



**Canadian
Wood
Preservation
Association**

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**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
Ron Bobker, Canadian Wood Preservation Association**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members, Guests and Speakers:

Welcome to Toronto and the 21st Annual Meeting of the Canadian Wood Preservation Association. The topic for our meeting this year is "Back to Basics" and the Program Committee has worked hard to put together a program that stresses the fundamental factors that are involved in prolonging the service life of wood in exterior exposure situations. The topics to be discussed include: the structure of wood and modes of attack and deterioration, methods for introducing anti-decay agents into wood, and overviews of the chemical agents that are used in different parts of the world. Complementing these papers, are others that will consider items such as the toxicity of wood preservatives and statistical methods for evaluating the effectiveness of treatment and for predicting the onset of failure.

There have been some changes in the format of this annual meeting. Firstly, we have teamed up with the Canadian Institute for Treated Wood. There are several CWPA members who are also members of CITW, so that a joint venue and consecutive meetings minimize the inconvenience of traveling to two venue; and also we hope that this arrangement will permit CITW members who are not members of CWPA to stay on and take advantage of the CWPA program as well as the networking potential. This has resulted in a Tuesday – Wednesday meeting instead of the traditional Monday – Tuesday event. Secondly the formal Membership Meeting of the Association has been moved to the afternoon of the first day, instead of the mid-morning of the second day. The thinking behind this is to avoid the break in the technical presentations that occurred with the previous arrangement. Other changes have already been implemented this year, including the setting up of a web site and the appointment of an executive coordinating assistant. By now many of you will have met, or have been in contact with Dragica Jeremic, who took on this position in April. These and other administrative changes will be discussed in detail in the membership meeting later today. Your input into these changes is sought, and if there are any aspects of the new arrangements that you particularly like or dislike, please bring them to the attention of myself or any other member of the Board of Directors during the course of the next two days.

And now we are ready to start the technical part of the program that I hope you will find interesting and informative. Thank you for your attention, and enjoy your participation in this 21st Annual Meeting of the CWPA.