

Tolko superintendent shares unique cultural experience

by Will Horbal, Woodlands Superintendent, High Level Lumber Division



Above: Will Horbal (centre) participates in the Friendship Dance
 Right: Dene Tha children in traditional dress



The Dene Tha First Nation Traditional Dancers & Drum Group recently held a 3-day traditional event at the Indian Cabins near High Level, Alberta. As a sponsor, Tolko was invited to the special event commemorating traditional land sites and preserving Dene Tha languages. Will Horbal, Woodlands Superintendent at Tolko's High Level Lumber Division, attended on Tolko's behalf.

After Will arrived at Indian Cabins, Molly Chisaakay, Project Assistant, took him to view an old gravesite and explained the importance and history of the area. A few of the Traditional Dancer children traveled with them to Hay River and Alexandra/Louise Falls and patiently tried to teach Will some words in the Dene language along the way. "I learned a lot from these intelligent children about their culture," says Will. "It's nice to see the culture has been forwarded from the past generations to the younger children."

Once back at camp, the children changed into their Traditional Dance dresses to prepare for the Tea Dance.

The elders sang and helped the boys drum, while the girls danced around the fire. In one dance - the Friendship Dance - the children asked Will to join them. "I was a little nervous at first, but I had lots of fun," says Will. "When I first arrived at the Indian Cabins, I thought I would be there for the afternoon - but I didn't arrive back in High Level until 12:30 a.m."

Having participated in this event, Will now has a better understanding of Dene Tha culture, which he can share with others at the High Level Division. "It's important for us to recognize the significance of the Aboriginal cultures in the area, because we share the landbase. This was an experience that I will never forget. I felt honored to be a part of this cultural event."

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Al Thorlaxson,
President & CEO

Involved in our communities

Tolko recently held its Quarterly Business Review in Edmonton, Alberta. While there, I had the

opportunity to announce our intention to sponsor a research study on the potential for Agro-Forestry opportunities in the “White Zone” land of Alberta. Potentially a million hectares of productive land is available in this zone. Much of this land is forested but is unallocated for either agricultural or forestry purposes. This study will allow us to investigate prospects for sustaining viable businesses in this unallocated land base. I also announced our interest in furthering our growth in Alberta and the potential for expansion of our High Prairie Oriented Strand Board operation. This proposed expansion is

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dependent on obtaining additional timber supply in the province of Alberta.

Our theme for this edition of the Circular and EcoLogic focuses on our commitment to the communities where we operate our businesses. As a Company, the focus of our commitment rests with our employees who volunteer their time and expertise to help make their communities and neighborhoods better places to live.

Volunteer activities take many forms. Some examples: Manitoba Solid Wood staff hosts a five-day All Terrain Vehicles safety training course and invites members of the community to join them, employees

participate in events to raise money for cancer research, hospital equipment and the United Way, staff volunteer their time at local schools to provide information and education about our forests and the way we manage them and employees hold fund-raising events to support needy families in their communities. The list is extensive.

Each Business Unit supports many community activities monetarily; however, this financial contribution is only a small part of what we seek to contribute through the participation of our employees. Volunteer activities are fundamental to the social and economic betterment of the communities where we operate. I would like to encourage each of you to look for opportunities to contribute your time and skills to assist in enriching your life and the lives of others in your community.

Part of our communities

For the past six years, Tom Hoffman, Woodlands Manager at Tolko’s High Level Lumber Division, has served the Town of High Level as a town councilor (some as Deputy Mayor). “Six years ago, I saw a need in the town and I believed I could help, especially with policy and strategic planning. I felt it was necessary to actively pursue all economic initiatives to further enhance our community and provide sustained growth,” says Tom. “I enjoy High Level’s friendly and relaxed character and I feel very positive about our continued economic growth.”

Tom estimates that he spends about four hours each week on council activities. Through Council, he has served on a number of different committees: Airport, Assessment Review, Town Beautification, R.C.M.P., Community Advisory Committee, Landfill, Mackenzie Area Restructuring Committee and the Mackenzie Economic Development Corporation.

Tom won’t be seeking re-election this fall. “I’ve enjoyed my two terms serving on Council and am grateful for the opportunity to serve my community,” says Tom. “I am keenly interested in the economic growth and prosperity of High Level and I plan to continue to be a member of the McKenzie Economic Development Corporation.”



Tom Hoffman, Woodlands Manager, High Level Division

Interactive playground develops understanding about nature

Interactive play is one of the most effective ways for children to learn - which means that children visiting the Kamloops Wildlife Park have done a lot of learning lately. The Park is the site of a new Wildlife Interactive Playground, sponsored in part by Tolko's Heffley Creek Division.

The Interactive Playground features an eagle aerie, grizzly den, monkey climbing structures, an otter den and a splash park. Heffley Creek's donation supported an "animal exploration" area where children can investigate giant bird's eggs, listen through a fox's ears, climb in a turtle shell, leapfrog over lily pads and walk in the footsteps of a bear, an elk or a raven.

Over 100,000 people visit the Kamloops Wildlife Park every year, and 60% of the visitors are children aged 16 and under. Each year, local teachers bring over 9,000 students on field trips to the Park. Committed to the well-being of future generations, Tolko is a proud sponsor of this valuable educational resource.



Children learn about the environment through interactive play

Turkish officials rebuild with wood

(courtesy of the Wood Promotion Network)

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that rocked Turkey in 1999, Turkish officials have made a decision to rebuild homes with wood and engineered wood products. In the past, many residential buildings in Turkey were constructed with reinforced concrete. Many of these buildings were damaged or destroyed as a result of the 1999 earthquake.

A growing body of research shows that wood-frame homes withstand high stress conditions, like the seismic forces of an earthquake, better than other building systems. Tests also show that structures that use wood sheathing or plywood can withstand earthquake forces two to three times better than other building systems.

Kelly McCloskey, President & CEO of the Wood Promotion Network says, "Studies around the world show wood's superiority as a renewable building material that leaves the lightest impact on our environment."

The Wood Promotion Network is a coalition of more than 120 companies and associations - including Tolko Industries - which was formed to promote the benefits of building with wood and engineered wood products. More information can be found at <www.beconstructive.com>



Tolko Industries Ltd., our management and employees extend our sincerest sympathies to all those affected by the tragic events of September 11.

To our friends, neighbours and customers...our thoughts are with you.

Louis Creek division impresses forestry watchdog researcher

Once again, Tolko's strong forest management practices have made a positive impression on an independent party. At the invitation of Rick Sommer, Woodlands Manager at Louis Creek, a legal researcher from the BC Forest Practices Board recently spent a "day in the woods" at the Louis Creek Division. Sara Tarry, a co-op student in second-year law at the University of Victoria, attended divisional communication meetings and toured Louis Creek's operating areas, interacting with Tolko foresters and contractors throughout the day. Below are excerpts from her day's report.

"My afternoon tour took Rick Sommer and I to Sun Peaks Mountain Resort. This is a multi-user recreational area and Tolko is working with both the resort and residents to manage the forest here. The Mountain Pine Beetle is very busy; we observed several areas that had been attacked, and several other areas that had been logged in response."

"Tolko has logged a few areas so that they look like ski runs when covered with snow and others that resemble a block re-growing after a forest fire. In all cases some trees remained to achieve Visual Quality Objectives and to provide wildlife cover."

"We spoke of the 'three legged stool' - economic, social and environmental values. Both John [Dunford, Sustainability Manager] and Rick believe you cannot take one away without causing the other two to falter also. The last ten years have seen an emphasis on social and environmental values and the

economic 'peg' had been withering away. Now perhaps it is time to pay more attention to economics without forgetting about the other two."

"Overwhelmingly, I heard of the need to shift to a more Results Based Code [the Forest Practices Code is the BC forest industry's main, guiding legislation]. The requirements in some cases are too rigid, too costly and make no sense on the ground. As a result, relations break down between ministry [government] staff and licensee staff

which costs both time and money."

"Overall, this was an excellent experience at a forest company that is preparing for the future and ensuring they manage their resource to the best of their ability."

The Provincial Government created the Forest Practices Board in 1995 as an independent public agency under the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act. The Board provides independent assessments of the state of forest planning and practices, compliance with the Forest Practices Code and the achievement of its intent.



Environmental values must be balanced with social and economic values for true sustainability

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