

NEWS RELEASE



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North Island Awarded 2010 Forest Capital of BC

Vancouver, BC (November 30, 2009) – The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) is pleased to announce that the Regional District of Mount Waddington (northern Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland) is the 2010 Forest Capital of BC.

The Forest Capital program, established in 1988, provides an important opportunity to celebrate the economic, cultural, natural and historic contributions forests make to community life and the health of the province. Each year a selection committee made up of volunteers and ABCFP staff review the applications and assign the designation.

“The selection committee was very impressed with the high quality of all of this year’s applications. However, Mount Waddington’s application stood out in a couple of key areas,” says Sharon Glover, the ABCFP’s CEO. “The program of events and communication plan are particularly exciting. The whole program is designed to teach residents and visitors about forestry while having fun. Even people who don’t come out to community events will still be touched by the Forest Capital designation as the organizing committee has arranged for a weekly article about forestry to appear in the local paper.”

The selection committee was also impressed by Mount Waddington’s volunteer base. Even though the population of the Regional District is only 12,000, the volunteers include a good mix of people who represent the major employers and are an indication of the broad level of support from across the District. The application included dozens of letters of support from community organizations, local First Nations, businesses, municipal and provincial government and even school children.

“We are incredibly privileged to be selected as the 2010 Forest Capital,” says Andrew Ashford, RPF. Andrew is the District Manager of the North Island-Central Coast Forest District and co-chair of the Forest Capital Committee. “Forests and forestry have always been a focus within the Regional District,” he continued. “I truly believe that we celebrate forestry on a daily basis but this designation is a great way to focus our celebrations and truly demonstrate how Forests are Rooted in our Communities.”

The Association of BC Forest Professionals, established in 1947, is the largest professional forestry association in Canada with approximately 5,600 members. The association registers and regulates professional foresters and forest technologists under authority of the provincial Foresters Act.

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