

CIRCULAR



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Paper partners

Tolko Industries Ltd. and Canadian Forest Products joined forces to create Premium 1 Papers—a new paper company equipped to meet the needs of a diverse customer base.



Having set up shop in Kelowna, BC, in August, Premium 1 Papers is ready for business.

The new sales partnership of Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Canfor) and Tolko Industries Ltd. will market and sell bleached and unbleached kraft paper products from mills in Prince George, BC and The Pas, MB.

“Premium 1 Papers will deliver significant bottom-line improvements as we capture sales and marketing synergies,” says Ron Regan, General Manager of the new company.

Over the past few years Canfor’s mill in Prince George has moved its sales toward bleached papers and has become the leading producer of premium bleached grades in North America. Tolko, on the other hand, has led in the development of unbleached high performance kraft paper, making this partnership a technical fit and logical step.

“This partnership is an opportunity for both companies to become more competitive in an industry that is seeing a significant amount of global consolidation,” says Regan. “It is also an opportunity to combine our sales and service resources to provide enhanced service and supply to our customers with a full range of products.”



Ron Regan,
General Manager,
Premium 1 Papers



The new location in Kelowna, BC

Tolko and Canfor are looking forward to bringing their products together and building on reputations of excellent customer service and supply chain management.

The kraft paper options also help customers who are reducing product packaging as part of their environmental objectives. So far, Europe has led in minimizing packaging by producing stronger materials, but now Premium 1 Papers can compete in the global marketplace.

“Our overseas competitors are focused on growing their North American market share,” says Regan. “It’s the perfect time for us to start a business like Premium 1 Papers because we can serve our domestic and international customers’ diverse needs.”

A qualified team of Tolko and Canfor employees joined Regan in the new organization.

Brent Giles, Jim Foran and Ron Pirie, will manage the sales activities as Sales Managers for the eastern US, western US, and Canada, respectively. Wanda Denysiuk will take on the role of Customer Service Team Lead while Sharon

It is also an opportunity to combine our sales and service resources to provide enhanced service and supply to our customers with a full range of products

Bowes has accepted the role of Sales Representative. Sharon Howardson is Premium 1 Papers’ Controller/Financial Manager.

The team is currently working to fill administrative positions and will participate in strategic planning and facilitation activities in early fall.

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Tolko's unique culture



Al Thorlakson, President & CEO

company's corporate values and what has made us successful.

A key element of our success has been our culture. Tolko's growth over the last decade and particularly in the last year has presented us with two distinct challenges. How do we continue to grow while still maintaining our unique culture? How do we demonstrate Tolko's core values so new employees can quickly arrive at the right

« How do we continue to grow while still maintaining our unique culture? »

decision and take the appropriate action?

I am deeply committed to our values, our mission and our vision, and I would like to share with you some of the steps I am taking to ensure that these elements of our culture that have guided us in the past continue to be the foundation for our future:

A lot has been written about corporate culture, but what does it really mean? At its most basic, it's described as the "way we do things around here". I believe the way we do things needs to be based on a strong foundation of our Com-

Employee Surveys

Recently completed Employee Opinion Surveys have provided me with an opportunity to read comments from employees across the Company and to see a snapshot of the issues and concerns at each of our Business Units. When the surveys are completed and the results are tabulated, we ask each Business Unit Manager to identify two or three areas where improvements can be made, develop an action plan with employee participation, and communicate openly and candidly with all employees about the improvement process;

Orientation Meetings

Okanagan orientation meetings were held in June and we recently completed the same presentations at our Soda Creek, Creekside, and Lignum Divisions. At these meetings we shared Company information and provided a venue for over 2,000 new employees to ask questions, and receive candid and truthful answers. My goal is to visit as many Business Units as possible over the next year to speak personally with employees, answer questions and explain the importance of a shared vision for the future;

Commitment to values, vision, and mission

It is expected that each member of my senior management team make it a priority to ensure that every employee understands our vision, our mission statement, and our values. At our Business Units, supervisors are asked to hold monthly crew talks and Business Unit Managers

are expected to communicate with their employees on a quarterly basis.

These initiatives, along with many others, will help to ensure our unique culture remains intact and is the framework for our future growth.

Safety

A number of recent serious accidents, including a fatality at our High Level Lumber Division, have left me and each member of our Business Unit management teams deeply saddened. I would like to remind everyone that our commitment to safety is our number one priority and is a demonstration of our corporate value of Respect. I have challenged all our Business Unit Managers to renew their safety commitment and I encourage every employee to look out for their own personal safety and the safety of their fellow employees.

Canada-US Trade dispute

The recent NAFTA Extraordinary Challenge Committee ruling in favour of Canada that acknowledged there was no injury to the US lumber industry by Canadian softwood lumber should have signaled the end of this protracted trade war. The refusal of the US administration to abide by the NAFTA ruling has elevated this dispute and it has now become a national trade issue with potential impacts on every economic sector. All export industries to the US need to continue to urge the Canadian government to be resolute in their actions and enforce the NAFTA ruling.



Employee profile



Darren Stirling,
Quality Control Supervisor,
Kelowna Division

Darren Stirling, Kelowna Division

Darren Stirling, Quality Control Supervisor, Kelowna Division, carries Tolko's values to work with him every day. He's innovative, respectful and keeps the communication lines open.

"He is always up for a challenge," says Bill Morey, Lumber Superintendent with the Kelowna Division. "Darren is not afraid to take on new tasks or to help one of his coworkers."

Darren began his career with Tolko 12 years ago. Since then he's worked in the planer, as a grader, and over the last two years has filled in as quality control supervisor.

"There's always something different, something to learn," says Darren. "It's exciting to try new things—sometimes they work, sometimes they don't, but we keep trying."

Darren attributes his innovativeness to his ability to listen and to incorporate his coworkers' suggestions into the workplace.

"I try and look for better ways to do things so we can be more efficient as a whole," he says. "I have an open door policy. If anyone has a problem, an idea or a suggestion, I'm willing to listen."

Bill Morey says Darren's keen attitude sets him apart.

"He is always ready to take on something new, even if it's not one of his direct responsibilities. Darren appreciates what others have to say and at the same time, holds people accountable."

Away from work, Darren enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his wife, Janice, and his two daughters, Elizabeth, 5, and Megan, 3.

National Forest Week

Poster Contest Winners

It's been a long time coming, but here are the winners of Tolko's National Forest Week poster contest.

Earlier this year we asked the children and grandchildren of Tolko employees to draw a picture that reflected "water in the forest"—the theme of this year's event.

The selection process was challenging as we received over 60 submissions, but we were finally able to select the following participants as the 2005 winners.

First place winners received prize packages valued at \$500—including a \$200 donation to the charity of their choice—and second place winners received packages worth \$300, including a \$100 charitable donation.

Below, some of the winners hand over donations to their chosen charities.



Runner-up Preston Dozsa, son of Csabo Dozsa (Manitoba Kraft Papers Division), presents his \$100 donation to Brenda Smigelski (right) of The Pas Regional Library in The Pas, MB while Marju Hagborg (left), Employee Services Team Leader, holds Preston's winning artwork.

Photo courtesy Trent Allen, Opasquia Times



First place winner, Brooke Toop, daughter of Nadine Toop (Vernon Office), presents her \$200 donation to a volunteer from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in Kelowna, BC.



Runner-up Rachel Glessing, daughter of Grant Glessing (Quest Wood Division), gives Captain Terri Wallace a \$100 donation for the Salvation Army in Quesnel, BC.



First place winner, Cody Mills, son of Travis Mills (Creekside Division), hands Lee Richards of the Cariboo Adventist Academy in Williams Lake, BC a cheque for \$200.



Runner-up Jaimi Loewen, daughter of Bill Loewen (High Level Lumber Division), presents her cheque for \$100 to a volunteer from the High Level Full Gospel Church.

Photos were not available for the following winners:

- Meghan Price, First place winner, daughter of Dan Price (Vernon Office)
Charity: Canadian Cancer Society
- Rylee Paulson, First place winner, daughter of Dylan Paulson (Armstrong Division)
Charity: Salvation Army, Vernon
- Anne Butters, Runner-up, daughter of Heidi Butters (Lignum Division)
Charity: Williams Lake SPCA



Photo courtesy of BC Market Outreach Network

Preparation is the key

One of the ways the Government of British Columbia is dealing with the mountain pine beetle is by accelerating the harvest in regions devastated by the insect.

And according to Mike Harkies, Vice President, Lumber and Plywood Operations, Tolko is in a position to process the additional volume that will result from this acceleration.

“We are taking this issue seriously,” he says. “By updating older equipment, installing new lines and investing in research, we’re preparing our mills to handle the quality and profile changes that accelerated harvesting will bring.”

When left standing, large amounts of dry, beetle-killed wood create a haven for forest fires as well as significantly reduce the value of the forestlands. Tolko has taken a fast-acting approach to harvesting lodgepole pine.

Harkies also believes dealing effectively with the mountain pine beetle means getting the right logs to the right mills.

“It makes economic sense to send the wood to the Division that’s best equipped to handle it,” he says. “We optimize the flow of logs from our operations to the place where we can get the best margins for our products.”

For example, if the Soda Creek stud mill can reap a greater margin from a smaller, crooked log Tolko will send those logs there and the larger logs to other Divisions.

“Our Lignum mill is great at processing the medium-sized logs, but not as effective with the smaller ones,” says Harkies. “Having diversified operations gives us more options.”

In addition to increased volumes, Tolko must also find ways to effectively deal with a drier wood supply.

“We have to be conscious of the checks and splits in the logs,” says Harkies. “We’re currently testing new technology that can rotate logs to minimize the number of pieces affected by a split.”

Tolko’s dedication to advanced technology and high-performance operations enhances the long-term sustainability and well-being of its operations.

Going the extra mile

Research institutes are helping Tolko manage the effects the mountain pine beetle has on operations.

With the beetle making a rapid advance through British Columbia’s forests, Tolko is focusing on research as a tool for extending the life of beetle-killed wood.

“Because no one can pinpoint exactly how long we will be able to extract value from beetle-killed wood, it’s in our best interests to continue to develop technology that will help us get the most out of what we harvest,” says Ian Lindsay, Cariboo Regional Woodlands Manager.

By partnering with research companies such as Forintek Canada Corporation, Tolko moves toward its goal of running top-quartile operations.

Currently, Tolko’s Quest Wood Division is working with Forintek Canada Corporation on a number of projects, including the evaluation of technology that can detect splits and blue stains in beetle-killed wood and control the log rotation prior to primary breakdown.

The Division is also involved in a project that compares the costs and benefits of cut-to-length and tree-length harvesting systems.

“By participating in these research initiatives, we will maximize the value we can extract from the lodgepole pine population,” says Lindsay. “And in the end, we will extend the shelf life of the beetle-killed timber.”



Battling the beetle

The mountain pine beetle epidemic is causing the forestry industry and companies are taking

The tiny beetle—no larger than a grain of rice—has spread six times the size of Vancouver Island.

To mitigate the effects of the beetle on the environment, British Columbia has increased the annual allowable cut in the Merritt, and Kamloops areas, increases to harvest primarily aimed at salvaging value from stands ravaged by the beetle. The Okanagan area is hoped to come early enough to

Tolko is managing the beetle crisis on a number of fronts. “Tolko understands the impact the beetle epidemic has on the industry,” says Bragg, Divisional Forester, Thompson Nicola Woodlands. “We’re implementing strategies now. We know there’s likely to be an increase in the allowable cut (AAC); we’re trying to minimize its impact on the industry.”

The beetle, whose scientific name is dendroctonus ponderosae, is expected to devastate British Columbia’s pine forests within the next five to ten years.

The mountain pine beetle kills lodgepole pine by boring into the tree and by introducing a fungus that impedes water transport. Infection, the tree tops turn red and after two years, the landscape is a red coloured landscape.

Recent warm winters, coupled with effective forest management practices, have increased the bugs’ ability to multiply. “The beetle has been so effective over the last 80 years that we are seeing the beetles thrive.”

“At Heffley, we try to find a balance between harvesting and maintaining value while we maintain a balance of species mix to help the forest regenerate.”

Today Tolko is actively pursuing ways to reduce the impact of the beetle on employees. The company is working with government and landowners to help minimize the non-recoverable areas affected by the beetle on operations and communities.

Having invested time and energy into a number of research projects, including rotation analysis, tear out detection, short log harvesting, and wood, Tolko is a champion for further research.

The mountain pine beetle is descending upon us like a storm. We’re doing something about it. We will continue our research to protect the livelihood of our businesses and the communities who depend on them.



Council of Forest Industries

Natural Resources Canada

Mountain Pine Beetle: Growing Red



Photo courtesy of BC Market Outreach Network

...reating unprecedented challenges for the ...g notice. Tolko is no exception.

...as already destroyed an area of lodgepole pine at least

...environment and industry, the government of British ...targeted areas throughout the province. In the Cariboo, ...levels introduced over the past couple of years are ...aged by the epidemic. An uplift being considered for ...to slow down the beetle's expansion.

...of levels. ...ic is having and will continue to have," says Michael ...lands, Heffley Creek. "That's why we're creating and ...ely going to be a longer term fall down in annual ...mpact."

...us ponderosae, could destroy 80 per cent of British ...ears.

...y burrowing beneath and eating the inner bark of the ...r flow. This eventually kills the tree. After a year of ...e red needles fall to the ground, leaving a sparse gray-

...rest fire suppression efforts and limited harvesting ...ply and infect larger areas. As temperatures decrease, ...e able to continue their attack. Forest fire suppression ...e now left with older, densely populated forests where

...rvesting as much pine as possible before it loses its ...meet the mill's inventory needs," says Bragg.

...the effects the beetle is having on its business and its ...ent, municipalities, First Nations groups, and private ...ssets and the other impacts the mountain pine beetle

...of research initiatives that examine issues such as log ...ting, and the drying and curve sawing of beetle-killed

...ke wildfire. At this point, we can't stop it—but we are ...research and our proactive initiatives to maintain the ...here we operate.



• Canadian Forest Service RadRafe, courtesy of Wikimedia



Photo courtesy of BC Market Outreach Network

True blue

One business function that has managed to escape the wrath of the mountain pine beetle is marketing, but the export sales group hasn't been as lucky.

"The mountain pine beetle hasn't really affected the North American market," says Cecil McCrea, North American Lumber Sales Manager. "I think people here understand that the stain does not affect usability—as far as structural applications go. Overseas in Japan, the feeling isn't the same."

McCrea believes part of the reason blue stain is not as much of an issue in North America is because many of Tolko's competitors are in similar situations with the mountain pine beetle.

John Langley, Export Sales Manager, says, "Most customers in Japan prefer J-grade, the best quality of lumber. But, our four biggest customers accept wood with blue stain so we're still shipping a large amount of lumber there."

A great majority of the Japanese market believes blue stain is the first step toward decay.

"That is not the case," says Langley. "A significant amount of research has been done that proves stain does not impact the quality of lumber. Our biggest customers use the stained wood on a regular basis."

In fact, Japan accepts the North American Lumber Grading Association standards for graded wood. Still, some customers prefer the white and bright wood.

"Appearance and strength are of equal weight in Japan," says Langley. "In North America, strength definitely prevails."

To reduce the effects on its export business, Tolko continues to develop a customer base that accepts some amount of blue stain. But, it's important to note that Tolko still produces more than enough J-grade lumber to service its customers.

"Going forward, we understand the mountain pine beetle will begin to have a larger impact on the marketing and export businesses," says McCrea. "That's why we have to expand our customer base and implement internal standards consistent with our customers' expectations." Planning for the future keeps Tolko one step ahead.

Growing our forests

Reforestation is a tough job—especially in cutblocks affected by the mountain pine beetle.

Grant Glessing, Silviculture Forester, Cariboo Woodlands, says, "In the early 90s, prior to the beetle epidemic, Tolko chased the bug in small patches. We had hundreds and hundreds of small openings about one hectare in size."

But now, as the beetle ravages through B.C.'s forests, the Cariboo Woodlands group must tackle larger cutblocks—some well over 100 hectares.

"The difficulty we have in reforesting these large areas is the amount of wind damage to our young seedlings," says Glessing. "We have to plant closer to stumps and objects to lessen the amount of wind damage."

To combat future epidemics, Tolko is also planting more diverse forests. In 2004, the Quest Wood Division harvested 90 per cent pine, five per cent spruce, and five per cent fir, but replanted 79 per cent pine, 16 per cent spruce, and 5 per cent fir.

"By diversifying our forests, we reduce the risk of future beetle attacks and other catastrophic events like the one we're experiencing now," says Glessing, who believes that with Tolko's prompt reforestation and silviculture practices, the company will be ready to harvest volume from commercial thinnings in about thirty-five years.

"Tolko continues to take a lead role in looking at our eco-systems to determine how we can grow back our second-growth forests faster," says Gessling. "Our mountain pine beetle committees are planning and examining silviculture opportunities so we can reduce the impact on the communities where we operate."

Timber for the trestles

The Kettle Valley railway is quickly returning to its old state as the rebuilding of 14 historic trestles continues following the damage caused by the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park fire. By the end of this year, Tolko's Ashcroft Treating Division will have provided timber components for five trestles.

Larry Fines, Materials Manager at the Ashcroft Division says, "We rebuilt the first trestle—Myra Canyon #18—with just a basic blueprint. We had to piece it together and actually construct it right in our yard. Then we disassembled it and sent it up to Kettle Valley where Surespan Construction installed it."

« Providing this kind of service is nothing new for the Ashcroft Treating Division »»

The Kettle Valley railway was originally built by the Canadian Pacific Railway between 1910 and 1915. The company used the line until 1973 and then sold it to the government of British Columbia in 1990.

Since then it has been used as a popular tourist attraction—generating over \$5 million annually for the local economy—and as a bicycle and walking route for local outdoor enthusiasts. The government declared the railway a National Historic Site six months before the fire.

Two years ago, the 26,000-hectare Okanagan Mountain Park fire destroyed 244 homes and claimed 14 of the 18 historic trestles along the Myra Canyon stretch of the Kettle Valley railway. Twelve wooden trestles, in their entirety, were completely wiped out while the decks of two other steel trestles were also damaged.

Tolko's participation in the rebuilding is part of a four-year restoration project that will cost an estimated \$13.5 million—90 per cent of which will be covered by the federal government under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement. The provincial government will pick up the remaining 10 per cent of the bill.

To provide timber for a trestle, the Ashcroft Division must participate in a government bid process. Once a contract has been awarded, it takes the Division approximately six weeks to complete their part of the rebuilding process.

"We number every piece," says Fines. "We treat, cut, drill, and stamp the wood and then ship it up to Kettle Valley where one of the construction companies erects the trestle."

Providing this kind of service is nothing new for the Ashcroft Treating Division. They provide timber components for about three million feet of bridge decks and marine docks every year.



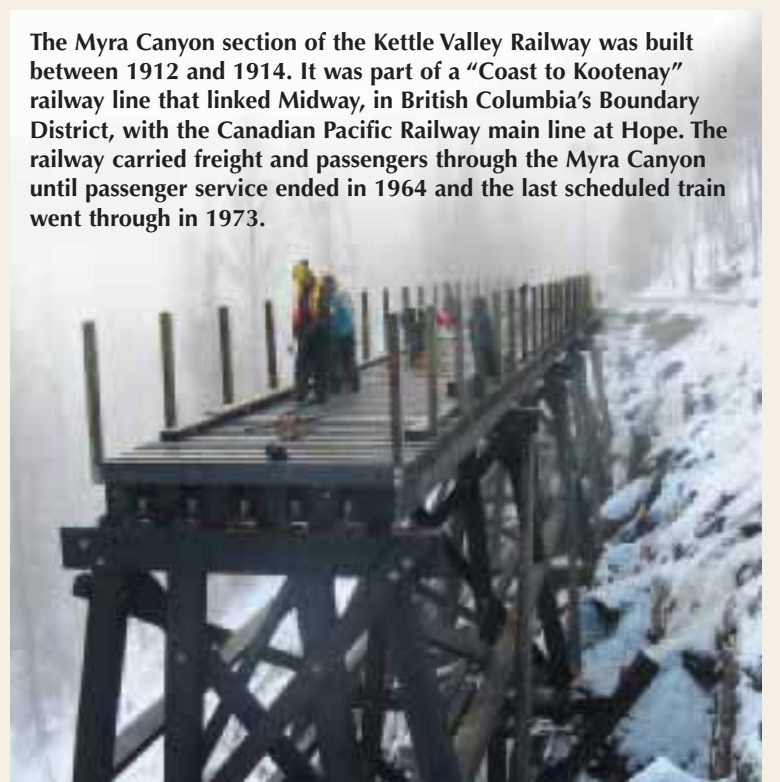
Larry Fines, Materials Manager, Ashcroft Treating Division



Fire photos courtesy of Klett Consulting



Ashcroft Treating Division



The Myra Canyon section of the Kettle Valley Railway was built between 1912 and 1914. It was part of a "Coast to Kootenay" railway line that linked Midway, in British Columbia's Boundary District, with the Canadian Pacific Railway main line at Hope. The railway carried freight and passengers through the Myra Canyon until passenger service ended in 1964 and the last scheduled train went through in 1973.

Photo by Ryan Beers, courtesy of Surespan Construction

Walking the talk



Bob Trampleasure, Maintenance Superintendent, Creekside Division (left) and Jim Thomson, Superintendent, Cariboo Capital Projects

The following article appeared in BC Hydro's Power Smart "The Power of Business" magazine. Reprinted with permission.

Many companies talk a good game when it comes to such lofty ideals as "best practices" and "environmental stewardship." Tolko Industries (formerly Riverside Forest Products) walks the talk. As a Power Smart Partner, Tolko has been redirecting investment capital into electrical efficiency projects at its Riverside mill operations in the Okanagan and the Cariboo.

During 2004, Tolko Williams Lake implemented several efficiency projects. Included in these were a major rebuild of the debarking area at Lignum and

<<
Tolko will save enough electricity to power 440 homes
>>

the new Lumber Dry Kiln at Creekside. Each year, Tolko will save enough electricity from these projects to power 440 homes.

By setting clear targets for reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, the company has cut its electrical energy use intensity by five per cent in each of the last two years. In doing so, Tolko Williams Lake, has exceeded annual Power Smart targets for electricity conservation in the wood products industry.

As Canada's largest plywood producer and one of BC's largest forest products companies, Tolko recognizes both the impact and the strategic opportunities that rising energy commodity costs present. Regional maintenance and project teams work closely with mill management to identify potential energy efficiency and cogeneration projects. Tolko also hired an energy consultant to refine its energy management strategy and capture the investment benefits of capital energy projects.

Tolko is a leading wood products company that has successfully integrated energy efficiency with operational and environmental best practice. That's walking the talk.



Engineered Wood Products Announcement

In June Tolko announced it will expand its operations in northern Alberta by constructing a \$200 million Engineered Wood Products (EWP) facility near Slave Lake. Once operational, the Oriented Strand Board (OSB) project is expected to create nearly 250 jobs through direct employment and contract opportunities.

"This mill will commercialize the work we've undertaken in partnership with the Alberta Research Council on some proprietary projects," says Al Thorlakson, Tolko's President and CEO. "Development plans are also underway to ensure long-term viability of our other Slave Lake plant as an OSB and value added, specialty products facility."

The new EWP plant will be located within the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, approximately five kilometres from Tolko's existing Slave Lake operation. The site is currently being prepared and construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2006. Tolko expects the plant to be up and running by the fall of 2007.

The facility will produce specialty engineered wood products—a unique line of goods for the building market and an exciting new direction for Tolko Industries.

Pearl Calahasen, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, applauded Tolko's development plans. "Tolko's Slave Lake expansion is a significant investment in northern Alberta as well as an investment in First Nations communities to create ongoing employment opportunities and business partnerships," she said.

In pursuit of its goal to build a world-class Engineered Wood Products facility, Tolko will use proven, leading-edge technology at the plant and will strive to exceed environmental standards. This means the manufacturing process will produce minimal waste. Bark will be used for energy generation, airborne dust emissions will be reduced by filtering equipment, the plant will not generate any industrial wastewater, and any water from log yard runoff will be treated before it's released.

The company will supply the EWP plant with fibre acquired in the purchase of its original Slave Lake OSB plant and through a co-ordinated log allocation plan designed to optimize Tolko's wood sources in Slave Lake, High Prairie, and other areas.

The total production capacity of the new mill is targeted at 750 million square feet at 3/8" basis.

Did you know?

- Tolko's new Engineered Wood Products facility in Slave Lake, AB will use the longest press in the world. At 70.3 metres, it will be capable of producing the equivalent of over 825 million square feet per year (3/8" basis) of 7/16" oriented strand board.
- The new press will be supplied by Siempelkamp—an organization with a 120-year history of excellence in metal forming, industrial automation, and building particle board/MDF/OSB plants and machinery worldwide.
- The new system's forming and press line will allow Tolko to produce high-quality structural engineered wood products in virtually any length and resin combination, and in a wide variety of thicknesses.



Woodlands

One hundred million trees

By: Marcel LeCoure



Photo courtesy of The Echo

From left to right: High Level Mayor, Mike Mihaly; General Manager, Prairie Region, Rob Layton; Minister of Municipal Affairs, Honourable Rob Renner; and MLA – Peace River Constituency, Frank Oberle

The High Level Lumber Division recently celebrated the planting of its 100 millionth tree in conjunction with ceremonies held to recognize the town of High Level's 40th birthday.

Accompanied by local and provincial dignitaries, Rob Layton, Tolko's General Manager,

Prairie Region, planted the tree—provided by Woodmere Nursery—in front of High Level's new town hall on June 1, 2005.

Tolko employee Marcel LeCoure, Divisional Forester, presented Mayor Mihaly with an honorary tree spade to commemorate the occasion.

"The planting of our 100 millionth tree and increased involvement by community members in our forest management planning and operations illustrates our company's commitment to sustainability, both to the

forest resource and our community," said LeCoure.

The High Level Lumber Division has been planting trees since 1978 and will plant approximately 11 million trees in 2005.

Wood for the wetlands



Two new ponds are under construction at Clarence Fulton Secondary in Vernon, BC as part of an outdoor classroom project that will allow students to study wetlands habitats.

With a bit of help from Tolko, students at Clarence Fulton Secondary and surrounding schools will soon have a new outdoor learning tool.

Students from Clarence Fulton are actively involved in turning two ponds located behind the school into wetlands study projects. The areas will educate students on how to enhance, protect and preserve wetlands by allowing them to observe first-hand how the sensitive environmental areas function.

Last winter, the ponds were dredged and recently, students planted grass and cedar trees around the two bodies of water. Tolko's Okanagan Fibre Flow group donated nearly a full load of cedar logs which will be made into lumber and used for the boardwalk surrounding the ponds.



Students prepare one of the two ponds that will be used by local students and area residents.

Still to come in the construction process are moving in logs for turtle basking, building nesting platforms and birdhouses, and constructing the viewing platforms and boardwalk.

Other supporters of the wetlands project include School District #22, Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Green Street, Kerr Wood Leidal, Summit Environmental Consultants, and Land and Water British Columbia.

"Good neighbour" agreement signed



From left to right (front): Grand Chief Rose Laboucan, Driftpile First Nation; Rick Huff, Vice President and General Manager, OSB & Kraft Papers, Tolko Industries Ltd.

From left to right (back): Clifford Freeman, Acting Chief, Driftpile First Nation; Sid Halcrow, Acting Chief, Kapawe'no First Nation; Chief Fred Badger, Sucker Creek First Nation; Chief Roland Twin, Sawridge Band; Chief Leon Chalifoux, Swan River First Nation

In June, Tolko signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council, providing the base for formalizing communications between the organizations. Referred to by both parties as a "good neighbour" approach, the agreement is intended to lead to identifying the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council's role in forest management planning where Tolko operations overlap with the council's Treaty

« Tolko signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council »»

No. 8 lands while acknowledging Tolko's rights as a Forest Management Agreement holder.



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