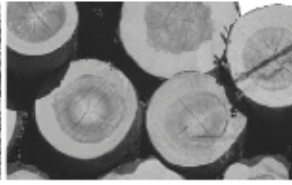




THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Spring 2013

Charles Bloom Secondary School

Real Life Skills Taught in Woodlot

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By Sara Grady

There are 867 active woodlot licenses in British Columbia, and they provide much more than timber. Many play host to students of all ages, from elementary school to university, exploring environmental sciences, with topics ranging from a very general introduction to the forest, to specifics such as silviculture and natural resource management.

With the average age of BC's forestry workers creeping into the 60s, and an expected boom in the sector that will see the creation of 15,000 new jobs in the next decade, it's vital that steps are taken to engage the next generation of forest stewards. At a woodlot in Lumby, students are given a completely unique, hands-on education in a 600 hectare 'classroom', and acquire skills they can use immediately, in forestry, heavy industry, or as a path to further education.



Students from Charles Bloom Secondary School in Lumby working in the Forestry & Trades course

Arguably one of the most picturesque forests in BC, Woodlot #1908 on Trinity Valley Road – just a brief drive out of town – is a working venture run by the staff and students of Charles Bloom Secondary School. Faculty at the high school has teamed up with a professional forester

and career logger to deliver an innovative and practical learning experience.

The "CBSS Forestry & Trades" program has been running since the 70s, using small cut licenses year-to-year until getting permanent roots in 2002 with the acquisition of the Crown woodlot #1908. Grade 11 and 12 students from five high schools in School District 22 vie for 16 spots in this coveted trades program, which runs from September to January every year.

Students spend three days a week in the woodlot, learning worksite safety procedures, chainsaw and heavy-duty equipment operation and maintenance, and

con't on page 10



www.woodlot.bc.ca

FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

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Spring 2013

by Brian McNaughton

The MFLNRO executive has endorsed a woodlot streamlining initiative. The project is being led by Kevin Kriese, Assistant Deputy Minister, Northern Interior. Ten (10) specific issues have been identified (see below). The list of issues was compiled based on input by MFLNRO district, regional and headquarters staff. It was then shared with the members of the Federation's Joint Working Group – Mark Clark, Cliff Manning, Tom Bradley, Coleen MacLean-Marlow and Brian McNaughton.

I want to stress that these are issues to be worked on. They are not a done deal ... YET and nothing described below should be considered final. The Federation will report out to woodlot licensees as progress is made.

Revise S.76 (Annual Report) of the WLPPR – The intent is to remove the requirement to submit duplicate information. It will also examine changing the requirement for WLs to report when harvesting on blocks or openings has been completed, replacing the current requirement which is to report annually whether a block is finished or not.

Clarify RESULTS reporting for partial harvesting - Seeks to remove confusion over the reporting requirements for partially harvested and/or intermediate cut blocks and openings.

RESULTS – cut off date for backlog data – RESULTS is missing some old data. The project will look at the options for dealing with old missing data in a reasonable and efficient way such as simply creating an inventory label for these openings.

Inventory standards for MPB/fire woodlots – In the aftermath of the mountain pine beetle, many



Brian McNaughton,
General Manager

WLs need to do a new inventory and Management Plan. The project will look at ways to reduce the inventory workload and costs yet still produce a valid and accurate inventory label for openings.

Upgrade

Woodlot for Windows – This project is already underway. In addition to improving the utility and user-friendliness of the Woodlot for Windows program, it will update the growth curves for both managed and unmanaged stands. This will allow WL licensees to do their AAC analyses using the most up to date information.

Clarify that Take or Pay does not apply to private land – This entails cleaning up some language in manuals to make it 100% clear that take or pay does not apply to Schedule A land.

Extinguish legacy CPs – Legacy CPs are those old cutting permits that are sitting on the books getting extended every 2 years. The project will look to find a way to deal with them once and for all.

Flat fee for avoidable waste – A major angst for many WLs licensees is the requirement to do a waste assessment that, in most cases, results in a miniscule billing. 'Flat fee' is a concept the Federation has been promoting as a fair way to deal with WL waste, without having the need to do waste assessments. The project will examine the pros and cons of such an approach, or possibly look for other alternatives.

Modify residue and waste billing – Linked to the previous topic. If waste ends up being handled differently then the billing system will have to be amended.

Streamlined FN consultation – When the WL Planning & Practices Regulation (WLPPR) was originally drafted, the thinking was that the Woodlot Licence Plan would become the focal point for First Nation's consultation, and that subsequent cutting permits, road permits, etc. would not require further consultation. This project is going to take another look at this approach as a go-forward option.

From the Federation's perspective, all 10 of the above noted administrative requirements can and should be streamlined. It promises to be a busy year!

Dave Haley – March 1st was Dave Haley's last day of work. Dave is retiring to spend more time with his family and pursue some other interests. He has spent his career working in the woodlot program, and leaves it in considerably better shape than when he arrived. On a personal note, I just want to say how much I've enjoyed working with Dave and to thank him for all he's done for BC woodlots and woodlot licenses. I look forward to our paths crossing often in the future!

Pat Bell – Pat Bell, MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie and former Minister of Forests & Range, recently announced that he would not be running in the upcoming election due to health reasons. Pat has always been a friend to the Woodlot Program as evidenced by his decisions to expand the WL program and implement tab rates. On behalf of the Federation, I would like to thank Minister Bell for all that he did for WLs and the forest industry ... and to wish him good health and enjoyable times while out of the political limelight. ♦

Bridge Builder or Stone Thrower?

by Mark Clark

In my experience most people can be placed in one of two categories: Bridge Builders and Stone Throwers. The stone throwers are people who are content to sit back and throw stones at life's challenges. The stones are usually delivered from a safe distance and are not very well aimed, and don't usually do much other than making the thrower feel good. Bridge builders, on the other hand, are people who know where they are currently standing and they have a good vision of where they want to get to. Bridge Builders look for solutions and are prepared to spend time putting together the pieces of a good plan. They aren't frozen by a fear of failures or personal loss. Bridge Builders get things done.

I'm happy to say that the Woodlot people I know are bridge builders. And with our recently revised Vision



Mark Clark
President

and Strategic Plan document, we're set to keep on building. Visit our website at woodlot.bc.ca and see for yourself.

During 2013 your Federation directors will be moving forward with a new, more formal relationship with

our main funding body, the Woodlot Product Development Council. This allows us to have more direct control of projects that benefit all licensees and also to formalize how we manage the various contracts that we administer on your behalf.

During 2013 we will continue to grow our membership and to increase our volunteer base. Look for some additional incentives for woodlot people to participate in the Federation; some of these are as simple as a phone call, and some are more innovative! We must be sure to maintain our momentum in our relationship with government and

with our customers. And we will continue to promote woodlots as the best small tenure for both rural and urban interface locales.

Speaking of public interface, don't forget to mark your calendars for the AGM this September 21 and 22. The meeting will be in an ocean front resort at Campbell River and on Quadra Island. The rates are very reasonable and the organizing committee has a very enthusiastic approach to hosting us. See our website for details.



Spending too much time in your pickup truck?

Why not join your local licensees as a volunteer? You'll get a chance to talk with people with similar interests. But you'll hear a diversity of opinions on almost every topic! And you might just pick up a tidbit or two that helps you manage your own woodlot. If you're interested call Mark at 250-964-4243 and I'll try and convince you. ♦



Buyers' or Sellers' Market?

by *Blain Arnett*

Is today's log market a buyers' market or a sellers' market? Reports on log prices from around the province are up about \$5/m³ over last year. Timber sale bids are on the rise.

Log buyers have been reported to have even contacted woodlot clients to simply say hello the mill is buying wood. Some licensees have had a log buyer look at their wood and received an offer higher than anticipated, making negotiating a price slightly different than planned. These all look like early signs of a seller's market. If lumber holds at the current or higher rates, and supply of wood tightens, log purchase prices should increase.

According to various lumber magazines and lumber market experts the demand for lumber in the USA will increase over the next 3 years. Lumber prices are expected to be between \$400 and \$450 US per 1000 bf. Currently lumber is near \$400, in October it was \$300. US housing starts are forecast to be 1.5 million by 2017 up from 550,000 in 2009.



Blain Arnett,
Interior Timber Pricing
Coordinator

Lumber won't go straight up in price, expect a dip once current inventories are built up in anticipation of the spring house building season. Producers will also ramp up production and increase lumber supply to the market in response to current prices. If you are an investor, keep an eye on lumber company share prices, the trend is up.

While higher lumber prices are good and we should see higher log purchase prices, what about stumpage? According to Timber Pricing Branch, our Tab Rates are based on volume weighted, average billed stumpage rates (including rates for BCTS) for the species and forest zone over a 12 month period. In the spring it is from April 1 to March 31 (of the next year), in the fall it is October 1 to September 30 (of the next year). The table is adjusted twice per year, in May and November. For the interior Table 6-2 is 15% of the average rates (the coast is 30%). When determining rates there is also relationship with a 5 year auction data set with BCTS and the MPS (Market Pricing System) equations (and other factors).

As the average stumpage price of the billed volume goes up so will our stumpage rates, we are well buffered from large increases due to being 15% of the average rate. If the average rates go up \$5/m³ our Tab Rates go up \$0.75/m³. Note the table rates are based on billed volumes, older permits with low rates do effect the averages, and new sales with high rates will effect the average when billed. Eventually the low rate permits will work through the system, and as the higher stumpage rate mill permits and BCTS permits get billed our Tab Rates will increase. It is safe to say during the past year we have likely seen the lowest stumpage rates for our wood, mark that low pine rate below.

New permits approved after November 1, 2012 will have the above rates. Existing permits (approved prior to November 1, 2012) have the August 1, 2012 table rates – see the IAM (Interior Appraisal Manual).

If you have any questions or comments, I can be reached at 250-964-4105 or at greggcreek@shaw.ca



Woodlot Stumpage Current Table 6-2 Rates

Forest Zone	Bl	Cw	Fd	Hw	Lw	Pl	Sw	Py	Other
N. Central	0.85	other	2.11	other	other	0.56	1.17	other	0.98
North East	0.25	other	other	other	other	0.32	0.42	other	0.38
North West	0.27	0.58	other	0.43	other	0.69	0.44	other	0.45
South East	1.03	1.98	1.62	1.28	1.56	1.06	1.00	1.38	1.26
South West	1.07	1.57	1.42	0.87	other	1.24	1.24	other	1.19

Resolving Coastal Stumpage Issues

by Ed Hughes

I have been reflecting on the results of the Questionnaire submitted by Woodlot licensees since returning from the FBCWA directors meeting in Richmond this past weekend (March 2 & 3). The importance of Timber Pricing (Stumpage) was again highlighted, as it has in the past, by the highest level of support that was identified on the summary of all the questions asked. Good that we still remember the stumpage problems of the past.



Ed Hughes,
Coastal Timber Pricing
Coordinator

good for Woodlots and the industry as a whole.

Although the MPS system is complicated, tied to many years of appraisal principles, it is working at producing stumpage rates that both the small and large licensees can afford to pay. Obviously, higher timber prices and stable markets also have a major influence, but having an agreement on how we produce our stumpage rates is partially responsible for the coastal forest industry turning the corner on a difficult resent past. Making the best of the MPS and our TAB rates will be our

opportunity for continued success into the future.

Woodlot Licensees can still recall the years of serious stumpage complications and problems, which were resolved through a steady effort on many fronts. Stumpage resolution was a tipping point for the woodlot program. We are now able to focus on other challenges, but still need to keep a sharp eye on stumpage.

We are fortunate to have a TAB rate and everyone I ask about stumpage is satisfied with the new method of annually setting a rate that will be effective for the next 12 months. We have developed a good working relationship with Timber Pricing Branch where we are provided with relatively accurate estimates of the rates (usually three months in advance of implementation) so that we can manage our operations in advance of any significant increase. The rates predicted in the winter Almanac were less than \$1/m³, tuning out to be slightly higher than the final rates, noted in Table A.

Although the stable stumpage rates are helping to improve the growth and stability of the woodlot sector, there will always be a risk that rates will increase or become unmanageable. One of the ways that the FBCWA has been keeping track of stumpage issues is by maintaining seats on the Coastal Timber Pricing Advisory Committee (CTPAC) and the Market Pricing System Advisory Committee (MPSAC). In the winter Almanac I described the efforts from both Industry and Timber Pricing Branch that occurs annually to refresh the data used to set the MPS rates. Although, as Woodlot holders we do not have much control or influence over the data that create our rates, we are able to link and have developed relationships with the individuals who are involved. It has been rewarding to see how there is a new level of respectful regard from both sides of the Advisory committee tables.

In the past (now many years ago) as with woodlot group, “the majors” had stumpage issues. At the time there seemed to be a level of hostility (back then the committee was titled the Coastal Appraisal Advisory Committee) that distracted from the Timber Pricing duties. Now, the meeting agenda’s are put out in advance of meetings, there are “Action Items” prepared during the meetings and often the top priority items are moved forward. Sometimes moving ahead is just getting them off the list vs. left to linger and fester. I am not speculating on how this improvement developed, but it is

Table A: TAB stumpage rates effective March 1, 2013 until February 28, 2014

Species	CAM March 1, 2013 Rate (\$/m ³)	Winter Almanac Predicted TAB Rate (\$/m ³)
BA	.25	.36
CE	.25 (North)-.36 (South)	.77
CY	.25	.43
FI	.25	.44
HE	.25	.34
SP	.25	.25
Other	.25	1.00

Table A was prepared from the March 1, 2013 current version of the Coastal Appraisal Manual. The current rates were calculated by Timber Pricing Branch using data from January 1 to December 31, 2012.

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 ♦

Cougar Encounter


Vancouver Island

As recounted by Ed Hughes, Woodlot Licensee

I was walking with my Hoe operator and my wife doing the final work list for site clean up on our woodlot near the end of October. We took our dog (a 70 pound Golden Doodle) and while walking on the road our dog was doing its thing along the cut block edge. Out came a cougar who pinned our dog 75 meters away while our dog was running full speed towards the road. At that point the dog was able to get away.

At the road edge the dog was pinned a second time approximately twenty meters away from me. The cougar had one paw on the dog's head and one on her shoulder ready to bite into her neck. I recalled my training and made lot's of noise and stood tall. The hoe operator and my wife joined in and there was a second where we looked into the animals eyes and then it was gone in a flash.

Having just started using the new Woodlot SMS manual I reviewed it for cougar encounters and found exactly what I was looking for. I was able to send out a cougar alert within hours to our staff. We followed up the next day with a safety meeting where we demonstrated the use of bear bangers and discussed cougar encounters. ♦



North Island Woodlot Association

*Host of the 2013 Annual General Meetings of the
Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and Woodlot Product Development Council*


Woodlots – The Island Way

A Showcase of Community Friendly Forestry

Thursday, Sept 19 – Sunday, September 22, 2013
*located in Campbell River, at the Historical
Painter's Lodge Resort and the April Point Lodge Resort*

For preferred accommodation rates, please call 1-800-663-7090 or Laurie McPherson 250-370-6503 and mention "preferred rates for FBCWA".

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*Take this opportunity to attend the AGM and stay for a vacation.
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For Activities: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqhrCvYUa6Q>
For Painter's Lodge: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Asxw3ac0Kes>
For April Point: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHtKPOyJE60>*

7

The Annual Woodlot Questionnaire Answers

Every year your responses to the questionnaire help guide investments and activities conducted jointly by the Federation and Council. After a two year break where the questionnaire was not sent out, it was once again mailed out with the Winter 2012 issue of the Almanac. From the 828 woodlot licensees that received the questionnaire we heard back from 115, which equates to a 14% response rate, down 1% from the 2011 questionnaire.

The responses were reviewed by the Directors during the priority setting exercise and were considered when developing the work plans for 2013-14, at their meeting in early March.

According to the responses, the four highest priorities to receive Council funding are: Maintaining an equitable timber pricing process, Making the e-FM reporting user-friendly, Supporting national initiatives to reduce or defer tax burdens in year of harvest with woodlot operations related to silviculture management costs and Promoting the woodlot program by strengthening communications and public relations.

If you have concerns or comments throughout the year, you are encouraged to discuss them with the Directors. The next questionnaire will be distributed during the fall/winter period. Don't miss out on your opportunity to help guide the where the levy should be used. ♦



Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations Scholarship Award
Information and Application Form

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Applications for this award must be received on or before April 26, 2013. Late applications will not be considered.
2. Applicants must be a direct family member of a woodlot licensee or private land owner who is a member of the local Woodlot Association and/or the FBCWA. In cases where the woodlot is not owned by an individual, one applicant per woodlot is eligible to apply in any given year.
3. Applicants must be planning to attend a post secondary institution within 24 months of the application deadline.
4. Preference will be given to students in grade 12 and recent high school graduates.
5. Preference will be given to students entering a forestry-related program. Students entering other areas of study are welcome to apply, knowing there is preference for forestry related study.
6. The award of \$1,000.00 will be payable, on receipt by the FBCWA of documentation confirming registration into the institution for post secondary education. This generally occurs in mid September.
7. Essays or letters and photos from applicants, particularly the successful applicant, may be printed in the Almanac.
8. The decision of the Awards Committee is final.
9. The Award Committee of the Federation of B. C. Woodlot Associations will be empowered to:
 - a) grant this award at its discretion;
 - b) withhold this award in any year if there are no eligible applicants, or for any reason deemed good or advisable.

IMPORTANT

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Please complete the application form and attach:

1. A letter describing the reasons which you feel qualify you for this award. Your letter should also include a detailed description of your experience in forestry, particularly on woodlots. Your letter may include information about your various interests and extra curricular activities.
2. The Federation believes more woodlot licences should be held and managed by younger people. With that in mind, write a mock letter to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations presenting the reasons why you believe government should adopt a policy that supports awarding WLs to young persons.

Background:

With the exception of some WLs that are awarded directly to First Nations, most new WLs are advertised and awarded through a competitive process. Award decisions are based on the following criteria: 50% lump sum cash bonus bid, 25% private land inclusion and 25% proximity of the applicants primary residence to the crown land portion of the Woodlot Licence area. The lump sum bid and private land criteria tend to favour older persons who have accumulated some wealth over their lifetimes, and makes it difficult for young people to compete and acquire a WL.

3. Two letters of reference from previous or current teachers or employers,
4. A copy of your most recent report card, and
5. A recent photo of yourself.

Return to: Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations
Attention: Nancy Pezel, Treasurer
173 W. Hoylake Road,
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia V9K 1K3

Or send it digitally to islandswest@shaw.ca with a subject heading of FBCWA Scholarship Application

Applications must be received by April 26, 2013



Scholarship Award Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

Currently enrolled in: _____

Post Secondary School you plan to attend: _____

Program you will be registered in for 2012-13: _____

Relationship to Woodlot Licensee or to private land owner for Woodlot # (ie; daughter of Joe Smith, Woodlot #2345)

Woodlot Licensee/Private Land Owner to whom you are a direct family member, has been a member of the which woodlot association and for how many years?

Please include information on volunteer work, extra curricular activities, membership in school and community organizations, sports, interests, hobbies etc as well as employment information. (You may use another sheet if you need more room or if it's more convenient for you.)



team skills. And by learning, we mean “doing”. Students have opportunities to get behind the wheel of skidders and cats, fall and buck trees, conduct site cleanup – basically every function required for a working logger.

The remaining two days are spent in the school’s well-equipped shop learning WCB safety procedures, furniture-building skills, techniques, and design. The expansive workspace houses some creative projects, including an oversized picnic table made of beams bigger than railroad ties, and a little log cabin that could be a charming playhouse for some very happy child.

With a high premium on safety, all students are taught St. Johns First Aid before heading into the bush. This training, coupled with their real-life experience handling chainsaws, cats and skidders, means their resumes pack a punch when they graduate. And the students know it.

Making a good impression on the dedicated teachers and industry professionals who run the program results in rock-solid references that give these young people an edge in a competitive workforce. Applying for an apprenticeship or a spot in a post-secondary trades or university program is that much easier when applicants can prove they have already built a strong foundation in the forest.

In fact, several of the students graduating in 2013 already have an apprenticeship or employment plan

set for the summer and beyond. When questioned about their future, they speak about Plan A and Plan B, sometimes even a Plan C, and they’re all viable plans: the program has opened multiple doors to employers in other sectors of the natural resource and manufacturing industry. One 15-year-old predicts she’ll be the first female loader driver in the Okanagan when she takes over that job at her father’s logging operation this summer.

Typical of most woodlots in BC, this one enjoys a strong relationship with community stakeholders. The

Students from Charles Bloom Secondary School in Lumby get hands-on training in all aspects of forest management thanks to Woodlot Licence #1908.



local Stihl dealer makes regular contributions, and heavy equipment is either donated or sold at bargain-basement prices to keep the program equipped. The students sell firewood to locals, using the funds to pay for their gear – in a classic case of input and output, the more firewood the individual students buck and sell, the more money they have to finance their kit. Initiative pays. Literally.

Community involvement is vital to

the success of the program, and to the health of the forest. As Charles Bloom Principal, Ken Gatzke – a graduate of the trades program himself – tells us, they try to keep the woodlot as accessible as possible. Students built a beautiful timber-framed gazebo one year, situated on an eyrie that affords a sweeping view of Trinity Valley; the gazebo is open for use by the public as a spot for meetings, retreats, picnics, reunions. A local hang-gliding company uses the woodlot as a launch site, as well, and a local rancher uses the forest as range land for his cattle.

At the school level, the senior students aren’t the only ones who have an opportunity to participate in the operation. The grade seven students are brought to the woodlot to plant trees, getting an opportunity over the following years to watch the progress of the forest

and see the fruits of their labour over their years at the high school.

Gatzke bursts with pride when talking about the program, and rightfully so. This ‘woodlot classroom’ is an innovative use of a Crown resource, giving kids real-life skills today that they can use far into the future. ♦



Keeping up with woodlot tradition

BC coast licensee part-time logger

By Brett Hanson
(reproduced with permission from *The Working Forest Newspaper*)

Vancouver Island logger Rick Heikkila works one of the first plots of land awarded under the B.C. woodlot license program. His father and grandfather got the property in the 1960s when it was known as a farm woodlot and Heikkila works it today.

An electrician by trade, Heikkila didn't start working in forestry until 15 years ago. He now teaches at an area university and works in the 221 hectare woodlot as well.

"I call myself a woodlot licensee, but I do have a day job," Heikkila said. "I hire consultants for the planning and engineering. I hire contractors for the on the ground work. I have a part time employee and I try to do quite a bit of it myself."

Heikkila produces primarily douglas fir sawlogs and says the market for them seems to be on the upswing lately.

"We are close to Asian markets which have been a bit of a saviour to the coastal industry. the American market has been huge for many years but has fallen to the wayside in the last six or seven years," Heikkila said.

"Fortunately our traders have worked hard to build the Asian market. I think they are still challenging markets but they are there. Indications are that the American market is perhaps starting to firm up."

The operation is a mixture of hand felling and mechanized harvest depending on the situation. Heikkila says his last cut block was all hand felled. The size of the trees on Vancouver Island can sometimes be too large for machines to safely handle.

Working on Crown land woodlots on Vancouver Island can be a little different than elsewhere in the province. There can often be a high volume of tourists and locals enjoying the outdoors in close proximity to where Heikkila is working.

"There is higher scrutiny here. I have a paved road that leads to my woodlot and there are power lines on them. Many woodlot licensees operate very close to urban areas rather than being 100 miles into the bush. There is scrutiny, dog walkers, bicyclists and horseback riders," Heikkila said. "It doesn't adversely affect that way we do our business. We harvest sustainably, we have annual allowable cut determined by scientific methods. We harvest small blocks and reforest whatever we cut. We clean things up and try to build trails a little bit."

"It is Crown land and we only have the right to manage the timber."

When we are not operating we can't restrict any recreational use," Heikkila said. "In our plan we have a statement that we want to encourage recreation use. We have a desire to create trails but aren't always able to commit the resources to it. We're not doing anything to discourage the use of trails."

Unlike Ontario Heikkila says in the winter on Vancouver Island its rain not snow he has to worry about.

"We have a lot of rain so operating in the winter we have small streams and water courses and mud. It can hamper us. We don't look for a hard freeze, we look for dry weather. You fight the wet spots," Heikkila said. "Often times we will get closures in late August during fire season. It depends on the year we can get closed up tight because it's too dry, hot and windy. It's too dangerous to operate. Sometimes you get the chance to get in afterwards and other years it just starts to rain and it gets too wet too fast."

"Last summer was pretty good, we built some roads and it worked well. We were closed for about 6 weeks for fire which was pretty long for us. It was from the end of August until October. It was unseasonably dry for us," Heikkila said.

The latest change to the woodlot license program is a gradual easing of the level of regulation the government imposes on them.

"There is a move to simplify the way woodlot licensees operate because we are such small tenure holders. For us to go through the same scrutiny and engineering as the majors do causes the forest service to have to check and discuss every move we make. It's just been too much work for both parties. We are a small player in the grand scheme of things. Collectively we cut quite a bit of wood. We have no influence on the market; we just sell into the market." ♦



2013-14 Priorities, Work Plan & Budget

Federation and Council directors met on March 2nd & 3rd, 2013 in Richmond, BC. The first order of business was for the Federation to approve its 2013 to 2018 Vision & Strategic Plan. The plan provides high-level guidance and direction for the next 5 years and is available on the FBCWA's website – www.woodlot.bc.ca.

The next order of business was to establish priorities for the upcoming year. To assist the directors with this difficult task, the following information was provided for their consideration.

- Updates and progress reports on the 2012-3 priorities were provided.
- Peter Graff and the soon to be retired Dave Haley presented the Joint Working Groups priorities, including the streamlining initiatives recently endorsed by the Ministry's executive committee (see GM's report).
- Results from the woodlot licensee's questionnaire were presented.
- Outstanding resolutions from years gone by were reviewed.
- Each Association reported out on the key issues in their area.
- FBCWA Committee heads summarized last year's activities and forecasted priorities for the next year.
- Priorities arising from Council's project – the Next Level of Success – were reviewed.

After taking into account all of this information, the priorities outlined in Table 1 were approved.

Based on these priorities, the directors then built and approved the 2013-14 Work Plan & Budget. (see Table2).

Additionally there are some activities that are not delivered by the FBCWA. They are described in Table 3.

All activities in the work plans are funded by the WPDC levy, which is the \$0.25/m³ portion of a woodlot licensee's annual rent.

Thank you to all who participated and in particular the FBCWA and WPDC Directors who volunteer their time to work on your behalf.

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. ♦

Table 1: FBCWA Work Priorities 2013/2014

(as approved March 2, 2013)

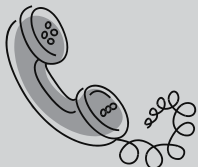
ACTIVELY BEING MANAGED	ACTION AS TIME PERMITS	MAINTENANCE MODE
Safety	Land Based Investment Program & other program funding	Include incremental silviculture in WLPPR
Economic Development – BRIDGES, WoodSourceBC	Tax reforms - silviculture savings plan	Group Health/Affinity - CILA
e-FM (systems issues)	Seek FFT & other funding	Woodworkers Lien Act
Natural Resource Road Act	Undercut carry forward	Vision & Strategy
Association Building	Catastrophic Events	Private Land Withdrawal
Inventory Standards	Agro-forestry Initiative	One Cutting Permit
Communications & Public Relations	Training Course - Freedom to manage (e.g. 1 CP)	Migratory Birds Convention Act
Free Growing Declarations	Repl. WL document	One Cutting Permit
Stumpage	Fire Prevention/protection	WL/Recreation overlap
Admin Streamlining	Rewarding volunteer efforts	Carbon Credits/Protocols
Professional Reliance	WL Surrender (transfer) - info/extension	
Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation	MFR Communications with WL licensees	
Woodlot 4 Windows AAC support - TIPSYP & VDYP		
Resolutions		
Waste & Residue		
WL Program - Expansion (MTTS), WLs 4 young people, WL surrender, WL sub-dividing, AAC purchase, etc.		

Table 2: Approved FBCWA Work Plan 2013/2014

Portfolio	Activity	Activity Budget	2013-4 Budget
FBCWA BUSINESS			\$215,340
	Administration	\$71,590	
	General Manager	\$137,500	
	Support Contracts	\$6,000	
TIMBER PRICING			\$36,000
	Interior Contract	\$18,000	
	Coast Contract	\$18,000	
NATIONAL / EXTERNAL AFFAIRS			\$3,650
E BUSINESS			\$18,500
	E-Business Contract	\$14,000	
	Woodlot for Windows Telephone Support	\$4,500	
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS			\$56,000
	Communications Contract	\$20,500	
	Communication Activities	\$35,500	
SAFETY CONTRACT			\$7,900
COMMITTEES, PROJECTS & CONTINGENCIES			\$36,000
	Tenure Rights. WoodSourceBC, BRIDGES II, FG declarations, Contact list, etc.		
TOTAL			\$373,390

Table 3: Approved WPDC Work Plan 2013/2014

Portfolio	Activity	Activity Budget	2013-4 Budget
WPDC BUSINESS			\$66,350
	Directors' Expenses	\$18,000	
	Insurance	\$ 1,500	
	Storage Unit Fees	\$ 1,850	
	Accountant	\$ 5,000	
	Coordinator Contract	\$40,000	
FBCWA AGREEMENT (6 month review)			\$ 5,000
ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE			\$ 1,000
ANNUAL REPORTS			\$1,000
WOODLAND ALMANAC			\$12,000
WOODLAND STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION			\$ 4,500
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS			\$9,500
SPECIAL PROJECTS			\$25,000
	Projects not identified in the work plan but are supported by the FBCWA and requested by local woodlot associations and/or woodlot licensees.		
TOTAL			\$124,350



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 ♦

What Else Happened at the Directors' Meeting?

Other notable happenings ...



Mark Clark, FBCWA President, celebrated his 60th birthday.



Dave Haley was recognized for his many contributions to the Woodlot Licence Program, the Woodlot Product Development Council, and the Federation.

Most of those attending the Directors' Meetings were volunteers who work very hard on behalf of all woodlot licensees.

16

It is good to know that they can occasionally let loose and enjoy themselves. Next major get together: the AGM! Hope to see you there!



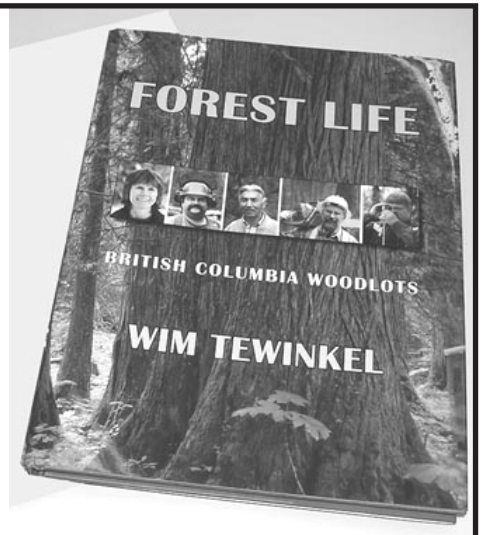
It was discovered that the Columbia Woodlot Association has been secretly holding Greek belly dancing lessons as evidenced by Denise English and Brian Amies showing some fine form and moves!

“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 ♦



My two cents worth: a licensee's opinion

Meritocracy in the Woodlot License Program

One of the slogans promoting the early years of the WLP exemplified us doing "... excellent forestry ..." thanks to the rigorous applicant screening process. Remember when personal suitability, experience, and management intent were more important than cash? MOF time and resources were committed to guaranteeing the best person was chosen to steward this public resource. We felt entrusted and honoured to hold the Woodlot License. Most of us had inter-generational and/or extended community equity in our WL's. We, or our children or our neighbours were the eyes on us and we had little to hide and much to show. I think there were very few cases of transgression in these family forests.

Now we seem to be encumbered by distrust requiring us to retain layers of advisors, and submit endless paper (or worse, dysfunctional e-forms) to help bureaucrats cover their butts. No one trusts anyone to do the right thing unless threatened with the cudgel of C&E. Those attempts to streamline the processes only add to the confusion unless you are one of those consultants who benefit from it.

There is a better way. Nab the infrequent offender but reward those of us who are doing our very best to practice the previously cited "excellent forestry" not because of the Reg's but in spite of them. The human capital of most Licensees is an attribute astonishingly underrated by the Ministry and often the Fed.

Consider this proposal. When a person is awarded a WL by either the original criteria or the present inequitable one, the first Five Year AAC Period should be subject to all the scrutiny the bean-counters can muster. If there are no glitches on the part of the Licensee, the second AAC Period reporting requirements should be lessened. If there are still no complaints

of substance, the third and subsequent AAC Periods should see the oversight agencies just back off with their wails for due diligence and professional reliance. We are not kindergarteners requiring a nanny to hold our hands.

A single CP, tabular stumpage rates, and cut control are all that are needed for this level of management. A one-page annual summary can capture all the numbers required to satisfy the bureaucrats, unless the Licensee feels moved to provide a more extensive report on activities and achievements. How would we ensure restocking and basic silviculture? How would high-grading be curtailed? Answer me this, why would someone who intends to pass this WL to a family member or, failing that, wanting to sell on the open market intentionally allow those critical operations to lapse or to undertake actions which are deleterious?

Cut the crap and let us do our job.

Respectfully submitted in hopes of a better Program for all. ...

Harold Macy (W1677)
Headquarters Creek Woodlot Ltd.
Merville, BC ♦

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. ♦



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.woodsorcebc.com. ♦

Please note:

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



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.

Dave Haley Retires

By Brian McNaughton et al.

After 18 years, Dave Haley's last day of work with the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations was March 1, 2013.

Dave began his career in the forest sector in 1974, after graduating from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. From 1974 to 1992 he worked for Western Forest Products, a municipality, and the Research Branch of the MOF conducting timber harvesting operations, silviculture, research and community programs. In 1992 Dave was hired by the Canadian Forest Service to help implement research projects and then the First Nations Woodlands Program of the Canada-BC Partnership Agreement in Forest Resource Development (FRDA II).

However, Dave is best known to woodlotters as the Woodlot Licence Forester from Victoria; and as a person who has worked diligently to expand and improve BC's Woodlot Licence Program. When he first started in the program in 1995, there were ~400 woodlot licenses with a combined AAC of ~800 000 m³/yr. Today, there are 860+ woodlot licences incorporating ~1.6 million m³/yr.

Beyond expanding the program, some of Dave's contributions and accomplishments include:

- Key member of the Joint Working Group, and driving force behind improving the WL program.
- Increased size and number of woodlot licences a person can hold.



- New and improved timber pricing policies, including tabular stumpage rates.
- Transitioning WLs to a results-based world.
- Key drafter and input into the Woodlot Licence

Planning and Practices Regulation, including Woodlot Licence Planning.

- Introduction, approval and implementation of 1 Cutting Permit.
- Regular contributor to the Woodland Almanac.
- Prepared, presented and/or facilitated numerous training and extension courses.
- Developed policy regarding catastrophic events which allows a WL to get 'back in business' sooner than later.
- Professional reliance matrix – bridging between Federation and Association of BC Forest Professionals.

Dave was also a key contributor to the Woodlot Product Development Council, first as the Government appointee and then as an ad hoc member.

Always the professional and a gentleman, Dave is retiring as a true friend to woodlot licensees, the Federation, the Woodlot Product Development Council and the Woodlot program. We wish Dave and his wife, Jean, a long and enjoyable retirement.

...and we look forward to seeing Dave at the Campbell River AGM on September 20 & 21st. ♦



Dave checks out the dedication on the base of the Big Leaf Maple Bowl presented to him in recognition of his many years of service with the WPDC. The bowl was made by Shawn Flynn from wood grown on his Woodlot. Mark Clark and Brian McNaughton representing the FBCWA also attended Dave's retirement luncheon.



Al Waters (FBCWA Life Member) congratulates Dave on his retirement



Dave Haley in the kitchen AGM 2012



Dave Haley at the skeet shoot AGM 2012



Peter Demarsh, Cliff Manning and Dave Haley

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor;

Woodlots for young people

The FBCW A would like to work with the MoF to develop a process, where we can enable keen young people to become involved with the woodlot program. They are our future and yet, our current woodlot award process precludes most young people from even dreaming about managing a piece of our forested land base. There is a critical need to develop a process that engages young people and encourages them back into the forest industry.

It is totally unreasonable to expect a young couple, struggling to shelter and feed a young family, to be able to purchase a large enough piece of private property to qualify for award points and/or put up a large cash bonus bid to get a woodlot. We need to develop a process that enables a young person to earn the right to a woodlot or to be able to pay for it over a graduated time frame, instead of just buying it outright. Woodlots should be a license to farm the forest, not a “license to cut”. For those individuals that want just a “license to cut”, there is the competitive bid process which unfortunately does not always generate the best view of logging in the public’s view point.

We need to have people involved in the woodlot program that have a deep commitment to the land and a sincere interest in managing our resources. We need to become a province of tree farmers that we can all be proud of. Can we propose a program that supports putting some of our resource management back into the hands of the local communities and local families? This will resonate with most people, especially the urban population that often knows precious little about our forests. We need public support to manage our resources properly, but more importantly, we need to be able

demonstrate how this can be done in a manner that is acceptable to them, to gain this support. We cannot demand their respect, we must earn it first. Community Forests Licenses and the Woodlot Program are two idea vehicles to accomplish this.

Where should the AAC volume come from?

- 1) Problem forest types.
- 2) Currently constricted areas (OGMA’s, riparian areas, recreational reserves, parks (this will raise a few eyebrows), etc.).
- 3) Isolated parcels of forested crown land that are outside effective management in the general Timber Supply area.
- 4) Current NSR areas that the government has no money to reforest.
- 5) Current under stocked productive forest land that is in need of intensive management to realize the true potential of the land.
- 6) Scale back the volume in the BCTS program and gradually move this volume into small scale forestry. The government should not be competing in business with it’s own citizens.
- 7) Take back some volume from converting volume based tenure into area based tenures.
- 8) Any other land base that is outside the TSA for each district.
- 9) Ecosystem restoration areas where wildlife habitat and visuals are the driving management objective.

Many of the above mentioned areas would also lend themselves to adding to existing woodlot licenses with large standing inventory balances and poor age class distribution. This would add considerable volume to help mitigate the future projected timber fall down. A process could be developed where a licensee agrees to do the silviculture work at the licensee’s cost and establish a productive crop before any AAC will be attributed to the treated

area. This is not for everyone, but for those who are willing to invest their own money in forest productivity could be a very positive thing for the woodlot program.

Turning problem forest types outside the TSR into productive forest land is a 100 gain at no cost to the taxpayer under this proposal. Small scale forestry is an ideal manner to deliver these types of outcomes. Fertilization is a very expensive and long term investment by the crown for smaller gains than intensive forest management can deliver. The proposed intensive forest management proposal must be undertaken as a pre-condition to getting a new woodlot (for young people) or even expanding current woodlots. This costs the crown nothing and creates economic activity while effectively growing more trees. These are real gains, not hypothetical gains than the use of genetically improved seed promises. Survival at rotational age is more important than rapid initial growth with an uncertain future. Working with existing stands to make them more resilient to any climate change factors should be the highest priority.

Ecosystem restoration areas provide the opportunity for developing and demonstrating different potential management agreements and forest practices that lend themselves very well to the woodlot program. While most of these areas will not contribute any AAC, the volume generated will help with timber supply. It also provides a great place to prove to the public that we can actually practice good forest management without costing the taxpayer massive amounts of tax dollars. These areas, if done right, could be to precursor to starting to manage certain parks for forest health as the driving objective.

George Delisle
Woodlot # 411 ♦

Are you prepared for the unthinkable?

My wife Deirdre checked our telephone messages after a trip to town in early February and heard one mentioning that I was supposed to call our local conservation officer about something? Sure, I'll get right on it!

A few days later, we were out walking our dogs in the Woodlot when we noticed that Chester (my 125 lb. Chesapeake Bay Retriever and keen hunter) was particularly focused on something his nose had detected across Waddell Creek. Back and forth he went until he decided it was time to cross and head to a spot that he figured the enticing scent came from. Chester started digging in 2 feet of snow and came up with a full haunch of a deer leg in his jaws! Wow, 'lets light a fire and cook it up. It looked so good!' Then I started thinking something is VERY FISHY about this whole scene, and looking around, spotted a piece of fur hanging from a wire, then Deirdre spotted 2 deer legs poking out of the snow. Wait a minute. "Chester - come 'ere boy" and then I saw it- the partially snow-covered Conibear trap, set for Bobcat, deer bait and all.

A few more days later, again walking the dogs in the WL, we came across trapper Wayne who was de-activating his traps. We mentioned Chester's close call with one of his traps, asking if the dog was caught, how to get him out? Wayne showed us a 2-handed tool to pry open the trap and I asked if it was possible to release the trap without this tool. His reply was that you would need the knowledge and/or strength of trapper Miles, but your dog would probably be dead before you got it out anyways!

When we got home my wife reminded me if I had contacted CO Dave to see what he wanted-gee I had forgotten. To cut to the quick, Dave said he had a report of illegal trapping on my WL and did I know anything about it? Not me I said - must be trapper Wayne's doings! Following some discussion, I thought Chester and I better go back to that trap with a camera and have another sniff and poke. Well, Chester did it again! - not 4 metres on the other side of the trap, partly buried under the snow behind a stump were some black feathers.

Turns out to be a banded and radio-collared (strapped to its back) mature Golden Eagle! Even CO Dave was impressed.

Anyone walking their dogs in winter and/or trapping season should check out this website: <http://www.terrierman.com/traprelease.htm>

George Dore ♦



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 cjmclary401@gmail.com.

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. ♦

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 cjmccclary401@gmail.com or call her at 250-961-0271. The licensee whose idea gets published each issue will receive a FBCWA hat or Shirt. ♦

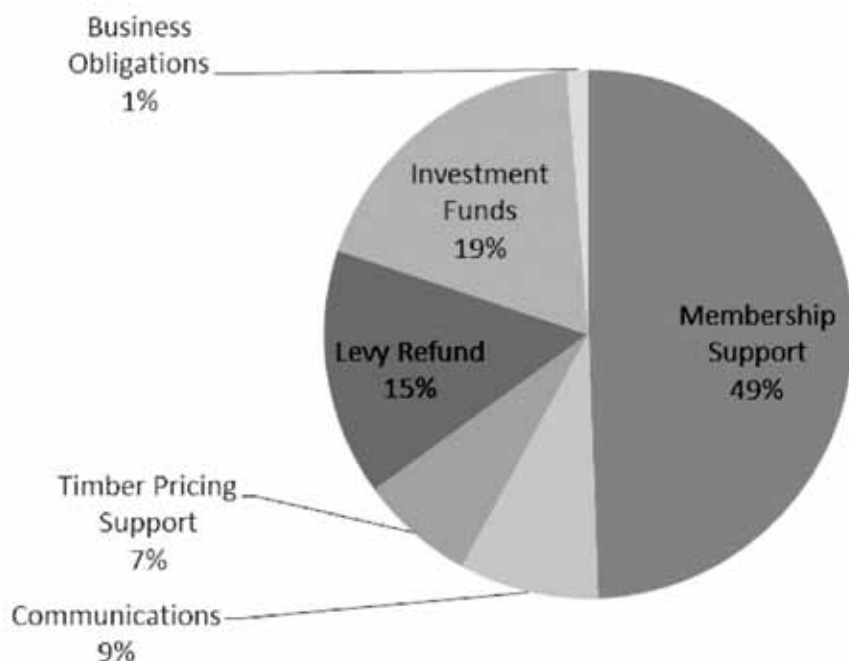
Links of Interest

- 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



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. ♦





BRITISH
COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

MFLNRO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE BOARD

Dave Haley retired in early March. Council and the FBCWA wish him well in this new phase of life. Taking on his woodlot responsibilities will be Peter Graff with assistance from Emma Neil. Come and meet them at the AGM in Campbell River in September.



Peter Graff: In 1986 I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of British Columbia and I landed my first job with the BC Forest Service as Small Business Analyst in the Vancouver Forest Region in 1990. In 1993 I went to Kamloops as the Small Business Coordinator (pre-BCTS)/ Bid Proposal Coordinator until 2003 where I was reassigned as Southern Interior Region

Timber Tenures Forester. I was involved in tendering and administering non replaceable forest licences (competitive and direct award) until 2007 when I moved to Victoria as First Nations Policy Forester, First Nations Relations Branch (previously known as Aboriginal Affairs Branch). I joined Forest Tenures Branch as Senior Timber Tenures Forester in July of 2013. I live in Victoria with my wife of 23 years and we have two children aged 11 and 9, Emily and Matthew.

Emma Neil: Emma Neill has been with the Forest Service since graduation from UBC Forestry in 1992. She started in the Port Alberni Forest District which later amalgamated with the Duncan District to become South Island. Initially the Woodlot Forester, her role expanded to include all tenure responsibilities and a role in more strategic planning, timber supply and First Nations consultation. She also has experience working with Community Forests and completed a diploma in Advanced Silviculture through SIBC.



- Ministry of Agriculture News Release on BC maple and birch syrup: see page 23 to read the release.

Submitted by Harold Macy

This season we had a few mediocre maple sap runs December. Mid January finally gave us the weather on Vancouver Island (snow) that we and the school kids hoping for and everyone else seemed content to avoid. The sap started running really well and syrup was made up and down Vancouver Island. Unfortunately, a few days before our annual bigleaf maple syrup festival in Duncan on February 2, 2013, the weather warmed and the taps ran dry for most of us. Fortunately by pooling resources, we had enough sap to run the evaporator and serve mint maple sap tea to the 1800 guests. The rest of February was too warm for most of us to get sap.

As usual, the festival included tapping demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations, syrup and other maple related product vendors, tapping equipment vendors, maple themed foods, a syrup judging contest, and live music. The BC Forest Discovery Centre trains offered free rides throughout the 80 acre site all day long and the rains held off.

From Vancouver Island, bigleaf maple tapping has spread south to Washington, then to Oregon and most recently into Northern California.

(Thanks to Gary Backlund for this note.) ♦

From tree to table

B.C. maple and birch syrup ready to be enjoyed

The next time you sit down to breakfast, why don't you pour some British Columbia-made maple syrup over your waffles or pancakes? That's right; maple syrup is produced right here in B.C. Not only that, birch syrup is also produced, which last year was voted one of the top 10 food trends in Canada.

B.C. maple syrup is produced using the sap of the Bigleaf maple which grows primarily on Vancouver Island and in some regions of coastal mainland B.C.

Birch Syrup is primarily produced in the Cariboo region of B.C. Different than traditional maple syrup, it is not as sweet and reputed to have a more caramel-like flavour.

The government of B.C. recently expanded its list of "Qualifying Agricultural Uses" to include broad leaf maple and birch sap or syrup. Considered a breakthrough for this emerging sector, the new status will provide more flexibility for producers to meet the requirements to maintain farm status.

Maple and birch trees can be tapped for their sap and used to produce high quality, high-value niche market products such as syrup, barbeque sauce and candy including tasty fudge and chewy toffee. The syrup is a very versatile product and can be used on pancakes, as a sweetener, a glaze for meats, topping for ice-cream, and in salad dressings and sauces.

Birch and Bigleaf maple syrup and syrup products can be purchased directly from independent producers.

Quotes:

Minister of Agriculture Norm

Letnick – "Building the local market for B.C. foods is a key component of government's plan to lead the agrifoods

sector growth into a \$14-billion-a-year industry by 2017. The passion for local foods in B.C. has never been stronger, and new, innovative products such as these support government's clear commitment to build local demand and support for B.C. foods."

Moose Meadows Farm, Ted Traer,

R.P.F. – "We're excited that this new change will recognize the efforts of these diversified farm producers. After all, syrup-making is truly Canadian, just like Mounties, moose, snowshoes and hockey . . . and it's also made right here on the West Coast. "

Backlunds' Backwoods, Gary

Backlund – "Maple syrup is one of the few foods that is both additive and preservative free. Maple sugaring allows farming to become a year-round process and gets you outside on those crisp winter days to check sap flows – a great excuse for a bit of exercise."

Quick Facts:

Bigleaf Maple

- Bigleaf maple is the most common maple on Vancouver Island and the largest maple in Canada, reaching heights of 36 metres.
- Top production season for Bigleaf maple tapping is January and February.
- Ideal tapping conditions include a high water table and a few days of below-freezing temperature followed by a warm, sunny day to allow the sap to flow.
- Raw sap can be used in place of water for cooking and as a beverage.
- Sap is made up of about 98 per cent water and two per cent sugar. It takes about 50 litres of sap to make one litre of syrup.

- The first Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival was held on Vancouver Island in 2008.
- Traditionally sap was boiled into maple syrup by First Nations people and the raw sap was used to treat scurvy and malnutrition.

Birch syrup

- Birch sap is very healthy and may contain minerals such as calcium, magnesium, potassium, zinc, iron, and vitamin A and has been consumed for centuries as a health drink in numerous countries
- In B.C. indigenous birch trees include White Birch, Paper Birch, Alaska Birch and Canoe Birch.
- A birch tree will produce an average of four litres of sap per tree per day over the season.
- Sap starts to flow once the ground thaws and temperatures are above freezing
- The production of birch syrup is very labour intensive. While traditional maple syrup takes approximately 40 litres of sap to produce one litre of syrup, it takes 80-120 litres of sap to produce the equivalent in birch syrup.
- Since birch syrup is predominantly fructose-based, it tastes less sweet and is reputed to be easier to digest than maple syrup.
- Birch Syrup is typically used in cooking applications as opposed to pancake syrup.

Learn More at:

BC Forest Discovery Centre: <http://www.bcforestmuseum.com/?maple-syrup,142>

Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival: <http://www.discoveryforest.com/?bigleaf-maple-syrupfestival,109> ♦

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