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FORESTRY SPOTLIGHT!



Ian Stewart, a 16-time Guinness World Record holder who has performed more than 3,000 shows throughout North America and beyond, will try for a new record on Friday night at the 2024 Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show.

As part of its special 40th anniversary edition, the Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show is again presenting a Forestry Spotlight. Taking place March 8-10 at the Halifax Exhibition Centre, this show is known as the largest gathering of outdoor enthusiasts in Atlantic Canada, and for many regular attendees it is the unofficial kick-off to spring! They come to check out the three buildings filled with exhibitors displaying all the latest boats, ATVs, and RVs – plus the wild

game kitchen, seminars, and a huge entertainment arena. There is something for everyone who enjoys the great outdoors. Attracting more than 15,000 visitors annually, the event has become well known as the place for camping, hunting, fishing, and ... for the second year in a row, FORESTRY!

Following the 2023 edition, there was an overwhelmingly positive response to this new aspect of the show – the public exposure, networking, and the opportunity to talk education, employment opportunities, and community outreach in the forest sector. Based on that feedback, a decision was made to expand the forestry presence. Kori Levy, of the Darwin Event Group, which presents the show, was thrilled to receive a call from Todd Burgess, Outreach Coordinator with Forest Nova Scotia, offering his support to make this happen.

“Forest Nova Scotia has the reputation, connections, and knowledge to help continue to grow this important part of the show in our special 40th anniversary year,” says Levy. “While a big thank-you goes to Rumcache Forest Solutions Inc., who were integral in assisting with our foundational 2023 year, our planning

with Forest Nova Scotia is setting the stage for an even bigger celebration of forestry for 2024.”

Burgess believes this collaboration holds great promise. “Events like the Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show represent a chance to showcase our forestry sector to a wider, more diverse audience,” he says. “This gives us opportunities to promote careers and demonstrate some of the excellent work that our partners do for the economy, our communities, and the environment in Nova Scotia and beyond.”

Harry Freeman and Son Limited, a family lumber business in Queens County, N.S., will again have a large booth space, demonstrating their commitment to the show. Other confirmed exhibitors include the Association for Sustainable Forestry, WestFor Management Inc., the Nova Scotia Community College, the Forestry Sector Council, UNB Forestry and Environmental Management, Team Rubicon Canada, The Tractor Dome, the Canadian Woodlands Forum, the Western Woodlot Services Cooperative, Athol Forestry Cooperative – and of course, Atlantic Forestry Review. Still more woods-related organizations are finalizing their participation. There are also plans for interactive exhibits, equipment displays, informative presentations, panel discussions, videos, and (just confirmed!) a guaranteed show-stopper: the ALPA High Performance Logging simulator!

Admission includes show access all weekend long, so attending on #ForestryFriday is a great way to start. Wear your best plaid for the chance to win on-the-spot prizes! On Friday night, a family-friendly 40th anniversary party in the main arena will feature cake (of course!) and a new Guinness Book of World Records attempt by internationally recognized chainsaw juggler Ian Stewart. The popular Scott’s Timber Show will run throughout the weekend, combining comedy with amazing skills in log rolling, canoe jousting, tub racing, axe throwing, chopping, crosscut sawing, and chainsaw carving.

For anyone who has ever attended the Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show over the past 40 years, now is the time to come and see how the event has grown. The organizers and exhibitors are looking forward to welcoming older generations as well as new faces, to celebrate and support forestry and the outdoor lifestyle in Atlantic Canada. For updates and online ticket sales closer to the show, go to www.sportsandrshow.com.