



BRINKMAN GROUP

# 45 Years of Restoring Ecosystems

BRINKMAN GROUP  
NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2015



# Note from the Editor

By Erik Brinkman,  
Communications & Special Projects Coordinator



The Brinkman story began in 1970 on a clearcut up Wildhorse Creek BC, when Dirk and a few ragtag friends took out one of the first private planting contracts in BC. This year we celebrate 45 years since those first trees were planted, 45 years of forest adventures with the Brinkman Group, leading the vanguard towards a sustainable restoration economy. Putting our hands in the soil as planters and stewards of the earth helped us understand how natural systems weave together, supporting and enriching human communities. Our experiences have taught us, without environmental stewardship the economy has no future. We've learned how to plant a seedling – and an idea – so its roots grow strong and deep, and this newsletter showcases the human side as that story continues today.

The Brinkman Group is not your typical corporation. Our organization's history is unique — and so is our potential. This newsletter reminds us that every client, investor or public interaction is an opportunity to share where we've been, where we're headed, how we're growing, and the new challenges we're taking on. We currently consist of six interactive, interdependent parts: Brinkman Forest Ltd., Brinkman Restoration, Brinkman Earth Systems, BARCA (Central America), Brinkman Climate, and of course Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd. Each of these divisions face their own opportunities and risks. Together they synthesize into something greater. Six branches who share a common history



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and vision: to be the best in sustainable ecosystem renewal and management worldwide --our words for the business of working with and for the planet on which we depend.

Read on to meet the unique, remarkable individuals who make this organization inimitable – from the tree runner on a cross-country odyssey to entrepreneurial spirits carving out Brinkman's new services markets. Online or in the field, you strengthen your company's story every time you tell it. That story is our sense of shared identity and vision and gives us our pride and our clients their confidence

Our shared story carries us through changes and challenges season after season. This celebration of Brinkman's rich history and culture chronicles the wilderness warriors who take responsibility to re-balance nature instead of just lamenting its loss.

Let's go! Let's go! Let's go! 🌱



BC Government enacts wolf cull to save caribou. By Erik Brinkman

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# Brinkman Group General

## Brinkman Head Office Roll Call: 45 Years of Restoring Ecosystems

By Erik Brinkman

Almost half a century ago Dirk and his BFF ("Best Friend Forever") John Huizinga travelled to the wild Western frontier of BC as lumberjacks. It didn't take long for the tree cutting and moose eating to push Dirk and friends to set up tree planting camps where vegetarianism reigned. In 1970, this group of romantics garnered one of the first tree planting contracts in Canada; in retrospect a pivotal moment in Canadian forestry that combined the back-to-the-land fringe movement of the 1960's with the need to restore and improve what was then a butchurous logging industry. This forest-making movement attracted young vigorous idealists which grew into the Canadian reforestation industry, currently an exemplary model for sustainable forest management around the world. This year we celebrate 45 years of continuous improvement on the frontlines of ecosystem restoration and forestry innovation. How was this all accomplished? With a great community of field workers revolving like a solar system around the Brinkman head office in New Westminster. We recognize and honour all those who keep that office humming along. Here are a few of the highlights of the last year to sing.



### Christine Usher, 25 years a tree counter.

Christine joined Brinkman in the spring of 1990. After two and a half decades of lovingly counting beans (and trees) for the often chaotic contracts, acting as a savior to many frazzled supervisors in the field, scrambling to find receipts and tally what they were owed, she has the thanks of everyone whose paycheque ever added up correctly. At last year's Christmas party, management acknowledged Christine with a special bonus, a trip to anywhere in the world as a token of thanks for 25 years of brilliant service to the Brinkman team.

### Tree numbers counted:

Planting more than a million trees by hand is a special honour shared by only a few dozen Brinkman planters. Here we honour the new additions to Brinkman's "Heroes of the Planet" club.

### New millionaires, showcased on the Heroes of the Planet club:

- Mathew Brady 1,049,927 (Youngest to reach a million!)
- Shawn Driscoll 1,013,613
- Lukas Mouka 1,071,000
- Chris D Reid 1,331,488
- Thom Tarte 1,113,189
- Jonah Trinkwon 1,445,115

### Most trees planted in one year:

- Brian Baudry 2011, 275,515
- Previous record holder, Erik Brinkman 2004, 269,212

### Brinkman total 2014 tree counter:

# 1,182,345,563

### Christian Walli, 25 years a forest ambassador.

In 1989 we hired our first professional forester full time when we decided to buy a couple of nurseries in Ontario. After a decade growing over 100 million trees under Christian's direction, we sold the nurseries to PRT, but by then we had realized that Christian was the perfect ambassador for the trees. In 1989 we were also developing the idea of a national foundation to handle requests to plant trees for corporations wanting to improve their green bona fides. From this the idea of Tree Canada evolved, and for the last 25 years we have been proud to have Christian speak for the trees to numerous classes, volunteer groups, and corporations, from the most polluting to the most enlightened. Christian was also recently acknowledged with a trip to anywhere in the world of his choosing for 25 years of unfaltering optimism, enlightened wisdom and stately professionalism in service of the Brinkman Group. John Lawrence said it best "Christian was the first professional to work for Brinkman."

### Nenita Shannon, well-earned retirement.

After almost 20 years with Brinkman, Nenita Shannon (Accounts Payable), has announced her retirement. With her characteristic giggle and smile, she added, "when I

first came, I only meant to stay a year!" For most of us, she will have rushed a cheque through at some point during those 20 years. If that was you, you have likely experienced her endearing ability to laugh when she feels rushed, her subtle and kind way of getting you to wait in the lunchroom instead of hovering over her desk, and foremost her willingness to put a Brinkman employee first. Beyond her joyous playful demeanor here are a few statistics of her tenure with Brinkman to share:

- 104,260 pieces of mail opened
- 34,845 cheques produced
- 5,210 times she has monopolized the Province newspaper in the kitchen
- 3,120 trips to the bank
- 245 treats brought in to share with the office
- 63 trees planted
- 1 retirement announced



### New Babies

August 4th of 2014 Dawn Brinkman and Shelby Leslie welcomed their son Rowan Wolf Gordon Leslie into the world. After a particularly interesting contract up in Mackenzie BC, with Dawn 7 and 8 months pregnant while managing their 50+ person crew and a BBC reality show being filmed in camp, the season wrapped up with the birth of an 8 lb 9 oz little gentleman. Now 8 months old and thriving, Rowan has since attended the supervisors meetings in February and is getting prepped for his first (out of utero) tree planting camp experience. Like so many before them, Shelby and Dawn will be bringing their babe to the bush. As the African proverb goes, "it takes a child to raise a village!"

A shout out to Brian and Anne-Marie's new boy Gunner, and all of the new third generation of young Brinkman team sprouts.





## Office Upgrades!

As many will have seen, at the end of February, we revealed the major renovation that the Accounting department underwent in our New West offices. The office now has new floors, a new paint job and a new airy feel! The renovation was capably led by Linda Hutchinson and completed on time. Accounting, keeping the field workers accountable as Dirk reminds us: "To acknowledge the fact that some of us from the bush-- and I know from my own history-- may not understand how important accounting is, just a part of snivilization. Sometimes we like to deny that we are in business. So it's fantastic that there is a revitalization of your working space that will acknowledge the vital role you play in the success of the organization. So consequently I would like to inaugurate the new space as being "Professional", as being "Supportive", and as being "Honest"-- a space that accounts what we really have accomplished... or not."

## New division: Brinkman Climate

Joseph Pallant recently rejoined Brinkman to launch Brinkman Climate, after several years building his own company, Carbon Project Solutions, developer of forest, agriculture, waste and transportation offset projects in Canada and around the world. Joseph is now combining his expertise with Brinkman Earth System's wealth of innovative research and project development in the area of ecosystem restoration. With Provincial and Municipal governments committed to carbon neutrality, and organizations seeking to offset their climate footprint, Brinkman Climate is using carbon finance to build new emissions reduction and removal projects throughout British Columbia.

## Onward!

That's it for our office shout-outs this year, but next year is sure to bring even greater diversification and expansion. Many of our new divisions have emerged from innovative field workers and project managers who have worked their way from planting to supervising to contributing something unique to the Brinkman ecosystem. If you're working in the field and you have an idea for an entrepreneurial expansion of Brinkman's activities, or if you feel you can contribute to the company's success in an innovative way, contact Erik Brinkman at [erik\\_brinkman@brinkman.ca](mailto:erik_brinkman@brinkman.ca). Have a great season and a wonderful year, and thanks for everything you do to make this company the best in the world in its respective industries. To sustainability and beyond!

## Post Script

Special thanks to Dirk, Kitty, Linda, Christine, Gabi, Deborah and Dawn for their number, word and photo contributions to the Office Roll Call 🌱



## Renewing Costa Rica's Rainforests: Growing and Planting Native Species to Link Parks

By Ricardo Luján

Hola mis amigos! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Ricardo Lujan. Since 1996 I have had the honour of being the Chief Forester for BARCA, Brinkman's Central American division. I live in the sunny and rainy South of Costa Rica (Perez Zeledón) and travel routinely between Costa Rica and Panama overseeing quality and silvicultural best practices throughout our suite of diverse projects.

One special project that BARCA is carrying out in Costa Rica towards the restoration and protection of Costa Rican Forests, is an alliance with the Fundacion Osa Conservacion (Osa Conservation). Our model is a three-part collaboration or "triangulation" model, in which the land owners provide the land (Osa Conservation); social and environmentally conscious investors raise the funds (EPR); and forestry companies with on-the-ground skills and experience, such as BARCA, are responsible for the project's establishment and management.

The main objective of this initiative is to help link forest patches between two high value

forests in one of the most biodiverse areas in the world: Corcovado National Park and Peñas Blancas National Park, both located in the south Pacific of Costa Rica. During the past two years, BARCA has administered this new project with the power line company Empresa Propietaria de la Red (EPR), for the planting and maintenance of 100,000 native species trees in properties of Fundacion Osa Conservacion, and 25,000 trees on other private lands.

BARCA has provided most of the trees from its own nursery, itself a product of 20 years of specialized forestry and many years of genetic improvement work in Costa Rica. We have planted 54 different species many of them rare to endemic of the region in the past two years. Evelyn Ramírez, the Nursery Supervisor, has been fundamental in producing these species, some of which I could say with confidence have never before been reproduced in a nursery.

For the planting of 100,000 native trees, three farms in strategic locations were selected at sites that provide habitat connectivity between the Corcovado and

the Piedras Blancas National Parks. The farms are located in Cerro de Osa, Puerto Escondido and La Cecilia.

BARCA's involvement in this project showcases our commitment and our capacity to contribute to restoring and managing Costa Rican forests to the highest standards. Our group is ready to collaborate under the Pacifico Initiative envisioned for Costa Rica.

The following is the list of species included in the project, with their common and scientific names

**Aceituno** (*Simarouba amara*)  
**Amarillón** (*Terminalia amazonia*)  
**Aguacatillo** (*Nectandra sp.*)  
**Aguacatón** (*Ocotea insularis*)  
**Baco** (*Brosimum utile*)  
**Balsa** (*Ochroma pyramidale*)  
**Caoba** (*Swietenia macrophylla*)  
**Caobilla** (*Carapa guianensis*)  
**Cara Tigre** (*Aspidosperma myristicifolium*)  
**Cedro amargo** (*Cedrela odorata*)  
**Cedro dulce** (*Cedrela tonduzii*)  
**Cedro maría** (*Calophyllum brasiliense*)



**Ceiba** (*Ceiba pentandra*)  
**Cenizaro** (*Samanea saman*)  
**Chiricano** (*Humiriastrum diguense*)  
**Cortez amarillo** (*Tabebuia guayacan*)  
**Cortez negro** (*Tabebuia impetiginosa*)  
**Cocobolo** (*Dalbergia retusa*)  
**Costilla danto** (*Lecointea amazonica*)  
**Cristobal** (*Platysmicium pinnatum*)  
**Espavel** (*Anacardium excelsum*)  
**Chaperno** (*Lonchocarpus macrophyllus*)  
**Frijolón** (*Dussia sp.*)  
**Gallinazo** (*Schizolobium parahyba*)  
**Guabilla** (*Inga.sp.*)  
**Guaitil** (*Genipa americana*)  
**Guacacaste** (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*)

**Guapinol** (*Hymenaea courbaril*)  
**Guayabón** (*Terminalia oblonga*)  
**Guachipelin** (*Diphysa americana*)  
**Guayaquil** (*Albizia sp.*)  
**Iguano** (*Dilodendrum costaricense*)  
**Jorco** (*Garcinia madruno*)  
**Jobo** (*Spondias mombin*)  
**Manglillo** (*Aspidosperma spruceanum*)  
**Nazareno** (*Peltogyne purpurea*)  
**Nene** (*Ormosia coccinea*)  
**Ojoche** (*Brosimum alicastrum*)  
**Ojochillo** (*Brosimum costaricensis*)  
**Pilón** (*Hyeronima alchorneoides*)  
**Pouteria** (*Pouteria sp.*)  
**Reseco** (*Tachigali versicolor*)

**Ron ron** (*Astronium graveolens*)  
**Roble sabana** (*Tabebuia rosea*)  
**Sándalo** (*Myroxylon balsamum*)  
**Sangrillo** (*Pterocarpus officinali*)  
**Sangrillo colorado** (*Paramachaerium gruberi*)  
**Sapote** (*Pouteria sp.*)  
**Sapote olimpico** (*Pouteria sp.*)  
**Fruta** (*Virola sebifera*)  
**Fruta dorada** (*Virola surinamensis*)  
**Fruta dorada** (*Virola koschnyi*)  
**Sotacaballo** (*Pithecellobium dulce*) 🌿

## Cheakamus Community Forest Offset Project: Whistler's Improved Forest Management

By Joseph Pallant

In 2009, the 32,000 ha Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) was awarded to a partnership between the Municipality of Whistler, the Squamish First Nation and the Lil'Wat First Nation. Social enterprise non-profit Ecotrust Canada helped broker this new community forest. One of its first recommendations was that the principles of ecosystem-based management form the foundation for management of the licence, to meet a wide range of social and environmental goals, including maintaining long term carbon sequestration to address global warming. This is where Brinkman Earth Systems joined the project.

Robert Seaton and the Brinkman team's unique suite of forest restoration experts were brought on board to provide the

rigorous analytic documentation and accounting required to successfully validate the climate change mitigation benefits of an improved management regime. Beginning in 2011, Brinkman Earth Systems and Ecotrust began developing the project design documents, to quantify the baseline (business-as-usual) and calculate the climate benefits created through integrating the Improved Forest Management (IFM) activities into the CCF's Forest Management Plan. This process includes assessing not only the carbon stored in the forest but also the emissions from forest management, and the carbon stored in forest products, to provide the basis for a 100 year lifecycle accounting of the project outcomes. The team also modelled appropriate buffers to address other risks, such as fire and market swings.

Now, some five years later, independent audits have validated the project's actions and outcomes, including enhancing forest and cultural values and generating carbon credits. The value of these credits in turn supports the increased costs of more sustainable management and harvesting within the license area. The community forest's location surrounding Whistler presents an ideal stage to demonstrate the value of integrating cultural and conservation values into traditional harvest practices to the region's millions of visitors each year.



### Improved Forest Management Carbon Offsets

All major international carbon standards have a set of tools for building forest carbon offsets, many elements of which were laid out in the first proposed UNFCCC forest carbon project methodology developed by Brinkman in 2004. British Columbia's Emission Offsets Regulation creates a particularly effective pathway for generating offsets via Improved Forest Management (IFM). Through dynamic conservation and improved resource management across the landscape, ecosystem values are enhanced and carbon is stored for the long term. The Cheakamus project uses the following four main IFM approaches delineated through its Ecosystem Based Management plan:

1. Increased representation of old and mature forests in specific ecosystems within the tenure area, and maintenance of a full range of stand structures and





ages, species, and ecosystems.

2. Enhanced logging prescriptions which preserve older structural components within logged blocks.

3. Maintenance of increased buffers around critical ecological features, such as riparian areas.

4. Enhancement of identified habitat critical for red and blue listed species.

Joseph Pallant rejoined Brinkman last spring to launch Brinkman Climate, and refine the business line to develop offse projects such as the CCF project throughout British Columbia. Brinkman Climate works with governments, NGOs and the private sector to develop locally-grown, socially and environmentally beneficial BC-standard offsets. The new Climate unit has an

added focus of securing buyers for offsets generated through its projects – a critical link in the chain connecting demand for climate action with projects on the ground.

Brinkman Climate integrates the experience of Joseph's company, Carbon Project Solutions—developer of forest, agriculture, waste and transportation offset projects in Canada and around the world—with Brinkman Earth System's wealth of innovative research and project development in the area of ecosystem restoration. With provincial and municipal governments committed to carbon neutrality, and organizations seeking to offset their climate footprint, Brinkman Climate is using carbon finance to build new emissions reduction & removal projects throughout British Columbia. 🌱

## No Man is an Island #2: Outpourings of Action for Faraz

By Baba Brinkman

By all accounts, Faraz Khodabandeh was a remarkable person, both a larger-than-life character and a respected up-and-coming leader in the Brinkman community. He thought deeply and cared deeply about the tree-planting experience and what it meant for the people involved, and he faithfully shared those thoughts with his friends and fellow planters, earning himself a reputation as a wilderness philosopher and modern Renaissance man. When Faraz's life was tragically and prematurely cut short by a road accident on November 10th, 2013, the collective response was grief, but also action. Something about Faraz compelled his friends and family to take steps to preserve a lasting legacy for him.

A fund was set up with the Cumberland Community Forest Society in Faraz's name, which his family and friends contributed to in his memory. Last season his friend and Brinkman Project Manager Jeremy Cameron organized a Faraz Memorial Plant Day, a chance for planters to donate trees and wages to the memorial fund.

"We had a crew with lots of greeners" said Jeremy, "only seven or eight people on my



crew actually knew Faraz personally at that point, but they had all heard the Faraz stories; those stories have become legend."

In the end, every single planter chose to make a donation and many, including the cooks, contributed their entire day's wages, adding up to \$4,563, which was topped up with a \$1,000 contribution from the Brinkman head office equaling a donation of \$5563 in one day. To date, donations to the Faraz Khodabandeh Memorial Fund amount to \$26,786 and counting, preserving a vibrant community forest from future logging in an area that Faraz found as his home away from home, which is populated by many of his friends.

Now another kind of legacy is being established for Faraz, in another part of the country. Faraz's mother Flora Nadafi was understandably more than devastated by the loss of her son. After Faraz's passing, she quit her job and spent several months

in a state of near-shock in their home city of Toronto. But in February of 2014 she had an inspiration: she would honour Faraz's memory by contributing in the way that meant the most to him, by growing trees. Flora is an engineer by training, with a specialty in safety systems at nuclear power plants, so the intricacies of seeds and soil were far from familiar, but the idea had taken hold of her and couldn't be ignored. She began phoning local nurseries and asking if she could visit and tour and learn how they were run. And she was told: "Lady, it's February. All you're going to see around here are piles of snow."

So she waited, and once the snow had melted she visited several container nurseries, eventually striking up a friendship with the people at Not So Hollow Farm, where she volunteered her time for several weeks, learning about the native Ontario species they grow and the process from seed to sale. Then, in July of 2014, Flora made the



move, selling her condo in the city to buy a small house with a half-acre backyard in the town of Mulmur, ON, about 90 minutes' drive northwest of Toronto.

She spent the summer and fall completing the move, purchasing the soil and container infrastructure, setting up a website, and going through the process of registering her business and applying for a permit from the township. A new container grown nursery business has just been launched in Mulmur, ON, registered under the name "For Faraz".

When asked what it was about her son that inspired such an outpouring from his friends and family, not just an outpouring of emotion but also of action, Flora thinks for a moment and says: "Honesty. Faraz was honest and sincere and generous, but

honesty is the highest virtue, and Faraz was a rare person for his honesty. And he loved planting trees. He expressed it in his emails and the speeches he gave. Every mother thinks her son is special, but the response from all the planters tells me that Faraz really was."

And her hope for the business, five years from now, or ten? Flora says she just wants to see it thriving and enduring, growing beautiful native trees with "much love" (Faraz's favourite way to end emails) and showing people that those trees matter. She still keeps all of Faraz's things and revisits them often, his notes and letters and books, and she sees the nursery as just one more way of remaining connected to her son and his memory.

Flora's son was a man of letters, and of passionate eloquence. Jeremy recounts how one day on the block Faraz surprised him by discussing the history of Russian Ballet, which he had never mentioned before. This was a polymath, a tree-planter and a scholar. An online poem elegizing Faraz expresses a common sentiment, echoed by Jeremy: "I only wish I wrote down more of what he said."

The second annual Faraz Memorial Plant Day on Jeremy's crew will be in June this year, and by then the first new shoots at the For Faraz nursery will have broken the soil. For now, however, Flora and Jeremy and all the planters who hold Faraz's legacy sacred are in the same boat, waiting for the snows to melt so they can get to planting. 🌱

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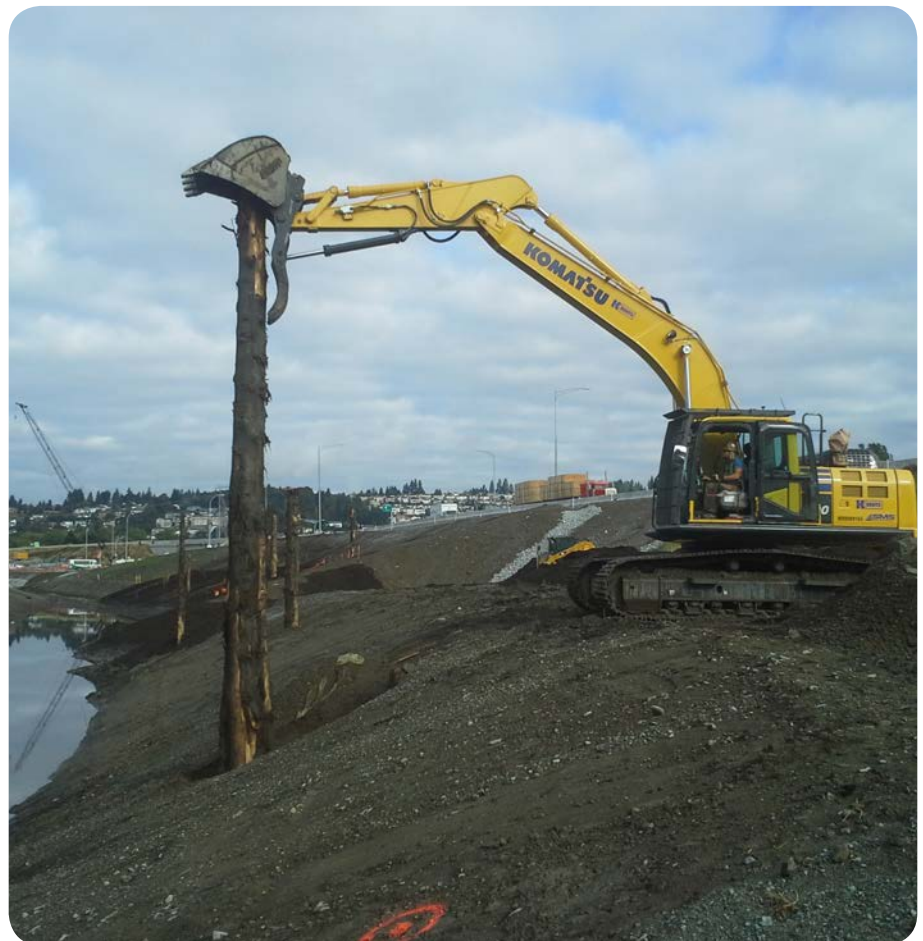
## Brinkman Restoration: Planting City Streets and Building Beneath Bridges

*By John Grindon*

For those of you who haven't been involved in any of our projects, you might be wondering: what does Brinkman Restoration do? Mostly we work with urban planners, public utilities, civil contractors, governments, and land management agencies to enhance and reinforce living infrastructure. As human population intensifies the pressure on life support systems, the need to recognize and ameliorate the effects intensifies as well. Over the past fifteen years or so Brinkman Restoration has transformed thousands of hectares of marginal urban land, in order to enhance biodiversity and restore ecosystem function.

### Out West: BC Restoration Completes Fraser River Off-Channel Restoration Project

One of Brinkman Restoration's projects out West was carried out from July through September of 2014, when we successfully restored approximately 3,000 square metres of riparian channels on Bon Accord Creek, a Fraser River tributary that was covered up during industrial development below the former Port Mann Bridge that joined Vancouver to Surrey. The replacement of the former bridge with a new bridge (now



the world's widest) provided the opportunity to restore what was once a productive drainage area that extended from the foot of Coquitlam through the Fraser River flats. Area grading and placement of 1,800 cubic metres of growing media, more than a hundred pieces of salvaged woody debris, custom built hibernacula to accommodate native snakes, and several thousand plants and trees will kick start the establishment process that will continue through 2016. Congratulations to Bart Muhic and his team for successfully negotiating difficult site conditions and tight timelines in the completion of this project!

### Out East: Brinkman Restoration Named "Excavator of the Year" at ORCGA Gala

We also have extensive operations out East, where the Living Infrastructure team deserves a big congratulations for their recognition by the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance for a stellar, no-incident year negotiating the myriad unseen hazards lurking below the ground during a busy season of planting street trees in the Greater Toronto Area. In a work environment where it can often take longer to confirm clearance and obtain paperwork than it does to actually plant a tree, and the logistical two-step that often characterises such a very bureaucratic operation, the team was sorely tested, but in the end tenacity trumped frustration. Of 3,000 trees planted along city streets between Etobicoke and Scarborough, not a single instance of service interruption was encountered thanks to

some superb planning by Michael, Bill, Joe, Laura and Amy.

It is our objective to bring to the forefront the importance of living infrastructure—those systems that underpin our ability to function at the most basic levels. Our work lies at the intersection of landscape architecture, biology, and civil engineering, and we continue the rewarding work of 'making things green' while demonstrating leadership to a clientele hungry for innovative approaches to sustainability challenges. 🌱



*Beetle kill pine, prime example of conservation biomass.*

## Brinkman and The Earth Partners LP: Perhaps The Largest Private Land Restoration Initiative in US History

*By Erik Brinkman*

Brinkman is excited to be a co-founding partner of The Earth Partners Limited Partnership, a company that currently has projects under development to restore millions of acres of degraded and marginal lands across the USA and an amazing array of ecosystem restoration and bioenergy contracts in the pipeline.

In 2007, Brinkman Earth Systems began investing funds and allocating key managers

to develop US partnerships and projects aimed to undertake large-scale ecosystem restoration projects that were funded from restoration values, such as carbon and conservation offsets, and biomass. With The Soil Partners Ltd. Brinkman jointly led the development of the first comprehensive soil and ecosystem restoration methodology registered in 2012 through the world's leading greenhouse gas program, the Verified Carbon Standard.

In 2011 Brinkman and partners founded the US "The Earth Partners LP" (TEP), which "works across diverse ecosystems, including degraded rangelands and grasslands, diseased forests, and improved management of plantation forests (to) find hidden value and risk mitigation opportunities in feedstock procurement for bioenergy products." TEP has termed this approach conservation biomass.

After several years of lobbying energy policy-makers in Europe, TEP has developed a triple win climate impact scenario and conservation biomass is now being recognized in the European Union as a premium eco-product. In 2014, the United Kingdom changed its bioenergy regulations to reflect this policy shift, as did the Netherlands, and in 2015 we are seeing some policy movement in Belgium, all as a result of the Brinkman-TEP lobby.

TEP is also participating in policy dialogue in the United States. In 2014, at the request of the White House, and with the support of Brinkman Earth System specialists including carbon accrual, sustainability and ecosystem modeller Robert Seaton, TEP developed a policy paper with The Rocky Mountain Institute. The goal of this paper was to advise President Obama and Chinese President Qi Ping Lin on how the U.S. and China could cooperate to transition out of coal powered energy by using biomass, without



negative impacts on the forests and lands in each nation's biomass supply regions. This extensive study showed there could be as much as one gigatonne (1/39th of the total global annual greenhouse gas emissions) of climate benefits through a coal to conservation biomass climate partnership by the two countries. This paper was used by both administrations to help determine targets and reach agreements for the U.S. – China Joint Climate and Clean Energy Cooperation announcement made on November 11th 2014 at the G20 meetings in Brisbane Australia. It has also guided new regulations from the US Environmental Protection Agency designed to encourage the replacement of coal in power plants with bioenergy sources (See Emily McGlynn, TEP's Sustainability Manager's comments at the upcoming International Bioenergy Conference.)

One of TEP's larger operational conservation biomass projects currently underway is the restoration of the long grass prairie rangelands in the semi-arid Southwest United States. Beginning with the settlement of the area by European immigrants in the 19th century, these degraded areas have over time become overgrown with woody brush (juniper and mesquite). Historically fire maintained this ecosystem, with burns occurring on average every 7 years, refreshing the grasses and keeping the brush at bay, apart from a few fire hardened vet trees on the native landscape. However, settlers from Europe did not understand the importance of the fire dynamic in maintaining the health of this grassland ecosystem. Through overgrazing and the elimination of regular fire cycles from the ecosystem, shrubs and small brushy juniper and mesquite trees replaced the native prairie grasses. By 2011, with the grassland ecosystem in an advanced state of degradation, and unable to be resilient in the face of natural stresses, Texan ranchers sold 80% of their cattle during a severe drought. Wildfires on these unmanaged lands tend now to be out of control due to the higher level of woody brush fuel, and as such, much more destructive than normal fires that occurred on grasslands; these large scale fires destroy soils and causing mass erosion, further contributing to drought and disruptive dust storms. During 2011, with 100 days above 100°F



over 4,000,000 acres burned in Texas, double the previous record.

Variations of this problem affect massive areas ranging from Canada all the way to Mexico. TEP's Texas rangeland restoration project will restore the natural grassland conditions through the removal of the encroaching woody brush for the production of wood chips and wood pellets for renewable energy applications. This will result in verifiable carbon credits from improved soil health, carbon uptake in soils, water retention, aquifer recharge and reduced erosion. TEP has pioneered the process of producing a valuable conservation biomass by-product to sustainably displace coal combustion while also restoring degraded land, instead of using productive arable or forested lands to create biomass with a greater greenhouse gas footprint.

Given the careful work of Brinkman Biomass Manager Chris Norman to secure the trust and cooperation of the ranchers in the project area, TEP has signed up a million and a half acres of land in Texas, meaning that we have been able to secure the scale of volume that permits new pellet plants to be built. With a million plus acres now under long term agreement in one single project, TEP may be carrying out the largest private land restoration project in US history.

TEP is currently developing other projects that may in the near future compete with this status. Other TEP projects include: Gulf

Coast restoration work, growing switchgrass and native prairie grasses for bioenergy and soil restoration in Louisiana, the Deadwood Bioenergy plant in South Dakota (a pellet plant that is using beetle killed pine), improved carbon storage in soil in agricultural areas, and mine site restoration. Through policy work, innovation and leadership, in collaboration with US-based The Earth Partners, Brinkman looks forward to expanding these operations while developing more innovative, profitable, and ecologically beneficial land restoration initiatives. Together we are turning the biggest problems into opportunities! 🌱



*Grassland overtaken by juniper.*

# Reports from the Field



## Is Tree Planting a World's Toughest Job?: BBC Reality TV in a Brinkman Camp

By Dawn Brinkman

It had been over a year of back and forth with the TV producers and their proposal of a tree planting reality documentary before the three British rookies hit the Prince George tarmac in mid-May of 2014. The premise of the show is how the unemployed youth (18-25) of Britain hold up in the BBC series *World's Toughest Jobs*. During this "courtship period" we made it clear how difficult the job is, and outlined the qualities we look for in a rookie planter. We weren't paid to host the show at our camp, but candidates with work visas could potentially learn how to carry out honest hard work and become fast, money-making returning planters, that is, if they were cut out for the job.

However, upon meeting the young urbanites, Kieran, Danny and Shannon, who unfortunately we had no role in vetting, we immediately realized our hiring criteria had gone unheeded. The three candidates were used to parental care and the material comforts of city living, had never done hard physical labour, and were in for a real shock. Tree planting broke these guys so fast that after five days in camp and on the block two of the three had already quit. Only one of the three candidates managed to survive the first few days; he stayed in camp a total of two weeks (key word "camp"), only going to work five days total. He then quit the

day after the camera crew left, leaving the impression that he never planned to stay on beyond what the cameras would capture. We gave them all the resources we would have afforded any new planters in training (and then some), but these guys were soft as butter and in the end we just had to laugh.

What did we learn from all this? One: tree planting is indeed one of the *World's Toughest Jobs* – having done it for so long we can easily forget. Two: the fish-out-of-water scenario makes for great entertainment, since drama often sells better than success. Three: If this 'is' an accurate cross-section of British youth's work ethic they may have a serious situation on their hands.

Fortunately the guys behind the camera were good fun, took some awesome footage of planting and got on great with the crew; we were sad to see them go. Our crew also thought the whole shebang was a hoot, and we now have this hilarious souvenir of that time three un-vetted Brits came to plant in the wilderness of BC for a few days. While it's no NFB's *Do It With Joy* (the original 1976 tree planting documentary directed by Nick Kendall), the BBC gave us an opportunity to share a special time and place in our lives and have a good laugh watching ourselves and friends do what we all do best, overcome adversity and look damn good doing it. 🌱

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## Five Provinces One Season: The Tree-Running Adventures of the Migrating Smoky Tiger

By Andrew Courtnage AKA Smoky Tiger

Hey Brinkman tribe! I'm honoured to tell the tale of my 2014 season of tree running adventures, one for the record books, for your amazement and amusement. Long, varied, with many a sloping and soggy quad trail, fields of brackies as far as the eye can see, tree boxes, slash piles, and so many stubborn and beautiful planter folk. In the end I traversed five provinces in "Elfmist," my faithful blue '82 Volkswagen Westfalia. Looking back, it was truly a season that makes me proud to work with you guys. It made me realize how lucky I am just to be a part of this team.

### Manitoba

*The season started early in Manitoba in early April, with new Project Manager Tony Hisco and the Bison Crew. With our guru-goddess Robin McCullough having gone to manage OH&S, it was our first try on our own. I'm proud to announce that the crew under Tony's rookie leadership had a practically flawless season. Except for a slight bus hang up (coincidentally on the same day Eastern Operational Manager Neil Whan came out to check on us), other than that I can't remember a single miscommunication, mishap, or failure. We formed Voltron and rocked it. A 2 month*



Smoky Tiger with Elfmist



contract made easy with high numbers and perfect quality. A highlight for me was the opportunity to try out the Argo, a sort of mini-tank used to bring trees into some labyrinthine bog blocks. The Argo turns into a boat in deep water and it was pretty neat hitting the open water and cruising through the reeds with big loads full of trees strapped to my personal amphibious chariot. Not sure how the planters enjoyed those blocks but I sure had fun and stayed safe to boot.

## Ontario

Next we migrated into some higher-level stuff in Ontario around Upsala. Upsala whose giant grotesque mosquito statue with morbid human body hanging from its jaws marked the turnoff to our camp. Here there were more slopes and jungle-like conditions. Our crew stayed strong and resilient, adapting well to the new terrain. Needless to say I had a lot of merriment in this bug infested zone, with some very memorable blocks and days swimming through mud pools, and performing small miracles on my four wheeled steed with wobbly quad tub in tow, losing a tire every few days. We pulled through and the crew disbanded to help finish up with other camps. Good job guys

## Saskatchewan

Soon I was summoned West in the Elfmist to help solve problems in Manitoba's sister province of Saskatchewan. I didn't know what to expect when I arrived at this camp. I guess no one did, Saskatchewan is a relatively new frontier for Brinkman and a green crew was assembled under the leadership of the epic seasoned veteran Rob Atkinson. Rob faced all levels of adversity from the start. When I arrived, the camp was frazzled, facing challenging ground and a supremely complex contract. It was like arriving on a silvicultural pirate ship with a crew of beautiful but tired sailors who had faced the ravages of the open sea and lived to tell the tale though suffering many casualties. I'm proud to say we finished strong through the final stretch to finally close a really tough show. I'm hoping I get to return to Saskatchewan planting, there are possibilities of planting plunder there for the right crew of pillagers.

## Alberta

Next the Elfmist carried me to the wilds of Whitecourt, Alberta, to work with two more new Project Managers, Lumi Faucher and Mike Priestap. Wow how planting changes once you pass that border! Lumi was running Dawn's crew, probably the most beautifully glowing crew I've ever seen (sorry Erik). As soon as I arrived in camp Lumi quickly set me to work designed to break me. He had a block for me I'll never forget, difficult level 9.5 on Nij's scale of quad accessibility. I eventually just jettisoned the broken quad in a mud pit up to the handlebars and defaulted to Dutch Helicopter (carry) the remaining boxes on my head to the back of the block to finish it clean. Next morning I rode Elfmist over to Priestap's crew where he was running some massively hectic Heli blocks. I'll have to nominate Mike Priestap for Rookie All-Star Project Manager of the year. His organization, logistical poise, and overall stage presence was truly impressive. Some of his situations were so difficult we had three quads and three tree runners going full bore at once. My time spent in this oil-torn region of Northern Alberta remained covered by a forest fire haze, giving me the sense that it was the land of Mordor, with Stephen Harper as Sauron.

## Festival Interlude

After four provinces of legendary tree running, we departed on a summer festival tour. Despite almost unsurmountable obstacles, breakdowns and repairs, the wily Elfmist carried us to BassCoast in Merritt BC, then back to Winnipeg for the Folk Fest and then all the way to the desert of Nevada for the Burning Man festival in Black Rock City. Needless to say we were pretty spent when it was over. This brings me to the final chapter of this epic season

## British Columbia

Literally minutes after leaving Burning Man I got a call from Matt calling us up to Terrace BC. So Elfmist again set sail and 22 hours later we were in Vancouver and on a plane to Terrace. This was my second time

planting in Terrace, an amazing magical planting zone rife with bandits and mushroom pickers. It was a tiny one-truck crew working for the Amazonian vet Christine Lepage. The planting was equally arduous but it was beautiful to say the least. Every microsite required crossing a jungle gym of slash up a slope with bags full of donkeydicks (XL seedlings). The contract took longer than anticipated and by the end there were only four of us left, but we got 'er done. I docked Elfmist in Vancouver for the winter and headed home.

## Post Script

I'm not sure how many folks have planted in all five of the provinces Brinkman works in in a single season before, but I feel very blessed to have realized this achievement. It never ceases to amaze me the wealth of skill, character, and beauty that makes up the peaceful army of our organization. Although I revel in the challenge and adventure, and the constant wondrous beauty of the various environments, it is the comradery and love that I feel for this group that has kept me coming back for more than a decade. And for this I thank you all.

## Art Cache

Check out the mythopoetic verses of the Smoky Tiger on [soundcloud.com @smokitigr](https://soundcloud.com/smokitigr). 🐯



## Business School Tree-planting Admission Essay: Quantifying Greener Goals

By Devon de Langely

I have been immersed in many physically grueling activities throughout my life, from years of high-level competitive sports to reaching the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro. To date, tree-planting has been by far the most physically demanding activity I've experienced. Planting in Prince George, British Columbia gave me a true perspective on what it means to work hard. It opened my eyes to a world of sheer dedication, sacrifice,

motivation, and toughness. I have since tried to apply the life-lessons that I took away from tree-planting last summer to my academic and athletic pursuits.

My goal to be the fastest rookie planter was a long shot, being 17 years old and the youngest at camp. But after only the first training day, Vinnie, the Camp Coordinator and Field Supervisor, took me under his wing, because he said he noticed my potential. For the rest of the season, I was fortunate enough to be put on a 6-person crew alongside my brother Brennan, a second year planter and current Ivey student, and my cousin Miriam. This was probably the best choice that Vinnie could have made. The family competition and drive to out-plant my brother day in and day out, allowed me to quickly develop the skills required to be great. Brennan, Miriam and I learned to work as a team and communicate to ensure the 'planting block' was completed the most efficiently and with top quality tree

Motivation played a huge role in my success as a first year planter. Something about living

in a tent out in northern British Columbia for 2½ months makes it really easy to just give up. After overhearing Vinnie, a legend in the tree planting industry, call me his protégé, family and intrinsic values were now not my only sources of motivation. Every night, I would ensure all my gear was dry and ready for optimal usage to tackle the upcoming day.

Being the only rookie to hit 1000 trees on the first day was a memorable moment. Although I quickly realized my own potential, I truly believed I wouldn't last the season. I overcame adversity, and ultimately I proved to myself that with the right attitude, I could be successful. I soon became the first rookie to hit 1500 and then 2000 trees planted in a day. My most humbling moment was when Erik Brinkman, the Project Manager and son of Joyce Murray, stood up in front of the entire camp and congratulated me on reaching 2000 trees. Erik proceeded to advise all the rookies to strive in their own way to find the motivation and success that I have found.

The truth about tree-planting is that you will become accustomed to pounding your shovel in the ground thousands of times a day, planting in ridiculous rain and heat, being attacked by hundreds of mosquitos and black flies, pulling thorns out of your own forearms, and taking off your gloves after work with your hands looking like shriveled prunes. But the reward to reach my goals and mentally and physically push myself with tree-planting last summer was more than worth the difficulties

## Post Script

by Erik Brinkman

Devon submitted this essay in an admission application to Business School and put me down as the reference. All I had to do is sign in and press a button at the bottom of the essay that said either "agree or disagree." I pressed "agree," and then asked him if we could put it in the Newsletter. He agreed. 🌱

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## Update from the West Coast: Got shorts and a Rain Coat?

By John Beaton

Every year is different and every year remains the same. We all work, we all have friends and family, and we all have goals and dreams. A select few of us come together for a brief moment in time here in Western Canada, burning calories and candles at both ends, reveling and struggling with our resolve in each day's effort. We marvel together at having expended enough energy to make a sprint of marathon sized dinners, and sprint each night through our meal to an empty plate and a hot shower.

I have had the pleasure of working in the field for many years with my friends at Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd., admiring and struggling with and being swept into the artwork that unfolds in the daily grind. It is beautiful and raw; a train wreck filled with delicate flowers and sharpened blades. It is a truly serendipitous smorgasbord of cross sectioning borders and cultures, ideas and



ideals, and determined grit and eager zeal. To be fair it's also a bit of a meat grinder at times, so please do read the fine print and keep your fingers and toes behind the yellow lines at all times. It will be a delightfully bumpy ride.

I now have the pleasure of continuing to work with these fine souls from my home in Cumberland. I coordinate projects as best I can, in a land that makes no promises—except perhaps that you will never say you were bored. Just about every other emotion will come your way, but if you are bored in the lands we call home, than perhaps

parachuting sans le parachute may be more up your alley. If so, good luck and Godspeed. One of the first acts of 2015 as a company and as friends, was to come together in beautiful Cowichan Lake for four days of companionship, meetings and training. Four days of sharing and learning, connecting and re-connecting. Of all my years working here this was a highlight for me as it truly displayed the commitment and depth of character in a very positive light, a moment of recognition, appreciation and growth. For almost all of our 2015 western season we have secured direct award work. This



speaks volumes to the collective and individual efforts to do our work well and make a difference in ways that are recognized. My hat goes off and my head tips. Thank you and congratulations on being part of this achievement.

It is our collective and considerable efforts these long days spent doing more for less, and adapting to circumstances beyond our control—that puts us ahead. We are all left facing having to evolve rapidly, or fall to the

sidelines, much like it has always been. Every day that passes the rate of change increases, the reality of our situations demands new solutions to be formed from old resolve. We may sometimes feel longingly for glory days, feeling as though in the industry today we are stuck in the headlights. We are left hoping that the brightness is a sign of a lighter time to return, of more for less; not less for more. Were it so! May it be!

However knowing this will not deter our

resolve; for we are all in this together. Those who have stayed have stayed for a reason. When we fall down we know how to stand, when we are pushed we bounce back. We know that to do any less is unacceptable. We will stand regardless.

So cheers my friends, and I hope to see you next year as well! 🌱



*Darryll Oulton (right) and his Crew raised over \$1000 during the 'Pound for Pemba' Fundraiser*

## Planting for Pemba: Brinkman Community Raises \$30,000 for Community Forests in Tanzania

*By Zack Melanson*

Tree-planters 'get' Pembans better than any other group I have met. Maybe it's living in an isolated community, or maybe it's just an understanding of what a hard day's work is all about, but planters 'get' Pembans. Our organization, Community Forests International (CFI), was born from this tree-planting culture, and has thrived by staying connected to it. Last season was my fifth year visiting Brinkman camps to 'Pound for Pemba.' By all accounts, it was the best year yet. From staff, administrators and planters we raised \$22,000, plus an \$8000 donation from the Brinkman head office we raised \$30,000 during the 2014 Brinkman camp tour—growing a movement that has

helped plant over 1 million trees for fruit, timber and conservation on the Island of Pemba, Tanzania.

With the help of the Brinkman tree-planting community, we have worked alongside our Pemban counterparts to share ideas and approaches, resulting in thousands of villagers getting access and training in many low-tech solutions that are building a new green economy on the island. Every year Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd. supports the overhead costs of the 'Pound for Pemba' program and generously contributes alongside its planters, ensuring that 100% of the funds raised by individual



*Bimajo, a highly involved member of the Gando community water the nurseries 1500 clove seedlings. They plant some and sell the surplus to the government.*

planters, staff and management go straight to the work of CFI in rural villages in Pemba. To date, the Brinkman community has helped us raise over \$130,000, which has empowered many and enabled positive change in Pemba.

Thank you to all the planters who pounded, all the staff who gave up their day-rates and to the project managers and administrators who made it all happen. Your hard work and generosity continues to inspire and motivate us, and is the foundation for grassroots change in Pemba. I look forward to seeing you all in 2015! Asante Sana! (Thank you very much!) 🌱

# Brinkman Interest Stories



## Work or Play? : To Plant or Not to Plant

By Matt Brady

It's generally in July that I attempt the same lie, year after year. Friends just shake their heads, knowing the truth behind the words. It might start as a mutter, a murmur or a muffle whisper, but eventually I'm telling everyone in a building crescendo – "this is it guys, my last season."

It comes after years of hard work. Early mornings and long nights, repeated end-on-end. Three (sometimes four or five) days make a shift; one day off, and the next shift begins. Nights are spent either wondering or knowing full well your planting destiny for the next few days, drinking and carrying on to displace pain and ignore agony. These shifts go by the quickest when you have a great camp life, full of people who know how to live in the moment as a community and not wallow in selfish independent states of muted disinterest. Although many simply see the act of planting as a means to an end I'd like to think that there's something else there, something that relaxes and soothes the twitching ADHD minds of our generation.

In life there are two distinct types of activities in which people partake: work and

play. In the first, 'work', there is instrumental value, defined as value outside of the activity itself. Instrumental work is backed by myths that have been incorporated into nationalist agendas, religions and business mantras, myths like: "hard work is ennobling." To work is to be productive, to 'contribute' to society and to be a responsible person. While planting for many has instrumental value, I feel that these offerings pale in comparison to the true value of tree planting.

Out on the block, with bags pulling on my shoulders, and trained muscles acting to the rhythm of the plant—the oft-gentle motions that repeat themselves spontaneously—I often find the same thought patterns occurring. My mind goes through different stages, first observing the land and giving myself goals and timings. Then I take in the surroundings and work on keeping a quick step. If it's a truly opportune day I'll give myself simple things to adjust, either a faster push to the next spot or a quicker trigger on the tree hand. As the rhythm gains momentum my thoughts may drift to random occurring ideas that shift across the periphery of my attention. I have fun attempting to seize these idiosyncratic ideas or storylines, to the befuddlement and sometimes amusement of neighbouring planters.

Lots of days are spent like this – wondering about land and working to motivate oneself either by the carrot or the stick. At times it's best to lie to oneself; letting the mind tell the body that a sore knee isn't sore at all is one favoured exercise. An existential observer would identify all of these experiences as a kind of battle between conscious thought and physical reality. Philosophers from Descartes on have debated how our minds and bodies are truly connected, and this 'fight' that planters wage with their minds, attempting to fool their bodies into working harder and harder, is another example of how truly complex this relationship must be.

While we battle and toil, scraping and scrambling across broken landscapes in

forgotten corners of wild countries, there do come earnest moments of peace. I am a meditation guru, and yet through this repetitive action of planting tree after tree I have found my wayward way to a blank state of mind. Countless examples shine forth, whether noticing a 2-inch wound for the first time at the end of the day, or having a 45-minute bag-up whiz by in what seems like seconds. A blank mind while planting may seem like a terrible idea, and yet it's in these moments that I feel I do my very best planting. My body knows what to do, densities and microsites work themselves out, and all of my attention is focused on these actions. A particular glow highlights my emotive being, not necessarily one of specified happiness but of a more general joy.

I am not saying that my experiences are definitive; each and every person plants trees a different way with totally different mindsets. What I have noticed, however, are these recurring structures of thought. Days can be extremely difficult planting a block without soil is an extremely annoying act. There's no groove to find when you're banging your shovel against boulders and rocks, falling over mile-high slash and wishing the sideways rain would just quit turning to hail every half hour. That type of experience is, without a doubt, instrumental work. There's little enjoyment, and a lot of thinking about reasons to quit, to stop or perhaps to go enjoy the luxurious comfort of the truck.

'Play', being the second type of activity a person can experience, in the sense of doing something that perhaps does not entirely make sense, or may not be the most efficient means of achieving a goal, but has value unto itself. Intrinsic value. Something that you do for 'fun' not because it'll make it easier to pay a mortgage or live in that comfy downtown loft, but due to the nature of the act itself.

Surely a tree-planter could find an easier job to work at, something perhaps closer



to home? Yet here we are, come spring, looking out at the snow and waiting for the sun to free us from metropolitan agony. The little known early 20th century philosopher, Moritz Schlick, wrote a much more articulate view of work and play in his essay *On the Meaning of Life*. It is the joy in sheer creation, the dedication to the activity, the absorption in the movement, which transforms work into play. To be sure, it only works perfectly where it is not brought externally and deliberately to the activity,

but rather evolves spontaneously from the nature of the action and its natural rhythms.

I cannot speak for everyone when I say that there is a special connection with this idea of planting just for its own sake. I have always wondered why I feel little daily attachment to the actual money that I am earning out in the bush, and rather a strong connection to the mental and physical enjoyment of planting itself. It's taken me seven years to come to this point, to truly recognize why

I keep coming back. Planting is work, of course. But it's also play, especially in those special moments when it's so much more.

## Post Script:

Matt is one of the youngest Millionaire planters ever, having hit 1,049,927 trees in 2014 at the age of 24. He has retired, planning not to return to the field in 2015. Or so he says. 🌱

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## Scratching the Surface: Viewing in the Chilcotins

*By Matt Robertson*

In forestry we have the unique opportunity of traveling among some of our planet's more exotic landscapes. Be it the Great Bear Rainforest of the central coast or the northern Boreal, each wilderness area has its own unique identity. These areas are part of the draw that brings 350 people back each year to work in our BC operations. Amongst these stunning landscapes are cultures whose histories range some 300 years ago from first contact with European and Asian settlers searching for resources and a new life, to the First Nations people who began to populate the Americas perhaps as much as 40,000 years ago.

Pursuing our trade, reforestation, is busy work to say the least and can involve a hectic schedule, though we are a nimble bunch that tread lightly and leave a newly planted forest in our wake as we follow the receding snow lines from location to location. As we travel, taking a bit of time to scratch the surface of the histories of the regions in which we work in can have great benefits. I had such an opportunity in the fall of 2014 when viewing a large military training area that was burned by the Chilcotin forest fire in 2010, and was now in need of reforesting. By 2014, the news of the complex interplay between big industry, government and the Tsilhqot'in First Nation's people had taken front seat in national media. The Tsilhqot'in people staunchly opposed Taseko Mine's project "New Prosperity Mine," which proposed to mine a massive deposit of gold and copper in the Taseko region, and included plans to turn Teztan Biny (or Fish

Lake) on the Chilcotin Plateau into a tailings pond and create an artificial lake called "Prosperity Lake." On one side was a mining company looking to extract copper and gold that is a necessity in our modern culture, and the other, a people with 15,000 years of history of living on that land. The Taseko Mine's proposal was turned down by the B.C. Government in 2013.

The Teztan Biny area is a couple of hours' drive south into the bush off Highway 20 on the Chilcotin Plateau. Teztan Biny contains a small island that has the remains of an old earth house dating back 7000 years. For thousands of years, the Elders of the Tsilhqot'in People would travel from their villages along the Chilcotin River from about 100kms up the Taseko River and then paddle across the Teztan Biny to the island to perform their visioning ceremonies in the earth house. The Tsilhqot'in people describe this lake and the surrounding Taseko Mountains as their "church" -- a way of framing the sacred nature of this area to their culture.

The Tsilhqot'in dispute over who had the right to determine the use of their land, the First Nations people or the government, had worked its way over the previous ten years through both local and Provincial Courts and in 2014 finally made it to the Supreme Court of Canada. In June 2014, the Tsilhqot'in First Nation won a landmark decision in the Supreme Court of Canada that will not only



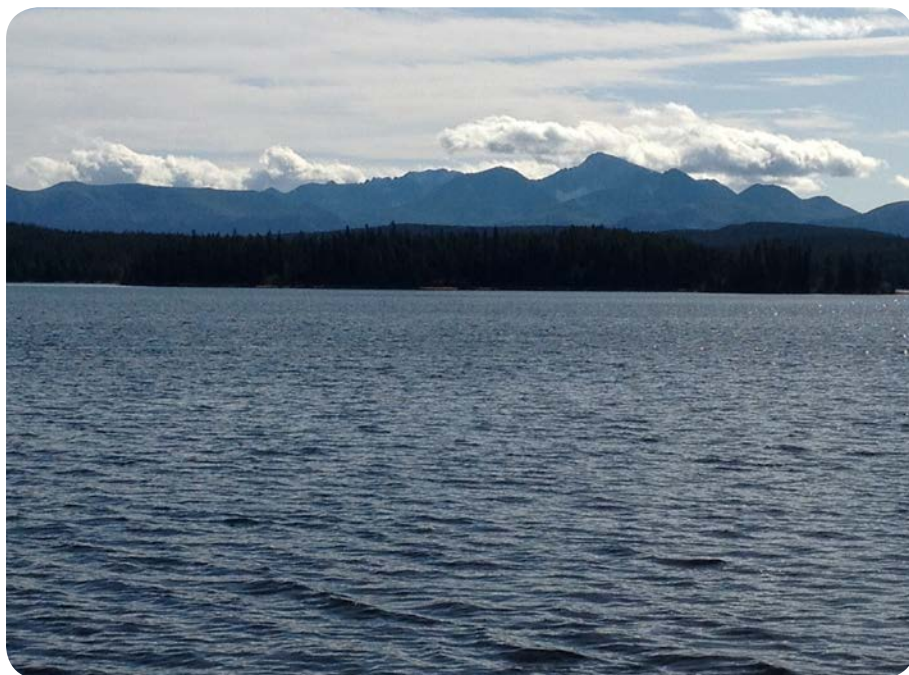


reframe how land use and sovereignty will play out at Teztan Biny, but throughout BC and perhaps across the country. They won title and thus sovereignty to approximately 50% of their territorial land claim from the Government of BC.

One of the Tsilhqot'in's responses to the court decision was to dedicate the Teztan Biny area as the Dasiqox Tribal Park which would put the New Prosperity Mine Project on hold indefinitely, if 100% of their land claim was recognized by the Government. In the 2014 fall, I had the privilege of taking a day off after the planting viewings at the military training area to attend the celebration of the opening of the Dasiqox Tribal Park at Teztan Biny and partake in the totem raising ceremony. There was a meal for 200 people in the morning, followed by traditional dancing and smudging. The ceremony culminated in the afternoon with the raising of a totem pole gifted to the Tsilhqot'in people by the Nuu-chah-nulth from the west coast of Vancouver Island. The Tsilhqot'in Band were gracious hosts who provided the meal and welcomed anyone who was interested in partaking in their historic day. For me, it was a very impactful experience. I will be heading back there with my family to camp and further explore the Nemiah Valley this summer.

So, as you tread lightly through the landscape, if you take some time to scratch the surface in the communities we are visiting, you may be in for deep learning and a wonderful time.

Have a great 2015 season and see you out there. 🌲



*Fish Lake*





## Discovery with The Gitxsan: Tree-planting at Summer Camp

By Marley Meinzinger

The very first Gitxsan Career Discovery Forestry Camp took place outside of picturesque Hazelton, BC at the end of July, 2014. A group of 20 Gitxsan youth from the community high school challenged themselves to a weeklong experience of living in a bush camp and being immersed in the world of tree planting and other forestry careers. The camp turned out to be an amazing experience for everyone involved! The camp was an initiative of the Gitxsan Development Corporation (GDC) and was developed and executed by Rick Conners, Karla Rockwell and others from GDC along with the camps sponsors, of which Brinkman Forest Ltd. was one. Camp Counselors Linda and Grayson Smith, along with Brinkman's own Camp Manager Ben Bradford, Cook Extraordinaire Cat de Cent and Marley Meinzinger as camp manager's assistant and sous chef, had a fulfilling week of teaching, learning, working, and having fun with this very special group of young adults.

Activity highlights throughout the week included a very exciting helicopter ride to

a cut block, learning a multitude of tree-planting skills, fire safety, reading forestry maps, GPS skills, first aid basics, camp set up and maintenance, truck and bus maintenance, and communication with radios and sat phones. Demonstrations and discussions lead by community elders provided insight into traditional forest practices and cultural awareness. "Free time" was often spent developing such skills as slack lining, hiking, planting more trees just for the fun of it, and playing countless games of manhunt. Each evening after we were stuffed from Cat's fine cooking, Linda and Grayson lead a group discussion around the campfire to debrief the day and share stories and experiences. Through the course of the camp, a great deal of self-discovery unfolded along with discovering skills in many aspects of forestry. The camp staff departed Hazelton feeling touched by such an exceptional and unique group of kids. The camper surveys filled out by participants at the end pulled the experience together nicely, with many enthusiastic responses. What was the biggest challenge of the week? "Too many mosquitoes and being too full."

And what did you learn? "More respect, and tree-planting wisdom." A big thank you to all who made this great experience possible and I hope to see you all again next year.

### Post Script:

The success of the 2014 Gitxsan Career Discovery Camp showcased the value and impact of the initiative and garnered much support for its continuation. GDC is currently planning summer 2015 camps. You can find out more, [here](#).





## Plus! Apple Walnut Sour Cream Coffee Cake Muffin Recipe

By Cat de Cent

I am not going to lie, my biggest challenge as a cook is muffins. For real. I think that they can sense that I don't really like them. Anyways, these ones are great, and if you can survive the angst of cleaning muffin tins, it is well worth the effort and so I give to you the recipe for Apple Walnut Sour Cream Coffee Cake Muffins. It yields 2 loaves to one or 12 muffins to the other.

### Topping:

- 1 Cup Brown Sugar
- 1 Cup Chopped Walnuts
- 2 Teaspoons cinnamon

Combine above ingredients and set aside.  
Pre heat the oven to 350.

### Batter:

- 2 Cups Margarine 2 Cups White Sugar
- 4 Teaspoons Vanilla 4 Teaspoons Baking Soda
- 8 Cups Flour 4 Eggs
- 4 Cups Sour Cream or Plain Yogurt
- 4 Teaspoons Baking Powder 1 Teaspoon Salt
- 6 Apples, peeled and cored

Combine all the batter into a large bowl and mix thoroughly, adding the apples at the end. Pour the batter into 2 greased loaf pans or 12 muffin tins. Sprinkle with topping and bake until golden brown, about 25-40 minutes depending on whether they are loaves or muffins. 🍏



## Forestry in the Family: Planting Trees for Community Health and Prosperity

By Christian Walli

On my father's side of the family, the Walli family can be traced in Switzerland back to 1584, when Peter Walli was recorded as having paid taxes to his landlord. The family's foray into forestry began in 1840, when another Peter Walli became his town's first forester. On my mother's side, the Gujan family dates to 1625, when Johannes

Michael Gujan came from the Engadin valley and was hired to be his town's reverend, when the family began to work the farm and forest lands, while being very active local and national politicians, administrators and professionals.

*My first memory of forest fire management*

*was at the age of seven, a few days before the Swiss national day celebrations when the Swiss commemorate the past expulsion of foreign powers by lighting bonfires. Days before the event, students built a large bonfire close to the forest's edge. It was too close for me. I ran down the valley to tell my uncle, the town's forester. My mother, who helped the students build the bonfire, was not impressed with my tattling and sent me to bed without dinner.*

My mother, aunts and uncles mainly looked after the farm in the Swiss Alps. At a very early age, we all worked on the farm, in the forest and tended cattle. My father worked in the forest as a contractor, and was one of the first to own and operate a skyline forestry operation, employing mostly seasonal workers from Italy and Austria.

*When I was twelve, a few workers asked my father if my brother and I could drive them to Innsbruck. We placed some hay bales on the flat deck trailer, and off we went. Upon our arrival, we stopped in the red light district. I was asked to wait on the red velvet couch. The madam offered me an orange drink while the workers picked their ladies and disappeared behind the heavy, colourful curtains. Later that afternoon when about half way home, the workers signalled us to stop. They wanted to go back. We came home very late that night.*



I always wanted to become a forester like my uncle but the family couldn't finance higher education for four children, and a local career counselor determined that I was best suited to be a watchmaker or cook. At sixteen I accepted a job installing water heating systems, which required considerable local travel to work in ancient monasteries and fancy hotels and villas in places like St. Moritz and Davos.

*We worked long days restoring the lobby of a very luxurious hotel in St. Moritz. A Middle-Eastern prince challenged his party of debutantes and local ski teachers to trash the lobby within a given time. All I know is that they met the first part of the challenge.*

One day on the train to work, I found a leaflet describing the vast and beautiful Canadian forests. This was a pivotal moment for me to decide to free myself from the career path chosen for me by family and society.

At age nineteen in July 1963 I boarded my first jet passenger plane and left Switzerland for Canada, one day before I was to enter compulsory army training. In the Montreal airport I encountered my first Inuit people huddled together wearing traditional attire. After a few hours layover in Montreal, I boarded a four prop Viscount Aircraft to take to the evening sky with roaring engines. I still remember the moonlight reflecting off the many Ontario lakes and lights from the little Prairie towns. In Calgary I encountered my first cowboys on horseback and aboriginal people on the town's outskirts.

*I arrived in Castlegar with only Swiss francs but the generosity of Canadians became immediately apparent. The shuttle to Nelson and bus to Nakusp was allowed on credit. Driving through the Slocan Valley I was unaware of the Doukhobor and Sons of Freedom struggles and almost everything else except for the country's vastness and beauty. In the small mill town of Slocan, the coffee shop owner offered me a free piece of apple pie with a good sized piece of cheddar cheese and a coffee*

The Swiss were automatically considered to be good skiers, and the Nakusp ski hill was just taking shape. I was asked to teach skiing

and it was there I met many local foresters. Soon I was timber cruising, firefiging, and planting and surveying. My boss encouraged me to go back to school, and with the help and support of my wife Ellen, I continued working while obtaining a Bachelors of Forestry from UBC.

*At the Leland Hotel in Nakusp, the chambermaid told me that her mother emigrated from my hometown in Switzerland; she was the sister of a lady who, just before my departure, asked me to give best regards to her sister in Canada. The chance of this happening was 1 in 18,931,000.*

I worked at Canfor, assisting the Chief Forester and looking after their tree improvement program. Later on I developed a nursery, seed orchard and finally a mycorrhizae research division. The corporate environment offered me freedom to participate in new industry endeavours such as the provincial seed and tree improvement committees, and travelling internationally on forestry tours. I was asked to set up Lodgepole pine provenance tests in BC for a major Swedish forest company that had replaced the majority of their Scott pines with BC and Alberta Lodgepole pine. The company ownership and management styles changed, so I moved on from the corporate forestry scene and joined Brinkman and Associates Reforestation Ltd..

At Brinkman I assisted in purchasing and building two Ontario forest nursery divisions. Growing 100 million trees between 1989 and 1999 took enormous effort. This initiative did not survive the Ontario government cutting their annual planting program in half. When PRT, the BC government employee-owned nursery raised investment funds on the public market, Brinkman sold them the nursery assets. Perhaps the seasonal, turbulent Brinkman culture was an odd pairing with round the clock nursery culture. I strongly believe that failures help us learn and grow stronger. Brinkman is now diversified and sufficiently structured, yet we maintain a good measure of dreaming space and a strong determination to make ours a better world.

*My first day of work I arrived at the Burnaby office— small house surrounded by trailers. Klaas, in his shorts, offered me breakfast*

*consisting of cheddar cheese, bagels and other treats. Shortly thereafter Dirk Brinkman arrived on his bike with his sizeable Macintosh computer in a milk crate, and to top it off Bill brought fresh doughnuts.*

The newly formed not-for-profit Tree Canada Foundation was involved in restoring the Inco smelter moonscape and Brinkman was offered the contract of planting 600,000 trees. This was the beginning of the Tree Canada-Brinkman relationship. In the past 22 years we have participated in some 400 community projects planting urban trees, about 50 school yard greening projects, and planting many First Nations' forest lands. We are proud of engaging innumerable volunteers, particularly children who learn from these projects the worthwhile act of planting a tree.

*When a new highway interchange was built, the community's urban forester decided to plant trees within the clover. The kids were busy planting trees and were most excited when suddenly a frontend loader appeared from its hiding place with a big spruce tree in its bucket. After the event, the forester spoke to them about why planting trees was a good thing. During the Q&A period he asked what they would like to do when they grew up. A little boy answered, "I am going to drive a tractor just like this one".*

Looking to the future, Brinkman and Tree Canada will continue to diversify through environmental advocacy to foster health



and happiness, such as promoting urban car free zones where people can socialize in an environment preferably located near water, and trails leading to rural areas.

Because of our vast experience and diverse client base and the relationships and experience that flow from it, Brinkman is ideally equipped to design and build urban forestry projects which support landscapes designed to help the population

live healthier and happier lives.

I feel lucky for these experiences that I hope make a positive difference, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of a team that strives to achieve the same. If we achieve our objectives locally we can expand our accumulated knowledge for positive change globally. This journey has taught me that those who plant trees are actually planting health, happiness and prosperity!



## Tour of the Eastern Head Quarters: Tree-Planting is Hard Work—a Gross Understatement

By Judi Tetro

Ottawa, Ontario. Home of Steve Harper, the Governor General, and the Government of Canada, but most importantly, the home of the Eastern Operations Headquarters of Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd.. This impressive centre houses many members of the crack team (not to be confused with Rob Ford's team – that's in Toronto! – but rather the sharp witted team of Brinkman logisticians) that run our operations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. The depth of the team is remarkable; on any given day you might call and be speaking with our Controller (Koan), our Computer Expert (Taiga), our Outings Coordinator (Juno), and our PR Specialist (Johnnie Walker), but perhaps you would speak most frequently with the Helper Monkey (Judi). The breadth of

qualifications and capabilities is staggering, as are the facilities and grounds.

Here, the real work of tree-planting is carried out. Sure, some may find the work in the field exhausting and back-breaking (bending over 2-5,000 times a day, carrying 20-60 lbs of trees in your bags, clambering over slash and through mud, coordinating the ever-changing events of the day, muscling quads through muskeg and over slash and shufflin' over a tonne of boxes daily), but here, here is where I look at my computer and do the really hard work.

But seriously, it is my privilege to coordinate the logistics that go into all the hard work that is carried out in the field. The work that goes into each tree being planted is impressive to say the least. Every year Brinkman has between 700 to 1,000 people who plant 40 to 50 million trees, each one by hand – one at a time. Those planters walk, on average, 16km per day over challenging terrain carrying more than 20 lbs of trees in their bags. They throw their shovel into the ground at least 2,000 times a day (meaning their arm is lifting around 5,000 shovel pounds daily) and burn as many calories as running a marathon. When hiring people for planting, I always say to new planters: "if you think you can run 50 marathons in 3 months, rain or shine, while sleeping in a tent... you're hired!." Planters do this arduous work and complete the task to 95% quality. An outstanding and extraordinary triumph each day, and most planters do it for between 40 and 100 days per year!

Our crew bosses are all tree-planters too. They have been through the 50 marathon summers and keep coming back for more. Only now they do all that work while coaching and managing their team. Many crew bosses plant and check trees all day

long, drive both ways to the block, do their nightly paperwork and load the trucks and help out around camp. Their efforts are astonishing. In 1987 SFU prof Thomas Smith' first Kinesiology study of planting found planters utilize between 45% and 95% (avg. 75%) of their cardiovascular capacity. This helped focus our culture of managing athletes.

Tree runners are no less impressive: in a camp that plants 100,000 trees daily (which is around 280, 20-lb boxes), the tree runner will often move each box 3 times: first to load the box into the truck, second to take it out of the truck and put it on the quad, and third to take it off the quad and put it on the ground, and this assumes they never have to shuffle boxes to other caches! Three lifts X 280 boxes X 20 lbs = lifting of 16,800 lbs daily. Not many other jobs require that kind of exertion, and that is just part of the job. And it is our project managers who keep this whole machine running. These people often work toward a smooth plant all year round: they communicate with their teams, communicate with their regional managers and clients, and think about how to improve on last year and how to play out the next year. They work on logistical plans for months (even if it's just while they sleep). They work on equipment needs and modifications, they take courses and certifications to upgrade their skills, and that's only a fraction of their off-season commitments. During the season, they never stop thinking, planning, improving, and working to make everyone's days as productive, lucrative, and smooth as possible. They commit themselves fully and selflessly to their teams and their contracts. Tree-planting is hard work – a gross understatement. Thanks to all of you who do the real work to achieve these unfathomable results. 🌱



# The First Planting Contract: Up The Wildhorse in 1970

By Dirk Brinkman

August 1970, fighting fire as a faller north of Golden, I strapped the slashing contractor whose crew started the fire onto the helicopter skid after a fallen tree cracked his cervical vertebrae-- wiring his hardhat to the stretcher basket as a windfaring to protect him on the long flight to Nelson over the Purcell Mountains. Nearly bankrupt for having to fight the fire with his whole crew on his payroll, he was worrying about the bill for all of the timber burnt when he had his accident. Later that week I took a fall climbing. At that moment I truly met Ted Davis, whose climbing caution I had initially misread as timidity, and suddenly realized was expertise.

When Red Wassick, the Kootenay Forest Service Region's Fire legend, called us out to a stump speech, delivered in his usual brusque style--shifting a toothpick from one side of his mouth to the other between bellowed phrases: "This fire's going out!" "You'll get your cheques tonight!" "We'll be checking your trucks for our Forest Service gear on your way out!" and "Cranbrook District Office is letting some planting contracts!"

Ted the draft dodger who had planted in Oregon and Dirk the BC slashing contractor both needed more work-- a good combination, planter and contractor, cautious adventurer and risk taker. Sixteen year old Dan Oppewal, son of one of my College professors, made a crew of three. We bid lowest on the remotest contract and were required to sign an affidavit we would hire 12 planters from the District office lists if we did not average over 1000 trees per day in the first week. We started Sept 08 and they wanted our 100,000 trees in the 6500' ground before the snow flew in early October. The district's record number of trees planted in one day was 600. To finish we needed to average 1333 trees per day over the next three weeks, we averaged over 1400--BC's first highball crew put 96,000 trees in the ground by Sept 30.

Every morning the checker would step out of his truck and exclaim with a big smile "Socked right in in the valley! Clear as a bell in the mountains!" Camped at the base



of the block on Wildhorse Creek under a plastic covered pole frame we were typically bagging up our second run as he arrived.

Nice guy or not, BC's first contractors and contract planting checkers had some conflict. The first morning, after issuing the bareroot spruce seedlings, Forest Service hoedads and canvas seedling buckets, he pointed to a lone tree at the back edge of the block and said 'plant that straight line and if you work alongside each other you get perfect spacing'. Then he loaded some bareroot seedlings in the canvas rope handled bucket, set his seedling bucket down carefully alongside the first planting spot and excavated a large opening. Setting his hoedad down he selected a seedling from the bag and inserted it in the hole using his hands and then the hoedad to backfill the hole, and tamp the seedling to make it vertical. Then picking up the bucket he marched 8' exactly to the next spot along his compass line, smiling as he explained each action.

While we listened respectfully, we did not imitate him. Sitting down and pulling out our knives, we unknotted the woven rope handles from the metal eyes in the canvas seedling buckets. Unsmiling he pulled

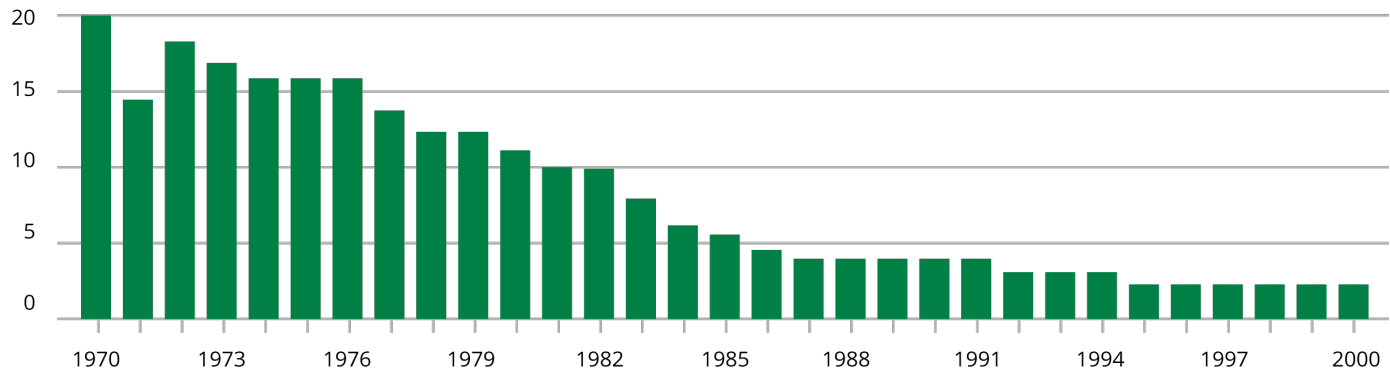


out his triplicate notebook with its yellow and pink carbon forms, and 'wrote us up' "Damaging government property". After getting my signature happily acknowledging what we had done, he explained as he handed us our pink copy that after three of these, there would be a fine.

Next we punched holes in the canvas just under the rope sown into the canvas bucket rim--another pink slip. We used haywire to 'sow' the buckets into fireman belts from Cranbrooks' Army Surplus. I wired one bucket to each side of my belt and Ted wired both bags to his left side so he did not have to stop to switch trees to the other bag. Then we set out, slamming the hoedad into the ground and tucking the seedling roots into the hole as we moved on, tamping the seedling as we rose to swing again.

A pink slip for poor planting technique, then a pink slip for not planting a straight line. After exclaiming we hated trees in rows and loved the random spacing of nature, we explained we were following the contour of the block edge and the next planter simply followed that wandering line, working around rocks and logs without interrupting planting.

## Average Post-Harvesting Regen Delay



In all these matters my previous slashing contract experience stood us in good stead. For each issue I simply asked the checker to show me where in the contract it prescribed what he was requiring. Most days he came back with his boss, or his boss's boss etc. One day, his manager and he were sure they 'had' us – the numbers of trees in his plots varied from six to eleven while the contract required 8 trees in each plot (680/acre).

Faced with the threat of being shut down for poor spacing, we set out sixteen rocks on the main landing in a pattern everyone agreed was perfect spacing. Then we challenged him to vary his plot centres and give us some plots. A plot centre right by a tree got 12 and a plot centre in the tree squares middle got 6. In minutes, he recorded all the numbers he was getting on the block. When we asked "How do you taking into account slash, rock and residuals?" he drove down to call the Kootenay District forest mensurationist.

By this point his and my records were into his second triplicate notebook. We kept the smiling checker distraction to a minimum, responding politely but firmly, keeping our focus on getting the trees in the ground before the snow flies. We required he find us on the block where we were planting, as we did not have time to stop, and it was better to comment on what was happening and as we were learning silviculture on the job.

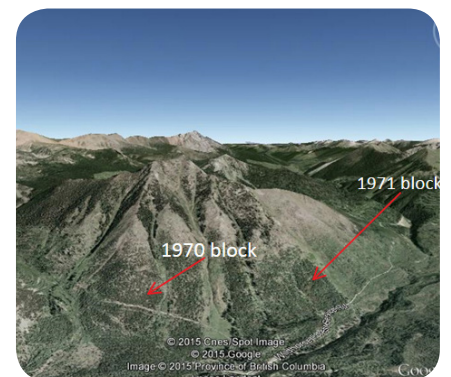
Our contract proceeds distribution plan was part of what drove us. We agreed to each earn the number of trees we each planted, less costs. So we competed with ourselves and each other, crew planting and recording each day's totals and box count reconciliations together. Costs were

kept down by canned food bought from Safeway and cases of discarded vegetables scavenged from behind Safeway. Costs of .3 cents from the 5.3 cent bid left 5 cents a tree. One day, about two weeks into the project, the Cranbrook District office took more severe measures, Ted, Dan and I were planting up the hill at the far back of the block when we saw smoke billowing from the small grove of trees alongside the creek. Had we left our airtight stove going? Whatever! Our camp was on fire

I will never forget coming around the bend full-out, all my ribs absolutely aching from the run, to see Red Wassick shifting a tooth pick back and forth across the big grin on his face, as he stood beside the burning pile of our empty boxes. Having experienced firsthand the contractors' consequence of an escaped fire, we had not dared burn that huge pile nor expected anyone else would. With Red were Dave Wallinger and Pete Robson, heads of the BC's provincial reforestation program who had flown to Cranbrook from Victoria and driven up with our smiling checker. Instead, as we had always done to our checker, of getting him to find us, Red had gotten us to come to him. Dave Wallinger still has kind words for how positively he and Pete viewed how we did what we were doing. It was everything they had hoped for from their contract tree planting idea. We averaged 1400 trees per day (3X average provincial production at the time) on a difficult project. This increased efficiency over the local hourly wage crews meant they could expand the program.

Red Wassick's red carpet treatment after so many pink slips was anti-climactic. Instead of a reprimand, we were slapped on the back

for standing our ground and going ahead with a great job. That contract's unique aha moment recognized vboth steep learning curves -- our well intentioned checkers' and ours.



In transforming the art of reforestation into a remote wilderness adventure of experimenting with alternative work games and life styles, we also solved a difficult 'public good' problem-- how to reforest harvested areas more economically.

At that time, the objective of reforestation was to reduce the "regen delay" – that is, to reduce the time gap between harvesting and natural regeneration. In 1970, the province estimated the average regen delay was 21 years. But these Wildhorse Creek planted blocks still stand out against the treeless areas around our block today. When you Google this project we can see that in the high altitudes of the Rockies, the 'regen delay can be 45-years.

Taken as a provincial average, the graph



below show BC's regen delay gradually declining from that first contract year 1970, to the year 2000 when the regen delay began to level off from the prompt planting of harvested areas with natural regen problems.

Today's best planting practices evolved rapidly through the low-bid contracts of the seventies. Inefficient contractors were eliminated by the low bid system, and the fittest, fastest, best quality and most organized planting operations survived. The Canadian sub-culture of tree planting borrowed from parallel extreme sports for equipment and the pursuit of 'flow', evolving into what may be the world's most extreme work/sport. In 1975, Ted stepped back to

make way for Joyce Murray, who co-lead the business evolution in that highly competitive climate which drove continuous quality improvement, innovation and evolved new organizational systems and techniques.

In 1987, the Cranbrook District office gave us their Wildhorse Award and here we are in 2015 still planting harvest areas around Cranbrook including for BCTS out of the District Office.

Not much has changed. Though planter production has doubled, planter earnings just kept up with inflation. Though safety and camp life is more comfortable --new camps, outdoor clothing, camping gear, footwear, new planting tools--the authentic

adventure of the planting experience has not been lost. Planting is still a wilderness adventure in alternative work games and life style experimentation. Both those in the field and those overseeing experience the treeplanting challenge as a challenge of self-development and self-transformation. Our struggle with our personal limitations and the limits of cooperation is the struggle of our civilizations' forest stewards. Intelligent stewards can lose themselves in the flow of tree planting, for therein lies the renewal of life for us all. 🌲

## Moving Forward

Thank you to everyone who submitted content for the annual Brinkman Group newsletter. This publication wouldn't exist without your great work and thoughtful generosity. More experiences, stories and news-releases will follow, so check again to access fresh content at [www.brinkman.ca/news](http://www.brinkman.ca/news). To contribute and keep us current submit your newest stories, work, photos, links, and insights to [newsletter@brinkman.ca](mailto:newsletter@brinkman.ca) throughout the year.

One final thought: if you've received this newsletter, it means that in a fundamental way you're part of the solution — someone taking responsibility for balancing nature. Don't forget, as member of the Brinkman Group you're part of a special community of people, doing amazing things on a truly world-changing scale. To our partners and team members, thank you for your integrity and commitment all these years. We look forward to many more seasons working side by side.

See you in the woods! 🌲



*Erik Brinkman,  
Communications & Special Projects Coordinator*



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