

Healthy forestry sector aim of new CNC institute

By CHERYL JAHN

Free Press staff writer

The skeleton of a forest institute at the College of New Caledonia is now in place, and it's time to add the flesh and blood.

CNC's Forest Institute is the product of more than two years of research and feasibility studies, and many at the college hope it will play a leading role in strengthening forestry in the north.

Its vision is to make the northern interior a "centre of excellence and a world leader" in maximizing forestry benefits, "developing innovative management systems" to integrate the best interests of all parties involved in forestry, and "protecting, managing and sustaining" the land and its resources.

"Basically, it's called sustainability. We're not just talking about chopping trees down and processing them. We're talking about the utilization of the 'forest biomass' and it's about ensuring that this region is sustainable in all elements," says John Backhouse, CNC's director of institutional development.

He adds that, as far as he is concerned, the northern interior is far from a world leader or a centre of excellence.

"We have the forest resource, we have the land base, we have the lakes and streams and wildlife. We want that to be as healthy and sustainable as possible. We want the industry to be healthy because it creates jobs, and our communities are healthy," he says.

Though they will not be the sole objective of the Institute, educational and training programs will play a critical role in how these goals are achieved.

There will be other, more industry-based services offered by the institute, including such things as a database supplying information to industry, individuals and communities with forestry information.

"We will also be providing links, where someone wants perhaps a program or some training and we will put them in touch with the right people," says Mr. Backhouse.

The college has just received \$60,000 in Forest Renewal BC funding to bring the program through



'We're not just talking about chopping trees down and processing them. We're talking about the utilization of the 'forest biomass'.'

JOHN BACKHOUSE

to December this year. With the money in the bank, Mr. Backhouse says it's time for the institute's steering com-

mittee to begin fleshing out clearer details for the future.

"Our steering committee will be meeting next Wednesday to talk about how we'll achieve our vision," he says.

Phase One has been established as the time to research a form of organizational structure for the institute about such things as program content and the like, and develop a structural model for the program.

The second phase will see the dissemination of information gathered to that point, and have stakeholder groups assess it. After that, focus groups will get a peek at the information.

The last phase will involve public consultation and a final report before the institute becomes a reality.

Search on for missing Osmond

RCMP are asking for the public's help in locating a parolee whose parole has been suspended.

Police warn Frederick Joseph Osmond, 28, has a history of violence and is

considered dangerous.

He is wanted on a Canada-wide warrant.

Anyone with information as to Mr. Osmond's whereabouts is asked to call the local RCMP.

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS SAFETY TRAINING

The Kitimat Community Skills Centre will be providing training on the core WCB requirements. This training will raise the safety knowledge/awareness for employers and workers who provide service or work to the Industrial Sites. Employees will be more aware of high risk work situations and their responsibilities, as a result of this training.

ALCAN, EUROCAN, and METHANEX fully endorse this training initiative and urge all employers to provide this core safety training to their employees.

This fall the Three Kitimat Industries will discontinue providing safety training for 3rd party employees other than inductions. It is a WCB requirement that contractors and 3rd party employers become responsible for the training of their employees.

Alcan, Eurocan and Methanex have authorized the Kitimat Community Skills Centre to commence with training in October 1997. The Centre will accept registration starting in July. For more information contact the Skills Centre at 632-2085 or 632-6555.

Surf's down.

So are Escorts.

\$199/mo



24 MONTH LEASE
\$1,900 downpayment
or equivalent trade or
PURCHASE FOR \$15,499

SAME PRICE
SEDAN OR WAGON

WINNER
OF AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
BEST NEW ECONOMY CAR AWARD '97

Limited time offer.

CHOOSE YOUR LEASE PAYMENT	
MONTHLY PAYMENT	DOWNPAYMENT OR EQUIVALENT TRADE
\$150	\$3030
\$199	\$1,900
\$281	\$0

FORD ESCORT LX

New 2 litre engine • 5-speed manual transmission • Remote keyless entry • Rear heat ducts • 60/40 split rear seat • Dual air bags
Air conditioning • Power brakes • AM/FM stereo with premium speakers • Plus loads of other swell stuff!



BC FORD & MERCURY DEALERS ENDLESS SUMMER SALE



\$199/month based on 24 month "Plan" lease of 1997 Ford Escort LX with PEP 011A with a downpayment of \$1,900 on approved credit. Total paid based on 24 monthly payments of \$199 plus \$1,900 downpayment plus tax = \$6,676 plus tax. Optional buyout at termination is \$10,436.40 plus tax. Security deposit (\$250) and first month payment required at lease inception. License, tax and insurance extra. Freight included. Some conditions and a mileage restriction of 36,000 km over 24 months apply. Vehicle must be returned in good working condition with no visible damage subject to normal wear and tear. Limited time offer. Dealers may lease for less. Retail lease for details.

