desire on the part of Totem to be an active community member in Alberta. Is this very tangible and results-oriented approach by Totem something that you would consider new or unique?

DC: Our approach is unique because it sets a benchmark for leadership in environmental responsibility. As one of Alberta’s largest retailers of forest products, we recognize our responsibility to create a positive difference in our natural environment. Our sustainable development platform also engages our employees, our community and our customers to make a positive and meaningful impact by becoming involved and supporting various initiatives.

MK: Are there other forestry initiatives that you will be considering in the coming year?

DC: This past year we had a Totem cedar mulch and bark nugget promotion where proceeds from each bag sold went towards planting another tree in our province. Totem’s purchasing and marketing team are working on ways to continue similar initiatives in the future.

MK: Members of our Institute span Canada and readership of our professional journal *The Forestry Chronicle* is extensive, reaching government, industry and academia, and is distributed to many people on every continent. Is there any specific message you would like to provide to forest professionals and practitioners across Canada and around the world? DC: We all need to play our part in ensuring the long-term sustainability of our environment and our communities. I would urge everyone to be a responsible steward of the environment, and to not only work within your own community to preserve its natural splendor, but also help your customers have a positive impact on our world as well.

MK: Are you confident that Totem’s wood products are coming from sustainably managed forests?

DC: Very comfortable, we have a great relationship with our suppliers and they understand how committed we are to sustainable development. Totem is very careful to partner with companies and organizations that have the same priorities and values as us.

### The Petawawa Research Forest

The Petawawa Research Forest (PRF), about 180 km north of Ottawa, has been an active research site for close to one hundred years. According to the Canadian Forest Service, it is the oldest continuously operated forest research centre in Canada. The PRF shares a unique relationship with the Department of National Defence; the area under study is located entirely within the boundaries of the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa and covers the northern one hundred square kilometres of the military reserve, with its headquarters on the shores of Corry Lake.

It was midway through the First World War that the relationship between the military and forest researchers was formed. A Colonel Meredith was the commandant of the military base at Petawawa and invited his friend Clyde Leavitt, a forester for the Commission of Conservation, to come up from Ottawa for a weekend of fishing. Wood from the surrounding forests was being used to heat lodgings and other buildings on the military reserve, and concern was developing over whether or not the wood supply would be sufficient enough to last for the remainder of the war. Therefore, the original function of the PRF was to protect and manage the forests of the Petawawa Military Reserve with a focus on ensuring a supply of fuelwood for the future. William G. Wright of the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior was sent to Petawawa to assess the situation. While determining a course of action to manage the forest, he also noticed that the site would be excellent for conducting pine research. The first permanent sample plot was established in 1918 to examine the effects of thinning natural white pine and red pine on wood quality, value, and regeneration. PSP 1 can still be visited today and the PRF has information and records on the results of that research.

The relationship between the military and the PRF was a successful one and has continued ever since. With the outbreak of World War II, research all but stopped due to the increased demand for wood supply. The only sample plots where research continued were those focused on tree breeding. However, research increased greatly after the war, as there was a greater awareness of the importance of maintaining and regenerating forests.

The studies at the PRF over the last century or so have ranged from fire management to regeneration and everything in between. Currently there are over 2000 studies established at PRF. Included in these are 500 growth and yield permanent sample plots that continue to provide data on how trees grow in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence forest region. The PRF actually boasts the
numbereg trees on a permanent sample plot, 1919.

This planting unit was developed and assembled at PRF by Jim O’Dacre, head mechanic, in 1953. It regulated the distance between planted seedlings. The wheel’s circumference equaled the required spacing and a bell rang with each revolution, signaling the operator when to plant.

numbering trees on a permanent sample plot, 1919.

Laura Pickering
CIF/IFC Intern – Historian/Archivist

[Editor’s Note: appreciation goes to Dave Lemkey (Algonquin Section) and Katalijn MacAfee (Ottawa Valley Section) for their input on this article. The photos are from Will Stiell’s collection and were published in 75 Years of Research in the Woods.]