

# TREELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATCHEWAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Spring 2017



## In this Issue

SFA Annual General Meeting...	2-4
President's Message.....	5
Industry Report.....	6-7
Teacher's Corner .....	8-12
Bears are waking up.....	13
Alberta project aims to turn carbon emissions into commercial products.....	14
Earth Day 2017.....	15
Our partners .....	16

Visit us at: [www.whitebirch.ca](http://www.whitebirch.ca)

Contact us at: SFA

Saskatchewan Forestry Association

139-1061 Central Avenue

Prince Albert SK S6V 4V4

Ph: (306) 763-2189

Fax: (306) 763-6456

E-mail: [info@whitebirch.ca](mailto:info@whitebirch.ca)

## The Saskatchewan Forestry Association held their Annual General Meeting on Thursday March 23, 2017



You will find the minutes of the meeting in this issue. The activity the group did this year was to visit the local Museum. We were honoured to have our long time member James Benson explain some of the early forestry artifacts.

The history of forestry in mid-Saskatchewan is quite fascinating!





## President's Message – Spring 2017

Sindy Nicholson

Spring is here! The warmth of the sun is getting greater with every passing day. With the lengthening days of spring, comes our annual general meeting (AGM) and the renewing of your annual membership if you have not done so already. The AGM was held on Thursday, March 23 in the MNP boardroom of the Forest Centre Building in downtown Prince Albert, followed by a presenter James Benson's talk at the Prince Albert Historical Museum. The SFA has once again applied for summer student funding, so help us spread the word to potential employees to submit their resume in to us for consideration. As always, please help us with our maintenance of Kristi Lake Trail by informing the SFA ([info@whitebirch.ca](mailto:info@whitebirch.ca) or 306-763-2189) if you are out on the trail and encounter downed trees, if the garbage needs emptying, or anything else you happen across and think is important for us to know. As you heard during the AGM, the SFA office will now be closing over the summers (July & August). Please expect a delayed response if you contact us during those months, or check the website to see if it already has the answer to your questions. I trust that you are enjoying your 2017 so far!



**Editor:** Twila Gola

**Layout:** Jamie Randell

**Contributors:** Bernadette Slager  
Sindy Nicholson  
John Daisly





## Forest Industry News March 2017

by John Daisly

### Markets

During the winter months, there was a bit of a dip in prices for lumber and OSB but things have recovered and now sit higher than in early December when we last reported on the prices. Prices are also higher than they were one year ago.

As of March 24, Random Lengths Market News reports that the mill price for Kiln Dried Western SPF 2x4 R/L stands at \$360. per thousand compared to \$303. This time last year. The North Central 7/16<sup>th</sup> OSB price is at \$308. versus a price of just \$225. a year ago.

### Pulp Mill Still Operating in The Pas

Much to the relief of people in northeast Saskatchewan, Canadian Kraft Paper Industries Ltd. (CKPI) has purchased the pulp mill at the Pas and kept it running.

The Town of The Pas, the provincial government and the employees all made concessions to the company in order to facilitate the purchase of the mill from Tolko Industries who had announced that the mill was being permanently closed.

The **NorSask** sawmill in Meadow Lake was the scene of a major fire on January 12<sup>th</sup>. This fire severely affected the ability of the mill to produce lumber. The slasher deck and debarkers were destroyed which shut down the main line of the mill. Limited production has continued using the small sawlog line but this is only about 1/3 of the mill's capacity.

The fire resulted in a significant number of layoffs and diminished the demand for logs from the local loggers. No date has been announced for when the mill could restart as issues with insurance companies are still being dealt with. Once the dismantling and rebuilding process starts it will likely take from four to six months to complete.

**Mistik Management** reports that they have had a good winter harvest season. Adjustments had to be made to quotas as a result of the NorSask fire but in the end, they achieved the volumes that they set out to achieve. The Meadow Lake pulp Mill has a full inventory in the yard and NorSask has enough wood to satisfy their reduced capacity. Some wood has been decked in satellite yards to be hauled in the summer as required.

The Annual Operating Plan was submitted at the end of December and approval is expected by early April. Included in the AOP is a proposal to plant 1,000,000 trees. This is planned for mid-May.

**Tolko** personnel report that they had a good winter harvest as well and that they have a full inventory of logs in the OSB mill yard. Some wood has also been stored in satellite yards for summer hauling.

More attention is now being given to working on the Forest Management Plan for the Tolko TSL. Volume I is complete and work is being done on the Forest Estate Modeling Report which will be a key component of Volume II.

Tolko Woodlands personnel recently made a presentation at a workshop on the use of drones in forestry. Tolko currently have six drones that they use to assist in a variety of jobs.