The Forest History Association of British Columbia was founded in 1982 with the objectives of saving, recording and increasing the awareness and interest in British Columbia forest history.

At present we have approximately 225 members who work in Industry, Government and academia who are located in all corners of BC, the rest of Canada and the US, and Europe.

In recent years we have:

- Published two books,
  - Tom Wright, *Recollections of a Pioneer Forester and Tree Farmer*
  - Frederick Davidson Mulholland –*The Father of Sustained Yield Forestry in British Columbia*
  - and have in final draft form – Alan Orr-Ewing – *Founder of Forest Genetics in British Columbia*

- Collected oral histories of more than 75 people ranging from senior executives to cooks and manual workers who have all contributed to the forest sector.

- Completed a major upgrade to our web site <fhabc.org> The web site not only provides access to information about our organization and activities, it also gives access to publication lists and Links to other forestry organizations and sites.

We also publish a quarterly Newsletter. All copies of our past Newsletters can be printed through our web site.

As well, we hold an Annual Meeting alternating between the Coast and the Interior in an attempt to clearly identify the Association as a Province wide organization. To date, our Interior meetings have been held in Kamloops, Prince George and Vernon The Annual Meeting normally consists of a short business meeting, a field trip to a local museum or archive, and a dinner with a guest speaker. We usually have 15 to 20 people attending each event.

Nancy Langston, a Professor and Environmental Historian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, wrote a fascinating paper “Reflections: on Teaching World Forest History. After reading her paper, I dare anyone to say that their knowledge and understanding of forest history has not changed; to say that their appreciation of the depth and breadth of forest history has not been increased and to say they did not find her paper a fascinating read.
She summarized her paper by saying “History Matters: It is not just about understanding the past: it is necessary for creating a better future”.

She suggests that forest history is very broad and worthy of serious academic study; it is much more than just a collection of papers and artifacts. It also pertains to the cultural and economic impact of forestry on those working in the industry, on the development of public policy and the development of communities and regions and their social and cultural life. It also includes the broad aspects of forest ecology, and its associated fauna and flora life. As well, it includes the songs, poems and stories of the woods. In short, forest history is almost anything you want it to be.

With this introduction and very brief statement of how we view forest history let us now briefly review what I suggest in light of today, the three periods of saving and recording forest history. In each I will mention the major characteristics of the period and the resulting strengths and problems of each.

THE PAST:

In the past forest history reflected a stable industry in which companies and operating groups remained in place for many years and changes were in general evolutionary. The printed page and photographs were the norm and these were stored in filing cabinets and storage boxes, which remained safely in place for many years. Changes in companies, work forces, technology, forest institutions and forest policy were evolutionary and there was development of corporate and institutional memories. One expected next year to be much the same as this year.

Thus any proposed forest history project had probable access to written material, records, photographs and artifacts. As well, background recollections and knowledge was available from those “who had been there”.

THE PRESENT:

Today we have a different story. Starting about twenty years ago, the industry fell into a state of flux. In the Interior of British Columbia, the Mountain Pine Beetle began to drastically change the supply and type of log delivered to the sawmill. The collapse of the US lumber market and very serious economic problems in other parts of the world significantly reduced the market for lumber and other forest products and magnified the problems created by the Mountain Pine Beetle. As a result, mills amalgamated or closed, changed their milling and harvesting techniques, mills grew larger in size as each tried to achieve economies of scale, automation in the mills increased, and the number of workers decreased. In short, the company became “lean and mean”.

Much work was contracted out. A contractor did a specific job and then left, leaving reports behind but taking most of the working papers and background material with him.
The next time work was required, most likely another contractor would get the job. There was no corporate memory being developed and in many cases, no continuity of records.

Forest history projects started today can draw on the records saved from the past and the recollections and memories of the workers who were there. Much information was in files found in old storage areas, and in personnel files. However, this fund of information and material from the past is disappearing with time as files are lost or destroyed and “old timers” are no longer with us. The closer we get to the Present the more difficult it will be to find the records, information and people we need to preserve the past and to understand and appreciate the forest industry of today.

THE FUTURE:

It is clear that the future will be quite different from the past. The younger generation is becoming more and more comfortable with digital records. Laptops, e-books, iPads and smart phones are now common and the use of e-mail, face book, twitter, and other social media are just a way of life for many people now.

Paper records are disappearing as computers become the usual working tool and workers are accustomed with using them. This has meant that more records are being created digitally and transmitted and stored electronically. This has many implications:

- Computer failures and hard drive crashes are common and often data stored on the drives are lost unless backup copies are created in a consistent way and on a regular basis.

- Computer programs and languages are constantly changing. Thus the ability to read disks and hard drives is being lost through time and obsolescence. A common rule of thumb is that all records should be renewed every five years. How many people today remember Lotus 1-2-3 and WordPerfect and how may computers are able to read these programs.

- Computer storage disks are constantly changing (how many people remember floppy disks?) and old disks are easy to toss out.

- Computers are constantly being upgraded and the contents of drives and disks for the old units discarded.

- Computer drives and disks can hold vast amounts of data. It is easy to forget how much information is there. With drawers, filing cabinets or stacks of storage boxes there is more appreciation of what is there.

- Computer information and disks are very hard to review and assess. Unlike information stored in filing cabinets or storage boxes, you cannot readily review or assess them unless you have a means of opening and reviewing the files.
A major problem in saving archival information stored on computers is that computers are so new that techniques and knowledge to do so has not been fully developed or widely known. We have had hundreds of years of experience with paper and have the knowledge as to how it must be handled and stored. With digital information this knowledge base has not had a chance as yet to be fully developed and to become widely known. For most of us we are still feeling our way.

Professional archivists are keenly aware of the problems and are rapidly developing, techniques, software programs and protocols to recognize, protect and save digital information. However, there will be a long learning curve between the users of the information on the hard drive and the professional archivists who know how to read, interpret and save the information. Companies and organizations, in fact all of us, must recognize the importance of information and learn how to best save and protect it. We must all talk with archivists, learn what is important and how to best save and protect it. It is clear that much of the information generated and saved on hard drives has little archival value. Learn to identify what is important. Talk with the people who can help you.

The digitization of information also has a positive feature. Many museum and archival collections are digitizing their collections and placing the information on the web. One can now access books, magazines, photographs, and papers through the web, which only a few years ago were only available in the holding institution. Now it is possible to screen photographic collections, read books, and search records in a way not possible in the past. Make use of this capability – enjoy the power you have at your fingertips.

Stan Chester
May 23, 2012
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FHABC- Forest History-Past Present and Future #4
The Centenary of the BC Forest Service

2012 marks the 100th year that our agency has:

- managed and protected our forest and rangeland ecosystems
- generated wealth for the province and stimulated local economic activity
- been tightly woven into the social fabric of BC

2012 is a time for us to celebrate our past accomplishments and bridge to our future
Benefits

- Charting our future by understanding our past
- Intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Enhance engagement
- Public communication
BCFS100 Governance Structure

BC Forest Service Centenary Society

| Board of Directors
| Planning Committee
| Sub-committees
| Members
Directors of the BC Forest Service

Centenary Society

- Mike Apsey – President
- Jim Snetsinger – Vice-President
- Jim Challenger – Secretary/Treasurer
- Doug Adderley
- John Flanagan
- Kevin Lavelle
- Jim Maxwell
- Larry Pedersen
- Rick Wells
- Phil Zacharatos
Centenary Objectives

- To celebrate accomplishments and inspire optimism for the future
- To create interest and enthusiasm for the BC Forest Service and the forest sector
- To collect and preserve artifacts and memorabilia
- To raise awareness of the historic and present role of the BC Forest Service
Target Audiences

- Staff – past, present and future
- Elected officials
- Communities
- Consultants and suppliers
- Industries
- Public – domestically, nationally and internationally
- Professional associations
- Schools and students
Products

- Interactive website
- 2012 Events
- Hardcover book
- Digitized versions of films and videos
- Theme papers
- Oral histories
- Artifact collections
Web Site – www.bcfs100.ca
Events

- Launch ceremony (Feb 27, 2012)
- Local events across province
- FS Vessels Rendezvous
- Sporting Competitions
- Parades
- Reunions and Open Houses
How To Get Involved

- Become a member of the Society
- Contribute photos, stories and information to the website
- Volunteer to help with oral histories, collections, theme papers and events
- Contact regional and district offices to participate in their events
Change Masters

The Evolution of the

BC Forest Service
1909 Fulton Royal Commission established

1910 Commission recommended:

- Complete timber cruise of all crown forests
- Reserve on non-alienated timber land
- Protection of forests from fire
- Regulations to end waste, reduce fire risk and promote regeneration
- Establish a Department of Forests

1911 Martin Grainger drafts 1st Forest Act
The Birth of the BCFS

- February 27, 1912 – Forest Act proclaimed
- Legislation addressed:
  - Trespass
  - Timber Tenures
  - Scaling
  - Charges
  - Timber Marking
  - Manufacturing
  - Forest Protection
The Birth of the BCFS

- 1912 Department of Lands - BC Forest Branch created under Forest Act
- H.R. MacMillan hired as Chief Forester
  - Inventory begins
  - Forest Reserves created
  - Fire fighting forces expanded
  - Fire detection lookouts developed
The Years 1916-1935

- 1916 World War I – staff enlisted
- 1917 Sitka Spruce for airplanes
- 1918 Aircraft first used for fire detection
- 1919 Grazing administration added
- 1923 Research begins in Forest Branch
- 1925 Aerial photography used for inventory
- 1927 Research Division created
- 1935 Young Men’s Forestry Training Plan
The Years 1937-1951

- 1937 Mulholland report on forest inventory
- 1939 Provincial Parks joins Forest Branch
- 1940 Radio phones
- 1941-1944 WW II curtails many activities
- 1943 Sloan Royal Commission
- 1945 Forest Branch becomes Forest Service
- 1947 British Columbia Foresters Act
- 1951 Radiograms
The Years 1955-1976

- 1955 Use of helicopters starts
- 1955 Second Sloan Royal Commission
- 1958 First use of air tankers for firefighting
- 1960 Nurseries expanded
- 1966 First use of computers in Forest Districts
- 1975 Pearse Royal Commission
- 1976 Forest Policy Advisory Committee
The Years 1978-1992

- 1978 New Forest Act, Range Act and Ministry of Forests Act proclaimed
- 1980 Major reorganization
- 1980’s Technology boom
- 1987 Wilderness Areas
- 1989 Forest Resources Commission
- 1992 Timber Supply Review initiated
- 1992 Commissioner on Resources & Environment Act
The Years 1994-2010

- 1994 BC Forest Renewal Act
- 1994 Forest Practices Code of BC Act
- 1994 Forest Practices Board
- 2000 Protected Areas of BC Act
- 2002 Forest and Range Practices Act
- 2003 Defined Forest Area Management
- 2003 Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic
- 2010 Zero Net Deforestation Act
Change Masters

The BC Forest Service is not a box on an organizational chart

- It is a culture of people working together
- It embodies a ‘Can Do’ attitude
- It has survived 100 years and will continue on
- It is a family
Change Masters – Ministry Names

Department of Lands
Department of Lands and Forests
Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources
Ministry of Forests
Ministry of Forests and Lands
Ministry of Forests
Ministry of Forests and Range
Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Change Masters - Ministers

William R. Ross
Thomas D. Pattullo
Frederick Burden
Nelson S. Lougheed
Canon Joshua Hinchliffe
A. Wells Gray
John Hart
Edward T. Kenney
Robert E. Sommers
Ray Williston
Robert Williams
Tom Waterland
Don Phillips
Jack Heinrich
Jack Kempf

John Savage
David Parker
Claude Richmond
Dan Miller
Art Charbonneau
Dan Miller
Andrew Petter
Denis Striefel
David Zirnhelt
Jim Doyle
Gordon Wilson
Michael de Jong
Rich Coleman
Pat Bell
Steve Thomson
Change Masters – Deputy Ministers

H. Cathcart
C.D. Orchard
R.G. McKee
F.S. McKinnon
J.S. Stokes
E.L. Young
Mike Apsey
R.W. Robbins
A.C. Macpherson
R. Flitton
R. Marr
Bob Plecas
Philip Halkett
Gerry Armstrong
John Allan
Lee Doney
Don Wright
John Dyble
Dana Hayden
Doug Konkin
Change Masters – Chief Foresters

H.R. MacMillan
M.A. Grainger
P.Z. Caverhill
E.C. Manning
C.D. Orchard
R.G. McKee
F.S. McKinnon
L.F. Swannell
I.T. Cameron
E.L. Young
W. Young
R. Robbins
J. Cuthbert
L. Pedersen
J. Snetsinger
Change Masters - Legislation

1912 – Forest Act
1914 – Timber Royalty Act
1918 – Aeroplane Spruce-cutting Act
1919 – Grazing Act
1925 – Forest Reserve Fund
1937 – Amendment to Forest Act
1947 – Amendment to Forest Act
1947 – British Columbia Foresters Act
1924 – Royalty Act
1948 – Amendment to Forest Act
1957 – Amendment to Forest Act
1961 – Amendment to Forest Act
1965 – Amendment to Forest Act
1967 – Amendment to Forest Act
1968 – Amendment to Forest Act
1970 – British Columbia Professional Foresters Act
1970 – Amendment to Forest Act
1972 – Accelerated Reforestation Fund Act
1978 – Forest Act
1978 – Range Act
1978 – Ministry of Forests Act
1980 – Amendment to Forest Act
1980 – Forest and Range Resource Fund Act
1982 – Forest and Range Resource Fund
1985 – Forest Amendment Act
1985 – BC Professional Foresters Act
1986 – Forest Stand Management Fund Act
1987 – Forest Amendment Act (No 1)
1987 – Forest Amendment Act (No 2)
1988 – Forest Amendment Act
1989 – Forest Amendment Act

1990 – Forest Amendment Act (No 1)
1990 – Forest Amendment Act (No 2)
1990 – Forest Amendment Act (No 3)
1990 – Range Act Amendment
1991 – Forest Amendment Act
1991 – Range Amendment Act
1992 – Forest Amendment Act
1992 – Forest Amendment Act (No 2)
1992 – Forest Amendment Act (No 3)
1992 – Range Amendment Act
1992 – Commissioner on Resources and Environment Act
1993 – Foresters Amendment Act
1993 – Forest Amendment Act
1993 – Forest Amendment Act (No 3)
1994 – Forest Amendment Act
1994 – Forest Land Reserve Act
1994 – BC Forest Renewal Act
1994 – Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act
1995 – Forest Practices Code of BC Amendment Act
1996 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act
1996 – Forest Act
1996 – Forest Practices Code Act
1996 – BC Forest Renewal Amendment Act
1997 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act
1998 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act
1999 – Forest Land Reserve Amendment Act
1999 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act
1999 – Range Amendment Act
2000 – Regulatory Streamlining Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act

2000 – Protected Areas of British Columbia Act
2002 – Budget Measures Implementation Act
2002 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act
2002 – Forest (First Nations Development) Amendment Act
2002 – Forest and Range Practices Act
2002 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act (No 2)
2002 – Agricultural Land Commission Act
2002 – College of Applied Biology Act
2003 – Repeal and replacement of Agrologists Act
2002 – Protected Areas Forest Compensation Act
2003 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act
2003 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act (No 2)
2003 – Forest Revitalization Act
2003 – Forest (Revitalization) Amendment Act
2003 – Foresters Act
2003 – Federal Species at Risk Act
2004 – Range Act
2004 – Wildfire Act
2004 – Forests Statutes Amendment Act (No 2)
2006 – Forest and Range Statutes Amendment Act
2007 – Forest and Range Statutes Amendment Act
2008 – Forests and Range Statutes Amendment Act
2008 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Emissions Standards) Statutes Amendment Act
2009 – Forest Amendment Act
2010 – Zero Net Deforestation Act
2010 – Forests and Range (First Nations Woodlot Licence) Statutes Amendment Act