

**Lumber Prices: WSPF R/L 2X4 \$US**

<b>Week of November 17</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>Previous Week</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>Previous Month</b>	<b>204</b>
<b>Year Ago</b>	<b>250</b>

Source: *Madison's Canadian Lumber Reporter*  
([www.madisonreport.com](http://www.madisonreport.com))

**The 66th Annual Truck Loggers Association Convention & Tradeshow**

"Celebrating Our Past - Shaping Our Future"

**January 13 - 16, 2009** Westin Bayshore Hotel

Room Rates start at \$159, RSVP prior to Dec. 31 to receive this rate

Don't miss the popular Premier's Luncheon, a discussion with Forests Minister Pat Bell and the President's Banquet and Ball

To register for the Convention & Tradeshow, purchase Event Tickets and register for the SAFER Conference go to [www.tla.ca](http://www.tla.ca).

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**President's Memo**

The financial crisis in the forest industry has been chronicled in this newsletter many times. The industry has now faced two long years of depressed markets and is probably facing another two. The causes of this misfortune are well known.

Recently, however, the debate has shifted to "what can government do?" Critics of the 2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) say that the anticircumvention clause prohibits government action. They go further and say that that Agreement should be cancelled or renegotiated. To that I say, anyone who thinks that the SLA is the root cause of our problems in forestry does not understand the issue and does not understand the dynamics or the economics of the North American lumber market.

Without the SLA we would probably be in some form of litigation. Duty rates would be in excess of 15%. The approximately \$2.5 billion returned to BC exporters would not have been available to support balance sheets. Mill closures and layoffs would have been even more pronounced.

The SLA does prohibit government from providing assistance to companies where that assistance would offset the export tax. However, in reality, no government is going to write a forest company a blank cheque.

But what government can do is provide, over and above company obligations, assistance to workers and communities to deal with issues of transition, training, education,



adjustment and relocation. Governments have already done this and continue to do so. This is what is required along with competitive tax, regulatory and policy regimes.

We also need the armchair quarterbacks to become familiar with the real facts.

*John Allan*

**COFI Says "Good Bye" to Gary Crooks**



A California State University business graduate, Gary has broad-based industry experience ranging from operations management, marketing and sales, strategic planning, industrial relations and communications. His employment included time with Fletcher Challenge, Georgia Pacific Corporation, Atco Lumber and the Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association, prior to joining COFI.

We at COFI benefitted from Gary's good natured practicality, his extensive industry knowledge and network, and his steadfast support for COFI's members. Gary is an avid golfer - we hope and expect to see him on the links for many years to come.

The Kelowna Yacht Club was the venue for the retirement send-off for Gary Crooks, COFI's Vice-President, Southern Operations earlier this month. COFI colleagues, family, forest industry friends and community leaders joined in celebrating Gary's successful career in the BC forest industry.



## Southern Interior Forest Education Report

**COFI South Forest Education** recently commissioned a **6 Billionth Seedling poster** for distribution to Northern and Southern Interior elementary schools. Designed to promote knowledge about reforestation in BC, the poster can be viewed or downloaded from [www.learnforestry.com](http://www.learnforestry.com).

Through the fall, COFI South Forest Education has also been involved in supporting Southern Interior zone forest education programs and developing **forestry study packages** for the spring 2009 Environmental Mind Grind competitions, when Elementary, Middle and Secondary school teams compete to test their knowledge about the environment.

**Okanagan-Columbia forest educators**, Jennifer Stewart and Kalon Nahachewsky, organized a fall **"Intro to Forestry" camp** at Silver Lake's Forestry Center, attended by secondary students from throughout the Okanagan Valley. BCIT instructor, Kelly Hatfull, again took the lead instructor role with assistance from local forestry professionals, introducing students to an overview of the industry, including forest management, fire protection, forest health, search and rescue, forest ecology, tree measurements and harvesting. Okanagan-Columbia forest educators also hosted a **forest education display** at the Provincial Intermediate Teachers' Conference in Kelowna and manned a **career information booth** at the Okanagan College Career Fair. Resource support for all of these events was provided by COFI South Forest Education. The two forest educators toured a **BCIT forestry recruiter** to a number of secondary schools and have **Gr. 3 "History of Logging" kit workshops** scheduled in their zone to introduce valley teachers to the updated and reprinted elementary forestry resource.

During National Forest Week in September, **Thompson forest educator**, Susan Bondar, organized a **Natural Resources and Environmental Studies tour** for secondary students. Participants travelled to Lodge Pole Lake to learn about forest assessments, harvesting and forest health and also visited Tolko's Heffley facility for a tour of the log sort yard and plywood plant. The **Interior Logging Association's forest education van** was hosted by the Thompson zone, with presentations made at schools in Kamloops and Westwold as well as at the Raft River Salmon Run. McQueen Lake Environmental Education Center was the site for the annual **Forest and Environmental Sciences Camp**, which saw students from three school districts investigate topics such as ecology, silviculture, watershed management, active logging and forest measurements, with instruction from TRU and Selkirk College Natural Resource staff and local forest professionals.

The **West Kootenay forest education zone** has hired Toni Ap-

pleby to replace forest educator Darcee O'Hearn for the current school year. The **ILA's forest education van** visited the West Kootenay in September, attending the Pass Creek Fall Fair and several local schools. Toni has hosted several **student field tours**, focusing on fire ecology and forest management and will be involved with the distribution of forest education resources to teachers throughout the fall. Developing

new trails for **pine beetle tours** in the Anderson Creek area near Nelson is a future focus for the West Kootenay forest education zone.

In September, **Cariboo forest educator**, Al Menduk, hosted a biodiversity station in Williams Lake as part of a National Forest Week **"Forestry Appreciation Day"** event. The forest education booth was visited by 250 Grade four students, who



*Thompson secondary students on field tour.*



*PITA conference forest education display.*

## Southern Interior Forest Education Report (Cont'd.)

learned about ecosystems, flora and fauna and sustainability. The Cariboo forest educator also hosted Grade ten's from 100 Mile House at the PSO woodlot for an **ecosystem field trip** and conducted **elementary student tours** on the Minton Creek Trail and will be **teaching Grades 3 and 5 forestry units** to classes in a number of local schools.

The new **secondary teaching resource "BC Forest Products for the World"** is currently being distributed throughout the province with Southern Interior high schools receiving their copies from zone forest educators. Produced by the Forestry Innovation Investment and Chris Lear, (Council of Forest Industries Northern Operations), and endorsed by the

Ministries of Education and Forests and Range, this study unit was developed to educate secondary school students about the international marketing of BC's wood products and the challenges of maintaining and growing those markets in a competitive world.

For further information on Southern Interior Forest Education, please contact Debbie Bazett by phone at (250) 860-9663 or by email: [bazett@cofi.org](mailto:bazett@cofi.org).



East Kootenay forest educator Jim Jenkinson presents binder to SD 6 resource center coordinator.



Increment boring.

## UNBC Research in OSB Production

Leading-edge technology is being developed in Prince George which could save the oriented strand board (OSB) industry millions of dollars per year.

UNBC researcher Matt Reid is working with Del-Tech Manufacturing to test the feasibility of using terahertz radiation to improve quality control and reduce raw material input in OSB production. The Northern Development Initiative Trust provided UNBC \$200,000 to purchase critical equipment to test the groundbreaking concept.

"This is the fastest terahertz imaging system in Canada right now. With the upgrade, it'll be one of the fastest terahertz imaging systems in the world," Reid said. "It's really only the

last few years we've looked at terahertz applications. NASA uses it to examine foam on the space shuttle... that's really the only place that it's been used so far."

Currently, OSB manufacturers have no way to tell how well aligned the fibers are when the boards are made, Del-Tech strategic planner Dennis Callaghan said. They have to produce the boards, and then test them for strength to see if they can be sold. "The mills have to put more flake into the OSB to ensure they meet the standard," Callaghan said. "With this technology, they could make a 2.5 per cent reduction in raw materials - that's \$2 million a year for an average-size OSB mill."

In addition, OSB manufacturers would be able to more accurately gauge how strong the boards will be before it's made, he said. Callaghan toured several OSB plants and found manufacturers were wasting between one and five per cent of their production because it failed to meet specifications. OSB manufacturers represent a major market for the technology, Callaghan added. "OSB has just about replaced plywood in building construction. Eighty per cent of structural panels used today are OSB."

With the current downturn in the forestry sector caused by the slumping U.S. housing markets, OSB manufacturers have been looking for ways to

cut costs. "There is commercial interest in this technology."

For the last five years, Reid has been working on developing terahertz technology for a commercial application in the forestry sector.

**Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association 28th Annual Conference, Trade Show & Annual General Meeting**

"Putting the Forest Back in Forestry"  
February 4th to 6th, 2009  
Harbour Towers Hotel  
345 Quebec Street  
Victoria,

For more information go to:  
[www.wsca.ca](http://www.wsca.ca)

**Softwood Lumber Agreement 2006**

For information about SLA 2006 please see the following websites:

Government of Canada:  
[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/eicb/softwood/menu.en.asp](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/eicb/softwood/menu.en.asp)

Government of BC:  
[www.for.gov.bc.ca/HET/softwood](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/HET/softwood)

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**COFI—Vancouver**  
Suite 1501-700 West Pender St.  
Pender Place I Business Building  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1G8  
Phone: (604) 684-0211  
Fax: (604) 687-4930

**COFI—North**  
#400—1488 Fourth Avenue  
Prince George, BC V2L 4Y2  
Phone: (250) 564-5136  
Fax: (250) 564-3588

**COFI—South**  
360—1855 Kirschner Road  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 4N7  
Phone: (250) 860-9663  
Fax: (250) 860-0009

E-mail: [info@cofi.org](mailto:info@cofi.org)  
Website: [www.cofi.org](http://www.cofi.org)

Editor: Anne Mauch  
Desktop Publishing: Anne Ho

**COFI QC Staff Retirement**

Ross Colwell retired this past July after 25 years of service as a Quality Control Supervisor. Ross logged thousands of miles driving to COFI and ILMA Member Mills throughout the BC Interior. He also put in many, many hours inside a classroom teaching members the fine art of lumber grading.

We wish Ross and Janet best wishes in retirement. We foresee lots of fishing, hunting and good times at the Colwell farm.



**Safety Council is Recruiting a New CEO**

The BC Forest Safety Council is a not-for-profit society dedicated to promoting forest health and safety. The Council was founded and is supported by all major forestry organizations in B.C. and works with forestry employers, workers, contractors and the provincial government and agencies to implement changes necessary to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries in the forest sector.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the CEO oversees a budget of nearly \$6-million and provides leadership to a full-time staff of 20 in three

offices and over 40 contractors around the province.

The new CEO will work with the Board, staff and stakeholders in the development of a new strategic plan for the organization. The CEO will play a visible role promoting safety and ensuring all stakeholders – workers, unions, employers, government – are aligned and engaged with the Council's mission and vision.

As the ideal candidate, you will bring progressive management experience and a track record of success in a senior leadership role, ideally in the forestry industry. A strategic thinker

with the ability to manage a group of people in the delivery of a service or program, you will bring the relationship building skills to work with the Council's many stakeholders. With a commitment to worker safety, you possess the presence and passion to generate respect and inspire confidence.

For more information on this exciting opportunity, please contact Barbara Morrison, Brent Cameron or Ken Werker of Ray & Berndtson at (604) 685-0261, or [barbara.morrison@rayberndtson.ca](mailto:barbara.morrison@rayberndtson.ca).

**New Chair at BC Forest Safety Council**

The BC Forest Safety Council has appointed a new Chair, Bev Briscoe, effective October 1, 2008. Briscoe has extensive senior experience in resource development, financial services, public sector and not-for-profit community organizations. She replaces outgoing Council co-chairs, Lee Doney and Ron Gorman.

The Council acknowledges and thanks Lee and Ron for their work and contribution

over the past couple of years to a healthier and safety industry.

"Joining the BC Forest Safety Council gives me a great opportunity to be part of an industry that is facing significant challenges, but remains very important to the economy of BC," says Briscoe. "Despite economic and other challenges, BC's forest industry has made a lot of progress in getting behind safety. We still have a way to go, but the in-

dustry is transforming how safety is valued and practiced in BC. As the Council's new chair, I am proud to be joining this effort."