

Our Canadian Heritage

an influx of new enthusiasm and talent. Says fourth year forester Jillian Weldon: "I enjoy doing new things, and through Woodsmen I am challenged to compete both against myself and others. And it's also a lot of fun! You're never alone because 20 other people are going through the workouts with you at the same time. It requires a lot of time but is definitely



only an axe and a block of cedar. Sound dull? Not at all! An accomplished woodsman can boil water in a matter of minutes this way, racing both against time and the other competitors in the same heat.

So make a point of being at the Chapman Field parking lot tomorrow. Buy a coffee at Chez Joe's, the on-site mess tent baptized in honour of Canada's legendary lumberjack, Joe Montferrand. Walk around and gaze at the row of towering poles ready for the fell and twitch, examine the saws, spurs, axes and nails that are the trademarks of these unusual and thrilling games. Feel the tension of

worth it." Practising for hours, five nights a week, certainly require both a strong back and a strong commitment.

A strong commitment is also required to host a meet the magnitude of the UNB Woodsmen Competition. UNB Forestry Association Vice-President Brendan Mohan is the chief coordinator, and with his numerous volunteers is tackling the mammoth task of running the competition. Organization began last spring, when invitations were sent out to schools with woodsmen teams. There is wood to be cut, poles to be sunk, rules and regulations to be determined, safety gear provided, and a host of timers and judges to be enlisted and trained.

Top of the list of priorities is protecting the competitor safety at all times. The old-time lumberjacks were forced to live with the risks of their profession, which were then unavoidably dangerous. At UNB we do it right, and minimize risk while maximizing excitement. Metal shin-guards, steel-toed boots and a safety harness for the pole-climb are essential. Team members will be barred from competing if these and other safety requirements are not met. Preparations like these for the competition require as much work and dedication as being on the woodsmen team itself. The Forestry Association thanks in advance all of the many volunteers who spared their time to help plan and organise the event, and without whom the event could be held.

So what should you expect if you wander up to Chapman Field parking lot on Saturday? Take a look at the schedule and you'll get an idea of the variety of events that take place. Fell and Twitch is a sure-fire crowd pleaser, while the chopping and sawing events are always exciting to watch, as is Water Boil held in the evening. If you've ever tried to start a campfire, you can relate to the competitors as they build a fire and boil a pot of water using

the competitors as they concentrate on achieving the pinnacle of their sport. As Michele MacNeil, timer and ex-UNB Woodsmen describes it: "Every year I attend the competition the air is filled with energy- you can almost feel the adrenaline rush yourself. There's no other sport like it."

At the 28th annual UNB Intercollegiate Woodsmen Competition, you'll get an instant education on how to have a hell of a good time combining history and athletics... which may be the most important characteristic of Woodsmen!

Events Description

Team Events:

Fell and Twitch- The Object of this event is for two people to fell a pole, hit a stake and four other people to twitch (drag) the pole across a line 20 metres away in the shortest time possible. Additional points are given for hitting the spike.

Swede Saw- Each team member (of six) must saw one disk from a cant. The fastest team time wins.

Pulp Throwing- A team divides themselves so as to have three members at each end of two throwing pits. Members will throw four sticks consecutively to a total of 48 sticks. The fastest team time wins.

Doubles Events:

Horizontal Chopping- Two members each chop a horizontal cant in half. The second members may not begin chopping until the first cant is completely severed. The fastest pair time wins.

Quarter Split- Two members must each quarter a bolt of wood in the shortest time possible.

Log Decking- Using cant hooks or peavies, two members must roll a log 10m along the ground, touch two stakes, roll the log back to a ramp, up and over the ramp legs to the top of the deck.

Singles Events:

Water Boil- A single team member splits a block of cedar, lights a fire using this wood only and boils a soapy water mixture in the shortest time possible.

Power Saw- A single team member must pick up their chainsaw, from an idling position on the ground, saw halfway through the bottom of the log, and then start from the top of the log and meet the bottom cut. A 3 second penalty is imposed for every 0.5cm between cuts. The fastest time wins.

Axe Throw- A single team member throws a double-headed axe at a target 6m away. The target has 3 scoring rings. The total of four throws determines the members score. The highest score wins.

Pulp Toss For Distance- A single competitor must toss a piece of 1.3m softwood pulp as far as possible. The furthest distance wins.

Pole Climb- A single member must climb a 25-35 ft pole and ring a bell. The fastest time wins.

Vertical Chop- A single member must chop halfway through a vertical cant then switch to the reverse side and finish the block. The fastest time to completely sever the cant wins.

Written by Jennifer Loevenmark, Woodsmen Competition Public Relations Coordinator, UNB Forestry Association

UNB Woodsmen Competition Saturday, October 16, 1993 Schedule of Events

6:30am-7:30am	Breakfast
7:45am-8:00am	Opening Ceremonies
8:00am-10:00am	Fell and Twitch
9:00am-12:00 noon	Axe Throw Pulp Toss For Distance Pole Climb Power Saw Vertical Chop Springboard
10:00am-4:00pm	Pulp Pits Horizontal Chop Log Decking
12:00 noon-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm-4:00pm	Swede Saw Cross Cut Quarter Split
4:00pm-5:00pm	Water Boil
5:00pm	Supper
5:00pm	Demonstration Events

Awards Ceremony To Follow At 7:00pm