

FALL DIGITAL EDITION SEPTEMBER 13 | 2018

# **THE** **VEGETATION MANAGER** *magazine* **2018**

**UPDATE YOUR DATA GAME  
WITH IVM SYSTEMS**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Social media is an excellent tool for partnership, communication and growth but always be aware of the exposure and risk inherent in the tool.

**THE VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT  
AND IVM**

**HOW ELDS ARE CHANGING THE  
TRUCKING INDUSTRY**

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## - BRANDON TUPPER, President PVMA



It's been busy! This is our Industry's busy season after all. Many of our Directors and committee members have found it difficult to attend meetings over the past few months, so we do not have a lot of updates for you.

This season has had the feel of being busier for some reason. Perhaps the long winter (officially Edmonton's longest winter in 40 years)

which jumped right into summer, seemingly by-passing spring, might account for that. Summer 2018 brought hot and dry weather with stretches of 30+ temperatures. If the Farmer's Almanac is correct we have something to look forward to (or not).

It predicts that November and December will bring colder than average temperatures and above average precipitation. While you strive to get everything done before the onset of winter, we encourage all of you to be careful out there and stay safe!

## 2018 PVMA FALL WORKSHOP

Thursday, October 25, 2018

Balzac Community Hall , Balzac, Ab

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the  
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“*Knowing Green.  
It's Our Nature.*”



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# COMPETENCY FORMS

These competency forms were developed with the help of the Canadian Trainers Foundation (CTF) and the PVMA Safety Committee.

With Bill 30 just around the corner these forms go a long way to meeting and even exceeding the new regulations. If a tragedy should happen, then ultimately we will be judged against our peers in the industry, this is a safer option than going it alone with training and in house competency checks.

Please take a look at these forms, could they work for you in your operations? Another requirement in Bill 30 is that supervisors must be competent, we have developed a supervisor course as well. Contact the PVMA safety committee if you wish to learn more or if you want to participate with the committee.

The forms can be found on the PVMA website: [www.pvma.ca](http://www.pvma.ca)  
[https://www.pvma.ca/forms\\_and\\_resources](https://www.pvma.ca/forms_and_resources)

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## Competency Checks

### (Forms Available on website)

- Bucker and Faller Competency
- Level 4 Faller Competency
- Level 5 Climbing Competency 1
- Level 5 Climbing Competency 2
- Level 6 Aerial Lift Competency A
- Level 6 Aerial Lift Competency B
- Wood Chipper

*Together we can make the  
PVMA the go to source in the vegetation  
management industry.*



# UP YOUR DATA GAME WITH IVT SYSTEMS

## - SUBMITTED BY IVT SYSTEMS

**"In God we trust. All others must bring data."**

– W. Edwards Deming, statistician, professor, author, lecturer, and consultant.

Every year data becomes a more essential part of businesses in all sectors. The vegetation management industry is slowly transitioning into the information age, moving from pen and paper to spreadsheets, to databases and cloud-based platforms. Until now there hasn't been an off the shelf solution for vegetation service providers to adopt that provides the functionality needed in the industry. Service providers have been relegated to the status quo, or have needed to make significant monetary investments in building a program in house.

The IVT Vegetation Management Suite has been built in cooperation with a Western Canadian vegetation service provider, who went through this same process. What started as a relatively simple program to keep customer sitelists updated, has evolved into a comprehensive data management system. After 6 years of development and field testing, IVT Systems has launched a product that meets the needs of the industry.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SUITE FUNCTIONS

1. Cloud based, real time updated site listings
2. Visually track work progress using the Google Maps enabled tool
3. Electronic application and mechanical control records
4. Incorporate satellite imagery for spray mapping
5. Automatically generate time tickets from field records
6. Integrated invoicing system, including CSV Upload capability
7. Report generation from various data points
8. Customer access to their own information

IVT's cloud-based database system allows for aggregation of data produced in the field, around pesticide application and mechanical control activities, and makes it available for real time updates to other field personnel. All workers can access current, accurate information available to complete work as efficiently as possible. Managers can accurately monitor work progress, and plan according to real time information.

Integration of a time ticketing and invoicing system makes management of field data quick and easy for office staff, and simplifies the billing operations of your company, saving time and reducing human error during record processing and invoicing.

Electronic invoicing can be completed for customers using Open Invoice and Actian, making the upload process quick and painless, and cuts down on the time between the work and the payment.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR DATA?

**"The goal is to turn data into information, and information into insight."** – Carly Fiorina, former executive, president, and chair of Hewlett-Packard Co.

Data collected in previous seasons creates the opportunity to analyze costs, identify inefficiencies, evaluate productivity, and make projections for future seasons. Reports are easily generated to show useful metrics to aid in evaluation and planning

Service providers can grant system access to customers, who can then view their own records directly through the portal. With this access to information, they can see historical site records, monitor work progress, and see current cost accruals in real time.



## CONTINUING INNOVATION

IVT Systems is committed to continuous innovation and improvement, and to simplify the user experience for more efficient use in the field and in the office. We are working towards becoming the industry standard in the field of Vegetation Data Management.

# KEEP TRUCKIN

## HOW ELDS ARE CHANGING THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

There is no doubt that the use of ELDs is changing the trucking landscape.

The ELD mandate became effective on Dec. 18, 2017 with the primary purpose of improving hours-of-service compliance and increasing road safety.

Since the ELD mandate took effect, we have seen tighter capacity, higher rates, improved hours-of-service compliance, and several other changes in the trucking industry. Here are six ways the ELD are changing the trucking industry for the better.

### 1. FEWER VIOLATIONS AND IMPROVED HOURS-OF-SERVICE COMPLIANCE

The primary purpose of introducing the electronic logging device mandate was to improve compliance and minimize violations. According to the latest data that the FMCSA released, ELDs have played a major role in reducing the number of hours-of-service violations.

According to the FMCSA's data, the hours-of-service compliance has improved by almost

**49% in 12 months.**

It is important to note that the ELD mandate did not change any hours-of-service regulations. The mandate only enforced compliance with existing hours-of-service rules with the help of electronic logging devices.

### 2. IMPROVED ROAD SAFETY

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) wants to end traffic fatalities within the next 30 years. The ELD mandate is a major component of that plan.

According to experts, driver fatigue and drowsiness are leading causes of road accidents. By enforcing hours-of-service compliance with ELDs and ensuring that drivers don't drive past their hours, the FMCSA aims to reduce the number of road accidents.

ELDs also have several other benefits beyond compliance. Electronic logging devices

provide valuable data and insights into driver performance and behavior on the road, which can also help increase road safety.

KeepTruckin's ELD solution, automatically monitors for critical safety events, such as hard braking, excessive acceleration, hard cornering, and speeding.

Since this information available in the KeepTruckin Web Dashboard, fleets can easily track the performance of their drivers and identify drivers who require immediate coaching. This wasn't possible before ELDs. By staying on top of driver performance and safety scores, road safety can be increased significantly.

### 3. PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY

Before the introduction of electronic logging devices, drivers had to maintain paper logs to record their hours-of-service and duty status information — which was inefficient. An electronic logging device records everything automatically and eliminates the need for paperwork.



• Data by the FMCSA



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## How ELDs are Changing The Trucking Industry - Continued....

Apart from drivers, ELDs are also making fleet managers more productive. Fleet managers are no longer required to collect and browse through tons of paperwork to calculate IFTA fuel tax reports. A process that used to take hours can now be done in just a few clicks.

### 4. HELPING WITH THE DRIVER RETENTION PROBLEM

Driver shortage and driver retention are two of the biggest problems that the trucking industry is currently facing. ELDs are playing a major role in helping carriers to fight against these issues.

ELDs have empowered fleet managers with useful insights and data that they can use to administer driver-friendly policies.

Fleet managers can create a performance-based compensation or reward system that not only promotes good driving practices, but also increases driver satisfaction and driver retention rates.

ELDs are also increasing profitability for carriers and owner-operators. Driver pay has also increased significantly, which is another key component of increasing driver happiness and the driver retention rate.

### 5. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Before ELDs, there wasn't much transparency in the trucking industry. Electronic logging devices are changing that.

Now, everything is being monitored, recorded, and stored. Drivers cannot easily change log records with inaccurate hours. Shippers and receivers can be held more accountable and be more mindful of drivers' time.

Detention time can be more easily monitored and policed. Inefficient shipper and receiver operations can be identified allowing the market to correct this type of behavior and carriers to demand appropriate compensation for drivers' lost productivity.

### 6. TRIGGERING IMPORTANT CHANGES IN CURRENT REGULATIONS

One of the biggest ways that the ELD mandate is changing the trucking industry is by shedding light on important issues and regulations..

With the help of data that ELDs provide, lawmakers and industry stakeholders are in a much better position to tweak existing rules and introduce new ones that could further improve America's trucking industry.

KeepTruckin's petition to the FMCSA allows drivers to extend the 14-hour limit to 16 hours if they are detained by a shipper or receiver for more than 2 hours.

After analyzing our data, we found out that 75 percent of drivers are detained at a pickup or drop off location for two or more hours every week. Because of this delay, we discovered that drivers are driving 3.5 mph faster, which decreases road safety.

Starting this discussion has led to action from all sides of Trucking to push regulators and legislators to address areas where the Hours of Service rules are unworkable. We've seen guidances published, rules petitioned for, and bills filed on Capitol Hill all aimed at bringing rules to the road that actually work.

Because of electronic logging devices, the trucking industry in America has now access to a lot of valuable data that can be used to make necessary changes in regulations and make America's road safer.

### CONCLUSION

*ELDs are still new and have a long way to go. Their full potential is yet to be explored.*

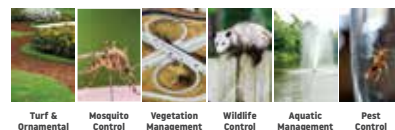
*But we can say one thing with certainty — the trucking industry is moving in the right direction, and ELDs and technology will continue to be a major part of this journey.*

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# MOBILE FORMS: DIGITALLY TRANSFORMING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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Due to the mobile nature of Vegetation Management services (ranging from residential tree care to commercial projects, and more) timely, clear communication between field teams and back-office personnel is of the utmost importance. However, many Vegetation Management teams still rely on cumbersome, outdated paper forms and manual processing to collect, analyze and distribute project information... a costly, wasteful practice resulting in opportunities for human error, miscommunication and unnecessary delays.

## THE REAL COST OF PAPER VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FORMS

Paper forms (and having to hand them in and process them) drastically hinders your business' efficiency, communication and client-facing

professionalism. Worst of all, paper documents provide little to no options to regulate data entry and cannot ensure the thorough, error-free capture of vital project information.

Mistakes happen, they just do! However, using paper forms presents far more opportunities for user error than necessary. These errors (like missing information, forgetting to sign a document or incorrect calculations) are coupled by further, frustrating obstacles (like illegible handwriting and damaged or lost documents) and time wasted delivering or waiting on specific, project forms. This cacophony of potential hindrances results in significant time and budget wasted retroactively correcting and collecting data... company time and budget that would be better invested securing more business and growing your team.

“It’s something [customers] appreciate. We get great feedback from our customers when we started [using GoFormz].”  
— Vegetation Management Technology Consultant

Relying on paper forms in the field not only wastes time, but also results in a less professional customer experience. Consider the reality of Vegetation Management: documents are often completed on-the-go, out in the elements and are subjected to frequent hand-offs and changes. The unpredictable nature of the job and user inconsistencies (like messy handwriting and coffee spills) result in an unimpressive and unprofessional image... risking your opportunities for repeat business.

So how can Vegetation Management teams overcome the obstacles and waste of paper documents and manual processing? Fortunately, many teams have already discovered the trans-formative power of 'going paperless' and filling out forms on their mobile devices.

## JUMPSTART YOUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Using GoFormz Mobile Forms to capture project data will completely revolutionize your business' productivity, communication and strategy.

“[GoFormz] saves us around \$350,000 a year... it has allowed us to get more sales and work, without hiring more people.”

The GoFormz platform presents a fast and easy way to create identical, digital versions of Vegetation Management forms, so they can be filled out and shared on mobile devices and tablets (even offline!). Because forms digitized with GoFormz can look identical to an operation's original documents, users can digitally enter data within a familiar interface — simplifying user adoption. Digitized forms can also be filled out in a small-screen optimized viewing mode, perfect for use on smaller devices like phones.

Mobile Forms accomplish much more than just replacing paper. They offer new opportunities to gather powerful insights, previously unattainable by pen and paper. This includes new data types (like project images, GPS coordinates, digital signatures and sketches) that brings context and new levels of information within the forms.





## Industrial Vegetation Management

- Reducing fire hazards and protecting agriculture crops
- Protecting the security and integrity of assets such as pipelines, power lines, facilities and other infrastructures.
- Reducing the impact of invasive plant species
- First Nations partnerships



Mobile Forms can be embedded with simple logic to guide user data input, resulting in more thorough, complete project insights. For example, automatic calculations ensure that totals are always accurate. With the improved accuracy of collected data, Vegetation Management teams can more confidently pinpoint business opportunities and obstacles to productivity. Additionally, time saving features like notifications and auto-emailing copies of forms, create new operational efficiencies.

### REAL-TIME DATA, REAL-TIME IMPROVEMENTS

The instantaneous, timely nature of data collected via Mobile Forms allows for significant, company-wide improvements. With reduced administrative demands, teams can reallocate personnel time and resources to further optimize their operation. Furthermore, the ability to automate workflows and processing (e.g. enabling a form to automatically route data to other integrated business apps, like Box, ServiceMax and Zapier) streamlines the distribution of captured data, while simultaneously reducing opportunities for neglected tasks and delays. By curtailing administrative needs, Vegetation Management teams can redistribute their staff and budgeting to pursue opportunities for growth and optimization.

### PROMPT & PROFESSIONAL

Forms digitized with GoFormz present a more modern, polished customer-facing experience. Because forms are completed and shared digitally, users no longer need to fret over chicken-scratch handwriting or unprofessional spills and damage.

Completed forms can be automatically routed to a client email address supplied within the form, presenting customers with prompt, detailed documentation of services rendered — complete with project images, auto-calculated costs associated and more. Digital documents can also be rapidly generated and dispatched (pre-filled with project information), allowing sales teams to act quickly, and strike while the iron is hot.

### THE DIGITAL ADVANTAGE

Digitizing your forms and processing with GoFormz gives your team the cutting edge. With digital Vegetation Management forms, witness the benefits of thorough, real-time insights and elevated professionalism (that paper-based operations simply cannot provide).

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**RESPONSIVE.** Improve communication and response during natural disasters.

**DIGITAL.** Eliminate paper across all vegetation activities with modules for Managers, Arborists, Contractors, and Crews.

**INTEGRATED.** Leverage IT investments in GIS and other information management solutions.

**COMPLIANT.** Create detailed, accurate, and timely reports to ensure federal & state regulatory requirements.

**RELIABLE.** Reduce tree-caused outages through circuit prioritization and detailed work tracking.

**EFFICIENT.** Plan, manage, and track workflows for all activities, including cyclical preventative maintenance, patrols for short cycle trims and removals, herbicide applications, customer notification, audits, inspections, timesheets, and invoices.

"There are many powerful tools within Clearion that can help utilities improve management tracking of their Utility Vegetation Management Program. I have also seen Clearion tools help utilities apply and maintain ROW Stewardship Accreditation."

Nelsen Money, IVM Consultant & Chairman of Utility Arborist Association



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# SOCIAL MEDIA: BENEFITS & RISKS

- BY ORVILLE MCLEAN

Social media has permeated, in a very short time, almost every aspect of our lives. Since 2008 social media platforms have grown from small, fringe applications to the one of the largest socio-economic forces that has ever existed.

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other applications offer the chance to affect change, develop opportunities and communicate in ways that would have previously been unthinkable. As with many other powerful tools, the uncontrolled energy and potential can also expose us to risks.

In the last 10 years we have all been witness to people, companies and situations that have been either elevated or exposed by the power of social media. The ease of access to technology, specifically to cell phones has made the world connected in a mind-boggling way. On the eve of World Water Day in 2013, the U.N. offered a sobering statistic: according to its recent study, more people on earth have access to cell phones than toilets. Out of the world's estimated 7 billion people, 6 billion have access to mobile phones.

Let's take a quick moment to consider the exponential growth that has become so pervasive that we don't even notice it anymore. The ENIAC was invented by J. Presper Eckert and John Mauchly at the University of Pennsylvania and was completed in 1946. It occupied about 1,800 square feet and used about 18,000 vacuum tubes, weighing almost 50 tons. The first personal computer was a kit, the MITS ALTAIR 8800 and was introduced in 1975. The first IPHONE was released in 2007. In 72 years the world has been completely transformed.

Ideas and the ability to communicate them quickly and virally is as easy as turning on a camera and posting your media. You no longer need a certified skill or a recognized sponsor to have access to an audience. We can contact people on the other side of the globe, work remotely, refine ideas, build a product and test it in the field with a minute percentage of the effort that was required to do the exact same thing even 20 years ago.

We can demonstrate new ideas and processes from the comfort of an office with clients and

investors. We can challenge ideas, refine them and prove new theories with leaders of our industries and others just by reaching out online.

With this opportunity for outreach and growth also comes responsibility and risk. Citizens, companies and even competitors can film you or your team and post that material online. Within the digital community there is a little chance to explain or defend ourselves in a timely manner. Opinions can be quickly formed, and the volume of those opinions can be amplified exponentially.

It is essential in our personal and professional actions that we act in a manner that would reflect well. When we are looking to hire people, we should always ensure that expectations are clearly set and that our corporate culture is understood by everyone involved. Our industry, though very large, is still built upon relationships and reputation.

Social media is an excellent tool for partnership, communication and growth but always be aware of the exposure and risk inherent in the tool.

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# THE VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT AND IVM

- BY ORVILLE MCLEAN



The Sensorama was invented by Morton Heilig in 1957. This experience was the first to use stereographic images to create what would later come to be understood as virtual reality. The first interactive map was developed by a research team at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in the 1970's and allowed users to walk around the town of Aspen, Colorado.

Throughout the 80's and 90's interest increased in VR due to significant hype from both developers and retailers who were excited to bring this technology fully to bear on the commercial market, however the actual product delivered was never able to meet the expectation of the public. Development and testing continued into the 2000's however with a much more subdued public profile.

There are now many applications utilizing aspects of VR and every day there are more industrial and educational products released which incorporate diverse elements of the virtual environment. The IVM industry is constantly looking for ways to improve and achieve the stated goals. Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) is generally defined as the practice of promoting desirable, stable, low-growing plant communities that will resist invasion by tall growing tree species through the use of appropriate, environmentally-sound, and cost-effective control methods.

The virtual environment meets the criteria; appropriate, environmentally-sound and cost-effective.

The lifecycle of IVM incorporates a multitude of tasks including environmental, engineering, construction, inspection, consenting, field planning, execution, quality control, customer service, issue resolution and many more. As workers in our industry we all need to analyze the work that we do and the environment that we do it in. Are there alternative ways that we can achieve our outcomes? Are our outcomes still relevant in 2018?

When we refer to the environment that we work in that is not just the ROW anymore. It includes the social environment that we exist in. Societal standards in 2018 have changed greatly from even 5 years ago. Internal and external customers, citizens, regulatory bodies etc. have created an expectation for the way that vegetation should be managed. Many people do not understand the goals and standards that we are responsible for executing.

This is where the virtual environment can blossom into a powerful tool for education, communication and operation. The communities where we operate want to know that capable professionals who are respectful of the environment and trained in the most current industry standards are working on their land. Virtual reality, augmented reality and other interactive tools are being used to prepare personnel for success in the field. The ability to create extensive replications of the ROW allows employees, new and experienced, to see a multitude of scenarios and review them without the risk inherent in high-hazard work.

Incidents or standard changes can be easily communicated across a large group simultaneously by using a phone and a simple virtual environment. This can be a very impactful experience as opposed to a verbal review or the time-consuming nature of individual site visits.

The most challenging and potentially rewarding aspect of the virtual environment is in the operational dimension. Low impact environmental, engineering, inspection, consenting, field planning and quality control is just the start of field-based applications that can benefit from this technology. Being able to create virtual work locations that multiple parties can access, analyze, plan from and review is a complete game-changer.

We are all in business and there are goals that must be achieved. There are behaviors that won't be changed unless they can be proven and sustained. Pragmatism will always trump unproven idealism. What if we could be the industry that really embraced the power of these tools, integrated them with the ingenuity that we have always shown and our undeniable work ethic?

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## - PVMA OFFICE UPDATE -

NICOLE FRY



In May the PVMA welcomed a new face to the office. Nicole Fry was hired as our new Administrative Assistant with her primary responsibilities being the completion of UTT-UTW certifications and recertifications.

She will also be keeping our social media accounts and website up to date. Nicole has various work experience that made her a great choice. She grew up on a grain farm and worked as a weed inspector for Alberta municipalities.

She has experience running 2 successful businesses and has worked in various administrative roles. Nicole is married and has 2 children, a cat and a dog.

She enjoys camping and keeps busy with cadets and community volunteering. Be sure to extend to her a warm welcome when you talk to her on the phone or meet her at our next meeting.

## - UTT-UTW BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Hello Everyone. Just a few updates for the UTT/UTW committee. We have had a new member join the committee so please welcome Alex Bloss from ATCO. Our team recently met to discuss changes to the UTT/UTW cert and re-cert courses and to clarify the hours required for obtaining your certification.

The board is looking to update the curriculum for the UTT/UTW course and recertification. We are hoping to bring in the latest content, update how the course is being taught (use of more technology), and how the tests are written. This will not be a short process, but it will be well worth the wait.

The current standard for required hours is, 1200hrs to register for the course and complete an additional 1200hrs (including 600hrs aerial if needed) after the course.

The board has clarified that 1200hrs is the minimum required to register for the course, however, all pre-course hours can now be counted towards the 2400hrs minimum (600 hrs aerial if needed) required to certify.

That means if you choose, you can now log 2400hrs (600hrs aerial if needed) and then register for the course. In that case once you have successfully completed the course you would be able to apply for your certification right away.

The website will be updated to reflect this change over the coming weeks.

**Jason McRobert – Director in Charge**

## - EDITORIAL COMMITTEE -

The Editorial Committee strives to include content that is both informative and beneficial to those in the Vegetation Management Industry. This issue we have focused on Electronic Innovations in Vegetation Management. Technology can seem intimidating at times but ultimately the goal is to save you time, once you get through the initial learning curve.

For those of you who took the time to check out our March issue and enter our contest, we hope you learned something you didn't know before.

The Winner of our Vegetation Manager Magazine Contest was Stephanie Soucy from Northern Sunrise. Stephanie's name was picked amongst those who successfully answered all the questions related to our March 2018 issue. Stephanie received a PVMA hoodie.

Due to heavier workloads and employment changes a few of the Editorial Committee members have resigned. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact the PVMA office or email [val@pvma.ca](mailto:val@pvma.ca). We have online meetings the 2nd Thursday of each month.

**Val Eichelt - Editorial Committee Co-Chair**

## - CONFERENCE COMMITTEE -

Thank you very much to the 36 people who took the time to complete the survey sent out after our Spring meeting on March 7th at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer. Your feedback will help shape future PVMA meetings and conferences. Two names were randomly drawn from the 36 respondents, and we would like to congratulate Quintin Bocher and Dave Berry. Both of these gentlemen received a free PVMA hoodie for taking the time to fill out the survey.



### SAVE THE DATE

**October 25, 2018 – Fall Meeting**

**February 26 – 28, 2019 – Spring**

**Conference**

**PVMA Fall Meeting will be held October 25, 2018 at the Balzac Hall (same location as last year's fall meeting).**

Please mark the date in your calendars and stay tuned for more information regarding agenda and speakers.

Our biannual Spring Conference will be held at River Cree Resort & Casino February 26-28, 2019. Please stay tuned for more information regarding agenda and speakers.

**Candice Manshreck - Director in Charge**

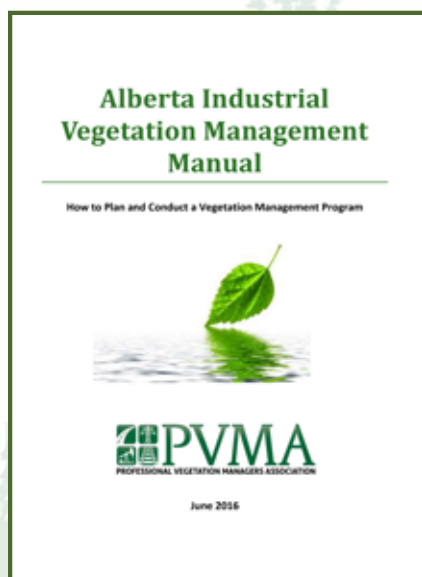
## - PROTOCOL COMMITTEE -

### PVMA PROTOCOL MANUAL

**“How to Conduct a Vegetation Management Program”**

Purchase one print copy at regular price and receive up to 4 electronic copies at a 15% discount. A 20% applies to copies of 5 or more. You can get your digital or printed copy from the PVMA store at [www.pvma.ca](http://www.pvma.ca).

**Cost: Print - \$310 (incl. gst & shipping) Digital - \$235 (incl. gst)**



## PVMA SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY PROGRAM

### SCHOLARSHIP: DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30, 2018

The PVMA will be awarding one scholarship of \$1000.00 each year to an Alberta student who is enrolled in an Alberta Post Secondary Institute with preference given to those enrolled in a vegetation management-related program. In addition to the scholarship, the winner will be invited expenses paid to our Spring Seminar.

Refer to the Student Scholarship Application form for more information and application instructions.

### BURSARY: DEADLINE OCTOBER 31, 2018

The purpose of the bursary program is to recognize the scholastic achievement of dependents of members and to encourage them to enter an approved university or college course of study leading to a degree or diploma beyond the secondary school level.

For more information, please refer to the Bursary Criteria Form and the Bursary Application Form.

### AWARDS:

**Larry Beaton Memorial Award: Deadline March 1, 2019**

The Larry Beaton Memorial Award is presented to individuals or companies in recognition of outstanding service to the association. More than one award may be presented; however, awards are not necessarily presented each year.

**Honorary Membership Award: Deadline March 1, 2019**

Honorary memberships are awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to a science or practice related to industrial vegetation management, or to the association.

**Past President Award:**

The executive director/past president is responsible for obtaining a gavel engraved with the name of the outgoing president. The outgoing past president presents the gavel to the new past president at the Spring General Meeting.



# GEOFF THOMPSON: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROFILE



Having been born and raised in the small community of Sangudo, Alberta, Geoff Thompson feels that being involved in the local community through coaching and volunteerism is important. Like any other community it seems like it's always the same people who step up to help, to make a difference. Community service is vital to Rural Alberta.

Geoff has been a member of the Sangudo & District Agricultural Society for close to 25 years, serving 15 of those years as President. The focus of the group is operating the local Arena and Hockey Rink – so kids have a place to play. A lot of time and effort go into ice installation and arena maintenance for the user groups. They also put on local community events such as Kids Carnivals, Ball Tournaments, Rodeos, and Fall Fairs, where the public are invited to attend.

A graduate of Lakeland College in Vermilion, Geoff was a member of the Men's Rustlers Volleyball Team for 3 years. He wanted to help local kids build the sport of volleyball by using his knowledge of the game and, realizing the personal time and effort the teachers gave to coach school teams, Geoff also wanted to give back. He has coached Sangudo school volleyball teams for 6 years and the Whitecourt Revz Club team for 3 years. The sport of Volleyball is a family affair as his wife Marg has also coached countless school teams and Club Volleyball, while their own kids are growing up and playing on these teams.

“GEOFF BELIEVES THAT A COMMITMENT TO COACHING RESULTS IN A COMMITMENT TO SPENDING EXTRA TIME WITH YOUR CHILDREN AS WELL. ITS SO EASY FOR PEOPLE TO JUST DROP OFF THEIR KIDS AT THE RINK, THE DIAMONDS, OR THE COURTS AND NOT BE INVOLVED. ALL THESE TEAMS NEED COACHES, MANAGERS, FUNDRAISERS, REFEREES, AND EVEN SCOREKEEPERS – SO VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL. BEING INVOLVED IN YOUR KIDS' ACTIVITIES IS VITAL TO HELPING THEM BECOME GOOD TEAMMATES AND GREAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. IT NOT ONLY GIVES KIDS OPPORTUNITIES TO COMPETE AT HIGHER LEVELS, BUT ALSO TO BE PROUD OF WHERE THEY COME FROM BY REPRESENTING THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Working in a Vegetation Management business makes it easier to be involved with winter indoor sports teams such as volleyball and hockey, since summer schedules in the VM industry are very full. Geoff coached baseball and softball for a few years which was tough to juggle, and it was difficult to be in two places at once! It is important to have a good work/life balance – and being involved in your community is a great way to get that balance.

One could work 24/7 and never be involved.... There would still be no end to the work at your job. So, its great to volunteer and get out to be a part of your community and meet other people who are involved. As co-owner of Herbicide Distribution company AdvantageVM, Geoff and his business partner Julie Dixon both know its important to get away from work and spend time with your kids. Even if it's the drive to the rink, the soccer pitch, or the courts and to cheer them on- it benefits both you and your children to be there for them. When leading by example - our kids in turn will also end up being committed to Community Service. That only helps to make our communities stronger!

**DO YOU KNOW OF A PVMA MEMBER WHO IS GIVING BACK TO HIS/HER COMMUNITY OR ARE YOU ONE? PLEASE EMAIL [VAL@PVMA.CA](mailto:VAL@PVMA.CA) AND LET US KNOW.**

# EFFECTIVELY MANAGING YOUR FLEET & TOOLS



In today's workforce, managing a fleet of company vehicles, equipment and tracking employee compliance can often be a complex issue requiring a great deal of time and skill. In today's economic environment where margins can be thin, it is important to ensure that you are getting the best value out of your fleet, tools and equipment. Outsourcing to fleet management companies (FMCs) is an option but can be expensive and altogether unnecessary given the vast number of other options.

With the use of FMCs, it also requires managing suppliers which can add additional processes and oversight. Although this has been a preferred method for larger organizations, many are switching to app-based programs which allows for greater internal control while achieving a level of simplicity.

With the number of different programs on the market, it can be difficult to choose the most suitable option or options when considering your company's needs.

In recent years however, a company named CSP Plus Safety has begun to separate themselves as an industry leader with numerous clients in the vegetation and utility industry.

CSP Plus Safety is a web-hosted Asset and Safety Control Software Application which provides services to effectively manage not only your vehicles and equipment, but also your employees' compliance and training qualifications.

In today's environment where safety is paramount, it is vital to ensure that employees are up to date on training requirements and certifications with date sensitive expirations.

Overall, CSP Plus helps companies to manage several important categories including;

## EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT:

- Focus on tracking employee compliance, work safe procedures, discipline & safety reporting, evaluations and cost evaluations/ expenses associated with training.

## VEHICLES: MANAGEMENT:

- Track permitting, inspections, costs and more importantly, tracks Critical Scheduled and Preventative Maintenance through manual odometer readings.
- Customized walkaround templates can be built and used by employees on their smartphones through the CSP App
- Ability to track all specialized PPE such as fire extinguishers chainsaws, tools for compliance, maintenance, costs and evaluations. This can also be extended to properties such as offices and shops

## SAFETY REPORTS:

- Gives you the ability to control incident and risk through the generation of reports across your company
- 

## CSP PLUS INSPECTION APP:

- CSP utilizes an app which allows workers to move from paper to pen when completing inspections.
- This allows for employees to directly enter data for their associated vehicle, equipment and or safety checks.
- This is uploaded automatically and can be directly managed by supervisors and management.
- The app is flexible and is tailored to the desired inspection type.
- This cloud-based health and safety application helps companies to lengthen the lives of their assets while keeping everything safe.

## EQUIPMENT TAGS:

- CSP offers the ability for employers to tag their equipment with a durable chip.
- This allows for the user scan the tag in the CSP Plus Inspection App, CSP Plus will record that the employee was at the asset when it was scanned.
- CSP does offer several other capabilities which can benefit companies in asset management and can be found on their

website at <http://www.cspplus.com/>.

Whether or not you choose to use CSP, it is important to consider and assess how you are managing your company's assets including personal.

Protecting and properly managing your equipment can significantly help your bottom line while ensuring longevity and safety.

Avoiding equipment breakdowns and down time will not only save you money, it shows your clients and customers that you operate in a professional manner.

Furthermore, with recent changes to the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety legislation, more stringent guidelines and rules are being placed on employers with regards to proving that they are providing and maintaining a safe work environment.

For the reasons mentioned above, consider taking a deeper look into how your company is working to maintain and provide a safety and effective workplace.



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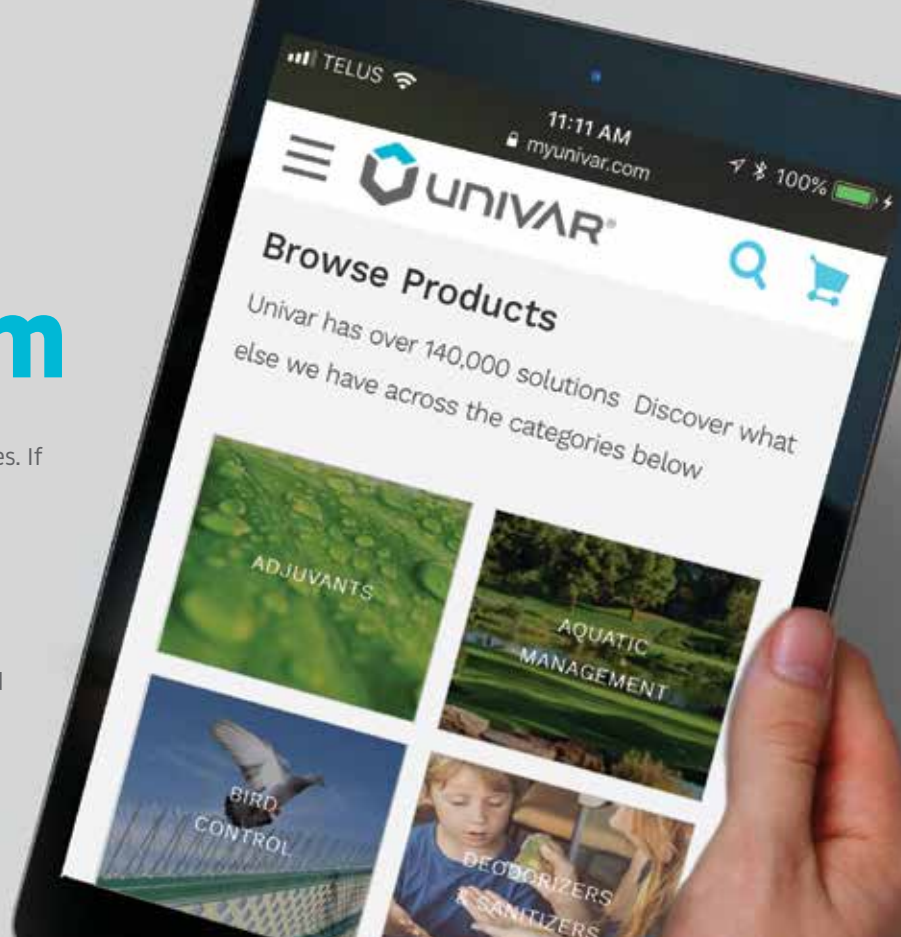
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# THE VEGETATION MANAGER *magazine*

## - ADVERTISING RATE SHEET

### 2018 RATE SHEET

| AD SIZE SPECS:              | SINGLE ISSUE<br>RATE<br>(MEMBER) | ANNUAL RATE<br>(MEMBER)<br>* Four Issues<br>- 2 printed,<br>2 electronic (printable) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
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#### NOTE:

Keep live matter 1/4" from trim on each side. For ad spread units, please supply 1/16" duplicated image on both sides of the centerline.

## - PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

#### Deadline for submission

February 8, 2018

April 12, 2018

August 9, 2018

September 13, 2018

#### Distribution Date

March 7, 2018 (Print)

May 1, 2018 (Electronic)

Sept 6, 2018 (Electronic)

October 25, 2018 (Print)

# 2018 FALL WORKSHOP & GENERAL MEETING

## BALZAC COMMUNITY HALL

LOCATED HALFWAY BETWEEN CALGARY AND AIRDRIE : 10075, TWP 262, BALZAC, AB T4B 2T3

Hwy. 566 (the Balzac-Kathryn overpass). Turn west, drive 1/2 km. and cross the railway tracks.

Look left - you will see the Hall. The Balzac General Store is across the road from the Hall as are 2 small churches. <http://www.balzachall.ca/>

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

### AGENDA

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 10:00AM         | DOORS OPEN AND REGISTRATION   |
| 10:30AM-11:30AM | SPEAKER – PENDING CONFIRMATION  |
| 11:30AM-12:30PM | LUNCH   |
| 12:30PM-1:30PM  | ANDREA SAWATZKY – GUEST SPEAKER<br><b>PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY</b> |
| 1:30PM-2:30PM   | PVMA DIRECTORS UPDATE &<br>GENERAL MEETING                                  |

### PESTICIDES, PPE AND YOU

**ANDREA SAWATZKY** - works for Health Canada's, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), as a Pesticide Compliance Officer in Calgary. Presentation description:

**PESTICIDES, PPE AND YOU:** Andrea will explain how Health Canada's health risk assessment leads to specific requirements on pesticide labels including personal protective equipment (PPE), restricted entry intervals (REI), precautions etc.

**NOTE: OTHER SPEAKER PENDING**

**CEC'S AND CEU'S WILL BE APPLIED FOR.**



# 2018 FALL WORKSHOP & GENERAL MEETING

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## REGISTRATION FORM: DEADLINE OCTOBER 18, 2018

### SCHEDULE:

10:00AM DOORS OPEN AND REGISTRATION

10:30AM-11:30AM SPEAKER – PENDING CONFIRMATION

11:30AM-12:30PM LUNCH

12:30PM-1:30PM ANDREA SAWATZKY – PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY

1:30PM-2:30PM PVMA DIRECTORS UPDATE & GENERAL MEETING

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