

# CITW Facts by Fax

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## THE PRACTICE

The season premier of the drama series "The Practice" on Sunday, October 8, 2000 featured two cases: first a man accused of murdering his wife and the second a family taking legal action against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The later case involves a claim that three children were experiencing health problems as a result of playing on a CCA treated play structure. The chemical supplier and play structure manufacturer are no longer in business. The family claims that EPA was negligent because they knew of a danger and failed to inform the public.

David versus Goliath! The case goes to court in next week's episode, Sunday evening at 10:00PM on ABC.

CITW has been in contact with the AWPI and the CCA suppliers to ensure that any response to the media or the public is coordinated. So far there has been no reaction. We anticipate that depending upon the outcome of the fictional case, there will be more interest in the coming weeks.

## CITW FALL MEETING A ROARING SUCCESS

The CITW fall meeting was a roaring success, drawing over 30 people at the Toronto Airport Hilton on September 18, 2000. A good time was had by all, especially at the Timber Specialties Scramble, a golf tournament organized by Ted Garner of Total Forest Industries.

Among the highlights was the inaugural meeting of the Pole Producers Steering Committee, which met for the first time since it was awarded the status of full

standing committee. Chaired by Paul Dandy of Hickson Building Products Ltd., the committee provided updates on the North American Wood Pole Coalition and discussed and disseminated information about utilities across Canada.

The Environmental Committee had a busy schedule, discussing a plethora of topics including the Assessment 2000 program, the National Pollutant Release Inventory Guidance Documents and the zinc leaching study. It also provided members with an update on Environment Canada's Strategic Options Report.

Besides discussing the decking study, the Technical Committee held an extensive caucus on changes over the National Building Code of Canada and the development of international wood preservation standards under ISO.

The Promotion and Education Committee was pleased to announce that CITW's website has been revamped and updated. Its web address is <http://www.citw.org>. Take a look, and let us know what you think.

## UPDATE ON ASSESSMENT 2000

The nationwide plant assessment program is progressing as scheduled, with the assessments for all 66 plants across the country, expected to be completed by October 20, 2000.

The process has proven to be a model in cooperation, with treating plants literally going out of their way to assist the six-man assessment team with the exercise, according to the feedback received by the CITW. The treaters have reported that they are pleased with the fairness of the assessments, which were conducted by wood preservation consultant RW Stephens Ltd. of Vancouver. An industry-

wide aggregate report is expected in December 2000.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Environment Canada Strategic Options Report of June 1999, the assessments are a prerequisite to the formulation of a Technical Recommendations Documents (TRD) Implementation Plan. Implementation Plans must be submitted by June 30, 2001, with an annual follow-up report over the next five years.

A template has been designed to assist treaters to conduct their Implementation Plans. Environment Canada is requesting that all treating facilities use the template to complete their Implementation Plans. The template for the Implementation Plan will be mailed to all treaters by early November. There is no cost for the template.

The assessment program will provide a benchmark for the industry, and an industry benchmark for Environment Canada. By 2006, the steering committee will review and measure the success of the voluntary program. It will also review the effectiveness of the TRDs in reducing CEPA toxic substance releases.

## REPORT ON THE STATE OF CANADA'S FORESTS

The need to balance the surging global demand for wood with the need to preserve and maintain healthy and sustainable forests for non-commercial uses is the key challenge facing the Canadian forest sector, according to a federal report entitled, *The State of Canada's Forests 1999-2000*.

"To remain at the forefront of sustainable forest management, we must be proactive in addressing new global realities such as

ballooning population growth, stronger competition in the international forest products marketplace, and an increasing desire for certified, products from sustainably managed forests," noted Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources Canada.

Canada's forest industries are more efficient and better positioned to meet the demands of the future thanks to the record number of acquisitions, mergers, and restructures that took place over the past year, according to the recently published report. It also reveals that the amount of forest land in Canada that is being certified as being sustainably managed is increasing much faster than expected. Aboriginal rights and concerns as well as climate change mitigation are now being increasingly taken into account in land ownership, forest use and management decisions, points out the report.

The survey notes that Canada is playing a leading role in promoting an international, legally-binding instrument for forests, possibly an International Forest Convention.

The entire report is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfs/proj/ppiab/sof/common/latest.shtml>

## POLE AND PILING UPDATES

Progress has been made on issues of importance to wood pole producers and users, according to the North American Pole Coalition. A proposal for a significant change in the strength and loading codes has been dropped by the National Electric Safety Code committee reviewing input on Change Proposals. It also discarded a proposal to remove the 60-foot wind loading exemption. The North American Wood Coalition and the WWPI worked hard to defeat both proposals.

Discussions, however, over what, if any, changes are needed to ANSI O5 stress values remains deadlocked in a debate over technical matters. It appears that a resolution does not seem possible for balloting to take place before the fall NESC meetings. The wood industry does not feel changes are justified and it does not object to the status quo and leaving the code as it stands.

The coalition also intends to voice its continuing opposition to change

proposals that would reduce safety factors for steel, an issue that has yet to be voted on.

## MICHAEL JOSEPH PRENDIVILLE

On behalf of all CITW members and staff our deepest sympathy goes out to Lawrence Prendiville and the entire family over the loss of his father Michael Joseph Prendiville on October 1, 2000.

"Joe" was a pioneer in the development of Northern Manitoba. He was the founder of Prendiville Industries which includes Ryan Forest Products, Norwest Manufacturing, Norwest Do-it Centre, Prairie Forest Products and Kenora Forest Products.

## CHINESE MARKET OPENING UP

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will lead the sixth Team Canada trade mission next month to China. The mission will visit Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong from November 18 to 26 and underscore building products to take advantage of the booming Chinese housing market.

A flurry of new initiatives launched by the Chinese government has spurred a housing boom in cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. China is expected to annually build between 486 million and 549 million square metres of new residential houses over the next 20 years. Last year 410 million square metres of residential housing were completed in China, a 19 per cent increase over the previous year. Investment in China's real estate development was estimated at US\$ 48.4 billion in 1999, up 10 per cent from 1998.

For more information on China's building products market, please contact Murray Rasmussen, Manager, Information Transfer, Export and International Centre, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Tel: (403) 515-2955  
E-mail: [mrasmuss@cmhc-schl.gc.ca](mailto:mrasmuss@cmhc-schl.gc.ca)

## SECOND-LONGEST WOODEN BRIDGE IN EUROPE BUILT BY THE FRENCH

Can Douglas-fir in France be that much different from ours?

The second-largest wooden bridge in Europe was recently completed in central France. Constructed with locally grown Douglas fir heartwood, the timber bridge

is 189 feet long, 33 feet wide and 100 feet above the Maronne River.

The heartwood needs no preservative treatment because the wood is either protected from rain by the road or slopes too much for water to stand, says Jean-Louis Michotey of Sodeteg, the French engineering firm that designed the bridge. "We chose Douglas fir because of its good mechanical properties and natural durability," added Michotey.

Apart from its concrete deck, the bridge is entirely made out of wood. The bridge consists of five identical box beams resting on six crossed supports, in the form of sloping Z shapes, ranging from 39 to 82 feet long.

The new wooden bridge, which has no weight limit, replaces a steel suspension bridge that was demolished because it had insufficient width and low road limit.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Northeast Pole Conference

Binghamton, New York

October 17-18, 2000

### American Wood Preservers Institute

#### Fall Meeting

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

October 18-20, 2000

### 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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202-2141 Thurston Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1G 6C9  
Tel: 613-737-4337  
Fax: 613-247-0540  
Email: [citw@fox.nstn.ca](mailto:citw@fox.nstn.ca)  
Website: [www.citw.org](http://www.citw.org)*