



UNITED FRONTS AND BIG MACHINES: ILA 57TH CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

By Brenda Martin

The ILA's 57th Annual Conference and Trade Show was a success again this year. The conference theme "Putting the Membership First" was well received and attendance was high.

On the Thursday, the Interior Logging Association (ILA) was pleased to host a Truck Loggers Association (TLA) board meeting. This meant TLA board members had a chance to enjoy the ILA conference and, even more importantly, the two boards had a chance to meet and talk about the challenges facing their members—something that hadn't happened in a while. As they expected, the two groups, along with Bill Sauer from the North West Loggers Association, found they had issues in

common and could present a united front for forest contractors in BC on several topics.

which gave everyone a chance to mingle and talk to people they hadn't seen in a while. This was also the first opportunity

Minister Thomson discussed contractor sustainability and committed to having it folded into the provincial government's competitiveness strategy agenda.

The convention officially kicked-off on Thursday evening—after all the board meetings—with the Meet & Greet event

to check out the impressive silent auction which had a wide selection of items—from a paddle board and truck tires to

luggage and camping chairs, all donated in support of various educational charities the ILA supports.

Friday morning brought the opening of the indoor and outdoor trade show exhibits at Kal Tire Place. It was a show to behold as anyone who was there would tell you. With 44 inside booths and 90 outside displays, forestry was looking good in Vernon! Waratah also hosted a logger sports show on site which drew crowds and inspired some of the younger visitors. "I'd like to thank all the people who took time away from the businesses and families to set-up and run the trade show," said Wayne Lintott, ILA General Manager. "It was especially great to see the outdoor show again displaying all the heavy equipment."

The first session of the day, Steep Slope Logging Updates, attracted a crowd and the speakers addressed some of the technical safety details around steep slope logging, what is and isn't acceptable in BC and where things are going in the future around this topic. If you want to find out more about these presentations, contact the speakers directly: Gerard Messier at the BC Forest Safety Council (gerard.messier@bcforestsafe.org) or Bjarne Nielsen at WorkSafeBC (bjarne.nielsen@worksafebc.com).

The Minister's Luncheon was a sell out! Minister Thomson gave an excellent speech and touched on a number of issues important to BC's contracting community. First, he thanked the TLA, ILA and NWLA for meeting with him together with a united voice on key issues and he hoped these joint meetings would continue. He discussed contractor sustainability and committed to having it folded into the provincial government's competitiveness strategy agenda since it's a critical aspect of our industry's competitiveness. He also acknowledged the issues around cab guards and WorkSafeBC that had recently come to light and assured the audience they will be addressed. He then went on to talk about the First Nations negotiations taking place post the Tsilhqot'in decision and acknowledged it is a complicated process that will take time to resolve.

Looking forward, Minister Thomson encouraged the industry to continue to build its social license by promoting and explaining our industry to the communities we operate in and complimented the industry on our much improved safety



Left to right: Wayne Lintott, ILA General Manager; Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; Reid Hedlund, ILA Chairman; and Akbal Mund, Mayor of Vernon.



The meals at the ILA Conference and Trade Show were delicious and very well attended!



The ILA board were please to see so many companies set-up outside displays this year.



The loggers sport events hosted by Waratah were a huge crowd-pleaser.

record. He also noted that the government has made a serious investment to ensure the labour supply going forward, particularly focusing on skilled trades, and noted that this will benefit the industry in the long-term. Minister Thomson thanked Reid Hedlund, ILA Chairman,

for his commitment to the industry and the good partnerships he's built with government over the years.

In the first seminar after the Minister's Luncheon, Philip Jones spoke—in a tongue-in-cheek tone—about how difficult fitting a heart attack into your busy

schedule can be. Having led an otherwise healthy and balanced lifestyle, Jones suffered a heart attack at age 60. With the benefit of hindsight, Jones spoke to the realities of what a heart attack can do to your schedule (or as he pointed out, end the need for scheduling) and how healthy life choices and stress reduction can either help you avoid a heart attack or, in Jones' case, survive one and live to talk about it. "Make one healthy choice today," Jones advised. "Don't let your personal health management drift by assuming that potential symptoms may just go away. Complacency can be a killer." Good advice for us all!

Later that afternoon, Rob Moonen from the BC Forest Safety Council provided a Safe Companies Update in response to industry feedback. For more information about the changes being made to Safe Companies, contact Rob Moonen at BC Forest Safety Council (rob.moonen@bcforestsafesafe.org).

Friday night the Western Night Dinner & Dance kicked off at 6:00 pm. The food was delicious and there was heaps of it! Lee Dinwoodie & Band outdid themselves again and there was lots of dancing all night long. The silent auction also closed that night as well raising \$13,235 of which \$3,100 was donated to Canadian Women in Timber to support their forestry education program.

Saturday dawned hot and sunny and the trade show ran all day attracting the public and engaging people in conversation about the forest industry. The final seminar speaker was John Stulen, Executive Director of the Forest Industry Contractor's Association in New Zealand. He spoke about workplace safety law reform in New Zealand. To find out more about his talk, read the feature article on page 48 which reviews what Stulen talked about and how it could affect BC's forest industry.

Overall, the ILA conference and trade show was a rousing success. "I'd like to thank Nancy Hesketh for all her hard work in planning this event and the ILA Board for their support," said Lintott. "And I'd like to thank everyone who attended and helped make our 57th conference and trade show such a success!"▲

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE ILA'S 57TH CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

All photos: Kari Silbaugh Photography

