

BC's Resource Roads: Safety, Technology and Access

Photo: Sandy McKellar

AS FIELD SEASON HITS FULL SWING, WE BRING YOU A DISCUSSION ABOUT RESOURCE ROADS.

We tried to tackle this topic from three different angles so there would be something of interest for all our members.

First, there are two parts to safety on the road—driving safely on the road and building the road so it's safe. Mary Arcand talks about the safety behind driving. She discusses factors that contribute to accidents and pressures that will build “as natural resource industries ramp up over the coming years.” Dennis Bendickson, RPF, addresses the responsibility forest professionals must take for roads “not being designed and built to consider the design and limitations of the vehicles meant to use them.”

Second, there's lots of different road building technology out there. In this issue, we bring you two kinds. John Nelson, PhD, RPF, discusses road network projection models and how they can assist with long-term planning. Then Allan Bradley, RPF, PEng, tells us about new technology being used to build ice bridges in the Northwest Territories during our recent warmer winters. These are just two kinds of road building technology. If you know of something new and innovative happening on BC's resource roads, email me at editor@abcfp.ca and let me know.

Finally, Chris Petersen, RFT, and Greg Rowe, RPF, talk about road access. Chris works for the Campbell River Natural Resource District and he discusses the role he plays in maintaining road access for rural homes and communities. Then Greg takes a different angle and explains how access management can be handled by consultants when writing strategic land use plans and managing the public's interests.

We also have an inspiring special feature in this issue. “Supporting Tomorrow's Forests Through Today's Students,” highlights five ForesTrust winners—forestry students who earned a ForesTrust scholarship or bursary. Take a moment to read their stories. You will be heartened to learn about the young hands you will be leaving BC's forest in. 🍌