

STANDING TALL & STRONG FOR 75 YEARS: A CONVENTION TO REMEMBER

By Brenda Martin

At the TLA Convention & Trade Show this year, we're celebrating more than usual. The theme for this year's event—in honour of the TLA's 75th anniversary—is "Standing Tall & Strong for 75 Years." We're kicking off the three-day event with a look back over the last 75 years and what the TLA has achieved as an organization. Jim Girvan will provide insight on who we are, what we do and why we do it. For a sneak preview, read the "The TLA: 75 Years of Innovation and Advocacy" starting on page 24.

This convention is about celebrating the technology, issues and people that have shaped the timber harvesting business in our province. Through it all, the TLA has been a strong and unifying voice of the timber harvesting contractor community, striving to ensure that the people who work in the forest share in the prosperity of the forest resource. How we will achieve another 75 success-

ful years in the forest industry will be the central focus of our convention.

This year we welcome new government representatives and honoured guests to the Convention—Premier John Horgan and Minister Doug Donaldson. Premier Horgan will address delegates at the Leaders' Luncheon on Thursday and share his perspective on the forest industry. Minister Donaldson will give an update on the work his Ministry has achieved and his thoughts on the forest industry on Friday at the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Breakfast. This is also an opportunity for Minister Donaldson to congratulate the TLA scholarship winners—many of whom will be in the audience.

During the first sessions on Wednesday, we look at two cutting-edge aspects of technology. First, we'll take an on-the-ground perspective on steep slopes and look at how this work is affected by

occupational health and safety regulations. Then we'll explore tools for success. How can contractors maintain the value of equipment critical to their business? And, as a nod to the future, how can drones help harvesting operations become more efficient?

The Keynote Lunch on Wednesday is entitled, "Dr. Patrick Moore—Reflections on 90 Years in the Bush." Moore, a co-founder of Greenpeace and a passionate advocate for forest conservation and the use of wood, will share his perspective of being a part-owner in W.D. Moore Logging Co. Ltd.—one of the oldest stump-to-dump contractors in the business—that closed in 2017 due to the resounding lack of contractor sustainability in BC's forest industry today. (The closure of W.D. Moore Logging was the cover story of our Fall 2017 issue).

After the Keynote Lunch, we jump right into sessions critical to contractors

Photo: Phillip Chin



The live and silent auctions are always a highlight of Suppliers' Night during the convention. All proceeds raised go to support the TLA Forestry Education Fund.

today. The topics are finding employees and ensuring you're getting paid for what you harvest. In "Who is Going to do the Work?" speakers from the BC Forest Safety Council, Homalco First Nation and a labour lawyer provide insights on addressing our labour shortage. In "Are You Getting Paid for What You Harvest?" Aaron Sinclair of PNL Consulting will moderate a session looking at the scaling and grading system in BC that underpins contractor pay. During the session, a lawyer will also provide their views on signed contracts that outline how contractors should be paid.

ness of the TLA in action. There's also a prize draw!

The first session on Thursday addresses a serious issue that gets thrown around with little consideration of the realities: old growth versus second growth harvesting. It's easy to say, "make the transition," but that does not take into consideration what we actually harvest, how we harvest and the existing infrastructure for producing forest products from logs.

The second session on Thursday puts the spotlight on a hot button issue in safety. Covered several times in this

and learn about the First Nations Safety Council of BC and how it relates to the forest industry.

Our final session on Thursday will give you the latest in market direction for the timber you harvest. There will be a US perspective to add context to the BC log market, as well as perspectives from a local log trader and a view on byproducts the industry needs to figure out how to manage.

The first two sessions on Friday look beyond our province for insight. "A View from Afar: Outsiders' Perspectives" takes a look at our industry from the outside. Is our forest sector unique or are we the same as other jurisdictions? What can we learn from these outsiders to help our provincial industry and, in particular, the contracting community? "Defending the Working Forest: Learning from Others" takes a different perspective on how to defend our ever-shrinking working forest. This panel will explore other reasons for maintaining the working forest such as carbon management, reduction of wildfire impacts and First Nations' economic interests.

Are you curious about who makes up our board of directors? If you're a TLA member, join us for breakfast and the AGM to see the business of the TLA in action.

Thursday kicks off with the TLA's annual general meeting and the Loggers Breakfast! Are you curious about how the TLA is run and who makes up our board of directors? If you're a TLA member, join us for breakfast and the annual general meeting to see the busi-

ness of the TLA in action. There's also a prize draw! The first session on Thursday addresses a serious issue that gets thrown around with little consideration of the realities: old growth versus second growth harvesting. It's easy to say, "make the transition," but that does not take into consideration what we actually harvest, how we harvest and the existing infrastructure for producing forest products from logs. The second session on Thursday puts the spotlight on a hot button issue in safety. Covered several times in this

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Our final session on Friday, “Blueprint for the Next 75 Years” gives four speakers from different parts of the timber harvesting sector a chance to share their thoughts on how this industry can survive—and thrive—for another 75 years.

Even with all this business, we will manage to jam in lots of fun and networking too. At the end of Wednesday, join TLA President Jacqui Beban for the President’s Reception. This is a great opportunity to get into the swing of the convention, find out who’s attending this year, and get your networking started!

After a great first year, the Loggers Dinner and Comedy Club is back again! Treat your clients, employees and friends to a hilarious night out. A true veteran of comedy, Andrew Grose has performed in the top comedy clubs and theatres across the country and on TV—CTV’s Comedy Now!, CBC’s Comics!, and The Comedy Network’s Comedy at Club 54. Known for his unique perspective on life, he shares his own experiences as a husband and father. Andrew has a well-honed eye for the absurdities in everyday life. Enjoy a delicious dinner and laugh the night away. Afterwards,

there will still be time for a drink out on the town.

Friday is a day not to be missed! Lunch on the Trade Show Floor gives delegates a chance to network with each other and take a good look around the trade show. The Spouse Event will sweep delegates off their feet! High Tea is a grand tradition and the world-renowned Fairmont Empress has served England’s most beloved ritual to famed royalty, celebrities and dignitaries alike. Now it is the TLA spouses’ turn! Before sitting down to tea, there will be four tasting stations to visit—BC wines, local craft beer, port and chocolate. It will be an afternoon to remember!

Friday night is the culmination of the whole event—Suppliers’ Night. This is the best chance to network and see the trade show operating at full tilt! We will have up to 1,000 people there on Friday night as loggers drive down the Island to be a part of the action—we will have a hearty buffet dinner ready to satisfy those logger appetites. There will also be two auctions—silent and live—and all funds raised from both go to the TLA Forestry Education Fund that sup-

ports the TLA’s various post-secondary scholarships, local forestry education programs, Festival of Forestry, community logger sports and much more! (See pages 52 and 53 for more information on the TLA Forestry Education Fund.) There will be some exciting items at both auctions so bring your chequebook and support forestry education in BC.

There’s something for everyone at the TLA’s 75th Annual Convention & Trade Show! At the time of printing, our regular registrations have sold out. But we still have limited session-only registrations as well as tickets to the Leaders’ Luncheon, Spouse Event, Suppliers’ Night and the Lunch on the Trade Show Floor. We hope to see you there!▲

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