January 8, 1982 marks the 25th anniversary of the arrival in Canada of the forestry faculty and students of Sopron University, in the wake of the ill-fated Hungarian revolution. It's an occasion for remembering...

"The first logging sites were shocking to see. It was also difficult to acclimatize to a free economic society. New language, new customs, new forestry — the prospect of adjustment was almost overwhelming.

— Laszlo Adamovich and Oszkar Sziklai in Foresters in Exile

But the students and faculty from the Forest Engineering University of Sopron, who fled the reprisals that followed in the wake of the 1956 Hungarian uprising, have adjusted to Canadian life — and very well. Twenty-five years after accepting an invitation from the Canadian government and the University of British Columbia, the Hungarian foresters have cut out a place for themselves in the Canadian forests.

"At last count there were 23 graduates of Sopron working in the B.C. Forests Ministry," says Julius Juhasz, director of Timber Management Branch and one of the first students to graduate after the school was transplanted to UBC. Others are scattered throughout universities, government and private industry in B.C., the rest of Canada and the United States.

It's a success story with bitter roots. In early November, 1956, when it became clear that it would be futile to resist Soviet forces pouring into Hungary, 359 Sopron students and teachers walked three miles to the border and across the minefields into exile in Austria.

Our original thought was not to leave for good," Juhasz recalls. "We were just going for a few days to organize and fight our way back in."

That option quickly faded and they were confronted by a range of unsettling choices: return to an uncertain future in Hungary, or respond to invitations from various countries, extended as a result of inquiries that Sopron's Dean Kalman Roller had sent around the world.

Of those who left Hungary that November, 67 decided to return to Sopron, 78 went to other European countries and 214 came to Canada. They arrived in Powell River in February, 1957 after short stops in St. John, N.B. and Abbotsford.

One of the first shocks the new arrivals encountered was the realization that they would have to cover their own expenses.

Education was state-subsidized in Hungary and the Sopron students found it interesting, even annoying, to learn that in Canada the university student must make his own way.

H. Foley, president of the Powell River Company, provided the students with jobs. The B.C. Department of Education laid on English lessons and the UBC faculty gave weekly lectures on Canadian forestry practices and history.

In September, 1957 after a summer of hard work, the Sopron students and faculty moved to Vancouver where they became a unique division of the UBC Faculty of Forestry.

Looking back on the experience, Juhasz recalls the numerous adjustments made, "but in the long term there proved to be many more similarities than differences. Forestry, like any applied science, is a universal language."

The Sopron Forestry Faculty of UBC was disbanded after graduating its last class in 1961, but every year the alumni stage a reunion in Vancouver.

This year, to mark the 25th anniversary, the Ministry of Forests joins with the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters, the Vancouver section Canadian Institute of Forestry and others to honor Sopron alumni at a dinner in Vancouver Jan. 10.
New Annual Report Establishes Pattern

Before the Ministry of Forests annual report for 1980-81 was released, Mike Whybrow and Bill Howard were already settling down to the business of preparing next year’s report.

“It will be much easier next time around,” says Whybrow, senior industry economist in the Strategic Studies Branch. Howard, senior resource economist, agrees.

“This was the first time we produced an annual report on a fiscal-year instead of a calendar-year basis,” says Howard. It required half a dozen drafts and lengthy discussions with Hartley Lewis, manager of the branch’s economic section, Ted Knight, director of Strategic Studies, and Deputy Minister Mike Apsey.

“Most of the problems we encountered were the ones you would associate with doing something for the first time,” says Whybrow. “For example, expenditure tables required a breakdown of spending on individual programs and the existing computer program was not designed to provide those kinds of answers.”

The new report covers the first year of the ministry’s first five-year program, completing the cycle of resource analysis-program of action-monitoring of performance.

The first five-year program did not specify physical program goals for its initial year. However the format of the second five-year program was changed to include specific goals, and the next annual report, covering 1981-82, will assess the ministry’s performance in detail.

This will be the pattern for the future. The annual report will be, in effect, the ministry’s report card. It will show whether we are on the honour roll, making just passing grades or flunking our responsibilities.

Meanwhile, the current report tells us the following:

- Ministry expenditures for 1980-81 totalled $298.2 million, three per cent ($7.8 million) higher than forecast.
- The silviculture program accounted for $71.6 million, with almost 74 million trees planted on some 63,000 hectares of Crown land.
- Protection took $30 million, of which 90 per cent went for fire management. Wildfire damage was kept to 65,000 hectares.
- Expenditures under the range program amounted to $2.9 million.
- Almost 188,000 hectares were logged to produce 73 million cubic metres of wood.
- Forest revenue amounted to $360.8 million.
**Back To School For Supervisory Staff**

Support Services supervisors from 43 of 46 forest districts spent five days at the Forest Service Training School in Surrey, discussing and developing strategies for dealing with problems in payroll, finance, personnel, property and warehousing.

**It's Your Move**

**Nelson Region**


**Prince George Region**


**Prince Rupert Region**

ANITA WOLFE – RO Silviculture Hazelton from Meritt; PAUL LARSEN – TFO-1 Campbell River from Bella Coola; RAYMOND BECK – Official Scaler Bella Coola, new; YATÊVE ENGSTROM – OA-2 Smithers, new; RAYMOND SCHULTZ – FA-4 Bulkley from Prince George; HEATHER DAWSON – FA-4 Prince George from FA-2; LEE SCHEFFER – FA-4 Kalum from Houston; BRUCE HUTCHINSON – FA-4 Burns Lake from FA-2; ED KING – FA-4 Burns Lake from Campbell River; KEN HANES – Tech-2 Smithers; LAURENS EM-MELOT – Yardman Bulkley; BRIAN AHERTON – RO Inventory Hazelton; JOHN BRINKAC – TFO-1 Terrace; BRIAN SIMPSON – FA-4 Terrace; DAVE DUNSTON – FA-4 Hazelton from Kamloops.

**Victoria Headquarters**

LINDA LUKINUK – OA-2 Personnel from OA-1 Aux; LAURA REICHER – CI-4 Systems Services from CI-Steno-3; ELIZABETH LANG – CI-3 Personnel from CI-Steno-4; MARK KNUTSON – TFO-1 Chilliwack from FA-4; STEVE LUSH – FA-4 Maple Ridge from Aux; MARK DAMAS – FA-4 Maple Ridge from FA-4 Gold River; AUDREY TYMO – CI-4 Powell River from CI-3 Pemberton; FRANK YOUNG – TFO-1 Sechelt from FA-4; KENN MATTHEWS – RO Timber Sechelt from TFO-1; RON SORENSON – RO Silviculture Powell River from TFO-1 Port Hardy; BARRY MILLER – RO Protection Powell River from FA-4 Port McNeill; JIM COULTON – FA-4 Powell River from FA-4; REINHARD MULLER – RO Silviculture Duncan from LSO-2 Nelson; FRED PATTENDON – FA-4 Duncan from Aux; MURRAY STETCH – TFO-1 Duncan from FA-4 Sayward; BOB REBANTAD – RO Recreation Duncan from FA-4 Powell River; GARY GALLINGER – TFO-1 Port Alberni from FA-4; AL CROSS – TFO-1 Port Alberni from FA-4; JIM SPRING – Support Services Supervisor AO-1 Campbell River from CI-6 100 Mile; KEN CULLINGWOOD – Operations Superintendent Campbell River from RO Silviculture Port Alberni; KEN MAHON – RO Recreation Port McNeill from TFO-2; BARRY BUFFINGTON – RO Eng/Rec Port McNeill from Highways; STAN GRIPICH – RO Protection Port McNeill from FA-2 Nelson.

**Moving Expenses**

Personnel Services Branch has clarified ministry policy on relocation expenses for auxiliary employees. Expenses are paid only for auxiliaries who are moving from one geographic location to another as a result of winning a competition for a regular position. An auxiliary employee who has worked 200 days in a 15-month period and is thereby considered to be an inservice applicant, will be eligible for transfer expenses. Auxiliaries who have not won a competition for a regular position are not eligible for relocation expenses.

**ShopTalk**

*If you have questions about the services, this is where you get the answers.*

What assistance does the ministry provide for long and short term training and education? According to Harry Powell, manager of Human Resources Training and Development, any Forest Service employee can apply for educational leave and subsidized tuition fees. Forms are available from personnel offices in all regions and in Victoria.

A broad range of courses is available. Forest Service technicians without professional credentials can choose from 23 courses offered through the Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters Pupil Program. Given by correspondence, the courses are available from most community colleges and the University of British Columbia.

The Forest Service Training School offers technical, supervisory and managerial courses on a centralized and decentralized basis in all regions, according to needs identified by the ministry. For courses offered at the Training School, the ministry pays board, lodging and tuition as well as travel expenses. Course calendars are available from personnel offices.

In addition, regions and branches conduct training programs that are tuned to local needs and special interests. For example, Systems Services from time to time provides instructions in the use of computer terminals.
Postscripts

Sorry, we won't need the exorcist after all. The report of a curse on British Columbia's forest industry turns out to be a phony. Nora Maxwell of Cowichan Bay had said the late Chief Dan George put a curse on the industry back in 1972 but asked that it be kept secret until after his death. She quoted him as saying: "May they find their profits turn to ashes in their mouths, that they cannot sell the product of their filthy hands."

A prototype tree seedling planting device, designed and built by Alan Moss and Associates of Kelowna, has undergone a continuous five-day test under government observation. Moss says the next step is the pre-production model which will be strengthened and modified before a company is formed to build the production model.

WAELTI: wins Valuation.

Shortly after being named acting director of Valuation Branch, Hans Waelti has been confirmed as director. He succeeds Bob Thomas who retired after 31 years with the ministry. Waelti, 55, has been in the service almost as long. He started with Engineering Branch in 1952.

The ministry magazine ForesTalk, which has been winning awards with great regularity, hit the jackpot in three categories at the awards banquet of the B.C. branch, International Association of Business Communicators. ForesTalk took top honours for best magazine, best layout and best feature. One of the judges commented, "Pity there isn't a category above excellent."

It is reassuring that nobody has complained about the misspelling of the word "Racqueteers" in the front page headline of our last issue. The "c" was inadvertently omitted. Nice to know that none of you can spell either.

In a year-end review of the lumber industry, Forests Minister Tom Waterloo says B.C.'s 1981 production of lumber, plywood, newsprint and market pulp will each be about 15 per cent below 1980 levels. He foresees little chance of a market turnaround until the second half of 1982. But looking ahead the minister says prospects are excellent: "The future is strong, it remains to weather the present."

Ken Bernsohn, editor of Forest Insight and assistant editor of Hiballier Forest Magazine, spent four years writing his new book, Cutting Up The North, a history of the forest industry in the Northern Interior. The author says he has been fair -- "equally unkind to everyone."

A substantial portion of B.C.'s forest operations would be bogged down in controversy if the Ministry of Forests did not have a policy of public involvement. Deputy Minister Mike Asey told the Western Forestry and Conservation Association in Sun Valley, Idaho, that public involvement, he said, "we would simply be storing up conflict for larger and possibly destructive confrontations."

Scientists at the University of B.C. have cloned a gene for an enzyme which will convert sawdust into glucose. The alcohol produced by fermenting the glucose can be blended with gasoline to make gasohol for powering conventional cars. The enzymes occur naturally but are produced too slowly for such a project. Now the clone can be used to greatly increase enzyme production. However, even with this breakthrough, it will still be several years before we are putting a tree in our tank.

In a 35,000-hectare pond created by the Mica Dam.

"It's great," says Bud Stewart, skipper of the 46-foot Kinbasket Forest. "Where else can you get a job cruising water that others pay to be on during their summer holidays?" Launched last year, the $140,000 vessel extends the Forest Service's reach to the most remote corners of the 35,000-hectare pond created by the Mica Dam. It provides an office and floating hotel for timber management, silviculture, fire fighting and pest management crews.