



Canadian
Wood
Preservation
Association

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President's Address CWPA 2007

Welcome to the 28th annual meeting of the Canadian Wood Preservation Association.

What's in a name? To paraphrase Shakespeare, that which we call creosote, by any other name would smell as pungent.

I find it interesting that both the International Research Group on Wood Preservation and the American Wood Preservers' Association have recently changed their names to substitute the word "protection". As I understand it, they wish to recognize the expansion of their remit to take in a broader range of methods for improving the durability of wood. They seem to feel "preservation" implies only pressure treatment with chemical preservatives. The CWPA, despite its name, has embraced a broader definition of preservation since its inception in 1979. The original aims and objectives of the association included the following:

The advancement of knowledge and expertise in the various aspects of wood preservation, including pressure and non-pressure treatments, dip and spray treatments for control of stain and mould, fire retardant treatments, remedial treatments for existing decay and other methods of wood preservation.

The promotion of high standards of technology in wood preservation and the encouragement of good building practices for the protection of wood in service.

Dipping in to the CWPA proceedings from ten years ago reveals presentations on antisapstain treatment, on-line treatment of OSB, building envelope failures, remedial treatment, plastic lumber, use category standards, objective based building codes and recycling of treated wood. Around the same time we saw presentations covering natural durability, biological control, thermal treatment and other forms of wood modification. The CWPA always covered chemical, biological and physical means of preservation.

I am, by nature, a stickler for correct terminology once definitions have been agreed upon. The definition of protection thrown up by Google in several sources is "the act of

protecting, or the state of being protected”. That is just typical. First, define the word using related words from the same root. However, it then goes on to say “preservation from loss, injury, or annoyance”. I like the sound of that. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have another year to serve as president, and during my tenure at least, this organization will remain, the Canadian Wood Preservation Association.

Paul Morris