'Good news' flash!

Citizen news, photo package captures the brighter side

We're winning wood boycott

by GORDON HOEKSTRA Citizen staff

Greenpeace may no longer be blockading roads in B.C., but the environmental battle is far from over, says Forestry Alliance of B.C.

Organizations like Greenpeace have taken their environmental fight outside of B.C.'s borders — joining groups like the Rainforest Action Network — to convince companies that buy wood and paper products to boycott B.C.'s old-growth timber, said Munro, who was in Prince George recently to meet with industry and community

Those boycott efforts have to be taken very seriously, said Munro, a former IWA boss.

Here's a compilation of stories

brighter side of our city and

region.

Dunkley Lumber.

from The Citizen, highlighting the

Lumber sales to Japan rise

The Japanese housing market is starting to show signs

Dunkley — which employs 164 at its site south of Prince George — traditionally ships more lumber to Japan than other Northern Interior sawmills.

of recovery, which is good news for local companies like

While prices have not increased, at least shipments have picked up in volume, Dunkley Lumber general

nomic comfort starts to grow in Japan that we will see

improved pricing as well as volume," said Mayes.

We're kind of keeping our fingers crossed that as eco-

The latest effort by the Rainforest Action Network (RAN) was a

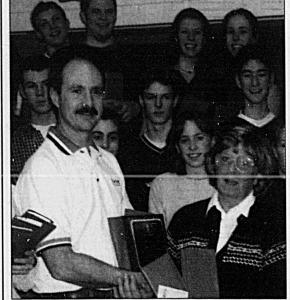
full-page ad in the New York Times in which 3,000 letters from children asked do-it-yourself-giant Home Depot to stop using rainforest

Before that, the environmental group ran another full-page in the New York Times with a list of companies that were against using old-growth forest products.

It raised the ire of the forestry alliance, provincial government and IWA-Canada, which all went to work contacting the companies to educate them on B.C.'s sustainable forest practices.

Some of the companies retracted their position, and the forestry alliance is still meeting with others, including Nike, Levi Strauss and clothing-giant Liz Claiborne.

Some company executives are starting to question why they signed on to the ad in the first place, and the alliance expects they'll



Don Lefler, left, accepts a plaque from Pat Todoruk of the Prince George Kidney Foundation. Lefler gets his Grade 12 physical education students involved in the March Drive every year.

Kidney-conscious College Heights sets an example

by ARLENE WATSON Citizen staff

The Kidney Foundation of Canada needs more canvassing teams like the one at College Heights secondary school, says Laura Giglio of the foundation.

Every year, Don Lefler gets his Grade 12 physical education students out canvassing for the March Drive campaign. The campaign kicks off March 1 and the Kidney Foundation is looking for 361 volunteer canvassers to help with this year's door-to-door campaign. Last year, Prince George citizens helped raise \$19,000 for the foundation and this year's goal is set at \$19,400, said

Lefler received a plaque Feb. 10 in recognition of his work with the student canvassers for the last six years.

He said he's honoured to receive the award. "It's one of those things you put your time in because you want

Lefler's students are the only canvassers in town to participate as a group, said Giglio. Getting his class involved provides them with a wealth of experience,

If you want more information about canyassing or volunteering your time to the Kidney Foundation, call

Help pledged in 20-year struggle for health care

Citizen staff

The Northern Interior Regional Health Board is coming to the rescue of Stewart-Nechako Hospital District, which has been struggling 20 years to get needed long-term care facili-

The regional board unanimously agreed Wednesday to start work immediately on an application and proposal for a multi-level care facility in Vanderhoof.

Time is of the essence since June 15 is the deadline for submissions to the B.C. government's capital project process, to be included in the year 2000-2001 projects.

Omineca Lodge in Vanderhoof, accommodating 54 patients, is not only outdated, but borders on safety issues as well, like fire, Bill McIntosh, member of a special interest group for Stewart-Nechako Hospital District, told the regional board.

A further six beds in St. John Hospital share staff assigned to regular acute care patients.

"This isn't a new topic, but we're largely starting again at ground zero, said McIntosh, explaining that his district has been told recently any past applications or proposals to government are no longer valid.

Restoring '70 'Cuda a labour of love

When Brad Allore bought a limitededition 1970 Dodge 'Cuda in 1991, it took him two and one-half days to take it apart, and seven years to put it back together.

manger Blair Mayes said Wednesday.

"It needed a lot of parts. When you need an air conditioning dash pad and one for a 1971 model is different, the owner of one in original conditioncan charge whatever he wants," Allore said. "The fun was chasing down the parts and restoring each piece."

"My wife, Kathy, shares my interest. Her father was a mechanic and her

brothers are mechanics. She has a 1938 International pickup.'

Today, after more than \$38,000 and years of searching for parts, the muscle car is totally restored with everything in original condition, or better. It's one of two examples in the world with matching numbers on transmission, engine and frame, Allore said.

Citizen photo by Dave Milne **Brad Allore shows off his 1970** Dodge 'Cuda.



Debaters carry on tradition of excellence

by ARLENE WATSON Citizen staff

If the Grade 8 students on Kelly Road secondary school's debating team are the future, it's going to be a bright one, boast the team' captain.

Kelly Road can also boast of being one of the largest teams in the province and the only team in the district, said captain and Grade 12 student James Loxton.

There are about 180 members on the team between Grades 8 and 12. James has been a part of the Kelly Road debaters for two years and he's impressed with the continuing suc-

"The batch of Grade 8s we've got this year is just phenomenal," said James a classroom filled with debatable chatter.

Much like a proud parent, James explained some of the team's recent achievements, the attraction of debating and who is responsible for getting it all going at Kelly Road years ago.

The whole team walks away from every

tournament with usually a couple of firsts and seconds, said James.

Recently, 36 team members returned from the Southern Interior invitational tournament in Kelowna, where Grade 8s received some first place, second place and fourth. Juniors returned from the tournament with ties for fourth and the senior teams left with nothing less than first place.

As a result, 20 debaters have been chosen to attend the provincial tournament in Kelowna March 5 and 6.

Chopper firm optimistic

Things are looking up for Prince George-based Northern Mountain Helicopters.

The company had about \$6.5 million in pre-tax revenue

in its first quarter, which was June 1-August 31, 1998. 'This current (fiscal) year has been very good," said Charlie Hodgins, executive vice-president and chief financial offi-

cer of the company. "We've had an excellent first quarter." In a recent news release, the company said positive changes made to its senior management team, combined with stronger average flying rates, led to largely improved results in the first two quarters.

Northern Mountain Helicopters has about 50 employees in Prince George, and 220 employees in Canada. The company serves customers involved in mining, Oil and gas, forestry and heli-skiing operations.

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