



THE WOODLOT COMMUNICATOR



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Winter 2019/20



The Adamson Family on a log deck ready to go the mill (2010). Top row - Curtis, Julia, Lisa. Bottom row - Mark, Pauline, Mike.

Innovation and Woodlot Management Excellence

Every Woodlot Licensee in the province has a heart for the forest – they're managing a Crown resource for all of us, often under difficult circumstances. Mother Nature, trade disputes and regulatory changes all bring pressures to bear on our forest stewards.

They must constantly innovate and adapt to shifting conditions, creating new opportunities that are economically viable but also uphold the commitment they've made to create a resilient, healthy forest.

One woodlot family has done an exceptional job of upholding the values of the Woodlot License program, navigating the peaks and

valleys with dedication and ingenuity. They've blended family and social licence values with progressive thinking and business acumen, which is why they were given the 2019 Minister's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management at the Annual General Meeting in Smithers.

Mark and Pauline Adamson studied forestry at UBC, earning their credentials as Registered Professional Foresters. Their career paths took slightly different, yet parallel routes. By the time they launched their own company – Mountain View Silviculture – in Smithers, they had a solid grounding in forest management, and motivation to leave their corner of the province's forests healthy and productive.

They acquired a parcel of private land and planted over 100,000 trees, adding a 400 hectare

Woodlot License in 1997.

It was a huge risk to take, but their experience in silviculture gave them the confidence to invest in this renewable resource.

They caught the attention of their peers – and the Ministry – because of their long term and innovative woodlot practices.

Constant investment in new, strategic planting of species that can compete with – and complement – natural vegetation and wildlife, as well as labour-intensive manual brushing, have resulted in consistently healthy, diverse and resilient forest landscapes.

Cooperation with environmental stakeholders,

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like the Nadina and Skeena Stikine Natural Resource Districts that spearheaded the Telkwa Caribou Protected Area in 2015, ensure that the entire ecosystem doesn't just survive, but thrives.

Their pine, spruce and balsam sawlogs feed the local mills, their Christmas trees are a local favourite, and their firewood not only heats local homes but also reduces waste on their woodlot. Every valuable piece of fibre is put to good use.

They've both shared countless hours as volunteers with the Nadina and Bulkley Woodlot Associations, serving on the executive to champion issues impacting their industry. They've also invested time advocating for other small-scale forestry operations like the Wet'zinkwa Community Forest near Smithers.

The family has fostered educational opportunities on their woodlot throughout the years. Elementary school children were invited to plant trees (which Mark fondly observed had to be replanted after the kids had gone home) and enjoy a weenie roast around the campfire.

For years the family owned and operated

Children learned about the value of a managed forest...and how to put out a campfire safely. Highschool and college students are hired to plant, space and brush on their woodlot during the summer.

their own equipment – their kids got unique life skills operating a feller-buncher, skidder, Bobcat and backhoe, as well as repairing the machines. While they now contract the services out, they remain committed to harvesting practices that minimize the environmental impact.

“Mark Adamson is willing to go above and beyond industry standard,” says contractor Mark Groot. “His harvest strategies and management priorities show his commitment and longer



Mark & Pauline conducting fire hazard reduction work.

term desire to improving his woodlot for future generations.”

Their woodlot has been a family affair from the very beginning. All of their children have spent time working on the woodlot, and each one has a road named after them. They've all chosen diverse career paths, some in mechanics, some in nursing or environmental studies, but they all share a common commitment to the communities in which they live and work, following their parents' example.

Mark and Pauline remain committed to the Woodlot License program – an area-based tenure

that, in Mark's words, motivates a person to manage the forest more carefully.

“There should be 10 times the woodlots in our province,” according to the Adamsons. As stakeholders in a community overseeing a resource that impacts people well beyond their immediate sphere, it's not hard to make a case for more people like the Adamsons taking care of this precious resource.

By SARA MAH



School class planting day on the Adamson woodlot.



FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS
381 Pheasant Road • Williams Lake, BC, V2G 5A9
Tel: (250) 398-7646 • Toll Free: 1-866-345-8733
Email: gen_manager@woodlot.bc.ca • www.woodlot.bc.ca

WOODLOT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
P.O. Box 23011 Plaza 33 Postal Outlet
Kelowna, BC V1X 7K7
Phone: (250) 961-0271 • Email: cjmclary401@gmail.com