



# UBC-Sopron

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebrations

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007





June 14, 2007

*A Message from the Premier*

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, it is my pleasure to join with my colleague, the Honourable Murray Coell, in welcoming everyone to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony commemorating the arrival of the Hungarian Sopron University of Forestry to the University of British Columbia.

I understand that this event recognizes Sopron Alumni who have made an enormous collective scientific contribution to forestry research, positively impacting the forestry profession and industry in Canada. Significant positive changes have taken place in BC's forest practices over the years. The Soproners played a role in these changes and their contributions have made a difference. Their research findings and personal commitment to forestry initiatives have helped to build sound and responsible forestry practices in our province.

I would like to recognize the organizers and volunteers of this ceremony for their personal time in preparing this celebration.

I hope everyone has a great and memorable time.

Sincerely,

Gordon Campbell  
Premier



Dear Alumni:

I am pleased to welcome you back to Vancouver to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Sopron University of Forestry at the University of British Columbia.

The arrival of nearly 250 students and faculty from the University of Sopron in 1956 and 1957 marked a turning point in Canadian culture, in our national immigration policies. In British Columbia, it marked the beginning of a successful exchange of ideas and expertise that continues today.

Sopron alumni have made a lasting contribution to forest practices in British Columbia, influencing how this significant natural resource is managed. Fifty years later, we continue to benefit from Sopron alumni contributions.

Members of the Sopron University of Forestry showed great courage in building new lives here, learning a new language and navigating a different culture while continuing an education in forestry. Many chose to make Canada home permanently, dedicating expertise and knowledge to improving forest management practices here through careers with post-secondary institutions, the private sector, the federal government and the B.C. Forest Service. Sopron alumni have influenced forest practices in British Columbia as professors, researchers, corporate leaders and stewards of our forest resources.

On behalf of the Ministry of Forests and Range, I extend our appreciation and warmest wishes for a successful reunion as you renew friendships and share memories over the next two days.

Best wishes,

Honourable Rich Coleman  
Minister of Forests and Range

# Opening Ceremony

Main Mall Outdoor Amphitheatre  
Forest Sciences Centre, 11:00am

## **Jack N. Saddler**

Professor and Dean  
Faculty of Forestry, UBC

## **Allan McEachern**

Chancellor  
The University of British Columbia

## **The Honourable Murray Coell**

Minister of Advanced Education  
Government of British Columbia

## **Jim Farrell**

Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service  
Natural Resources Canada  
Government of Canada

## **His Excellency Dr. Vastagh Pál**

Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to Canada

## **Stephen J. Toope**

President and Vice-Chancellor  
The University of British Columbia

## **Sándor Faragó**

Rector  
The University of West Hungary

## **Miklos Gratzer**

UBC- Sopron Alumnus

## **Sierra Curtis-McLane**

PhD. Candidate, Faculty of Forestry, UBC

# Traditional Hungarian Lunch

Forest Sciences Centre, Atrium, 12:00pm – 1:00pm

## Special Presentations

**Forest Sciences Centre, Weldwood Lecture Theatre,**

*Room 1220, 1:00pm – 1:15pm*

The Hungarian exodus and a new home – details from Austrian newsreels (Otto Pammer)

Sándor Sarkady,

Head of the Library, The University of West Hungary

\*Note: This presentation will be given in Hungarian.

*1:15pm – 1:30pm*

The current research and education of the University of West Hungary

Sándor Faragó

Rector, The University of West Hungary

## Faculty of Forestry Open House

**Forest Sciences Centre, 12:30pm – 4:30pm**

### **Hungarian Exodus Exhibit**

*Atrium, Forest Sciences Centre*

Commemorating Canada's response to the Refugee Crisis in 1956-57 and the lives, struggles and achievements of the 38,000 Hungarian refugees who immigrated to and settled in Canada following the Revolution of 1956.

### **Bioconversion Lab (Process Demonstration Unit)**

*Room 1913*

Learn about bioethanol production from biomass and how we can wean ourselves off oil to a renewable transportation fuel.

## **Landscape Immersion Lab**

*Room 2430 (from 1:00pm – 3:00pm only)*

Immerse yourself in front of three large angled screens and experience realistic visualizations of existing, past, and future landscapes.

## **Below Ground Ecosystem Lab**

*Room 3310*

The mysteries that lie beneath your feet: secrets of below ground ecosystems. Showcasing interdisciplinary collaborative research towards the eventual scientific goal of linking structure and function in belowground ecosystems.

## **Tree Biotechnology Lab**

*Room 4324*

More than you WOOD have guessed!

Forest products can provide a lot more than just raw material for lumber, paper or wood products! Come and see how the Faculty is creating the products of the future and protecting the forests that supply them.

## **Forest Sciences research and displays**

*Room 1310 and outdoor courtyard*

Discover a range of displays, teaching tools and research projects featuring the ethnobotany garden and insect, fungi, tree and plant specimens.

## **Centre for Advanced Wood Processing**

*Room 2900*

Established to help Canada create more value from its forest resources through world-class manufacturing education and training. Tour through extensive manufacturing and teaching facilities.

## **Integrated Remote Sensing Studio (IRSS)**

*Room 2310*

The IRSS provides an environment for research into the application of remote sensing imagery obtained from space, airborne and field based instruments.

# Alumni Recognition Event

Forest Sciences Centre, Fletcher Challenge Theatre,  
Room 1005

*2:00pm – 4:00pm*

## **Jack N. Saddler**

Professor and Dean, Faculty of Forestry, UBC

## **Mike Apsey**

T.M. (Mike) Apsey, C.M., RPF (Ret.)

## **Susan M. Papp-Aykler**

President, Rakoczi Foundation

## **Henry Benskin**

Deputy Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range

## **Sharon Glover**

Executive Director, Association of BC Forest Professionals

## **Helen M. Szablya**

Honorary Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Hungary, USA

## **Robert Kennedy**

Dean Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, UBC

## **Mike Meagher**

BSF '57 UBC

## **Stephen Tolnai**

Vice President, Synergy Pacific Engineered Timber Ltd  
Sopron-UBC 50th Anniversary video presentation

## **Andy Szalkai,**

BSF '59 UBC Sopron, RPF (retired)

## **Doug Stables**

President, Canadian Institute of Forestry  
Individual Alumni Presentations

Thank you to our sponsors and the numerous student volunteers and staff that have made these events possible.



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada



# THE BIRTH OF A KOPJAJFA

## -így született a Kopjafánk-



This site, this log, and these shots on Lovers Lane give us an excellent visual to the "Dec. 15, 2006, Stanley Park Blow-Down" event, and connection to the 50th anniversary post; carved from the more than 800-year old wind-fallen western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) seen here.



One might wonder "why the rotten hollow core" in a very durable species, like western red cedar? The reason: natural preservatives (extractives) are at the lowest concentration near the pith, but increase 5-10-fold in the outer heartwood of large old cedar trees like this.





Cedar bolt that was removed



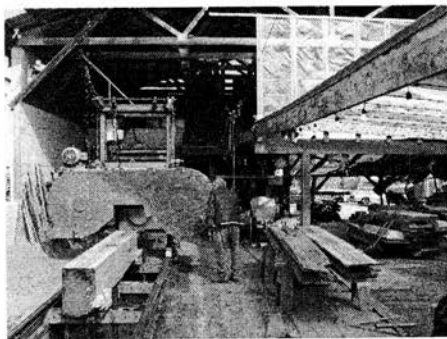
Andy Jákóy next to windfall



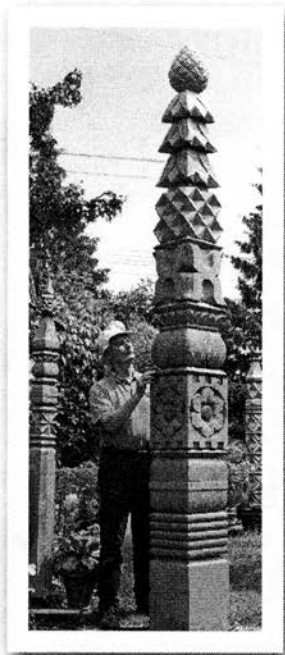
Vancouver Parks staff loading the cedar bolt on Glen's truck



Root-plate of the fallen giant



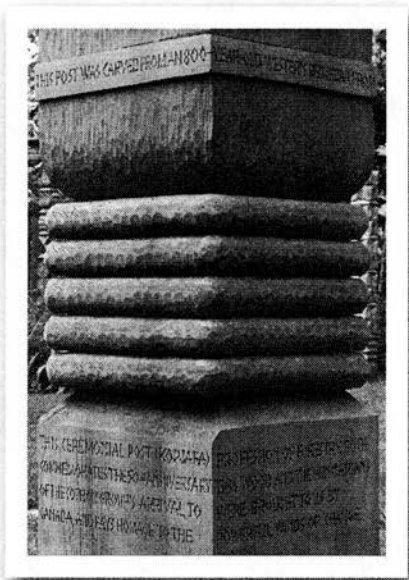
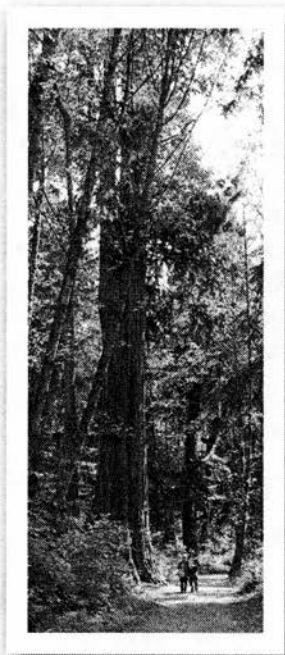
Edge Grain Cedar sawmill



This post was carved by L. Jozsa from an 800-year-old western red cedar from Stanley Park, felled by the storm of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006

It is fitting that both the storm ravaged tree from Stanley Park, and the survivors of a revolutionary storm in Hungary found a new life and a home here at UBC (Miklós Grátzer)

The wind-fallen tree must have looked like the one shown below left; still standing in Stanley Park, also on Lovers Lane, about 3.5-m (12') in diameter in May of 2007.



Lovers lane

# Key to Symbolism

**Pine cone** – seed, a new beginning,  
the “fruit” of education

**Trees** – the forests of BC, Canada  
and the World, our profession

**Microscopic structure** – roots,  
wood, wood chemistry, R&D

**Moustache X** – the male symbol in  
Hungarian folk art

**Tulip** – female symbol of students,  
staff, Alumnae

**Dogwood & Bastion** – BC provincial  
flower, home, stability

**Earth with Equator** – where we  
presently reside

**5 “Rings”** – each representing a  
decade, hence 50 years in all

Designed, carved, photographed, and  
written by Les Józsa (Class of '61)

