



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Ladysmith's Jim Girvan, North Saanich's Kenneth Mitchell Honoured with Distinguished Forest Professional Awards**

**Vancouver**—Jim Girvan, MBA, RPF, of **Ladysmith** and Kenneth Mitchell, PhD, RPF (retired) of **North Saanich** were presented with Distinguished Forest Professional awards by the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) at its annual forestry conference, held virtually last week.

The Distinguished Forest Professional award recognizes ABCFP registrants for outstanding contributions to the profession and for furthering the principles of the association.

“Though Jim may try to work quietly outside of the spotlight, his name is synonymous across North America in respect to fibre supply forecasting and the varied lobby efforts on the part of independent timber harvesting contractors, consultants, forest licensees, and investors,” said ABCFP president Trevor Joyce, RPF.

As past executive director of the Truck Loggers Association of BC, Girvan's involvement in pivotal negotiations for provincial regulation and policy helped shape the forest sector.

“One of Jim's passions has been the development of a BC Fibre Supply Model. His understanding and research led to many predictions about BC fibre supply, especially in respect to the mountain pine beetle epidemic,” Joyce said. “Using his knowledge and outputs from the model, Jim helped facilitate decisions by government, communities, businesses, and investors to keep the forest sector moving forward.”

Girvan, principle at MDT Management Decision and Technology, is also dedicated to sharing his knowledge in articles and through speaking engagements, and has served on numerous committees and councils related to safety, stumpage and forestry education.

He has an MBA from UBC and a Bachelor's of Science degree from the University of Toronto.

Mitchell's career in forestry, meanwhile, spans more than 50 years.

As a young researcher for the Canadian Forest Service in the 1960s, he recognized that field experiments were insufficient to understand the management of second growth forests in BC. That led him to computer modeling, where a greater understanding of forest practices, stand dynamics, and environmental factors could be explored and predicted.

Mitchell first developed the Tree and Stand Simulator (TASS) during his work on white spruce at Yale University. That work formed the basis for TASS II, which extended computer simulations to three dimensions. He later helped create the Table Interpolation Program for Stand Yields (TIPSY).

“All of Ken’s collaboration resulted in TASS calibrations for most commercial species, linkages to sawmill simulators, product outturn routines, and financial analysis systems, plus additional modules that evaluate genetic improvement, fertilization, non-timber attributes, and forest health issues,” Joyce said.

“His foresight in the early 1960s has provided us a tool valuable for speculation and forecasting needs of forest landscape planning and climate change initiatives,” Joyce said.

TASS and TIPSY are used extensively in BC today to project the growth and value of managed stands.

Mitchell, who also worked at UBC, the University of Idaho, and for the forestry branch of the BC government, retired in 2003.

Girvan and Mitchell were among five award winners honoured for their outstanding contribution to the profession and furthering the association’s principles.

- *Photos available on request.*

*The **Association of BC Forest Professionals** is responsible for registering and regulating BC’s 5,500 professional foresters and forest technologists.*

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