

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcome to the 29th annual meeting of the Canadian Wood Preservation Association, my second and last meeting as your president.

My President's Pen article in our recent newsletter was written in November of last year. In that article I focused on the dizzying pace of change in our industry.

Barack Obama took the same theme and made it his own with slogans such as "change we need" and "change we can believe in". John McCain has tried to gain some traction with "change is coming" and Jack Layton promised to be the "candidate of change". Even the street people of Vancouver are all asking for change.

Personally, I could do with a little stability right now.

Unfortunately it does not look like I am going to get it.

One thing I am certain of is that the people and organizations best positioned to deal with change are those which access the most information, effectively interpret that information, think ahead, and stay flexible. Information availability is almost infinite via the internet. The key steps are picking out the information you need, judging its validity, understanding its significance and predicting its impact.

The Canadian Wood Preservation Association is all about identifying and delivering you the information you need to effectively position yourself and your organization. Unlike most other organizations that take offered papers and slot them into categories, the CWPA Board of Directors meets in January of each year to identify key issues and opportunities facing the industry and decides on one or more themes for the following meeting. The board members suggest specific topics and appropriate speakers. The task of contacting the prospective speakers is then distributed amongst the board members who report back to a program co-ordinator. Around June of each year we take a look at the list of speakers and topics we have secured and put together a balance program with some logical flow to the topics. Then we assign Paul Cooper and/or Paul Morris the worst slots in the program.

Any suggestions from the members on topics for next year are always welcome.

This year I hope you will agree we have hit on some topical issues, a better understanding of which will help you to withstand the storms of change.