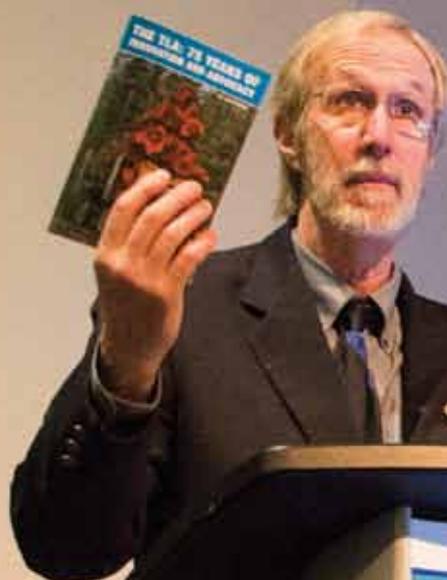


THE TRUCK LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

STANDING TALL + STRONG FOR 75 YEARS

All photos: Phillip Chin



STANDING TALL & STRONG FOR 75 YEARS: CELEBRATION AND ADVOCACY COMBINED

Brenda Martin

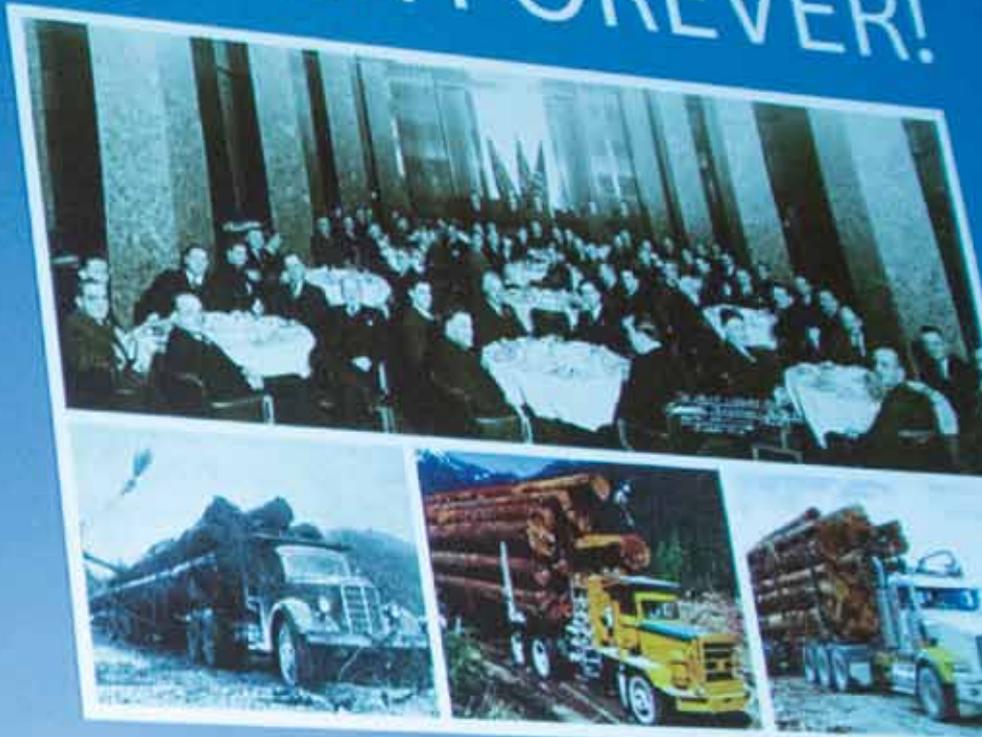
The TLA's 75th Annual Convention & Trade Show was an impressive and historical celebration of the TLA's achievements since its founding in 1943. Our theme, "Standing Tall & Strong for 75 Years" was reflected in every aspect of the event—from the high attendance to Premier Horgan's to-the-point speech—but it was especially highlighted in the first session of the convention, "75 Years of TLA History."

Jim Girvan walked us through 75 years of advocacy using the article he wrote for the Winter 2018 issue of *Truck LoggerBC*, "The TLA: 75 Years of Innovation and Advocacy" as a guide. He also included the endearing president caricatures from the magazine on

the big screen for everyone's entertainment. But fun aside, the session was a good reminder of all the work the TLA has done to support logging contractors and ensure their voice is heard at both government and industry tables. Girvan pointed out that when Bill Keate spoke on behalf of independent loggers at the 1948 convention, he articulated the basic policy position that has been the TLA's ethos ever since: "Support of proper forest management and opposition to the corporate and state monopolies that he predicted the forest management licence system would create." Keate's clairvoyance was so painfully true.

After a session about TLA history, we jumped right into the future and talked about steep slope harvesting and new equipment. In "Steep Slopes—Climbing Higher" Tyson Lambert of T-MAR Industries said he's seeing

TIMBER FOREVER!



Standing Tall & Strong for 75 Years
The Truck Loggers Association

a global transition to grapple yarding to handle steep slopes. Ken Dodd, RPF with TimberWest said that based on his experience of planning for and observing tethered harvesting systems, “Identifying areas where tethered systems work efficiently and where they don’t has been one of the most important elements of using these machines.” A third panelist’s comments are provided in a separate article. (To find out more about what John Ligtenberg of WorkSafeBC had to say in this session, read his Safety Report on page 14.) In “Equipment—Tools for Success” speakers talked about new equipment and drones came up several times. Colin Filliter of SuavAir said that applications for using drones in forestry operations are far and wide. With costs getting

cheaper combined with documentation and safety benefits, many contractors use them. However, everyone warned that drone piloting has a steep learning curve.

The keynote speaker on Wednesday provided a look back at the past. The co-founder of Greenpeace, Dr. Patrick Moore told the story of his father, Bill Moore, who founded W.D. Moore Logging. Patrick detailed how his grandfather got started in the industry and his own father’s legendary story. Bill Moore not only founded W.D. Moore Logging, he also founded Festival of Forestry (an organization still active today that takes teachers out into the bush and teaches them about forestry) and brought logger sports to the PNE. Bill Moore’s family still lives in Winter Harbour on Vancouver Island, although a

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TLA Board elected in January at the AGM: (left to right, back row) Tim Lloyd, Carl Sweet, Mark Ponting, Aaron Service, Dave McNaught, Clint Parcher, Brian Mulvihill, Matt Wealick, (front row) Doug Sladey, Lawrence Van De Leur, Barry Simpson, Bill Nelson (Vice President), Mike Richardson (President), Jacqui Beban (Immediate Past President) David Elstone (Executive Director), Dorian Uzzell, Sig Kemmler. Board members not in photo: George Lambert, Adam Wunderlich.

lack of contractor sustainability meant Graham Lasure, Patrick's step-brother and TLA past president, had to close W.D. Moore Logging last September. That said, Patrick's story about his father is a good reminder that while the forest industry built BC's infrastructure, it also built our culture and played a huge role in our history as a province.

After lunch we launched into a session that asked the question plaguing the forest industry for over a decade, "Who Is Going to Do the Work?" The speakers' messages included acknowledging that we need to train people but there is a cost and contractors must be mindful of their businesses. The BC Forest Safety Council has developed standards for most jobs so we can be clear on what we need to train to ensure competency and safety on the job. This is a challenge that the industry will be facing for several more years at least.

The final Wednesday session had a straightforward title: "Are You Getting Paid for What You Harvest?" This panel reviewed many important details that contractors need to be aware of to be sure they are getting paid for what they log. In particular, speakers urged contractors to make sure they agree with the licence holders on what a cubic metre is and how it is measured before they sign a contract. And if a contractor is being paid via weight scaling, they must know the frequency of sample in their stratum—it can impact payment significantly as the weight to volume ratio changes.

First thing Thursday morning, the TLA's annual general meeting took place. The TLA membership elected a new president this year, Mike Richardson of Tsibass Construction Ltd. and a new Vice President, Bill Nelson of Holbrook Dyson Logging Ltd. Jacqui Beban of Nootka Sound Timber Co Ltd., after serving as president for two years, stepped into the role of immediate past president. Sig Kemmler of Alternative Forest Operations Ltd. (see more about Sig on page 34) was elected to the board as a new director. With strong attendance again this year, it's clear the

TLA membership are engaged and looking to hear about what the TLA has achieved over the last year.

Premier John Horgan maintained the time honoured tradition of BC's Premier addressing the delegates during the Leaders'

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Scholarship recipients from BCIT, UBC and VIU with Minister Donaldson and Immediate Past President Jacqui Beban.

Luncheon on Thursday. His speech was an inspiring one that gave contractors reason to hope. Here are two comments from his speech that particularly stood out:

Licensees appear to have more sway than they've ever had before and less responsibility than they've ever had before. And I appreciate that the major licensees may take issue with that statement, but it's a certainty in many communities that the relationship between the tenure holders in the community has been broken and it's in all of our interest to make sure we re-establish that relationship in the days and weeks and months ahead.

We did a lot of this transformation in 2003 with the best of intentions. I don't want to diminish the hard work that went into those reforms. But, clearly, 14 years later, it's not working for you. It's not working for communities and it's not working for the province. What we've seen is a concentration, particularly on the coast, that has undermined that social licence that we all knew existed in British Columbia until most recently.

We look forward to working with John Horgan and BC's government to build a healthy forest industry where everyone in the supply chain can succeed.

Of the three sessions that took place on Thursday, one was captured as an article in this issue of the magazine. Turn to page 50 to read about managing the transition from old growth to second growth harvesting. The other two sessions focused on safety and markets. "Where Is Our Safety Net?" focused on the need to improve helicopter medical response in BC both for rural residents and people who work remotely like loggers. Murray Ritchie from the First Nations Safety Council of BC also spoke at this session around First Nations perspectives on safety. The final session on Thursday, "Market Update: Going Up or Going Down" addressed a variety of issues including: softwood lumber tariffs, a lack of market for biomass and reduced allowable annual cuts.

On Friday morning Minister Doug Donaldson joined the TLA for the traditional Minister of Forests Breakfast. He gave his perspective on the forest industry and then sat down with Tracey Russell from Inland Group to answer questions about broader forest industry issues. He also recognized the 19 scholarship recipients from BCIT, UBC and VIU.

Both Premier Horgan and Minister Donaldson both expressed strong keenness to review Abbott's recommendations from the Contractor Sustainability Review.

Two of the Friday sessions, "A View From Afar: Outsider's Perspective" and

JACQUI BEBAN VP Logging

C 250.951.1410 F 778.441.1191
 T 778.441.1190 E jacqui@beban.bc.ca

#204 - 321 Wallace Street Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B6



Leaders' Luncheon with TLA Board and Premier Horgan.

“Defending the Working Forest-Learning From Others” have been written as articles for this issue so we can get the ideas discussed in those sessions out to a wider audience. You can read them on pages 45 and 39 respectively. The final session of the convention spoke to how the TLA and the forest industry can not just survive but thrive over the next 75 years. The speakers saw innovation, new tools and technology, safety and environmental improvements, new regulations and a dehumanization of the forest industry as the biggest changes in the last 75 years. Future thinking panelists agree that supporting education on forestry, like the Carihi High School Forestry program in

Campbell River, is essential to helping people understand the forest industry, connecting to social licence and attracting people to work in the forest.

Looking back at the more social aspects of the convention, the President’s Welcome Reception started the event off on the right note with fun caricature artists and a delicious spread of food. The Loggers’ Dinner and Comedy Theatre was a great night and the comedian, Andrew Grose, had the room in tears from laughing so much. New this year, the Spouse Event (replacing the Ladies’ Luncheon) was well attended and everyone enjoyed the Fairmont Empress’ renowned high tea.

Our sold-out trade show was, once again, a business hub throughout the convention. Suppliers’ Night on Friday night went later than ever before and let people combine business and fun. We raised \$95,650 at the live auction and \$13,855 at the silent auction for a total of \$109,505. These funds will go towards supporting student scholarships and forestry education programs. A big thank you to those who donated auction items and those successful bidders who brought their cheque books on the night.

Finally, convention media coverage was extensive again this year with interviews on three radio programs and the convention was covered in *The Globe and Mail*,



At the convention, we spoke, listened and laughed.





Photo: TLA Staff

Sig Kemmler

Sig Kemmler owns Alternative Forest Operations Ltd. The company employs seven to 10 people and specializes in harvesting really sensitive sites often shared with other resource users such as watersheds, high visually sensitive areas and urban/rural interface areas.

Sig came to Canada from Germany as a child and right out of high school he joined the Forest Technician program at Malaspina College. He graduated in 1979 and soon after joined the Forest Service and the Rapattack Helicopter firefighting team. After five years fighting fires, he decided to become a logging contractor and he's never looked back. "There's nothing like wood," said Sig. "The smell. The look. Everything



about it is perfect to me. And I love the challenge of finding ways to harvest difficult areas."

The National Post, *Times Colonist* and several Black Press papers including the *Campbell River Mirror* and the *Alberni Valley News*. We also had strong social media reach again this year.

Finally, a huge thank you to our event sponsors and annual sponsors—we couldn't put on this event without you.

Next year, the TLA will return to the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver on January 16-18, 2019. We hope to see you there! 🍷