

EMEND Camp Grand Opening

Researchers, industry and residents of the Peace River area celebrated a decade of forestry research, Aug. 16. Dr. John Spence, University of Alberta, officially opened the new EMEND research camp. The facility is in the Municipal District of Northern Lights, approximately 90 kilometres northwest of Peace River. Up until this year, EMEND worked from a couple of temporary camps closer to the project. But, a permanent camp was always the goal to give the project an ongoing status.

The Ecosystem Management Emulating Natural Disturbance (EMEND) project is in a boreal mixed wood landscape of 1,000 hectares, making it one of the largest forest research projects in the world. The study area is comprised of various mixtures of white and black spruce, trembling aspen and balsam poplar.

Researchers and invited guests were treated to a day in the outdoors with an opportunity to network about forestry and the importance of the new permanent camp. A tour of the research site and a barbecue lunch succeeded in providing sustenance, both physical and intellectual.

In his opening remarks, Dr. John Spence, University of Alberta, co-leader with Dr. Jan Volney, Canadian Forest Service, explained the project investigates alternative ways of harvesting and regenerating the forest that leaves the forest in better shape, compared to past approaches. "I have to say that our industrial partners Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Canfor) and Daishowa - Marubeni International Ltd. (DMI) our two founding partners and Manning Diversified Forest Products Ltd., have been very supportive of this work. I think it is a good thing for the future of forestry in Alberta and in Canada."

Canfor and DMI approached Dr. Spence and Volney at the very beginning with their wish to do something that would look at a forest through a full rotation period. That meant their proposed project might run 80 years.

Dr. Spence said "although I will not be there to see the culmination of the rotation, it is extremely gratifying to think it has the potential to be a world-class site where forest ecology is truly front and centre. "We are coming to the end of our 10th year of EMEND work. We think some really good things have happened already, but the better things are still to come."

Excited, too, is Brad Engel, of Canfor who said, "It's a way that Canfor can give to research and to the communities by providing funds, and by supplying our time and effort." Engel went on to praise people such as Dr. Spence and Dr. Volney and others involved the whole EMEND project, including the new, permanent camp for perpetuating it.



Dr. John Spence from the University of Alberta, officially opened the new EMEND Research camp on August 16, 2006.

DMI's Tim Barker echoed what others had said about the valuable results emerging from the 10 years of research and the equally valuable infrastructure provided by the permanent camp. "One of our challenges is always balancing long-term projects with short-term business needs." One of the difficulties in sustaining a project, such as this long term, is having a permanent base. "This camp goes a long way towards ensuring that."

The camp, established on a portion of agricultural land, is comprised of three trailers and five outfitters tents. The trailers accommodate eight beds, while each tent holds four beds. "We

can host up to 30 researchers at any one time, but try to average around 15 people," says Jason Edwards, EMEND Field Coordinator. The camp has a fully-equipped kitchen and washroom facilities and space for processing and identifying samples.

From May to August, EMEND contracts a local catering company to provide food services. Annual operating funds are provided by Canfor and DMI. A number of sources provided the grant funds for the research facilities. The primary grant was from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and covered 40 per cent of the costs. The Province of Alberta contributed a matching 40 per cent. The remaining 20 per cent came from DMI and Canfor.

The quarter section of land on which the camp is located was purchased by the Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta. The grounds of the camp are enhanced by gravel provided by the Municipal District. "These contributions were essential to obtaining the facility; without them there would be no research facility," says Edwards. "Infrastructure is essential to the continued success of the EMEND project.

To achieve the long-term goals of this project we must be able to attract and support researchers and students based at universities some distance from the site. The facility will help reduce expenses incurred by most science investigators and allow them to conduct more actual science."

Putting Research to Work

An interview with Tim Vinge, Boreal Forest Research Centre, about his passion forestry research and technology transfer.

Tim has been involved at all levels of forest management for 26 years. "I have been involved in forest management long enough to have made lots of mistakes, but I have learned from these mistakes and have gained a humility when it comes to understanding ecosystems."

Q What do you find inspiring about forestry research?

Dr. Brad Stelfox coined new forestry management as "managing with respectful ignorance". This statement says it all for me. We do not have all the answers, but we must forge ahead with the best knowledge we have. How we generate and communicate that knowledge will be critical in future years.

Q What is the significance of tech transfer to Ecosystem Management Emulating Natural Disturbance (EMEND), the research community and the forest industry?

Many research projects undertaken in Alberta have looked at individual research questions on very specific research topics. EMEND is really an umbrella for a large number of research initiatives. Because EMEND researchers work and live in the same research vicinity, this led to the development of many linkages and synergies between researchers. For example, researchers who studied bats were in direct contact with researchers studying insects.

EMEND is about how ecosystems adapt and change in response to different disturbances: such as harvesting and fire. It makes sense for researchers to share ideas and data from their individual research projects. In other words, researchers are connected with each other just as many of the ecosystem functions are interrelated.

Tech transfer will help them share information and ideas. This will facilitate the development of new research projects that can build on the great work that has already been accomplished. I compare all EMEND research results to money a bank has in its vault. For the

dollars in the vault to gain the most value, we have to open the safe and invest those dollars to get the best return. First, we need to have the safe's combination to take out the money and put it to work. We need to unlock the safe and begin to invest this knowledge so that it will accrue value for future generations.



Q What is the tech transfer role for the Boreal Forest Research Centre?

The Boreal Centre has developed expertise in many of the technologies to facilitate tech transfer. The Boreal Centre is well-placed in the north. The Centre has the support of industry to become an expert in knowledge transfer to practitioners. This will require the Boreal Centre to use all of the distance technologies through NAIT, including web conferencing; web streaming, video conferencing, as well as traditional workshops and seminars.

The Boreal Centre is working towards becoming a clearing house of research for practitioners. Research results will

be evaluated and translated for the practitioner so applications of this research are apparent and realistic. It will be important for the Boreal Centre to package research results that can be used by busy professionals. Providing information using distance & web technologies is both convenient and cost-effective.

The Boreal Centre is active in helping the public and practitioners to understand their environment. Having a better informed community and industry will allow us to move ahead as partners in a true community-based forest future. I believe more face-to-face communications will prove to be valuable.

Q Is there a new phase for EMEND?

EMEND was set up as a long-term research study. Many of the ecological processes we study occur over an extended period. Very often, we become impatient with research and look for immediate answers. EMEND represents a complicated ecological puzzle we want to assemble. Before we can assemble it, we first have to organize the pieces.

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Hugh Seaton, Manager
Boreal Forest Research Centre
NAIT, Peace River Campus

8106-99 Avenue
Bag 3500
Peace River, Alberta T8S 1V9
Telephone: (780) 618-2602

Website: borealcentre.com
E-Mail: boreal@nait.com

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
Totals	132,571	93,850	226,421

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*
 Joelle 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*

