

2009 AWARD WINNERS

Irving Fox Award

A single, strong nomination for the Irving Fox Award was received this year, to “recognize an individual or group who has made an outstanding contribution to ecological, social or economic knowledge of the sustainability of natural resources in northwest B.C.”

This year’s nominees are the team of **David Daust** and **Karen Price** (of Telkwa, B.C.) for their “promotion of impartial monitoring of the effectiveness of land use plans.” In particular, it has been suggested, and the awards evaluation committee agrees, that their work in devising a monitoring framework for the Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust is worthy of recognition and promotion. This framework (see details at www.babinetrust.ca) addresses issues of risk and uncertainty in the use of various monitorable indicators to evaluate the impacts of various land use designations and management practices in the area of land influencing the important recreational, economic and biodiversity values of the world-renowned Babine River. This framework reflects lengthy careers in which Karen and David have developed an understanding of the ecology of hydroriparian ecosystems, concepts of ecological health and integrity, and progressive concepts in the management of forest landscapes. Although ‘adaptive ecosystem management’ is often taught and advocated, this Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust and its monitoring framework represent one of the few fully implemented and adequately funded programs of its kind. As such, it has been influential in having analogous programs implemented for coastal B.C., and in the design of a provincial land use monitoring framework. Although primarily provincial in its influence to date, this work has been referred to by international organizations such as the Mountain Forum (www.mtnforum.org), and is worthy of greater recognition. Congratulations to David Daust and Karen Price for this important work.



THE AWARD WAS ACCEPTED ON DAVE AND KAREN'S BEHALF BY
BABINE WATERSHED MONITORING TRUSTEES JANE LLOYD-SMITH AND ROSEMARY FOX.

Jim Pojar Award

Two nominations for the Jim Pojar Award were received this year, based on publications made in the last five years "that improve the scientific understanding or public appreciation of the ecological, social or human dimensions of natural resource use in northwest B.C."

The evaluation committee chose the "Geertsema, M., Clague, J.J., Schwab, J.W., and Evans, S.G. 2006. An overview of recent large catastrophic landslides in northern British Columbia, Canada. *Engineering Geology* 83:120-143". paper for recognition this year. This paper is a noteworthy contribution to the scientific literature. It took a descriptive analytical approach in documenting and interpreting the underlying processes behind recent large landslides across northern British Columbia. The authors convincingly suggest links to climate change (the melting of glaciers, the melting of interstitial ice at high elevations, and extreme precipitation events) as being responsible for many of the recent landslides in our part of the world. The paper provides an interesting tour and credible interpretation of an often under-appreciated landscape process. Congratulations to **Marten Geertsema** (B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range), **John Clague** (Simon Fraser University), **Jim Schwab** (B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range), and **Stephen Evans** (University of Waterloo) for their fine work.



JIM SCHWAB ACCEPTED THE AWARD ON THE TEAM'S BEHALF.

Volunteer Distinction Award

Steve Osborn (Smithers, BC), the recipient of the Bulkley Valley Research Centre's first annual Volunteer Distinction Award, was chosen for his extensive work on ValleyVision.ca

ValleyVision.ca is a community driven and collaborative initiative that links residents, planners and developers of B.C.'s Bulkley Valley with planning information, planning processes and with each other. This project will be integral to future community and resource management planning within the Bulkley Valley. Steve invested countless volunteer hours towards this project, thereby ensuring its' success, and demonstrating his passion for our community.

Ironically, Steve couldn't attend the AGM to accept his award, as he was busy volunteering elsewhere in our community.