

Welcome to the 32nd Annual CWPA meeting.

It is great to see so many people take the trip to Atlantic Canada, and more precisely here to Halifax, Nova Scotia!

It is probable that many of you have not been in our beautiful province before. With our rolling hills, and many lakes, breathtaking Highlands and the endless coastline spotted with cozy fishing villages and stunning beaches, I encourage you to take a little extra time to get to know your eastern province. There is so much to see and experience here, mouth-watering tastes to discover, sophisticated music and hand crafts to sample, I'm certain you will be taking a part of us home with you. A few years ago the Minister of Tourism in Ottawa decided to create a colourful brochure to promote Canadian tourism to English-speaking countries around the world ... and left Nova Scotia off the map! Where you sit here today is such a small part of what Nova Scotia has to offer. I encourage you to go out and explore ...put Nova Scotia on *your* map!

Back to why we are here at this occasion; namely Wood Preservation and Protection.

There has not been a lot of discussion in the media on those subjects in several years, but that does not mean that there are no new developments taking place. Just look at our somewhat controversial symposium this year!

“WOOD PROTECTION WITHOUT BIOCIDES”

The European Commission of the Environment is looking long and hard at biocides; they are looking to improve the functioning of the internal market in biocidal products while maintaining the high level of the environmental and human health protection. With all the concerns about environmental and human health issues, you wonder if, perhaps, biocides are too risky. This, of course, leads to the question... Will we need biocides in the future?

We have put together a very interesting program which focuses especially on some new methods for the protection of wood.

Though the media are not investigating the current issues of wood protection, the consumers are very alert to what they currently use and what they want to use. That is creating a greater demand for communication, clearer facts and intelligent guidance. That is our first challenge!

Furthermore, new certification programs are gaining importance in the eye of the consumer, one of which is the LEED certificate (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). In order to enhance the view of wood use, certification is important. However, the “point” system for these certifications is quite complicated, so wood is often not chosen.

That is our second challenge!

To my knowledge, all governing levels in Canada - Municipal, Provincial and Federal - have decided to follow LEEDS certification for new buildings or renovations wherever they are involved. That is a very large market.

Since wood is a sustainable material, it only stands to reason that it should qualify more often compared to other materials such as steel and concrete. It is our challenge to make wood-use in the construction and beautification of buildings more attractive in the eyes of the specifiers. It is within our scope to develop the view that wood is the most rewarding and beneficial resource, in the pocket book and the environment.

I want to thank all the speakers and participants for coming and I look forward to hearing what the speakers have to say to address the challenges before us.

I also want to thank the following people for their vital contribution to this meeting:

Dave Alexander for assembling the program

Paul Dandy for arranging the facility

Ron Bobker for preparing the students awards

Aubar Sidhu for the sponsor program

Catherine Seadon for her secretarial skills

Danny Goodine for working on the newsletter

And a general thank you to everyone who has contributed to this event.

The 32nd Annual Meeting has begun.

Please help me in welcoming our keynote speaker, Prof. Halger Miltz on the topic of Wood Modification Methods.