

# Meet Deep River Lumber's Log Authenticator

**Tom Stephenson: Renowned forester, outdoorsman, historian**

Deep River Lumber's reclaimed logs are authenticated as historic timbers by celebrated Canadian forestry biologist and logging historian Tom Stephenson.

Stephenson is perhaps best known for his role as a leading historic authority and craftsman in the creation of a replica square timber raft that was displayed as a prize exposition at Canada's premiere history museum, The Museum of Civilization.

He has made his mark as a well-respected professor of forestry and has been consulted for many books on the history of logging in Canada. Most recently, he has been featured in award-winning writer Ron Corbett's 2008 publication, *One Last River Run* (General Store Publishing House: Renfrew), in which Stephenson tells his story.

Stephenson's life has always been rooted in forests and waterways, and he has never strayed far from either. He was born in Perth, Ontario, a small town renowned for its strong connection to Canada's historic Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As a teenager, Stephenson worked in one of Perth's lumber mills, where he soon rose in the ranks due to his natural gift with wood and his innate love of learning. Before long, he caught the attention of the local bank manager, who saw in him great potential to excel in the field of forestry. He offered Stephenson the opportunity to attend the University of New Brunswick, Canada's leading centre of forestry studies, where he was able to enjoy "book learning" for the first time in his life.

Still, Stephenson craved being out of doors. After graduating with a forestry degree, he returned to the Ottawa River area and quickly became a sought-after foreman in regional logging camps. It was here that his interest in historic logging operations was truly sparked. He later joined the Ottawa River Forest Protection Association as a forest fire fighter. Due to his university credentials and hands-on knowledge of all aspects of forests, Stephenson was offered the position of Professor of Forestry at a college in the heart of Canada's leading forestry region.

Although he is now officially retired, Stephenson is always looking for opportunities to celebrate the forestry industry's remarkable past—and working with Deep River Lumber gives him the chance to do just that.