

ISSUE 55 OCTOBER 2021

# BETWEEN BRANCHES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TIGERCAT INDUSTRIES INC.

## REBUILDING NOTRE-DAME

**BEGIN  
SIMULATION**

**BIRD'S EYE VIEW  
ROADSIDE *in*  
NEW ZEALAND**



**FIELDING LOGGING  
TASMANIA**

**Tigercat®**

# BETWEEN THE BRANCHES

ISSUE 55 OCTOBER 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE

Product News .....	4
Technology and Art.....	9
From the Field .....	10
Tracbel Professionalize .....	14
865 Roadside in NZ.....	16
Rebuilding Notre-Dame.....	20
570 in Tasmania.....	26
Support News.....	31
Tigercat Life .....	32
Dealer News .....	34

*Sign up* to receive  
Between the Branches  
by subscribing online at  
[www.tigercat.com/btb](http://www.tigercat.com/btb)

© 2001 - 2021 Tigercat International Inc. All Rights Reserved. TIGERCAT, WIDERANGE, TURNAROUND, ER, EHS, LOW-WIDE, TEC, REMOTELOG, LOGON, and their respective logos, TOUGH RELIABLE PRODUCTIVE, TIGERCAT TV, "Tigercat Orange" and BETWEEN THE BRANCHES, as well as corporate and product identity, are trademarks of Tigercat International Inc., and may not be used without permission. TIGERCAT, TURNAROUND, WIDERANGE, EHS, LOW-WIDE, ER and REMOTELOG, and their respective logos are registered trademarks of Tigercat International Inc.



# FROM THE *Editor*

**T**ry as we might, it feels like we will never be able to stop talking about COVID. Tigercat is now very well adapted to the pandemic from a day to day operational standpoint. Protocols are in place, vaccination rates encouraging, and the workplace feels more normal. Current and future challenges are now related to the indirect effects of the pandemic. It's a perfect storm of supply chain chaos dominating the business environment on a truly global scale.

Many companies are heavily reliant on imported component parts and over the years have tweaked inventory management systems to optimal efficiency. These companies are now backedpedalling hard – vetting alternate suppliers and stockpiling inventory.

Securing accepted purchase orders from vendors for critical components is only half the battle. Labour shortages and interruptions are not just in factories but also at the ports, customs offices, and on the container ships. This causes friction and added cost at every point in the process.

Severely reduced port capacity in North America is causing delays up to six weeks to unload a container. Slower customs clearance adds yet more time. Road transportation costs have increased and there is a shortage of truck drivers in many countries. In Canada, rail transport has been negatively affected by labour disputes, summer wildfires in many parts of the country, and a shortage of rail cars.

Tigercat's procurement teams have been working tirelessly since the early days of COVID to mitigate the damage. Reactively, with non-stop expediting, advance ordering and stockpiling.

Proactively, by rethinking and rebuilding the supply chain. But these processes take time, and every manufacturer is competing for finite resources.

There are no easy answers. Just know that the production and customer service teams are working hard to ensure that our dealers and end users can continue to run their businesses successfully. For those who are waiting on machines or parts, we appreciate your patience, understand your frustration, and we are working hard to alleviate the pain points.

All that said, Tigercat has still been able to produce machines, build and test prototypes, and keep the new product development pipeline flowing. This issue covers new products like the 865 logger, and more established products successfully operating in new places, like the 570 harvesting head in Tasmanian Eucalyptus operations.

The issue is also about building. In Brazil, it's building young people up to be the best that they can be. In France, the reconstruction of Notre-Dame demonstrates how big things can be accomplished when there is a will to work together. And one man who is part of that giant effort counts among our extended customer family. By the time this magazine reaches you we will be approaching the end of a very challenging year. Through it all, I like to think that we have all built a little more character and resilience.

– Paul Iarocci

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AND  
DEALER DEVELOPMENT

*Do you have something to say?*

*Write us or email us:*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

comments@tigercat.com

www.tigercat.com

519.753.2000

P.O. Box 637, Brantford, ON  
Canada, N3T 5P9





# E-SERIES 822

## Tigercat releases 822E series feller bunchers and harvesters with latest features and upgrades.

**T**he 822E is the most compact track feller buncher and harvester platform in the Tigercat track carrier line-up. The powerful machine is versatile for challenging thinning and final felling applications. Strong lift capacity, tight-tuck ER® boom geometry, and compact tail-swing make the 822E the perfect choice for selective felling where minimal site impact is important.

The harvester configuration is available with a fixed or leveling undercarriage. High horsepower and harvester head optimized hydraulics provide responsive control, quick feed speed and powerful delimiting capability for high performance and productivity.

The 822E series carriers can be equipped with the Tigercat FPT N67 Non-certified, Tier 4f or Stage V engine, producing 210 kW (282 hp). A redesigned engine enclosure provides improved roof access for clearing debris. A boom slider also reduces debris build-up in hard-to-reach areas. The clamshell style enclosure and drop-down side platform allow easy access to all sides of the engine, valves and daily service points. A hot shut down feature has been added. This allows the turbo to sufficiently cool before stopping the engine for improved turbo life.

A larger, spring assisted pump cover increases service access to the hydraulic pump area. Hydraulic improvements include quicker anti-stall response, consistent anti-cavitation flow and improved heat rejection.

The updated E-series cab includes a new parallel action air ride seat with integrated heating and cooling. The reclining seat is fully adjustable with seat angle and seat extension adjustment. The wider seat cushion and lumbar support provide operator comfort all day long.

The full-length front window and narrow side posts give the operator an excellent view of the tracks and surrounding area. The HVAC controls feature a new infinitely variable fan speed control, which can be adjusted on the control panel, or by the machine control system touchscreen. Additional features include an emergency stop button and multiple storage locations with nets to keep objects in place. ■



## LSX870D SHOVEL LOGGER

**Tigercat continues to innovate in the area of steep slope extraction with the introduction of the LSX870D shovel logger.**

**B**ased on the LX870D series track carrier platform, the machine is designed for extreme duty steep slope logging. With a choice of attachments including the new Tigercat BG13 grapple with a live heel boom or SC08 shovel clam grapple, as well as the field proven 5195 directional felling saw, the LSX870D is suited to felling, pre-bunching and shovel logging in challenging terrain.

The addition of the LSX870D to the Tigercat line-up provides a higher power machine with a closed loop track drive system as an alternative to the LS855E. Where the LS855E provides higher swing speed and lower ground pressure, the LSX870D allows for improved multifunctioning ability and

quicker, more responsive tracking performance. The Tigercat FPT C87 engine supplies 245 kW (330 hp), which combined with the dedicated attachment pump, provides plenty of multifunctioning power.

Tigercat's leveling track machines use innovative technologies and systems optimized for a range of steep slope applications including shovel logging, felling and harvesting. Tigercat's super-duty leveling undercarriage is longer and wider, providing exceptional stability on steep slopes. The patented leveling design uses two massive hydraulic cylinders and heavy steel sections for a solution that is simple, robust and reliable. Unlike competing systems, the Tigercat leveling system leans into

the hill when leveling to the side which further improves machine stability and operator comfort.

### **SC08 shovel clam grapple**

The new SC08 Tigercat shovel clam grapple is a 0,7 m<sup>2</sup> (8 ft<sup>2</sup>) sized grapple designed for use on the LS855E and LSX870D shovel loggers.

The shovel clam grapple features durable boxed style jaws that are fabricated from high strength steel, using fatigue resistant welded construction. All tine tips are made from abrasion resistant steel and can be replaced. Boom hose protection is maximized by routing the hoses on top of the boom and under the connecting pin. Jaw cylinder hoses are well guarded but easily serviced with no external hydraulic tubing. ■

# TIGERCAT RELEASES 880E LOGGER

**The 880 series logger is a multi-purpose forestry carrier that can be configured for loading, shovel logging, or processing applications. The 880E introduces several new features including an updated operator's station and various grapple configurations to tailor the machine to your specific needs.**

The 880E is powered by the Tigercat FPT N67 engine, producing 230 kW (308 hp). The F7-163 undercarriage is designed and built to withstand rigorous, full-time forest duty with exceptional stability for heavy timber applications.

The spacious cabin has a new heated operator's seat. Controls are integrated into both sides of the joystick pods, eliminating the need for any bolt-on control pods. The optimally positioned controls and large machine control system touchscreen interface improve ergonomics and machine monitoring. The quiet interior helps the operator enjoy the auxiliary audio input port, Bluetooth® audio and hands-free calling. Additional new features include a standard equipped rearVIEW camera system, emergency stop button, and a key fob to turn on exterior lights



The new 880E logger equipped with the BT08 butt-n-top grapple.

remotely when entering the cab in the dark.

The 880E can be configured as a loader equipped with various power clam, butt-n-top and log grapple options. Equipped with a live heel boom system, the 880E is a highly capable shovel logger with excellent stability, tractive effort and swing torque. The carrier can also be configured as a high-capacity processor capable of running large harvesting heads in demanding duty cycles.

Some of the many advantages of the 880E over excavator conversions include better service access, greater cooling capacity, an exceptional operating environment with superior sightlines, more robust undercarriage components and extremely efficient hydraulic circuits. The result is higher production, uptime and fuel efficiency.

## **Tigercat BT08 butt-n-top grapple**

The new Tigercat BT08 butt-n-top grapple provides a tree length loading solution for Tigercat 875 and 880 series loggers. It features a 0,7 m<sup>2</sup> (8 ft<sup>2</sup>) capacity and an optimized jaw profile to roll the logs into the grapple to quickly achieve a full load.

The BT08 shares design characteristics and hydraulic components with the field-proven Tigercat power clam grapple series. To promote extended grapple life, soft start and stop ramping relief valves take the shock loads out of the structure. The slew drive uses a fixed displacement piston motor coupled with a two-stage planetary gearbox, providing ample speed and torque. A multi-section control valve with easy spool access provides improved flow and enhanced jaw timing. ■

# TELEMATICS

## LATEST *and* GREATEST

### A round up of the most recent new features for RemoteLog and LogOn.

#### Text messaging

Tigercat has introduced a new text messaging feature on its powerful RemoteLog telematics system. Using the same satellite connection as RemoteLog, machine operators or technicians may now send and receive simple text messages when no cellular mobile network is available. There is no need for another messaging service – RemoteLog does it all.

Worksite supervisors can send messages to machine operators quickly and easily. Get direct support at the jobsite from your Tigercat dealer when your phone is out of coverage range. Optimize your forestry operations through better communication. Purchase a Pay-As-You-Go text messaging data plan from your local dealer to get started.

#### RemoteLog web service

You can now access the ‘Data that Matters’ from RemoteLog directly through a new web service using your IT servers. Now it is possible to share geographic position and production data for your machines with landowners and forestry operations companies. RemoteLog utilizes the well documented ISO 15143-3 (AEMP 2.0) Web API that is widely used in mobile machinery applications. Contact RemoteLog Support to get started.

#### LogOn reports

You can easily view production metrics, activity timelines, and fuel consumption on your mobile device using LogOn at the worksite. Download reports in PDF or CSV formats and save to your mobile device. View the reports anytime, or share them through email.

Tigercat D5 Prio, Prio PC, and Optimization systems will automatically send summarized production data to RemoteLog. This information, viewed in RemoteLog, provides a quick overview of daily

activity, along with some additional productivity metrics such as stem count, stem volume, and machine activity.

Tigercat D5 Prio PC and Optimization systems can be configured to allow StanForD Classic production reports to be downloaded from the harvesting head computer using LogOn. This provides easy onsite access to reports from a smartphone via WiFi. The reports can then be sent to the office via email. ■



Text messages can be sent quickly and easily using LogOn and RemoteLog.



# BEGIN SIMULATION

As the Tigercat cut-to-length division continues to introduce new products and innovations, the need for more advanced training solutions has grown. In March 2021, Tigercat partnered with CM Labs Simulations to develop a series of simulators that will replicate the functionality and behaviour of Tigercat log forwarders and wheel harvesters.

## Why a simulator?

There are many benefits in using a simulator, not only for training, but also for employers to screen potential employees. Companies are able to gauge how an operator will perform and use that information when assigning tasks.

Operators can be trained on a simulator without the fear of damaging equipment, so experimenting with different techniques or trying new methods can be done safely and risk free. Also, by training on a simulator, other equipment is not being tied up and slowing production. When operators have hands-on training using the simulator, it allows them to transition to actual machines at higher initial productivity levels, thereby lowering start-up costs.

## How it works

Tigercat simulators have three screens, a motions platform, as well as all the associated Tigercat machine control software and hardware. The simulator's software communicates directly with the Tigercat machine control software so the controls are identical to the actual machine. Any adjustments that can be made on the machine, can also be made on the simulator which helps teach operators not only motor skills, but the effects of the many machine adjustments available to operators.

Tigercat simulators are equipped with an actual operator's seat, including all control pods, the machine's computer control system, as well as the harvesting head control system on the harvester simulator. The transition for new operators from virtual to actual is almost seamless.

Tigercat VP, cut-to-length systems, Jon Cooper explains, "The introduction of the Tigercat simulator provides dealers with a valuable training tool that can save machine owners significant start-up costs. Using the simulator to teach operational skills in realistic environments allows the new operator to enter into a real machine with much higher productivity levels from the start. This can produce extra production income and avoid expensive machine damage." ■



The Tigercat simulator is equipped with an actual operator's seat, all control pods and the machine's computer control system for advanced operator training.

# TECHNOLOGY *and* ART

## SPAN CULTURES AND BREAK THE BOUNDS OF GEOGRAPHY



**W**e found this drawing by Sapta Mardena on Instagram. Born and raised in Surabaya, Indonesia, Sapta is a 21-year-old student of architecture. He draws various kinds of heavy equipment and was impressed by Tigercat machines, telling us that this feller buncher is one of his favourites. This particular drawing was inspired by a photo he saw by @pineridgechippers on Instagram.

Interestingly, @pineridgechippers is located in Alberta, Canada. It demonstrates the power of art and social

media, as well as the inspirational effect of technology in connecting people from vastly different parts of the world. Sapta tells us that his other hobby is photography, and that he enjoys photographing heavy equipment just as much as drawing it. Sapta is open to commissions and can be reached through his Instagram account @7mardena. ■

# RESILIENCE *in* AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND

– Glen Marley, Tigercat district manager, Australia and New Zealand

**Since the year 2000, retail sales in my territory have steadily increased, taking a foothold and dominating flat terrain Eucalyptus in Australia and steep terrain harvesting applications in New Zealand. In July of this year, we retailed our 1000th machine. Australia has sold 535 units since 2000, with New Zealand catching up quickly, having delivered 465 units since 2002. A magnificent milestone for all involved.**

## **New Zealand**

New Zealand continues to be a vital link in the softwood log supply chain to China, currently having over 40% market share. With favourable log prices and exchange

rates, log exports for the 2020/2021 fiscal year are up 21% to over 36 million cubic metres. The outlook for forestry exports to Asia looks very good, both short-term and long-term.

Tigercat and AB Equipment's on-the-ground relationships have proven successful at transitioning contractors toward mechanical harvesting systems over manual extraction. Tigercat leveling track machines, roadside processors, and six-wheel skidders lead the way across New Zealand's challenging plantation regions. In turn, this is having a very positive effect on operator health and safety, and vastly improving the efficiency of overall forestry operations.

Our customer and dealer involvement in the recently released 865 logger is another clear example of Kiwi ingenuity and the ability to recognize challenges, initiate ideas, and follow through on concepts to 'make it happen.' To date, the roll-out of the 865 logger has proven to be widely successful.

## **Australia**

Current trade tensions between Australia and China for forestry product exports remain a challenge. Conversely, Australia's recent



The 1000th machine—an 865 logger sold to Mold Logging LTD based in the Northland region of New Zealand.



North East Wood's LH822D track harvester equipped with a 575 harvesting head working the slopes in Australia.

domestic building boom has the softwood pine industry at full capacity.

The hardwood industry has recovered from a recent downturn in exports. The Tasmanian forestry sector primarily leads this. Our loyal Tigercat customer base in that region has contributed to the increased output of Eucalyptus wood chip, pulp logs, and peeler logs. The combination of the very popular H845E harvester fitted with the 570 harvesting head in debarking and processing operations continues to be remarkably successful in Tasmania.

The 2020 bushfire salvage operations in NSW have concluded as log recovery is no longer viable. The frontline contractors in that region have almost exclusively used Tigercat machines to extract just over 2,7 million tonnes of Radiata Pine from the 52 000 hectares (130,000 acres) of burnt plantations in that state alone. I am proud to say these machines have excelled and endured the task exceptionally well.

The Australian logging industry has constantly proven its resilience, and there is no doubt that with continued support from Onetrak

and Tigercat, contractors will survive and ultimately thrive throughout these challenging times.

With our 1000th unit in the region, there's a cause for celebration and a very optimistic outlook for this part of the world. ■

*Glen is based in Gundagai, NSW, Australia and has worked for Tigercat since 2004.*

# FIRST 1165 HARVESTER *in* CANADA

– Yannick Lapointe, Tigercat district manager, Quebec

The first 1165 wheel harvester in Canada was sold to ELIOR and is operating in the Lanaudière region of Quebec. The machine is working on a very unusual thinning application in big hardwood and hilly terrain. The customer is using 100% of the machine’s capacity and is very pleased.

The Quebec and Ontario markets remain strong. Our contractors are not able to keep up with the demand of the mills. The 570 harvesting head is gaining ground and steadily building an excellent reputation in the area. We still have a very diversified market with tree length operations, thinning applications, as well as processing behind a buncher using a processor and a forwarder. ■



The 1165 wheel harvester thinning in Quebec.

*Yannick is based in Shipshaw, Quebec. His area of responsibility includes Quebec and northern*

*Ontario. Yannick has been with Tigercat since 2012.*

# MOSCOW *to* KAZAN

– Artem Shilov, Tigercat product support, Russia



The 480B mulcher working on a 700 km highway project from Moscow to Kazan.

With rising lumber prices worldwide, we are seeing a steady demand for Tigercat equipment in Russia. Relatively new Tigercat dealer, Ambitech, has been retailing machines from their stock inventory, and has a good number of machines on order to fill customer needs for the next harvest season. The first Tigercat 1165 wheeled harvester on Russian soil launched this spring and is successfully working in Siberia with two more machines on the way.

This past summer, Ambitech opened new branches in Tomsk and Perm. Next will be in Kirov and Novokuznetsk. A well-developed dealership with considerable parts stock is vital to the customer base. These new service centres will strengthen Tigercat's presence in the European and western Siberian regions of Russia.

Recently, Ambitech sold its first 480B mulcher to a customer in the Kazan region. I took this picture while onsite for the 125-hour service check. The machine is involved in building a 700 km (430 mi) high-speed highway from Moscow to Kazan. The customer, Dorozhnyi Master Ltd., is very satisfied with the machine's power and performance

and has ordered a second 480B mulcher. A third is in the plans for 2022. ■

*Artem is based in Perm and supports all the forestry regions in Russia. He has been with Tigercat since 2014.*

## PROUD DAD *in* THE WEST

– Jochen Reiter, Tigercat product support, British Columbia

**M**y daughter Aimee graduated from high school this year. It was our first experience with a North American graduation. In Europe it's not a big hype like it is here. COVID made things a little different as well. Volunteers organized a drive-by for the parents and graduates, and the diploma ceremony was viewed online. Although some parents were frustrated, overall, everyone made the best of it.

Aimee agreed to get a photo taken in front of my old skidder. I bought the skidder used in 2010 for my logging business. I keep it for logging my woodlot. We have a picture when Aimee was 4 years old in front of another skidder I ran in Germany. So, we thought it would be nice to get one now, all grown up. The skidder will hopefully help pay for some of her post-secondary education. She is looking into becoming a psychiatrist. ■

*Jochen is based in Quesnel, British Columbia. He has been with Tigercat since 2019.*



High school graduate, Aimee Reiter, in front of her dad's old skidder.

# TRACBEL **PROFESSIONALIZE** PROJECT



**Founded by Mrs. Mara Rocha, late wife of Tracbel Group president Mr. Luiz Gonzaga, the Professionalize Project started in 1995 at the company's headquarters in Contagem, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The Professionalize Project prepares young students, seventeen to nineteen years of age, for insertion in the workplace through a one-year professional development program.**



A class in progress.

Some of the social objectives of the program include promoting the education of youth from low-income families, contributing to their financial independence, and encouraging their involvement in community development.

The program consists of a one-year Mechanics Learning course which aims to teach students the basics of machine mechanics

through a theoretical and practical methodology. Technical analysis, community classes, disease and drug prevention, Portuguese language, ethics, and supervised internships are also part of the integrated educational program.

Eduardo Avancini joined the Professionalize Project in 2014 after graduating at SENAI, the National Service of Industrial Training. “The

Professionalize Project was an entrance into Tracbel for me,” says Eduardo. “My family has always encouraged education. After I completed my studies, I saw this as a great opportunity.”

During the program Eduardo developed skills related to the maintenance of heavy equipment. “I learned about the assembly of essential mechanical components

including engines, axles, and hydraulic transmissions. I also learned how to conduct a pre-delivery inspection and deliver a machine to the customer. This project was life-changing for me. It gave me complete confidence in my entry into the workforce.” After completing the program, Eduardo was hired as a mechanical assistant for Tracbel.

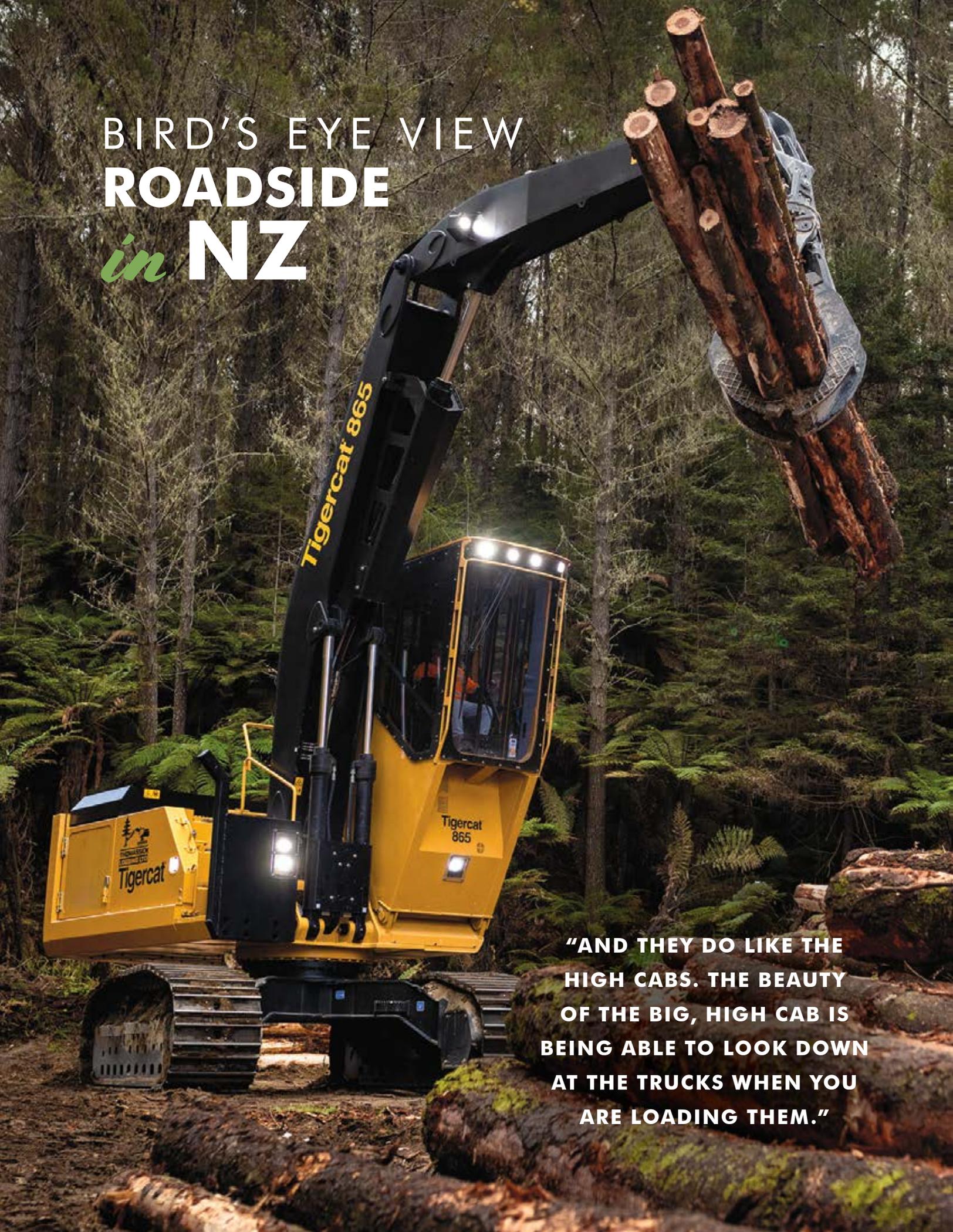
Tracbel’s mission goes far beyond providing high quality heavy equipment and service support. Through projects like these, Tracbel invests in community engagement and contributes to the growth and development of young people. So far, the program has helped over 630 students in the past 26 years. Sadly, founder Mara Rocha passed away in 2014. However, her meaningful legacy lives on. ■



Professionalize Project founder, Mara Rocha.

Tracbel mechanic, Eduardo Avancini.



A yellow Tigercat 865 tracked loader is shown in a forest setting, lifting a large bundle of logs. The loader is positioned on a dirt path, and its arm is extended upwards, holding the logs. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and ferns. The loader has "Tigercat 865" written on its arm and "Tigercat 865" on the side of the cab. The scene is lit with natural light, and the loader's headlights are on.

**BIRD'S EYE VIEW**  
**ROADSIDE**  
*in* **NZ**

**"AND THEY DO LIKE THE  
HIGH CABS. THE BEAUTY  
OF THE BIG, HIGH CAB IS  
BEING ABLE TO LOOK DOWN  
AT THE TRUCKS WHEN YOU  
ARE LOADING THEM."**

## BTB catches up with Ron Thomassen, owner of Thomassen Logging to talk about the new 865 logger.

**T**homassen Logging is based in Taupo, close to the centre of New Zealand's north island. Nine logging crews work a triangular area roughly bound by Tokoroa in the north, Rotorua to the northeast and Turangi to the south of Taupo. The crews are similarly configured and the Tigercat brand features prominently in the mix; company owner Ron Thomassen has over twenty Tigercat machines.

Each crew has a track-based felling machine. In most cases, it is a Tigercat 855 series leveling carrier equipped with either the 5195

directional felling saw or the 5185 fixed felling saw. The full-length trees are skidded to roadside. Due to terrain conditions and tree size, 75% of Ron's skidder fleet consists of six-wheel machines. Ron has several 625 and 635 series six-wheel skidders, as well as a new 632H four-wheel drive model.

Processing is performed at roadside with the equipment choice dependent on piece size and products that the crews are producing. Ron has several Tigercat loggers including 875, 880 and 890 models matched with large

processing heads. The fourth machine on the crew is a loader used for sorting and organizing at the deck area, and loading trucks. Ron's operations can have as many as ten sorts. "When the wood comes out of the processor, it is sorted but the ends are not flush. The loader operator re-fleets in an area where the trucks can move the logs out," he explains.

Traditionally in New Zealand, the loading function has fallen to 25 or 30 tonne class excavators converted for forestry use with guarding and other modifications.



Ron Thomassen in front of the new 865 logger.

Weighing in at around 32 tonne, Tigercat's new 865 logger aims to fulfill the requirements for this important function, offering a premium build forestry machine that many New Zealand contractors have long envisioned. "We've been talking to Tigercat about it for a long time," says Ron. As such, he was excited to try one out, purchasing the second 865 to enter the country. (Whisker Harvesting, also based on the north island, took the first machine. Owners, Colin Wroe and Nick Whisker are extremely impressed by its performance.)

On Tigercat's side, it was a challenging project to get the right features and build quality while staying within an acceptable price

point, all the while competing against high volume excavators.

Ron explains that he has placed the 865 in a road lining crew. "They go ahead of the main logging crews and they open the roads up and make them wider. Sometimes they will form the basis of a new logging road. The 865 is doing all the fletting and stacking of the logs and the loading of the trucks," says Ron. "So once the logs are processed, the 865 will fleet them and load them."

In terms of reach, lift and stability Ron says that as a log loader and fletting machine, the 865 is sized to handle all types of logs and products that the company normally encounters. "It is lifting the big six tonne trailers off easily enough.

The operators like the long reach. The reach is important to put the stack over that little bit further," Ron explains. "And they do like the high cabs. The beauty of the big, high cab is being able to look down at the trucks when you are loading them."

Care was taken in the design process to ensure clear operator sightlines in all directions, especially beneficial for site safety when workers are on the ground manually hooking up the trailers. The cab height, window size and placement, and the hooked profile of the main boom all contribute, allowing the operator to see everything that is happening in the decking and loading area.

Ron purchased the second 865 logger in New Zealand.





Ron states that the 865 is easily lifting the six tonne trailers.

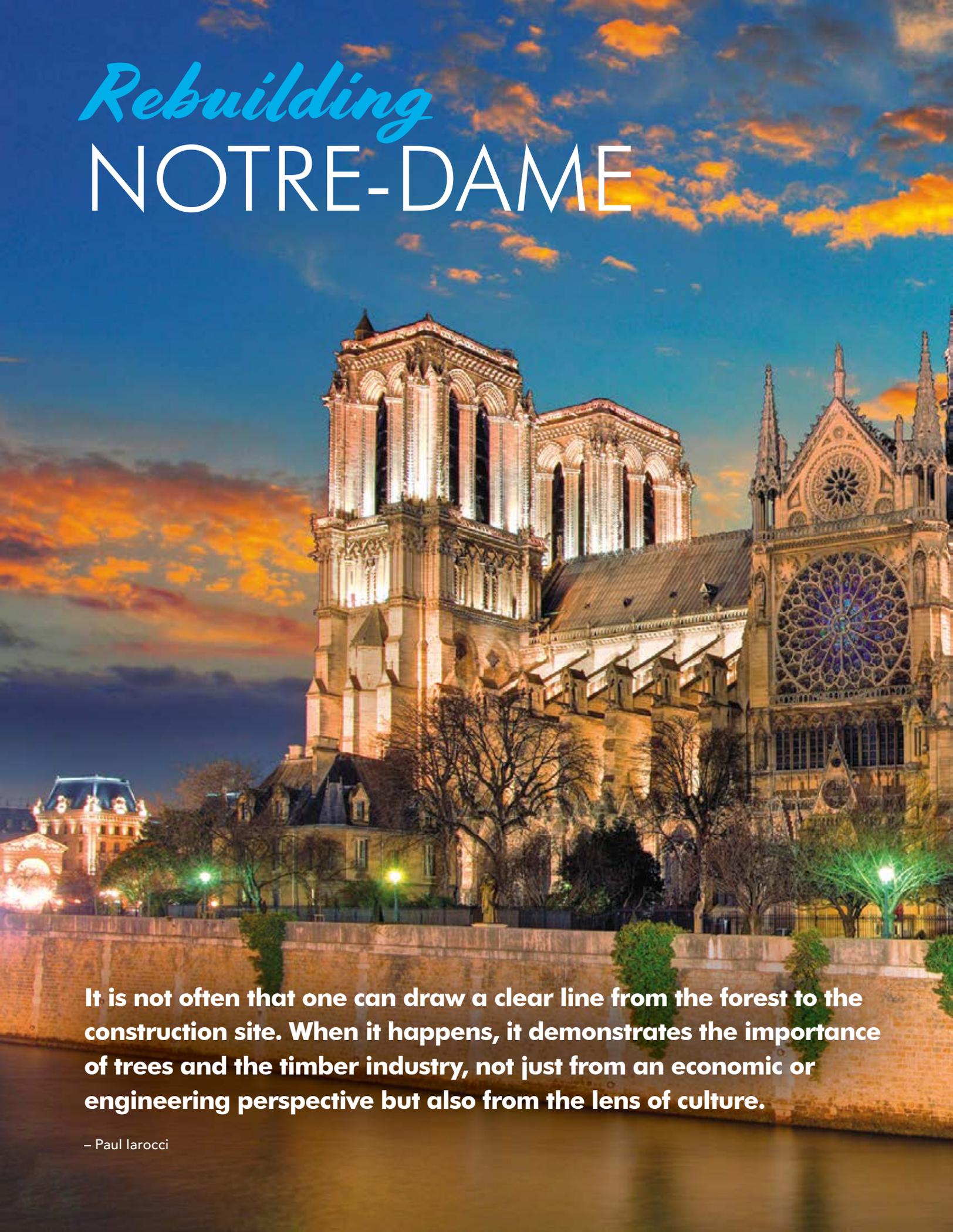
Safety and operator ergonomics are important factors for Ron. “The rear entry for the cab is another good feature that the operators like. Climbing up the side of a loader in dark and slippery conditions is not ideal, so we are going away from that type of machine. The rear entry cab is a lot safer. And for us, it is just a lot easier to have a finished product from the factory. The compliance has been ticked off. The cabs are safe.”

Thomassen Logging has over 55 employees and is quite self-sufficient. “We do a lot of our own maintenance. We have good mechanics and some of our boys have had some AB training. We don’t have too many problems

because the boys are out servicing daily and staying on top of problems. They have found the 865 to be easy to work on and very user friendly. And the operator is like a dog with two tails. He absolutely loves it. There has only been the one person on the machine for the 750 hours. It is his home. And it looks like the day we got it.”

With so many Tigercat machines in his stable, Ron has a clear perspective and a good basis for comparison. “I go back and look at my first 875 and it works hard in big trees. Structurally nothing went wrong with it. You would like to think as a log loader, the 865 should be really good.” ■

# *Rebuilding* NOTRE-DAME



**It is not often that one can draw a clear line from the forest to the construction site. When it happens, it demonstrates the importance of trees and the timber industry, not just from an economic or engineering perspective but also from the lens of culture.**

– Paul Iarocci



In April 2019 the famous Paris cathedral, Notre-Dame, suffered a fire that severely damaged the spire and roof of the building. The architectural marvel was first constructed in the twelfth century on the site of an ancient Roman temple. More or less completed by the mid-thirteenth century, the cathedral was the subject of additions and embellishments for one hundred more years thereafter. It survived the French Revolution and underwent a major restoration in the nineteenth century in the decades after the publication of the Hunchback of Notre-Dame in 1831. It even survived the aerial bombing campaigns of WWII relatively unscathed.

Although the walls are mainly constructed with stone, the roof structure and spire are made from wood. Over the centuries, the roof timbers had become dry with age. The fire that began in the attic tore through the upper structure, requiring the herculean efforts of 400 firefighters battling flames, smoke and the boiling lead that had formed the sheathing. Firefighting crews had to be wary of applying water to the exterior for fear of cracking the stonework, so incredibly, much of the firefighting effort took place inside the structure.

Notre-Dame is a building with an annual maintenance budget in the millions. Rebuilding costs

are expected to run into hundreds of millions and perhaps billions of dollars. Even with computer-generated 3D modelling and the use of modern building materials, the reconstruction effort could stretch into decades.

The original beams that supported the roof were milled from massive individual oak trees. Decision makers expressed early on that portions of the restoration would be completed using traditional materials. So while titanium may replace lead, the French government committed to sourcing timber from the same forests throughout France where the original 1,300 trees were hewed nearly a millennium ago.

Christophe (left) and Denis standing in front of the 602 skidder.





A typical hardwood forest that SAS BERCE FOREST operates in.

SAS BERCE FOREST is a small family company owned by Denis Legeay. He works alongside his son Florent and one employee, Christophe Moreau performing mechanized felling of softwoods and motor-manual harvesting of high-quality hardwoods. SAS BERCE FOREST operates one Tigercat-made TCI\* 602 grapple skidder, a second skidder, a harvester head equipped excavator, and a twelve-tonne forwarder.

The company, based in Pruillé l'Éguillé, near Le Mans, was commissioned to harvest eight oak trees from the Bercé Forest. This 5 400 ha (13,300 acres) tract has been a working forest for many centuries and is internationally

prized for its high quality oaks that are used to make barrels for the wine industry. Ironically, Denis has faced some business challenges also related to fire. Over the past two years, the massive California wildfires have polluted many Napa and Sonoma vineyards with smoke, damaged vines, or destroyed infrastructure entirely. In addition, COVID lockdowns negatively affected wine production and sales.

The French National Forestry Office, which owns the Bercé Forest, is responsible for tree harvesting in France. The office collaborated with carpenters to select the specific trees to be harvested based on length and shape.

“I was involved in the tree harvesting project for the construction of Notre-Dame, with long-standing relations with the French National Forestry Office and also the proximity of the mountain range that makes up the Bercé National Forest,” says Denis. “We participated in the harvesting of the first eight trees as well as loading the logs onto the trucks in a special convoy. Other oaks were harvested from other areas, with local loggers.”

The 300-year-old trees were, on average, 20 m (65 ft) in height, with an average volume of 15 cubic metres (approximately 15 tons). The harvesting process followed French custom. First, an arbourist

climbed the tree and manually removed all of the branches. Denis then used both of his skidders in tandem to lift each tree entirely off of the ground when transporting it to the loading area to prevent damage. This is very important as

each tree was carefully selected for its particular shape. The timber was skidded to strategic points in the Bercé Forest to facilitate the loading, accomplished with two lifting cranes. The trees were loaded onto transport trucks

specially adapted to the long lengths and delivered to a specialty sawmill that could accommodate the long lengths. ■

\*Registered mark is owned by Tigercat Industries Inc., used under licence.



Kid glove treatment. The logs were loaded with two cranes onto specially configured trailers.



# HARVESTING *for* WINE

France's beautiful hardwood forests contain many different oak species. White oak with its fine grain and aromatic properties is considered to be one of the best species for the production of wine barrels. Oak barrels are just porous enough to allow for some evaporation and oxygenation, but not so much as to spoil the wine as it ages.

Florent Salladin is an equipment salesperson for Clohse Group, the Belgium-based TCI dealer for France. He explains the typical process for harvesting oak trees for the wine barrel industry. "Someone climbs the trees

to remove the branches." This prevents the wood fibre from bursting and thus damaging the trunk when the tree is felled. "This is not so rare in France, especially in this area where you find really precious wood," says Florent.

"Standing oaks can be sold for more than 1,000 euros per cubic metre. This is really expensive." The logs are then sawn into strips or staves, using a special technique to maintain air permeability. After many months of air drying, the staves are heated, bent and assembled into barrels.





Fielding Logging has owned twelve Tigercat machines and six harvesting heads since they bought the first one in 2000.

**In Tasmania, Fielding Logging is a well-known name in the logging business, having been active in the forestry industry for over 30 years. It is a family business operated by Laurence, Glenys, and sons Adam and Jeffrey.**

– Kim Hansen, Onetrak

**F**ielding Logging was among the first contractors in Australia to buy Tigercat products when they arrived. The company was also one of the first owners of the original 575 series harvesting head when it was released in Australia. “Our first 575 has over 20,000 hours on it. We only had to pin and

bush it once during this time. We have put some big wood through it over the years. It’s been a great head, and it certainly influenced us to look hard at the Tigercat processors for our new contract,” says Laurence.

“Initially, we trialled the Tigercat 570 processor in its development stage, working closely with Tigercat. It quickly became apparent to us that the new 570 was fast and super reliable. That first head has close to 6,000 operating hours now, and its performance, combined with our experience with

# Fielding LOGGING

## TASMANIA



the original 575 processor, made it an easy decision to purchase more Tigercat 570 processors.” Today, Fielding Logging has five Tigercat 570 processors working between two Eucalyptus plantation contracts in Tasmania.

We caught up with Laurence, Adam, Jeffrey and one of the operators, Cody, on the jobsite in northwest Tasmania.

Jeffrey says he has been a big promoter of the Tigercat harvesting

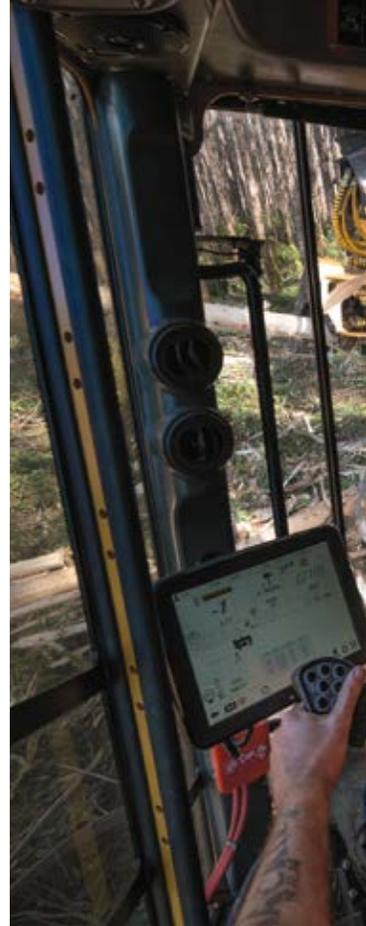
heads from the start. In contrast, Adam says he was unsure about the

**“I STAND FIRM  
WHEN I SAY THE  
570 IS THE BEST  
HARVESTING HEAD  
I’VE OPERATED.”**

– Jeffrey Fielding

Tigercat processor for the smaller plantation wood, having become

comfortable with another brand. “It’s hard to step away from what you know and make big changes – which is what we had to do when we switched from another brand to Tigercat heads,” Adam explains. “One of the big changes is that the Tigercat heads use the debarking knives to hold the wood in conjunction with drive wheels. It took a couple of weeks to get used to, but I’ve turned 100% from being a sceptic to a true supporter – I’ll never change back from Tigercat to another harvester head brand.”



Adam Fielding. "I've turned 100% from being a sceptic to a true supporter – I'll never change back from Tigercat to another harvester head brand."

"My Tigercat H845C base has done 10,000 hours, and we have recently fitted a Tigercat 570 to it for this contract – it's done around 500 hours. The harvesting head handles the logs well – there are no problems. When Tigercat builds something, they build it strong. Their products are not the cheapest option, but downtime is the real cost when you're harvesting, and you don't have that with the Tigercat harvesting heads. That is why we only run Tigercat heads now."

"I stand firm when I say the 570 is the best harvesting head I've operated," states Jeffrey. "I guess everyone knows I'm an advocate for Tigercat. To put it in perspective, I ran some numbers on my current 570 harvesting head with 6,000 hours on it compared to the

previous head with the same hours. And I had 75% fewer hoses and maintenance on the Tigercat head compared to the competitor."

Jeffrey continues, "Like with the Tigercat machines, every

## **"WHEN TIGERCAT BUILDS SOMETHING, THEY BUILD IT STRONG."**

– Adam Fielding

component on the harvester head is big and solid. They're just extremely reliable and efficient. They are super low maintenance with large diameter taper lock bearings, where others use a smaller pin and

bush style. It just makes it so much easier. One thing that stands out for me is how much better laid out the Tigercat 570 is compared to other harvesting heads – the way the hydraulic hoses are out of the way of the wheels on the sides. You just avoid any potential damage while working."

Jeffrey explains that the new contract with Forico asked for full optimization and StanForD compliant data transfer, including geo mapping. "This is super simple with the Tigercat 570 processor. A couple of clicks at the end of the day, and I've got it all on my phone. I transfer the StanForD compliant file to Forico daily. From a management perspective, we have detailed cut information for each harvester with full visibility, which creates a fun but competitive



Jeffrey Fielding operating the H845E harvester equipped with the 570 harvesting head.



Jeffrey and Laurence Fielding. Fielding Logging became one of the first customers in Australia to buy Tigercat products.

Fielding Logging has five Tigercat 570 harvesting heads.



atmosphere among the boys to produce more than the rest.”

“Once you get used to the Tigercat 570, it outperforms all competitors’ heads. The 570 is classed as a 20 inch harvesting head. It’s fast but has the torque and capability of a much bigger head, in my opinion,” says Jeffrey. “When we were upgrading to the new Tigercat 570 processors, they recommended the 360-degree rotation. I was unsure at first because other 360-degree rotators on competitor’s heads have leaked. Now I’m so glad I’ve got it because it’s working great, and I don’t have any leaks.”

Jeffrey is now operating the new Tigercat H845E harvester. “The E-series has better visibility on all sides of the machine, and the hydraulic pumps are more responsive. I also like the longer, heavier track frame. The reach is great and the toolboxes have been improved with better storage,” he adds.

Laurence has owned twelve Tigercat machines and six processing heads since he bought the first one in 2000. “The Tigercat team have always offered the best support for their customers,” he says. “The dealer here, Onetrak, support us very well and have plenty of good



Visit Tigercat TV to watch Fielding Logging’s H845E harvester equipped with the Tigercat 570 harvesting head working in Australia:

[www.tigercat.com/570-australia](http://www.tigercat.com/570-australia)

**“ONCE YOU GET  
USED TO THE  
TIGERCAT 570, IT  
OUTPERFORMS  
ALL COMPETITORS'  
HEADS.”**

– Jeffrey Fielding

factory-trained mechanics should we need assistance. They take accountability for what they do – if there’s something that needs fixing, they’ll fix it.” ■

.....  
**SECURE™**  
.....

**EXTENDED COVERAGE**

Increase your drivetrain component coverage to  
3-year/6,000 hours, with no deductible.

[www.tigercat.com/coverage](http://www.tigercat.com/coverage)

**Tigercat®**

# FACTORY SUPPORT CONTINUES TO GROW IN THE US SOUTH



New product support representative, Nicholas Edwards.

Tigercat is pleased to announce the appointment of Nicholas Edwards to the Tigercat product support team.

Based in Kinder, Louisiana, Nicholas will provide after-sales technical support for the southern United States, including Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Nicholas has a strong technical background with over nine years of experience working on many heavy equipment brands as a technician and operations manager. In his new product field support role, Nicholas will be working closely with product support representative John Withrow and Tigercat district managers Heinz Pfeifer and Johnny Boyd.

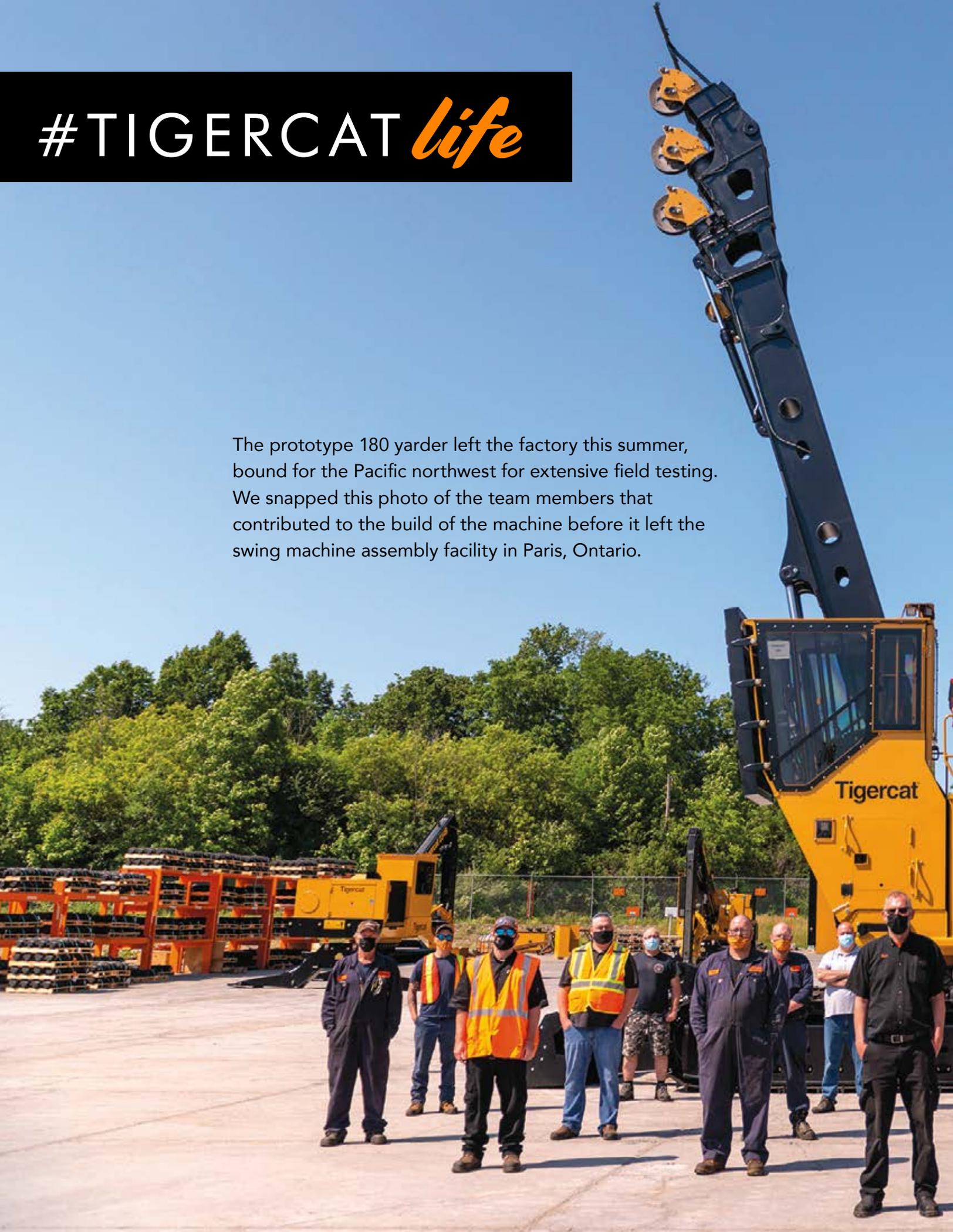
“I’m pleased to welcome Nick to the Tigercat team,” says Heinz. “He will be a great asset to the service side through his experience with heavy equipment, electronics and hydraulics. Glad to have him in the family.”

Nicholas’ appointment demonstrates Tigercat’s continued efforts to provide the best after-sale support in the industry, matching field population increases with expanded field team resources.

“I am excited to work for a leading manufacturer,” says Nick. “I look forward to supporting our customers as Tigercat continues to push forward in engineering and building the best equipment in the industry.” ■

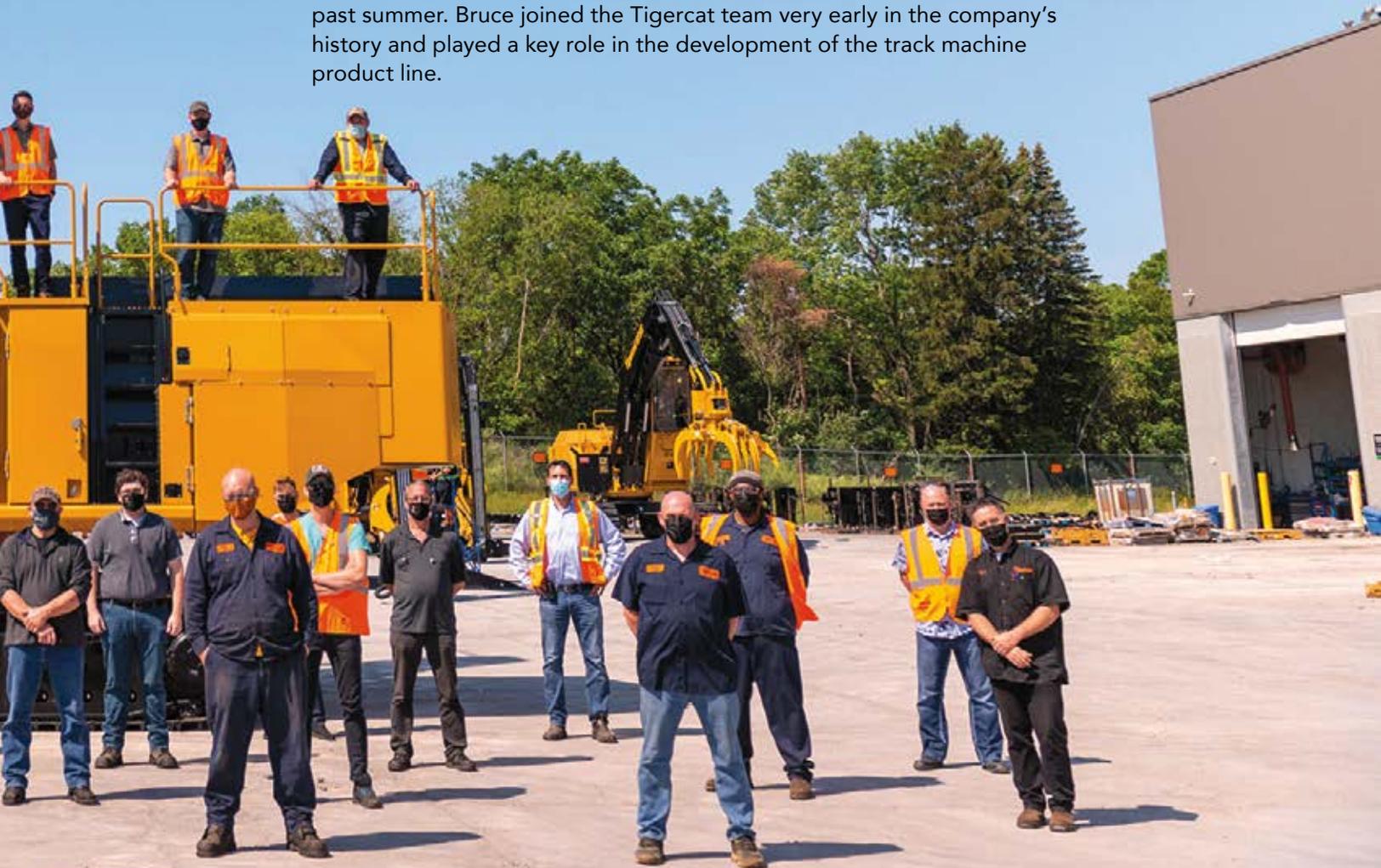
# #TIGERCAT *life*

The prototype 180 yarder left the factory this summer, bound for the Pacific northwest for extensive field testing. We snapped this photo of the team members that contributed to the build of the machine before it left the swing machine assembly facility in Paris, Ontario.





(L-R): Adam Kolb, product designer and Bruce Vaile, senior product designer, stand in front of the newly developed shovel clam grapple. The shovel clam grapple was one of Bruce's final projects before retiring this past summer. Bruce joined the Tigercat team very early in the company's history and played a key role in the development of the track machine product line.



# AMBITECH EXPANDS

## Russian Tigercat dealer, Ambitech LLC, opens new branch locations in Perm and Tomsk.

### Perm

With significant and growing potential in the region, Ambitech LLC has decided to open a new branch in Perm. Ambitech has been successful selling the 480B mulcher in this region and nearby territories.

“Detailed research was conducted to determine the best location of the new division. It will be convenient for customers to visit our office, and we can easily replenish the spare parts warehouse and ship the necessary parts to our customers,” says Konstantin Shilov, head of the Perm division.

The new office in Perm is ready to provide high-quality service to current and potential Tigercat customers in Perm, Sverdlovsk, and other nearby regions. The new facility has a stocked parts warehouse, a service car equipped with specialized tools, along with newly recruited qualified engineers and sales specialists.

*Branch location: Russia, 614025, Perm, Brodovsky tract 5B*

*Contact: +7 915 200 2152*

### Tomsk

Ambitech has also opened a new division in Tomsk. The Tomsk region is one of the central forest regions of Siberia. Local logging companies in this area operate in harsh conditions and it is crucial for Ambitech to be close by to support these customers.

“We continue to actively develop our dealer network. Ambitech LLC has signed a lease agreement for premises in Tomsk. Our goal is to be as close to the loggers as possible – the new office in Tomsk fully meets this task. At the moment, work is underway to create and fill a spare parts warehouse. The workshop is being equipped as we speak,” says Andrey Solovov, general director of Ambitech LLC. ■

*Branch location: Russia, 634024, Tomsk, Prichalnaya Street 22*

*Contact: +8 800 500 88 58*

*To learn more about Ambitech visit, [www.ambi-tech.ru/](http://www.ambi-tech.ru/)*

**AMBITECH** | forestry equipment



Tigercat 620E skidder during a demo in Tomsk region, Russia.

# NEW HEAD OFFICE FOR **AFREQUIP**

**Tigercat forestry equipment dealer, AfrEquip, invests in new head office and service facility in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.**



Managing director, John du Toit, standing in the large, spacious workshop of AfrEquip's new head office facility.

**J**ohn du Toit, AfrEquip's managing director, says the idea of owning their own building has been a priority for some time. "Over the past few years, AfrEquip has continued to invest heavily in parts, and our old premises were bursting at the seams. We searched for the right spot to house our main support location and found a property virtually around the corner in the same suburb," John explains.

"The facility required significant alterations to meet our requirements. We built a new workshop to house equipment for delivery inspections, and we added a new floor to the parts facility to safely house our significant parts holding. This new facility

is just another tool for us to offer world-class support to our Tigercat customer base," says John.

The new workshop can fit four machines, two more than the previous facility. John Barbour is the company's highly knowledgeable and experienced technical manager and says the workshop is ideal for their needs. Craig van Dijk, AfrEquip's financial director adds, "It is a place we are proud of and we are delighted to share it with our customers."

### **AfrEquip (Pty) Ltd**

AfrEquip is a forward-thinking company that aims to provide the South African forestry industry with modern mobile equipment that

outperforms all other equipment. The company's mission is to be the leading supplier of equipment, parts and quality service in the Southern African forestry and biofuel market. AfrEquip's services include sales, maintenance, product support and all the relevant training courses designed and proven to enhance operator productivity.

AfrEquip has five branches in South Africa's forestry hotspots. Mbombela (Nelspruit) and Mkhondo (Piet Retief) in Mpumalanga, Ugie in Eastern Cape, and Richards Bay and the new Pietermaritzburg facility in KwaZulu-Natal. ■

*To learn more about AfrEquip visit, [www.afreqquip.co.za](http://www.afreqquip.co.za)*

# SHOP ONLINE

[www.tigercatoutfitters.com](http://www.tigercatoutfitters.com)



**Tigercat®**