, will also feel the effects of a reduction in FRIP activities.

The Minister is certainly well aware of the competitive challenges faced by Alberta's forest sector, and has been responsive in 2007 to a number of requests and ideas presented to him. We will look to continue the dialogue in hopes there might be ways to work together with the province to keep FRIP functioning into the future.

We know for certain that the new year promises new life and new opportunity for all, and I will take this opportunity to wish all of our stakeholders, partners and operators all the very best this Christmas and New Year.



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.

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FRIAA

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MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE . . .

Companies sign on to program aimed at front lines of beetle control

FRIAA has received the initial provincial amount of \$5 million to help pay forest companies for eligible activities under the mountain pine beetle program.

The activities will include aerial and ground surveys, pheromone baits and traps, single tree cut-and-burn treatments, orchard protection and seed collection where needed. Companies already involved as of early winter were Weyerhaeuser, Canfor, Hinton Wood Products, Sundre Forest Products Alberta newsprint Company, Foothills Forest Products, Sundance Forest Industries and Manning Diversified Forest Products.

The funding was announced in the summer of 2007, along with Alberta's 10-year commitment to a new program that will help replace regenerated stands damaged by wildfire.

Dan Lux, provincial mountain pine beetle coordinator, welcomed the new opportunity



Pitch extrusions on trunk show presence of pine beetle

Sustainable Resource Development

resulted from a massive blow-in resulting from a storm that brought millions of beetles over the mountains in 2006. There hasn't been another incident of comparable size, and recent winters have been cold enough to knock back the northern populations somewhat. Ground surveys from Grande Cache to Slave Lake are now under way, based on earlier aerial surveys, to eradicate infested trees.

Further south, around Canmore, however, the beetle has hit hard, Lux said. Ground surveys are further ahead in this region, and show that every dead tree is associated with 8.2 live attacked trees - a ratio that poses an elevated control challenge. Lux expects about 15,000 trees will have to be destroyed in southern areas, compared to about 9,000 last year.

For more information contact visit www.friaa.ab.ca, or <http://srd.alberta.ca/forests/health/pestalerts/mountainpinebeetles.aspx>

Forest technician Jurgen Moll joins Board as voice for smaller timber operators

Veteran forest technician Jurgen Moll has been named to the Board of Directors of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta.

He is a long-time woodlot operator and member of the Woodlot Association of Alberta, and will serve on the FRIAA board as a voice for small timber permit holders and operators.

Other board members represent industrial forest product manufacturers and the public interest.

Moll grew up in the Peace River Country north of Grande Prairie, and spent some early years working as a laborer on farms in the summer, and in small "gyppo" sawmills in the winter. He worked on a West Coast cruise ship for a year "for something different," then found work with the Bissell Brothers plywood plant at Grande Prairie.

He began a 33-year career with the Alberta Forest Service in 1960, working with initial attack wildfire crews and timber management crews before becoming Forest

Officer in Keg River.

Moll's next posting was Peace River, where he was involved with timber cruising and reconnaissance work required for the 1966 introduction of the Quota System. This system was devised as a way of allowing government and the lumber industry to work together for a sustained yield policy, balancing harvests with forest growth, and ensuring reforestation.

Prior to "retirement" Moll also worked at Edson, Cold Creek, Edmonton and Whitecourt.

He now looks after his 80-acre woodlot near Whitecourt, mostly for the fun of it he says, but also to produce Christmas trees and



Jurgen Moll has hosted numerous tours of his private woodlot

Doug Macaulay

to care for pine and spruce stands reaching 70 to 75 years of age.

For more information about FRIAA and the makeup of the Board of Directors, call the office in Edmonton at (780) 429-5873.

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM . . .

FRIAA support helps produce forestry exhibits with “wow” factor

The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta's \$1.25-million contribution to the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton will be put to good use in 2008.

FRIAA made the donation in 2007 to commemorate its 10-year anniversary.

The funding will support a significant upgrade of the museum's Wild Alberta Gallery, with a major new component featuring the importance of Alberta's forests. The donation will also fund a series of small improvements, as well as provide operational funds for the next 10 years.

According to Bruce Bolton, assistant director of business operations for the museum, designers, curators and interpretive planners have been meeting regularly to create the new exhibit component, with construction expected to begin early in 2008.

The “Wild Alberta” gallery currently boasts dioramas and exhibits that bring Alberta's natural history to life. Bolton expects that the addition of the forestry components will seamlessly enrich an already dynamic setting.



Popular teaching galleries take visitors into Alberta's natural environments

While plans have not yet been finalized, Bolton says that possibilities being considered “promise a multi-sensory experience that will wow museum visitors.” This experience could be accomplished with exhibits such as a forest fire simulation that would not only educate museum visitors about forest fires, but would also immerse them in the dramatic sights, sounds and sensations of a forest fire. Forest regeneration and the biodiversity in forested landscapes are some of the key interpretive messages proposed for this display. Another possibility being considered is a

simulation of the sights and sounds of geese taking off from a lake deep in the boreal forest, along with supporting educational components. “All the senses would be tapped into,” says Bolton.

The alliance between FRIAA, Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society and the Royal Alberta Museum “provides a mechanism that makes projects such as this possible - a win-win situation all around.”

Bolton expects that the addition of this exhibit will attract visitors of all ages. While he maintains that the Royal Alberta Museum's educational programs are extremely important, Bolton says that the museums aim is to engage everyone, allowing visitors of any age to make an informed decision about the world - and the forests - around them.

Updates regarding the Wild Alberta Gallery and FRIAA's role can be found online at www.royalalbertamuseum.ca.



Up close and personal with forest inhabitants