

CITW Facts by Fax

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CITW FALL MEETING DATES ANNOUNCED

CITW's fall committee dates have been set. The Environmental, Pole, Promotion & Education, and Technical Committees will meet at the Toronto Airport Hilton on Monday, September 18, 2000. All CITW members are invited to tee off on the following day at the Timber Specialties Scramble being held at the Kleinburg Golf & Country Club in Kleinburg, Ontario. Watch for more details.

B.C. PROMISES STRONGER WARRANTY PROTECTION FOR FUTURE HOME BUYERS

In wake of a housing disaster affecting thousands of people, the British Columbia provincial government recently introduced a new notification system and logo to help future homeowners while the federal government is going to provide \$75 million in interest-free loans to assist homeowners afflicted with leaky condominiums.

The aid package, which will cost the federal government up to \$28 million in interest costs over the ten-year life of the loan, marks the first move by the federal government to join the B.C. government in dealing with the housing debacle.

Approximately 50,000 people are faced with leaky condos that were mostly built between 1986 and 1996. Stemming from structural faults that arose from provincial building-code violations, some have estimated the fiasco's final tally will reach \$1 billion. A B.C. warranty program owned by the Canadian Home Builders Association, collapsed last March, leaving \$130 million in claims by owners of leaky condos outstanding. The RCMP recently decreed there is not enough evidence to support a criminal investigation into the collapse of the non-profit warranty program.

Meanwhile the B.C. government unveiled new measures designed to curb the confusion currently reigning over home

warranty insurance. Some new homes on the market built by licensed residential builders meet mandatory third-party home warranty insurance regulations that came into effect on July 1, 1999. Other new homes do not. Homes built with building permits applied for before July 1, 1999 either have a variety of different warranties or none at all.

That situation is about to change. As of August 1, 2000, vendors of new homes built before the mandatory third-party home warranty insurance regulations came into effect must provide home buyers with a Notice of Home Warranty. The Notice must indicate the type, extent and expiry dates of any existing home warranty.

The B.C. government also unveiled a new home warranty logo, called "2-5-10," to help consumers identify homes that meet the stronger warranty requirements of the Homeowner Protection Act. The new warranties includes a two-year warranty on labour, five years on the building envelope (including water protection) and ten years on structure, making it the most effective warranties in the country. Residential builders who sign a licensing agreement will be able to use the new "2-5-10" warranty logo in their sales materials.

Peter Simpson, a spokesman with the Home Builders' Association, said the organization supports the full disclosure measure.

The B.C. measures fall short of recommendations made by former B.C. premier Dave Barrett. He recommended the creation of a fund financed by the federal and B.C. government as well as home builders to help homeowners repair their buildings. "In terms of compensation, it's a billion-dollar solution and the formula laid out by Barrett is not workable," says B.C.'s housing minister Jan Pullinger.

In related developments, the Building Envelope Research Consortium recently

published "The Best Practices Guide." Aimed at home builders, the publication provides recommendations and precautions that should be taken during the construction of condominiums. The B.C. research-based organization is also in the midst of putting together another guidebook entitled "The Consultant Guide: Building Envelope Rehabilitation." CITW financially supports BERC's research activities, and Brian Delbreuck of Chemical Specialties Inc. is CITW's representative within BERC's board of directors.

A PREMIER SHOWCASE IN THE CARIBBEAN

Canadian firms will have a golden opportunity this fall to showcase their products and services in the Caribbean. The Canadian Building/Construction Products Showcase, a premier trade show for the commercial, industrial and domestic building and design industries, will be held on November 6-7, 2000 in Barbados and November 9-10, 2000 in Antigua. It is being organized by Canadian Export Development (CED) in co-operation with the Canadian High Commission in Barbados.

Companies may be able to obtain financial assistance for expenses. Eligible companies can be reimbursed up to 50 percent of the costs for travel, space and booth rentals under the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Program for Export Market Development (PEMD).

Information can be obtained at your local International Trade Center. Or by contacting Robert Grison, Director of Operations, CED
Tel: (613) 825-9916
Fax: (613) 825-7108
E-mail: cced@sympatico.ca

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS

Canadian companies are invited to participate in the Canada Pavilion at the

International Builders Show being held during the annual meeting of the National Association of Home Builders in Atlanta, Georgia on February 9-12, 2001.

Besides enabling Canadian firms to showcase their products and services, the Canada Pavilion provides an excellent opportunity to meet key decision makers and buyers from government and the private sector.

Companies interested in participating may be able to obtain financial assistance for some expenses, including costs for travel and booth rental.

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NEW EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

The biggest biological problem for wood worldwide ironically also yields exceptional opportunities for Canadian termite-resistant treated wood products. That's what an assembly of industry experts and representatives heard during a series of one-day conferences organized by Forintek Canada Corp. The colloquium, entitled "Termite-Resistant Wood Buildings: New Export Opportunities," was held in Vancouver on June 13, 2000 and in Quebec City two days later.

The potential export market for Canadian products in termite regions such as the Caribbean and Japan is growing rapidly. Other areas such as the Pacific Rim show additional potential. Delivering termite-resistant wood products and wood buildings is the key to capturing these markets, the conference heard. It is also the anchor towards maintaining market share in markets such as Louisiana, where increasing termite infestations have led the state government to use treated wood. Other states are now following suit.

Several interesting sessions were presented including "Termite Management Methods in Buildings: Lessons from Louisiana," "Termite Resistant Wood Products -- Do they work?" "US and Offshore Codes and Standards for Treated Wood," "Handling Treated Wood in Manufacturing Plants or On-site," and "Market Opportunities for Termite Resistant Wood Products."

Henry Walther, CITW's Executive Director, gave a presentation in Vancouver entitled "Preservative Treatments for Wood/Plywood." Jocelyn Bougie, CITW's Environmental Coordinator, participated in the well-attended seminar held in Quebec

City. He gave a presentation entitled "Les Intrants utilisés pour le traitement."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POLE & TREATING ASSOCIATION

The Rocky Mountain Pole & Treating Association held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Western Red Cedar Association from June 4 to June 6 in picturesque Spokane, Washington. Jocelyn Bougie, CITW's Environmental Coordinator, gave a presentation that highlighted industry initiatives and CITW activities. Among the subjects that Jocelyn broached were SOP, Assessment 2000, and TRD implementation plan. "With Assessment 2000, Americans are eager to learn what's going on with this initiative and where it's going to go," notes Bougie.

Jocelyn also discussed several CITW sponsored studies either under way or already completed. These include a just published study on treated wood decking products performed by Forintek Canada Inc, a treated wood pole longevity study conducted by Samtech Corp and a zinc leeching study for steel poles that will be launched this year.

SOP STEERING COMMITTEES MEET

Environment Canada's Strategic Options Steering Committees met in Toronto on Wednesday, June 28 & Thursday, June 29 to discuss progress and future plans for the implementation of the recommendations in the Strategic Options Report published July 1, 1999.

The Manufacturers/Treaters Steering Committee met on Wednesday with a full agenda covering all aspects of the SOP relating to the manufacture of wood preservatives and pressure treated wood. CITW plays a pivotal role in the completion of the activities of this committee.

Work continues by the NPRI Working Group to develop a guidance document for treaters to assist in reporting year 2000 releases. The Assessment 2000 program is well underway with one third of all treaters in Canada having already undergone their plant assessments. An Implementation Plan outline is being developed and will be distributed to all treaters to assist in completion of their plan for compliance with the TRD's. Discussions have also begun to develop a Consumer Information System and Consumer Lumber Waste Management Program.

The Industrial Treated Wood Users Steering Committee which includes representatives of the major utilities, railroads and telecommunications groups met on Thursday

to review progress on recommendations related to industrial/commercial uses of treated wood products. CITW represents the industry in an ex-officio position (observer).

An Industrial Treated Wood Management System Guideline has been drafted and is under final review. The Pembina Institute in Calgary, Alberta has been contracted to prepare a lifecycle analysis methodology comparing pressure treated wood products with alternatives such as steel and concrete. A Technical Options/Barriers to Waste Management study has also been awarded to RW Stephens Consulting Limited.

CITW OBJECTS TO COTTAGE LIFE INACCURACIES

The June 2000 issue of Cottage Life magazine, published in Toronto, included a pull out booklet entitled "The Dock Primer" which was co-produced by Cottage Life and Fisheries & Oceans Canada. A section of the Primer discussed pressure treating with several inaccurate statements related to the quality and safety of pressure treated wood products.

CITW has been in contact with the editor indicating our displeasure with the Primer and requesting an opportunity for clarification in the next edition of Cottage Life and any future runs of the booklet.

The Institute will also be in contact with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Inc. to determine a means by which the message of safe use and handling of environmentally beneficial treated wood products can be promoted.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

American Wood Preservers Association Technical Committee Meetings

Hilton Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah
September 17-22, 2000

Canadian Institute of Treated Wood Committee Meetings

Hilton Toronto Airport
Toronto, Ontario
September 18, 2000
Wood Solutions Fair
Radisson Suites Toronto Airport
Toronto, Ontario
September 26

Canadian Wood Council

Fall Meeting
Calgary, Alberta
October 19-20, 2000

Canadian Wood Preservers Association Fall Meeting

Montreal, Quebec
October 23-24, 2000

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