

A REVIEW OF THE WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOUR SPECIALIST COURSE, 1995-2014

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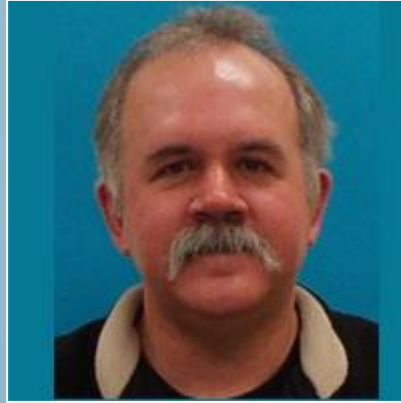
Forest Management Division, GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Fort Smith, NT



AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION TIME!

**Get out your
wallet...**

ME ALEXANDER



*Department of Renewable Resources
and Alberta School of Forest Science &
Management, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, AB*

THE CLASS OF 1996: THE 25 “TEST” SUBJECTS



THE CLASS OF 1997: 2-WEEK COURSE AND NEW EXAM FORMAT



THE CLASS OF 1998: SMALLEST GROUP YET (THE “REMEDIAL STUDENTS”)



THE CLASS OF 1999: THE CONCEPT OF GROUP MENTORS INTRODUCED



THE CLASS OF 2000: 3 WFBS REFERENCE MATERIAL BINDERS REDUCED TO 1 CD



THE CLASS OF 2001: THE LAST OF THE YEARLY COURSES



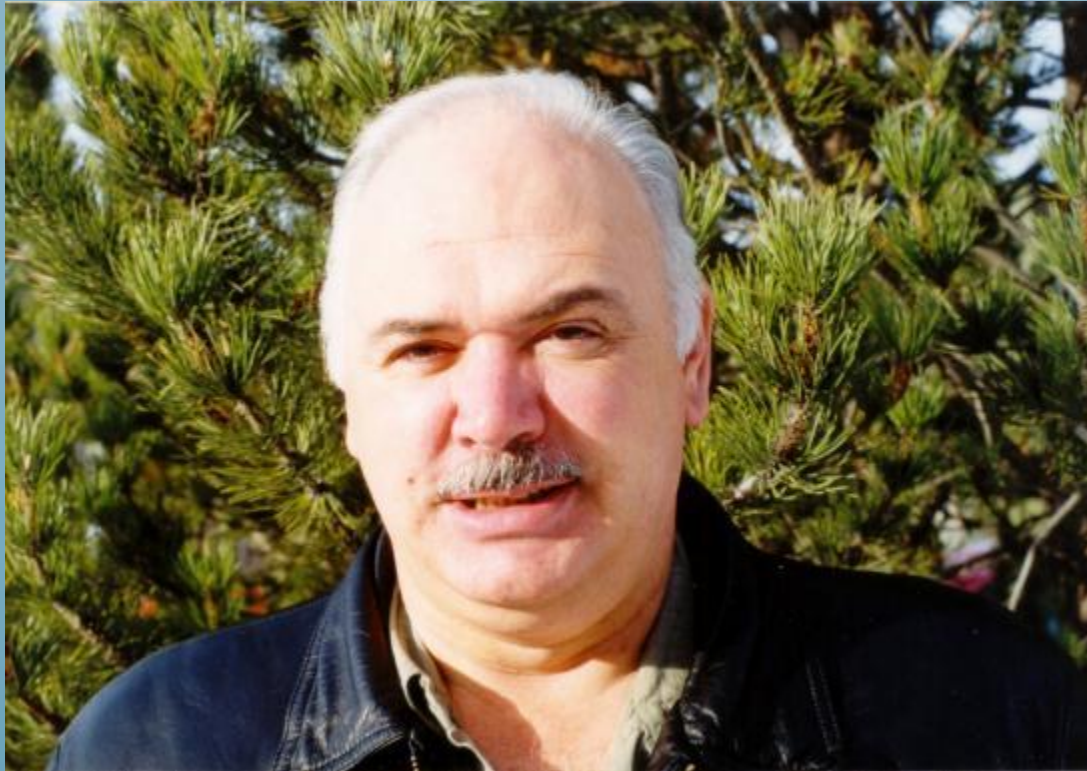
THE CLASS OF 2002: THE ALUMNI REFRESHER 1996-2001



THE CLASS OF 2004: FIRST OF COURSES HELD ON A BI-ANNUAL BASIS



2004 LAST COURSE FOR FOUNDING COURSE LEADER AND INSTRUCTOR TERRY VAN NEST (ALBERTA)



BILL DROOG



*Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency
Services Branch, Sault St. Marie ON*

THE CLASS OF 2006: SUCCESSION PLANNING



2006 LAST COURSE FOR “REVEREND” RICK LANOVILLE (NT)



THE CLASS OF 2008: VIDEOTAPING AND SHADOWS



2008 AL BEAVER (YK) AND FOUNDING INSTRUCTOR JUDI BECK (BC)



KRIS JOHNSON



*Forest Management Division
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources, Fort Smith, NT*

THE CLASS OF 2010: DOWN TO ONE BINDER!



*2010 Wildland Fire Behaviour Specialist
Hinton Training Centre*

2010 LAST COURSE FOR CLASS OF 96 GRAD/SENIOR INSTRUCTOR STAN HARVEY



THE CLASS OF 2012:



NEW EXAM AND IAWF AWARD



Kris Johnson, IAWF vice president and S591 course chair (left), awards Micheal Vincent Fialkowski a one-year IAWF membership for best representing the spirit of the Canadian national 2012 Wildland Fire Behaviour Specialist Course graduating class.



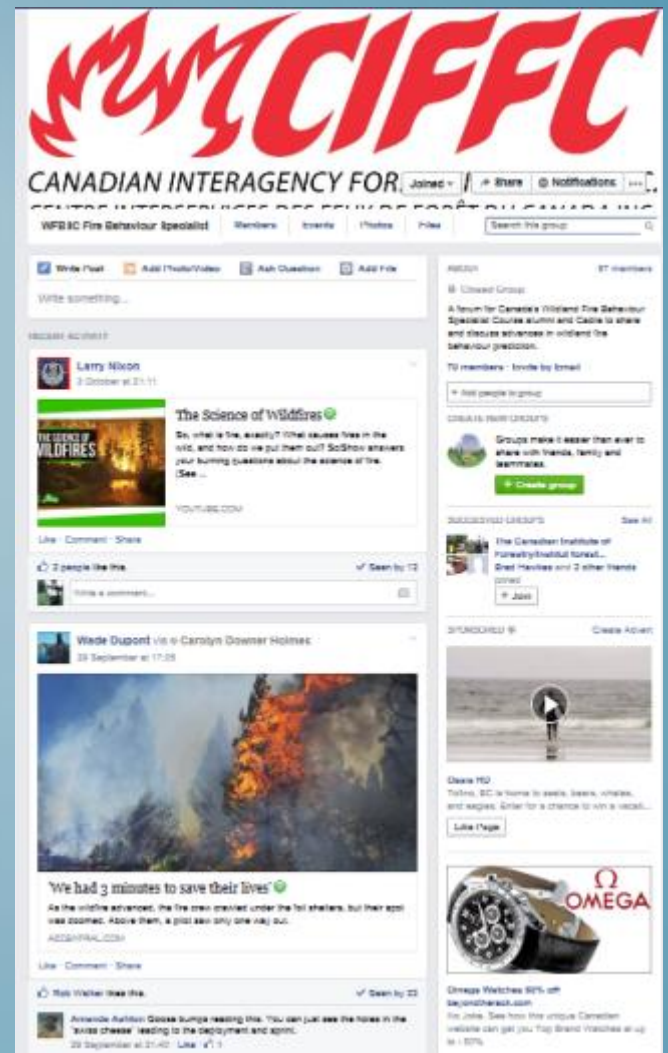
International Association of Wildland Fire

From page 6 of May/June 2012
issue of *Wildfire* magazine





THE 'REVEREND' AWARD & COURSE ALUMNI FACEBOOK PAGE



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/234305576656104/>
Or just type
WFBSA Fire Behaviour Specialist



DANA HICKS



*Wildfire Management Branch, British
Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands,
and Natural Resource Operations,
Prince George, BC*

THE CLASS OF 2014:



NEW TOOLS



A screenshot of the REDAPP.ORG website. The header is red with the logo 'REDAPP.ORG' and the tagline 'The Universal Fire Behaviour Calculator'. Navigation links include 'Home', 'The Project', 'REDapp Team', 'Get REDapp', 'Contact', 'Forums', 'Library', 'WUFC2012', and 'Login'. A search bar is present. Below the header, there are links for 'First Steps', 'Add content', 'Chat Messages', 'Invite someone to REDapp.org', 'Mass Contact', 'User Directory', and 'Logout'. The main content area is titled 'About the Project' and contains text about the project's mission and phases. A chat window is visible in the bottom right corner.

CIFFC FS&T joint project



TO THOSE THAT HAVE GRADUATED: CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE WFBSC FACULTY!



HOW IT CAME TO BE



1994 PROPOSAL TO CIFFC COD: DEVELOP A NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

academic
qualifications for a
Fire Behaviour
Officer (FBO) – now
Fire Behaviour
Analyst (FBAN) – as
outlined in the
CIFFC Resource
Catalogue.



COURSE OBJECTIVES

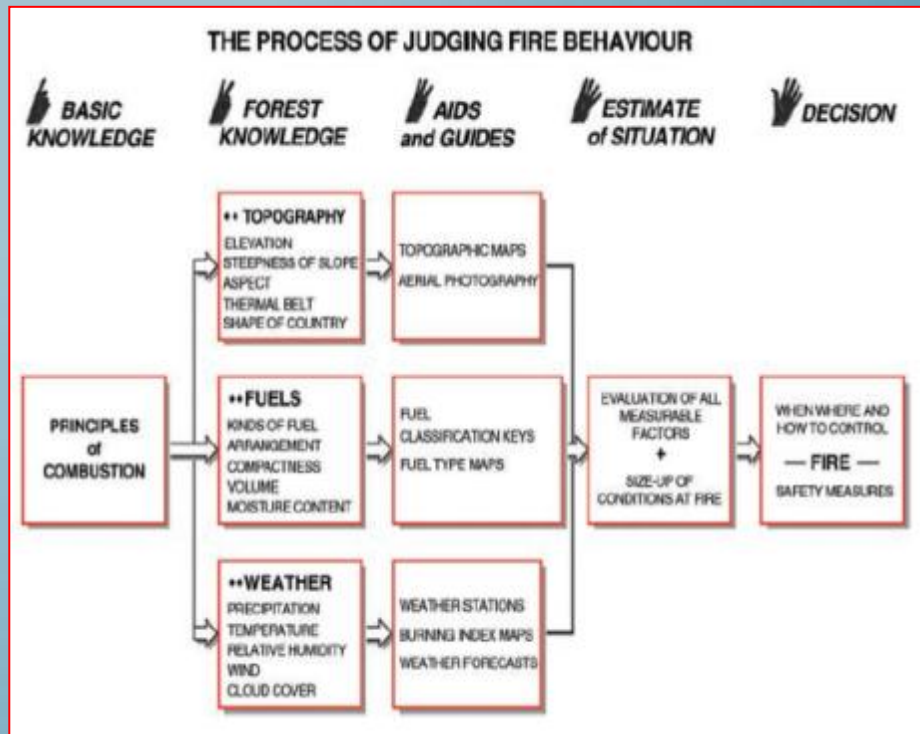
Students will be able to apply state-of-the-art methodologies to forecast fire behaviour in support of decision-making with respect to:

- Fire assessment of multiple fire situations
- Long-range projections of limited action fires
- Evaluation of regional fire situations
- Managing of campaign fires



1995: AUGUST PLANNING MEETING

Terry Van Nest, HTC
Marty Alexander, CFS
Bill Bereska, AB
Rick Lanoville, NT
Judi Beck, BC
Paul Maczek, SK
Rob French, ON



HINTON TRAINING CENTRE: 1996 TO 2014



HTC COURSE LEADERS 1996-2014



Terry Van Nest, Alberta
1996-1999



Rob Thorburn, Alberta
2000-2003



Howard Herman, Alberta
2004-2010



Scott Elliott, Alberta
2011-2014

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Rose Costucci
Team Leader, Administrative Support
Hinton Training Centre

WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?



PRINCIPLE COURSE PREREQUISITE



*Nominees must have
passed the
Advanced Wildland
Fire Behaviour Course
(AWFBC)*

COURSE BASED ON SIX UNITS

1. Roles and responsibilities of the Fire Behaviour Specialist
2. Characteristics and prediction of extreme fire behaviour
3. Fire environment monitoring
4. Fire behaviour calculations
5. Fireline safety and operational strategy considerations
6. Fire behaviour forecasts and briefings



LEARNING BY DOING



SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION DEPENDS ON:

- Pre-course assignments
- Written fire behaviour case study
- Oral fire case study presentation
- In-class exercises
- Class participation



WFBSC BY THE NUMBERS

- 12 course deliveries
- 277 graduates
- 253 Canadian students
- 24 international students:
 - Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, USA and New Zealand



COURSE EVOLUTION

Review and improvement of the WFBSC is ongoing as the nature of the wildland fire business continues to evolve.



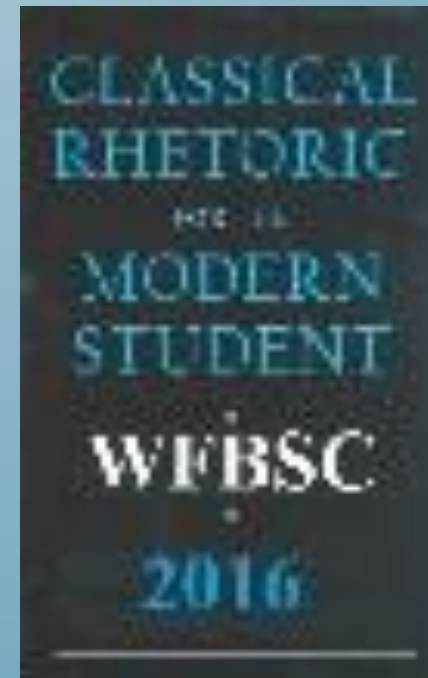
A major internal course review was began in June 2014.

Feedback received to date suggests the WFBSC is meeting the needs of the varied roles that a practicing fire behaviour analyst (FBAN) or specialist find themselves in today.



NEW STUDENTS REQUIRE DIFFERENT TEACHING STYLES

- Restructure *binder and presentations*
- Emphasis *FBAN products*
- *Less late nights more learning opportunities*



NEXT GENERATION



THE FBAN OR WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOUR SPECIALIST WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN FIRE MANAGEMENT IN CANADA IN THE FUTURE



YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE WFBSC TRAINING IS GOING TO LEAD YOU



LEGENDS WERE MADE

Old Cowboys, Cows, and Fire Behavior Forecasting: Supplementing Models With Local Knowledge

Tim Greer

In August 2003, I accepted an assignment as a wildland fire behavior specialist in the interior of British Columbia. This was my first assignment in mountainous terrain. After receiving the customary orientation, I was assigned to the Venables Fire near Cache Creek, BC. The Venables Fire had started in the Venables Valley and made about a 6-mile (10 km) run north along an east-facing slope.



Venables Fire near Cache Creek, British Columbia, on the afternoon of August 31, 2003. Photo: Tim Greer, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources.

The area of concern was in a north-facing bowl at 5,000 feet (1700 m) elevation. The fire behavior prediction system indicated an impending blow-up: the fire was going to burn up everything for miles around, but day after day passed without any significant fire activity. I took a copy of the fire map and visited the meteorologist who was supplying the spot forecasts. What I needed to know was: "When is the wind going to get into the bowl and move this fire?" He did his best to give me an answer and I did mine, but still, most days the fire was quiet and our forecasts weren't borne out by reality.

Tim Greer is a wildland fire behavior specialist with the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources.

I realized that I desperately needed some knowledge of local weather patterns. Thinking about who would have such knowledge, I thought that some of the loggers in the area might include a person who could give me such information. Further thought brought me to the realization that today's loggers don't mingle much with the weather while working in modern harvesting machinery, with its climate-controlled cabs. Then it

hit me! There are cows grazing throughout the area, and cows need regular tending: I needed to find an old cowboy!

To find one, I went down to the home of the owner of the biggest ranch in the area. I drove into the yard, shook off a couple of nipping cow dogs, and knocked on the door. A young man in cowboy attire answered. I introduced myself and told him what I was



Tim Grier, NB

ENLIST

AS A RED SHIRT!



It only hurts for a second!

The WFBSC is proof that you can in fact teach old dogs new tricks.



Class Photo from the Canadian Wildland Fire Behaviour Specialist Courses – S590

In: Dave Hogg, British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, Wildfire Management Branch, Prince George, BC, Mark Alexander, Department of Forestry Research and Alberta School of Forest Science & Management, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, David Hogg, Wildfire Training Centre, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Hinton, AB, Dave Hogg, Provincial Forest Centre, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Edmonton, AB, and Oka Ben, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, Winnipeg, MB



Class of 1996



Class of 1997



Class of 1998

This Wildland Fire Behaviour Specialist Course (WFBS) is the final stage in the national fire behaviour training module. The WFBS training is oriented towards providing students with an in-depth knowledge of fire behaviour and proficiency in the use of both the Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index (FWI) systems and the Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (CFBP) System. Such skills will enable the student to better plan for the occurrence or management of wild and/or prescribed fires on the landscape. The target audience/application for the WFBS includes, but is not limited to:

- Wildfire management
- Fire Behaviour Analyst (FBA)
- Prescribed fire planning
- Prescribed fire delivery
- FireSmart planning
- Fuel management planning
- Long Term Fire Behaviour Analyst (LTFA)
- Duty Officer/Zone Managers
- Fire research
- Fire investigations (cause and safety/accident)
- Fire Behaviour Service Centers
- Education – Knowledge base
- Fire Weather Meteorologist



Class of 1999



Class of 2000



Class of 2001



Class of 2004

Total of 277 students have completed the course:
253 Canadian and 24 International



Class of 2006



Class of 2008



Class of 2010



Class of 2012



Class of 2014



Class of 2015
This could be you!

if you are a member of the alumni of the course, please sign near your class photo
For more information: <https://wildfire.nrc.ca/wildfire/CIFFC/Programs/News/CIFFC-2015-2016>



RELATED POSTER PRESENTATION

Come by and sign your
name
near your class photo



The next offering is JAN 30 - FEB 11 2016



Halfmoon
Exercise

Class of
2016

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Marty Alexander – U of A
- Dick Bon – CIFFC
- Bill Droog – ON
- Scott Elliott - HTC
- Dave Finn - AB
- Derek Lemke – ON
- Dustin Oikle – NS
- Terry Van Nest – retired