

DIGITAL EDITION

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THE **VEGETATION MANAGER** *magazine* **2023**

INDUSTRIAL WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

2023 SPRING CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

2023 BURSARY WINNERS

**REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS FOR
VEGETATION VISUALIZATION**

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- LISA RYBCHUK, PRESIDENT PVMA



The 2023 vegetation management season is well underway, and we look forward to a safe and productive season ahead! We wish to offer a hearty welcome to the newest members to the PVMA Board; Orville McLean and Darcy Soderstrom. We are excited to have them on board, along with re-elected members, Bob Gordon and Laura Hammer. We greatly appreciate the time and effort of

all the volunteers, including Board members past and present, as well as the support of the members and staff. We truly could not do this without you!

The PVMA is particularly pleased with the fantastic show of support at the recent Spring Conference held at the River Cree Resort from February 28th to March 2nd, 2023. The success of the event was a testament to the far-reaching impact of the Association. From the

eleven presentations to the well-attended tradeshow and evening banquet, the event provided tremendous opportunities for networking and knowledge-sharing across the industry.

In other news, the PVMA and the UTT/UTW Board of Governors are currently responding to recent changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Code, which directly affect the work of the Utility Tree Trimmers/Workers. Discussions are underway to ensure a smooth and consistent transfer of specific legislation from the Alberta Electrical Utility Code to the updated Occupational Health & Safety Code. On a related note, the group is also examining the possibility of the UTT/UTW program becoming a Red Seal Trade. Though it is in the early stages of the process, we will continue to keep you apprised of any news in this regard.

Please stay tuned for updated information from the PVMA over the coming months. All the best in your vegetation management endeavours!

Lisa Rybchuk, PVMA President

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MEET ONE OF YOUR NEW DIRECTORS: ORVILLE MCLEAN

- SUBMITTED BY KIMBERLY LAING



As someone who grew up in farming communities across the prairies and to the west coast, Orville is no stranger to the outdoors and the spirit of the people who live in Alberta. Over 15 years ago, Orville was working in the hospitality industry when he met some folks from Fortis and Asplundh who were talking about their exciting outdoor career 'working with trees', and from that moment his career changed. It was only months later that Orville was working with that crew as a ground person.

From there he became a trimming apprentice and then did hazard tree removals in the mountains for Arbortech. In 2011, he started patrolling and consenting for ArborMetrics and also ran spray crews for a season. Now as the Director of Operations for Canada, and the completion of several UVM work projects around North America, Orville has taken his role to the next level. What brings him joy every day is the ability to serve customers and help them solve complex issues on the Right-of-way (ROW) using a combination of tools, creativity, and technology – and of course a lot of learning.

Orville originally went to school for power engineering but then went on to get his ISA Certified Arborist and Utility Specialist and is a Project Management Professional (PMP). Thinking back on some of his favorite moments, Orville recalls working at Barrier Lake and sitting

120 feet up in a spruce tree on the mountains and appreciating how beautiful the view was.

Not only does he love the outdoors, but he loves the unique people you meet in this industry. He is amazed to see an industry comprised of people with such different perspectives and the interesting stories of how they came to be here.

While doing post storm work during hurricane Sandy, a situation that could have brought out the worst in people, he saw folks come together from diverse backgrounds with kindness and teamwork to get the job done around a common goal. It's not only extreme situations like this where you see the camaraderie of teamwork at its best, but Orville appreciates the tangible results you see in the work we all do every day.

He recalls one of the most satisfying feelings is walking through a ROW after work has been done and seeing immediate impacts to the community and customers we serve, not only by keeping clearances to the lines but also the potential for environmental stewardship. Orville has enjoyed volunteering in many capacities throughout his career, including sea cadets, church and community organizations, volunteer fire fighting and helping at the municipal planning commission.

He volunteers across the industry, including the ISA, UAA and PVMA, and is looking forward to making an impact at the PVMA in his new role. He would like to help bring more knowledge to the public about the meaningful work we do in our industry and the purpose and significance behind that work. When people see us working out there, they might see us measuring, collecting data or out in a truck, but they don't see what we do in a deeper way – and that's our opportunity for growth.

There's so much potential in the industry and this is another great avenue and opportunity to share our work with others, recruit new people and educate the public. Orville is looking forward to hearing from membership to get ideas on getting our message out there, and continuing the good works that's been in place at the PVMA for years.

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INDUSTRIAL WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER EDWARDS



THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER 25, 2018 ISSUE OF THE VEGETATION MANAGER MAGAZINE. GIVEN THE CURRENT WILDFIRE SITUATION WE FELT IT BENEFICIAL TO RUN IT AGAIN.

As a new season of hot dry weather has begun, within an aging landscape, most industrial companies will have completed and submitted their annual Industrial Wildfire Management Plans. The Alberta Government developed Industrial Wildfire Control Plans (IWCP) to help identify and mitigate wildfire risks. Under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act submissions are a mandatory requirement for any facility located on or within 1 km of public land and inhabited by a least 1 person for 4+ hours a day from March 1st through November 31st.

The intent is to provide Agriculture and Forestry information on where employees are working to help increase employee safety in the event of an emergency wildfire. Though the main goal of an IWCP is to protect human life, benefits of these plans are mutual. Not only are the staff and industrial assets protected from risk in case of a wildfire, but the Government is also able to advise industry on how to best manage sites to reduce the risk of fires being started at the facilities.

The three pieces of information critical in supporting wildfire emergency response are:

1. [EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION](#)
2. [ACCURATE SITE LOCATIONS](#)
3. [ACCURATE NUMBER OF ON-SITE INDIVIDUALS](#)

In addition to planning in the event of an emergency wildfire, Industry is also committed to utilizing Best Management Practices to assist in the prevention of industry-caused wildfires and mitigate the impact of fires on infrastructure, operations liability, personnel safety, and the environment (CAPP 2008). Initiatives critical to the success in wildfire prevention include:

- Regulatory compliance to enhance fire suppression response (IWCP)
- Voluntary assessment of wildfire threat and risk to mitigate damage (Firesmart)
- Standard Industry Practice to reduce wildfire ignitions (BMP's)

The 2016 Fort MacMurray wildfires were a test of both IWCP's and Emergency Response Plans that resulted in the following learnings: the importance of standardized emergency response plans and language, communication between all parties involved, and how to maintain adequate human resources.

Moving from a hot and dry spring into the summer and fall it is of the utmost importance that all considerations are made to eliminate potential fire hazards while working to ensure both the safety of you and your team, as well as the landscape and communities within.

Link to the IWCP User Manual: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/industrial-wildfire-control-plan-user-manual-iwcp#summary>



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2023 PVMA SPRING CONFERENCE

- SUBMITTED BY BY VAL EICHELT

It was great to be able to once again hold our bi-annual 3-day Spring Conference. It felt so good to be back in person at the River Cree Resort once again. Thank you for the overwhelming response from our Sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees. There were just over 200 in attendance.

We offered a total of 11 educational sessions presented by some well known in the Industry like Tom Wolf, Vivanne Servant and Linden Lundback as well as a newbie Kaylie Kryss, a former PVMA scholarship recipient.

We were pleased we could offer 10 Alberta Applicator Credits as well as 9 Saskatchewan and 5 BC Applicator Credits. In addition, we had 4 ISA credits available. The conference kicked off with 2 back to back sessions followed by the PVMA Annual General Meeting. Updates were shared by the President, Treasurer, and Directors and an election was held. Laura Hammer was re-elected to the Board of Directors for another term and Darcy Soderstrom & Orville McLean were newly elected. Following the AGM attendees were treated to a Meet & Greet on the first night that was sponsored by Vesperis & Corteva. Arbor-Tech Utility Services generously donated a Stihl blower which we raffled off at the end of that evening. The Blower was won by Mark Alberts from Vesperis.

The following morning Asplundh Canada sponsored the buffet breakfast and Arbor-Tech Utility Services sponsored our Build your own Burger lunch. In the evening we enjoyed a delicious banquet which was sponsored by Advantage VM & envu. During the banquet we were able

to introduce 3 of our 2022 Scholarship recipients. Our banquet speaker, Tyler Smith, shared about his life of hockey, his personal tragedy, and his resulting mental health journey. Thank you to Atco for sponsoring our banquet speaker.

Horizon Forest and Garden and Southbrook Safety donated a Husqvarna chain saw which we also raffled off, following the banquet. The chain saw was won by Sheldon Kincaid from Wright Tree Service.

Also following the banquet everyone had one last opportunity to get their bids in on the silent auction items, before bidding was closed. Thank you to those who donated items for the Silent Auction: envu, Vesperis, Corteva, Stopped, ACE Vegetation, Olds College, Kitsaki, Arbor-Tech Utility Services, Asplundh Canada, Raindrop Technique, and the UVMA

Our Silent Auction raised \$2,275 and our 2 draws raised \$1,525. Thank you to those who supported the PVMA through your bids and draw ticket purchases.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone. We couldn't pull an event off like this without the support of our sponsors. We know there are choices and we thank all of you that chose to support us through your registration and attendance at our event. PVMA is here to serve its members and we hope you found good value in what we offered at this event.



Presented at the 2023 PVMA Spring Conference.: 2022 PVMA Scholarship Recipients (left to right: Joanne Ireland, PVMA Executive Director, Caroline McDonald, Emmanuella Loomis, Talen Damberger, Keith Sanftleben, PVMA Awards Chairman)

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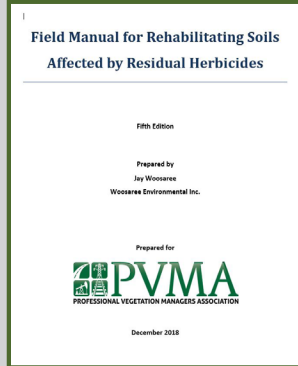
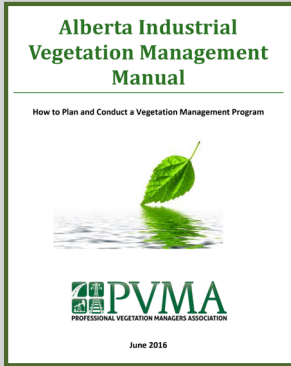


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PVMA Spring Conference Banquet Speaker Tyler Smith



Spring Conference - Sheldon Kincaid - Chainsaw Draw Winner.

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ONLINE TOOLS - PREDICTING WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR SPRAYING OPERATIONS

- SUBMITTED BY LINDEN LUNDBACK



Many times, when we have to go outside to work, for recreation, or for driving, it can be beneficial to have a good idea of what the weather will offer us while we are involved in those outside activities. Getting caught in a snow storm while driving, being in the middle of the golf course or lake during a downpour or driving for 3 hours to do a spraying job only to find out that rain and wind were the order of the day all are not great situations to have to deal with. My experience has found general forecasts we receive via TV or radio tended to be somewhat inexact from time to time regarding the more precise information that I perhaps required for that day. Knowing how to use available online weather tools and to assess the information these tools provide can help you realize more accurate weather predictions in many cases. Couple this with being able to understand visual weather clues can again increase upcoming weather prediction accuracy.

When involved in spraying operations, a better understanding and use of weather tools and indicators can help save money for the operation as well as provide a safer environment for the workers out in the field. Being able to better predict upcoming weather at the spraying site can result in a decision to stay home

rather than travel a few hours to a site only to find somewhat unfavourable weather conditions at the site and finding the temptation to spray anyway to prevent wasting money on the trip. It can also save money by avoiding a rain event within the rain fast period of the applied pesticide making the application ineffective. Recognizing the movement of an incoming thunderstorm can result in a crew leaving the area to a safer location, potentially saving one or more lives. These are some examples of how improved weather forecasting can benefit a pesticide applicator business.

For a spraying operation, for various reasons noted above, I believe benefits can be attained by learning a bit more about the weather and the online tools available for weather prediction. Using available weather tools and recognition of visual indicators as well as understanding weather concepts and signs could be a positive possible move to helping your spraying business prosper while providing a safer working environment for employees (not to mention perhaps a better experience on the golf course or on the lake when you are able to spend some time relaxing rather than spraying).

FROM A NEW POINT OF VIEW: REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS FOR VEGETATION VISUALIZATION

- SUBMITTED BY KAYLIE KRYS



Boots on the ground data collection is the most reliable way to monitor and measure targeted vegetation growth, but it is often time-consuming, expensive, and labour intensive. In many situations, remote sensing (RS) monitoring can assist or replace manual field observations. RS is the scanning of the Earth's surface and collection of spectral information. RS could be beneficial in many vegetation management projects because of the variety of platforms and sensors available. When deciding what RS source is best for your operation there are several variables to consider. This includes the management or project objectives, the type or species of vegetation that is being targeted, the growth stage at which the vegetation is being targeted, and the size of the field or site that is being monitored. As well, the image pixel resolution and return period of imagery to successfully monitor the project are important factors to consider.

Satellite imagery is the most common RS source. It is a mature technology that provides readily available and downloadable data. There is no field work necessary to monitor using satellite imagery and historical data for the site can even be collected. Satellite imagery is ideal for landscape-scale projects or larger as it often is lower resolution and cannot visualize small details. These limitations are evident when using freely available satellite imagery where one pixel equates 10m on the ground or larger. Satellite orbits also dictate the return period of imagery collection which means that precise image dates could possibly be missed. Landsat, Sentinel, and MODIS are a few satellite systems that

imagery can be collected from, each with a different launch date, spatial resolution, return period, and spectral bands available.

Ground-based RS imagery is low cost, low risk, and easily operable. It is commonly applied using tripod mounted monitors or handheld devices such as spectrometers and chlorophyll sensors. Ground based measurements work well for smaller sites and where you do not need an aerial view, but they are the most labour intensive of the RS sources.

Manned-aircraft imagery provides a higher spatial resolution than satellite imagery and can cover larger areas than an unoccupied aerial vehicle (UAV) in a timelier fashion. Aircrafts can be complex to deploy and operate, expensive to hire a pilot, and costly to rent or buy the plane and imagery equipment. Drifting of an imager is a major concern when collecting aerial imagery as there is little you can do once it occurs and must account for it when processing the data.

UAVs are the most flexible and adaptable of the RS sources. There are a variety of UAV types and sensors that can be specialized for projects. The flight height, spatial resolution, spectral bands collected, return period, and other aspects can be customized and adjusted to suite your management goals. UAVs are much more affordable than manned aircrafts and considerably easier to operate. There is also lower risk to these flights as there are no operators in the air to collect the data. Poor resistance to harsh environments, such as rain, high

winds, and extreme temperatures is a major limitation to UAV applications. Another is the restriction of flight length caused by battery power limitations which reduces the practicality of UAV imagery collection at the landscape-scale.

With the rise in popularity of UAVs, it is important to understand what rules and regulations apply when operating them. There are three UAV weight categories defined by Transport Canada. Drones weighing less than 250g can be flown without needing to be registered with Transport Canada and without a UAV Pilot Certificate. UAVs weighing 250g-25kg require a Basic UAV Pilot Certificate to operate and registration of the UAV with Transport Canada. An advanced UAV Pilot Certificate is required to fly a UAV with a flight weight of over 25kg that is registered with Transport Canada or to fly within controlled airspaces with the proper UAV safety declarations and permissions. Visit Transport Canada's website to review all the UAV rules and guidelines before taking flight.

The type of imagery collected is determined by the UAV sensor used. Visible light imagery collects the red, green, and blue light bands and displays them as a true colour composite, much like smart phones. Multispectral sensors commonly collect red, green, blue, red-edge, and near-infrared bands. This allows for the creation of false colour composites such as the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) which is widely used to measure the 'greenness' or health of vegetation. Hyperspectral imagery forms 100s of very narrow bands that can be applied in research or monitoring of very specific light waves. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) sensors apply a pulse laser that measures the distance between a surface and the sensor, which can build three dimensional measurements such as plant height or plot volume. A flight pattern best suited for the data collection should also be chosen. Orthomosaic imagery uses a large number of systematically collected overlapping images to create one large map image. Point sample imagery takes sub-sample images at predetermined points in the field, and while it does not collect a whole picture of the site like an orthomosaic, it does allow a larger area to be covered more quickly and with little pre-processing.

RS can be applied in the vegetation management industries to visualize target species, quantify the size of a weed or encroachment problem, record how the target is responding to treatment, and assist in long term management techniques. One example of this is the monitoring of herbicide resistant Kochia in farmer fields. Vegetation indices were used to visualize Kochia separately from the crop and monitor the patch growth or control through the year. Additionally, UAVs have been used to monitor right-of-ways, which reduces the amount of manual investigation that must take place, especially

on those that are difficult to access. Another example is the use of convolutional neuro networks applied to UAV imagery which can be used to build plant species recognizing computer models to perform plant counts or identifications. The opportunities of how RS sources can assist in monitoring and data collection within the vegetation management industries are endless. With the different RS sources available to use, it is important to weigh the benefits and obstacles faced when applying them to your vegetation management strategy or specific project.

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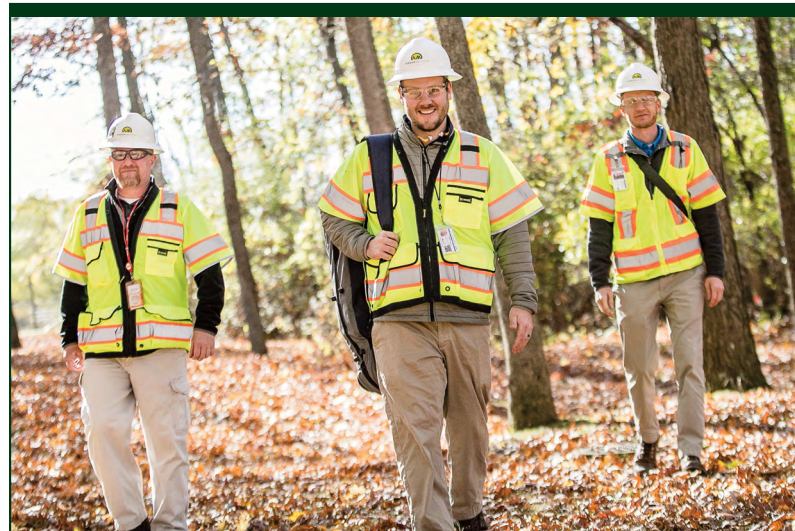


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2023 PVMA BURSARY RECIPIENTS

One of the many benefits of being a PVMA member is the opportunity for dependants to apply for a \$500 cash bursary towards post-Secondary studies. Applicants are eligible to receive a bursary if they are a dependant of an active PVMA member, are enrolled in post-secondary studies at a Canadian institution, have completed at least one semester, and are in good standing with that institution. They do not have to be in a vegetation related program to be eligible. The next deadline for applications will be January 31st, 2024.

The PVMA awarded 3 Bursaries to Post-Secondary Students in March of this year. Our 2023 recipients are:



CAITLYN ARYCHUK

Caitlyn is enrolled in her first year of the Animal Science Technology program, with an Equine Major, at Lakeland College in Vermilion. Caitlyn is involved in Lakeland's bison club and the rowing team. She also participates in 4H, dance, and western riding.

Caitlyn's mom is PVMA member Cathy Erichsen Arychuk



HOLLY ARYCHUK

Holly is enrolled in an Agricultural Sustainability program at Lakeland College in Vermilion. Holly is a member of Lakeland's Pipe and Drum Band and is involved in 4H, horseback riding, an outdoor recreation club, and highland dance.

Holly's mom is also PVMA member Cathy Erichsen Arychuk.



TALEN DAMBERGER

Talen is in his second year at Lethbridge College in a Business program, majoring in management. Talen is a coach in minor hockey and enjoys playing hockey, hunting, fishing, and camping.

Talen's mom is PVMA member Shyan Carswell.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

- INDUSTRIAL/NATIONAL COMMITTEES

IVMA B.C continued in 2023 with some online webinars such as: "Managing Knotweed Adjacent to Water under City of Abbotsford Pesticide Use Permit" which was on March 28th. "Managing New Plant Invasions – Riding the Wave of Atmospheric Rivers in BC & Alberta" which was on May 2, 2023. Current Executive includes Rick Matthe – President, Lisa Jarrett – VP, Gwen Shrimpton Executive Director, Ashli Oe -Secretary and Dan Eddy – Treasurer. Check out their website at <https://www.ivma.com/> for association information.

IVMA -ManSask has no current updates. Current executive includes Eric bullock - President, Chris Johnson- VP, Murray Froehlich - Treasurer, and Megan Herauf Secretary. The IVMA Man-Sask website is <http://ivmamansask.com/>

OVMA – Tour, Seminar and golf tournament will be held in North Bay, Ont . Golf on September 26th, and Tour on September 27th, and In-Person Seminar on the 28th.

Executive has Chad Horton as President, Brad Hayhoe as Past President, Alana Respondek as Treasurer, and Keith Lockhart as the Business Manager.

Information on the OVMA can be found at <https://www.ovma.ca/>

AVMA The Atlantic Vegetation Management Association (AVMA) in-person conference and AGM 2023 is slated for October 17-19th in St. John's NFLD

President - Jason Pond , VP – Mike Porter, Secretary – Holly Toner

Information on the AVMA is located at <http://myavma.ca/blog/>

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Thompson, Director in Charge

- EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of our magazine. We have some great follow up articles from the Spring Conference. We also have updates from our committees, an announcement regarding our Bursary recipients, and a profile article introducing one of our new Directors.

Val Eichelt, Committee Chair

- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership numbers remain steady. We renewed our contract with American Income Life Insurance which will continue to cover PVMA members in good standing with a \$3,000 accidental life insurance policy.

Jay Manganaro, Director in Charge

- CASINO COMMITTEE

Our next Casino is scheduled for November 7 & 8 of this year. It will be taking place at Cowboys Casino in Calgary. We have 38 positions to fill so we are looking for lots of help. We can re-imburse casino workers for their travel (mileage) as well as hotel room. Meals while working your shift will also be covered. If you are able to work a shift (or two) please contact the PVMA office or myself @ laura.hammer@cortexvegetation.com or follow the link to sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DABA82BA2FCCF8-pvma> Sign up early to get your preferred shift.

Laura Hammer, Director in Charge

- SAFETY COMMITTEE

Safety and Careers in UVM

The 2022 Tree Industry related incident statistics were released recently. These staggering numbers caught my attention to why we are still seeing the same incidents from 30 years ago.

Here are a few examples:

- March 16, 2022, Ontario arborist dies following incident involving woodchipper
- September 30, 2022, North Vancouver RCMP confirm an arborist in his 30s died while working in the park (struck by)
- Jan 24, 2022, West Coast Faller killed when struck by dead tree near Edgemont, BC
- August 9, 2022, federal workplace safety inspectors responded to a police report that a 17-year-old worker had died after being pulled into a woodchipper at a work site near Allentown, PA
- April 6, 2023, A man in his 60s died in Quebec, after police say he was crushed by the weight of the branch he was cutting
- April 6, 2023, Teen dead in tree cutting incident after a branch from one of the trees fell about 90 feet and struck him in the head.

Why are there so many industry-related fatalities? As we all know, Utility Arborist shortages are at a critical level. In fact, the profession of 'Utility Arborist' has, for a long time, been struggling with attracting and retaining.

Students considering future career paths, or job seekers looking for their first (or next) trade job, are not aware of the value and role that Professional Utility Arborists play in the community and the environment. The average person knows what a Linemen, Electrician, Plumber, or Carpenter's role involves. In contrast, the job title 'Utility Arborist' is generally met with confusion and, at best, is a vague idea that it has something to do with trees.

Being a Certified Utility Arborist is a challenging but rewarding career that is in high demand with multiple career paths. As all stakeholders mandate the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) approach to maintaining our Rights-of-Ways (ROWs), our need for professionals will continue to grow. It's critical for our industry to coordinate our efforts to address the urgent need to train and retain people.

Professional Certified Utility Arborists take time to develop. Industry must bring up our own, by raising awareness of this profession to attract the next generations of utility arborists. While at the same time, engaging government decision makers and industry stakeholders to significantly improve education and training to creating the Utility Arborist recognized trade North America wide.

Darcy Soderstrom – Director in Charge

- MARKETING COMMITTEE

We recently had the opportunity to put an ad in the Canadian Reclamation Magazine. This magazine is a biannual publication for the Canadian Land Reclamation Association which has a broad audience across Canada and internationally. The CLRA has over 500 individual and corporate members that will receive this publication. Our ad included a QR code linked to our website, giving these members a great look into what the PVMA is about and what we can offer their industry.

For the next few months, we are hoping to continue exploring previous goals set out by the committee and expand possible advertising opportunities and social media uses to promote the PVMA.

Joanne Ireland – Committee Chair

- SEMINAR COMMITTEE

See Spring Conference 2023 Article in this publication.

Orville McLean - Director in Charge

- PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

In coordination with the marketing committee, we are hoping to find new ways to promote our current publications available. The Alberta Industrial Vegetation Management Manual and Field Manual for Rehabilitating Soils Affected by Residual Herbicides can be purchased digitally on the PVMA website and provide valuable information to companies, municipalities, and cities.

Our goal for the next few months is to reach out to past committee members and establish if there is an opportunity to expand or develop additional training manuals or guides.

Joanne Ireland – Committee Chair

- UTW/UTT BOARD OF GOV'S

It has been an interesting and busy time for us all since our last conference was held at the River Cree Casino.

The UTT/UTW Board of Governors met, and roles and responsibilities were assigned as listed below:

- PVMA Director in Charge-Bob Gordon
- UTT/UTW Board of Governors
- Policies and Procedures-Darrell Gaudet
- Finances and Contracts-Richard Law
- Curriculum Development and Design-Kevin Tritten
- Certification-Jim Brown
- Industry Liaison-Steve Kerr

It is important to note Alex Bloss stepped down from the committee and was replaced by Jim Brown, I would like to thank Alex for all his time and commitment he put into the Board of Governors during his term.

Changes to the Alberta Electrical involving the management of the Limits of Approach had the PVMA joining with other stake holders to write a letter to the government to get some clarity. This issue is ongoing, and we will keep the industry updated as we learn more.

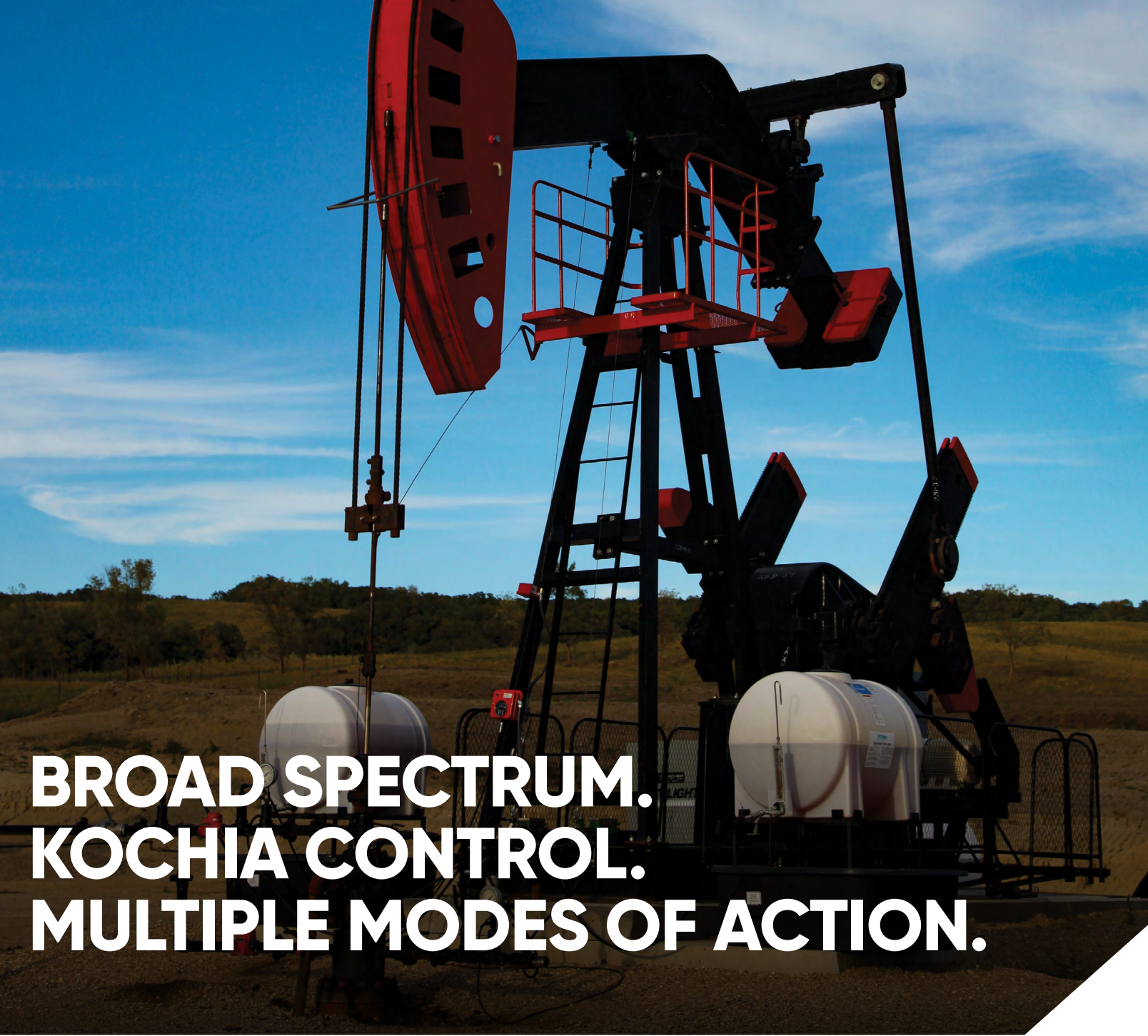
We have currently established a steering committee that is looking at what it would take to obtain Trade Recognition for the UTT/UTW program. This is exciting as we have a great program base already in place. It was established by the hard work of pioneers in this industry 40 years ago, and the longevity of this program has been based on industry experts sharing their time and efforts to keep improving it.

Taking the steps towards Trade Recognition may well be the next step for us to set the path for the next 40 years of this program, and to ensure that longevity and involvement from the industry is maintained and that our representation is strong.

Things we are currently considering.

- What does a unified industry look like? What does "representation" look like? What other industries and associated have an interest?
- What is the current state of the industry? What is the outlook?
- What is the desired scope of a new trade or education program?
- What are the education/training needs? And/or regulatory needs? What currently exists?
- What are the benefits to industry, employers, practitioners, Albertans, and the province?

Bob Gordon – Director in Charge



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