

CITW Facts by Fax

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CITW 2001 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The CITW Annual General Meeting will be held from April 8 to 10 in Vancouver at the Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside.

The meeting will open with the traditional Welcome Reception on Sunday evening, with the General Meeting taking place the following day on April 9. A number of interesting speakers have been lined up to address issues of interest to the industry. Besides Chris Gaston, Group Leader, Markets at Forintek Canada Corp., Wayne Stephens, the Manager of the Canadian Housing and Construction Center at the British Columbia Institute of Technology have confirmed their presence. The keynote luncheon speaker will be David Baxter, the executive director of the Urban Futures Institute. Baxter is an expert on the population and economic change has on business and society.

In order to receive the special conference rate of \$130 single/double, the CITW encourages everyone to book hotel accommodations as quickly as possible at (800) 905-8582 or (604) 689-9211. The hotel cut-off date is March 8, 2001.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA STRATEGIC OPTIONS PROCESS

An industry-wide aggregate summary of the Assessment 2000 program will be available this March, reported CITW Executive Director Henry Walthert. This was one of the positive developments that was reached after Henry met with Barry Munson, Terry Mah and Stacey Smythe of Environment Canada last month in Edmonton to discuss progress regarding the Strategic Options Process. "Discussions centred around the next stages of the SOP, with a particular focus on the Implementation phase," said Walthert.

Administered by the CITW, the nationwide plant assessment program was a model in cooperation, with all CITW members signing up. A Canadian total of 66 plants participated. In accordance with the recommendations of the Environment Canada Strategic Options Report of June 1999, the assessments were a prerequisite to the formulation of a Technical Recommendations Documents (TRD) Implementation Plan.

A Technical Guidance Document designed to assist treaters to prepare their Implementation Plans is currently being developed by wood preservation consultant RW Stephens Ltd. of Vancouver. The document will provide treating plants with guidance as to how TRD deficiencies can be addressed. It will be mailed to all treaters in April/May 2001.

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.

TREATED WOOD INDUSTRY DODGES NEW HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Tough hazardous waste management requirements recently introduced by Ontario's Ministry of Environment seemingly will not be applied to treated wood.

Thanks to the amendment of Regulation 347 of Ontario's General Waste Management Regulation, some wastes previously considered non-hazardous have been classified as hazardous. The amendment also calls for a compulsory new leaching procedure to determine if wastes

are hazardous. The Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP), which is a test that predicts the concentration of chemicals that may leach from waste in landfills, will test 88 contaminants. Among the chemicals to be tested are arsenic, benzopyrene, pentachlorophenol, dioxins and furans, and hexachlorobenzene.

The new regulations do not specifically make exemptions for treated wood. But after consulting with user groups such as the utilities and railways, it appears that the new requirements may not apply to treated wood wastes, says CITW executive director Henry Walthert.

The CITW is also keeping a close eye on developments stemming from the federal front. Environment Canada, in collaboration with the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME), is currently forging nearly identical rules to adopt TCLP to govern interprovincial movement of hazardous waste. "These would not be enforceable regulations per se but the CCME would be hoping that the provinces would enact the guidelines as regulations," says Walthert. "We want to ensure that treated wood is not covered by the CCME regulations, and the prospects look good."

A coalition has been formed by CITW to address this issue. The Canadian Electricity Association, CN Rail, CP Rail and Bell Canada have all agreed to participate.

There are precedents. Quebec's hazardous waste regulations have a blanket exemption for treated wood. In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency has long had a TLCP requirement for identifying hazardous wastes but it has exempted CCA treated wood and the limits for creosote and penta are higher than in the Ontario regulation.

CANADIAN WOOD PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

In a bid to reduce travel expenses for industry personnel while bolstering attendance, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Wood Preservation Association decided after holding a planning session in Vancouver on January 25, 2001 to hold the organization's Annual General Meeting in conjunction with CITW's fall meeting and the CSA Technical Committee. These are now scheduled for the week of October 22nd, 2001.

TORONTO HOUSING

Plagued by termites, the City of Toronto has long discouraged the use of wood or treated wood products for the exterior of homes. But thanks to a meeting CITW's Executive Director Henry Walthert had with the city's Shelter, Housing & Support Department of the Community & Neighbourhood Services, the seeds of change may be sowed.

Anchoring his presentation with research from Forintek Canada Corp. and the University of Toronto, Walthert discussed advancements in wood preservation and available options for wood framing. "Properly treated wood, be it CCA treated or borate treated, is ideal for house framing," points out Walthert. Arnie Rose, manager of Housing Improvement Programs, and his staff were "very appreciative" of the discussion. "They now have a better understanding of the situation," added Walthert.

While nothing yet is scheduled, the CITW intends to follow up on the meeting.

LUDI MORYTO NEW PRESIDENT OF RAM FOREST

Ludi Moryto has been appointed president of Ram Forest Products Inc. by founder and owner Milos Strapec. Working for Ram Forest in various capacities since 1980, Moryto holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Wood Science from the University of Toronto.

Established in 1975 by Strapec, Ram Forests is eastern Canada's largest producer of consumer CCA preserved wood products.

NEW PUBLICATION LAUNCHED

A new publication aimed at providing exporters with practical information and insights to develop business in the U.S. was launched recently by the Canadian Consulate General in Chicago.

The Midwest Building Materials Market Report will focus on key Midwest markets for building materials as well as feature interviews with leading builders, distributors and associations to help Canadian business identify trends and vital market and regulatory issues.

The report can be accessed at www.canadachicago.net For more information, please contact Dustchin Rock, Business Development Officer, Canadian Consulate General at (312) 616-1860 or at dustchin.rock@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

U.S. NATIONAL HARDWARE SHOW

The largest trade fair in the Western hemisphere dedicated to the hardware, do-it-yourself and building products market will be held in Chicago from August 12 to 15. The National Hardware Show and Building Products Exposition will feature 3,000 exhibitors and over 70,000 manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, distributors, builders, remodellers and industry professionals from over 100 countries will attend.

To reserve a booth and be part of the Canadian Group Stand, please contact Monique Deschamps, Kadoke Exhibition Services at (613) 241-4088 or via e-mail at Monique.D@kadoke.com

NEW FOREST PRODUCTS INTERNET PORTAL IN THE HORIZON

An Internet portal dedicated to the North American forest-products sector is being spearheaded by Bell Canada. Expected to be launched by the end of the year, the portal will become a commercial hub for pulp, paper, lumber and engineered wood.

The portal hopes to integrate and increase the efficiency of the supply chain between producers and buyers, according to Wagulth Rabbat, Bell Canada's vice-president, corporate markets. "The critical savings will come from better customer service and streamlining processes."

Bell's portal is expected to raise \$20 million in first-round financing. Its partners include SGF Rexfor Inc, the forest-products arm of the provincial investment agency Societe de Financement du Quebec, and BCE Emergis, part of BCE Inc.'s group of companies.

FISHERIES ACT PROSECUTORS TARGET INDIVIDUALS

Federal prosecutors have upped the ante in pollution prosecutions under the federal Fisheries Act. Environment Canada

enforcement personnel have recently told us that they now believe that the most effective way to achieve compliance is to educate individual employees that they are legally responsible and may well be personally charged. They indicated that their investigations now routinely include an analysis of individual actions as well as collecting evidence against the company. Personal charges may be laid even if the individual was acting on behalf of a company, and within the scope of his or her corporate duties.

BUYERS' CORNER

For sale: GEN II incisor, 10-12 years old. Please contact Mr. Tim Seaman, Shelburne Wood Processing at 519-925-5917.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Canadian Institute of Treated Wood
Annual General Meeting
April 8-10, 2001
Renaissance Vancouver Hotel
Vancouver, BC

Canadian Wood Council
Annual General Meeting
April 25-26, 2001
Kelowna, BC

American Wood Preservers Association
Annual Meeting
May 20-23, 2001
Minneapolis, MN

International Research Group
May 20-25, 2001
Nara, Japan

Forest Products Society
June 24-27, 2001
Baltimore, MD

Canadian Wood Council
Semi-annual General Meeting
October 18-19, 2001
Montreal, PQ

American Wood Preservers Association
Fall Technical Meetings
September 16-21, 2001
Rapid City, SD

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