



1999-00

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Jerry Sunderland

Greetings from Montreal! As the Paper Week 2000 winds down I have to time to relax and draft a brief message on happenings in and around the Rocky Mountain Section. It has been a wonderful week here in Montreal with experts and participants from around the globe discussing a range of issues from e-commerce and e-business to climate change and implications of paper recycling. If there is one take away message, it is to keep an eye on the American consumer over the next eighteen months as Mr. Greenspan attempts to 'soft land' the American economy. With Alberta's economy tied so tightly to the Americans, our livelihood depends on how they react over the next year or so.

On a note closer to home, we had an excellent afternoon Technical Session in Edson on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Al Benson reminds me that we did not set an attendance record but we were very close with 218 registrants. It was great to see so many new faces out. The speakers gave us a wonderful overview of the issues we face as we implement the new *Water Act*. It was clear that Alberta Environment officials were listening closely, and that they are receptive to comments as they fine tune the codes of practise. Please forward any comments or concerns you have, related to the implementation of the of the Act, along to me, and we will pass the information along to Mr. Hui.

At the Business Meeting, Todd Nash introduced the idea of a RMS Business Plan that will guide our spending over the next three years. The draft plan will be mailed to members in February as well as being posted on our web site. RMS Council hopes that we can gather comments between now and the end of March, and that we can sign off the Business Plan at the business meeting on March 25.

Our Program Committee has taken on a little extra work for National Forest Week 2000. The RMS will host a public session in Rocky Mountain House in early May. The theme for the session is wildfire and role of fire in the Alberta ecosystems. We are busy recruiting speakers who will address the role of fire, fire history, costs associated with fire and personal experiences with wildfire. We plan a field trip and demonstration of initial attack techniques. We are also hoping to attract a number of posters for the session. If you are working on fire related issues and want to get your message out, contact Alex Drummond at 780-492-2056.

As a reminder, the next Tech Session is in Edmonton on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The topic for the session will be 'Overlapping Forest Tenures in Alberta'. Following the Tech Session on the 24<sup>th</sup>, the RMS is hosting a wine and cheese reception, which will give RMS members an opportunity to meet the graduating class from the University of Alberta Forest Science program. Make plans to attend and bring your business card. We hope you will stay over Friday night and attend the Saturday morning business meeting. On the Saturday evening the annual CIF Ring Ceremony and grad dinner & dance will take place. If you are interested in attending, please contact the UofA Forest Society at 780-492-5625

The CIF Program Committee recently met with AFTA and ARPFA and have come to a good understanding about presenting Technical Sessions. CIF will organize and deliver the Fall (Sep/Oct) and Spring (Mar/Apr) Technical Sessions which will generally be all day sessions. The Winter Session (Jan) will be a joint ARPFA, AFTA and CIF event; AFTA and ARPFA will hold concurrent meetings/sessions in the morning followed by a joint luncheon and Technical Session. ARPFA and AFTA may hold their own Technical Sessions as their respective committees decide. Please feel free to pass along any suggestions for future topics at Technical Sessions.

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