



THE WOODLOT COMMUNICATOR



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John Gregson (left), successful bidder of the salmon carved by Shawn Flynn (right) auctioned off for \$850. The funds were raised for a scholarship.

WOODLOTS – ROOTED IN LEARNING 2022 CONFERENCE, ABBOTTSFORD

By SARA GRADY

After two long years of Zoom, Teams and conference calls, Woodlotters were finally able to gather in person.

The 2022 Annual Conference – **Rooted In Learning** – was hosted by the Fraser Valley Woodlot Association in Abbotsford October 14th-16th. Over 140 members, as well as forestry stakeholders, gathered for an information-packed weekend.

The learning was launched on Friday evening with a panel discussion – **Roots, Boots & Offshoots** – moderated by Rick Biller, with

Mark Clark (FBCWA President), Patrick Russell (Ministry of Forests) and Brent Petrick (WPDC President) sitting in the hot seats. Members were encouraged to explore issues such as the Old Growth Deferral, land claims, and the future of the woodlot program.

Saturday morning began with a welcome from Chief Dalton Silver of the Sumas First Nation, and a formal welcome from Committee Chair Kevin Webber.

Chief Silver shared knowledge about the history of the Fraser River – the Stó:lō – and beautifully illustrated the belief of First Nations that “We are the land and the land is us.” The concept he was describing aligns with the

woodlot program’s notion of stewardship, and resonated with the audience.

Attendees had an opportunity to learn more about the BCIT Woodlot 0007, which truly is rooted in learning, during the Stewardship video, honouring their achievements in forest stewardship and education. They were one of last year’s recipients of the Minister’s Award for Excellence & Innovation in Woodlot Management.

The AGM is a great time to celebrate the success of our past, current, and future forest stewards.

The Minister’s Awards winners, the Honorary Life Members, and scholarship recipients were recognized before the licensees dove into their morning of learning.

The first afternoon panel discussion explored the theme of First Nations Engagement more deeply, with moderator Stacey Gould (BCTS) guiding a panel that included Rob Deines (Chartwell Resource Group), Matt McGinnity (Stó:lō Resource & Research Management Centre) and Catharine Charman (Ministry of Forests). **Key messages included the acknowledgement that there isn’t a “one size fits all” way of working with 200+ First Nations, and that transparency and clear communication are paramount to successful collaborations.**

The last panel of the day focussed on Forestry Education in BC. Jonathan Smyth (BCIT/WL 0007) moderated an interesting discussion among educators who approach forestry from three different angles, but share one common goal: attracting more students to the field. Coleen MacLean-Marlow (North Island College), Dominik Roeser (UBC Vancouver), and Jody McInnes (Stillwater Consulting) all shared their perspectives on forestry education. They illustrated the variety of options, and described how they’ve evolved with changing demands in the industry. Delegates learned about the variety of options, from degree programs to introductory trades classes that offer the opportunity to work in the field or continue with further studies.

The day wrapped up with an entertaining presentation by Shawn Flynn, Honorary Life Member and retired woodlot licensee. He

regaled the audience with tales of his woodlot, particularly the Outdoor School and the numerous field trips he hosted – and continues to facilitate – for school kids of all ages. He surprised the audience with a live auction of one of his famous carved salmon – and raised \$850 for the FBCWA Scholarship Fund in addition to the \$2,275 raised through the silent auction.

Members had the opportunity to tour BCIT Woodlot 0007 or a Longhouse on Sunday morning before heading for home.

It was three days of learning and sharing the challenges woodlot licensees face around the province. There were some new faces, and many familiar ones. It was a great opportunity to reconnect, celebrate and plan for a strong woodlot future.

Minister’s Award for Excellence & Innovation in Woodlot Management

Since its inception in 2010, the Minister of Forests has recognized innovation and excellence in Woodlot Management, every year except 2021 due to Covid. After a year’s delay, the 2021 recipients were announced at the 2022 Woodlot Conference. We are thrilled that these exceptional woodlot licensees were acknowledged by their colleagues for their work.

Del Williams & Mike McPherson, McPherson Woodlot Company, WL 1834 (South region)

Cliff Manning, Guyishton Woodlot Ltd., WL 1689 (North region)

Herb, Cal, Lee & Samantha Carter, C&H Forest Products, WL 0043 (Coast region)

The Carter family was also the recipient of the Province-wide award.

Cal Carter told the crowd he was shocked by the nomination, and the awards. But in true woodlot licensee fashion he said,



Minister Award recipients, left to right: Samantha, Lee, and Herb Carter, Del Williams, Cliff Manning

“This is our family woodlot. This is what we believe in. We believe in the program; we think it’s a good program...and I think there should be more woodlots.”

These licensees were recognized for excellence in three categories:

- Basic and Incremental Forestry
- Sales, Marketing and Utilization
- Good Woodlot Citizen



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