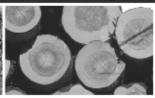


# THE WOODLAND ALMANAC







www.woodlot.bc.ca

Fall 2013

## Woodlot AGM Highlights

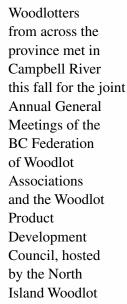
# "Audience Participation"

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23 THANK YOUS

by Sara Grady





Field Trip at the AGM

Association. "Woodlots – The Island Way" was the theme of this year's gathering, held at Painter's Lodge and April Point Resort, and over 140 attendees learned, among other things, that the Island Way involves a great deal of "audience participation".

The conference began at Painter's Lodge with the presentation of the Stewardship video, which traditionally throws a spotlight on individual woodlot operations exemplifying the mandate of the program. This year, the entire North Island region received a nod for its progressive practices, including praise for the efforts of Ministry staffer Jim Simpson. His unwavering

support and pragmatic approach have garnered him the respect of his woodlot colleagues over the past 20 years, and a nomination for the Premier's Award this year.

Peter Graff, representing the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations updated members on

the status of "Legacy Streamlining" – an initiative started by Dave Haley, who retired this year – and the launch of Woodlot for Windows 4.0. (Dave was inducted as a Lifetime Member of the FBCWA later in the day.)

The afternoon sessions opened with Rick Monchak, TimberWest RPF and 2013's Distinguished Forester, who discussed his "Woodlot Style" logging operations on Quadra Island's TFL 47. He drew parallels between the mandated practices of the Woodlot program and his company's approach, explaining that TimberWest set three goals: be a good neighbour; seek

con't on page 7 ....









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•	•

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www.facebook.com/woodlotsbc

#### WPDC PORTFOLIOS

Almanac, AR & calendar: Jerry Benner; AGM: TBD; Contract Management: Denise English & Jerry Benner; FBCWA Liaison: Denise English with alternates; Financial Management: Tina Hesketh; Nominations/Succession: Jerry Benner; R&D Project Proposals: Jim Collins; Questionnaire: Alison Patch; Resolutions: Alison Patch; Website: Denise English & Rod Blake; Woodlot Stewardship Video: TBD

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## General Manager's Report



Brian McNaughton, General Manager

We wish Brian the best as he recovers from surgery.
We look forward to reading his words of wisdom in the Winter issue of the Almanac. ◆



WoodSourceBC.com is BC's online wood marketplace! Connect with over 350 members searching for an opportunity to buy and sell more wood products and services than ever before. WoodSourceBC.com is a free tool AND it's easy to use. Create your profile and start listing items for sale, items you want to buy, and searching for new business opportunities. Over 95 listings posted this last quarter. Join this growing network today. Visit www. woodsourcebc.com.

# Spotlight on Safety Woodlot Safety Program

By Terry Chow

Industry's Woodlot Safety Program was launched a little over a year ago in August 2012 and since then more than 300 electronic or paper binder copies of the program have been distributed to woodlot owners and 100's of follow-up calls, emails and site visits logged by BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) safety advisors.

Later this year, the BCFSC will be coordinating feedback from industry and compiling changes to the Woodlot Safety Program materials, seeking to update and include any additional information woodlot owners and operators would find most useful. Elements that have already been identified for consideration include communicating safety information effectively to new/young workers, training new supervisors in safety responsibilities, site specific Emergency Response Plans, site assessments – steep slopes, road grade assessments, and danger trees, and contractor management.

All Woodlot owners, contractors, employees or others involved in woodlots are encouraged to forward any additional feedback to the BCFSC (details below) to help further refine and inform future editions of the materials. The industry objective is clear: to reduce or eliminate serious injuries and fatalities in forestry. The Woodlot Safety program aims to support achieving that objective on every woodlot in BC.

Forestry operations increasingly appreciate that proper safety management is not just the right thing to do and good for business, but that

it also helps ensure they are legally protected if anything should go wrong. Woodlot operators frequently ask about falling, due diligence of contractors, Prime Contractor assignment, and related obligations and responsibilities.

In future Almanac safety columns, we will look to cover these topics as well as both general and emerging topics of safety interest, including precautions when working alone; and implementing and managing an integrated safety system.

The most important thing we wanted to share in BCFSC's first Almanac column is that the BCFSC and its team of safety advisors are here to help you – from safety training and safety document templates through to unique, site-specific considerations and recommendations. Perhaps best, the BCFSC's industry best practice advocacy, support and advice is free.

Please email questions, comments or requests for safety guidance and advice to the BCFSC at safetyadvisors@ bcforestsafe.org or call toll-free: 1-877-741-1060.

Terry Chow is a safety advisor with the BCFSC and a Registered Professional Forester and Professional Agrologist with about 28 years of experience in operational forestry in industry and government, which includes development planning, site plans, silviculture and supervising operations. Terry is currently a Safety Advisor with the BC Forest Safety Council, spending most of his time visiting forest companies to improve their forest safety management systems.

2014 Forest Capital of BC: Make 2014 the year to celebrate forestry in your community. For more information: www.abcfp.ca ◆

# Woodlot Model works in Forest Dependent Communities

by Ed Hughes

The FBCWA AGM hosted by the NIWA at Painters Lodge and April Point this September demonstrated the importance of the Woodlot model for forest dependant communities. The 4-day



Ed Hughes, Coastal Timber Pricing Coordinator

event exposed the coastal forest life, showcasing on Quadra Island, some of the challenges and opportunities for Woodlot Licensees. The financial and in kind efforts contributed by provincial Woodlot licensees and their families is significant, seen first hand by the Quadra Island woodlot tours. Manageable stumpage rates and stable/improving log prices have helped to support the woodlot sector provide community benefits.

The coastal region has increasing options for our log sales. The interest in our slow but steady supply of logs by the ten log buyers (all participating as sponsors at the AGM) who attended our conference is very positive.

Market opportunities are improving, TAB stumpage rates are holding steady and the woodlot community is growing, all supporting the potential

for a brighter future.

## TAB rates estimated for 2014/2015 to be less than \$1/m3 for the coast.

The TAB rates have been estimated for 2014/2015 (Table A) based on stumpage data provided, by Timber Pricing Branch, to August 31, 2013. The final TAB rates for 2014/15 will

be set based on data to December 31, 2013, which will change the amounts in Table A slightly. Based on the predictions provided to me by Timber Pricing Branch the impact of the last quarter of 2013 stumpage data will not change the rates significantly.

## Log price are competitive on the Coast:

The coastal log market has become more competitive for many reasons. An increasing number of log buyers, some investments in mills, the number of small backyard sawmills and the access (inexpensive water transportation options) to local and world markets (log exports).

Over the past few years the attention towards WL volumes by log buyers has increased to the point where we usually have options for log sales to multiple buyers. Often the sorting of logs for different buyers in the woods will provide more profit (cost of sorting and trucking are lower than the increased price). In the past sorting for different markets were not as profitable in the woods and most logs were sorted at log dumps, primarily due to our smaller volumes.

Some of the log sales advice highlighted during Terry Basso AGM presentation.

- -There are more opportunities for increasing the term of log price commitments, from usually only a single month a few years ago to now 2-3 months.
- -The options for more preferred lengths increases the volumes of higher value sorts. The more higher value sorts and the higher Average Market Value in the end.
- -Interesting to note that still the "bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" is often the final decision making criteria.

The interest by the log buyers who attended the event demonstrates the importance of WL to the buyers (i.e. a steady stream of logs vs. feast or famine). It is also interesting to note speaker Bill Markvoort's (RPF who is a shareholder in Probyn Group) comment to the crowd that Woodlot Licensees are the envy of all RPF's and Log Buyers who would all love to have one.

## Table A: TAB stumpage rate predicted for 2014/15

Species	Northern Coast Rate (\$/m3)	South Coast Rate (\$/m3)
BA	.25	.44
CE	.25	.74
CY	.25	.59
FI	.25	.44
HE	.33	.46
SP	.46	.25
Other	.32	.46

## Coast MPS and Timber Pricing Advisory Committees:

There has only been one Coastal MPS meetings and no Coastal Timber Pricing Advisory meetings since the

con't on page 21 ....

## Lumber demands vs mill buying markets

by Blain Arnett

Do recent lumber prices in June of \$280 per 1000 board feet and the October price of \$350/Mbf make you a believer in the "super cycle" of high demand and prices for lumber? When lumber spiked up to \$450 in April 2013 there were wild

reports of exceptionally high prices on the horizon. Lumber is forecasted to rise at a steady rate between now and the end of 2014, and some notable analysts are suggesting \$450 a thousand by the end of 2014.

According to a TD Bank Economics report, demand for lumber will increase due to US housing starts steadily gaining traction from the current 1,000,000 per year to 1.3 million units by the end of 2014. This pace of homebuilding activity is still below demographic fundamentals, suggesting the US housing market will support increased demand for lumber going forward. Demand in China is expected to increase in late 2013 and early 2014. If our Canadian dollar



Blain Arnett, Interior Timber Pricing Coordinator

can stay in 90-95 US cent range it will help our lumber producers even more.

We noted short term downward price changes in lumber this past summer, which slowed buying prices at the mills and stalled overall prices that were offered. Local mill buying

markets can change very quickly, there seems to be enough supply in the short term. A woodlot owner has to be aware of the local conditions in area log supply and the longer term lumber demand trend in order to decide when to sell logs. It can only be hoped that there are enough mills in the market place to offer some log buying competition. From what many woodlot licensees are reporting there is unfortunately less and less mill competition in each region as larger companies gain more regional control and continue to buy out smaller mills.

Our woodlot stumpage rates are likely to stay in a up trend due to the overall higher timber sale stumpage rate bids and lumber markets over the past 12 months. As higher priced permits and sales are logged, the stumpage numbers will effect the averages that determine our rates.

New Table 6-2 rates will be known in early November 2013, but are not available at the time of this report. Please check the Woodlot Federation website for the new table. The table is adjusted twice per year, in November and in May. The November table will be used to determine new cutting permits approved after November 1, 2013. The stumpage rates in the November table will be based on average billed stumpage rates from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013. Interior Table 6-2 rates are 15% of the average billed stumpage rates.

Existing cutting permits approved before the end of October 2013 have the stumpage rates noted in the table at the end of this report.

If you have any questions, comments or good log prices let me know, I can be reached at 250-964-4105 or email at greggcreek@shaw.ca. ◆

#### Woodlot Stumpage Table 6-2 Rates (May 1st, 2013)

						• •			
Forest Zone	Bl	Cw	Fd	Hw	Lw	Pl	Sw	Ру	Other
N. Central	1.34	other	1.97	other	other	1.04	1.66	other	1.48
North East	0.39	other	other	other	other	0.50	0.66	other	0.60
North West	0.67	0.55	other	0.56	other	1.05	0.62	other	0.74
South East	1.27	2.12	1.74	1.49	1.71	1.37	1.32	1.56	1.49
South West	1.48	other	1.68	1.48	other	1.69	1.45	other	1.60

#### The Forest Zones in Table 6-2 are made up of the following Forest Districts:

North Central: FSJames, Mackenzie, Nadina, Prince George, Quesnel and Vanderhoof.

North East: Ft. Nelson and Peace.

North West: Kalum and Skeena Stikine.

South East: Arrow, Columbia, Headwaters, Kamloops, Kootenay Lake, Okanagan Shuswap and Rocky Mountain.

South West: 100 Mile House, Cascades, Central Cariboo, and Chilcotin.

## Galloway in woodland tenancy 'first' for Scotland

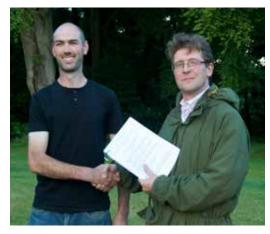
Mark Rowe has become the first holder of a woodlot licence issued under the auspices of the Scottish Woodlot Association, on the Corsewall Estate near Stranraer, Wigtownshire. Mark, 32, runs a forestry consultancy and mobile sawmill business and has broad experience in rural land management.

The woodlot licence covers 37ha of mixed woodland on the estate and initially will be an 18 month pilot to establish the concept, though all parties are committed to a longer term agreement following this first phase.

Under the terms of the licence Mark will be responsible for managing the woodlot according to a management plan agreed with the landowner, Angus Carrick-Buchanan. This will include felling and extracting timber, which he will then be allowed to process & sell himself, as firewood and sawn timber. In return Mark will pay an annual rental for the woodlot.

The concept of woodlot licences has been inspired by the situation in British Columbia (BC) where the Provincial Government has been running a highly successful woodlot licence programme on Crown (government) land for over 30 years. There, they are seen as an important part of a diverse forestry sector, delivering particular local and community benefits, and as such are being actively promoted and expanded by the Government of BC.

The Scottish Woodlot Association (SWA) has been established to take forward the concept in Scotland, where recent research has revealed the ownership and management of forestry to be highly concentrated.



Signing the first woodlot licence in Scotland at Corsewall Estate (Mark Rowe, Woodlot licence holder (left), and Angus Carrick-Buchanan, Corsewall Estate (right))

This results in both a lack of diversity in the sector, and also a lack of opportunity for individuals to get involved in managing woodland for themselves. The SWA hope in time that woodlot licence tenure will become an important 'family forestry' model in a more diverse Scottish forestry.

#### **Quotes:**

Mark Rowe, woodlot licence holder, Corsewall Woodlot

"It is very difficult to obtain a woodland to manage unless you have the resources available to purchase the land. When I heard about the woodlot licence approach I felt it was perfect for me and had to get involved. My aim for the woodlot is primarily to establish a firewood business for the local area but I will add value to timber wherever possible. I would like to thank Angus, and the Scottish Woodlot Association, for this opportunity."

Andy Brown, Secretary, Scottish Woodlot Association

"This is a historic day for family forestry in Scotland, and we hope in years to come there will be many more woodlot licences established, supporting a flourishing woodland culture. However every journey has to start with a first step, and all credit to Angus Carrick-Buchanan as landowner for having the vision to support this new tenure arrangement."

Angus Carrick-Buchanan, Corsewall Estate

"There are tens of thousands of acres of unmanaged woodland across Scotland's farms, estates and local authorities. This pilot project with the Scottish Woodlot Association (SWA) sets out to prove that the woodlot licence holder, the woodland owner, the environment and the local economy can all win. We are not reinventing the wheel. It has been tried and tested in British Columbia for decades. The rise in timber prices, demand for firewood and an increasing awareness of the economic value of previously abandoned woodland on farms and estates will ensure that the SWA has a great future."

Brian McNaughton, General Manager, Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations

"The Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations' (FBCWA) congratulates the Scottish Woodlot Association on establishing Scotland's first Woodlot Licence. This is a notable accomplishment and hopefully it's the first of many woodlot licences in Scotland. The FBCWA is proud to have been able to offer advice and encouragement. In a small way, we feel as if your success is our success. Congratulations!"

#### **Notes:**

1. The Scottish Woodlot Association Limited is an Industrial & Provident Society: a Co-operative. It is a

con't next page ....

### from page 1

respect from stakeholders (particularly First Nations); and, build a sustainable business. This required a great deal of diplomacy, transparency, and a willingness to experiment with alternative silviculture methods in order to satisfy public expectations. His mantra: "Talk first. Log second."

Judi Cunningham, Executive Director of the Business Families Centre at UBC's Sauder School of Business, delivered a thought-provoking lecture entitled "Managing Family Woodlots". She surprised the room by revealing that family enterprises comprise 80% of all businesses worldwide, and shared the hard reality that 40% of all business leaders over the age of 60 have no exit strategy. With the average age of forestry workers in BC pushing 60, and many woodlotters looking at the future of their licence, this statistic was cause for reflection in the room.

She illustrated the ways in which a family business is an inherent paradox: a family unit naturally seeking privacy but having to operate in the public sphere; rooted in traditional values but having to adapt to constant change; being influenced by emotions but needing to maintain objectivity in decisionmaking; balancing the acceptance that defines a family unit but needing to be competitive, as well. She identified one of the greatest strengths of familyrun businesses, which resonated with woodlotters: the notion of "patient capital". For an industry - and a specific sector - in which virtually "everything is for later", the notion of investing time and money for returns that will be realized decades into the future was not foreign to attendees.

The final session, "Log Markets: Current opportunities and planning for future cycles" examined past trends and future possibilities for woodlotters to maximize returns on their harvest. Bill Markvoort and Terry Basso of Probyn Logging Group gave an indepth explanation of how to work the multi-year market cycle by species and by season, ultimately encouraging woodlotters to follow the old adage of "A Bird in the Hand". Among other things, they advocated the strategy of sacrificing multi-year AAC by logging in a year when the prices are at their highest, then focusing on reforesting and having the AAC adjusted. They urged caution for those waiting on a surge in the market, arguing that volatility is inevitable and securing a fair price is wiser than gambling on market conditions that may or may not arise.

With the day's sessions wrapped up, folks jumped aboard the water taxi for a quick ride across Discovery Bay to April Point Resort for the Minister's Banquet, where a delicious buffet meal was served, and guests were drawn into an entertaining murder mystery (the NIWA Organizing Committee really knocked themselves out with this hilarious adventure).

Minister Steve Thomson was on hand to award three woodlotters for their excellent practices. John and Dave Gregson (Nanaimo) received a \$2500 con't on page 9 ....

## ■ from page 6

grass- roots, non-profit distributing, forestry co-operative, whose members are working to implement woodlot licences and encourage small-scale forestry. It was founded in 2012 by a group of forestry professionals to bring woodlot licences to Scotland, giving rural people a stake in their local forests. Secretary: Andrew Brown, tel. 07742 443 107, info@scottishwoodlotassociation.co.uk,

http://scottishwoodlotassociation.co.uk/

2. The Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations was founded in 1988. It represents woodlot associations, individual woodlot licensees, and small private woodland owners throughout BC. http://www.woodlot.bc.ca ◆

#### 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. ◆

The FBCWA has a number of items that would make great gifts for Friends, Family, Contractors and others. Items in stock include screen-printed logo on T-shirts and coffee mugs, embroidered FBCWA logo on golf shirts, oilskin ball caps and knitted toques. Order through the WPDC coordinator, Cathy McClary. ◆

## Associations On Deck

## **Cariboo Woodlot Association**

The Cariboo Woodlot Association (CWA) represents Woodlot Licensees from the dry Chilcotin Plateau to the interior rainforest of the Cariboo Mountains. The commercial forest types are predominantly Douglas Fir but include spruce and some pine regen. Due to the fir component of the forests most of the woodlot logging includes selective management regimes. Also, with some notable exceptions, Cariboo woodlots were spared the total devastation caused by the Mountain Pine Beetle in other areas. A satellite overview of the Cariboo shows Woodlot Licenses clearly as "postage stamps" of green on a much altered landscape. Licensees in the Cariboo are as varied as the topography, including Education Societies, ranchers, foresters, First Nations, and individuals with an interest in forestry. It is also home of the first 2 woodlot licences and forestland in the Province to be managed under a sustainable 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification body and become FSC certified.

Recently the CWA recognized Rod Krimmer, with a carved wooden plaque, for his 18 years of service as the secretary of the association.

Rod attended every meeting of the CWA since then and became the long standing secretary in charge of communications with the membership. He organized and chaired most of the meetings and always wore his CWA workshirt. For a few years he became the CWA representative at the FBCWA where he proposed thoughtful resolutions and always voted for what he thought was in the long-term best interests of the woodlot program. The UBC Forestry Field School made scheduled stops at his sawmill every Sept for discussions on woodlot forestry. He was asked to give his perspective on certification at the Federation's

Chilliwack AGM and attended meetings with the Forest Minister when called upon.

All the while he contributed to the Woodland Almanac with letters to the editor on pertinent topics. For two years he wrote an opinion column and always responded to requests for input. Rod considers Woodlot Licenses to be a critical piece in BCs forest management mosaic and promotes the program and the small scale outlook at every opportunity. He has represented the woodlot sector on industrial certification boards, Forest Professional Committees and the FSC Standards Committee. Rod is proud to be a woodlot licensee and mindful of the responsibilities in managing a public resource.

"As a woodlot licencee, he is exemplary because he manages his woodlot the way it was intended," says Brian McNaughton, FBCWA General Manager, of Rod Krimmer "Not only does he manage the forest, sell logs and reforest, but he manufactures from the trees he harvests. He makes log homes and he has a sawmill."

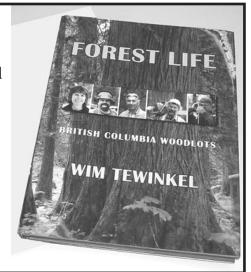
The CWA was recently approached by the Williams Lake Indian Band (T'exelc First Nation) to see if there was interest in developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities. The CWA president, Ian Lanki, responded positively and members from each group have met for discussions. A draft agreement has been written and further discussions will occur soon. This is seen as a very positive development and may be used as a template for other agreements if interest grows. •

### "Forest Life" makes a great gift

Are you looking for a great gift idea? Look no further! Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots by Wim Tewinkel showcases and celebrates BC's woodlots, woodlot licensees, and their families.

Through beautiful photos and a few words, this book captures the seasonal beauty of coastal and interior woodlots and portrays the landscapes and diversity of our forests as well as the stewardship of those who manage them.

You can order it from www.woodlot.bc.ca for only \$39.95, or woodlot licensees can buy it from their woodlot associations for only \$20.00 ◆





After hosting the successful AGM in Campbell River, host committee member Jerry Benner set up a display promoting woodlots during National Forestry Week.

## from page 1

regional award for their commitment to sound forestry and environmental practices and exceptional community stewardship. John and Joyce Helweg (Fort St. James) also received a \$2500 regional award for exemplary forest stewardship and contributions to woodlot-related education and training in the north. Finally, Rod Krimmer (Hagensborg/Bella Coola) was awarded the \$2500 Minister's Provincial Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management, as well as the \$2500 regional award. Krimmer was lauded for demonstrating a commitment to sound forestry practices and exceptional community stewardship.

Minister Thomson took time to acknowledge the great strides taken to strengthen the woodlot program, citing the collective nature of decision-making that has framed the collaboration between the government and woodlot advocates. He reiterated his commitment to streamline regulations and processes, "getting [the government] out of the way" so woodlotters could run their operations efficiently without cumbersome rules that weigh down small-scale forestry. He echoed the words of Probyn representatives, who look to Asian markets with cautious optimism, potentially easing the reliance on the mercurial US market.

Attendees got a small glimpse at the public scrutiny impacting forestry operations on the Island during the Friday sessions. Saturday's field tours gave a full (at times shocking) picture of the extreme measures woodlotters have to take in order to maintain a harmonious relationship with community stakeholders. Alex Hartford works hand-in-hand with representatives of the Trail Society and the Mountain Biking Club to allow

maximum access for recreational pursuits without jeopardizing safety during harvest. Nigel Ross and Jerry Benner consult regularly with the Discovery Islands Marine Tourism Group, at times literally picking trees to keep and trees to fall to minimize unsightly views from the channel. Lloyd Davies, MFLNRO Visual Resource Management Specialist, oversees VQO regulations that are arguably the toughest in the province. As one woodlotter observed after learning about the extreme interface conditions, "I'm never going to complain about how remote my woodlot licence is again. Ever."

The North Island organizers certainly raised the bar with their efforts. The logistics were impressive: the locations, transport and meals were exceptional, the proceedings efficient and productive. Next year's hosts will have a tough act to follow! ◆

# Province Honours Woodlot Innovation and Excellence

Economy, Environment, Families

VICTORIA - A group of British Columbians, who run smaller, community-based forestry operations, have been recognized by Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson at the 2013 Federation of B.C. Woodlot Association Annual Conference.

The award recipients Krimmer in recare John Gregson and Dave Gregson of Nanaimo, John and Joyce Helweg of Fort St. James, and Rodney Krimmer of Hagensborg near Bella Coola.

The Gregsons received a \$2,500 regional award for their commitment to sound forestry and environmental practices and exceptional community stewardship.

The Helwegs received a \$2,500 regional award for exemplary forest stewardship and contributions to woodlot-related education and training in the north region.

Krimmer was awarded the \$2,500



Federation delegates, Brian McNaughton, Rod Krimmer, and Ian Lanki congratulate Rod Krimmer in recognition of receiving the Minister's Award and long time service award from the Cariboo Woodlot Association.

Minister's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management, along with a separate \$2,500 regional award. Krimmer, who was recognized for demonstrating a commitment to sound forestry practices and exceptional community stewardship, has managed his woodlot since 1985 and has been member of the Cariboo Woodlot Association since its creation in 1996.

The awards are funded by the Province and administered by Province and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. Each year, the awards recognize a woodlot licensee representing each of the Coast, South and North regions, along with an overall top performer.

#### **Quotes:**

Minister of Forests,
Lands and Natural
Resource Operations
Steve Thomson "B.C.'s woodlot
licence program is a
unique way to give
British Columbians
the opportunity to
manage small-scale
forestry operations
on Crown land. The
award recipients have
all demonstrated

leadership in the field and, by their good example, are encouraging all of us to find innovative and effective ways to manage B.C.'s number-one natural resource - its forests."

General Manager Federation of BC Woodlot Associations Brian McNaughton -

"The Federation of BC Woodlot
Associations is pleased to be working
with the provincial government on
this important recognition program.
It's great that we are able to celebrate
the work of our members, and, in
particular, to highlight those members
that are taking the lead by practicing



Mark Clark presenting the Minister's Award for the North to John and Joyce Helweg

exemplary forest and natural resources management in a socially, economically and environmentally responsible manner."

MLA for Cariboo North Coralee Oakes -

"Rod Krimmer's leadership and hard work is setting an example for other woodlot operators across the province, while making a real impact on the local economy and environment." MLA for Nechako Lakes John Rustad -

"John and Joyce's commitment to Fort St. James and forestry training is outstanding."

Parksville-Qualicum
MLA
Michelle Stilwell "John and David have
maintained a handson approach and have
learned how to get the
most from their woodlot.
Their leadership and
hard work is setting
an example for other
woodlot operators across
the province, while
making a real impact on
the local economy and

#### **Ouick Facts:**

Woodlot licences are small, area-based tenures that often combine private land with up to 800 hectares of Crown land on the Coast and 1,200 hectares in the Interior, and are managed by individuals, groups or First Nations.

environment."

British Columbia has over 860 active woodlots. Each woodlot generates

jobs in planning, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, reforestation, silviculture and small-scale timber processing.

#### **Learn More:**

B.C. Woodlot Licence program: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/woodlots/index.htm

Federation of B.C. Woodlot
Associations: http://www.woodlot.
bc.ca/ ◆



Licensees are invited to apply for the Minister's Awards of Excellence for Woodlot Management

associated with site productivity gains, improved utilization and administrative streamlining.

A woodlot licensee may be nominated by a woodlot association, another licensee, an individual, Ministry staff or the Federation. Annually one woodlot licensee from the Coast, Southern and Northern Interior Regions will be recognized and awarded \$2500.00 .The application deadline is December 31. For more information: www. woodlot.bc.ca (Min Award). ◆

## **Links of Interest**

- 1 & 3 Month Coast & Interior Log Market Reports: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca.hva/logreports.htm
- BC Forest Exports by market and product (Ref #4725): http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/analysis-forest-exports.htm
- Woodlot Safety Program: Safety info & Tools Resources Packages: http://www.bcforestsafe.org/safety\_info/resource\_packages.html
- The Working Forest newspaper offers an e-newsletter and a newspaper on small-scale forestry across Canada: www.workingforest.com ◆

Sept 27, 2013

The Honourable Steve Thomson Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations,

Dear Sir;

I am deeply humbled and grateful for the recognition granted by your Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management. My Woodlot License has been a key part of my forestry career and identity since it was issued in 1985. It has allowed me to raise my family in a rural setting and pass on the values of environmental stewardship to my children. I am sure I do not have to list the many benefits of the Woodlot License Program to you.

During the course of the License I have worked under many regulatory regimes with various advantages and disadvantages. My biggest concern for the future of the program is that we are being squeezed into an industrial model range of management choices. This stifles the opportunity for innovation and excellence for which this award is

of operation which dictates a very narrow offered. I have often struggled to achieve

a positive result when the regulatory framework dictated otherwise. I am happy to hear of your commitment to work closely with the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations in an effort to encourage the innovation you desire.

The Woodlot License Program has allowed over 800 different forest managers a chance to try out their ideas in times of tumultuous change and economic challenges. Many of these ideas may well prove to be the solutions of the future. Diversity in approach is the key ingredient for achieving the resilience that the forest industry desperately needs.

Thank you for encouraging me and all other Woodlot Licensees to achieve our best result for the good of our families, the forests and the province. I trust you will find many more deserving recipients of your award.

Sincerely,

Rod Krimmer W0550 ♦



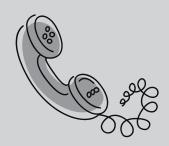
The award presented to Rod Krimmer from the Cariboo Woodlot Association was a plague to recognize his contributions to our association since he has now decided to retire. The plaque was made of wood and was locally made and inscribed as follows:

Presented to Rod Krimmer. On behalf of the Cariboo Woodlot Association Executive, Directors and Membership.

In grateful appreciation of over 18 years of leadership, service and commitment to furthering the woodlot program in the Cariboo.

- 2013 -

Please help us out! If you are transferring or selling your woodlot make sure the new licensees get their own copy of the Almanac by asking them to send their contact information to the WPDC Coordinator. Also if you wish to remain on the Almanac's mailing list let Cathy know. ♦

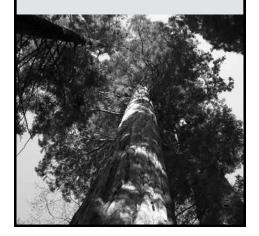


Telephone Support for using the Woodlot for Windows AAC program is available to all woodlot licensees or their representatives.

Contact Mike Bandstra ph: 250-847-4822 fax: 888-273-0209 email: mbandstra@forsite.ca ♦

#### Please note:

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



### **Contractor's Corner**

The FBCWA contracts a number of qualified people to work on projects that benefit all woodlot licensees. Projects are consistent with the activities approved in the annual work plan and are funded by the WPDC levy. In each issue of the Almanac this space will be dedicated to introducing the contractors, or FBCWA committee heads and executive members who oversee the contracts. Introducing...

#### **Heidi Denney - Citizen Cane Enterprises**

Heidi works out of her home based workshop on Vancouver Island. Her first love is furniture and design in which she developed a home based business in 1989 so she could be home with her two daughters. Having an accounting background she started a second business in 2003



with the aim to help the small business person with all the paperwork and government requirements involved. Now with her girls following their careers and living in Kelowna, Heidi and her husband Stewart spend their spare time working on renovation projects, watching hockey in the winter and camping with friends in the summer.

### **Special Project Funding Available**

The annual work plan has an allotment of \$25,000 for Special Projects that will benefit woodlot licensees. If you have an idea for a project, submit a proposal to the Woodlot Product Development Council. Once submitted, proposals will trigger a discussion between the Council, Federation and proponent(s). The project proposal form can be found at: http://www.woodlot.bc.ca/wpdc.html#projects ◆

## Letter to the Editor

#### "Woodlot Pricing Bubble?"

Four decades ago, the modern Woodlot program came into being with 867 woodlots (at latest count) having been issued and a couple more in the award and/or advertising stage.

The successful applicants, generally speaking and until the last couple years, were required in the the bid process to be the closest to the woodlot, have the most experience in forest management, and offer the most private land to be administered as the crown portion would.

Recently, the award criteria has been modified, exchanging experience with how many \$\$\$ one wished to pay up front as a form of bonus bid, payable to the crown.

By manipulating the amount of \$\$\$, one may override the other two award criteria and may become the successful candidate. However, if they left too many \$\$\$ on the table, they may drop out of the bid process.

The last 10 or so years have been lean for woodlotters, what with 'beetle economics', major downturns in the world economies from overspending by Govt's and market manipulations by the likes of large banks, corporations, and brokerage firms, as was shown all too well in 2008.

In addition, the consolidation of forest companies in BC resulted in lower log prices, especially in the interior. Now we hear of a super-cycle on the horizon with some improvement in log prices and buzz of much higher log prices in the near future.

Now, look at the bonus bid pricing of the newer woodlots! Wow, the latest few are being priced at 600-875,000 for 3-3300 m<sub>3</sub> AAC's - that is 200 more or less per m<sub>3</sub>!

Are we entering a Woodlot Pricing Bubble using the terminology of other so-called 'bubbles' (tulip/real estate/tech/etc)?

And what about future downturns - we all know the forest economy has seen some severe variations over time.

And how to get the younger generation involved - it will not happen if they have to bid against the 'high-rollers'.

Time will tell, as many of the older generation can attest.

George Dore ♦

### Woodlot AGM 2013

## **Business Resolutions**

## **Business Resolution #1** WHEREAS

All woodlot licensees already pay Annual Rental fees based on their AACs of which \$0.25 per m3 is paid to the Woodlot **Product Development Council** to carry out work on behalf of all woodlot licensees. and whereas local woodlot associations have limited means of raising funds for operational expenses at the local level apart from additional membership fees, and whereas most local woodlot associations have a majority of licensees who do not attend local meetings or pay local membership dues which are needed to conduct local business matters and whereas the current FBCWA Strategic Plan states (point 7) that one of the goals is to provide financial and other support to local associations for association building and extension to licensees.

#### BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EXECUTIVE GIVES CONSIDERATION TO:

Creating some means whereby a small sum of money is provided to support the work of local woodlot associations (i.e. a small portion of the annual levy based on the cumulative AAC of all woodlot licences in each association's area be directed to association building and support).

MOVED BY: Dirk Pereboom SECONDED BY: Lisa Marak Resolution Carried 23-6

## **Business Resolution #2** WHEREAS

The Ministry of Finance has begun charging a 10% tax

(10% logging tax provision) on the private sale of a woodlot based upon the sale price each time it might be sold.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EXECUTIVE GIVES CONSIDERATION TO: Requesting BC Government to remove the 10 & logging tax against the sale of the

licence.

Note: this is a double whammy as the seller paid 10% BC logging "Tax" on the woodlot sale price and worse; the buyer of the woodlot will pay 10% BC Logging Tax.

MOVED BY: Jeff Beale SECONDED BY: Jim Collins Resolution Carried 34-1

## **Business Resolution #3** WHEREAS

The Federal Government is proposing regulations around an identified species at risk (Wilkanson's Sapsucker) in the Southern Okanagan, Merritt, Boundary and East Kootenay areas and this may include having to apply for a permit in advance of an activity which may include plans to clear, landscape, renovate, build, ranch, log or farm your property or Woodlot or avoid the activity all together.

# BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EXECUTIVE GIVES CONSIDERATION TO:

Assigning a high priority to establishing a dialogue with the Ministry to ensure the imposition of regulations on Woodlots are absolutely minimized. This is a time sensitive issue and must be addressed ASAP.

MOVED BY: George Delisle SECONDED BY: Don Whyte Resolution Carried 29-1

## **Business Resolution #4** WHEREAS

The log processing facilities in the province continue to amalgamate in monopolies. Woodlots increasingly face a log market that demands fibre rather than quality logs. There is an earnest desire from the woodlot community to provide opportunities for young people.

#### BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EXECUTIVE GIVES CONSIDERATION TO:

Offering to support in the form of small business loans to suitable individuals to establish small processing facilities to expand log selling opportunities for woodlots.

MOVED BY: George C.
Benwell
SECONDED BY: Terry
Hammond
Resolution Defeated 10-22

## **Business Resolution #5** WHEREAS

There has been a historical trend of underreporting into RESULTS. This underreporting has the potential to discredit our program if this information was to become public. The vast majority of licensees practice excellent silviculture but this is not reflected in RESULTS. It makes NO SENSE to train 870+ people in RESULTS when I could do the job.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EXECUTIVE GIVES

#### CONSIDERATION TO:

Funding a position (or other funding formula) to provide FREE RESULTS submissions for all Woodlot Licensees who choose to use the service. (with respect to consultants that do this work now).

MOVED BY: Dave McBride SECONDED BY: Shawn Flynn Resolution Carried 25-3

## **Business Resolution #6** WHEREAS

Regulation currently restricts the expansion of existing woodlots to 10% of their original area.

The Ministry currently has no plans to consider expansion of older woodlots.

Many older well managed have less than half the area of new woodlots currently being issued.

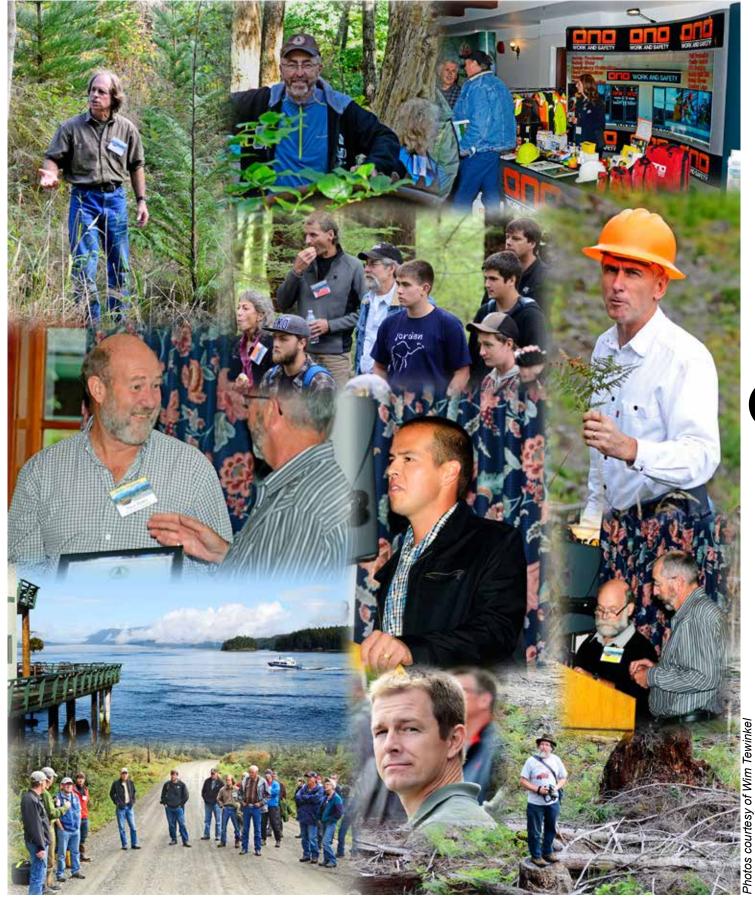
Many older woodlots have the potential to add logical areas which could significantly improve forest management and the viability of older woodlots.

#### BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EXECUTIVE GIVES CONSIDERATION TO:

Encourage the government and work with Ministry staff to amend the regulation and establish a priority to expand older woodlots where there is a sound forest management rationale.

MOVED BY: Russ Clinton
SECONDED BY: George
Delisle
Resolution Carried
Unanimous ◆





## Thank you to all our sponsors of the AGM







## Arbutus Grove Nursery









## LONG HOH ENTERPRISES













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#### Woodlot AGM 2013

## Silent Auction

The silent auction at the 2013 AGM in Campbell River/Quadra Island was a success. With over 40 items donated the scholarship fund increased by \$3000.

The success of the auction is attributed to many: those who donated so many great items; all members of the host committee (Nigel Ross, Mike Larock, Ed Hughes, Jim Simpson, Jerry Benner, Wolfram Wollenheit and Sibylle Walkenmeyer); the bidders who in the spirit of the event challenged each other and of course to the Oak Bay Marine Groups (OBMG) venue of Painter's Lodge and April Point.



Immediately following the AGM, Shawn Flynn went on a cruise with his wife Eve to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Looks like he is trying to find a suitable location to host next year's AGM!

#### Woodlot AGM 2013

# Welcome New Directors

Council welcomes Alison Patch as the new Director. Denise English was re-elected as President, Tina Hesketh was re-elected as Treasurer and Jerry Benner will take over the role of Vice President from Shawn Flynn.

The FBCWA also held elections at their Directors' meeting. Existing members agreed to let their names stand resulting in no change to the Executive.

The Federation also welcomes Gernot Zemanek as a new Director. ◆

The challenge of moving the entire auction from one side of Discovery Passage to the other was a new twist for a silent auction and was assisted by the OBMG crew on the boats as well as Sehleeah Schevers, the AGM coordinator who was there wherever and whenever needed.

Cathy McClary helped throughout and at the end with assistance from Nancy Pezel collected the cash.

Thanks to all,

Fred Newhouse, AGM Silent Auction Coordinator ◆



A Huge thank you to AGM host committee for making this AGM a success! Ed Hughes, Jim Simpson, Coleen Marlow, Nigel Ross, Wolfram Wollenheit, Sibylle Walkemeyer, Sehleeah Schevers, Jerry Benner, Mike Larock.

# Field Tour: Commercial thinning field stop on Quadra Island

by Fred Newhouse, W1621

The AGM this year was a lot of fun. The boats back and forth, the hospitality of NIWA, the dolphins and the background mistiness of it all. If I had to pick one thing that stood out for me it was the 1975 commercial thinning field trial.

Rick Monchak was the host and presented a couple of graphs. The trial was classic, reduce the stocking to a few valuable species of the same species. This was, and to some extent still is, the prevailing wisdom of forestry in B.C.

Rick's first question to us (about 50 in the group) was which side would we prefer, the control or the commercially thinned. Most picked the thinned stand, a few, myself included, picked the control.



Rick Monchak in front of the Control



1975 Commercial Thinning Treatment

He then showed us this first table.

#### **Quadra 1975 Commercial thinning Trial**

	Commercial Thinning		Control			
	Fd	Hw	Total	Fd	Hw	Total
M3/ha	744	110	854	880	332	1211
Trees/ha	244	191	435	587	662	1219
M3/tree	3.04	.58	1.96	1.47	.53	0.99
Ave. Height	45.9	32.0	43.9	41.2	35.9	39.6
Ave. DBH	54	28.3	44.6	39.2	25.6	33
MAI			10.4			14.8

The Douglas fir in the control are three (3) cubic meters per tree and average over 54 cm dbh with the control half of that after 38 years. The results support all our current assumptions we use in managing our woodlots; grow the stand at target stocking with the preferred species to optimize size and value to the licensee and Crown.

Again Rick asked which stand we would prefer. Everyone stood their ground with around 85% choosing the commercial thin. My reasons were more intrinsic than anything else. Intrinsic values such as aesthetics, complexity, carbon and diversity are not included in the value equation. My reason for sticking to my guns was really just a gut feeling.

Then Rick flipped the sign around to show the value comparison of the stands. These were the hard economic realities, the money you take to the bank values.

con't next page ....

#### The first table shows the species and coastal grades in the thinned and control

	Commercial thinning		Control	
	Fd%	Hw%	FD%	Hw%
C,H,I	59	0	26	0
J/U gang	23	60	41	56
J/U C&S	15	40	27	37

#### Table showing valuation of the two stands

	Commercial thinning	Control
FLNRO ALP	80.37	72.69
Stumpage	37.89	32.36
FLNRO Value/ha	\$68,654	\$88,100
Domestic value/ha	\$65,814	\$82,239
Export value/ha	\$96,482	\$117,791

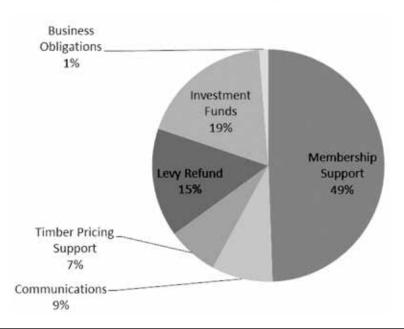
The first thing that went through my mind was WOW, I actually picked the more valuable stand. Even without a value attached to the intrinsics, the control was more valuable by about 20%. Rick admitted that early in his career he too would have picked the treatment but the presence of more diversity, snags and structure are now sought after attributes.

You can argue that it's just the hemlock market skewing things, or what about the commercial thinnings but just think of the next 38 years. The stands we initiate today will exist in the 2050 marketplace. Even today we see the value of carbon in California's cap and trade market (\$12.07/tonne) and the intrinsic value of complexity and diversity in the tropics evaluated by schemes such as REDD+.

Who knew! In 1975 the prevailing wisdom was "bigger is better". Personally I think the more choices people make the better. As the pilot who crewed us back and forth between April Landing and Painter's Lodge said, "I can't steer the boat if you're all on one side." Maybe the safe passage over the next 38 years is the one that's balanced by diverse intension and choices. ◆

## Where your \$0.25 annual levy goes

The Woodlot Product Development
Council has a responsibility to ensure
funding originating from the woodlot
levy is prudently managed and used
only for work and activities consistent
with the Purpose of the Council which
are to: Promote a positive image of the
woodlot industry and its products; educate
the general public and buyers about the
benefits of BC woodlots and small-scale
forest management and initiate and support
research programs for the development and
enhancement of the woodlot industry in the
province. The pie chart shows a breakdown
of where the levy is used. ◆



## **Woodlot for Windows 4 released**

Dear Licensees:

The new version of Woodlot for Windows, Woodlot 4, has been released. Woodlot 4 provides a key tool to address the AAC requirements for new or revised Management Plans.

The software, as well as a new users manual, is available from: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/woodlots/woodlot-for-windows.htm Woodlot 4 retains much of the general look and feel and reporting package of the old Woodlot for Windows, a choice made to minimize the disruption caused by the upgrade.

From a forest management viewpoint, the most important update is the use of the most current versions of BC yield prediction software tools (VDYP 7 and TIPSY 4.3) to predict stand volumes. This does not necessarily result in an across the board change in predicted yields, but when a Licencee prepares a Management Plan, the timber yield will be based on the most current information and models, not outdated versions.

Woodlot 4 has the ability to directly load VRI data sets, as downloaded from the BC data warehouse. Alternately, a user can modify the VRI data using a GIS system to reflect harvestable area constraints or other factors, and import the modified data set into Woodlot for Windows. Woodlot 4 can also import LOT files created by Version 3 as the input forest cover data source.

Notable enhancements in Woodlot 4 also include a useful map based interface, removal of the total number of polygons cap, the ability to apply yield constraints on a polygon by polygon basis, and the ability to import custom yield curves developed by the user.

Mike Bandstra at mbandstra@forsite.ca will continue to provide technical support to Woodlot Licencees using Woodlot for Windows.

The revision of Woodlot for Windows project was jointly funded and managed by the Resource Tenures

Branch of MFLNRO and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations.

Tom Bradley, RFT e-Business Contractor - Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
Box 125, Winlaw, B.C. V0G 2J0
250-226-7792 ◆







## MFLNRO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE BOARD

Forest Tenures Branch recently hired Geoffrey Klassen, as the new Timber Tenures Forester. Geoffrey started working on August 19, 2013 and will report to Peter Graff, Senior Timber Tenures Forester. Geoffrey will be involved in a number initiatives to administer and support B.C.'s small area-based forest tenures: Community Forest Agreements, Woodlot Licences, and First Nations Woodland Licences.

Geoffrey holds a BSc. degree in Natural Resource Management, Forestry from the University of Northern British Columbia and a diploma in Forest Resources Technology from Malaspina University College. Geoffrey started his forestry career as a summer student with MacMillan Bloedel. His early forestry days included primarily engineering layout, with a spattering of timber cruising and silviculture surveys for several forest companies on the Sunshine Coast and southern Vancouver Island. In February of 2006, Geoffrey was hired as an Auxiliary with the Ministry of Forests, in Nanaimo, for the Timber Reallocation program. From mid 2006 to 2012 Geoffrey worked as regional tenures forester involved in Timber Licences, First Nations direct award forest tenures, silviculture liabilities, and some First Nations consultation coordination. In early 2012 Geoffrey was on a temporary secondment as a Land Officer, helping reduce the provincial backlog of Land Act authorizations. He later accepted a post as Land Officer in a permanent capacity, where he currently resides.

When Geoffrey isn't working, he likes to cycle, putter with some woodworking and spend quality time with his 2 young boys (Alex and Benny) and his partner, Karen. Geoffrey tells us he is very excited to join Forest Tenures Branch, and just as thrilled to be moving back to his hometown. He will very much miss his fantastic friends and colleagues at FLNR Nanaimo – Coast Area Tenures and Crown Lands Authorizations, but looking forward to the exciting new opportunity in Victoria. •

### ■ from page 4

last Almanac article.

#### **New Log Markets Opportunities:**

There are more new market opportunities when log dumps and sorts are open to multiple buyers. One of the largest log sorting areas on Vancouver Island (and only 5 minutes from this years AGM meetings) is Menzie Bay, where massive volumes of logs are delivered, sorted and boomed to be towed, barged or shipped to local and world markets. To have access to water transportation on the coast is a huge bonus to our forest sector.

As Woodlots we only supply a small portion of the coastal log supply, but our volume is in demand. The attention that an AGM directed towards places like Campbell River and Quadra Island could help to encourage forest sector improvements.

#### New Appraisal Issues – Continuous communication

The Coastal Timber Pricing portfolio provides assistance to Woodlot Licensees upon request. If you have any concerns or issues I can be reached at 778-424-6129 or by email at ehughes2@shaw.ca. ◆

#### **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. •



## **Truth is Stranger than Fiction**

by Harold Macy

We got shut down in the bush for fire season and like several other Woodlot Licensees, I got my usual summer job as Fire Warden patrolling the local backroads. My encounters with people out there have given rise to the genesis of many stories, though. These guerrilla campers are definitely not the MEC Gore-tex, Tilley hat crowd. Lots of tat's, cellulite, beer bellies, motorcycles, funky old trailers and campers and an attitude not found at the lakes and beaches covered by Beautiful BC magazine. There are some garbage strewing morons who build fires beneath trees and burn stacks of stolen pallets, then there are those Homer and Ellie May's who rake up the nails and pick up the Lucky cans. Here is a page from my notebook.

July 13, 14, 2013

Pulled up to a gravel pit on Duncan Bay Main, where there were two men -- bare-chested, black shades, camo pants and Aussie military caps, waistbands of ammo. On the tailgate of their truck were a half-dozen nasty looking assault rifles and more boxes of shells---enough to start a small revolution. I asked them if they had a fire. "Nah, just plenty of **firepower!!!**", smirking as they patted their bandoliers. I smiled and retreated with a tingle up my back walking away.

Was driving along DBM halfway past Wolf Lake when I spied a pedestrian standing by the road, which is unusual but more odd, he had his thumb out actually hitchhiking. I pulled over to talk to him. Looked like a cross between Cap'n Jack Sparrow and Huckleberry Finn---scrawny, knobby knees poking through holes in grimy jeans, slouchy sombrero, gaunt crazy eyes. He said he "lived" up Rossiter Main for the summer and could I give him a lift. I thought it would be good to know just where he was, so I agreed, pushed over the Duffy dog and off we went. Had to stop at Wolf Lake North campsite where he shadowed me grinning all the time. Informed the campers he "..got the ranger's back covered..." as he squatted like a street beggar and rolled a smoke from a scant bag of crumbled 'baccy' scavenged from the many butts on the ground. Drove up to the other Wolf Lake site where there was an abandoned derelict pickup camper. He promptly claimed it as his own, invoking squatters' rights of some sort, I guess. Drove him up Rossiter off on a spur to where he had this nice little 14' travel trailer set up. . His site was at the edge of a large clearcut with ten year old regen poking through the endless billows of purple fireweed waving in the breeze, quite picturesque. He had a good safe fire pit, a neat stack of firewood, the ground well raked and picked

up, no garbage at all. He made me a cuppa tea, pulled out his guitar to play a song but got distracted telling me about his "neighbours" the bears.

"They sing each night as they come down to drink at the creek. They go 'gronk, gronk'", he told me. "I don't fear them a bit. Eight came by last night. I don't feed them."

Looking over the fireweed in the late afternoon sun and the warm outflow wind, I envied him sitting there alone and quiet listening to the crooning Ursus. As I turned to leave, he got a very earnest look on his young face. "D'ya think it is okay to shit in the creek? I only eat mostly grains and what I find in the bush, no bad stuff. Is it okay?" What do I say? What does he "find" in the bush?

"I shit on a log and then wash it away but the other day I forgot and when I came back the next morning there was a shrew chowing down on my business. So I watched him for a long time and named him Drew the Poo Shrew. He's my little buddy, now. We need each other."

Two weeks later, on patrol, I return to the spur road off Rossiter and find absolutely no trace of him or Drew.

Harold Macy Headquarters Creek Woodlot W1677 ◆

The Woodland Almanac is always looking for creative submissions for "Member Reflections" related to small-scale forestry. We'd like to hear from you on stories from the woodlot or see your photos from the block. "Member Reflections" can also be used to share obituaries on licensees who are no longer with us. If you'd like to submit an article or photo, contact Cathy McClary at cjmcclary401@gmail.com.

## **Woodlotter's Tricks of the Trade**

Submit your ideas on what makes woodlot life easier. Examples could include anything from a handy tool, how you have made something work, or 'How to' tips that you have discovered that you want to share with other woodlot licensees. Specific examples might be suggestions like how you keep that old 30 year chainsaw going, how you extend the life of a power saw chain, how you have adapted that 40 year old piece of equipment to keep on running, etc. Send your ideas to Cathy McClary at cjmcclary401@gmail.com or call her at 250-961-0271. The licensee whose idea gets published each issue will receive a FBCWA hat or Shirt.



## Thank you to our contributors for this issue

Blain Arnett Terry Chow George Dore Sara Grady Ed Hughes Rod Krimmer Harold Macy Fred Newhouse Wim Tewinkel

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