

# 2006 Summer Forestry Camp

*Summer Forestry Camp no Picnic but Food for Thought*

It rained. It really poured. It was 33 C. No matter, the 2006 week of Forestry Camp based at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology's (NAIT) Fairview campus went off as planned. After all, weather is what people in the forest industry contend with every working day.

At this stage, Jeffrey Olberg from Peace High and his eight fellow students from northwestern Alberta (from High Level to Slave Lake) were only getting a taste of forestry-related courses, such as forestry careers orientation, chainsaw, ATV, and bear awareness for a week in early July. Safety was paramount. This, for Jeffrey, was preparation for the rest of his summer in the bush at the Ecological Management Emulating Natural Disturbance (EMEND) forest research site in the boreal mixed-wood forest.



*NAIT Instructor, Rodger DeChamplain presents Peace River High School student Jeffrey Olberg with his Summer Forestry Camp certificate, applauded by Alex Drummond - U of A instructor.*

For the others, it was preliminary to paid summer internships in the industry with companies such as Ainsworth, Canadian Forest Products (Canfor), Alberta Sustainable Resources, Footner, Little Red River, Tolko, LaCrete Sawmills, and ALPAC. Each company assumed the salary for their intern. Each student will also receive high school credits for his/her internship. "These companies are a key part of this partnership," says Hugh Seaton, manager NAIT Boreal Forest Research Centre, which funded Jeffrey and provided logistical support for the Summer Forestry Camp.

Jeffrey, going into Grade 12, is interested in biology and ecology. He figured the forestry camp would allow him to determine whether forestry was the way to go to indulge his interests. With the week over he says, "I'm thinking about it more. It seems like it's more my thing more forest tech more hands-on experience." The part of the camp he enjoyed the most was "just being in the field and doing work and just helping keep the forests for other people to see them."

This is the second year for the Forestry Camp in Fairview. Its formal title is Forestry Education Youth Initiative, says Jerry Heck of Careers: The Next Generation. It is a partnership among Alberta Forest Products Association, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Alberta (U of A) and Careers: The Next Generation. Students in the program must have completed Grade 10. "Our goal is to have them in the program for two to three years. That's why we start at the end of Grade 10."

The partnership was formed, primarily, to provide high school students with the opportunity to become more aware of the forestry environment and the occupations and professions available in forestry. "And to provide career awareness through what we call a summer internship, so young people can get out into the actual forestry sites and begin to explore and experience the world of forestry," says Heck. "In so doing, our goal our hope is that these young people will make favourable choices for careers in the forestry industry."



*Summer Forestry Camp students and staff posing beside a CONAIR air tanker that they got to see inside and out.*

Camp instructors were from NAIT, U of A and Northern Lakes College. Rodger DeChamplain, NAIT Forestry Technology program head, was ecstatic about the students' enthusiasm throughout the camp. The diverse weather did not deter them, he says. "We just went with our plans and all the individuals were very good. They knew we had to go out, no matter what." They shared a variety of experiences, which helped the cohesiveness, says DeChamplain. "The group has bonded very well. It was an interesting week. I was glad to be part of it. That's for sure."

Fellow NAIT instructor Ashley Lawson's involvement saw her in several roles that of chaperone for the young women at the camp, helper with the Chainsaw lab, teacher of a four-hour course in Bear Awareness and the Global Positioning System (GPS). This is Lawson's second year at the camp. When asked what aspect of the camp she enjoys the most, she replies, "I enjoy the whole week. Getting to know the students and working with young people, who aren't graduated from high school and seeing where they want to go."

Echoing Lawson's hope for students' stimulated interest in forestry, Alex Drummond, University of Alberta, a Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry & Home Economics in the Department of Renewable Resources, says the university sees the camp as an "investment in forestry and the youth of this area of the province. If they can get an exposure to the reality of what forestry is today, they'll see it offers them some real opportunities and some real challenges."

The University of Alberta and colleges in the province are working together in this discipline. "Rodger (DeChamplain) and I have been working together for about four years now. I think we share a vision. Our message isn't about do forestry at NAIT or do forestry at the U of A or do forestry at institution X or Y or Z. What we really want to come out is DO FORESTRY," says Drummond.

# 10 Years of Boreal Forest Research Centre Administered Scholarships

	Partner Funds	NADC Matching Funds	# Students
Manning Diversified / K P Wood Ltd. Scholarship	120,071	83,850	169
Mackenzie Forest Education Society Scholarship	8,000	5,500	16
Lesser Slave Forest Education Society Scholarship	3,000	3,000	6
Tom Baldwin Memorial Scholarship	1,500	1,500	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>132,571</b>	<b>93,850</b>	<b>226,421</b>

**Manning Diversified/KP Wood Ltd.** 2006-2007 Recipients:



Bodil Anderson- *Bachelor of Science*  
 Timothy Blanton *Engineering*  
 Jonathan Goertzen *Forest Technology*  
 Paul Hebrada *Forest Technology*  
 Jilynn Kamieniecki *Bachelor of Science: Pharmacy*  
 Melissa Morris *Dental Assistant*  
 Tessa Vesak *Renewable Resource Management*  
 Caralee Zatelny *Bachelor of Science: Engineering*

Kendra Asmussen *Bachelor of Fine Arts: French/Spanish*  
 Kelsi Dillman *Bachelor of Music Therapy*  
 Lindsay Gordon *Hairdressing*  
 Kendra Heck *Bachelor of Science: Nursing*  
 Matthew Klymiuk *Engineering*  
 Joeline Ungarian *Bachelor of Science: Nursing*  
 Jacinthe Vetsch *Physical Therapist*

**Mackenzie Forest Education Society** 2006-2007 Recipients



Richard Gish *Bachelor of Science*  
 John Heinen *Power Engineering Technology*

**Lesser Slave Forest Education Society** 2006-2007 Recipients



Holly Honerd - *Forest Technology*  
 Natalie McLachlan - *Conservation Enforcement*

**Tom Baldwin Memorial Scholarship** 2006 2007 Recipient

Amber Darrah - *Bachelor of Arts: Recreation & Leisure*

