

ILA CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW REVIEW

By Brenda Martin

The ILA's 59th Annual Conference and Trade Show was a resounding success again this year! The conference theme, "Women Working in the Forest Harvesting Industry" looked at the labour shortage the forest industry is facing and one way of addressing it—working to attract and hire more women. The Conference also hosted four safety sessions and, in addition to the ILA conference events, the indoor trade show and the spectacular outdoor equipment show made it an event not to be missed!

On Thursday, before the event started, the ILA was pleased to host the Truck Loggers Association (TLA) Board and the ILA and TLA Directors sat down together to discuss the challenges they face. Both Boards also sat down together with George Abbott to discuss the ongoing Contractor Sustainability Review. (For more information on this, turn to page 43.) Once again, TLA and ILA Board members found they had many overlapping challenges despite operating in different areas of the province.

The conference officially kicked off on Thursday evening with the Meet & Greet event which gave delegates a chance to catch up with people they hadn't seen in a while and do some networking. Once again, the smorgasbord of appetizers and snacks was delicious! This was also the first opportunity to check out the impressive silent auction. Organized by Canadian Women in Timber, the auction offered a wide selection of items. There really was something for everyone.

Friday morning brought the opening of the indoor and outdoor trade-show exhibits at Kal Tire Place. This year brought another great turnout of equipment in the outdoor show. "I'm pleased with the response we had from our outdoor equipment exhibitors again this year," said Wayne Lintott, General Manager of the ILA. "I know it takes time and money for these guys to bring the equipment in and set it up. But these equipment shows are part of our history and it's great to see ours thriving."

This year, due to the timing of the election, Minister Thomson was unable to attend the ILA's traditional Minister of Forests Luncheon. However, Melinda



(Left to right) Wayne Lintott, General Manager, ILA; Reid Hedlund, Past Chairman, ILA; Melinda Morben, Operational Logistics Manager, Island Timberlands; Randy Spence, Chairman, ILA; Akbal Mund, Mayor of Vernon

Morben, Manager of Operational Logistics for Island Timberlands, more than made up for his absence with her excellent presentation, "Diversity in the Workplace." Her presentation focused on supporting diversity and acceptance in the workplace through understanding and valuing the skills and perspectives women bring to the forest industry. "Melinda brought an authentic, thought provoking first-hand perspective of being a woman working in a male dominated industry. She used humour and personal experience to get her points across and left the audience with practical ideas as takeaways," said Heather Press, Manager, Talent for Tolko Industries.

Friday night the Dinner & Dance kicked off at 6:00 pm. The food was delicious and there was heaps of it! New this year, the band Easy Fix played a great line-up and there were lots of people up on the dance floor all night long. The silent auction run by the Canadian Women in Timber also closed on Friday night raising \$7,170 of which \$3,162 was donated to Canadian Women in Timber to support their forestry education program.

The trade show ran all day Saturday attracting the public and engaging people in conversation about forestry. The forest industry doesn't always do a great job of reaching out to the public. This

annual trade show with both its indoor and outdoor exhibits is an opportunity not just for industry to network but also for industry to reach out and talk to community members about forestry.

Over Friday and Saturday, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) offered four sessions on different aspects of industry safety. Here's information on two of them courtesy of the BC Forest Safety Council. For more information, read the BCFSC's June 2017 issue of *Forest Safety News*.

"What is Up with this BS – Being Safe!"

Eldeen Pozniak, of Pozniak Safety Associates Inc., reminded participants that until we recognize that we all have a unique definition of "safety", we will never be on the same page as to what safety means. Using terms "family" and "good times" she emphasized that for each person in the room, their personal definition of the word was unique, depending on everyone's unique life experiences and life stage. Further, the meanings differ for the same person too depending on their age. Her point being that until we all work to a shared, defined definition of what safety is—and isn't—we all have a different mental image—based on our own values, experiences, age and employment—when we think about safety, and what safety means.

Photo: Kari Silbaugh Photography



All photos: Karli Silbaugh Photography

“Prevention Enforcement and Recovery”

Kathleen Werstiuk is a Wildfire Risk Manager for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations’ BC Wildfire Service. She is responsible

for provincial risk, recovery and enforcement/prevention business areas, including policy, fire origin and cause investigations, opportunities to be heard and freedom of information requests. As a certified risk manager and chartered

insurance professional, Kathleen had an important message for all forestry operators, landowners and licensees that is best summed up as “know your insurance coverage and understand how the cost recovery process works” so that you





are not surprised to find out that you are on the hook for wildfire suppression and damage costs after the fact.

Overall, the ILA 59th Conference and Trade Show and the Interior Safety

Conference were rousing successes. "I'd like to thank Nancy Hesketh for all her hard work in planning this event, the ILA board for their support and the BC Forest Safety Council for providing the four safety sessions this year," said

Lintott. "And I'd like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the ILA's 59th Conference & Trade Show such a success!"▲

