



## 2009 Atlantic Teachers' Tour Report of Teachers' Evaluation Forms August 2009

### Question One: What did you enjoy most about this program?

"The outdoor activities - it was valuable to hear from industry stakeholders and see them working a "regular" work day. Provided excellent context for teaching and learning about forestry holistically. Finding New Contacts and New Resources – helps give us a heads up on some excellent resources/websites/stakeholders which can continue at home. Also provides latest, most accurate information."

"The presentation from the J.D. Irving staff was most enjoyable; they appeared most professional, more concerned, more into their jobs – they enjoyed it. The company also appeared to be putting more back into their operation as an investment into the future."

"I enjoyed being outside and seeing an actual forestry site. I learned how to identify some trees."

"Expanding my knowledge about forestry including all components in general. Opportunity to actually see these people at work. Learning about the many resources and programs that I can utilize in my classroom."

"The hands on approach to experiencing what is actually involved in the forest industry."

"Everything! There was a great variety of activities and presentations. As an elementary teacher, I really enjoyed the hands-on activities. Great resources and lesson ideas/activities were completed. The discussion with other participants and facilitators was wonderful – lots of great ideas."

"The friendliness, enthusiasm and helpfulness of all guides, contractors, etc. and their openness to questions."

"Learning so much NEW and exciting information. Being treated like royalty! 'Power learning' – I felt like I took a semester immersion class in forestry. Our days were so full and well organized."

"The 'hands-on' outdoor demonstrations/presentations were fantastic."

"Visiting outside sites (tree planting, harvesting, etc.). Presentations in conference area. Mini envirothon."

"All the excellent presenters, sites/operations, resource people, plus the food!"

"Learning about trees. Obtaining new resources. Fieldtrips/variety. Prizes! Meeting people in the industry. Trivia. Water! Hotel beautiful! Location great! Seeing all the various careers in forestry!"

"All of it! Very informative and lots of opportunity for one on one with the 'experts'. I got all my questions answered. Well organized and great variety in presentations and topics covered."

"I really liked the first day's 4 stations. This will be very useful to have these hands-on activities and ideas to use in my class. (I just need one of your experts now...)"

"Envirothon activities on day 1 gave me good classroom ideas. Enjoyed getting out to the woods to talk to workers and see them work."

## **Question Two: What new perceptions do you have about forests, forestry, foresters, and the forest products industry?**

“ Many more jobs available. Many more products from forest than I realized. Companies put time and money into more than planting trees. Reforestation plantation of mixed species.”

“Clarification was provided about the management of crown land vs. freehold and the role of government vs. business. Talking with individuals from all sides of forestry brought about many useful factual items and caused me to reflect on better, more effective and engaging methods of teaching forestry to my students. Learning that forestry is NOT a sunset industry.”

“That there is a lot of planning that goes into managing a forest. That it seems Atlantic Canada industries are doing great work in our forests.”

“ The technology used in the industry (I never really thought about how the company does what it does). Job opportunities – very impressive. They are very proactive and efficient.”

“ I have a new appreciation to how hard the people work in the industry. They provide many products that I previously didn't recognize would come from trees. I also notice how hard they are working to sustain the forest for the future.”

“I now have a better understanding and more positive perception of the industry. I now better understand such terms as ‘clear cutting’ and no longer see it as a negative practice but as part of forestry management.”

“The passion all forestry workers have to a sustainable forest, the planning and technology that goes into forests.”

“Forestry is much more complicated than I thought – in a good way. I am very impressed with the number of people caring for our forests. Highly trained and dedicated foresters, research scientists and support staff – learning about their roles was very comforting and gave me confidence that our forests are managed wisely. A bright future in the forestry industry was so nice to hear. Everyone we met seemed so dedicated to their job (role).”

“It uses more technology to track and plan harvests. A great deal of planning goes into harvesting. A great deal of planning goes into future resources.”

“I didn't think the forest industry truly cared about the environment. I now have a new perspective on the steps companies take to ensure the safety of the environment in which they work in. I also learned that rayon and toilet paper was made from trees.”

“How high tech the industry is. Variety of silviculture ‘prescriptions’.”

“Timber/Non-timber resources; forestry as a science/business/industry; careers in forestry; trivia in forestry, concern for environment and land ownership; crown vs private.”

“Interesting array of forest products that I was totally unaware of! The technology at the disposal of the forester is incredible.”

“I was very impressed with the J.D. Irving presentation! I had always pictured the company as money grabbin' tree cutters, but I am really pleased to see the good that they are doing. Oh! And Peter is fabulous in that job! Very easy to listen to and kept our interest.”

“I am impressed with the amount of effort that goes into caring for the wildlife and making sure the area is sustainable when cutting. My eyes are open to the amount of time, energy and people that go into making those decisions.”

## **Question Three: How will you use the new knowledge you have acquired?**

“ It will be so much easier to present the forest zones of Canada after touching a mixed hardwood/softwood forest. The sorting of lumber into stud, pulp, etc.”

“ Incorporating the resource material and field trip ideas into my teaching of the forestry unit of Environmental Science. Presenting my students with opportunities to explore the wide range of career information and exciting future of this industry.”

“I will focus more on bringing my students outdoors and educate them on the forest industry.”

“I will definitely bring this into my classroom and try to link it to my curriculum (National Forest Week).”

“Since my school backs onto Victoria Park, I have the ability to take what I have learned and allow the students to learn through a hands-on approach.”

“I will incorporate the knowledge I’ve acquired into various parts of the curriculum. I will organize more hands-on activities with my students.”

“To bring students outside and also to learn about technology.”

“I will be a more informed facilitator and will be able to broaden our study of associated topics by using information/resources acquired in this workshop. I will be more confident when speaking to the roles of those people working within the forestry industry. My 250+ photos will surely help! I foresee Smart Board lessons with pizzazz!”

“I’m going to explain to my students that forestry has numerous career opportunities, the careers are interesting and varied, and they use technology. I’m also much more comfortable with talking about forestry concepts.”

“Incorporate knowledge learned here and apply it to the classroom. Use activities with students used here.”

“Sharing with students, friends and family.”

“In my classes/lessons; in my back yard; to my family/friends; to plant the seed in students – forestry is an exciting field to be in!”

“A lot will be incorporated into my teaching of my science courses as well the Envirothon team which I have been advising for the past six years.”

“For my elementary class I hope to incorporate the tree recognition and tracks.”

“My lessons will be enriched with the knowledge I gained this week. Better able to inform my students in discussions around the forestry industry. Would like to have Jr. High Envirothon.”

#### **Question Four: Would you recommend this program to others?**

“Yes – the hands-on experience is real – better than any book.”

“Yes, definitely! Excellent professional development. Also, we were treated very well and I felt like every effort was made, and met, to make us teachers comfortable, engaged, and to get us excited about incorporating forestry into our teaching. It was well planned.”

“Yes. Learned lots, well fed, lots of materials provided.”

“Yes. I will recommend this – hands-on is great!”

“Yes. Everyone involved is very knowledgeable.”

“Yes. This program would be an asset for any teacher! Also great for guidance/career councilors. I plan to tell teachers in my area/district about this fantastic program.”

“Yes. I ate way too much good food this week!”

“Yes – most definitely! Consider me ‘free advertising’ for the teachers’ tour!”

“Yes, it is a well planned educationally rich experience with lots of resources for the classroom.”

“Yes – I’ll be promoting the ATT program without reservation.”

“Yes – absolutely. It is important to learn about the industry in general for better understanding.”

“Yes. Without hesitation it is by far the best professional development experience for teachers in the Maritimes.”

“Yes. Great experience, learned a lot, accommodations were great. I am much more capable of promoting this industry to my students (especially as a career path).”

#### **Question Five: How could we improve this program?**

“Would like to see a mill operator first hand. I wasn’t thrilled with the lunches provided, not much variety, boring. Prizes that fit me please!”

“The A/C on the bus MUST work! On these days of 35 degrees, morale was certainly affected knowing we had to be transported in a vehicle that was hotter than the outside. NOT GOOD! More PR to increase numbers; it is a waste not to have more involved.”

“Add a day or two and make them a little less rigorous – information overload tends to set in when you are very tired!”

“3 nights of bonfire – perhaps in future nice to have a free evening to sample or tour the area. More activities that we can do with students.”

“Hard to think of anything here.”

“More connection/activities that can be used in the classroom.”

“Use SUV’s/Minivans for transport. Shorten the morning presentation so we could be in the field earlier. Cut down on some of the paper in the ‘goody bags’.”

“I found everything ship shape! However, if I hadn’t stopped to chat with Yolanda at the Smarts Conference in May, I would never have been here. I had never heard of the Teachers’ Tour.”

“This program was packed with valuable information, resources and lesson ideas. I would like to have copies of some of the reference materials we used in some of our learning stations such as the reference pages used in the wildlife tracks and scat activity; samples of seeds/cones from various trees (also used in one of the stations).”

“ Move from activity to activity a little faster.”

“Keep us moving/walking. Drinks/snacks/toilets were very much appreciated!”

“Long days; maybe more classroom in the morning so we could be less tired at the end of the day. Heat is a factor.”

“It may have been a bit more comfortable/practical to travel the woods roads in an all-wheel drive or 4x4, but this is a minor suggestion. Location of conference, organization, resource materials, field trips, and guest speakers were exemplary.”

“I don’t know – it’s very good now. Maybe a different social event each night – bonfire one night would be enough.”

### **Question Six: Other Comments and Suggestions?**

“I would like to come back again in 3-4 years to see the changes that have taken place.”

“If safety regulations allow, visit a sawmill or pulp and paper mill, NTFP business, or any value-added forestry related business. A little bit more emphasis on sustainable forest management, although J.D. Irving did an excellent job of this. J.D. Irving did an exemplary job of representing their company and the forestry industry. They were respectful, enthusiastic, accommodating, and treated us like valuable co-professionals. Other speakers were excellent as well, but they really stood out.”

“I would like to participate in this program in my home province to learn what is around and happening in forestry. When I was e-mailed about the tour, the incentive was that family could come along but not attend the sessions. Then in the info package family was not to attend, however I think it was good that family was not here as the group got to know each other more.”

“This was a great week. It would have taken a lot of organization to put this together. All of this is very much appreciated. Relaxing!”

“It’s been a great experience. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.”

“This was a fantastic experience! The facilitators were friendly, helpful and extremely knowledgeable! They were passionate about what they do. It was a privilege to attend the Teachers’ Tour! Thank you for taking the time to provide this program.”

“ Everything was great. Keep it up and thanks for all the hard work!”

“Perhaps an ad in NBTA News (contact Blake Robichaud – NBTA Fredericton) and other Provincial teaching magazines. Send each teacher an e-mail in the early spring to promote/explain the Teachers’ Tour. This way ALL teachers become aware of what a great program you offer! I am so thankful for the privilege of being able to attend this year. Many thanks for your dedication as an organizing committee. You are appreciated!”

“Fantastic!! Will be recommended to others.”

“Thank you for an excellent 3 day motivation/learning experience. As I said, I especially appreciated the excellent mix of scientists, and different professions in the industry who shared with us.”

“Liked a session after breakfast before we went on the bus. Liked starting late first day and finishing early the last day – time for travel. Food excellent! Professional speakers – very interesting. Prizes fun! Safety stressed – excellent! Lots of passionate workers in forestry! Professional! Great job Peter (and team)!”

“Thanks very much for allowing me to return this second time. It was sufficiently different from my last ‘tour’ and I learned a lot! Well done and keep it up – the school system needs to see (and teach students) how the real world works.”

“Perhaps a workshop for Projector Wild or Wet Wild could be added? More group activities so we get to know other teachers better? (assigned seating at meals??) NTFP’s were really interesting – perhaps a taste testing as well?”

“Would like more lesson activities to take back to my class. There seems to be less and less time to concentrate on all of the curriculum we have, so anything outside of curriculum becomes very difficult to teach. Relating directly to outcomes would be helpful. I always have a hard time working in what I want to teach!”

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