



Prince George show

The long-standing Forest Expo trade show has now evolved into the broader Resources Expo, but the show--being held in Prince George, B.C. in June 2010-- will continue to have a strong focus on the forest industry.

By Jim Stirling

Resources Expo is a bold new integrated approach to bringing together all the industries and interests sharing the land base in central and northern British Columbia.

It includes not just the traditional “big three” of forestry, oil and gas and mining. Resources Expo also embraces the emerging technologies associated with bioenergy and other alternate energy producers like run-of-river hydro, wind and solar.

And there’s a new focus on people in the Resources Expo vision; the training and retention of the people necessary to keep the diverse industries using the land base not just ticking but prospering. Add in the components of construction, research and a range of professional services and the broad scope of the new Resources Expo assumes a clearer focus.

One thing hasn’t changed though: Forest Expo and its earlier incarnations might be committed to the history books but the host city remains the same. The first new-look Resources Expo is scheduled for Prince George June 3-5, 2010.

“We want to offer a venue where suppliers can meet purchasers, where mega-projects can meet potential contractors, where employers can meet potential employees and job seekers can see what’s up and coming,” outlines MaryAnne Arcand, co-chair with Roy Nagel of Resources Expo.

“We’re looking at a combination trades and services exposition, a career/job fair, a contractors/suppliers fair and a conference component,” she summarizes. “We’re also inviting related groups and organizations to hold their AGMs or conferences or workshops with Resources Expo, to assist them in cost reductions and to maximize their opportunities and exposure to markets and potential clients.”

The familiar trade show that was Forest Expo will continue as part of a much larger and encompassing Resources Expo whole.

Resources Expo is far from a knee-jerk reaction to a changed economic environment. It’s the maturation of a five-year strategic plan envisioned in 2004, points out Arcand.

“We have a very hands-on board of directors and they wanted to build on the interface and cross-pollination that exists between all land-based resource industries,” she explains. There is currently a situation, partly because of the economy, where loggers are not finding enough work and are switching to other industries to get better utilization of their equipment, adds Arcand. Resource Expo aims to capitalize and expand on that trend.

The exposition will include a jobs fair where workers can find out what’s available in the various industrial sectors and what kinds of training and qualifications are required to capitalize upon them. “A lot of guys don’t know where to get that



information,” explains Arcand. The exposition will also include a contractor fair where companies and contractors can meet face-to-face to find out first-hand what opportunities are out there and what’s on the horizon.

Resource based industries share many of the same issues including permitting; dealing with multiple sets of legislation; safety; road use and technological and environmental concerns. Arcand says they are among the theme issues to be explored during Resources Expo.

For more information on the 2010 exposition, check out www.bcreourcesexpo.ca or telephone 250 961-3258.