

# TOPAX NEWS



FALL 2005

## Interpal #6

INTERPAL is the conference for the International Wood Packaging Industry. It was founded by Mr Gordon Hughes, General Manager of the CWPCA (Canadian Wood Pallet & Container Association) and Eric Skelding of the parallel German Association in 1983. The conference is held every four years. 2005 was Canada's turn to host the event. Representatives attended from 23 countries.

Simon Trillwood, President of Topax attended Interpal #6 both in his capacity with Topax and as a director of the CWPCA. According to Simon, "This was a major event for our industry. We acquired important insights on topics ranging from the environment to world economics. It was my pleasure to represent our company, the association and our industry; in helping to welcome important visitors to Canada".

## Interpal #6 was a Vibrant Combination of Business and Social Events



We heard from Dr Patrick Moore, co-founder of Greenpeace, and an expert on the biology of renewable resources. He talked about wood as the ultimate renewable building material. While there is much talk about forests being depleted by industry we learned that more than half of the annual tree harvest goes to another purpose.

**Of the 3.3 billion cubic metres of wood harvested world wide each year, 1.8 billion cubic metres are cleared and burnt for firewood and subsistence farming. Less than half of the wood harvested is for building and industrial purposes. Wood packaging is a very small proportion of this amount.**

We heard from, among others Dr Rosalind Kunin, Economist, Stan Bowes, President of EPAL (European Pallet

Association), John Mead, Chairman of the ISO committee for pallet standards, Bruce Scholnick, President of the NWPCA (National Wood Pallet & Container Association) and Shane Sela of the CFIA and member of the IPPC Expert working Group on Debarking.

We all know that all **Solid Wood Packaging including container dunnage / blocking must be certified under the IPPC for many countries.** Shane Sela of the CFIA and our own Canadian Wood Packaging Certification Program talked about the new, additional requirements for bark free wood.

While the IPPC regulations discuss debarked wood for packaging, bark free wood is not a requirement of the IPPC Guidelines. It has been proven  
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that all of the quarantine pests are killed by means of heat treating. Notwithstanding, there has been an ongoing debate about re-infestation in residual bark. Several countries have unilaterally imposed entry / import requirements for 100% bark free wood packaging. Shane Sela said that it is important to reach a common definition of what constitutes bark. He told us that, in time **bark free wood packaging will become part of the IPPC guidelines.**

Interpal delegates visited the **Canadian Forest Service, Laboratory** (Natural Resources Canada) in Victoria. Dr Eric Allen gave a very interesting talk on the history of invasive pest species, the definition of Quarantined Pests, the bark issue and hitchhiker pests. Some logs in the quarantine labs have yielded about 200 pests, both microscopic and visible, per log. Pests moving from one ecosystem to another change their behaviour, encounter easier conditions without natural predators and become much more dangerous to the forests at their destination. At origin, these pests may not be particularly harmful; but will destroy a forest in another ecosystem. The **beetle infestation in mainland British Columbia has killed all of the pine trees in an area the size of Holland**

**and continues. It is vital that we prevent the spread of quarantined pests from Canada to other countries; so that we don't harm their forests and preserve wood as an important renewable resource.**

Dr Allen stressed that HT 56 30 treated wood packaging is bug free for the life of the wood. He acknowledged that hitchhiker pests can be attracted to bark and wood. So, bugs originating at destination may be mistaken for imported pests. Dr Allen said that it is very important to make sure that any bugs should be positively identified as a quarantined pest. It was great to get the real scientific evidence from Canada's foremost expert.

Hardy Graham exhibited in the Interpal Exhibition Hall. Topax is the Canadian Distributor of Hardy Built Fastener Systems. Since Interpal Topax has received many interested inquiries from Canadian Manufacturers. This is a great reusable Fastener that can help a wood packaging manufacturer add value and provide a wider range of products to the customer.

INTERPAL #6 finished up with a great dinner and party. Acquaintances were forged into friendships and a good time was had by all.

