

## See You Around...

After about eight weeks with the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF), it is a pleasure for me to be invited back to write something for the FRP e-newsletter one last time. For those of you who are members of the CIF and read the Forestry Chronicle (*and all of you should be - or will be if I have my way*), this might look a bit familiar; one of the great tricks of the writing trade is rehashing what you have already churned-out, with a slightly different spin...

To my many colleagues and friends at the

Canadian Ecology Centre - Forestry Research Partnership, with the Canadian Forest Service (CFS), the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and everyone else affiliated with us over the past six years, I want to express my deep appreciation and thanks. Especially George Bruemmer who recently moved to the CFS in Ottawa and Al Stinson with the OMNR – Southern Science and Information Section; still holding down the fort. It was a great run – just shy of six years for me; maybe if we had another six decades, I might be able to learn everything you have to teach me about forestry... It was an honour and privilege in every respect to work with you to help build, maintain and make successful – the Forestry Research Partnership. Thank you both for always being there to *'pick me up and dust me off'* from time to time when I needed it. At the risk of forgetting someone, I'll mention a few other special folk who made it all very worthwhile: Ken Durst of Tembec Industries Inc., Murray Woods of OMNR, and the other two members of the Partnership's Extension Triumvirate - Brian Batchelor of OMNR and Guy Smith of the CFS; both great calming influences and sources of sober second-thought. Thanks also to Bill Snell and Mike Martel of Tembec for their great support and encouragement during the past year.

What do I miss?

- Morning chats with Al on all kinds of topics: kids, parenting, sports, philosophy, history, good books, the fairer sex, and of course once in a while - forest science, research and practice...
- White-tailed deer distracting me in our office by nuzzling at the window and being able to tell everyone the same joke about it - ad nauseam...
- The Young Folk, usually working with us through internships... providing enthusiasm, energy, new ideas, and vitality to the organization – cheap/excellent labour and the legacy of which I am most proud
- Rachelle and Pat's cooking – maybe I'll finally slim down permanently.... Nah... I think it's hopeless...
- Fiscal irresponsibility to some degree (albeit in a very good cause)... I guess I finally have to grow up about money (Ken will do an infinitely better job than me in this and probably all other components of the job)...

The challenges with the new position at the Canadian Institute of Forestry are more daunting than any I have ever faced. I have often said to people "be careful what you wish for". Well I now have the mega-challenge of my career - helping to lead and make-happen a new value proposition, re-branding and re-building of the Institute. We are gearing up already... and as we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CIF in 2008, we will be thriving like never before. Just watch, **and join us!**

Take care everyone!

John



John Pineau in his alter-ego as bass-playing camp cook with the Wakami Wailers at Boreal Conference 2006