

## Forest industry job fair added to Sawtech Expo

A forest industry job fair could be the highlight for some at the SawTech Log Expo in Bancroft June 10 to 12. That aspect of the event will be part of a larger presentation in the local Curling Club that showcases lots of exhibitors displaying ways of adding value to wood along with various education components. The forestry career and education job fair is being run by the Bancroft Area Forest Industry Association (BAFIA) and Co-ordinator Virginia deCarle says "With the forest industry being the main economic driver in this area and supporting over 180,000 jobs across Ontario, it's important to educate young people along with the general public about the opportunities there are working in forestry."

Forestry professionals will be on hand and activities will include a scavenger hunt, PowerPoint presentation, and a forest walk. For those interested in future work in that sector deCarle says "Career fair booths covering over a 100-foot area will have forestry professionals from Forests Ontario, Ontario Wood, Bancroft Minden Forest Company and a number of other forestry companies." The event as a whole, the biggest show of its kind in central Canada, is for anyone with an interest in logging, woodlot maintenance, home improvements and wood crafting of any sort. This year's show will feature the traditional displays of heavy equipment and accessories for the bigger logging companies along with equipment for the smaller cutters, regional mills, woodlot owners, cottagers and various kinds of folks who work with wood. Included in the list will be a huge display of portable sawmills with many being shown in action to demonstrate how they work.

Saw Tech Log Expo also features woodlot tours, educational opportunities, other equipment demos, and show deals. Organizer Glenn Dredhart, president of Canadian Trade-Ex, says there's truly something for everyone at the event. "Kids are awed by the big machinery, everyone will learn something about an important sector of our economy, and many will make useful contacts and cut deals during the course of the show." He says there's still time to book exhibit space and reminds potential visitors that entry to the show is free.

The Ontario Forest Expo, with two arenas and acres of outdoor space, is an important event for people in the wood products industry as well as being a true family event. The reappearance of the Expo in North Hastings, the last one happening in 2012, comes at a time of renewed hope for the industry and the emergence of more ways to add value to a precious home-grown resource.

Submitted by Bancroft Area Forest Industry Association