

# Forestry Matters

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.- Ralph Waldo Emerson



November 2009

## Dates to Remember

- December 7 MFC Major Paper Presentations
- December 9 MFC Ring Ceremony and Holiday Party. Faculty Club, Noon until 2pm
- December 18 Last day UofT will be open until Monday Jan 4, 2010

## University of Toronto Remembrance Day Service



UofT continued their wonderful tradition of Remembering on Nov 11. Every year the crowds that gather at Soldiers Tower grow in numbers. It was great to see so many people from the Faculty attend the ceremony and take a few minutes of their day to remember how fortunate we are. It was too bad that the ceremony was over before 11:00, however it was great to see many people stood around and waited for the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.



Photos courtesy of Ian Dunn

## Remember When?

During the 1997 MFC International Field Camp trip to Mexico Johnny Canuck pulled out his sand wedge for a little practice. My question is this?

“Who takes their golf clubs on a forestry field trip to Mexico?”





## Sports and Stuff

### Woodsports Team

Our Woodsports club had a great showing at the Sir Sanford Fleming College competition on November 7th. Our Men's team 1 beat Lakehead men's two in overall score, and were within striking range of several more clubs. In the paired events, Dan Johnston and Paul Piascik recorded a great time in the quartersplit, and Ian Dunn handily ripped through the standing block chop. All of our teams displayed great spirit and enthusiasm. For now our team is practicing hard for our next competition in late January in Montreal at McGill's MacDonald campus.

Adam Kuprevicius

### Hockey Update.....

The Forestry Hockey team is heading to the playoffs with a 4-1 regular season record. In only three games (two defaults were had), our team has scored 22 goals for and has allowed only three goals against. The playoff schedule will be set this week but it looks as if we will be heading into the semifinals

against Medicine, which our team has a dirty past with (losing a championship game in overtime last year). Stay tuned for updates on the playoff schedule!

Adam Kuprevicius

### Basketball

Despite a hard-fought battle, the SGS division 2 basketball team was defeated in the finals by a well-prepared New College team to come 2nd of 16. The game followed a 41-32 win in the semi-finals over phys ed and a playoff victory over UTM the previous week. Derek Wolf started as power forward, with Alex Karney contributing points and rebounds from the bench. Congrats on an excellent season!

### Volleyball

After a rocky start of defaults and poor female representation, the division 3 co-ed volleyball team came together to nearly make a run at the playoffs, winning two of their last three games. Congrats and thanks to everyone who came out!



## metamorphosis [ˌmetəˈmɔːfəsɪs]

### *n pl* -ses [-ˌsɪːz]

1. a complete change of physical form or substance
  2. a complete change of character, appearance, etc.
  3. a person or thing that has undergone metamorphosis
  4. (Life Sciences & Allied Applications / Zoology) *Zoology* the rapid transformation of a larva into an adult that occurs in certain animals, for example the stage between tadpole and frog or between chrysalis and butterfly
- [via Latin from Greek: transformation, from meta- + *morphē* form]



## THE JOYS OF FIELD WORK

by Kelsy Gibos

One of the benefits of fire science is that you rarely have to work in the rain. On the flip side, this also means that you are heavily dependent on hot and dry weather to get good results. The summer of 2008 was a bust for me, with multiple large rain events, snow in July and only about 3 days in a row without any rain at all. Not exactly prime fire science data collection conditions. So after a committee meeting whining about my 'bad' data, I headed back in 2009 to the random weather patterns of the Rockies and hoped for sunshine.



One day's worth of rain in June 2008 (67 mm). The nearby river flooded its banks during this weekend.

And sunshine there was, but weeks before I had my equipment and sample team ready (of course). I managed to arrive just in time to collect a solid four days of awesome data, only to be hit with the first rainstorm in three weeks. Damn. My supervisor was visiting at this time so to show commitment (and hide the disappointment) we kept sampling anyways. Things were looking up, the forest was drying out.

The day after my supervisor left, Mother Nature struck again, this time with a set of crazy windstorms that left piles of hail, shut down the town I was staying in and



destroyed a local high-end development. And, oh yes, it blew down one of my research stands. The expensive *borrowed* sensing equipment came within inches of its life, and I was lucky to have not destroyed it, especially because I had been lax and not downloaded the data for weeks. I had not even done a stand description yet, as I was too excited about the dry weather. And the data from this stand was the most interesting of the bunch. Again, damn.

The moral of the story is, that no matter how prepared you think you are, how many sample plans and protocols you've designed, Mother Nature always holds the winning hand when it comes to field research. Your perfect dataset is a fallacy, and the most important lesson learned in grad school is to make due with what you have. In the end, I'm quite pleased with the relationships I see in my dataset, and excited for a career in finding answers to the questions that Mother Nature left behind.



### Welcomes and Introductions

Cheryl Ledger, Post doctoral fellow – U of T alumni – working on value added biomass applications

Kira Dunham – research assistant – U of T alumni – post harvest assessment of biomass harvests in Eastern Ontario

Birat KC – 3<sup>rd</sup> year, forest biomaterial science - work study plan

Sheraz Khan – 3<sup>rd</sup> year, forest biomaterial science – work study plan



## People and Places

Tajinder Pal Singh presented a research paper titled 'Forecasting daily volatility of Carbon Financial Instrument in Chicago Climate Exchange' at the 8th Biennial Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE) titled "PROSPERITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY" from Tuesday October 20th – Thursday October 22nd 2009 at Vancouver.

### ABSTRACT

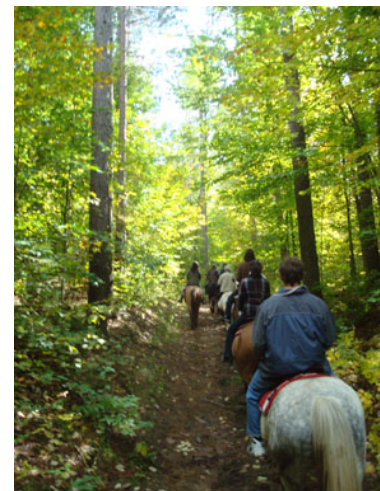
Volatility in newly emerging carbon markets has attracted growing attention by academics, policy makers and investors. First it can be used as a measure of risk and second, greater volatility in these markets raises important public policy issues about stability of markets and the impact of volatility on environment and climate. Third, from a theoretical perspective, volatility plays a central role in the pricing of carbon derivatives security. Finally, for the purposes of forecasting return series, forecast confidence intervals may be time-varying, so that more accurate intervals can be obtained by modelling volatility of returns. In carbon markets, volatility affects the volume of trading, which in turn affects the environment and hence has a bigger cost or benefit to the society as a whole. However no study has been made so far for the Carbon Financial Instruments in the climate exchanges. This study evaluates the performance of six alternative econometric models for predicting price volatility of Carbon Financial Instrument (CFI) in Chicago climate exchange. The competing models contain both simple models such as random walk and historical averages and complex models like ARCH and GARCH. Four different measures are used to evaluate the forecasting accuracy. The main results are: (1). The historical averages model provides the best performance among all the candidates, except one; (2) ARCH models do not perform well according to any assessment measures; and (3) GARCH model has just average behaviour, in contrast to the results found in various other stock markets. The results of this research are expected to provide some of the unanswered questions so far in the carbon trading process and can be useful in climate policy formulation of various international organizations, national governments, planners, researchers and carbon fund managers. Forecasting model developed in the course of this work could provide help investors in the carbon markets. This analysis is going to be of great value for carbon-fund managers, hedgers and speculators on one hand and environment policy makers on the other.



Anne Koven, U of T Forestry PhD student, at a forest management course in Haida Gwaii, May 2009. Contact her at [annekoven@hipguard.com](mailto:annekoven@hipguard.com) if you are interested or have questions about studying for a semester in the remote, northern Pacific coastal temperate rain forests of the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia.

## Forestry Students Just Keep on Horsing Around

What a better way to dump those endless classes, never ending assignments, field trip after field trip by doing something that you want to do for a change. A group of students decided to take a beautiful fall day and plan their own field trip to explore the fields and forests north of the city. They had enough of hiking and walking and decided on a new mode of travel that was environmentally friendly, fuel efficient and new to a number of them. They each found a new 4 legged friend who was more than happy to chauffeur them around for a few hours. Congratulations to those who organized invited and arranged a great day "Away From It All". Photos Courtesy of Martha Kornobis





## FOOD NEEDED

The Faculty of Forestry will be operating a food drive during these few weeks prior to Christmas. There will be a container in our main entrance and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lounge. Canned goods are preferred since they are mouse proof. Lets see how much we can gather together as a Faculty Family.



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# One Hundred Rings and Counting

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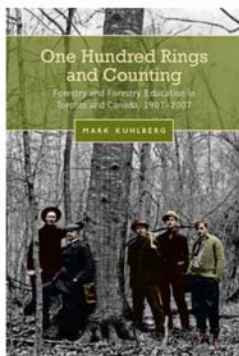
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24 photos

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Examining Canada's first Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto from its birth in 1907 to its hundredth year anniversary, *One Hundred Rings and Counting* is a detailed account of one of the country's most successful and influential institutions. Although its founding was marked by opposition arising from both the university's uncertainty of the field's importance and the provincial government's concern about how such an institution would affect the government's control over forests, the faculty has produced a disproportionate number of leaders in world of forestry and beyond.

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**Mark Kuhlberg** is an associate professor in the Department of History at Laurentian University.

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## NEWS UPDATE... November 24, 2009

### McGuinty Government Sets Up Task Force Led By Dr. David Balsillie

Dr. David Balsillie will lead the development of a comprehensive action plan to reduce emissions from local industry, traffic, residences, and transboundary sources to improve air quality in the Southwest Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The plan will include targets for improving air quality, strategies and timelines for reducing emissions, and requirements for reporting on the progress of implementing the action plan. It will also make recommendations for ongoing oversight and accountability in carrying out the plan.

A highly respected expert in air quality issues, Dr. Balsillie will be assisted by a community advisory committee and will consult with municipalities, health units, industry, local community groups and residents' associations. The final report with its comprehensive action plan will be ready by the end of June 2010.

The one-person task force is part of the Ontario government's plan to reduce emissions and industrial energy use in the Southwest GTA. The task force plan will build on the Clarkson Airshed Study. This study looked at how emissions from sources within and outside the study area contribute to the air quality in the Clarkson area, including identifying major sources of target air pollutants and looking at data from monitoring and air quality modeling.

### QUOTES

"The task force will give us a plan to achieve real improvements in air quality in the Southwest GTA. By working together, we can reduce the risks from air pollutants to our health, the health of our children and our environment." – John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment

"The task force will produce a forward-looking document that provides solutions to long-debated problems in the Southwest GTA. It is crucial that I hear from all quarters of the community about ideas for enhancing air quality and that measurable goals for improvement are set." – Dr. David Balsillie, Chair, Southwest GTA Air Quality Task Force

### QUICK FACTS

- \* Since 2005, Ontario has introduced 59 new or updated air standards.
- \* Ontario set tough limits on two key smog-causing pollutants to cut emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) by 21 per cent and sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) by 46 per cent by the year 2015.
- \* The Ministry of the Environment is working with the community and industry to address local air quality in the Clarkson area

<<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/air/swgta-air/index.php>>.

- \* Backgrounder - Dr. David Balsillie, MSc., Ph.D

<<http://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2009/11/dr-david-balsillie-msc-phd.html>>

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*Please submit your research, your stories, your activities, your favorite photos, your editorial comments and well just about anything to Ian Kennedy ([ian.kennedy@utoronto.ca](mailto:ian.kennedy@utoronto.ca)) for the December issue of Forestry Matters. See ya in December.*