

CWPA 24th Annual Meeting,
October 28th & 29th, 2003.

Opening Address by the President

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is John Packer, and I am the President of the Canadian Wood Preservation Association. On behalf of the Association and its Board of Directors it is a pleasure to welcome you to the 24th Annual Meeting of the CWPA, and to Halifax, NS.

In keeping with a break from tradition that was started with the 22nd Annual Meeting. This meeting directly follows the annual Fall meeting of the Canadian Institute for Treated Wood, which was held yesterday, and this meeting will be succeeded on Thursday by the annual Canadian Standards Association meeting on wood preservation. As many of our members are involved in the two other organizations, it makes "economic sense" to continue to coordinate the CWPA Annual Meeting with these two organizations.

I think we would all agree that the pendulum is continuing to swing against wood. Everyone with a stake or job in the forest products industry is aware of this trend. There are profound changes taking place in the wood preservation industry. This is most evident in both Europe, and North America. Traditional treatment chemicals and treatment practices are being re-evaluated in light of environmental, health and safety awareness. This means that the use of wood in an application that makes it liable to early failure due to biological degradation will be considered more carefully in the coming years. Against this backdrop there is apparently a growing perception amongst architects, builders, and consumers, that the quality of wood is itself declining.

The planners of this meeting have once again excelled in bringing together a group of speakers whose professional knowledge has been amalgamated into a most topical and interesting program comprising

- Moving from CCA to Alternatives
- Mould, Stain & Phytosanitary Issues
- Research Symposium, and
- Industry Treated Wood Issues

Our keynote speaker is Mr. Joran Jermer of the Swedish National Testing and Research Institute. Mr. Jermer is Secretary General of The International Research Group on Wood Preservation with expertise in many areas of wood preservation. He will give us a valuable insight into the Swedish experience with the adoption of alternative water based preservatives as CCA replacements. His presentation, Moving from CCA to Alternative Wood Preservatives- "The Swedish Scene" will lead off the topical session on "Moving from CCA to alternative wood preservatives."

It is a great pleasure that I welcome Mr. Joran Jermer to the podium.

John Packer