



# Brinkman & Associates'

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# NEWSLETER

Volume 1, Number 1,

June, 1989

## Welcome

Hi! Welcome to the first issue of the Brinkman & Associates' Newsletter. It is our hope to put out three editions a year. Objective?

To provide a **heart-lightening** communication between employees of the Brinkman & Associates' group of companies, focussing on people and issues relevant to company operations. We want to provide a forum for you to share your work experiences with others - both good and bad; to let you know what's happening with the company; and to bring you up-to-date on issues from outside that are affecting all of us.

To use two old cliches, we're interested in "input" and "feedback". Let's start with the name - anybody got a better idea? How about submitting material for publication? We're interested in people and events. Here's a chance to share camp experiences with friends you may not have seen for a while.

This is an information forum - not a problem solving one (if you want to solve problems, please do not hesitate to write and we'll respond through other channels, such as mail or phone).

So read on . . .

## 1989 Operations

With operations having commenced in Saskatchewan and Quebec this year, the tree planting operations span all provinces from British Columbia to Quebec. This creates both long seasons for the career planter and new challenges for our maturing teams. It also provides many of the people in our operation from Saskatchewan and Quebec with work in their home provinces.

In 1987, Dirk participated, with a select group of representatives of the forests, in setting a national forest policy strategy for Canada. One of the goals set was to work towards year-round employment opportunities for silviculture workers.

Since 1987, we have undertaken a variety of "integration" projects, once called diversification, such as surveying, motor manual scari-fying, girdling and spacing. A machine planting project is expected to pit stop in four provinces over the months of July and August. Look for features on these activities in future issues of the newsletter, as these are the projects that will gradually trap you into the goal of full-time silviculture work



### *Brinkman Office Staff*

**Front row (left to right):** Kitty Ypma, Harry Matheson, balloon: Gordie Murray, Larry Atherton, Rhonda Gray, balloon: Roland Emery, Carol Mann, Kathleen Gabelmann, balloon: Christian Walli, Bill Grainger.

**Rear row (left to right):** Peter Low, Margaret Fram, Rhonda McMorrان, Joyce Murray, Dirk Brinkman, Jim Starr, Andre Rioux, Susan Bindley, Lee Maxwell

There are now sixteen permanent full-time and 3 permanent part-time staff members at the New Westminster head office.

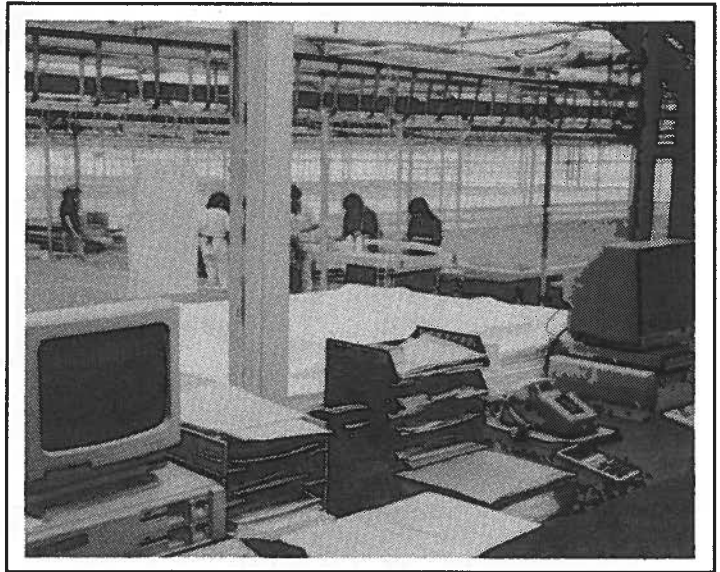
In March we moved into the new office complex at 520 Sharpe Street.

# Bridging the Gap - Forest Renewal Centers

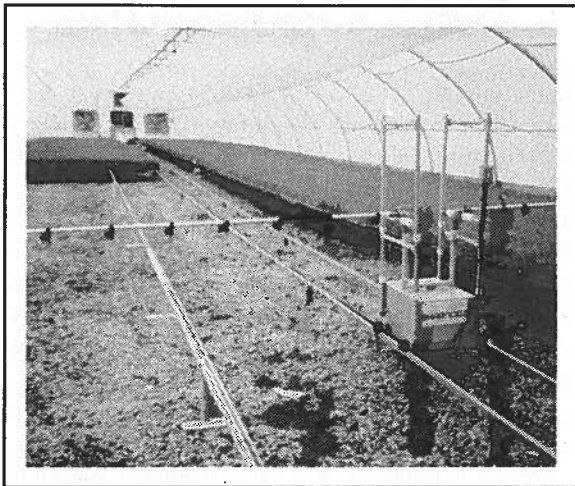
In 1988 it was clear that, within the range of silvicultural services in which we had developed expertise, nurseries were a keystone for bridging a complete, integrated, results oriented silviculture service.

Christian Walli, RPF, former Manager for the Balco Reforestation Center, joined us in May 1988 as Manager for Brinkman & Associates Forest Renewal Centers Inc., and has acquired and brought into operation two Forest Renewal Centers to date; Brinkman & Associates Forest Renewal Center in North Bay, managed by Peggy Allen and Gary Bonde (Floriculturist); and Birchill Forest Renewal Center in Cochrane, managed by Jane and Norm Fox. Christian has been directing these Forest Renewal Centers, once known as nurseries, since February 1989. In 1989, we will grow 5,000,000 seedlings.

In concert with our goal to supply our clients with an integrated, results oriented silvicultural service, these centers are beginning to



*The Brinkman & Associates' Forest Renewal Center's office view of the hand-seeding crew seeding the spring '89 white pine crop in the first zone of the 14 attached greenhouses in North Bay, Ontario. The environments of these houses are continuously monitored by computers.*

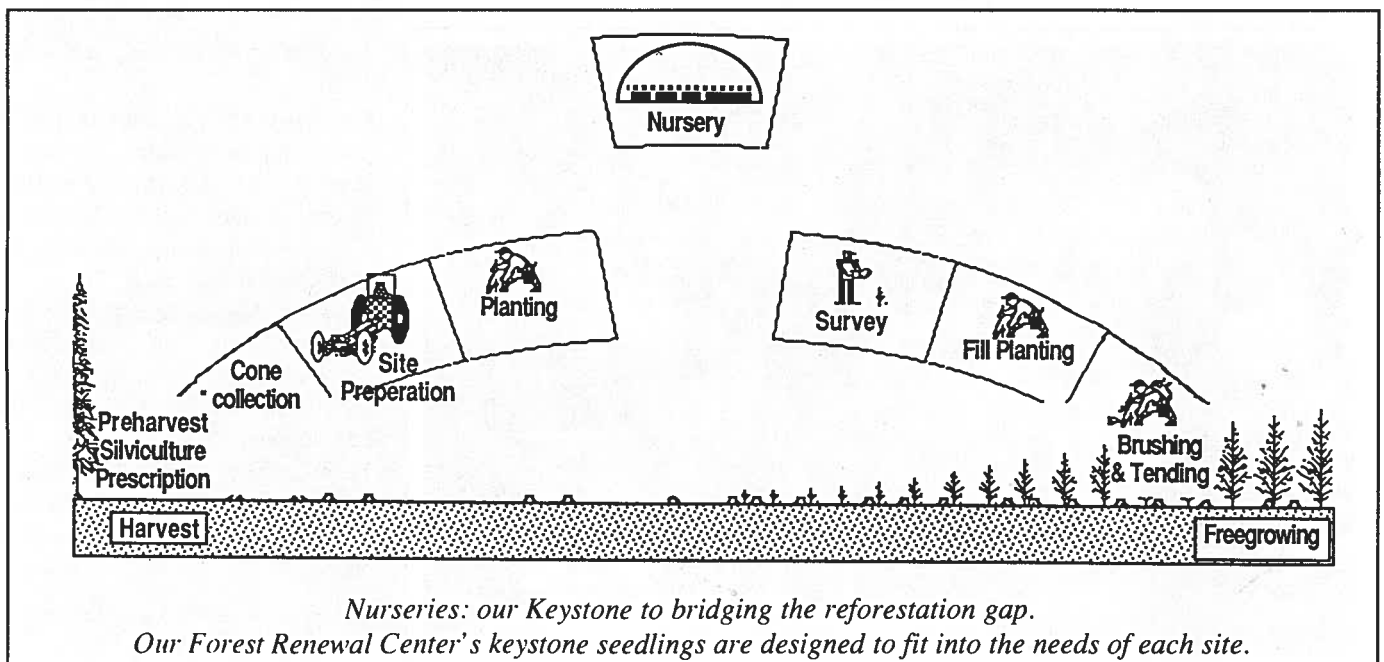


*One of the Birchill Forest Renewal Center greenhouses in Cochrane, Ontario, with automatic watering cart ready to go to work cooling and irrigating. The Birchill Forest Renewal Center includes 13 greenhouses and outdoor growing beds.*

integrate with our field operations in their local areas. As well as targeting beyond MNR nursery contract specifications to optimize seedling performance in the field, we are beginning to grow directly for our local industry clients.

The North Bay location will also house the Eastern Reforestation Operations Office and equipment storage.

*On May 6, Derek Lawr, Claas Dummeier, Mark Bumpus and Jonathan Williams, four of Jabez Kruithof's foremen, planted the first four Brinkman & Associates Forest Renewal Center seedlings on a Brinkman & Associates' planting site for Fryer Forest Products near Sudbury, Ontario. Returning to the spot six weeks later, they were pleased to find that these four "hand-planted" seedlings (they had no tools in their rush to capture the honor of being the first) had grown vigorously and were already well established.*



*Nurseries: our Keystone to bridging the reforestation gap.*

*Our Forest Renewal Center's keystone seedlings are designed to fit into the needs of each site.*

# Power-Girdling the Competition

We not only plant trees, we have a crew killing them too. This may seem to be a strange skunk-works to have within a reforestation company. However, the coniferous plantations that we establish face competition from aggressive deciduous trees. If we want to retain the original mix of deciduous and coniferous trees, and also quickly establish our plantations, we have to participate in the control of the competition. Traditionally, foresters have been controlling competition through topical or aerial application of herbicides. Girdling is an alternative to "hack and squirt" chemical control of deciduous competition for establishing coniferous plantations. In 1985, as part of our commitment to finding solutions to regeneration problems without the use of herbicides, we decided to develop a better hand-girdling tool for alder control. Jan Van den Dries found a scorp which he successfully adapted for hand-girdling. However, this tool still left the girdlers with sore wrists, had difficulty girdling large trees, and did not make us cost-competitive with "hack and squirt". In October 1987, Graham Albertson, who worked with Jan on these projects, began to work on a power-girdler.

A year and a half later, we have proven that the power-girdler is cost-competitive with herbicides. Graham has applied for a patent. Brinkman & Associates has an exclusive on the tool. There are fifteen tools modelled after the prototype, which has worked over fifty days without any serious breakdowns.

The girdling crew is starting to find more work for itself. We are also pre-harvest girdling aspen. This will prevent the post-logging block from regenerating completely to aspen, thereby avoiding major scarification and herbicide expenses to maintain the pre-harvest deciduous/coniferous mix of forests.

It was interesting to find that there is nothing new under the



*A light backpack motor drives the head through a cable drive. The power-girdling head and drive velcro-straps to the girdler arm, the control handle grip fits comfortably in the hand.*

sun. In 1950, someone tried to develop a similar machine for the same purpose, also called the L'il Beaver. Technology, motor power/weight ratios, etc., were not ready for the tool. The 1950's L'il Beaver was too heavy and awkward. Graham's tool is a charm - easy to work with, and it produces a 1" to 1.25" complete and effective girdle every time. Depth control prevents over-cutting and premature blow-down. The L'il Beaver can girdle a tree of any size or bark thickness. It can treat mixed stands, thinning and girdling as needed. After a treatment, the forest is not a tangle of slash, reducing the fire hazard. The trees take one to two years to die. Leafing-out only occurs to about 10% of the canopy-shading that was there in the previous year, so the seedlings are not immediately exposed to sun-shock. The girdled trees come down gradually over several years, from the branch tips back, with minimal damage to the plantation.

We are proud to have introduced this successful alternative to herbicides. There is going to be a lot of work for all of us, as foresters discover this treatment alternative, and the public continues its crusade against herbicides. This is off-season work and can extend your season.

Having power-girdled the competition with this technological advantage also allows us to pay girdlers good rates. Look out for more power-girdling in our future.



*Clean, bold girdles make it easy for operators and checkers to see that the job is done properly.*

# OUR FIRST SASKATCHEWAN ADVENTURE



**J**ohn Huizinga and Ted Lederer arrived at Keeley Lake Lodge, beside the ice covered Keeley Lake, on the evening of April 27. The lodge is owned and run by Robert, a wiry guy who takes our prize for “MACHO MAN” of the year, and his petite wife Chris. Over the next few weeks, a lot of macaroni and hot dogs were consumed, and Ted valiantly stuck to his vegetarian convictions and lost 2 notches on his belt.

John and Ted were in Saskatchewan to administer a joint venture planting project between Brinkman and the Keyano Development Corporation of Jans Bay and Canoe Lake, two small northern native communities. The long-term objective of the joint venture is to work with and train people from these communities, so that over a three to five year period they will be able to run and administer their own silviculture contracts.

This project follows a couple of years of a local training program which failed in terms of quality and completion of work.

The initial meeting with more than 20 people from Keyano made it evident our customary training approach was going to have to be modified. At the end of a twenty minute pres-

entation, a request for questions was met with a roomful of blank faces. Not a flicker of response.

It took the supervisors a few days to discover that the crew worked naturally together as a group. From day one, they communicated with each other about the planting line, helped each other with adjusting straps or loading on an awkward back tray. There were a lot of meetings where group decisions were made. It became clear that a group approach to the planting block was going to be more successful than individual areas.

Three weeks and 400,000 trees later, the project completed to 100% payment and two days ahead of deadline, John and Ted knew a little of the Cree language, a lot about communication with a native culture, and the Keyano group had a positive success under their belt. A congratulatory party and BarBQ was thrown by the community at the end of the project, complete with tree shaped cakes and CBC coverage. Ted headed east into Ontario with 15 newly experienced planters to join Miguel's crew in Chapleau. Most of the Saskatchewan group planted for a few weeks in Ontario. A couple of adventurous individuals have since migrated to Alberta for the summer planting project in White Court.

## Machine Plant Trial

Brinkman & Associates is engaged in a five year contract to "vet" products and equipment designed by International Forestech Supplies Ltd. into the Canadian Silviculture Industry

IFS has spent considerable funds towards research and development to produce a number of products, of which the planting machine is the most complex. The planting machine will plant any container type, and will be tested by our crews in several provinces during July, August and September.



How do we see a planting machine fitting our future operations? In 1992, instead of being booked to do 2,000,000 trees, the crew would book 3,500,000 for the season. The new crew member may be gorbysing the good ground. Trained and experienced planters will be in higher demand. Those with the craft of "micro-sight", micro-site selection, spot planting, fill planting, fringe planting, and adapting to complex site types will be well rewarded. Ultimately, the economics of a machine that scarifies and plants simultaneously will find a place given the silviculture industries concern with increasing reforestation costs. We are determined, as usual, to be first in integrating this option into our operation. For now, we have a long summer shake-down cruise ahead of us. We will keep you posted on machine-plant developments. John Huizinga is the project super"veter".

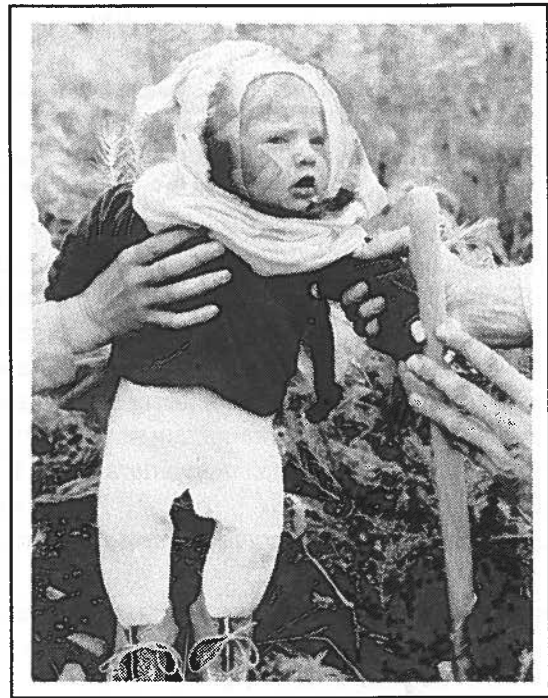
## Root Micro-Helpers

B.C. Research has initiated a research program to develop microbial inoculants for conifer seedlings grown in nurseries and on reforestation sites. Research will involve isolating and identifying beneficial micro-organisms that provide biological control of fungal pathogens and enhance the growth and development of seedlings. This research is targeted to alleviate current problems of growing seedlings in nurseries, as well as opportunities for enhancing growth and establishing seedlings on reforestation sites. Brinkman & Associates is cooperating both in the field phase of the research, and in advising the program.

### *Can You Help?*

The first phase in September 1989 is to establish a microbial culture collection from conifer seedling roots from plantations that are doing exceptionally well, as well as from exceptional natural seedlings growing in the understory of mature forest sites. For this, B.C. Research needs to have us identify potential sampling sites from a variety of ecosystems, including poor and good sites, different soil compositions, and ranges in elevation, soil moisture and temperature regimes. In B.C., they are looking for White Spruce, Lodgepole Pine and Douglas Fir sites, and in Ontario, for White Spruce, Black Spruce and Jack Pine sites.

If you know of any candidate sites, please pass your information on to Paige Axelrood, who is in charge of the project at B.C. Research, 3650 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, BC, V6S 2L2, (604) 224-4331.



## The Youngest Planter

*Jy Maya Lawrence, 10 weeks old, carrying her 10 week old seedlings in her custom-made tree-bug set, planting with her custom-made spade on the Domtar FMA in Ontario.  
(Bugs and spade compliments of the area.)  
"Now, out of the way."*

## The Oldest Planter

It appears that the oldest planter working this spring was 70 year old Dirk Brinkman, Sr. (no photograph available), plunking sedge blocks in an intertidal estuarial reclamation project - a fitting setting for the old dutchman.

## Millionaires' Club or Million Tree Club

This year we crossed the quarter billionth tree barrier. The idea of a Million Tree Club was first introduced by BCFP in the late seventies. We have talked about a Brinkman Million Tree Club for the past ten years. A number of stalwart individuals have single-handedly contributed over one million trees to the quarter billionth milestone.

Internally we have despaired at trying to identify these individuals through massive compilations of data on our fragile computers. Yet, we want to post a name plaque honor roll in head office and issue some kind of acknowledgment to the individuals.

As in the field, an honor system will be utilized. If you qualify, forward your numbers and the contract names that you have worked on (Brinkman and Loki contracts only), or come in and confirm the data from the archive records. Applications will be reviewed and endorsed by your supervisors or coordinators.

One of the things that such a club will create, is the determination for some of us old dogs (ie. Dirk), who escaped into the matrix of management 170,000 trees short of membership, to someday make the club.

Are there any **Double Millionaires?**

Is membership addicting?

# PLANTING THE PLANET

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Susan Van der Weele's "Planting the Planet" design has been emblazoned in three colors on 100% cotton T-shirts. This image is not far-fetched from the horizons of our current operation. In 1989, we are planting over 40,000,000 trees. That's 2.7 rows of trees around the world, with an average spacing of 8.275 feet. The approximate 260,000,000 we have planted equates to over 18 rows, or a band of more than 150 feet wide around the planet. Shirts are being distributed through the supervisors or are available from the office in minimum orders of 5 at \$10 each in L and XL. Less than 5 are \$12 each. Please order as a group and save us from becoming a mail-order house.

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## Is It Likely Or Ont????

Miguel Delva and crew are relocating their base of operation from Chapleau, Ontario in the east to Likely, British Columbia in the west.

It's an adventure for the mostly eastern university student crew. After a number of years of successfully moving teams west to east, this is our first east to west transplant of an intact crew.

Can these high-tech pottiputki planters use a tool with no moving parts? Can these relocated highballers handle checkers who excavate every tree? Will they miss bugs as big as bears? Will the "ups and downs" of tree planting take on new meaning for them?

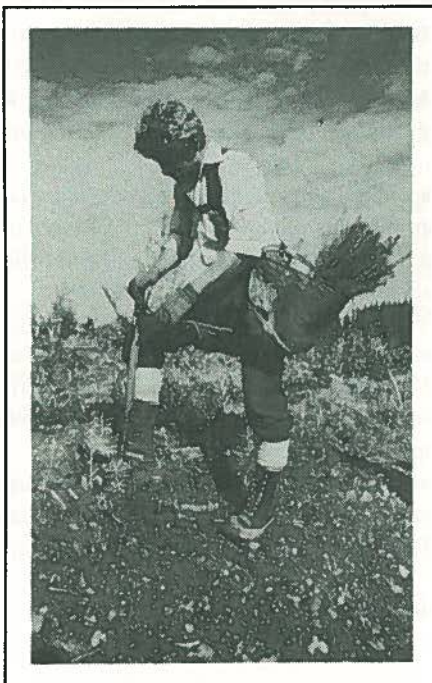
The answers to these and other earthshaking questions . . . to follow in future issues! Meantime, to all you folks on Miguel's crew - "Howdy Pardner, Welcome to the West."

## Personal Gear Left at Main Office

There's nothing like moving to make you realize just how much gear you have. One thing that was discovered in the recent head office move was how much gear we had that wasn't ours.

Over the years, field personnel have bequeathed us with a great variety of items for storage. Now nobody knows what belongs to whom. Some items have been with us for several years. The greenhouse storage conditions have resulted in deterioration of some items.

If we have anything that is yours, please pick it up by the end of September at the latest. After that, we will donate useable goods to charity and non-useable items to . . .



## 1989 Photo Contest!

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We wanted to have some pictures of planters in action over this past season in the newsletter. Lo and behold, when we looked, there weren't any. Consequently, this fine fellow you see here was doing his thing last year.

So, how about a photo contest? Send your best for review. Being unsophisticated as we are, there will be no rules - we'll just pick the best four or five, in our opinion, for inclusion in the next newsletter. Just one thing to note - it's likely we won't be able to return prints or slides, so make sure you retain your original. Photos can be any subject matter, but should in some way be related to a planting project.