

CITW Facts by Fax

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CITW AGM SHAPES UP

Registrations are rolling in daily for the CITW 2002 Annual General Meeting, April 10-12, 2002 at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario.

The addition of Maclean's magazine editor Tony Wilson-Smith as our keynote luncheon speaker on Thursday afternoon promises to bring new insights to CITW members. Here is your chance to learn what makes a news story, how it is selected and how it develops. Tony Wilson-Smith is one of Canada's most respected current events reporters and political commentators. Tony joined Maclean's in 1983 as Quebec Editor. Throughout the 1980s, he worked as a foreign correspondent for the magazine, becoming Maclean's first-ever Moscow bureau chief from 1987 to 1990. He became Ottawa bureau chief in 1990, holding a ringside seat to the nation's major events ever since. In 1996, Tony demonstrated his unique knowledge of the inside workings of government with the release of the year's most talked about political books, *Double Vision: The Inside Story of the Liberals in Power*, which he co-authored with the Globe & Mail's Ottawa Bureau Chief, Ed Greenspon. The book was an immediate bestseller, receiving much media attention and critical acclaim.

A number of federal government representatives have been invited to participate in a panel session on Thursday morning to present their views on our industry and how we can work together to maintain its viability in the future. We encourage everyone to attend. For more details contact CITW.

FACE-TO-FACE WITH PMRA

The recent announcement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that industry is voluntarily moving away from the use of CCA products in residential applications by 2004 prompted a meeting between CITW and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) on February 25, 2002 in Ottawa.

Not surprisingly, the PMRA said it would like to emulate the EPA's latest move — something that was turned down by the CITW.

"We told them we're not prepared at this point to discuss the withdrawal of anything until such time as we have alternatives to turn to," said CITW Executive Director Henry Walthert. "Their normal registration process takes 18 months, but we don't have the luxury of time. We need them as soon as possible because the market is going to be making the switch by next year."

Procedures to speed up the registration process such as temporary registration and accelerated registration were discussed. PMRA officials were non-committal, and said they would get back to CITW.

CITW also informed PMRA officials that the switch to alternatives involved more than just the registration process — hence the need to move even more promptly on this issue.

"The registration is one thing but it's much more complex than that," noted Walthert. "The treating plants have to be converted, and then there's building and product standards which also come into play."

At the meeting representing PMRA was John Worgan, Assistant Associate Director of the Health Evaluation Division, and Jeff Parson, Senior Coordination Officer, Products Sustainability and Coordination Division. The CITW was represented by Henry Walthert, Executive Coordinator Paul McKeogh, Craig Wilson and Cliff Baker of Timber Specialties Ltd., Paul Dandy and Bill Baldwin of Archwood Protection, Kevin Archer of Chemical Specialties Inc. and John Taylor of Osmose Inc.

CITW MEETS WITH CITY OF OTTAWA AND HYDRO OTTAWA

In a bid to allay concerns about CCA pressure treated wood CITW Executive Director Henry Walthert and Executive Coordinator

Paul McKeogh met with officials from the City of Ottawa and Hydro Ottawa on March 12, 2002.

"They were definitely concerned about the media reports," said Walthert. "But they were very appreciative of the opportunity to sit down with us and be appraised of what has so far taken place in the U.S. and here in Canada."

The City of Ottawa is concerned about existing CCA pressure treated wood structures located throughout the city, and is waiting to hear from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), explained Jeff Silverthorn, program manager, design & construction - landscaping architecture. In the meantime the city announced that it will not buy CCA treated wood, and is seeking alternatives.

Hydro Ottawa too is looking for alternatives, and for the time being intends to buy only butt treated cedar, said Norm Fraser, vice-president, distribution networks.

ARSENIC STANDARDS TIGHTENED IN THE U.S.

The arsenic standard in drinking water will be lowered to 10 parts per billion (ppb) from the current standard of 50 ppb, recently announced U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman.

The move was not without controversy. The Bush administration suspended a regulation written by the Clinton administration that would slash the amount of arsenic in tap water because it wanted another study to be conducted on health risks before adopting a rule that would be costly to many businesses and small communities.

The additional study "reinforced the basis for the decision," said Whitman. "I said that we would obtain the necessary scientific and cost review to ensure a standard that fully protects the health of all Americans. We did that, and we are reassured by all of the data that significant reductions are necessary."

The new standard must be met by 2006. Nearly 97 per cent of the water systems affected by this rule are small water systems that serve less than 10,000 people. The EPA plans to provide \$20 million over the next two years for research and development of more cost-effective technologies.

The EPA also intends to provide technical assistance and training to operators of small systems, which will reduce their compliance costs. Last year, the EPA provided more than \$600 million in grants and loans to water systems for drinking water compliance.

CREOSOTE BANNED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Wood products treated with creosote will be banned from the consumer market throughout the European Union as of June 30, 2003, after a scientific committee concluded that creosote has a greater potential to cause cancer than previously thought, announced recently the European Commission (EC). The ban also applies to sales of the wood preservative itself to the general public.

Under the new law creosote may still be used for industrial and professional applications such as railway sleepers and telephone poles, but with tougher restrictions. Its use is prohibited inside buildings, in playgrounds and other outdoor places where there is a risk for contact with skin. Old treated wood, however, commercialized for a second time can be used irrespective of the creosote-type applied.

The new law also imposes tougher restrictions on the maximum allowable concentration of benzo-a-pyrene (BaP) — the active ingredient in creosote — in industrial applications. It will be reduced from the current level of 500 ppm to 50 ppm.

The 15 countries that make up the European Union have until June 2003 to implement the ban. The decision is final — there will be no further debate by governments or the European Parliament, said the EC.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSAL OF PLASTICS WASTES

Experts from some 100 governments have adopted a new set of technical guidelines to address the disposal of plastic wastes. It was prepared under the auspices of the Basel convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

The new guidelines respond to growing concerns that many developing countries lack the necessary legislation and facilities for coping with the dramatic growth in the quantity of plastic wastes. In many countries, plastics are disposed of through, open uncontrolled burning and landfilling. The burning of

polyvinylchloride (PVC) plastics produces organic pollutants such as furans and dioxins, which are classified as possible human carcinogens.

The new guidelines address a wide range of management issues such as energy recovery and final disposal, health and safety, shipping and transport. The new guidelines are entitled Technical Guidelines for the Identification and Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes and for their Disposal.

The guidelines can be accessed at www.basel.int/

SASKATCHEWAN FUNDS \$1 MILLION CREOSOTE CLEAN-UP

The Saskatchewan government is spending \$1 million to clean up a creosote contaminated property at the former site of the Domtar wood treatment plant in Prince Albert, which closed down in 1975 after 50 years of operation.

The clean-up, which will take place over the next three years, consists of excavating and hauling contaminated soil to a bioreactor. The contaminated soil will then be mixed with fertilizer and other elements. Microbial activity biogrades the creosote, effectively cleaning the soil and making it available for future use.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADE SHOW IN INDIA

India's first international building and construction trade exhibition will be held in New Delhi on December 11-14. Interbuild India 2002 expects to receive industry representatives from all over Asia, particularly since it is the first international exhibition of its kind in the region. India's market for the building and construction industry is estimated to be US\$16 billion.

For further information, please contact: Anne Heath at (613) 549-0404 or via e-mail at ah@unilinkfairs.com

POLLUTION PLANS IN FORCE IN TORONTO

Manufacturers involved in the chemical, plastics, petrochemical and leather sectors operating in Toronto must submit a Pollution Prevention (P2) plan by June 30, 2002, under a new City of Toronto By-law.

Under the by-law, which was passed on July 6, 2000, a contravention of the pollution prevention planning requirements can result in a fine of up to \$5,000 for every day of the offence.

The automotive, dry cleaning, medical, photofinishing, printing and transportation sectors had until December 31, 2001 to submit their plans.

For more information please visit www.city.toronto.on.ca/involved/wpc/nby-law.htm

TORONTO HARDWARE & BUILDING MATERIALS SHOW

CITW was represented at The Hardware & Building Materials, held in Toronto on February 3-5, by Paul McKeogh our Executive Coordinator who was supported by some Ontario CITW members.

McKeogh seized the opportunity to talk to industry representatives about CITW's enterprising consumer awareness program. Industry insiders such as retailers told McKeogh that most consumers are not alarmed by the CCA pressure treated wood issue. Some retailers, though, "expressed concern that the labeling program may possibly have negative effects on the sale of the product," said McKeogh. But the voluntary labeling program has never been more topical, given the spate of media coverage, points out McKeogh.

CONSUMER AWARENESS PROGRAM - LABELING

This program was agreed by all stakeholders to alleviate some of the concerns of the Government Regulatory Agencies. It is in the best interests of our industry to demonstrate our willingness to fully implement this program. Let's get active, get your signage: bilingual bundle tags, hanging tags, lumber end tags and stickers — all of which are designed to provide consumers with basic safety handling tips and information. For more information or to obtain the signage please call Paul McKeogh at CITW, Tel - (613) 737-4337, fax (613) 247-0540, or e-mail - citw@fox.nstn.ca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CITW 2002 Annual General Meeting
April 10-12, 2002, Ottawa Marriott
Ottawa, Ontario

American Wood-Preservers' Association
April 21-24, Peabody Hotel
Memphis Tennessee

Canadian Wood Council Annual General Meeting
June 5-7, 2002
Halifax, Nova Scotia

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