



TimberLess Times

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Not All Unions Are Equal

A heartfelt thank you is due to the Pulp, Paper, and Woodworkers of Canada National Executive Board for donating \$500 to the YTS in recognition of our public education efforts.



– STUMP TO DUMP – PART 2

Following on the success of the first YTS video, *Stump To Dump*, we are pleased to announce that a sequel is planned for release next summer.

The new video will deal with the negative effects that log exports have on communities, families, and individuals. The film will seek to document some of the personal hardships faced by real people.

Please contact **Ken James** (250-746-8684), or **Keith Dickens** (250-748-3570), if you want to tell your story and are prepared to take part in very informal video-taped interviews.

Ken reports that more than 100 copies of the first 20-minute DVD are in circulation. For your own copy of *Stump To Dump*, send a cheque for \$12 to the YTS (includes postage and handling in Canada).



Garry Fearon Walks "The Walk"

The annual Great Lake Walk is a challenging 56 kilometre circuit of Cowichan Lake held each September which attracts participants from far and wide. Home-grown YTS hero **Garry Fearon** has now completed no less than four complete circuits. That's 224 kilometres folks!

Sponsored walkers assign funds raised to the cause of their choice. This year Garry raised a record \$925 on behalf of your



Bonnie Hayward photo

Society and demonstrated once again that he doesn't just talk the talk, but he

actually gets out and walks the walk.

The Great Lake Walk fundraising event has now produced a grand total of over \$2100 in the past 3 years. This money is used to assist the volunteer work of the YTS.

Garry wants to extend special thanks to all his cheering supporters.

He also wishes to say that, "*No pledge is too small.*" (Which sounds to us like a fifth circuit might be in store.)

Class Action Lawsuit Alive

Named plaintiff and Youbou point man, **Ken James**, reports that the class action lawsuit is alive and advancing. "The wheels of justice continue to turn slowly," says Ken.

All qualified class members should now have received notification from lawyer **Joe Arvay**, as instructed by BC Supreme Court Justice **R.D. Wilson**. On August 26, he expressed some irritation with the pace and directed both parties to get this to court in a timely manner.

Prompted by a Government argument, Wilson ruled that a priority determination is required concerning the issue of *Res judicata*. This is legal-speak for testing whether the former case initiated by the IWA and

subsequently dismissed should invalidate the current class action. According to Wilson, this critical test and other issues must be heard soon.

Ken has had to deal with a lot of rumours and misconceptions from class members. He wishes to make the following points clear:

1. There have been **NO** offers of a settlement.
2. If there is a favourable decision, it will be up to the Court to determine what type and amount of compensation is received.
3. This case is a long way from over and there is **NO** guarantee of a final win.

Ken remains determined and defiant: "*We are not going away!*"

Legate Unearths More Youbou History

Roy Legate recently found and passed along to the YTS another large box of photographs taken at the Youbou Sawmill. There are dozens more images that will have to be sorted, identified, and catalogued.

Are you fussy about detail? Are you particular about organization? Are you intrigued by history and curious about film conservation? If so, you may be just the volunteer we need to assist with the Roy Legate photographic collection.

If you are interested, please send us an outline of your qualifications and why you would be ideally suited to this rewarding—but zero-pay—job to the YTS Web site at:

yts@savebcjobs.com

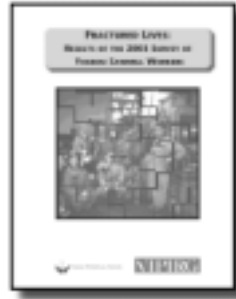
More TimberLess Times

Fractured Lives in Hindsight

The feedback from the publication of *Fractured Lives* this summer has validated the feelings and experiences for former Youbou millworkers, and has helped to advance the grieving and healing process for many. An August editorial in the *Lake Cowichan Gazette* put it eloquently:

Many will say that it's time for the former Youbou millworkers to stop complaining and get on with their lives, but it behooves us to learn from the mistakes of the past to try to

prevent them in the future. After all, what good is our forest industry if the benefits to workers and forest-dependant communities come at the whim of company shareholders, rather than



through sound policies that ensure a balance between company profits, social well-being and the environment.

Fractured Lives, the full report is available by PDF download from the YTS Web site or, a hardcopy can be ordered at nominal charge to cover postage.

A recent communication from author, **Dr. Scott Prudham**, (University of Toronto) indicates a keen interest in pursuing follow-up research, maybe beginning as early as December.

YTS Membership Notices

Two new membership categories have been added — FAMILY and LIFETIME. See our newly designed Membership Application and Renewal Form.

Confusion and inconvenience has been caused to some members who have forgotten their YTS renewal dates. From now on, each mail-out package will show your personal membership expiry date on the address label. Thanks to membership secretary Gloria Ganter for tuning us up.

In an effort to save dollars, Gloria has also requested that the self-addressed and stamped envelopes sent out to members with each package kindly be returned to us, if not used.

— YTS Group Medical Plan Is Now Even Better —

Responding to membership comments and suggestions, Director **Keith Dickens** opened negotiations with Pacific Blue Cross representative **Arthur Chung**. Arthur met with the YTS Board and YTS Medical Secretary **Lynne Barge** to forge a better plan.

The “*New Plan*” does come with increased premium costs (an approx. 30% increase). However, after much debate, the YTS Executive was convinced that these increases were more than offset by improved health coverage benefits.

The “*New Plan*” offers the following improvements:

- Increased lifetime limit to \$100,000 From \$50,000
- Increased vision care to \$150 per 24 months From \$70
- Increased paramedical care to \$300 per year From \$100
- Increased drug coverage for seniors to \$1000 per year From \$400
- Hearing aid coverage for adults to \$500 per 5 years No previous coverage

All new applicants will be offered the “*New Plan*” only. Existing plan members will have the option of retaining their “*Old Plan*,” or upgrading to the “*New Plan*.” The choice will be theirs to make.

“*Old*” or “*New*,” Keith wishes to remind members that the only qualification for belonging to the Plan is proof of continuing membership in the YTS. “*Even Arthur now qualifies*,” negotiator Keith reports with a sly wink.

Look for complete plan details on the YTS Web site soon. Or, phone Keith at: 250-748-3570.

Xmas Is Coming!!

Join the YTS family, as we and our friends (including Santa “Clause 7”) celebrate the holiday season with our Xmas Potluck Party on **Saturday, 10 December 2005**. Details on Web site, or phone 250-748-3570.



Many thanks to Adrian Raeside for his special permission to use this brilliant cartoon!

Youbou TimberLess Society

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