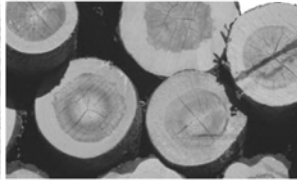




# THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Summer 2009

## The Work family of the Kootenays

A partnership inherited

by Deborah Greaves

**Editor's note:** Adriana and Marvin are both on the AGM planning committee, and their daughter Solita designed the registration brochure. Come and meet the Work family at the AGM in Kaslo on September 24-26, 2009!

One of the beauties of the lands managed by Marvin and Adriana Work is its close proximity to the towns of both Nelson and Castlegar. Another is when you're standing in their driveway, you'd never know it. The Works home, guesthouse, gardens and lush hillside pasture with a staggering panorama view of Kootenay Lake are located in the kind of setting that most city people see only in their dreams.

Marvin and Adriana Work should have retired some time ago to a life of relative leisure, but along with the gardens, pasture, two houses and their own sawmill, the Work family also

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PHOTO: DEBORAH GREAVES

L – R: The licensees of Woodlot 1670, located in the Kootenays: Adriana Work, Marvin Work, and Jim Handy.

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# Letters from licensees: Your views

## Credit where credit is due

### Editor:

While I was attending the AGM of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities in early April, preparing to give a presentation with Nancy Pezel on "Woodlots must be off the expropriation table," by chance I was standing beside Minister Pat Bell.

My first thought was that I must say something positive. I congratulated Pat for promoting and expanding the woodlot program, since the day before I was told that we (Huock Forests – Mike Larock and Ed Hughes) had the highest bid for a new woodlot adjacent to Strathcona Park and Gold River.

Pat noted that they have issued 10 woodlots in the province so far. I responded immediately that seven were on Vancouver Island and five were out of one district. The Campbell River Forest District (CRFD) had issued 50% of the woodlots. Amazing!

Special groups of people are usually responsible for positive change, as anyone who has been part of a great team realizes. It is not only the individual players, but also the entire group who create a winning culture. The CRFD and its staff deserve credit for creating and supporting an exceptional woodlot program. There is an office full of individuals who support and make the woodlot program happen.

Over the past 15 years, the attitude change from doubt to support about woodlots, through a team effort inside and outside the MFR, has been uplifting. There are so many individuals who

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Wood quality and end-product value

### Editor:

The face and value of high-quality wood is changing very rapidly in the face of new technology in engineered wood products. There has always been a big value differential between logs of a variety of diameters. It has been argued that we will not need large diameter trees in the future, as we will just chop all the wood into small pieces and glue them back together into any size you want.

In fact, some of the byproducts of lumber production or recycled wood products can also be used to produce engineered wood products, reducing the demand for large diameter solid wood even more. Plywood is being replaced by chip board and oriented strand board, reducing the demand for high-quality peeler logs for plywood production.

Pruning for clear wood appears to be a poor investment, as the need for clear wood is shrinking due to medium density fiber board used for moldings, window trim, etc. There are advantages and some drawbacks to this shift in demand for high-quality wood. Biodiversity suffers as the need for large diameter wood diminishes and future high-end niche markets will not have the quality of logs required to maintain even the current level of production.

Consumer acceptance of engineered wood products means some of the premiums in value for large logs have been permanently lost. New products have come on stream that are replacing the need for many of the past common uses of high-quality wood, such as logs for peelers and clear wood

for baseboards, trim, window frames, door frames, etc.

Wood-plastic composites are showing up as decking, panel and siding applications etc. Engineered trusses and I-joist have all but replaced the need for dimensional rafters and floor joists. Laminated strand lumber is poised to replace headers, beams, stair stringers, columns, and even traditional 2 x 4 lumber. One big advantage to engineered wood is that it allows independence of product size from the original log size and offers the opportunity to obtain higher-end product yield.

The downside is that this results in a reduction in the need for longer rotations with subsequent reductions in forest biodiversity and wildlife habitat provided by large diameter stands. Another disadvantage is that mechanized logging is still very sensitive to piece size, and is considered to be the most influential factor in delivered log cost and productivity.

Size also matters in the sawmills, as the cost of production is expressed as volume per lineal unit. The economic

*(Continued on page 5)*



PHOTO: ALVIMANN, WWW.MORGUEFILE.COM

## ► From page 3

# “Only history will prove out the success of the woodlot model. . . ”

should be named. There is no doubt that all should be given some credit.

Jim Simpson, Woodlot License Coordinator for the Campbell River Forest District, is without any doubt the coach who has made the right moves at opportune times.

I recall many years ago when the North Island Woodlot Association (NIWA) hosted the AGM in Campbell River, Al Walters stated "I wish I could clone Jim Simpson 43 times," to make the woodlot program work like it does in Campbell River, throughout the rest of the province.

A standing ovation followed, as the licensees in the room recognized and gave credit to Jim, who has coached a winning team of licensees and CRFD staff through the Ministry of Forest and Range's administrative gauntlet, to make things happen.

When the Minister announced the current expansion (75 new woodlots in 3 years) of the woodlot program, Jim was ready and issued over half of the woodlots to date. Thanks, Jim and the CRFD!

There are many other individuals who deserve credit throughout the years for promoting the woodlot program. I recall . . .

- Alex Hartford travelling to any and all meetings and announcements to promote the program in the 1980s.
- The days when the NIWA had Harold Macy as the main and only contact for over a decade.
- Al Hopwood gifting us (Huock Forests) his application so we could see what it took to get a

woodlot 15 years ago (thanks, Al!)

- Dave Smith and Fred Marshall pushing hard to get W0020 for Malaspina College.
- The efforts of the NIWA and South Island Woodlot Association (SIWA) teams to promote the Woodlot program.

Those people listed above are only the new Vancouver Island old-timers. Since then the contribution of the hundreds of new players throughout the province has been immense and incredible.

The woodlot cultural shift on the coast is unstoppable, especially now that First Nations and communities are becoming part of this group of small- and medium-sized area-based tenure holders.

The path is clear to a woodlot *model* (small- and medium-area based tenures or private land holdings managed sustainably) where there is an equal share of small, medium and large forest owners/managers.

The changes are already made with the exponential growth of the woodlot model surrounding forestry-dependent communities. The woodlot model is the result of this cultural shift.

When W2045 was offered (our second woodlot) my fear quickly changed to excitement. There is always risk, but to be able to apply our combined experiences to a 700 ha landbase between Gold River and Strathcona Park is another unique opportunity – recreation, old growth, second growth and young forests all on one landbase.

A log dump within 10 minutes and a community that has almost every-

thing that one could ask for (aquatic center, recreation complex, golf course) made it an unbelievable opportunity.

As Rod Krimmer noted in the spring 2009 edition of the *Almanac* in his "My two cents' worth" column, "Our woodlots will achieve a value unprecedented in our past experiences," which, once we recover from this current economic downturn will likely become a reality.

It is a unique opportunity to be offered a woodlot. Only history will prove out the success of the woodlot model, but when the team is as great, powerful, diverse and devoted as what I have seen our culture become, our future generations will give us the credit due.

Ed Hughes, WL 2045 ♦



### ***Please note:***

*The opinions expressed in the Almanac do not necessarily reflect those of the Federation, the Council, or their members.*

## ► From page 3

“ . . . the answer lies in the niche market and value-added sectors . . . ”

*(Continued from page 3)*

value to the province of our forests is also reduced as the value for the logs needed for engineered wood products diminishes due to the fact that the size of log is no longer a concern.

However, the cost to the environment is much higher as fossil fuels are used in much of the energy needed to break down the solid wood and to produce many of the adhesives used to glue wood back together. The carbon footprint will be higher whenever re-manufactured wood products are used. The recreational values of our forests will also be seen as reduced due to all the small-diameter stands.

It leaves one wondering which direction to turn. How do we extract more value from our forests when the value of wood is going down? Some of the answer lies in the niche market and value-added sectors, as well as in the other intrinsic values that our forests provide to society.

There is the need to store as much carbon in solid wood as possible. We need forests to clean the air. Forests protect our water supplies. Also, the fact of the matter is that people are in love with real wood, and as we go to more and more “phony” wood, the greater the demand will be for high-quality “real wood” in some form or another in many housing projects. People also love big trees to look at and to pass the time of day under.

There is one sector in the secondary manufacturing of solid wood products that has not diminished in value, and in fact has grown significantly over the

last 25 years. This is the custom log home construction and timber framed housing industry.

One of the main constraints to expanding these high end value-added industries has been lack of an experienced workforce, and another has been the access to adequate volume and quality of a reliable wood source.

It appears very unlikely that we

... the road ahead is steep but not clear.



will ever be able to replace the natural look and feel of real logs and or large timbers needed for this industry. In order to supply the raw logs needed for this sector of the value-added chain, we need to start to manage our younger stands so that they will produce the quality of log required.

This takes some vision looking into the future and a long-term commitment to good forest management. The forest management practice that appears to have a significant potential for adding value is the practice of thinning from below, salvaging the poor quality stems that would normally die by rotation age, leaving the remaining stems to grow into logs suitable for log home

construction and timber frame construction.

This also stores large amounts of carbon for long periods of time and provides for healthy resilient forests more able to withstand fire, wind and other environmental conditions and will supply the biodiversity required by certain species. The best way to deliver future high-end value in our forests and provide access to high value logs for the timber frame construction and log home industries is through a significantly expanded woodlot program. It would also create a much-needed source of employment to our area as all these connected enterprises are very labor intensive.

This will require a large push in training and education of the manpower needed for all these connected enterprises. A labor force trained in log home and timber frame construction, and lack of access to quality logs have been identified as the two main constraints for not expanding the industry further. It seems to me the road ahead is steep but clear. With a strong demand for logs in the Timber Frame and Log Home construction sectors, there will always be a substantial differential between small logs and large logs and the extra effort to produce them will be well rewarded.

**Let's get on with it; for the sake of future generations, we cannot afford to fail.**

George Delisle

Woodlot #411, Boundary Woodlot Association ♦

## ■ Message from the President of the FBCWA

# Joint working group successful

by Cliff Manning

As we leave a cold wintery spring, we all wonder what the summer and fall will bring us. The economy this past winter/spring and the state of our forest industry causes us to ponder where and what the future will hold for us all.

But keep a stiff upper lip, as we all believe the opportunities for change are upon us. This is the time now for government to really streamline all these bureaucratic nightmares of “e-business of forestry.”

The nightmares that they created and no longer have the dollars to fund need to stop or be changed. We don't



Cliff Manning  
FCBWA President

need more legislation and rules that create more employment for bureaucrats; as this economy is tough enough now.

I can honestly say, that with the direction Joint Working Group has been going in as led by Rhonda Morris, it has

been one of our most successful initiatives to streamline and improve our program. A lot of the direction comes from Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range.

I know he understands who we are and what we do as small-scale forest practitioners for this province. Thanks to Rhonda and her group for their ef-

forts, and here's hoping she and her family have a wonderful time together as she embarks on a six-month leave of absence.

I would like to thank the West Kootenay Woodlot Association and the Columbia Woodlot associations for the opportunities to be part of their 2009 AGMs; as I personally was able to sit down and discuss your local issues.

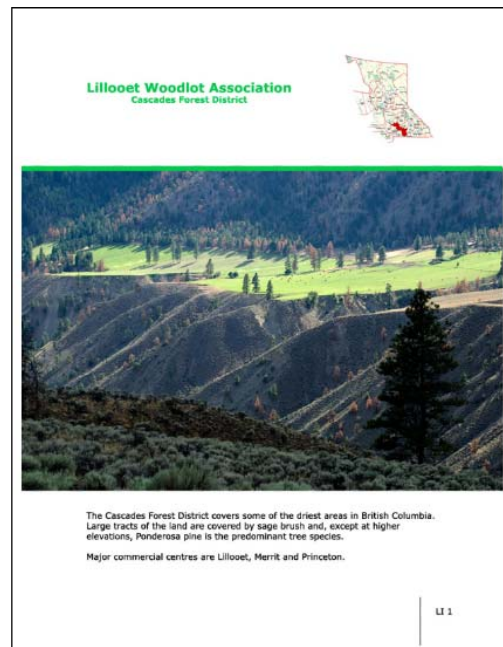
Lastly, I would like to encourage licensees to come out this September 24 – 26 for the FBCWA AGM in Kaslo, where you can personally partake in Kootenay hospitality! ♦

## Reserve your copy of new coffee table book!

The FBCWA has commissioned Wim Tewinkel to create a coffee table book, *Forest Life: British Columbia's Woodlots*, that showcases BC's woodlots and woodlot licensees and their families.

Through beautiful photos and a few well-chosen words, the book attempts to capture the seasonal beauty of Coast and Interior woodlots as well as the spirit and culture of the woodlotter and their families who so diligently manage their licenses.

The book can be ordered now online at [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca), or by contacting Cathy McClary at 1-888-925-9995. ♦



The perfect gift for the woodlotter in your life!

# Spring musings

by Brian McNaughton

Hibernation is over, snow is melting, birds are chirping, roads are muddy and there's a provincial election taking place! Yup, spring is coming to BC.

For me, spring usually arrives with a high degree of optimism what with calves being born, wildlife moving about and the trees starting to grow. However, this spring has a different feel to it – more like apprehension than optimism.

Maybe it's the downturn in the economy and all the uncertainty around if, and when, the forest industry will recover. Perhaps it's wondering if this will be the year the mountain pine beetle populations finally crash, or will spruce budworm and the Douglas fir bark beetle populations continue to flare up and become more of an epidemic.

Whatever the reasons, it gives pause to stop and think about things. In my role as General Manager, it means it's time to consider future directions



Brian McNaughton,  
General Manager

for the Federation.

At their February 2009 meeting, the Directors made it very clear that the Federation must stay focused, particularly during these lean economic times. It must be strategic in setting its priorities, taking into account expected gains versus cost and effort.

With that in mind, the Federation's 2009 priorities are largely focused on cutting costs and finding ways for licensees to generate more revenue. Within the realm of cost cutting, the concept of having one cutting permit over an entire woodlot license area will be pursued in earnest. A bit of good news is that the Ministry of Forests and Range views this as one of their top priorities for the WL program as well.

Reducing the costs of electronic forest management, or e-business, will remain high on the list, along with pursuing some tax concessions (federally), a reduction in Work-SafeBC assessments, and a better way

of handling waste measurements and associated billings.

On the revenue generation front, the obvious one is to do whatever we can to see the price of logs rise. Making sure woodlot licenses and private woodlands fit into the new, so-called bio-energy economy will also be extremely important.

There may also be opportunities to pursue some other revenue streams such as carbon sequestration, being compensated for providing environmental goods and services, agro-forestry, and non-timbered forest products. When it comes to new product development and marketing, this is an area where the Federation and Woodlot Product Development Council will be working very closely together.

OK, it's spring 2009 and I'm feeling a bit apprehensive, but at the end of the day it feels way better to be optimistic than pessimistic! Time to roll up the sleeves and get to work! ♦

## Agroforestry sector strategic plan

A new Agroforestry Sector Strategic Plan has been completed with the support of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, the Woodlot Product Development Council, the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and individual producers.

The plan details the strategic

priorities and actions needed to support agroforestry development and adoption in BC for 2009-2013. The goals of this support is the creation of profitable, sustainable agroforestry opportunities for BC, which contribute to the viability, diversity and stability of the agriculture and forestry sectors, to the benefit of the individuals, families and communities that depend on them. The full version of the plan

can be viewed on the FBCWA website, [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca) ♦



## ■ Coastal timber pricing

# Working with the Community Forest Association

by John Marlow

We have now reached our six-month anniversary on tab rates, and it seems our relationship with this new system is somewhat stable. Although I have heard little feedback from licensees during the last quarter, I'm suspicious that this silence is more a result of the fact that nobody is logging, as opposed to a completely smooth-running system.

By now, all licensees should have also received their stumpage advisory notices for their road permits. Those licensees who continue to appraise timber under the MPS system (licensees that have extended road amortization agreements) will continue to have their road permit rate calculated as an average of their existing cutting permits (scaled volume only).

If there is no extended road amortization agreement in place, the road permit rate should also be the tabular rate. There were several "MPS" licensees (myself included) who received a stumpage advisory notice indicating tabular rates when the rate should have been an appraised rate. Licensees should check to ensure their respective RP rate is correctly determined.

Amendment #2 to the Coast Appraisal Manual was implemented on



John Marlow, Coastal Timber Pricing Coordinator

April 1, and as a result, stumpage rates increased slightly for the south zone and decreased for the north zone. The reason for this change was that the volume from a small timber license harvest in the Bella Coola area was incorrectly applied to the south zone. The revised table is shown below.

Deciduous continues to be priced at \$1.00 / m<sup>3</sup> and low grade timber (HB grade U, X, Y, all species grade Y) continues to be priced at \$0.25.

As woodlots are now appraised on tabular rates in conjunction with the Community Forest Program, the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations will work closely with the Community Forest Association, and vice versa, because initiatives from either association affect both. The Community Forest Association has requested that the Ministry of Forests immediately update the tabular rate table to reflect the new stumpage equations, similar to the process used for major licensees. This would result in a substantial decrease in rates.

In addition, the Community Forest Association has requested that the differential between community forest license and woodlot rates in relation to major licensee rates should be the same for both Coast and Interior. Currently, Interior rates are determined at 15% of major licensee rates, whereas Coast rates are determined at 30%. As this is simply a ratio determined to account for the incremental cost of managing a small quota, there little rationale for a difference in percentage reductions.

As of time of drafting this report, the Ministry of Forests and Range had not made a decision on this request from the Community Forest Association. I would suspect this initiative will continue following the election. The efforts of the Community Forest Association are appreciated and I expect the relationship between the FBCWA and the Community Forest Association to continue to strengthen as we work together.

The Federation will maintain a seat at the Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee and will keep licensees up to date on any changes to appraisal

methodology. This will specifically apply to those licensees continuing with MPS appraisals. I can be reached any time if any licensees have any questions about coast appraisal issues. Best of luck to all for this summer season. ♦

Species	North Coast	South Coast
<b>Balsam</b>	3.66	4.27
<b>Hemlock</b>	4.01	3.98
<b>Cedar</b>	5.54	8.48
<b>Cypress</b>	5.58	5.35
<b>Fir</b>	0.25	4.55
<b>Spruce</b>	3.40	2.95
<b>Other</b>	4.86	5.63



# Timber pricing advisory positions: Request for Proposals

The Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) and the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC) require professional services to advise on stumpage and timber pricing issues on behalf of the 800+ provincial woodlot licensees.

Two contract positions, one to address Coastal timber pricing matters, the other to address Interior timber pricing matters, are required for a period of up to three years, commencing on September 1, 2009. Contracts will be established on an annual basis and may be renewed for a period of up to three years, subject to funding availability and satisfactory performance.

The Contractor will work with and respond to the FBCWA and the Woodlot Product Development Council WPDC. The Contractor will receive direction and work priorities from Chairpersons of the Timber Pricing Portfolios of the Federation. The Woodlot Product Development Council will administer the contract on behalf of the Federation and provide the funding for this contract.

## Duties and responsibilities

- Prepare position papers relating to Coastal/Interior stumpage and appraisal issues on behalf of the FBCWA as required.
- Represent the FBCWA on all committees pertaining to the Interior/Coastal appraisals and pricing systems.
- Liaise with other forest industry organizations with shared common interests in provincial timber pricing system.
- Provide assistance and advice to the Executive and Directors of FBCWA and WPDC
- Work closely to coordinate responses on behalf of the FBCWA

for issues relating to timber pricing on the Coast and the Interior to ensure that the FBCWA presents a unified message to government officials

- Receive and respond to technical queries from woodlot licensees. Participate in or provide technical workshops to woodlot licensees. Provide quarterly projections of stumpage rates.
- Communicate the work of the Federation/Council effectively:
- Submit updates and /or articles on the Interior/Coastal Stumpage and Appraisal issues for each edition of the Woodland Almanac. The Almanac is produced four times / year.
- Prepare an annual update on the Interior/Coastal stumpage and appraisal issues for inclusion in the FBCWA/WPDC Annual Report for distribution at the AGM.
- Communicate effectively with the Executive of the Federation:
- Submit a monthly written report on accomplishments to the FBCWA executive prior to their monthly teleconferences (held on the first Monday of each month). The report will include statements of anticipated work required for the next month.
- Participate in the monthly conference call to discuss the monthly report and obtain approval of work priorities for coming month

## Qualifications and experience

- Minimum of ten years of forestry experience in forestry harvesting and timber pricing in BC
- Five years of experience in small-scale forest management, three of which must be related to the woodlot licence program or equivalent.

- Post-secondary education in forestry and member of/or eligible for membership in Association of BC Forest Professionals

## Submission of proposals

Applicants must submit their written, hard-copy proposals, so that they are received by the WPDC by July 3, 2009. Responses received after this date will be returned unopened.

All responses should include the following:

1. Complete resume with contact information.
2. Work history involving timber appraisals and BC stumpage systems
3. Pertinent references with contact information for same.
4. Letters of reference, if possible.
5. Detailed proposal outlining how the applicant will carry out the described services.
6. What facilities, materials, services, etc., will be provided that will assist the proponent in delivering the described services and that will ensure the woodlot licensees are well served.
7. What fees will be expected for the required services.
8. What charges there will be for vehicle, office, supplies, equipment, etc.
9. An executive summary of the proponent's proposal as detailed under points 4 to 8, above.

Submissions should be sent to Woodlot Product Development Council, PO Box 10033, Prince George, BC, V2K5Y1

Envelopes should be clearly marked: **Confidential: Timber Pricing Advisory Proposal** ♦

## ► From page 1

# “We decided that if there was logging, we should be the ones doing it.”

manage a strategically located woodlot. Woodlot 1670 is 602 hectares of Crown forest belonging to the people of British Columbia. It's attached to 106 hectares of private property belonging to the Works, inherited from her father by Adriana along with the family ranch.

That private property and a resource issue is what drew three people – a retired civil engineer, a health care worker and the Adult Education Dean of Selkirk College – into the woodlot business.

It wasn't the valuable trees on Woodlot 1670 adjacent to her own land that initially drew the interest of Adriana Work. It was another resource that as a child on the family ranch, where her family had raised chickens, pigs, beef and dairy cattle, she'd always appreciated: water.

“There was talk of logging, and our water supply is in the forest above our home,” Adriana Work explained in July this year. “We knew logging affects water. Smallwood Creek and several springs in the woodlot are sources of community water that supply a hundred local families. We decided that if there was logging going on in there, we should be the ones doing it.”

Another concern expressed by the Works was the effect that clear cutting can have on snowmelt. If too much water runs off the land in spring when there are no trees left to absorb it, the result can be erosion of the slopes and contamination of streams below.

A woodlot license is awarded by the provincial Ministry of Forests after a set of exhaustive requirements has

been met. Licensees who own their own land close by, ideally a ranch or farm and a section of their own forest, are favoured. Once the initial requirements are accepted, the potential licensee must prove his or her capacity to follow the rules and manage the forest accordingly. Both harvesting and replanting of trees must be planned and approved by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF).

When it was time to apply for the woodlot licence, Adriana's husband Marvin was not due to retire yet from

... we prefer natural regeneration.



the college. Neighbour Jim Handly, whose skills and experience were applied to the design of a new forestry road, was already retired and willing to partner with Adriana in managing the woodlot until Marvin was available. They haven't lost money, the partners said in July, but making an actual profit and coping with a myriad of responsibilities is an ongoing challenge.

“My side of the partnership was temporary,” said Handly this summer, “because stamina is required.”

Among the dampers on the profit aspect of the Works' woodlot is Adriana and Marvin's refusal to clear-cut in Woodlot 1670.

“It's not natural,” the Works said in

July. “Regeneration afterward is too slow. We disagree with the stocking standards when it comes to replanting; we prefer natural regeneration.”

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the acquisition of the Works' woodlot licence. Marvin and Adriana Work have done the paperwork and borne the costs. Along the way, they've ploughed plenty back into the local economy and a little into their bank accounts.

“It's been a real challenge to make a profit because we don't clear cut and we don't high-grade,” the Works confessed this summer. “To maintain diversity, we often leave the best trees to keep growing.”

Woodlot # 1670 contains the classic “Kootenay blend” of tree species: balsam, cedar, hemlock, Interior Douglas fir, larch, white pine, lodgepole pine, yellow pine, spruce, poplar, birch and maple. Many large trees went down during a powerful summer windstorm this year, creating weeks of work for the many woodlot managers affected.

Stumpage rates paid to the provincial government are currently averaging ten dollars per cubic metre, but the Works have had to pay as much as twenty-eight dollars per cubic metre.

Fallers and logging contractors must be hired to avoid the need to invest their capital in heavy equipment, and they also require the consultation services of an RPF. They don't get road allowances from the government, despite the need for roads and road maintenance.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Whither the wood?



Rod Krimmer,  
*Almanac* columnist

I have been inclined to ignore the growing discussion over biofuels, partly because it didn't seem to concern me as a woodlot licensee, and partly because I am just naturally skeptical. Over the winter there were three events which helped to open my eyes.

Before breakup this year, the mills in my area were closing down early and the last few logging trucks straggled to town in early February with our precious cargo of cheap peelers and sawlogs. The empty roads seemed dormant for a while. Then, overnight they were filled by a whole fleet of chip trucks.

Apparently the co-generation plant in town relied on mill waste for their hog fuel and now that the mills were down they had no fuel to meet their electricity contracts. Enter huge grinders, loaders and 24-hour chip hauling, from landing waste in the bush, to keep the electricity flowing.

Later, my wife's cousin was visiting from Copenhagen and was talking about the retrofit of his 19<sup>th</sup>-century heritage house in the city. "I put in two pellet stoves," he said, "and am buying

wood pellets dirt cheap from BC".

This was, apparently, to meet the European carbon emissions standards. Did the emissions equation consider the amount of fossil fuels used in the collection, manufacturing and transporting of this

"clean" fuel all the way to Denmark, I wondered. And did they expect an unlimited supply?

Finally my neighbour confided that he had rediscovered a way to run his tractor on gasified wood. The technology stems from WWII and the resulting fuel shortages. It consists mainly of a 45-gallon drum full of smoldering wood cubes with a pipe to the carburetor.

He used an American version of the system, which he found to be finicky but workable. He intends to build the better-engineered German version next. A drum of wood chips in the back of my truck should get me to town and back he tells me.

All of this, along with new waste-burning restrictions, caused me to accept that bio-fuels are a factor to con-

sider when planning for the future.

There are two rather large questions, which have not yet been resolved, however.

One, what are we going to feed the industry when the glut of MPB and other waste wood is used up?

And two, are we going to leave enough debris on the forest floor to adequately ensure soil fertility into the future? As usual, if we go in too big and too fast, neither of these will be considered until it's too late.

I do like the appropriately scaled and priced wood gasifier to run our old clunkers, though. There is nothing better than old, small and low-tech solutions to keep me going at just the right speed.

At least that's my opinion.

Rod Krimmer, W0550, Big Lake Ranch ♦



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

*(Continued from page 10)*

Like so many other woodlot managers, the Works have other income streams to fill some of the gaps. The lovely guesthouse rents by the week or month. Adriana has established a business growing and selling perennial flowers, including classic peonies, which can live up to seventy-five years – and are not attractive to deer.

"With the increased costs of fuel, I feel the potential for a local flower business is improving," Work said.

"Flowers for funerals and weddings are more expensive when they're shipped long distances."

The Works love their land and lifestyle, but they're weary enough to contemplate looking at a successor. Right now, they're thinking of their daughter Solita, who currently lives in Calgary. She's concerned about the environment too, they say, and she's a dynamic woman who just may be interested in a lifestyle change. Her own small daughter, they say, loves to visit

her grandparents in the Kootenays.

Mountainside meadows and Crown land forests may be unseen for years by those who live in the city, but the licensed woodlots and the trees within them should matter to everyone in this province. Some may say the rest of us owe a certain debt of gratitude to thoughtful woodlot licensees. In the near future, the forests they manage may become even more precious to us all. ♦

# Cody Turner wins FBCWA award

We are very pleased to announce that Cody Turner is the winner of the FBCWA Scholarship Award. This is the ninth year of this annual award given to a student who is related to a woodlot licensee and/or a private forest land owner and is attending or planning to attend post-secondary education, preferably in a forestry-related area of study.

Cody is the son of Harold and Shirley Turner, Woodlot License #318, located in Pritchard, which is east of

Kamloops. He is currently completing the first year of the Bachelor of Natural Resource Sciences program at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. Cody has been very involved in both the family ranch and woodlot since childhood.

In his application, Cody states “I want to further my education so that I am able to help control some of the problems and the diseases that are present in the forest today and are a threat to the wellbeing of the forest

industry.”

Cody’s essay, “How do woodlots contribute to my local community?” is on the facing page.

The committee who judged the applications was impressed with the quality of all the applications. Thank you to all who applied.

The funding for this \$1000 award was generated through the silent auctions at the FBCWA AGMs. Please continue to support this worthwhile cause at this year’s AGM



Kaslo is nestled on the shores of Kootenay Lake

## Kaslo fun facts

(excerpts from the Kaslo Information brochure)

### Big mountains, small village, rich heritage: Yours to discover

Kaslo is just a nine-hour drive from Vancouver and a five-hour drive from Kelowna. Highways are scenic and well-maintained. Kaslo has an airstrip for light aircraft and the Castlegar airport is a 1.5-hour drive away. Getting there is well worth the time!

People have been hiking, biking, swimming, climbing, fishing, boating and skiing around Kaslo for over 100 years. It’s no wonder, given that the mountains, trails, and waterways begin just outside your doorway, and go on as far as your imagination can take you!

- Catch a 30-lb rainbow trout or a land-locked salmon right on Kootenay Lake
- See deer, elk, grizzly bear, osprey and eagles
- Kayak to one of many pristine and isolated beaches in the area.
- Bring your family and play on Kaslo’s beaches, parks or playgrounds.
- Bike the mountain trails near Kaslo and absorb the spectacular views
- Explore the endless mountains in nearby Kokanee Glacier Park, just one of many provincial parks right on Kaslo’s doorstep.

**See you in Kaslo for the AGM on September 24-26, 2009!**

# This year's prizewinning essay

## How do woodlots contribute to my local community?

by Cody Turner

Woodlots are very important in British Columbia, as forestry is a major industry that employs many individuals in several small communities. Woodlots keep jobs close to home, as they are small in size compared to larger operations. Due to the small size of operations, many tenure holders employ people from the surrounding area, keeping money in the local economy.

Due to the criteria that one must meet in order to be issued a woodlot, woodlots are put into the hands of people that care about the environment and the sustainability of the operation. Part of the criteria is that the tenure holder should live close to the woodlot, resulting in healthier forests as the operator is looking after the land that is close to their home.

Also, the criteria that the tenure holder should have some private land to include into the boundaries of the woodlot, which is to be looked after in the same manner as the Crown land, makes one care more about the land that they are managing.

As many ranchers and farmers have large areas of private land that could be forest, many received a woodlot. When my father obtained his woodlot, many ranchers were getting a licence in the local area. This licence helped to stabilize the income in an industry where there are many ups and downs in the market.

Like other woodlots where I live, and hope to spend the rest of my life, our woodlot is located in an area that serves more than one use for our family. Our Crown grazing lease for the

ranching side of our business and the creeks to which we hold water rights and supply our drinking water are also located in the same area as our woodlot.

As there are many important resources grouped together with our woodlot, there is an even greater need

**Woodlots have helped many families in my community through poor economic times . . .**



for the land to be managed correctly so that the forest will be healthy for many generations to come and not just for the current generation.

As I am the fourth generation on our ranch, the health and wellbeing of the forest and surrounding area has always been of great importance for me. Since my father first received the woodlot in the mid 1980s, he has employed many different people including young individuals from the community in which we live.

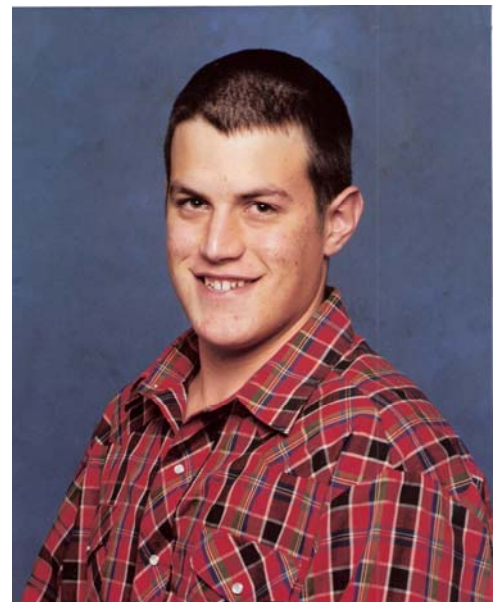
Some of the employees have saved the money that they have made working in the woodlot to buy a vehicle and go through university to pursue a career in a field of interest, and some are pursuing a career in forestry-related disciplines.

My family's woodlot is not the

only woodlot that these circumstances apply to.

Other woodlots in the local area are run by families that hold grazing leases and water rights to creeks on the same land. Although the forest industry is not in good shape at the current time, woodlots have helped families in my local community through the poor economic times and continue to play an important role in the wellbeing of the forests in British Columbia.

Woodlots play a large role in the welfare of many communities in British Columbia and will continue in that fashion well into the future. Through employment opportunities, proper management and job experience, woodlots are a great benefit to everyone. ♦



Cody Turner, above, is the winner of the 2009 FBCWA Scholarship. He is currently completing the first year of the Bachelor of Natural Resource Sciences program at Thompson Rivers University. Cody is the son of Harold and Shirley Turner, Woodlot License #318.

# E-fix for E-FM

By Coleen MacLean-Marlow and Tom Bradley

The new fiscal year has arrived and with it the new reality. The expected financial pressures mentioned in the last e-FM Almanac article have set in. While we have confirmation that the Cross Functional (CF) Team will go forward, there has been little movement since March, as most members have been occupied with seeking funding, whittling budgets, and attempting to salvage programs.

With this fiscal reality in mind, the CF Team has re-prioritized the recommendations contained in the Woodlot e-FM Strategic Plan Project General Report. The resulting listing was based on need, value and cost factors that predict the likelihood of achievement. Emphasis will be placed on working closely with data custodians and accomplishing “pruning and snipping” within maintenance budgets.

## WASTE

A recommendation from the Woodlot e-FM team report was to review and adjust the WASTE system for woodlots. Currently, licensees must do a waste survey (usually an ocular survey), have the survey results signed and/or sealed, and then enter the data into the WASTE e-FM system.

Work is underway with Revenue Branch to assess

- Alternatives to the current process;
- The need for the survey; and
- If a survey is needed, how to streamline the survey process.

## RESULTS

Coleen Maclean-Marlow reports:

“The deadline for **Annual Reporting** has come and gone with remarkably little storm. Having left our own woodlot reporting to the last minute (somewhat like the old adage of the mechanic’s car?), I sat down to fill in the blanks, only to discover my authorizations had been removed for ESF submissions and the RESULTS website was temporarily unavailable! Ah, well. The majority of the woodlot community must have done well, however, as there were very few calls for assistance.”

The round of **RESULTS training** presented this spring was completed on March 31. Most, if not all, of the sessions were attended by either Dave Haley, Tom Bradley or Coleen Maclean-Marlow. In general, opinions expressed by attendees indicate that the training was greatly improved over initial efforts and was practical and useful. Many licensees were able to

update their annual information during the afternoon sessions.

## Stats from trainee evaluations:

- Number of sessions: 9
- Number of participants: 105
- Number of woodlots represented (approx): 122
- Average evaluation score (out of 10): 8.35

There is no further training planned at this time.

The lack of comprehensive EFM training for MFR District Staff continues to be an issue for licensees and MFR staff as well.

## Data cleanup

Funding for the MoFR data cleanup program officially wrapped up March 31, 2009. The clean-up project was modified and enlarged several times and went on longer than originally anticipated. And despite the extra time and money, not all woodlot cleanup was completed.

Dave Haley has obtained limited funding for the continuation of woodlot cleanup in the short term. He discusses this in an article in this edition of the Almanac.

## CIO Forum

## Links of Interest

- One-month and three-month Coast and Interior log market reports: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/logreports.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/logreports.htm)
- Generating More Value from our Wood Products: Vision and Action Plan: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/valueadded/index.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/valueadded/index.htm)
- “Tree Improvement Programmes for Forest Health” and “Learning to Deal with Climate Change and Catastrophic Forest Disturbances” are two articles that appeared in *Unasylva* (No. 231/232) about adapting forests and forest management to a changing climate: [www.fao.org/forestry/unasylva/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/unasylva/en/) ♦

The CIO Forum is a clearing-house for information on the e-FM system and government systems in general. Due to economic restraints throughout the industry, the CIO Forum has opted for monthly conference calls rather than quarterly meetings. The new meeting format is short, concise and definitely less expensive. The one drawback is the curtailment of the round table discussions that face-to-face meetings engender.

Within constraints, the CIO is refocusing on being an information filter and advocate for industry. Topics currently on CIO agendas are the Road System Rationalization Project (RSRP), the North East BC Pilot Project (NEBCPP), the First Nations Technology Council (FNTC) and the Forestry Data Access for Industry Project.

The **Road Systems Rationalization Project**, Stage 1, detailed existing business processes and identified duplications and potential improvements. However, it was primarily an “in-house” process of MFR representatives from Branch, Region, and District offices.

The CIO became concerned about the lack of industry input. After discussions with the core RSRP team, the CIO was invited to become a sponsor with oversight responsibilities. RTEB has now opted to end the original project and begin a new project with a new charter incorporating the CIO’s involvement. The new project will take a broad view and assess the impact of business and system changes from the licensee perspective. Various industry representatives, including a woodlot representative, will participate in review teams. Jim Spenser of the CIO office is currently working with Dona Stapely of RTEB to establish a Project Charter.

The CIO continues to monitor the **North East BC Pilot Project** as becomes the North East Mapping Community Steering Committee. The purpose of the NEBCPP is “to strengthen the relationship between government and industry and deliver efficient and cost-effective and innovative solutions for data sharing, access and exchange amongst the organizations represented on the Steering Committee.” The CIO expressed concern that the steering com-

... change and system development seem to be our fate.



mittee was weighted towards government, and with some of the terms of reference. While the NEBCPP is separate from the e-FM project, it does mirror the purpose and processes. The NEBCPP, with the support of government, industry, and oil and gas, is examining a “pull” method of supplying data to government systems, and hence has the potential to impact how we deliver data in the future.

The **First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)** is working with the Integrated Land Management Bureau to establish effective data and technology sharing. The FNTC and the CIO have expressed a willingness to keep each other informed and potentially work collaboratively on projects of mutual concern.

The **Forestry Data Access for Industry Project** is a function of the Integrated Land Management Bureau . It was through this process that wood-

lot licensees obtained access to TRIM, ortho-photos, and many other data bases. Budgets permitting, planned 2009 – 2010 data updates are:

- Crown land ownership
- Forest administrative boundaries
- Land Act rights, interests (Tantalis), and leases; e.g., agriculture lease, grazing leases, UREPs, recreation reserves
- Strategic land and resource planning data access
- Ecosystem and Terrain Mapping Project boundary index
- Terrain and Ecosystem Information System (TEIS)
- Generalized ownership
- RESULTS: data quality and access improvement
- Range features / improvements
- Range tenures view improvement
- Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI): view improvement

Those of you who have persevered (or skimmed) to this point will have noted something: we have a moving target on our hands. When we started working to improve the relationship between woodlot licensees and the e-FM system in 2007, we imagined we had a reasonably well-defined task ahead of us. We are still working on Plan A, and making progress.

However, we now see that the e-FM system is evolving. We would all prefer a static e-FM system that worked well. But change and system development seem to be our fate.

Our task list now includes representing the interests of small tenures in the rooms where proposed changes are reviewed, and trying to ensure that woodlots do not get inadvertently blindsided with impossible to meet costs or requirements. ♦

# On the federal woodlot stage

by Mark Churchill

Our Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) is a member of the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners (CFWO). The CFWO membership includes woodlot organizations based in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia.

Across Canada, it is estimated that there are over 450,000 woodlots. Currently BC is the only province that has a woodlot license program issuing tenures that consist of both private and Crown lands.

The CFWO held their annual general meeting as well as a mini-summit on ecological goods and services in Ottawa March 23 – 25, 2009. Representing the FBCWA was Mark Churchill.

The AGM was chaired by our national president, Peter DeMarsh. Topics discussed at the AGM included an update of current issues each province is facing: ecological goods and services, carbon credit trading systems, woodlot taxation changes, and woodlot certification.

Currently the same economic issues we are facing in BC are duplicated in every province. For example, the Quebec Government is currently updating their forest practices and one of their changes is to develop a competitive log market by auctioning off blocks of timber, not unlike the BCTS program we have.

The Quebec woodlot representative was very interested in hearing about the issues that we have seen with the same initiative in BC. His comment was that he would never have thought

that Quebec and BC would share so many common issues surrounding the forest sector.

The New Brunswick group who attended briefed us on their efforts in opening a member-owned pellet plant that produces pellets that have had a Torrefaction treatment that allows them to be easily utilized instead of coal by electrical producers.

The plant is small in scale and is wholly owned by local woodlot owners and logging contractors. The plant will use round log material, which will allow for complete utilization. All of their production will be shipped overseas.

Interestingly, the provincial government and the local major licensees appear not to be supporting the plant. The usual government headaches and road blocks have been encountered and the local pulp mill sees them as competition.

Ecological goods and services is an initiative that seeks to have recognition for the contributions that our woodlands make to the environment. Among these values, which are enjoyed by everyone, are water quality, aesthetics, wildlife, and lifestyle. Once we're able to quantify these contributions, the next step would be a compensation scenario that would reflect a return of the relative value to the landowner.

At this stage, pilots are being proposed to determine on how to value these contributions and how to compensate the land owners. It is hoped that we can have one of the pilots approved for BC. As this program is further developed, the FBCWA can provide input and possibly become in-

involved in this initiative.

The topic of carbon credit trading was discussed and we are very fortunate to have a woodlot representative, Tony Rotherham, sitting on and providing input on several national committees. He is helping to draft the regulations that will govern the process in both Canada and the US. Tony briefed us on the latest and we received a copy of his summary of the program.

Woodlot taxation issues have been around for at least five years with no resolution in sight. As a result of a meeting held during one of the afternoon/evening sessions with a member of parliament, a senator, and a representative of the Canada Revenue Agency, we got a crash course in how to effect change in Ottawa.

The advice provided was taken to heart by the CFWO executive and will be followed in pursuing changes to the Income Tax Act that would allow woodlots in a big income year (e.g., due to beetles) to deposit income into a "future silviculture expense plan".

As a result of this meeting and the aggressive follow-up by Jean Guy Comeau from New Brunswick, a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen

## Purpose of the WPDC

The primary purpose of the WPDC is to ensure that levy fees are spent on woodlot licensee priorities to benefit and promote the woodlot industry throughout BC.

Funds are collected through powers granted to Council under the *Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act*. ♦



Harper was arranged. As a group, we had a short discussion with the Prime Minister and were able to meet several other ministers and senators in the hallways of the Parliament Buildings.

They were curious as to who we were and seemed to genuinely appreciate the fact that we were a group that represented woodlots from coast to coast. Our CFWO President Peter DeMarsh was also invited to make a presentation in April to the Select Standing Committee on Forestry.

This visit to Parliament Hill topped off a very interesting week that showcased the common woodlot issues that all parts of our country are grappling with. A high profile at the Ottawa level is needed for recognition of woodlot issues and the CFWO has recognized this and will continue to effectively represent us at the Federal level. ♦



L — R: Senator Michael Duffy, MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon, Kevin Forgrave, Mark Churchill, Wade Knight, Bob Austman, Andrew Fedora, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Peter deMarsh, Peter Mills, Jean Guy Comeau, Pierre Maurice Gagnon, and Senator Percy Mockler.

## Consolidating two woodlot licenses

By Brian McNaughton

Bill 13, Forest Act Amendment – 2009, changed the Forest Act to make it possible for the holder of two woodlot licenses to consolidate them into one, providing certain conditions are met. The relevant new section of the Forest Act (S. 46.2) can be found at [www.leg.bc.ca/38th5th/1st\\_read/gov13-1.htm](http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th5th/1st_read/gov13-1.htm).

Two of the conditions are as follows:

The total Schedule B area of the combined woodlot licenses must not exceed the limits set in S. 45(1)(b)(ii) of the Forest Act; i.e., 1200 hectares in the interior and 800 hectares on the coast; and

The allowable annual cut (AAC) of the combined woodlot licenses must

not exceed the sum total of the replaced licenses. In other words, the consolidation of two woodlots is not the mechanism by which to seek increased AAC. That would have to be done subsequently when a new management plan is done for the new woodlot.

The legislation provides for a number of ways to consolidate woodlots, including merging them into one license, amending a woodlot license, or replacing both licenses with a new license. This flexibility should allow the licensee and MFR to select the best option based on the specific circumstances of each proposed consolidation.

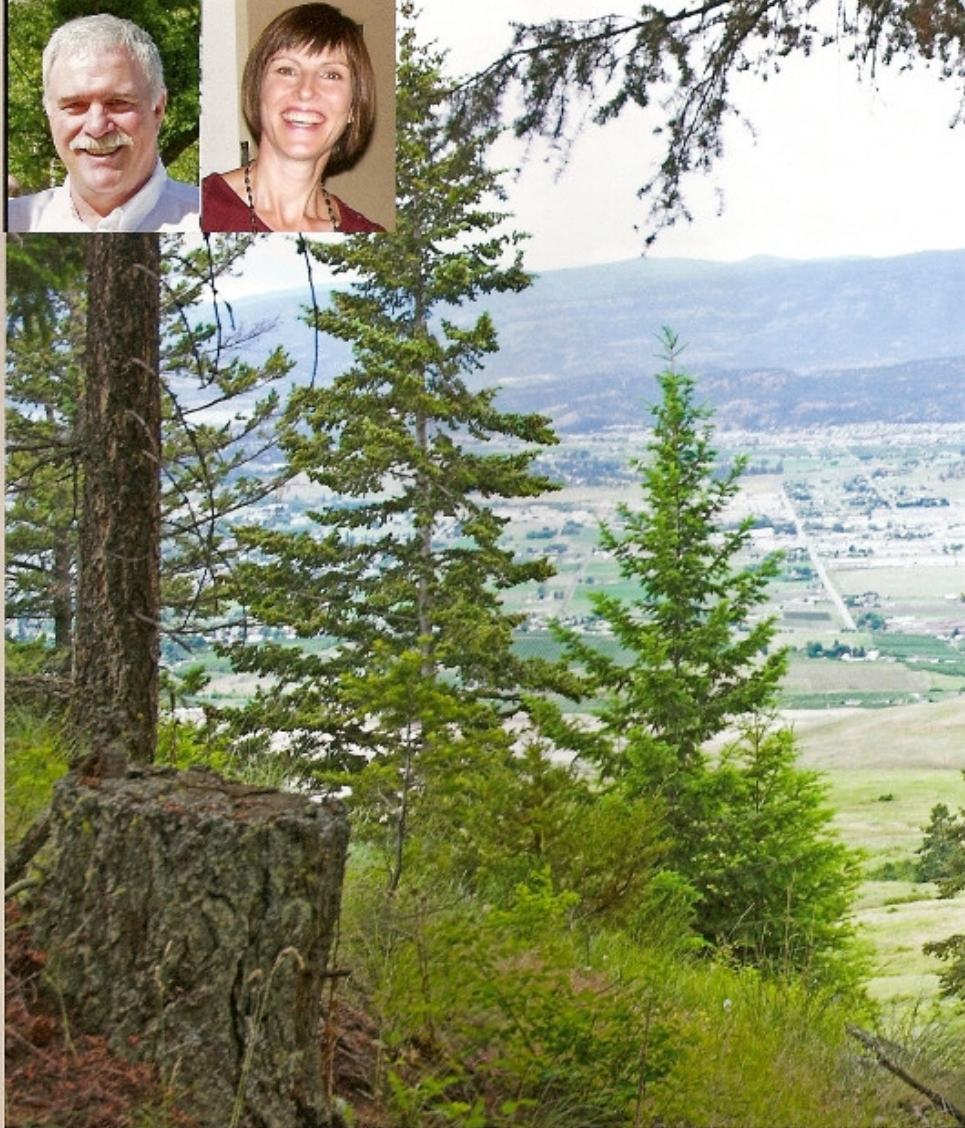
The thinking behind this legislation is that it can potentially benefit both

the license holder and MFR by eliminating the duplication of administration associated with holding two licenses, such as one management plan instead of two, one woodlot license plan, one AAC and associated harvest billing and cut control, one set of RESULTS records, etc.

Another benefit is that this could help those licensees wanting to expand their woodlot holdings. Once two woodlots are merged into one, they would be eligible to acquire a second woodlot as per the Forest Act.

The consolidation of two woodlots into one is not mandatory, and cannot be directed by the MFR. The legislation clearly states that the Minister can only do so with the consent of the holder of the licenses. ♦

# Small-scale forestry with big responsibilities



By Brian McNaughton and Lisa Marak

**Editor's note:** *This article appeared in BC Forest Professional (Mar/Apr 2009 issue) and is reprinted with permission from the Association of BC Forest Professionals.*

In 2008, the Minister of Forests and Range announced that 60 to 75 new woodlot licenses would be awarded over the next three years as part of a woodlot program expansion. These new licenses will be for up to 800 hectares on the coast and 12000 hectares in the Interior, double the size limit of recent years.

The decision to change the Forest Act and increase the maximum size of a woodlot license was made a few years ago to help address economy of scale issues. The average allowable annual cut (AAC) was just under 1,400 m<sup>3</sup> /year and it was becoming increasingly difficult for licensees to fulfill their license obligations.

The benefits of woodlot licenses and an expanded program are many – the local management and development of forest resources, local employment, and a source of timber for value-added manufacturers, just to list a few.

Along with exclusive rights to timber with a woodlot license area, licensees bear the same responsibilities and obligations for managing all forest values as other forest tenure holders.

These obligations include reforestation to free-growing, roads and road maintenance, fire protection, safety, and so on. This can be particularly challenging since woodlot licenses are often located in what could be considered contentious or hard-to-manage areas.

They are often in close proximity to a town or in a transportation corridor where the supply of environmental goods and services such as clean water, green spaces, recreation, visuals, and wildlife habitat is at a premium.

Currently, there are over 830 woodlot licenses throughout BC. Almost 700 have private land included, averaging 130 hectares per woodlot license.

The inclusion of private land in woodlot licenses helps ensure the tenures are held by people who reside in the local area and who have a vested interest in properly managed forest resources.

Woodlot operators are often motivated by knowing their operations are being done under the watchful eyes of family, friends, and neighbouring communities. They strive to leave a light footprint on the land.

Timber harvesting and road construction are carried out consistently with the principles of stewardship and sustainability. Being efficient is essential, but so too is doing things correctly in the first place. Woodlot operations

*(Continued on page 19)*

# Member reflections: Harvey Melville Anderson

*The Woodland Almanac is always looking for creative submissions related to small-scale forestry. We'd like to hear from you on stories from the woodlot or see your photos from the block.*

*This section can also be used to share obituaries on licensees who are no longer with us. If you want to submit, please contact Cathy McClary at [cjmclary@shaw.ca](mailto:cjmclary@shaw.ca). The following obituary appeared in the Prince George Citizen on May 20, 2009.*

## **Harvey Melville Anderson** **July 17, 1922 - May 13, 2009**

Harvey died after a lengthy, but courageous battle with Alzheimer's diseases. He leaves his wife of almost 60 years, Pauline; his children Rod (Darlene), Bruce (Leona), Heather, Mac (Brenda) and Alison; his grandchildren Erica (Derek), Katrina, Stuart, Evan,

Thane, Rylan, Joshua, Garet and Justin and his great grand-daughter Adriana born on May 19, 2009. He was predeceased by his parents, brother and sister.

Harvey was born in Saskatoon, but grew up in Vancouver. He was a flying officer and navigator in the RCAF during WWII. After the war, Harvey went to UBC where he graduated as a Forest Engineer in 1951. He became a profes-

sional Engineer in 1955 and a Registered Professional Forester in the 1960s.

In 1954, Harvey and Pauline moved to Prince George and have lived there ever since. Harvey was a true pioneer in the forest industry in the Prince George area. Harvey loved the outdoors – whether he was in the forest, spending time at Norman Lake, fishing or boating. The family would sincerely like to thank the staff at Parkside Care Home for their wonderful care and compassion. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Society or the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

**Editor's note:** *Harvey and his family are the holders of three woodlot licenses in the Prince George Forest District.* ♦



*(Continued from page 18)*

are small-scale, so there is little room for mistakes or undertaking costly remediation work.

Each woodlot license has a management plan (MP) and a woodlot license plan (WLP). The MP states the licensee's objectives and sets the AAC, while the WLP describes how the licensee will manage the area while taking into account the forest type, ecology, forest health, operating conditions, and other factors.

The WLP has a spatial component which shows where timber harvesting and road building will or won't occur, with site-specific safeguards in place.

The WLP is built around a series of default performance requirements

which are contained in the Woodlot License Planning and Practices Regulation.

Licensees have the latitude to develop their own WLPs without the services of a registered professional as long as they stay within the defaults.

However, it is strongly recommended that all WLPs be signed and sealed for due diligence reasons.

If licensees wish to operate outside the defaults or face a situation for which the default requirements are not appropriate, then they must incorporate alternative practice requirements into their WLPs, and those elements of the plan must be signed and sealed by a registered professional forester.

For over 60 years, BC's Woodlot License Program has been meeting the public's expectations regarding the management of the province's forest resources, often in the face of some of the most challenging areas to manage, such as community interfaces and transportation corridors.

Given its past successes, and considering society's ever-increasing demands on forests, woodlot licensees are well-positioned to be a forest tenure of choice in the next 60 years or longer. After all, a measure of success for most woodlot activities is public acceptance of a job well done. ♦

# Annual reporting: what you need to know between now and Fall 2009

by Dave Haley

This article's purpose is to inform woodlot license holders and their consultants of the Ministry of Forests and Range's (MFR) expectations concerning compliance with annual reporting requirements for 2008 activities.

This document deals with two issues:

- Reporting when no activity was done in the preceding (2008) calendar year.
- Activities done but not reported by holder and/or consultant.

(Note: Activities that must be reported on include harvesting /denudation, planting, and achievement of free-growing status. Other activities may also be reported on.)

## Background

The MFR is interested in two things:

- Has there been an activity on the ground?
- Has it been reported?

Both Section 89 of the Woodlot License Forest Management Regulation (WLFMR) and section 76 of the Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulation (WLPPR) require the reporting of activities done on the woodlot license land.

The last three years have seen many changes for woodlot holders and MFR staff, creating much frustration. However, much good work has also occurred, such as cheat sheets, hands-on training, a massive amount of data cleanup and the report by the Woodlot eFM Team.

The MFR has invested approximately \$600,000 to clean up woodlot data, provide training for woodlot holders and for systems enhancements

in fiscal year 2008/2009.

However, reporting still faces some challenges, primarily due to missing or inaccurate information. In an effort to continuously improve data integrity, additional funding has been provided in 2009/2010 to carry on with the data cleanup work specifically for woodlot license holders.

Data loading will be done via data service providers and will provide the missing information and/or correct the inaccurate information.

## What about denudation/harvesting activities that have been started, but are not yet complete?

Reporting is required for completed denudation/harvesting activities. The activity is considered completed when the harvesting on the block is completed or when the Cutting Permit expires, whichever is first.

## What holders can expect from Compliance and Enforcement concerning annual reporting of 2008 activities

Compliance and Enforcement staff are periodically reviewing information in RESULTS and other data systems, along with the woodlot holder's information and outcomes in the field, and identifying gaps in the reported information.

Largely, this concerns recent harvesting (denudation) and/or late free-growing obligations that have not been reported into RESULTS. If identified in an inspection as being non-reported data, they will then be deciding whether to take compliance or enforcement action.

Under the Administrative Orders and Remedies Regulation (AORR), it allows for a fine of up to \$5,000 for failure to report.

Over the previous five years there have been 49 determinations made across the province relating to a failure to report information in the required manner under the WLFMR.

## Why would information gaps be found in RESULTS?

In some cases, the holder has faced one or more difficulties in reporting recent activities, because the historical data (largely pre-2006) in RESULTS was either missing or inaccurate. In other cases, holders have chosen not to report activities.

## How will MFR staff deal with holders who have faced one or more difficulties in reporting recent activities?

Data that is missing, inaccurate or not reported may raise a query from MFR staff for some form of correction or resolution. Missing, inaccurate or non-reported data in some circumstances may not be an issue of alleged non-compliance.

Equally, where a woodlot license holder identifies a missing, inaccurate or non-reported data issue they should initiate dialogue with the local forest district to resolve the data issue.

Updating RESULTS with the missing data or correcting the inaccurate data is critical for improving the data integrity of the specific woodlot license area.

Staff and woodlot licensees are to work together to identify the specific difficulty and then use all available resources (district staff, APPHELP and woodlot holders ) to solve the issue.

The following are some (but not all) of the actions that may need to be taken:

(Continued on page 21)

- District staff search their files for already submitted information
- Woodlot license holders search their files for already submitted information
- Fieldwork to provide the needed information

MFR staff should be using data from:

- FTA;
- RESULTS;
- HBS;
- Field inspections by woodlot license staff
- Other sources

### What resources will the ministry provide to minimize the cost to woodlot license holders in 2009/2010?

Between now and end of August 2009, funding has been provided to continue the loading of outstanding data. This time and this funding must be used to improve the data integrity of all woodlots and/or to identify any remaining information gaps.

If a holder has been unable to successfully complete their annual reporting for calendar year 2008, they will be directed to the data service provider, who will then assist the holder.

In addition, service providers may be contacting woodlot license holders with questions or to request up-to-date information in the absence of current information in the district files. Woodlot license holders are requested to work closely with these service providers over the next few months to clean up the missing or inaccurate data. Not working with these service providers could lead to action under the AORR.

Please note that the funding to support the service providers is limited – both in dollar terms and in terms of

### time. Please take advantage of this help specifically available to woodlot license holders.

This information will be useful to woodlot holders as opportunities for new revenue streams become available, and for determining options to streamline administration. Some examples are:

- Automatically updating inventory information
- Transferring a woodlot
- Proposing to withdraw private land
- Applying for Forest Investment Account funding
- Undertaking carbon sequestration activities
- Establishing one cutting permit over the woodlot
- Providing accurate data quickly in case of negotiations concerning treaties or other land use issues
- Transferring free-growing obligations
- Planning for future activities

### How may MFR staff deal with holders who have no activity from the previous calendar year to report (i.e., 2008)?

Several concerns exist regarding this question:

- Whether no reporting to RESULTS means that no activities were done in 2008; or
- Whether activities were done, but the holder failed to report them.

In other words, if information seems to be missing in RESULTS, staff may need to determine whether the issue is:

- No activity occurred; or
- An activity occurred but was not reported upon.

### Actions

Depending on the answer, data may simply be cleaned up. In more serious circumstances, appropriate compliance or enforcement actions may be taken. Under WLPPR, if no activity occurred in the reporting year (e.g., calendar 2008), then no reporting is required.

If an activity occurred but was not reported on, then discussion and/or appropriate compliance or enforcement actions may follow. (Note: Activities that must be reported on include harvesting/denudation, planting, and achievement of free-growing status. Other activities may also be reported on.)

### Next steps

During the summer, the MFR and FBCWA will be assessing the past efforts to supply accurate data to RESULTS; how much data (if any) is still missing from RESULTS, what can be done to improve the level of reporting; and how potential costs can be minimized for both the MFR and the holders.

The products from this work are expected to be the following:

- Proposals to implement recommendations from the Woodlot eFM team (Note: Because of the very tight budgets provided for 2009/10, few changes to the current system are anticipated) Improved guidance to staff
- Improved guidance to woodlot license holders.

### Questions/Comments

If you have further questions or comments, please contact one of the following:

Dave Haley, Woodlot License Forester, at [dave.haley@gov.bc.ca](mailto:dave.haley@gov.bc.ca)

Your local district staff

Your local woodlot association. ♦

## Silviculture vision to grow new forest opportunities

**News release:**

**Ministry of Forestry and Range**

LANGFORD – British Columbia is developing a new framework to guide silviculture investments and make British Columbia a world leader in growing trees, Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell announced today.

“British Columbia is already a world leader in reforestation – but there is far more to silviculture than planting trees,” said Bell. “Whether it’s the growing market for carbon offsets or next generation forest products, there are significant opportunities that will drive a broader range of silviculture activities. We want to make sure British Columbia’s silviculture framework encourages new investments to maximize the economic, social, and environmental benefits from our forest lands.”

The discussion paper, *Growing Opportunities: A New Vision for Silviculture*

in British Columbia, outlines current silviculture successes, opportunities for improvement, principles to guide how the new vision might be implemented, and some questions to stimulate discussion on the future of silviculture in British Columbia.

The paper sets a new vision for silviculture: “British Columbia’s silviculture policies encourage investments that maximize productivity, value, and support forest resilience.” Currently, most silviculture activities in British Columbia are driven by the requirement to reforest harvested areas to a “free-growing” state. The goal is to build on this success at reforestation and expand silviculture’s focus and resulting benefits throughout the broader life cycle of forest stands.

“Our silviculture framework must continue to deliver sustainable forest management while providing the flexibility necessary to face climate change, address the timber supply impacts of

the mountain pine beetle epidemic, and produce forests that are suitable for new product and carbon sequestration opportunities,” said Bell. “By consulting broadly with forest sector stakeholders, I’m confident our new framework will make British Columbia a world leader in growing trees.”

Comments on the discussion paper will be accepted until Sept. 30, 2009 and recommendations will be developed in fall 2009.

Contact:

Jennifer McLarty,  
Public Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Forests and Range  
250 387-4592

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### FBCWA Vision

Woodlot holders/owners will participate in a healthy and diverse forest industry with woodlot licenses and private forest lands, making significant contributions to local communities and providing a sustainable supply of forest products.

The FBCWA will have a voice in forest and economic policy. BC’s woodlots will be models of forest management excellence, and world-renowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities. ♦

# Community forest strengthens Alexis Creek partnership

**News release:**

**Ministry of Forestry and Range**

ALEXIS CREEK – A joint community forest agreement offered to the Tsi Del Del (Alexis Creek First Nation) and the Tatla Resource Association will generate ongoing employment and forestry-related benefits, Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell announced today.

“Community forest agreements encourage operations that support local jobs and businesses,

strive for timber and silviculture enhancements, and recognize all forest values,” said Bell. “The

partnership between the Tsi Del Del and the Tatla Resource Association is of great benefit to the

Chilcotin, and is another example of forestry succeeding when people work together.”

The community forest agreement grants the right to harvest up to 40,000 cubic metres of timber

per year on about 115,000 hectares of public forest lands in the Williams Lake timber supply area.

“The community forest will help expand our forestry business, ensure

the sustainable

management of the land base, and continue to build our partnership with the Tatla Resource

Association,” said Tsi Del Del Chief Ervin Charleyboy. “This agreement is our latest milestone, and will allow us to provide ongoing forestry employment for Tsi Del Del and surrounding communities, as we have done for the last 18 years.”

“This community forest is the latest result of the strong relationship between the Tsi Del Del

and the community of Tatla Lake,” said David King, president of the Tatla Resource Association. “Our shared forestry vision will continue to support environmental and economic stability for the area and its residents.”

Tsi Del Del has provided stable employment for forest workers since 1992, through their operation of Tsi Del Del Enterprises, a forest products company they jointly own with Tolko Industries Ltd.

Community forest agreements are a form of legal tenure that enable communities to more fully

participate in the stewardship of local Crown forest resources. They are

area-based, and give communities exclusive rights to harvest timber, as well as the opportunity to manage other forest resources such as botanical products, recreation, wildlife, water and scenic viewsapes. There are more than 50 community forests operating or in the planning stages in British Columbia.

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