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Slave Lake OSB employees look forward to the future

by Tamar Sivucha

"The future looks bright," say Slave Lake OSB employees just six months after Tolko purchased the Division from Weyerhaeuser. Their optimism stems from Tolko's clear commitment to maximizing the value of their facility and modernizing the Company's Alberta operations.

Since February 2004, the Slave Lake OSB Division has operated "business as usual" and has seen few day-to-day changes under the new ownership – but employees have already experienced positive change.

"Right from Day 1, we were able to meet the Company leadership," says Darryl Kelly, Area Supervisor in the Woodlands department. "It's nice to work for a smaller, Canadian-owned company, where we can get a feel for the core values."

Darryl's opinion is shared by Butch Eden, Work Systems Training Coordinator in the mill. "Al [Thorlakson] is very down-to-earth, and there's more of a personal touch with the management style. With a smaller outfit, based in Canada, we're less bogged down in paperwork to get things done."

Anita Beaulieu, Slave Lake's Behaviour-Based Safety Coordinator, has not met Al Thorlakson, but she "has heard good things." I like that he just comes by unannounced, so he can get a true sense of how things work around here," she says.



Slave Lake OSB (top) joined Tolko over six months ago. Meeting Company leadership was appreciated by the Woodlands group of (back row left to right) Darryl Kelly, Woodlands Manager Ian Whitby, Darrell Walde, (front row left to right) Joanne Walde, Trina Vercholuck, and Bernard Michaud. Smiles carry over to the plant with Gerald Constantin (upper left) on forklift, Matthew McRee (left) and Jackie Vandenhouten.

Interacting with a more personal and leaner corporate office has required some minor adjustments, but with positive outcomes. Darryl explains, "In the Woodlands, we used to access provincial specialists and functional teams – for example, in silviculture or accounting – for information sharing and to stickhandle specific issues for us. Tolko saves on overhead by not having such teams and instead makes the effort to keep open communication between Divisions. The level of cooperation has been very good."

« This is an exciting time to be in the OSB business »»

While the ownership style has been a subtle and pleasant change, employees are just as pleased that other areas – such as the Division's commitment to safety – have remained unchanged. "We have always been focused on safety here, and it's great that it's just as important to Tolko," says Anita. "They promote, preach, and practice safety – it's definitely a priority."

With core basics like safety firmly entrenched, employees feel ready to grow. "The Slave Lake operation has waited patiently to be expanded for several years now," says Butch. "We have the wood and an excellent group of multi-talented people – all that's missing is a large-scale mill. I've been to the Meadow Lake operation, and I'm pretty excited by what's been done there. She's a beautiful mill."

"Tolko is talking about investing money, and that's got everyone's attention," says Anita. "That's good, because we rock," says Anita. "We made a darn good product here and take pride in our jobs. We have a lot of potential."

"The mood is upbeat because of the prospect of expansion," says Darryl. "We haven't been able to harvest our full AAC (Allowable Annual Cut) because of the capacity limitations of the existing mill. With Tolko's \$150 million investment in Alberta and the additional auction wood secured by the company, things look pretty good. This is an exciting time to be in the OSB business, and even more so with Tolko being so aggressive in OSB marketing. Yes, things definitely look good."

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The Tolko way



Al Thorlakson, President & CEO

Recent changes and consolidations in the forest industry as well as Tolko's rapid growth have caused me to reflect on Tolko's unique culture.

The uniqueness of our culture is a direct result of our corporate values, vision and mission statements. These statements have become more than just words, they have become the "Tolko Way" and they are the foundation for our success and growth.

Some of the things that make our culture unique are our encouragement of individual initiative and

innovation, our decentralized operating structure and our expectation of personal responsibility and accountability. Our proven track record of success

« Our values, vision and mission have guided us through many opportunities and challenges »

is based on our commitment to these principles and is captured in our statement of Distinctive Excellence: "Our structure and culture encourage improvement, growth and change in an open and participative environment".

Our corporate values were authored by the Thorlakson family in the early days and then endorsed by the entire management team. When

we first drafted the values, we asked ourselves what qualities distinguished Tolko in the beginning? We concluded that the same values that were important then are fundamental to our success as we move forward.

Our values, vision and mission have guided us through many opportunities and challenges. As we look to the future we will ensure that our commitment to these same values, vision and mission is unwavering.

Vision

Tolko's vision is to be a leading marketer and manufacturer of specialty forest products.

Mission

Tolko's mission is to be an environmentally responsible and innovative company that prospers and grows by serving the needs of diverse customers in world markets with products derived from the forest.

Values

Respect

Respect for people is the foundation for all our business practices.

We will demonstrate respect for people through our commitment to safety, the environment, and internal and external business relationships.

Progressiveness

Progressiveness is essential for the health of the Company.

We believe that being progressive and constantly seeking ways to improve is essential for the success of the Company.

Everyone is encouraged to propose new ideas and to take ownership of their work. Individual initiative and innovation are valued.

Integrity

Integrity is essential in all business relationships.

We believe that integrity in business is as important to the Company as an individual's personal reputation and self-worth. The pride we all take in working for the Company demands that we be honest, fair and ethical.

Open Communication

Open communication will enhance employee job satisfaction and performance.

We believe that open, constructive communication will develop a shared commitment by all employees to achieve Company goals.

Profit

Profits are essential to the success of the Company, employees and business partners.

We believe that profits will support company growth, employment stability and our ability to meet changing customer needs.

Province awards High Prairie Division for safety

Employees at Tolko's High Prairie OSB Division have been awarded one of Alberta's top safety awards. Clint Dunford, Minister of Alberta Human Resources and Employment, contacted management at the Division on May 27, 2004 and advised that the Division was selected as one of the 350 recipients of the Work Safe Alberta 2003 Best Safety Performer Award. Over 110,000 Alberta employers are eligible for the award.

Greg Rose, High Prairie Division's Mill Support Services Coordinator, says the employees at High Prairie deserve a great deal of recognition for achieving the results necessary to win the award. "We've all worked very hard to make our Division a safe place to work and it's gratifying when we are recognized for our efforts."

High Prairie Division was also recognized recently as one of four recipients of Tolko's 2003 President's Safety Award. The Division experienced zero lost time accidents throughout 2003 and to date (as of press time) in 2004.

Tolko's President & CEO, Al Thorlakson, added his congratulations. "Safety is a key measurement for our corporate value of respect.



Rick Huff, OSB and Kraft Paper Vice President and General Manager, (right) congratulates Greg Rose, Mill Support Services (left), Stan Nicholls, Area Manager, Heinz Zierl, Maintenance Manager, and Ron Shunter Jr., Production Manager & Chair of the Safety Committee, and the rest of High Prairie Division on receiving provincial recognition for their safety performance in 2003.

The management and employees at High Prairie Division have clearly demonstrated respect for people with their commitment to safety."

Employee profile



Al Bedard, retired Heffley Creek Division

Employee Profile – Al Bedard, retired Heffley Creek Division

Al Bedard has the distinction of having retired with the longest safety and service record in Company history—46 years without a time loss accident.

He was raised on a local ranch, where safety came more from engrained practice rather than a conscious effort. And over the years he admits "luck" may have been a factor in his safety achievement, but the company "had a good safety program" and "what I learned I remembered."

Al began in Heffley Creek in 1958 loading lumber in boxcars. He worked as a lumber grader for a number of years, ran the sawmill barkers, completed an apprenticeship as a Fitter, Sawfiler and Benchman, and worked the lathe in veneer until his retirement this past July. While he is enjoying his retirement he says, "I especially miss the people" of Tolko's Heffley Creek Division. They'll miss you as well, Al. Happy retirement and thank you.

Safety role tackles behaviour

Slave Lake Coordinator serves as employees' advocate

The employees of Slave Lake (SL) Division have a new voice for on-the-job safety.

Anita Beaulieu began her career in Slave Lake in 1995. Over the years she has held many positions throughout the mill and is most noted for her tenacity when it comes to housekeeping. She recently took on the role of Behaviour Based Safety (BBS) Coordinator.

« Safety starts with ME and You »»

BBS is a two year term role that is offered to hourly employees only. After a job bid and an assessment process, the senior competent operator is offered the position. Since its inception in 1999 the Division's recordable injuries dropped from twenty in 1998 down to two thus far in 2004. "We have also reached the One Year Lost Time Accident Free milestone twice," says SL Mill Manager Peter Meyer. "We know it works!"

The main premise of BBS is to drive responsibility for safety down to the people doing the work. Their Safety Vision is "Safety starts with ME and You". Data and research shows that the more workers involved in safety activities, the lower the

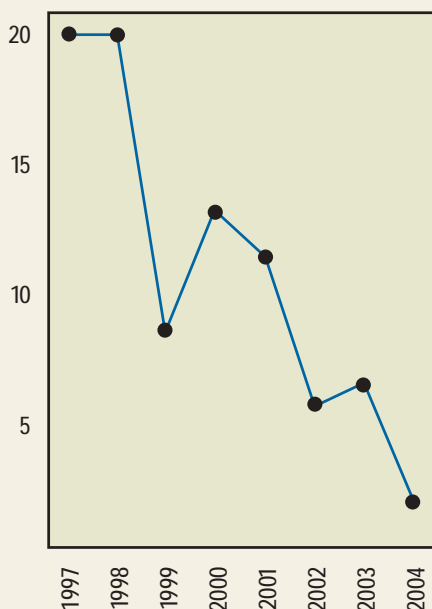


incidence of injury. Activities such as peer observation and their hazard recognition programs encourage everyone to participate.

Anita's main function is to be the employees' advocate for safety. Some people may not want to report unsafe co-workers or conditions because a fear of reprisal or discipline. Her job is to be available, open, and provide a confidential setting where she can talk to the appropriate people to get the situation resolved. BBS coordinators are still required to maintain their skills in the mill, so you'll also find Anita working on the floor. In addition to all this, she is a member of the Health and Safety Committee and has responsibilities to compile incident statistics and supply training at team safety meetings.

Luckily for us, Anita has a lot of energy and enthusiasm and is committed to making Slave Lake OSB the safest it can be. We are looking forward to the next few years and the contributions Anita will undoubtedly bring to our safety programs.

Recordable Injuries from 1997 to 2004



New website invites public

Our High Level Lumber Division (HLLD) in partnership with Footner Forest Products Ltd.(FFP) recently developed a new website dedicated to public involvement. If you are interested in HLLD's forest management plans or public involvement initiatives, visit www.highlevelwoodlands.com.

The window into the companies' woodlands activities is part of an overall action plan to fulfill their joint vision of being innovative leaders in Sustainable Forest Management.

"We're committed to work cooperatively

through continuous improvement," says Marcel LeCoure, Divisional Forester at HLLD, "to balance the values of our stakeholders."

The website includes the companies' forest management plans for the Forest Management Area. It also updates their forest certification status, and any details regarding upcoming events and public involvement initiatives.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you want to provide feedback on the new website, please send an email to info@highlevelwoodlands.com

Supporting lifelong learning

This past June, youth from across the country completed their highschool academics, and prepared for another pursuit to root their futures. For many it was a decision of what post-secondary education to undertake. Several Tolko Divisions proudly supported local youth in this challenge by providing bursaries or scholarships.



Miranda Peters accepts the High Level Lumber Division (HLLD) bursary from Area Manager Rob Layton. Miranda, daughter of Randy Peters, Head Sawfiler at HLLD, is

pursuing Business Administration at Fairview College, in High Level, Alberta.

Heffley Creek Bursaries and Scholarships

- Sanjeet Sanghera (\$850), Brock Secondary
- Jayjeet Sanghera (\$850), Brock Secondary
- Gregory Livingstone (\$850,) Barriere Senior Secondary
- Roz Ewashina (\$850), Barriere Senior Secondary

High Level Lumber Bursary

- Miranda Peters (\$750), High Level Public School

Manitoba Kraft Papers Bursary

- Melissa McCulloch (\$750), Margaret Barbour Collegiate

Quest Wood Scholarships

- Shawn Neufeld (\$750), Correlieu Secondary
- Erik Thorlakson (\$750), Quesnel Secondary

Nicola Valley Bursaries

- Justine Winser (\$750), Merritt Secondary
- Travis Desy (\$750), Merritt Secondary

Meadow Lake OSB Scholarships

- Mallory Stuckel (\$300), Carpenter Secondary
- Corbin Huxtable (\$300), Carpenter Secondary
- Darcy Ludwig (\$300), Ernie Studer School

Vernon Office Scholarships

- Michael Schmidt (\$750), Clarence Fulton Secondary
- Jessica Vlasveld (\$750), Clarence Fulton Secondary

Jeff Thorlakson Memorial Scholarships

- Jason Dumont (\$500), Charles Bloom Secondary
- Rachelle Leroux (\$500), Charles Bloom Secondary



Tolko's VP of Finance and CFO Trevor Jahnig presents graduate Jessica Vlasveld of Vernon with a Tolko Scholarship this past June. Jessica, daughter of Salaried Payroll Administrator

Celena Vasveld, is going to the University of Alberta in Edmonton pursuing a PhD in Psychology.

Strong partnership keeps fibre flowing in Meadow Lake

by Tamar Sivucha

As production increases at the Meadow Lake OSB Limited Partnership (MLOSB), so does the volume of fibre required to supply the mill. Just one year after start-up, the log yard already handles up to 220 trucks per day with one of the quickest truck turnaround times in the region.

MLOSB's log yard operations are contracted to CLC Logging, who manages all activities from trucks entering the yard to logs being fed into the ponds for milling. Butch Cowan, owner of CLC Logging, has a decade of log yard management experience and "a lot of good people who have been with us for awhile." Including mechanics and yard and scale employees, CLC employs approximately 25 people for the MLOSB contract.

"The CLC employees understand the big picture, and that's a real strength," says Holly Irwin, MLOSB's Area Supervisor responsible for log yard operations. "They do their own problem solving and require very little supervision, which makes it easier for me. It's great that everyone is so self-sufficient."



Holly adds, "This is a very successful partnership, and Butch is great to work with. If something unexpected comes up, we can say, 'Butch, we need this done,' and it gets done. It's just that simple."

The respect is obviously mutual. Speaking of his company's partnership with MLOSB, Butch says, "We have a very good relationship. They go out of their way to be good to work with, and they treat us like we're one of them. They are really good at involving us

in all aspects of their business – for example, we are invited to weekly meetings with management – and that's why it works so positively."

MLOSB will continue to build its operations on strong partnerships such as this. At full capacity, approximately one million cubic metres of wood will move through the log yard – and if the success of this past year is any indication, CLC Logging and MLOSB will be ready for it.

Supporting research for the birds

On behalf of Tolko Industries, Slave Lake Division's Forester Trina Vercholuk presented the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO) with a \$5,000 donation last month.

As the society's website explains, the "story" of LSLBO "is about partnerships." It is a partnership between Alberta Environment, the forest industry, conservationists, the tourism industry, the not-for-profit sector, and the ornithological community.

Located in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, LSLBO is Canada's northernmost migration monitoring station. Tolko utilizes the bird migration research carried out by the bird observatory to supplement their own research projects in the boreal forest.

Observatories play an important role in providing information on migratory birds. In addition to gathering data on the seasonal distribution of birds and helping to assess population trends, they help to educate the public through tours, demonstrations, and opportunities for observation.



sustain partne

"No man is an island, entire of itself"
The same can be said today about T
are credited to our strong relations wi
home communities, aboriginals, rese
These partnerships are a vital aspect
our environmental, social, and econo
partnerships and the benefits that
sustainable future.



High Level Lumber Division celebrated their 5th Annual Open House with General Manager, Prairie Region, hands out seedlings to a couple of the m plant tours, helicopter rides (in partnership with Delta Helicopters and Ne coring, the Tug-of-War Department Challenge (congratulations, Team Saw forests, our employees, their families, and the community of High Level."



nable erships

wrote 17th Century poet John Donne. Tolko. Our history, growth, and future with other businesses, governments, our researchers, youth, and service providers. t of our sustainability plan, fulfilling mical commitments. We celebrate our they will provide us all through a



h their families and neighbours on August 19th. Rob Layton, (above) many children who came out to enjoy the popular day. The event included (ufeld Petroleum), mini-golf, magic, face-painting, speed throwing, tree (mill) and a barbeque. Rob says, "This event celebrates our Company, our



Wood waste headed for conversion to electricity

Power partnership begets co-generation

What was once considered waste will now be used for its energy. Plant modifications and a new partnership will see bark and non-usable wood pieces of Lavington Planer Division converted to electrical power at a co-generation plant in Washington State.

This is another welcome chapter in the management of the sawmill's co-products. "For more than four years, we have investigated other uses for wood residue, and we now have a solution," said Plant Manager Don Banks. The concrete silo burner that was installed in 1985 will now only be used in emergencies, if at all. While a permit is in place to allow its use until 2005, an opportunity with Avista Corp. of Kettle Falls has lead to an earlier phase out.

The \$1.7 million project is part of the Company's efforts to continuously improve their environmental performance as reflected in Tolko's Environmental Policy. "Along with reducing smoke and dustfall, " explains Don Banks, "this move will reduce the risk of localized fires."

Although many folks are applauding this change, the silo burner's introduction almost twenty years ago was also celebrated. In fact, Lavington Planer received an Environmental Award in 1986 for being the first in British Columbia to replace a beehive burner with a much cleaner burning alternative by using leading edge technology.

Converting wood waste into fuel involves a machine with two, 300 horsepower motors that churn the raw material into small chunks. This material, hog fuel, is then conveyed into trucks for transport to the Kettle Falls cogeneration plant.

Upon completing the contract with Avista Corp., other wood waste options will be considered including renewing the contract, selling the hog to another facility, or using it to generate heat or power at Lavington.

Tolko's Lavington Planer Division is the original founding mill of the Company. Established in 1961, the focus of the employees and management is on continuous improvement of environmental performance, customer service, and manufacturing efficiency.



The silo burner at Tolko's Lavington Planer Division, once heralded for its use of leading edge technology, will now rest idly as the new hog processor (left) and conveyor system allows wood production waste to be sent to a co-generation plant in Kettle Falls, Washington.

Forest Educators honoured



Slave Lake Woodlands Manager Ian Whitby adds his congratulations to M.J. Munn-Kristoff, Program Coordinator for Lesser Slave Forest Education Society (LSFES) on the group's special recognition received last month. LSFES and Mackenzie Forest Education Society (based in Peace River) were winners of the Zone One Alberta School Board Association Friends of Education

Award for 2004. Holy Family Catholic Schools nominated the groups for their special contribution to education. Their contribution includes interpretive tours, presentations, ecosystem hikes, teacher workshops, resource development, career fairs, and boreal forest discovery camps. Tolko is proud to support such valuable partners of education in the region.

Feedback keeps us customer oriented

We are committed to being customer oriented, results focussed at Tolko. To make sure we are staying on target with meeting our customers' needs, we regularly undertake surveys of our market. A recently completed survey among our Kraft Papers customers assures us that our service is strong, and provides us direction in how to make it even stronger.



Ron Regan, Sales and Marketing Manager of Kraft Papers

Seventy-two percent of the customers responded to the survey, which is a very positive completion rate. Ron Regan, Sales and Marketing Manager of Kraft Papers, is extremely pleased with the constructive feedback and positive results. He notes that consistent product quality was rated as the most important product attribute followed by service. "These results confirm the positive effect of changes we made in response to suggestions from the last survey," says Ron. "Based on the feedback, we are already initiating changes that will directly benefit our customers going forward."

This information is vital to Tolko's focus on improvement of customer service and satisfaction. As such, our lumber and panel sales teams are initiating their own surveys. "Customers will be asked for their feedback beginning late this month," says Lumber Sales Manager Cecil McCrea. "Their responses will help form our customer service and product oriented focus for the coming year."

True Blue is perfect pick

Panel promotion launches

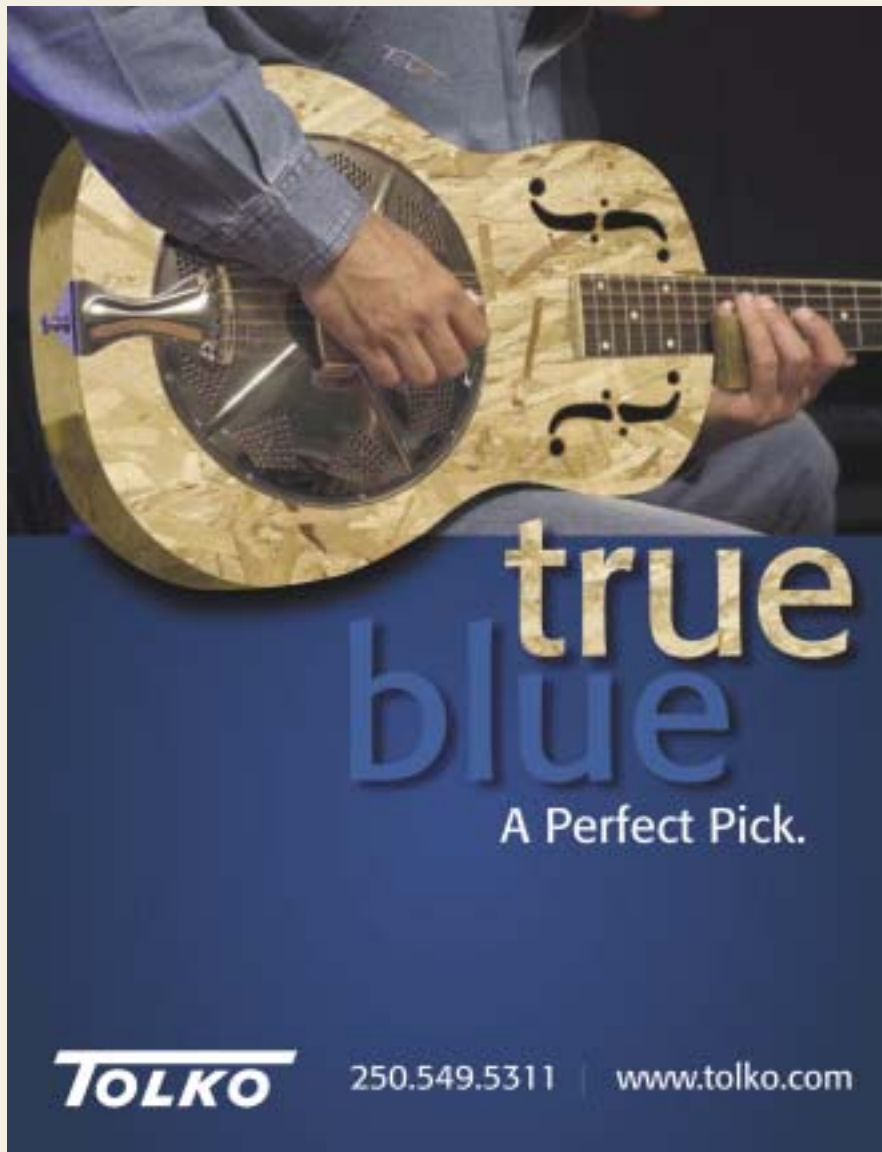
Customers know that for dependable service and reliable panel, they turn to the blue-edged product from Tolko Industries. Now, with the group's new promotion launch, this "True Blue" reputation is put out front.

To choose Tolko Industries for panel products and service, reminds the campaign slogan, is to choose "True Blue: a perfect pick". The multi-level message will strike a chord with all target audiences, says Chris Grotterod, Panel Sales

Manager for Tolko Industries Ltd. "True Blue speaks to the Company's strength and character, the integrity of our sales team's relationship with our customers, and refers to the quality and consistency of our product."

Promotions Coordinator Deanna Sherk is looking forward to the campaign. "Our panel sales group are a creative team with their product campaigns so it is going to be a lot of fun to assist with this promotion."

Tolko Industries produces over 1560 mmsf (3/8") of panel products annually. Oriented strand board is produced at Meadow Lake OSB in Saskatchewan, and Alberta Divisions in High Prairie and Slave Lake. Tolko's Heffley Creek Division meets our customers' plywood and veneer needs. For product and contact information, visit our Company website at tolko.com or call (250) 549-5300.



True Blue speaks to the Company's strength and character, the integrity of our sales team's relationship with our customers, and refers to the quality and consistency of our product.

Kraft Paper going kosher

In response to customer requests, Kraft paper is now kosher certified.



Tolko's Kraft paper underwent the stringent certification process because the paper is used to package goods that may be sold into a kosher market. The kosher certification assures customers who produce multiwall bags to contain kosher certified food that the paper we sell is an acceptable component for their product. The strict code of kosher food certification assures people of our

paper's origins. Tolko will possess a unique position as the single kosher certified Kraft paper producer in North America.

The unique certification fits with the historical direction of Tolko Kraft Papers, says Mike Doucette, Manager of Customer Technical Services. "Tolko premium papers will lend themselves well to kosher packaging applications," Mike adds.

The Kosher food certification identifies foods that have been prepared according to the Jewish dietary laws called Krashrut. The term kosher is often used to denote purity or wholesomeness. The literal translation is "fit or proper".

A general understanding of kosher is usually limited to a connection with food. But it actually holds several ramifications on the paper making process. In general, any paper making additives have

to be strictly monitored and documented. All additives are FDA-approved for food contact and rigorous contamination awareness programs exist at the mill for Kosher and other food grade applications.

The term kosher is often used to denote purity or wholesomeness.

The kosher certification process of Tolko Manitoba Kraft Papers' SPK® began last May and we received certification in early September. The process and subsequent certification was largely driven by the efforts of Roger Skerry, Process Quality Representative. We also appreciate all the mill's staff who helped along the way.

Longer rail allows faster delivery

Spur extends at Lavington



A million feet of lumber can now be shipped each day by rail at Lavington Planer Division. Where just four cars could rest before, ten cars can now sit for loading, thanks to 824 feet of rail added this summer.

Shipping capacity had not kept up to the big production increases that the plant has experienced over recent years. "On rail, we were loading 600,000 board feet maximum, but the planer and sawmill were producing over a million board feet," explains Dave Novakowski, Shipper at the Division. The extension project, which began July

24 and finished August 14, solved the inevitable product backlog.

For customers, the extension helps ensure on-time delivery. For employees, it saves hours of work that involved moving cars with a forklift and loader. "Cars go out faster and the process is safer," Dave continues.

Lavington Planer Division produced over 162 million board feet of lumber and specialty products in 2003 and production is expected to approach 220 million board feet in 2004.

Employee scores record for grading

Steve Brown of Lavington Planer Division received top prize in the BC grading championships held this summer in Kamloops.

A twelve-year employee of Lavington Planer, Steve was awarded the trophy and \$1000 first prize

purse for winning the Junior Division, the category of first time writers. Steve's efforts earned him an 84.4% mark, a remarkable fourth best in the history of the event, which includes 994 first time writers.

Lumber grader Steve Brown receives congratulations from Lavington Planer Plant Manager Don Banks on becoming a BC Lumber Grading Champion among first time writers.



MLOSB meeting Minister's challenge

Building on his keen interest in energy efficiency, Saskatchewan Environment Minister David Forbes toured this summer several of the province's northern forestry facilities, including Meadow Lake OSB (MLOSB).



Saskatchewan's Minister of Environment David Forbes appeared impressed during tour of MLOSB log yard and plant.

He was pleased with what he saw, concludes Allan Bell, MLOSB Woodlands Manager. "We had a good tour," says Allan. "He seemed impressed with the cleanliness and pride shown in the operation, both inside and outside the mill."

The Minister spent time learning about the mill's efficient energy system, which uses bark and waste wood (hog), for providing heat to the press and driers. "We produce just the right amount of hog for this heating system to work," Allan explains.

Forbes has extended his challenge

« to reduce energy consumption to all of Saskatchewan, including industry and residents. »

Forbes has extended his challenge to reduce energy consumption to all of Saskatchewan, including industry and residents. Also embracing it as a personal challenge, the Minister uses a hybrid car for fuel efficiency.

The tour included the five acres of hybrid poplars at the MLOSB site. "This is a partnership program with the federal government's 2020 program," Allan says. "As part of the federal commitment to the Kyoto accord, we'll use the plot to research tree growth."

Forbes' August tour of Saskatchewan's forest industry served to gather stakeholder input in preparation for a Canadian Minister's meeting on the environment scheduled for this fall in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Nine hundred thousand trees thank one planter



« Before finishing her tree planting career Relene would like to plant one million trees for Quest Wood »



You have likely heard the saying “behind every great forest is a great planter”. No? You will know it is true if you see our Woodlands in action. Case in point is Relene Fenrich who has planted 900,000 trees over the past nine years for Quest Wood Division.

With a slender frame of 5’ 3” and weighing 120 lbs., Relene is one of the many high production planters working in the tree planting industry. On good trenching ground she can plant 4,000 trees per day and on the tougher plant-as-is ground almost 2,700 trees in a single day. She says the best part of her job is “being outdoors doing something physical” although she notes that “the money isn’t too bad either.” Before finishing her tree planting career Relene would like to plant one million trees for Quest Wood (QW) and to travel to Australia during the off season.

QW Silviculture Forester Grant Glessing agrees that Relene is one of their best planters. “When people admire a regenerated forest, they often don’t realize that it was likely due to the hard work of a lot of people,” says Grant. This past season, QW planted 1.6 million seedlings equivalent to about 1500 person days of employment. Company-wide Tolko planted over 25 million trees in 2003.

Heffley sends campers to the woods

Five happy campers spent a week in the woods at Silver Lake Forestry Centre thanks to Heffley Creek Woodlands.

A child from each of five area schools was offered the opportunity. Rick Sommer, Heffley Creek Woodlands Manager, welcomed the chance to have kids experience the popular summer camp. “The Silver Lake Forestry Centre puts young people in the middle of the resource their learning about,” says Rick. “They enjoy and see first-hand the many values of forests.”

The funds for the sponsorships came from the Woodlands group’s award winnings this past year. Each February, Tolko recognizes best practices among Business Units in eight distinct areas. Part of the reward is funds for the Business Unit to use however they wish. Heffley Creek Woodlands were recognized in 2004 for Excellence in Forest Management Practices.



Kim Rudd (left) and Alysha Piva of Barriere Elementary School spent a week making friends and enjoying nature at Silver Lake Forestry Centre. The camp experience was courtesy of Heffley Creek Woodlands.

The Silver Lake Forest Education Society is a non-profit society offering year-round, hands-on, outdoor experience for youth, adults and educators. Sustainable forest management is emphasized through recreational activities and educational programs are designed to broaden the understanding of the forest resource. The Silver Lake Forestry Centre, located just outside of Peachland, BC, was originally opened in 1971 under the management of the British Columbia Forestry Association.

Discover more about their summer camps at www.silverlakekidscamp.com

The Force of Fire reaches classrooms

Kids throughout British Columbia's interior will learn this year about the good and the bad of forest fires.

Forestry Educational Liaisons Debbie Sluggett and Jeannie Steele created a resource package for teachers that focuses on wildfires, particularly the urban interface. They wanted to share with students the causes and effects of fire, focusing on prevention of catastrophic fires as seen in 2003, while also teaching the important role of fires in nature. A total of 900 resource packages, "The Force of Fire", are in the hands of teachers throughout the interior of BC.

Three specific packages were designed, one each for primary, intermediate, and secondary students. Teachers and librarians were introduced to the resource packages through a series of workshops this past spring. A resource package is retained at each school for future use.

Debbie Sluggett reaches out to the schools throughout Central and North Okanagan, British Columbia on behalf of several supporting forestry companies, including Tolko. Her partner, Jeannie Steele, joins her for many projects on behalf of Riverside Forest Products. Support for "The Force of Fire" came from throughout the industry, including companies, Interior Logging Association and Trades, the Ministry of Forests, and others. To learn more about the projects completed and resources offered by Debbie and Jeannie, visit their website at www.learnforestry.com



Nine hundred resource packages focussing on fire's role in nature were placed in schools throughout the interior of British Columbia.

Photo: Bill Stowell, Nicola Valley



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