

**LARGEST REMAINING IN NORTH AMERICA, SAYS ALBERTA**

# Two B.C. firms, financier all seek timber grant

by TOM NIXON  
Citizen Staff Reporter

Two large British Columbia forest companies and a Vancouver financier — all with major investments near Prince George — are in the running for what Alberta government officials call the largest remaining timber grant in North America.

The two companies are Canadian Forest Products, which owns a share of Prince George Pulp and Paper Ltd. and Intercontinental Pulp Co., Ltd., and B.C. Forest Products, which owns a pulp mill and Finlay Forest Industries Ltd. in Mackenzie.

The financier is Nelson Skalbania, who owns Prince George Breweries Ltd. with a number of local partners.

The area up for grabs is a 3.6 million-acre timber management area near Grande Cache, north of Jasper.

Hearings for proposals were held last week at Grande Cache by the Alberta government, attended by Athabasca MLA Frank Appleby and officials of the Alberta forests department.

Also at the hearings were local log house building supporters Allan and Mary Mackie.

Allan Mackie spoke in support of a bid by an Alberta pulp company to create an integrated forest industry complex in Grande Cache and nearby towns, including a log home factory to manufacture pre-built log homes for the North American market.

Mackie started the Allan Mackie School of Log House Building, which still operates here and is a well-travelled instructor and promoter of log house building.

Mary Mackie operates Log House magazine, a leading periodical of the log house building industry.

She attended as an observer.

Mary Mackie said in an interview that Canfor, though its Alberta branch Northern Canadian Forest Products Ltd., did a propaganda blitz of Grande Cache to enlist support for a \$52 million veneer, pulp chip and lumber complex.

It promised an immediate 600 jobs, which Grande Cache desperately needs to bolster a faltering local economy. The nearby MacIntyre-Porcupine Mines Ltd. coal mine has cut back operations, putting more than 300 men out of work, Mackie said in an interview.

Canfor handed out We Want Canfor buttons to local residents and sent company president Peter Bentley to head its delegation.

B.C. Forest Products promised a \$230 million sawmill-newsprint operation for Grande Cache and

surrounding towns to eventually employ more than 1,000 persons.

Skalbania, through Stewart Forest Products Ltd., proposed a \$409 million, long-range operation to include logging, sawmills, a pulp mill, tall oil facilities

and a water-board plant in a three-way partnership with government and public investment.

Other companies making proposals included a number of independent Alberta operators, Procter and Gamble (owners of a

pulp mill at Grande Prairie), and St. Regis (Alberta) Ltd., owners of the Hinton pulp mill and owned by American interests headquartered in the eastern U.S.

St. Regis promised \$300 million in sawmills, two

major wood manufacturing operations, and the log home manufacturing plant. Included was a proposal to manufacture light-weight coated magazine grade paper, the only such operation in western Canada.

The timber management area will be granted on a decision of the Forestry Caucus Committee within a month. The licence is similar to B.C.'s timber supply areas. It grants an operator a virtual monopoly over a timber area.

**NEXT TWO WEEKS**

## Shopping habits survey part of downtown study

A survey of shopping habits is to be done as part of the downtown development study. City planning staff will be interviewing shoppers at various places during the next two weeks.

Results will be tabulated by computer. A.E. LePage was commissioned recently to do the downtown plan.

The survey is to determine where people shop — and why.

**No money**  
There's no money in the federal coffers for the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance plan this year, council was told Monday by local CMHC manager Glen Fuller.

The local Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation head said he's been told not to send in any more applications for assistance until notified that the program is operative once again.

Fuller said a recent government move to make the program universal was not followed by the kind of huge budget necessary to support it. New guidelines are still to be set.

The RRAP helps owners of run-down or poor housing to upgrade their homes using low interest government loans and outright grants.

**Housing study**  
A study of 'affordable' housing in Prince George is to be done by the city's housing committee, aided by city technical

**City council BRIEFLY**

experts and housing experts from industry and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. The committee is to investigate what costs of housing are most easily reduced and what types of innovative projects might be undertaken here with city help to introduce housing cheap enough for wage earners making less than \$20,000 annually.

**Request granted**  
A mothers and youngsters drop in centre that was refused money to operate when council debated the year's budget in January have been given \$2,000 to keep open.

The Moms' and Kids' Drop-in Centre had initially asked for a year's operating money at \$2,000 a month but were refused.

Earlier this month the group returned to council with a request for three months' operating money until other sources of income can be found.

The city's social advisory committee recommended granting the request but a majority of council decided the city can't afford the commitment to tide the group over until other money is found.

**Space sought**

Health agencies and senior citizens who want the city to grant them space in two city-owned buildings that will be vacant soon have been told they'll have to wait.

The health groups, St. John's Ambulance, Red Cross, Big Brothers and others want to rent the health unit building for a "nominal rent" when the Northern Interior Health Unit moves into new quarters early next year.

The Elder Citizens Recreation Society want to be granted the library building when the new library is built.

Council will decide the future use of the buildings once it's known when they'll be vacated by the current occupants.

**Tot lot**

Peden Hill area residents will get a new tot lot for their youngsters to play in as part of a \$72,000 land purchase in the area by the city.

The land, owned by Joseph Konig, will be subdivided into the play lot and eight building lots by the city. The building lots will then be auctioned in a city land sale.

First readings of a bylaw to rezone the land for residential use was passed by council Monday.

The tot lot will face Sanderson Road near Westwood. It will be the largest lot in the subdivision — about 100 by 130 feet.

**FOREST FIRES**

## Local area hit hard

Two-thirds of the forest land burned so far this year across B.C. is in the Prince George district.

The Prince George region, about one-third of the total area of the province, accounts for 16,000 acres of the 23,750 acres total area burned to date in the province this year.

Tom Waller, forest protection officer in Prince George, said Tuesday the total acreage was not all forest land.

"Included in the total are some big fires we had earlier this year in the Peace River area where the fires were

started to improve range land and got away," he said.

"Also included in the total are a number of fires in areas which are so remote that there is no way we could get into them and take action. The cost of fighting them would be more than the cost of the damage."

Waller said most of the acres burned so far this year are in the Peace River part of the forest district.

The largest number of fires so far this year is in the Kamloops district with 700 fires compared with 200 at this time last year.

There were 87 fires still burning in the Prince George area, including two which flared up Monday.

Across the province, lightning caused most of the 325 new fires started on the weekend, human carelessness being the other major cause.

Provincial protection officer Arnold Ginnever said more than 1,000 men and a battery of bulldozers, skidders, helicopters and air tankers continue to fight the 370 fires still burning across the province.

**VANDERHOOF AIRPORT**

## Paving starts this week

VANDERHOOF (Staff) — Paving of the Vanderhoof airport runway will begin this week, village council has announced.

The project, to cost \$188,000, is expected to be completed within six days.

Village administrator Bryan Ritchie said it is expected the paving will make the air strip more attractive for a commercial carrier service to the area.

The paved strip will be 3,968 feet long, 72 feet wide.

Upgrading and base preparation of the strip was completed last year. Total cost of the project is about \$400,000, Ritchie said.

In other weekly business, council heard a request for a zoning change for a 7.8-acre parcel on Highway 16, the proposed site of a \$2 million shopping centre.

The site requested the highway commercial zoning be changed to accommodate the shopping centre.

Council July 10 denied an application for a building permit for the centre, because it contravened the official community plan.

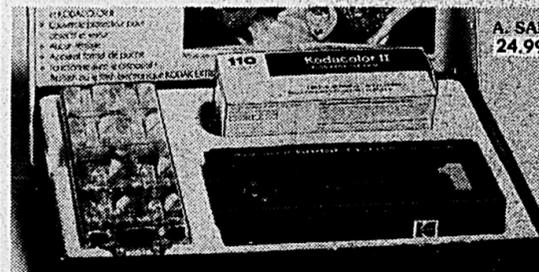
The official community plan sets out future land use policy, stressing downtown core development. The plan has been registered in Victoria, and a public hearing on a zoning bylaw, which will imple-

ment the provisions of the plan, is scheduled to be held Thursday at the Vanderhoof Arena, 8 p.m.

Tenders have been called on installation of a traffic signal at the corner of Stewart Drive and Burrard Avenue (Highway 27) and installation is expected by September.

Council will also request the District Highways manager to investigate the need for a traffic light at the intersection of Highway 16 and Burrard Avenue.

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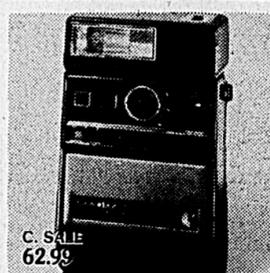
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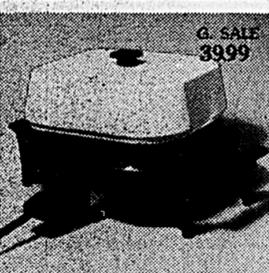
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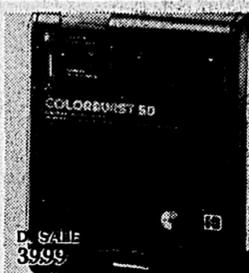
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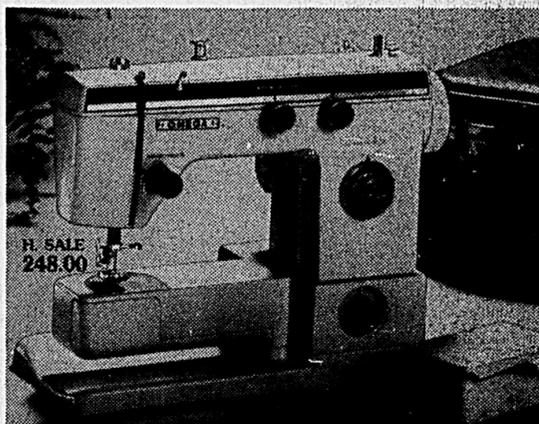
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Kodak demonstrators will be on hand in the Lower Mainland (Vancouver) stores and Victoria, Friday, July 27-5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, July 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

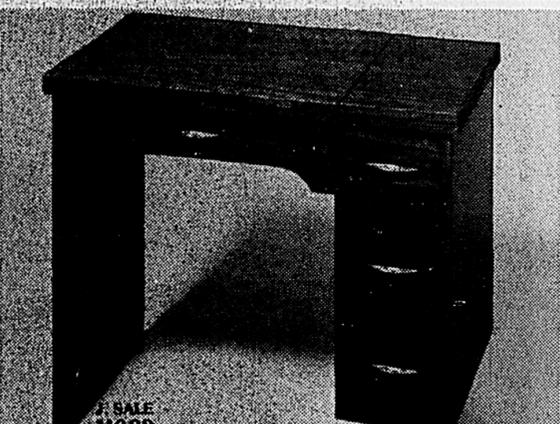
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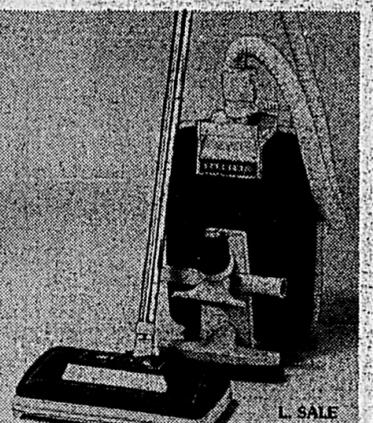
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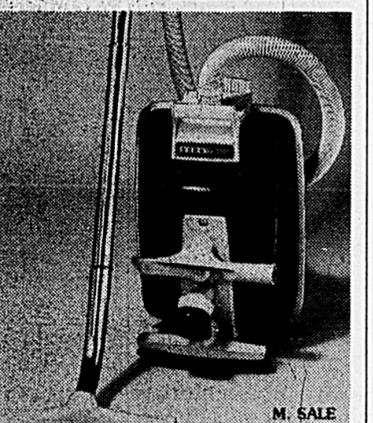
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