



**Brinkman & Associates
Reforestation Ltd.**

1997 - WELCOME BACK

And welcome to Brinkman if this is your first season with us.

1997 is shaping up to be yet another interesting year. March had more snow than we can remember in a long time. Great news for the skiing industry, not great for you.

There are so many things going on, changes to communicate that we decided to go with something short and to the point - like a newsletter! Any feedback or input, photo's, stories, poems, drawings or gossip for the next one will be greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BRINKMAN

Coast

Planting got off to a slow start this year due to exceptional snow pack, keeping coastal planters, surveyors, pruners and spacers on hold for weeks beyond their hopes. As of this printing planting crews are finally working on the midcoast, Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

B.C. Interior spring planting

•Timo's crew will be in Revelstoke again •Jason in Valemont, •Rob's crew in Vavenby, •Fred near Fernie and Cranbrook, and •Cathy's crew will be working near Parson's. •Brendan will be in the Terrace area and •Darren in the Slocan Valley.

Pruning

A crew led by Jabez Kruithof worked on a long pruning contract in the Queen Charlottes in the fall. Another project just finished on Vancouver Island, supervised by Han Van Vugt.

Spacing

Spacing has been very slow these past few months. Ryszard Smereka supervised a group of spacers at Bishop Inlet until early October. A project will start on Vancouver Island as soon as the weather permits.

Surveying

The crews finished early this fall due to the Ministry of Forests spending freezes. Their spring start up on Vancouver Island has also been delayed by cold weather.



Mike Wagner

Reclamation

A few people are involved in some reclamation projects on the Island Highway this year. In March John Pigeon has been busy directing truckloads of earth while Jack Blair is waiting. Planting activity will commence April.

Alberta

This fall a small group undertook a **brushing** project out of Whitecourt in October. As for **planting** this spring, Lisa Holleman will take her crew back to Drayton Valley and Diego Dipieri's gang will be located out of Whitecourt from May through July.

Ontario

This fall, Judi Tetro and Chris Serratore were involved in some **site prep, brushing, burning** and **surveying** activities. For this spring starting in May the planting projects are shaping up to being a similar year as 1996. John and Chris's crews will be working primarily around Thunder Bay (separate camps) and Phil Greyson and Heather Wilkinson will be located in Hornepayne again this year. Judi may move a small group of people over to Alberta in June to join forces there with Diego.

Costa Rica

The 1994 and 1996 BIRD projects are proceeding exceptionally well with teak trees as tall as 36 feet. The newest project, BIRD '98,

is ready to plant. It's a much larger project than the first two pilot projects. Ricardo Lujan, a well known local reforestation forester, has joined us full time. Fred visited the farms this fall and Diego has been there since mid February. He will return in time to start his Alberta planting season.

Thailand

Dirk and Joyce have been developing a business agreement with a company in Thailand. It is a company we are enthusiastic about because of their environmental commitment, financial solidity and capability. We are applying for CIDA funding to study the viability of establishing a joint venture agreement. From our own group of people we are looking for a team of players with some background with S. E. Asian forestry and who are interested in this type of initiative.



Andrew Lazier

Intensive silviculture:

Primary funding for intensive programs such as spacing, pruning, brushing, and girdling is now FRBC. It was originally thought that the new FRBC programs would increase the amount of work available to you. However, the paperwork jungle that was created and the lack of clear direction in the program has meant that less work has been available in these areas for 2 years. While changes are in the works it may take time to implement before the work actually hits the ground. So, we have been very active lobbying to problem solve and facilitate these needed changes in government and FRBC while also restructuring the company to respond to the new opportunities.

Displaced workers, locals and natives:

are getting a larger share of the pie due to the new FRBC and government policies. There is an emphasis on long term jobs rather than project oriented jobs. We are very active in adapting to this and it may be that our traditional way of doing business is affected. We are looking for ways to keep you, our traditional workers, creatively working in this new environment.

Browse protection:

More and more browse protection is being done. Your suggestions for how to be more productive is very welcome. We are always looking for ways to improve our efficiency. If you have some ideas please share them with your supervisor or Chris Norman in the office and we'll try to implement them.

TRENDS IN SILVICULTURE IN BC

The B.C. industry is going through some significant changes, with the keyword being 'uncertainty': for licensees, MoF and you and us. Here is a rundown of some of the trends in B.C.'s silvicultural world.

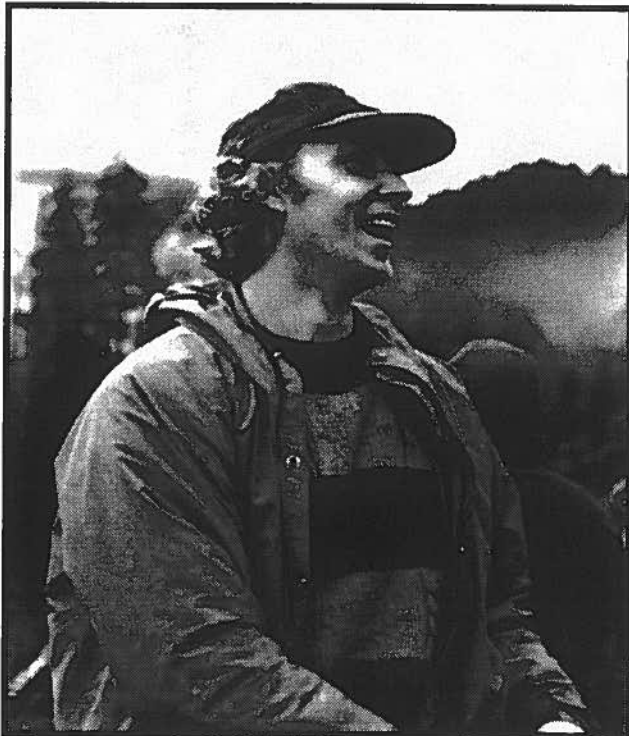
Reduction in logging volumes:

The new Forest Practices Code requires stricter standards. This increases logging costs and adds time consuming paper work. While this is good for the forests, combined with the low price of pulp, companies have reduced logging until the financial picture turns around. This will affect silviculture in the 1998 season as well as this year.

WORKERS TRANSITION PROGRAM (WTP)

This program can work for you!

If you have been employed in the forest industry for the last two years and have worked for 20 weeks in the last year you are eligible for WTP funding. Sponsored by Forest Renewal B.C., the program is designed to help people learn new skills both in and out of the forest industry by providing financing for retraining and job search. The main objective of the WTP is to assist and encourage people to pursue skills that will help to ensure career security and longevity in what has now become an ever changing market place. We encourage you to expand your silviculture and restoration skills so you can extend your season with us. Your supervisor has copies of additional information. You can still apply even though you have started work.



Rob Berg

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

There are new Employment Insurance (EI) guidelines in place as of January 1997. In the past dollars earned and weeks worked were the primary indicators. Now hours are significant as a qualifier in that the gov't requires a minimum # of hours worked since your last claim. Once that is established a rate will be determined by the number of weeks worked. We have sent a comprehensive package to supervisors which you can browse through if you want a more in-depth review. If you still would like to understand it better you are invited to call Lee, Chris, James, JF, Robert (in B.C.) or John Lawrence (in Ontario) for an explanation.

SILVICULTURE WORKERS ASSOCIATION

The Silviculture Workers Association of B.C. was formed in the fall of 1996. Michael Mloszewski, one of the founders, developed the organization to represent silviculture workers to give them a voice in the developing struggle over who has access to the silviculture jobs in B.C. For More information you can phone (250)352-7878.

WHO TO CALL IN THE BRINKMAN OFFICE

If you have a question regarding B&A operations who do you call for the answer? We have listed some of the most frequently called about topics to give you some directory assistance.

Supervisors

Most supervisors have a voice mail box at the office. You can leave a message or question for the supervisor you are trying to reach and leave a number for a return call.

Planting opportunities for coastal BC projects.

Cathy Craig (until the end of April) and Chris Norman can answer these inquiries.

Planting opportunities for interior BC projects.

Talk to James Devries, Chris Norman, or Cathy Craig.

Spacing, brushing, pruning and girdling.

J.F. Tremblay, contract coordinator for these activities will have the most accurate up to date information.

Alberta.

James Devries is able to answer questions regarding Alberta operations.

Ontario.

John Lawrence, Operations Manager for Ontario. Prior to the start of May he can be reached at his Ontario office. During the planting season, messages can be left on his machine for a return call. Anything urgent can be directed to the head office.

Surveys or Restoration.

Robert Seaton can help individuals interested in pursuing survey or restoration work or survey certification.

Payroll questions.

Kitty, Pat, Willow or Christine answer your payroll inquiries.

General concerns, comments or special requests.

Rhonda can answer just about any question you may have or is pleased to point you in the right direction.

We welcome all feedback, comments or suggestions you may have. Feel free to call and speak with whomever you feel most comfortable. Lee Maxwell, our General Manager would be especially pleased to speak with you and Dirk always welcomes a call.

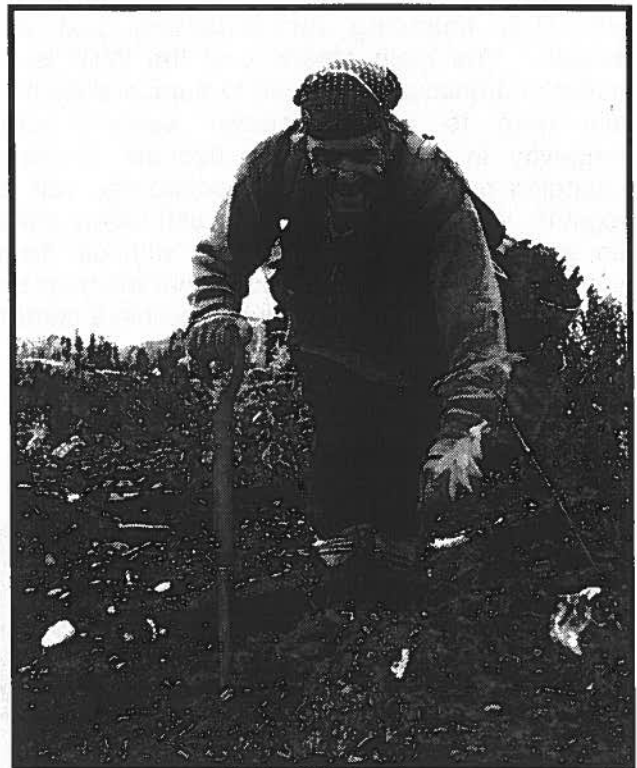
OPPORTUNITIES

There are many activities that Brinkman is involved in that could extend your planting season beyond its traditional window. Here are a few that you may already know about.

Brushing and weeding: Most brushing work occurs from late June until early August. For the coming field season, we hope to have opportunities in Slokan, Kootenay Lake,

McBride, Prince George and Terrace. We should know better by the end of May.

Pruning: This work is done in the fall or early winter. It is easy to get into and a great way to develop your upper body muscle. Opportunities this year will be on the Queen Charlottes Islands, in the Kootenays, and on Vancouver Island. These will be clarified as the season gets going.



Rodney Bernier

Spacing, stand tending: If you feel like dropping the shovel and picking up a chain saw or a brush saw, then this is the one for you. This activity has grown significantly over the past few years. The work can be done year-round, where weather permits. There are opportunities across B.C. and Alberta, with strong possibilities in Terrace, the Kootenays and Whitecourt, Ab.

Surveys, restoration: Another area that has seen significant growth recently, with more to come. Surveys are done from early spring until the fall. It helps to have a silviculture survey ticket. There is a special course offered this spring by the B.C. Forestry Continuing Studies Network. Restoration has so far been done around Vancouver and is done sporadically throughout the year.

Other activities: In 1997, we will also be involved in power screening, burning and creek cleaning, erosion control, slope stabilization, and ecosystem restoration.

Other courses of interest: Certified utility arborist, G.P.S., G.I.S., Commercial Thinning, Watershed restoration, etc. Ask us about them and more !!!

B&A PLANTING TRIVIA

1) What current Brinkman surveyor previously supervised planting projects in both Ontario and B.C.?

- a) Robert Seaton
- b) Dirk Brinkman
- c) Guy Payett

2) Who holds the record for the greatest number of trees planted in a single day in B&A planting operations and in what province did this occur?

- a) Duane Prentice i) Ontario
- b) Rob Lothrop ii) Alberta
- c) Chris Norman iii) BC

3) What is a "pottiputki"?

- a) Native Indian fishing tool
- b) A planting tool designed so the planter does not have to bend over while planting
- c) The polish term for a "Power Girdling" tool.

4) At the peak of the planting season in mid-May, how many planters will be working on B&A crews?

- a) 400 - 500
- b) 700 - 800
- c) 900 - 1000

5) How many seedlings has B&A planted company wide since it started in 1970?

- a) over 450,000,000
- b) 300,000,000 to 400,000,000
- c) 100,000,000 to 200,000,000

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Photos - we need photos. If you have some great photos of Brinkman people and activities that we could add to our photo library please let us know.

Christmas card 1997.

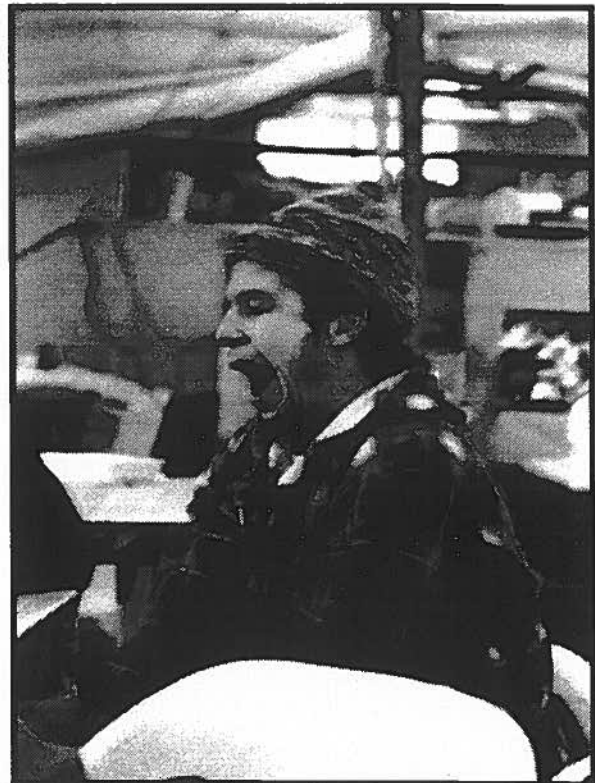
We're collecting photographs (preferably black & white) for our 1997 Brinkman Christmas card. Please submit any entries before the fall.

Newsletter Entries

Another newsletter will be distributed in early June. If you have ideas or submissions, or newsworthy tidbits about fellow crew members that we can include please submit them now, either directly to the office (to Lee) or via your supervisor who will ensure it gets to us.

Trivia Answers:

- 1: c) Guy Payett
- 2: a) Duane Prentice planted 10,000 seedlings in one day while working in Ontario.
- 3: b) the pottiputki is a Swedish tool which was adopted for use in some areas of Canada.
- 4: b) At peak operations, B&A will have a combined total of around 800 planters working in 3 provinces: Ontario, Alberta and BC.
- 5: a) 1997 is the year B&A will have officially planted over one half billion seedlings in Canada.



Matt Robertson



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