

ACCESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

October - December 2001



*Draper,
William Keith*

September 10, 1947 — July 7, 2001

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Keith Draper, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, B.C. Region, Western Economic Diversification Canada.

Keith will forever remain in the hearts of his loving wife, Gloria Caravan Draper, his sons Russell Keith Draper (Stacey), Rodney William Draper and Trevor Caravan. Keith and his wife Gloria were also proud grandparents of a new baby girl, Grace, born on July 4, 2001; a first grandchild they were so looking forward to meet during their planned vacation to New Brunswick.

Keith Draper was an exceptional man with a quick smile and a keen intellect. He was a warm-hearted, thoughtful person who cared deeply about the people he worked with. Always calm and collected, he handled himself with grace and dispensed wisdom with a gentle sense of humour. His many friends and colleagues in the federal government and the private sector appreciated his dedication to the people of Canada and his ability to balance that commitment with love for his family.

William Keith Draper was born in Parry Sound, Ontario (where he played hockey with a young Bobby Orr), obtained his Masters degree in Economics at Western University in London, Ontario, in 1971, and began his career as a business analyst at Dun and Bradstreet. Keith worked as an industrial economist in the P.E.I. Department of Industry and Commerce before joining the then Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE), New Brunswick, where he rose through the ranks in a career that spanned 19 years at DREE and its successor agency, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). He joined WD in 1995 as Director General, Program Development and Strategic Services. From October 2000 to his untimely death, Keith was the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, B.C. Region, Department of Western Economic Diversification. ♣

INNOVATIVE SEEDLING PROTECTION

The forestry industry is always looking for new reforestation techniques to combat the natural invasion of newly planted seedlings and maintain long-term site productivity. Deer, rabbits, voles and porcupine are partial to the young seedlings' sugar laden leaders and terminal shoots, meaning many young seedlings never reach maturity.

John Kendall, a consulting forester based in Greater Victoria, was interested in designing a new tree shelter and dropped into Neil Forman's Prince Rupert machine shop to get a part made. The two discussed how to improve shelters, and entered into a partnership, forming **Freegro Enterprises**. Today, several prototypes and two years later, the Freegro® Plant Shelters system continues to evolve into a success story.

The plant shelters provide a balance between growth enhancement, while at the same time protect vulnerable seedlings from animal damage. The shelters are easy to transport and cheap to install. It can take as little as 10 seconds to install the shelters, which are customized to growing conditions and tree species. Better yet, when their job is done, the shelters degrade on their own and disappear, making costly retrieval unnecessary.

Forman oversees manufacturing at **Certified Plant Shelters** in Prince Rupert. "At this point, we have about 200,000 Freegro® shelters in the field," reports Forman.

The shelters look like vertically staked windsocks that can be easily installed over a pre-staked tree or plant. They are flared at the top to ensure that leaders do not come into contact with the rigid rim. The basic design has two rims equipped with friction clips that can be fitted with a variety of cylindrical fabric socks to protect the plant. The clips attach the shelter near the top and bottom to a support stake driven into the ground. An auxiliary peg(s) can be added to the bottom for additional support where wind firmness is an issue or soil conditions are shallow.

Flexibility is key to the system. Freegro® systems come in several varieties and treatments of claddings that vary with tree species and their growing environments. Fine mesh fabric shelters are best suited to animal protection, allowing air and light through, but resilient enough to be too much work for animals such as deer to bother with. Full fabric socks provide these same features, but also produce a greenhouse effect that accelerates early seedling growth.



Degradable Freegro plant shelter protecting vulnerable seedling

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— DESIGNED FROM THE GROUND UP



Shelters are designed to protect seedlings from animals

Kendall indicated that they use a wide range of textiles. Fabrics are chosen primarily for their high UV resistance and strength, as well as light transmission and heat transfer properties. The UV rate of degradability differs for seedlings planted in the Queen Charlotte Islands, than for those planted in southern California. Shelter fabrics are carefully chosen to allow the seedling to grow beyond the point where it becomes food for animals, while still providing protection from weather and competing plant life. Its degradation allows the foliage to emerge from built-in breakpoints at the same time as the rims are opening up at their breakpoints to ensure the plant is released from its protective cocoon. The stakes rot and the rims and clips eventually rust.

The Freegro® shelters are simple to install and cost between 30 and 60 per cent less compared with other types of protectors. Shelters can be customized, but most are four feet in length with a 4½ inch diameter sock. Red cedar makes the most durable stakes, notes Forman.

Certified Plant Shelters employs about a dozen people sewing and packaging the plant shelters, producing about 2,000 shelters a day.

Forman and Kendall financially supported Freegro's development, but were successful in obtaining assistance with their system from a variety of sources, including the B.C. Technical Assistance Program, administered through the National Research Council, and Human Resources Development Canada's local labour market partnership. They were also able to secure loans through the Community Futures Development Corporation of the Pacific Northwest in Prince Rupert, Western Economic Diversification Canada's Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (CEAI) and Forest Renewal BC, which have helped scale up the company's production capability.

Although the Freegro® Plant Shelters are designed and assembled in B.C., they have generated interest across North America and from several European countries, as well as from as far away as Tasmania.

For details on how to reach Certified Plant Shelters and Freegro Enterprises, visit their Web site at: www.freegro.com. ♦

This story has been adapted from an article printed in Logging & Sawmilling Journal, November 2000 issue.

Columbia

WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA

A CHAMPION OF CITIZEN-CENTERED SERVICE DELIVERY JOINS WD AS ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mrs. Oryssia Lennie, Deputy Minister for Western Economic Diversification, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Ardath Paxton Mann as Assistant Deputy Minister for British Columbia.

A political science graduate of the University of Manitoba, Ardath Paxton Mann joins the federal public service after a 17 year career with the Government of British Columbia where she held a number of senior position: in central agencies as Deputy Secretary to Cabinet responsible for the Cabinet Committee on Economic Development and Public Affairs Counsel in the Central Public Affairs Bureau, and line ministries – Labour, Advanced Education, Regional & Economic Development, Development Trade and Tourism, Small Business Tourism and Culture, and Competition Science & Enterprise. Most recently, Ardath headed up the B.C. Government's Deregulation Office. Ardath's assignments

have included responsibility for regional and community economic development, entrepreneurship, Aboriginal economic development, Communities in Transition and the provision of policy and program support to small businesses in British Columbia.



*Ardath Paxton Mann, new ADM for
WD British Columbia Region*

"The region will thrive under Ardath's leadership, vision and intimate knowledge of B.C. and the business community, the very qualities we always valued in Ardath over the many years of close cooperation between our Department and the B.C. government," stated Mrs. Lennie.

"I look forward to building on the legacy of my predecessors and drawing on the incredible resources of the B.C. office," said Paxton Mann. "Enhancing our region's collaborative partnerships with all levels of government and the private sector will form the basis of many of our efforts in the coming years." ♣