



BC's LANDS

Update



Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

Featuring News From the Lands Sector of B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

JULY 2006

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

Summer is in full swing and I hope all of you are getting a chance to enjoy our wonderful province.

You don't have to go very deep into the wilderness these days to spot our province's official mammal, the spirit bear. Spirit Bears are popping up in community's right across the province as part of the B.C. Lions' Society's Spirit Bears in the City fundraiser. The campaign provided the Province with an ideal opportunity to commemorate the historic Central and North Coast land-use decisions announced in February by asking three B.C. artists to paint Spirit Bears. The three resulting bears are a reminder that critical Spirit Bear habitat is now protected forever.

On June 19th the third United Nations' World Urban Forum opened in Vancouver with native dancing and



Minister Bell shares a laugh with artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas at the unveiling of the Province's three Spirit Bears in Vancouver.

FrontCounter BC Victoria

FrontCounter BC services will soon be expanded to include Victoria. Offices are already open in Kamloops and Prince George, with Nanaimo and Surrey opening this summer, followed by Cranbrook, Williams Lake, Smithers and Fort St. John by the end of the year. Victoria will be a satellite office of FrontCounter BC Nanaimo since many of the support services will continue to be based in Nanaimo.

Evolution of Surrey's Green Timbers Site

On June 22nd Premier Gordon Campbell announced that a portion of the Green Timbers site in Surrey will house a new outpatient Hospital. The Surrey Outpatient Hospital will be located on a 5.8-acre site at the corner of 140th Street and the Fraser Highway that is currently Crown land owned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. The land will be transferred to the Ministry of Health for approximately \$1 million. The Major Projects Branch of Crown Land Administration Division is coordinating the transfer. Construction on the new hospital is expected to begin in 2008 with completion in 2009.

Continued on pg. 2, see FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

Continued on pg. 2, see GREEN TIMBERS SITE

Continued from pg. 1, FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

drumming, and songs from Canadian and Kenyan children. The theme of the forum was: Sustainable Cities -- Turning Ideas into Action. The session is being called a major success. Organizers had expected about 8,000 people to participate over the duration of the weeklong forum. On the first day 8,500 people showed up. In the end about 11,000 people took part in the forum.

Delegates had the opportunity to visit our ministry's booth, which was completely dedicated to the Central and North Coast land-use decisions. Many were impressed with how First Nations, environmental groups and government were able to come together for a common cause.

I hope you will take some time with friends and family this summer to enjoy all that our province has to offer because we really do live in the best place on earth.

Until next month,

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands

To respond to this newsletter, or for more information, please e-mail: AL.MINISTER@GOV.BC.CA



Ministry of
Agriculture and Lands

Continued from pg. 1, GREEN TIMBERS SITE

Green Timbers was once one of the largest seedling nurseries in the province, pioneering seedling production research and growing technologies. It was also a Forest Service training school for decades, teaching firefighting, management and silviculture techniques. In recent years the Forest Service has ramped down its presence at Green Timbers, closing the training school and amalgamating nursery operations at the Surrey nursery.

Industry Innovation: Beautiful Blue-Stained Pine

There's an old adage, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." In the case of B.C.'s mountain pine beetle infestation some woodworkers are saying, when life gives you mountain pine beetle wood, showcase its unique appearance.

Pine beetles kill trees by burrowing into the layer between the bark and the wood. Lumber from a newly bug-killed tree is no different from a healthy tree when it comes to strength and durability. The main difference is in the colour of the wood. Wood from beetle-attacked trees has a slight blue/grey tinge which can make it hard to sell in some markets.



Close-up of blue-stained pine paneling

Some enterprising B.C. businesses are taking advantage of the unique appearance of the wood and producing blue-stained pine products meant for display, such as key chains, pictures frames, furniture and even log homes. The custom paneling for FrontCounter BC's reception desk was manufactured by PG Custom Woodworks in Prince George.

Blue Pine Products, also based out of Prince George, manufactures and sells a wide array of blue-stained pine products. In 2003, the company started out as a class project for 16 business students at the College of New Caledonia. One of the students, Kyle Roberts, bought out the company with his brother, Kerry, when the project was over. He and his brother now operate Blue Pine Products as a full-time business.

Other industry innovations include adding beetle-stained pine to an oriented-strand board (OSB) mixture. Because OSB has similar properties to plywood, but is uniform and costs less, it has begun to replace natural plywood in many environments. The most common uses are as sheathing in walls, floors, and roofs.