

North Island Earns Double Awards



Photo: Ron Wollinga

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WITH THE VAST AMOUNT OF FOREST SURROUNDING their communities, and the role these forests play in the social well-being of residents, local forest professionals are particularly committed to promoting forestry awareness on northern Vancouver Island. The North Island Network of Forest Professionals (NFP) won the ABCFP's Battle of the NFPs again this year. The North Island includes 153 forest professionals and is one of the most active NFP's in the province, with a long history of promoting coastal forestry.

In September 2009, as part of National Forest Week, the North Island NFP hosted a number of events geared towards promoting a greater recognition and appreciation of the role forests play in North Island communities.

To promote National Forest Week, a large forestry exhibition, collaboratively put together by government, local forest companies and consultants, was displayed as part of the Mount Waddington Regional Fall Fair. The forestry exhibition, visited by hundreds of people, highlighted the role of local First Nations in forestry and gave an overview of the planned National Forest Week activities.

During National Forest Week, local schools participated in a variety of events, including forest fire presentations (which included a visit from Smokey the Bear), interactive forestry tours, and 'Careers in Forestry' presentations. In total, 14 elementary schools (including 11 public schools and three First

Nation schools) and two secondary schools participated in National Forest Week activities. Home-schooled children were also included.

The forest fire presentations were geared towards kindergarten to grade three students. The kindergarten presentations were kept fairly simple and included a few fire prevention tips from Smokey Bear and a reading of the story *Fire – The Renewal of a Forest*. The presentations to the grade one to grade three students were made quite interactive and included an overview of fire's role within our forests, the fire triangle, fire suppression tools and fire prevention tips. At the end of the presentations, students were handed a Smokey Bear pencil, animal eraser, and entry forms for the ABCFP and CIF art contest by Smokey Bear.

The forest tours, held over two days and geared towards grades four to seven students, included a stop at an active harvesting site, a hike along an interpretative trail, an opportunity to plant trees and a salmon BBQ lunch. At the interpretive trail, a local First Nation guest speaker presented information on traditional forest resources. The BBQ salmon lunch was prepared by a local First Nation representative who cooked the salmon in traditional style over an open fire. The lunch also included an interactive First Nation display including baskets woven from cedar bark, masks and other hand-carved items, and a logger's sports demonstration.

The 'Careers in Forestry' presentations,

FOREST CAPITAL 2010

Congratulations to the Regional District of Mount Waddington

The Regional District of Mount Waddington's bid won the Forest Capital 2010 title because it impressed the judges with its broad volunteer base, variety of events and heartfelt enthusiasm.

The RDMW includes Woss, Alert Bay, Sointula, Hyde Creek, Port McNeill, Port Hardy, Port Alice, Coal Harbour, Winter Harbour, Quatsino, Holberg and Kingcome Village.

made to Planning 10 students, included an overview of the wide-variety of career options within the field of forestry, the role of the ABCFP, including its START program and the steps students should take if they are interested in pursuing a career in forestry. Locally developed 'Careers in Forestry' brochures, along with brochures from the ABCFP were given out to the students.

Approximately 800 students benefited from the educational opportunities presented by the North Island NFP during National Forest Week, resulting in a significant amount of positive feedback from teachers, parents and students, expressing their appreciation. Planning is already underway for National Forest Week 2010 and the North Island NFP looks forward to expanding upon its 2009 efforts. 🌲

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