

Recreation

Hiking, biking & paddling
in the working forest

Arts • Food • History

Summer archival exhibit;
wild edibles; painters

Industry

Thriving through green
innovation & partnerships

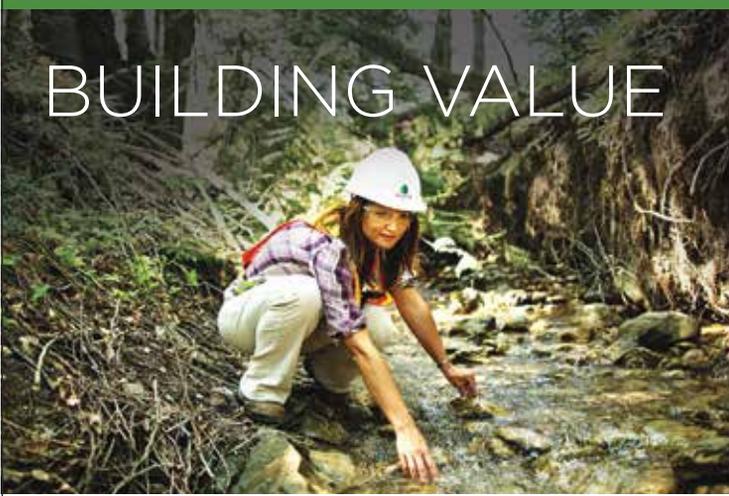
Ferns & Fallers

Forests and forestry on the Sunshine Coast



nature education • canoe route • salmon enhancement • tree-planting • invasive species • & more

BUILDING VALUE



Interfor is one of the world's largest lumber producers, with operations across North America, including the Sunshine Coast. We serve global customers, strengthen local economies and build value for our employees and shareholders. And now we're embarking on a bold new vision, capitalizing on opportunity and growing into an even more robust future. As we continue to grow, we'll be looking for motivated team players who want to build their careers with us. Find out more at Interfor.com



Need small scale or selective logging on your property?
Call the folks who manage forests every day.

*Timberline Resources Ltd manages
Westlake Woodlands.
And they can help you, too.*



Custom Milling
Land Clearing
Selective Logging



To sign up for notifications regarding our activities, including road and trail closures, in the West Lake Woodlands, visit our website.

604-483-6582 (Doug) 604-414-8252 (Ron)
doug@westlakewoodlands.com

westlakewoodlands.com

BC's Forests are Expertly Managed

Forests are complex, dynamic ecosystems that support a wide variety of ecological, social, economic, cultural, recreational and spiritual values. All British Columbians benefit from our forests whether through recreational activities, employment or the significant contribution they make to our provincial economy.

The **Association of BC Forest Professionals** registers and regulates BC's forest professionals. Forest professionals sustainably manage aspects of the forest including forest health (insect infestations, diseases and fire), fish and wildlife habitat, preparing areas for harvesting and much more.

Visit www.abcfp.ca for more information.



Without sustainable forestry,
we couldn't create beauty like this.
Keep it real.



*Award-winning local builders.
And we're your neighbours.*

Unit 3 – 7045 Field Street, Powell River (604) 485-6212

www.agiusbuilders.ca

Full-SPLIT
GRADE
Goat Lake Shakes
The Best Quality
Shakes Available



**Wood is the only
major building material
that's renewable and
sustainable.**



A partnership between Tla'amin Timber Products and Goat Lake Forest Products, managing logging in our renewable forests.



Western red cedar shakes & shingles, including preservative treatment, for contractors, distributors and home owners



Exterior & Interior Trim • Fencing • Post & Beam Decking & Siding • Panelling • Haida Skirl Siding

1.855.79.CEDAR • 604.487.4266  Shipping & Delivery Available

► Contents

- 8 WORKING IN THE WOODS**
Through a photographer's lens
- 10 FOREST FLAVOUR**
Chef shares her forest recipes
- 12 INSPIRED ART**
Sunshine Coast artists inspired by forests
- 15 ON THE WOODLOT**
Elk and long-term planning
- 16 THE OTHER TREES**
Making more with maple and alder
- 17 JOINING FORCES**
Tla'amin and Goat Lake
- 20 ALIEN INVASION**
Battling invasive species
- 22 BY THE NUMBERS**
Did you know these forestry numbers?
- 24 ON THE CANOE ROUTE**
Rounding up driftwood and maintaining trails
- 28 PROTESTER TO PROTECTOR**
Q&A with the chair of advisory group
- 30 THE WORKING FOREST**
Playing in the Tree Farm License
- 32 EATING DIRT**
An excerpt from Charlotte Gill's book
- 33 BATTLING BUGS**
Trees with disease
- 34 GETTING ALONG**
No war in these woods
- 39 MANAGING WITH CARE**
Interfor planning for the long haul
- 41 HISTORY OF LOGGING**
Safety and looking back
- 43 GHOST TRAINS**
Logging railways of yesteryear
- 44 NATURE EDUCATION**
Where to learn outside
- 46 NO SMALL FRY**
A story of salmon enhancement
- 47 ON THE TRAIL**
Who's building what?



I support our Government's vision of a robust, globally-competitive forest sector firmly underpinned by healthy, productive and sustainable forests.

Simply Sustainable

I'm proud to represent those who protect and enhance the working forest.

John Weston MP
West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast - Sea to Sky Country

1-800-665-6004 www.johnweston.ca
@johnwestonmp

Ferns & Fallers

Forests and forestry on the Sunshine Coast
a publication by Powell River Living

Volume 1, Number 1

Publisher

Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

Editor

Pieta Woolley • pieta@prliving.ca

Associate Publisher & Sales Manager

Sean Percy • sean@prliving.ca

Sales & Marketing

Suzi Wiebe • suzi@prliving.ca



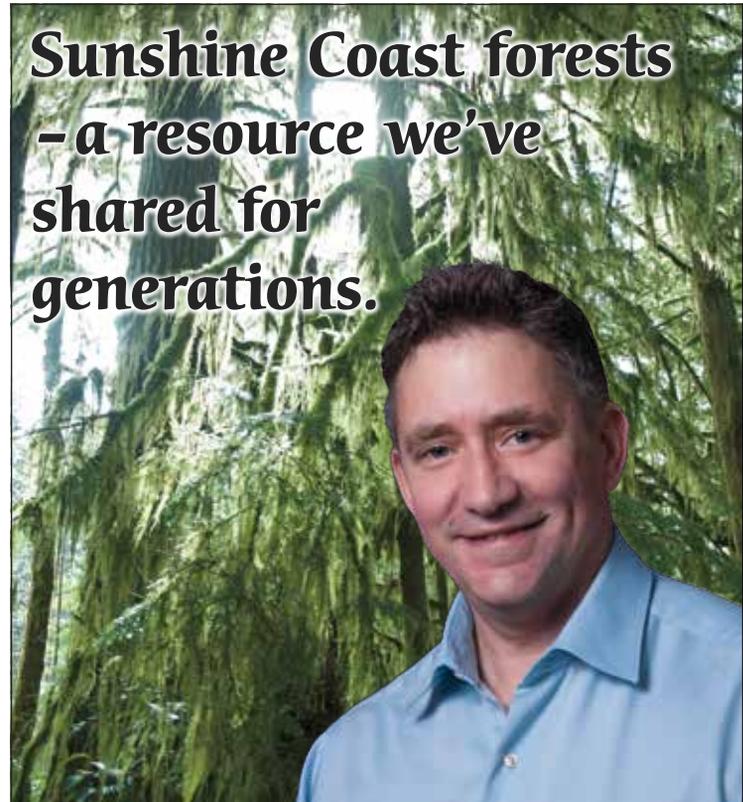
Ferns & Fallers is published by Southcott Communications, which also publishes *Powell River Living* magazine.

We welcome feedback from our readers. Email your comments to isabelle@prliving.ca, or mail to *Ferns & Fallers*, c/o Powell River Living, 7053E Glacier Street, Powell River, BC V8A 5J7 Tel 604.485.0003

No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written consent of the publisher. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions that may occur. © 2014 Southcott Communications. We reserve the right to refuse any submission or advertisement.

This issue is also available online at www.prliving.ca

ON THE COVER: Anna May Bennett's painting of *Bear Island*, a little island up Powell Lake, is available in limited edition prints.



Sunshine Coast forests
- a resource we've
shared for
generations.

Nicholas Simons MLA

4675 Marine Ave | 604.485.1249
1-866-373-0792 | nicholas.simons.mla@leg.bc.ca



Smarter is better in the woods

I bought these brown leather Asolo boots long way back in the spring of 2005, right before I hiked the 47-kilometre Juan de Fuca Marine Trail, along the south coast of Vancouver Island. It was my first trip into BC's old growth rainforest. Each morning, we'd backpack down into shady cedar-cooled river valleys, and up onto cliffs jutting above the expansive strait. Each evening, the trail delivered us onto dreadlocked and tie-dye-filled beaches, the smells of campfire, pot, ocean and our own sweat like incense to our desensitized urban noses.

Today, nine years later, I am wearing these same old hiking boots, as I stand in a "cut block" – what I previously would have wrongly referred to as a clear cut – on the 182-kilometre Sunshine Coast Trail.

Here's a stump, with its age rings pronounced and greying. There's an isolated stand of Douglas-firs, swaying as the wind whips across this expanse. Underfoot is a

sea of broken sticks, salal and some scary-looking black spiders.

I am not a sophisticated viewer of cut blocks. They don't exist around my native home: downtown Vancouver, nor in BC's famous parks. And clearly, given the age of my still-functional hiking boots, I don't get out as much as I'd like to. But like anyone who hikes, bikes, ATVs or paddles in the forests around Powell River - my chosen home - they're part of the experience here. Even in the "front country."

Outside of the municipal boundaries and a handful of provincial and regional parks, the entirety of the Sunshine Coast is under forestry tenure. In other words, pick mushrooms around Duck Lake, paddle the Canoe Route, or visit your buddy's float cabin on Powell Lake, and you're in the "working forest."

It's the 21st century iteration of the region's oldest economic driver – logging.



Handy... and they smell nice, too.

Trees are felled where people recreate, either buffered by a strip of woods, or sometimes, right across a trail: a dare to share the space.

The Sunshine Coast Trail isn't the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail, with its pristine, resort-like flavour. This is something different. And it works, because everyone involved in making this space-sharing happen – foresters, trail-builders, and environmentalists – has battled their way into a respectful collaboration.

(continued on Page 6)

Your father knew the Husqvarna name.
So did your grandfather and your great grandfather.



Husqvarna



Only one brand has been synonymous with quality and innovation for an incredible 325 years. Find it at Thunder Bay Saw Shop.

Thunder Bay Saw Shop Ltd

tel 604 485-5041 fax 604 485-5094
7125 Duncan St, Powell River



In the foreground, a four-year-old Douglas-fir. In the background, 80-year-old Douglas-firs.

“The root of all of these successes is collaboration between locals with interests in the forestry industry, in environmentalism, in tourism, in trails and in politics. Therefore, the intention of this magazine is to feed curiosity: the hunger for knowledge that’s resulted in a mature, fruitful conversation.”

Part of making it work, I’ve realized, is to educate myself. I admit that when I first arrived in town and took my family for a hike around the Duck Lake trails, we were outraged to see a cut adjacent to the forest. I’d assumed we were in “the wilderness.” My knee-jerk outrage, I now realize, was a symptom of my own ignorance. I’m ashamed to admit that I’ve been a working journalist in Western Canada for 15 years, and had such an appallingly limited understanding of forestry – the province’s biggest historical and contemporary industry.

This magazine is my attempt to begin to right that wrong.

I’ve learned that here in the Northern Sunshine Coast, especially, this is by far our biggest sector, with over 900 direct full-time jobs in forestry, pulp and paper, sawmills, and wood products manufacturing. Officially, forestry represents one in 10 local jobs; but according to calculations based on local data from Statistics Canada’s 2011 Household Survey, the value of those jobs is much greater – as many as one in four full-time, year-round jobs in this region are forestry-related. More importantly, these are some of our best-paying jobs, the kind that allow people to eat at restaurants, buy books, and put their kids in music classes.

Jobs and revenues are often used as a bat to whack those opposed to forestry – something I have no interest in doing. This magazine celebrates local successes, such as the sharing of the woods between recreation groups and loggers (see Page 34); the environmental vigilance of the local Community Advisory Group (see Page 28), and the growth of First Nations involvement in the industry (see Page 17). The root of all of these successes is collaboration between locals with interests in the forestry industry, in environmentalism, in tourism, in trails and in politics. Therefore, the intention of this magazine is to feed curiosity: the hunger for knowledge that’s resulted in a mature, fruitful conversation here on the Northern Sunshine Coast.

What I’ve enjoyed most about creating this magazine has been shaking off my ignorance about the forest itself, and learning about the practice of foresters.

The cut block I’m standing in, for instance, still in these brown boots, is ST-245, near Lois Lake. I’m here with forester Stuart Glen, the operations planner for the

Stillwater (Northern Sunshine Coast) forest operation of Western Forest Products. Glen, who has a degree in forestry from UBC, kneels down next to a young Douglas-fir, and shows me how to tell how old it is. Look at how the branches grow, he advises. The space between each major whorl of branches represents a year’s growth. This dewy light green tree, we calculate, is about four years old.

To the right, we enter the forested trail. Here, the firs are tall enough to join the canopy. This part of the forest – which to my untrained eyes looks like every other forest in the region – is about 15 years old, Glen says. In a decade, in other words, the rich soil and wet balminess of the West Coast grows and grows. In 80 years, Glen says, these trees can be cut again. About one percent of the local forest is cut each year, he explains.

I try to visualize this – what the local forest will look like 100 years from now. What helps is the Forestry Museum’s archival photographs (see Page 41), which show in black and white the enormous trunks of the 19th century forest here.

The forests we enjoy on our little family trips are primarily second-growth – what’s grown in place of the voracious logging operations of a century ago, plus wildfires. This forest, according to planners, will replace itself and look much like the current forest, with its mix of cuts, trails, Old Growth Management Areas, parks and riparian areas (protected stream and river beds), for eternity.

If the independent checks and balances that we currently employ remain, it’s possible, I hope. I really do hope it is possible, because I’ve become fascinated by this world, the science of it and the promise of it.

Given the choice between repeating my hike through the pristine Juan de Fuca Marine Trail, or having the chance to explore a mix of park and managed forest, I know what I’d choose. It’s not the same, but it doesn’t need to be.

My goal? To keep learning. And perhaps, to buy some new boots. Local trails are calling.

Pieta Woolley

**This is my office.
It could be yours.**
*Consider a career in BC's
coastal forest sector.*

*Audrey is training
to be a log scaler.
Find out more at
www.tla.ca/thisismyoffice*

TLA

**THE TRUCK LOGGERS
ASSOCIATION**

Our strength is in our roots.

Working in the Woods Today

A photographer goes where few outside the forest industry can: onto the booms and into the cuts of a radically-changed business



By Pieta Woolley

At a forestry company Christmas party in 2005 a woman approached photographer Hans Peter Meyer. “I’ve been married to my husband for 35 years,” she told him, “and until I saw your photographs, I had no idea what he did at work.”

Meyer had spent part of the previous year capturing images of the company’s crew at work for a book commissioned by the company. At this party, each crew member received a copy of a book featuring beautiful colour photographs of themselves and their coworkers, at work: running machinery, mapping the forest, cutting the trees, taking them to market. The rest of the evening, Meyer remembers, was like being on a receiving line: employees and their spouses thanking him for having created this document.

For Meyer, this story illustrates the meaning of the work he does: forestry, one of BC’s founding industries, is a mystery to nearly everyone – except foresters and loggers. That’s why he’s on a mission to document it, with some of the same passion that drove the forestry photographers of the early 20th century.

“We have an abundance of great images of glory days of logging,” says the Courtenay-based writer and photographer, whose father was a logger, and who logged and planted trees in his 20s and 30s. “There are a million photos in shoeboxes and online – images that loggers have snapped of their coworkers in the woods. But there’s no systematic coverage of the industry. There’s no book about it. That’s what I am creating with what I’m doing, a project I’m calling Working in the Woods Today.”

Working in the Woods Today is a work in progress. Hans is able to move it along whenever he’s commissioned to do a company book. He’s also benefited from support from forest companies who’ve given him access to remote camps and operations. This has enabled him to take his cameras and his nuanced perspective to places few British Columbians see — but many have opinions about. Over the past nine years, he’s photographed loggers, foresters, cooks, pilots,

“He’s running a log loader, and he’s got this book in his cab: Eckhart Tolle’s *A New Earth: Awakening Your Life’s Purpose*. It’s ... not something I’d have seen in a logger’s bag 30 years ago.” - Hans Peter Meyer

and more in many areas of BC’s coast.

He’s driven to show, in photographs, the reality of working in the woods – and how much the industry has changed. An example is a photo shoot in Knight Inlet. “I was in high school when this area was first logged. In those days, we’d start at one end of a valley and log from top to bottom,” he recalls. “When I went back, 40 years later, there’s a forest there. They’re logging it again. That’s really amazing to me to see. It’s amazing to fly over the North Island and the mid-coast, which were clear cut in the worst way in 1960s and 70s, and see that there’s a forest there again. It’s an incredible recovery.”

But it’s not just the landscape that’s recovered and changed. Meyer sees changed attitudes in the people working in the woods. As an example he cites an encounter in a North Island clear cut. “There’s this guy I know from high school. He’s running a log loader, and he’s got this book in his cab: Eckhart Tolle’s *A New Earth: Awakening Your Life’s Purpose*. It’s what I’d call New Age environmental personal growth stuff — not something I’d have seen in a logger’s bag 30 years ago.”

Like the woman who had no idea about what her husband’s working environment had been for 35 years, many in BC really have no understanding of what it means to be “working in the woods today.” Nor, Meyer believes, do many of us really understand how much the industry has changed in the generation since the worst of its excesses were being called into question. **FF**



Left: An Interfor forestry crew after a close encounter with a grizzly bear, near Johnston Bay on BC’s mid-coast.

Far left: On the booming ground at Stillwater, BC south of Powell River, July 2012

© hanspetermeyer.ca
/ 2014 - please contact regarding usage or prints

Forest flavour

The woods want to feed you. Learn a little about wild edibles, and everywhere you look, there's a waiting feast.

Blackberries are the gateway food to a full-fledged foraging obsession. They're ubiquitous in local forests.

Whether you've found the true native Pacific or Highbush blackberries — or the foreign (but wild-growing) Himalayan or Armenian blackberry — they're delightful to eat on the trail.

As Powell River chefs demonstrate each year at the Blackberry Festival Street Party (August 15), they're also dynamic in the kitchen.

If you're blackberry-jammed out, here's a trio of options, courtesy of The Boardwalk Restaurant's new *Lund Then & Now with Recipes* cookbook celebrating Lund's 125th anniversary this summer, by Rayana Blackwell.

Proceeds from cookbook sales go to support the local fire department.



Highway 101

1 oz. blackberry syrup
1 oz. tequila
2 drops orange liqueur
1 oz. lime juice
5 oz. Sprite

Half-fill a 12-ounce tulip glass with ice. Stir together the blackberry syrup, tequila, orange liqueur, and lime juice. Top up with Sprite. Garnish and serve.

Blackberry Salsa

1 cup fresh blackberries
1 green onion, diced
2 tbsp lemon juice
1 clove garlic, pressed

Dash each salt and pepper
1/4 tsp ancho chili powder
Toss together lightly.
Set aside.

Blackberry Bunkle

1/4 cup butter
1/2 cup white sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 cup milk
2.5 cups blackberries
3/4 cup white sugar
1/2 cup boiling water
1 tbsp sugar

Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C). Grease the bottom of a nine-inch square pan. In a large bowl, cream 1/4 cup butter and 1/2 cup sugar. In a separate small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir into butter mixture. Stir in milk (mixture will be thick and lumpy). Spread batter into prepared pan.

In a large bowl, combine berries, 3/4 cup sugar and 1/2 cup boiling water. Pour over the batter in the pan. Dot with remaining tablespoon of butter.

Bake in the preheated oven for 45 to 50 minutes.



Forest mushroom sauce

1/4 cup butter
 4 shallots, diced
 1 Tbsp fresh thyme, or 1/2
 teaspoon dried thyme
 2 tsp Dijon mustard
 2 oz. dry sherry
 1 Tbsp minced garlic
 1 litre of mixed forest
 mushrooms, coarsely
 chopped
 1 cup strong beef stock
 1 cup heavy whipping
 cream
 1-2 tbsp corn starch
 dissolved in cold water
 salt and pepper mix to taste

Melt butter in a heavy saucepan. Add shallots and thyme, sauté until shallots are soft.

Add mustard and sherry. Add mushrooms and garlic; sauté until mushrooms are cooked and most liquid evaporated.

Add beef stock and cream. Simmer. Thicken with cornstarch dissolved in cold water.

Adjust seasoning to taste.

Hunt & Forage

Tree Frog Bistro chef
 Marika Varro brings European
 influences to local forest fare.
 These are her recipes.



Venison Loin Roast

Marinade:

1 cup red wine
 2 cloves garlic, mined
 2 bay leaves, broken
 1 tsp rosemary, crumbled
 4 whole cloves
 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
 2 tbsp olive or cooking oil
 6 crushed juniper berries
 1/4 cup red wine vinegar

2 - 2.5 lb venison loin or tenderloin
 12 slices prosciutto, thinly sliced
 olive oil for brushing

Mix all the ingredients for the marinade. In a large, food-safe air-tight plastic bag put in the loin and marinade. Occasionally turn and marinate eight hours or overnight

Preheat oven to 430F. Wipe off marinade and brush loin with olive oil. Heat a non-stick frying pan over high heat, cook the meat for 4-5 minutes, turning to brown all sides.

Place overlapping prosciutto slices on a board so they are the same length as the loin. Place the loin on the edge of the prosciutto and wrap the prosciutto around it. Secure the prosciutto with a kitchen string.

Place on a rack in a baking dish. Roast for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350F and roast for a further five minutes to rare, or until cooked to your liking. Remove from oven, tent and rest for 10 minutes before slicing.

Serve with caramelized onions and cranberry chutney.

Wild at Art

With hundreds of working artists tucked into the Sunshine Coast forests, it's no surprise that trees are an inspiration.

This page: Sechelt and Nuxalk artist Dionne Paul harvests and weaves cedar, riffing on traditions in her contemporary, boundary-pushing work. www.dionnepaul.ca

Opposite, top: *In Last Light Deep* in Pender Harbour, painter Brian Romer captures the way the light plays across seaside wilderness. www.romerart.com

Opposite, bottom left: Powell River artist Anna May Bennett documents trees along the Blackwater Creek Trail. facebook.com/AnnaMayBennettArtist

Opposite, bottom right: Jeweller Karin Birch molded these wood knot earrings in pure silver. www.powellriverartists.com







Forestry for the future

Brothers Ron (right) and Doug (left) Fuller manage a 1,244-hectare woodlot in Powell River's busiest forest, in the Duck Lake area.

The mountain bikers, hikers, ATVers, horseback riders, and campers are no problem, they say, compared to the hungry elk.



Standing nearly as tall as Ron and Doug Fuller themselves, is their latest anti-Elk experiment. It's an upside-down white plastic cone, designed to cover their seedling cedars and firs, held in place with a four-foot piece of steel rebar. The contraption looks like a skinny white birthday-party hat.

Each juvenile cedar tree in this cut block sports one of these protective covers. Adding the rebar is time consuming and expensive – taking a 40-cent standard seedling plant into the \$6 range, by the time its free to grow. The cheaper wooden stakes they used to use for the job could be easily broken, the elk discovered. Rebar alone wasn't enough, because the elk also discovered they could spin the cover off the seedling. So the Fullers add another pin to hold it down. The metal can be dangerous to future loggers if it's left out and grows into the tree trunk, so they have to be sure to remove all the rebar later. But they do it anyway – a hands-on science experiment – because getting this right is important. “We have 4,800 pounds of rebar out here,” notes Doug, a little proudly and a little resignedly, as he stands in a cut covered with the soft green haze of new growth.

The anti-elk experiments – which include pil-

ing brush just-so around the perimeter of their cuts – are just a small part of the Fuller's tight relationship with their woodlot, a family business.

As we travel through the 1,000 hectares of crown land and 244 hectares of private land the duo manage, we pass horse and ATV trails, a Ministry of Forests recreation site, a bear den, power lines from BC Hydro and Brookfield, Ministry of Forests research plots, and a cut block. Much of the Duck Lake recreation area – with its busy web of trails, runs through this property.

Similar to the roughly 860 other woodlots in BC, the Fullers must comply with the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, and pay fees and stumpage to the province. It's a small operation.

“We want a strong, diversified forest for our children and our grandchildren,” said Doug. He's not speaking theoretically – both he and Ron have children, and woodlots can be passed through generations. “So you have to think about your management with a long-term hat on.”

In fact, their biggest land use problem is not recreation users or government taxes or sustainability measures – it's elk.

“A mature elk will eat 20 kilograms a day,” said Doug. “And they love seedlings.” **FF**

Woodlots:

Are small, area-based forest tenures which are unique to BC. A partnership between the license holder and the Province.

Are often passed on to generations within a family.

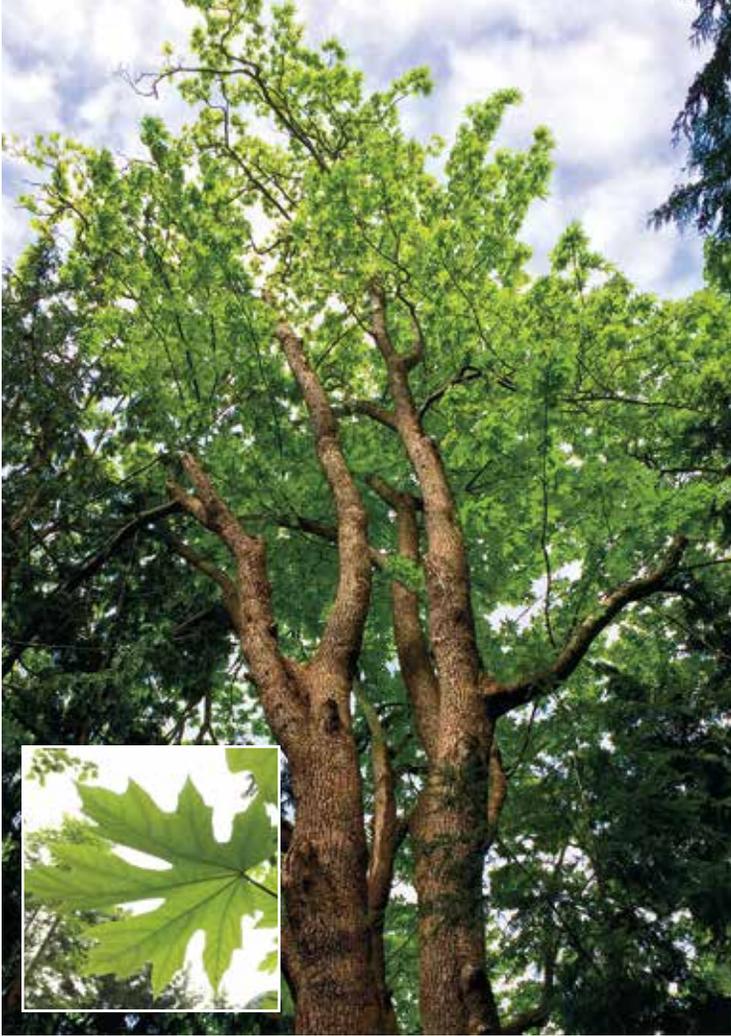
Marry private & Crown lands.

Provide a long-term approach to the sustainable management of all resource values.

Are often located in close proximity to communities and residential areas or over areas with sensitive resource management issues.

The ‘Other’ Trees

While Douglas-fir, red cedar, yellow cedar and hemlock get the bulk of the glory in the logging industry on the Sunshine Coast, there are many other species of trees growing in our forests. These two are getting increased attention from foresters.



BIGLEAF MAPLE
Acer macrophyllum

Because of its close grain and moderate hardness, maple wood is used commercially for furniture, interior finishing, and musical instruments. Although maple is perhaps best known for maple syrup, the bigleaf maple of the Sunshine Coast doesn't produce the same kind of product as its eastern cousins. Because the sap has a low sugar content, it takes a large quantity of sap to make a small amount of syrup.

Maple flowers are quite sweet and edible and can be used in salads.

Western Forest Products is currently involved in a maple trial, where they're trying various seed sources to see which ones grow best in different locations. The trial will be followed for 20 years.

"It's good to diversify your portfolio," says forester Rudi van Zwaaij.



RED ALDER
Acer macrophyllum

Often considered a weed species, red alder grows quickly after a site has been logged – especially on and along roads where the soil has been disturbed – shading out conifers such as Douglas-fir, so foresters often cut back the alder.

However, it has its benefits. It's a hardwood, often used in furniture-making, and is low in pitch, making its chips good for smoking meat. It grows quickly, so it doesn't require as much brushing as other species need after planting. While an alder tree may not be as valuable as a fir, with an average lifespan of 40 to 60 years, a stand of alder can be harvested twice in the time it takes Douglas-fir to mature.

The benefits of diversity are not lost on forest companies. Western Forest Products, for example, has been planting alders since 2000, in locations where it's ecologically right for the site.

Team Timber

How a newbie First Nation logging coordinator
and a 35-year manufacturing vet
keep each other afloat in the region's most dynamic industry

Back in 2007 – just three years out of college – a gargantuan opportunity fell into John Hackett's hands. Just 100 kilometres north of the Sliammon First Nation reserve, where the entrepreneurial, soft-spoken Hackett is the forestry coordinator, construction was underway on a \$660 million hydroelectric project. Engineers designed power lines to run right through Sliammon's lands.

So the project's proponents, the Toba Montrose General Partnership, asked Hackett's fledgling logging operation to take on the clearing of a path through the woods, to accommodate the power lines. Hackett jumped at the contract, but knew he needed help.

With the seasoned expertise of Rory Maitland, owner of Goat Lake Forest Products, they dove in. They created the partnership Tla'amin Lake Contracting, and, well, it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

"They helped us a lot," recalled Hackett, in an interview at Goat Lake's mill board room, as sawdust flew outside.

"And the project really helped us during that period," said Maitland. "From 2007 to 2009, forestry economics just collapsed when the building trade collapsed in the U.S."

Together, they cleared the routes.

Seven years later, the duo continues to work together, as partners in the harvesting side. Thanks to deft negotiating by Hackett and Sliammon Chief Clint Williams in 2006, the First Nation manages two significant tenures in the region, near Powell and Haslam Lakes.

The success of the partnership company has turned the heads of many Sliammon First Nation band members. They've trained as certified fallers, truck drivers, and in other skills. Some work directly for Tla'amin, others work for Maitland – a resource he appreciates, as dependable workers are the core of his mill.

"What's neat about this business," said Maitland, "is that all the revenue and profits stay in this community. And what's good for Sliammon is good for Powell River."

(continued on Page 18)



At work or play,
safety is good business.



BC Forest Safety

www.bcforestsafesafe.org



Growing up on the Sliammon First Nation reserve, John Hackett was a self-described “problem child.” At 17 years old, he bought a Mustang, and pretty much forgot about his studies at the old Max Cameron Secondary school.

“Eventually, my dad told me to get a job, go to school, or get out,” said Hackett, with a reflective smile. “School was just not a priority.”

Why was he smiling? Now, 15 years later, he has grown a multi-million dollar forestry enterprise that promises jobs, training, revenues, and dividends for band members, and holds the official title of ‘Sliammon First Nation forestry coordinator.’

Thanks to some tough love and his natural ambition, the teenaged Hackett pulled it together, upgraded his high school courses at Malaspina College (now Vancouver Island University), and moved to Merritt to attend the aboriginal-centred Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. There, he earned a two-year certificate in natural resource technology.

During the summer in between first and second year, he worked for Weyerhaeuser – the precursor to Western Forest Products – in the forests behind Powell River.

“It really sparked my interest in the forest industry,” he said, noting that he’s always been at home in the woods.

After graduation, he was hired by Sliammon First Nation, with

a \$10,000 work grant from the federal department of human resources, to take on the band’s tiny forestry interest.

“I saw an economic opportunity, so I talked with my former employers at Weyerhaeuser,” Hackett recalled, of his 2005 gamble. “We walked over the lot, and I saw an opportunity in alder. That summer, we made \$397,000. So I got to keep my job!”

Together with Sliammon Chief Clint Williams, he negotiated a Forest and Range Agreement with the province of BC (now a Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement), which acknowledges Sliammon’s right to harvest on traditional lands around the region. This year’s annual allowable cut will be about 70,000 cubic metres – nearly three times the size of the Powell River Community Forest.

The revenue from Sliammon’s forestry – under the name Tla’amin Timber Products – helps support the 1,000-member First Nation. A Tla’amin, Klahoose and Homalco language dictionary; an annual healthy living payment; a Christmas dividend and other projects get forestry funds.

Hackett, with his deep dimples and ready smile, has retained his young energy, even as he’s stepped up into the business realm. He relaxes by hiking the Sunshine Coast trail, his 110-pound German Shepherd, Snoopy, in tow.

That Mustang-driving “problem child” has found his role.

Rory Maitland: partnership builder



Rory Maitland steps around his sawmill like a death-defying mountain goat. As sharp metal whirls, shingles fly and logs roll, he points and chats excitedly as we stroll.

This is the world he and his business partner Howie McKamey created over the last 35 years: Goat Lake Forest Products, near Lang Bay.

Maitland's father was a mechanical engineer in the welding supply business, his mother a homemaker. So the forest industry isn't exactly in his blood – though wood is.

“I love wood, and I've always loved wood,” he said, as the spring sunshine spread the smell of cedar over his mill. “My dad used to build boats. That was my introduction to wood. I used to hang around and watch him build.”

As a 22-year-old heavy equipment operator, Maitland moved to Powell River without a job – just because he loved the region. His family, he explained, owned a cabin here since the turn of the 20th century, and he and his brothers vacationed here as children. Andy Byrne Trucking gave him his first job here, until he and McKamey won their first cedar salvage contract in 1979.

The pair swiftly started a company, salvaging cedar blocks and logs from the forest floors, and selling it to mills and brokers around Mission, BC. By the mid 1980s, they'd invested in their own machines.

The company still salvages wood from local forests, as it has been doing for 35 years, but the expanding collection of machinery and staff helped turn it into shakes, shingles, beams, and planks.

“It's pretty hard to beat wood for a lot of things. With cedar, we compete with so many man-made products. But they're all trying to be the real thing – cedar.”

“Shake and shingle manufacturing has the highest job spin-off rate per cubic metre of the whole industry,” he said. “So it's a good business for Powell River.”

In addition to the cedar mill, the duo own partnerships in Pildola, Lois Lumber, Southview, and Tla'amin Lake Contracting (see story on Page 17).

When he's not working, Maitland mountain-bikes in local forests. But he's on deadline for a more immediate hobby.

He and his three brothers are each building a wooden sailboat off the same plans – a 10' trimaran they call “The Seaclipper 10.” On August 1, they'll meet here in Powell River – one arriving from Calgary, one from Vancouver, and he and his brother and co-worker Bill Maitland – for a regatta. **FF**



SPACE INVADER: Blake Fougère stands beside a clump of Japanese knotweed. The plant grows rapidly and displaces native vegetation.

Alien Invasion

Stopping invasive species a challenging job

To the untrained eye, the clump of bushes looks like just another plant alongside the road. But Blake Fougère recognizes it as the possible end of the Sunshine Coast's plant life as we know it.

The alien invader is Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, an innocuous looking broad-leafed plant with bumps on the stalks that give it the appearance of bamboo, though it is not closely related.

Fougère, a professional forester and stewardship officer for the Ministry of Forests, has been waging a war against invasive species such as knotweed and Giant Hogweed, a particularly heinous alien containing phototoxic sap that can cause third degree burns on human skin.

If left alone, he says, the alien invaders will take over and displace the native vegetation. In England, Japanese knotweed has taken over vast areas and is now a banned substance.

Fougère has also spotted patches of knotweed along Willingdon Creek. It's particularly dangerous in riparian areas because it grows rapidly and spreads quickly as chunks of root break off and float

downstream, begetting new plants that displace native vegetation. Worst of all, it's not a good stream bank stabilizer, leading to rapid erosion.

The knotweed has no natural predators or parasites in this part of the world to keep its rapid growth in check. The long-term solution is to find the right bug to introduce to control the weed, says Ernie Sellentin, project coordinator at Coastal Invasive Plant Committee. But that takes years of research to ensure that it's the right bug that doesn't attack native plants and further throw the ecosystem out of kilter.

Eventually, says Sellentin, every species will turn up everywhere, but that may not be good for the planet, so he urges people not to plant species that could spread out of control.

"If you plant something, it could be there for the next 400 years. Who's going to look after it when you're gone?"

Japanese knotweed is seen in a number of yards and gardens around the Sunshine Coast. An unsuspecting gardener likely spread the Japanese knotweed by dumping clippings or roots alongside the road. Then it spread further when a few bits of root got caught in the blade of the road grader.

Powell River's infestation is small and might possibly be controlled. Along the Cowichan River, however, it has shown up in nearly a hundred sites in a 30-kilometre stretch. It will take hundreds of thousands of dollars and heavy herbicide use to kill it. If that's not done soon, the size of the infestation and the cost to control it will double every five years, said Sellentin.

But there are success stories. Near Okeover Inlet, Fougère attacked a small infestation of giant hogweed, and seems to have won the battle. "We're hoping we've eliminated that," said Fougère.

You may have seen yellow signs in areas that have been treated to kill knotweed, and you can expect to see more.

The Ministry of Forests is partnering with Ministry of Transportation again this year to target several sites along Highway 101.

There are also several sites that the Ministry of Forests will tackle alongside Forest Service logging roads. **FF**



What you can do

Don't plant non-native species.

Learn to identify local invasive species.

Remove them if you have them on your property.

Don't dump gardening waste in the bush.

If you're operating a grader, excavator or mower, make sure it's properly cleaned before moving from one location to another.

Learn more at:
www.bcinvases.ca or
www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants

Report invasive weeds
at 1-888-WEEDSBC

Really want to channel your
inner Ripley and battle
the alien invasion?

Download the
ReportAWeed app



What's forestry worth?

**#of Northern
Sunshine Coast
full-time equivalent
jobs in forestry
& logging: 413**

In pulp and paper: 420
In sawmills & manufacturing: 108
Total direct jobs in forestry: 941

Total # of jobs in the region: 8,095

How much Catalyst's wages and other economic activities are worth here per year: \$360 million

How much Catalyst Paper spends locally per year: \$8 million in business

Estimated percentage of Powell River regional jobs directly or indirectly related to forestry: **18%**

Number of British Columbians who work in forestry: 58,000

Total direct and indirect forestry employment in Canada: 593,200

Average wages per employee (2012): \$68,575 (26% above the national average)

Canadian forest sector revenues: \$57.8 Billion

Of timber harvested on the coast:

Hemlock	36.6%
Douglas-fir	28.6%
Red cedar	19.2 %
Balsam	10.2%
Yellow cedar	2.8%
Spruce	1.4%

% of BC merchandise exports that are forest-related: 32%
% of goods produced in BC that are forest-related: 12.3%

In 2012
BC sawmills sold \$3.8 billion
BC pulp mills sold \$2.5 billion
BC paper makers sold \$4.5 billion



By the numbers...

1% of BC trees under forestry tenure are cut down each year

95 percent of BC forests are publicly-owned

About 200 million seedlings are planted every year in the province

BC is home to 14.1 million hectares of parks and protected areas, or 14.8% of the province

BC land available for harvesting:
25 million hectares

Total area of BC: 95 million hectares

Forested land: 60 million hectares

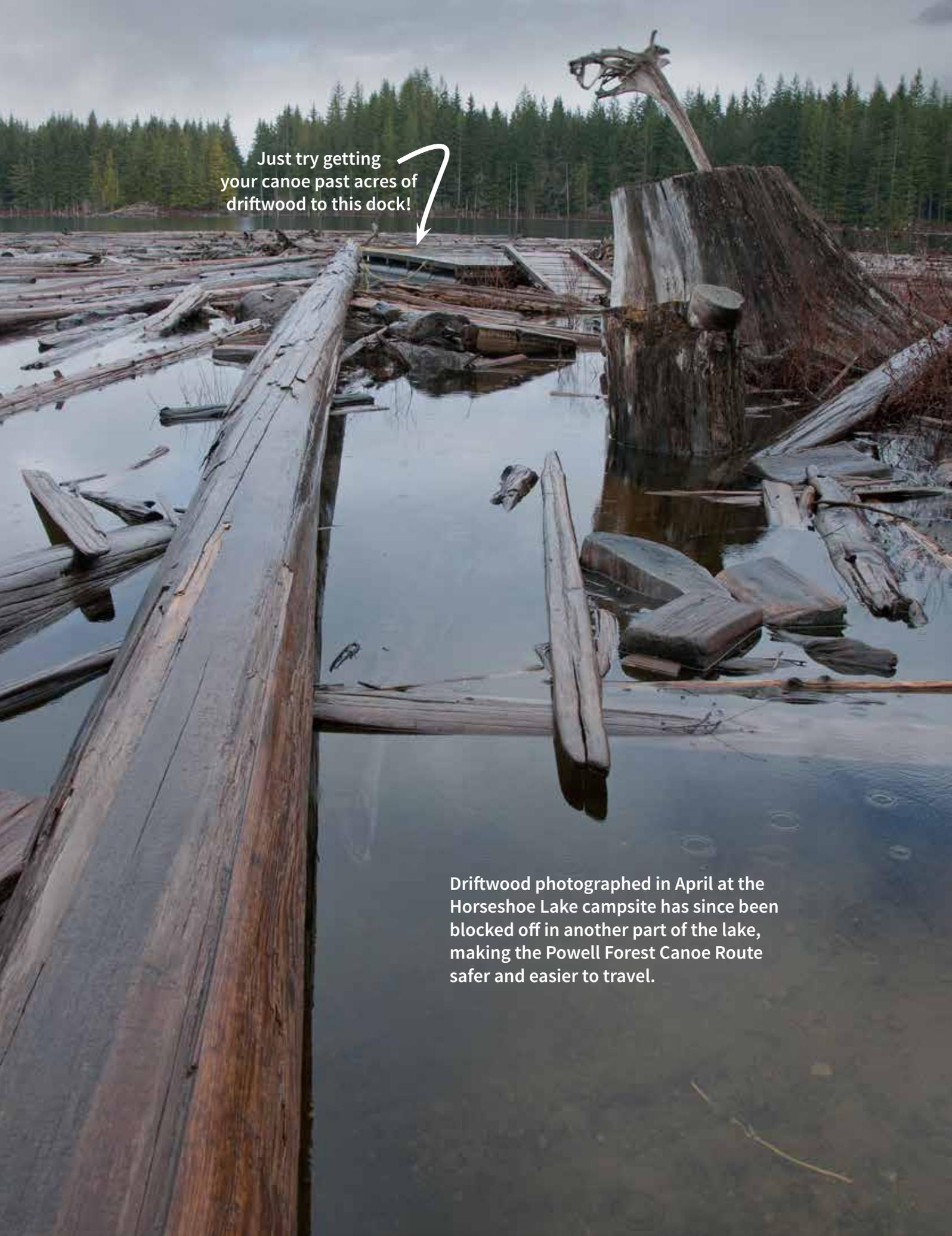
Publicly-owned forested land: 57 million hectares

Annual timber harvest: 190,000 hectares

Sunshine Coast district forested land: 1.5 million hectares

In the Sunshine Coast District, there are **15** commercial species of trees including: Douglas-fir, Western red cedar, Western hemlock, yellow cedar, red alder, grand fir, mountain hemlock, broadleaf maple, Sitka spruce, lodgepole pine, balsam fir, Western white pine, white spruce, white birch, and black cottonwood.

The non-commercial trees in the District include: juniper, yew, bitter cherry, dogwood, arbutus, pacific willow, pacific crab apple, and cascara.



Just try getting
your canoe past acres of
driftwood to this dock!

Driftwood photographed in April at the Horseshoe Lake campsite has since been blocked off in another part of the lake, making the Powell Forest Canoe Route safer and easier to travel.



Driftwood Roundup

By Sean Percy

“We felt like explorers moving through ice floes in the Northwest Passage. We would nose forward and pull logs past our hull. Sometimes we were blocked by a solid mass and had to reverse course.”

That entry posted by a local blogger shares the experience of many paddlers on Horseshoe Lake in recent years.

The lake is the second in a string of lakes surrounding Powell River that form the Powell Forest Canoe Route – a popular trip for local and visiting paddlers.

About five acres of driftwood are blown about Horseshoe Lake by the shifting winds, sometimes blocking the passage into Nanton Lake, and other times blocking access to the dock and canoe launch at the Horseshoe Lake campsite.

Fortunately, no canoeists have yet suffered the fate of Franklin’s ships in the Northwest Passage, but the shifting mass of driftwood had been making traveling the canoe route a challenging – and sometimes dangerous – prospect.

Much of the wood is a century old – a remnant of the damming of the Horseshoe River. Despite the dam, the water level fluctuates in the lake, and the wood appears to be moving around more lately – posing a

safety hazard to paddlers.

But this spring, the wood is being rounded up and corralled. Western Forest Products (WFP) forester Rudi van Zwaaij (above) runs the canoe route under a management agreement with the Ministry of Forest, Land and Natural Resource’s Recreation Sites and Trails branch.

With money from Brookfield Power (which now is responsible for the dam), and donations from WFP, they started looking at ways to deal with the driftwood. Pulling the wood from the lake and chipping it was cost prohibitive. Instead, they applied for permission to corral the wood in a largely unused bay in the southeast corner of the lake – away from canoe traffic.

Darren Brown’s team at Kip Brown Trucking used sidewinders, the aquatic log sorting aquatic equivalent of cowboys on horses, to round up the wood.

“There was a lot of driftwood there,” says Brown, “but we set up booms and made wide sweeps and rounded it up.”

Large boomsticks donated by Western Forest Products now keep the driftwood in the bay, where it continues to provide habitat for frogs and trout, but where it won’t get in the way of canoeists. **FF**

Keeping the canoe route

Each year, Western Forest Products hires a company to do weekly maintenance on the Powell Forest Canoe Route – tidying the rustic campsites, cleaning washrooms and generally keeping an eye on the free sites to ensure they remain family-friendly facilities.

Last year, and again this year, the Powell River Educational Services Society got the contract.

“It’s a great fit for the kids working for them. It’s a training ground that helps them with self-esteem and outdoor skills,” says WFP’s Rudi van Zwaaij.

Like any remote sites, the forest canoe route suffers some vandalism – last year someone felt the need to cut one of the outhouses in half with a chainsaw. But for the most part, the sites are respected.

The Canoe Route was established in 1982-83 through an employee bridging assistance program that put people to work in the forest building trails, boardwalks and bridges and picnic tables. Many of those are still in existence, but rotting away. Three years ago the first phase of upgrades began, with the Horseshoe River portage. A Cadillac of trails, it remains in excellent condition, despite the temptation it offers to quads and off-road bikes, which have mostly left it to hikers and canoe portagers.



With a solid gravel bed and no stairs, the portage between Lois Lake and Horseshoe Lake is easily wheeled by those traveling the Powell Forest Canoe Route. More and more paddlers are using wheels attached to their canoes and kayaks to traverse the portages, and upgrades done by contractors working for Western Forest Products are trying to accommodate them.

photo by Sean Percy

Come and play in the
Working Forest



Powell River Forest
Canoe Route



Sunshine Coast Trail



Powell Lake



Your bike trails



Your ATV trails



Your fishing spots



Your hunting spots



Western Forest Products Inc.

All of these recreation areas – your favourite weekend destinations, and ours – lie within Western Forest Products' Tree Farm License area. Our deep commitment to this renewable resource and our community means the working forests of the Sunshine Coast will always support both work and play.

Our 24-hour road safety hotline at 604-485-3132 is always available with up-to-date access information.



Sitting in Nancy's Bakery, Jane Cameron looks like your average end-of-Highway 101 hippie mama, with thick grey hair and the kind of rosy skin that only comes from a life lived outside. The retired public health nurse said she spent her younger years visiting logging camps and remote reserves, here on the coast, running immunization and well-baby clinics, before becoming a float plane pilot.

And, she said, she was once vehemently anti-logging.

So it may come as a surprise that now she is the chairperson of the Powell River Western Forest Products and Island Timberlands Community Advisory Group – working in concert with big forestry.

Pieta Woolley sat down with Cameron to ask: how did she get from there, to here?

From protester to protector

The Stillwater Community Advisory Group keeps local foresters on their toes

F&F: *Why do you chair the Stillwater Community Advisory Group?*

Cameron: The forests are just so important to us in every way imaginable. We've all seen how, in the past, the forest industry has just behaved in the worst way – the old attitude of “just cut it all down.” When you look at the old photographs of Powell River, and you can see that it's just razed end to end. Here, it's not done like that at all anymore. So this comes from me wanting to know more, and wanting to see the industry done in the best way possible.

F&F: *As a long-time coastal resident, how did you get from anti-logging to logging-supporting, in just a couple of decades?*

Cameron: In the summer of 1993, while 11,000 people descended on Vancouver Island's Clayoquot Sound to protest logging in old-growth areas, I was single-mothering and nursing on the Gulf Islands – too committed to that phase of life to make it over to join the protests. Otherwise, I would have been there too, putting my body on the line. I lived Clayoquot vicariously.

In the months leading up to the arrests, Greenpeace's international media actions made it so that MacMillan Bloedel couldn't sell in Europe. You don't hear much about it, but that really forced everyone to change – industry and government.

Now, you see that change here on the ground. You walk in it, smell it, enjoy it, and it supports the town.

F&F: *What kinds of changes?*

Cameron: Over the years the government tightened up standards for logging on crown land and for road building. New environmental regulations, sustainability mechanisms and pilot projects helped make BC a leader in responsible forestry, rather than an international black spot.

And the companies really rose to the challenge; many now exceed provincial standards.

F&F: *How does the Community Advisory Group fit in to this?*

Cameron: Any forest company on the Sunshine Coast may choose to work to a higher standard and to seek certification. WFP is certified by the Canadian Standards Association Sustainable Forest Management.

Part of that is this public piece, the CAG. They must share their plans with us, and heed our advice. The company does a really good job of educating us. We get guest speakers and field trips. It's a pretty stable group with low turnover.

You wouldn't want a big turnover. You can sit there for a couple of years and not understand anything. Then it starts to click.

F&F: *How can the public trust that this group isn't just a shell for industry?*

Cameron: We get audited to ensure that we're independent of industry, and that the companies heed our advice.

The award goes to... The Stillwater Crew!

On May 1, a team of local volunteers – the Stillwater **Community Advisory Group** – received national recognition for leadership and personal commitment: the CSA Sustainable Forest Management User Group Chairman’s award.

CSA is Canada’s national forest certification standard and the world’s largest national standard with over 40 million hectares of woodlands certified. It requires local adaptations through ongoing public dialogue with public advisory groups – such as the Stillwater CAG.

John Dunford, Chair of the national group, said:

“There are many demands placed on public forests that influence how forests are managed and these advisory groups assist in balancing these forest values within the context of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) sustainable forest certification standard. We are fortunate to have many dedicated public advisory groups actively engaged in this process and I am pleased this year to recognize the achievements of the Stillwater Community Advisory Group.”

Primary CAG members

Jane Cameron – nurse & pilot, retired
Ken Jackson – retired mill worker
Nancy Hollmann – co-owner, Herondell B&B
Rory Maitland – co-owner, Goat Lake Forest Products
George Illes – Powell River Salmon Society president
Colin Palmer – Powell River Regional District chair
Doug Fuller – co-owner, Westlake Woodlands
Bill Maitland – sales, Goat Lake Forest Products
Paul Goodwin – retired forest industry worker
Andy Payne – co-owner, Cedar Lodge B&B

Alternate CAG members

Cathy Bartfai – Staples divisional sales manager
Dave Hodgins – president, Powell River ATV Club
Wayne Brewer – Powell River Cycling Association
Mark Hassett – owner, Three Leaf Contracting
Barry Miller – retired professional forester and biologist
Debbie Dee – Powell River City Council
Russ Parsons – owner, Tilt Contracting
Rob Stewart – owner, Stewart Systems Inc.
Laura van Diemen – CareerLink



Community Advisory Group members on a field trip to the Powell Daniels valley, at the head of Powell Lake. They observed helicopter logging using the Aircrane.

We were concerned that the cut allowances were too much, coming out of the recession. It was more than we were comfortable with, when we studied the draft management plan. So we did comment on the draft. Our comments will be considered when drawing up the final plan.

During SFM discussion we’ve occasionally had to agree to disagree about issues, for instance herbicide use for many years was a contentious group concern. One of the things we’re struggling with now is when [forest industry] neighbours cut adjacent to each other. It can make the cut appear huge, because it’s really two cuts, side-by-side.

F&F: *What else does the Stillwater CAG do?*

Cameron: We helped create the Sustainable Forest Management Plan, which WFP needs for CSA approval.

It sets targets for a lot of values such as biodiversity, the economy, aboriginal concerns, the health and profile of the forest and habitat maintenance. The document is on the website (cagstw.org). I sit on the national CSA SFM tech committee, and I’m helping to review and revise the standard. It’s a two-year process and open to the public for comments along the way.

F&F: *There’s a broad range of interests on the Stillwater CAG. Do you all actually agree, ever?*

Cameron: There’s a really broad range of interests in the forest. There

are seats for environmental, tourism, recreation, local government, small and forestry-dependent businesses, education etc, a total of 11 seats. Yet we’ve almost never had a situation where we couldn’t get consensus.

F&F: *What do you wish more people knew about forestry in the Stillwater area?*

Cameron: When I was flying up inlets like Jervis and Knight [20+ years ago], I saw lots of forestry operations from the air, and on the ground. Industry did giant clear cuts and left erosion on hillsides, the roads eroded and destroyed riparian zones [the areas around streams and rivers]. And the wood was being exported.

This is not the story of 21st century logging in our TFL on the Sunshine Coast. Here, the forest is being managed to be passed on to other generations, and the habitat is being maintained. We grow fabulous second-growth Douglas-fir. The big fires roared through here 80 to 120 years ago. Now, we have these wonderful mature fir trees, which all go to domestic mills. Essentially no logs are exported out of this TFL.

F&F: *What’s kept you motivated in your work on the CAG – which you’ve been doing for over a decade?*

Cameron: We need to care for the health of our forest. Without that, you’ve got nothing. It’s a really important thing to be involved in. **FF**



Come and play in the working forest

The Tony Lake Recreation Site is co-managed by Western Forest Products and Recreation Sites and Trails BC, which is part of the Ministry of Forests. Looking across the water, can you see the cut block? WFP planners have managed it to blend into the scenery.

By Western Forest Products

Powell River is well known for its outdoor recreation: canoeing, biking, and hiking opportunities attract avid outdoors people into our local forests. What visitors don't always realize until they take up their paddles or sling on their back packs is that they will also witness world-class, sustainable forest management in progress all around them.

Trails and lakes through the forest provide opportunities for visitors to see a healthy growing forest with a range of tree ages from the very young to the very old.

The Powell Forest Canoe Route, Sunshine Coast Trail, and many alpine hikes wend their way through Western Forest Products (WFP) forest tenure known as Tree Farm License 39 Block 1 (TFL).

The 57-kilometre Powell Forest Canoe Route provides a picturesque route through a chain of lakes within the TFL. WFP jointly manages the maintenance for the Canoe Route with the provincial government's Recreation Sites and Trails BC department. Last summer, WFP helped upgrade the portages to allow for wheeled carriers, making traveling the portages easier. While paddling along the canoe route, visitors will see tree harvest areas that are designed to fit aesthetically into the viewscapes.

The area is managed by WFP's Stillwater Forest Operation (Stillwater) staff. The forest professionals at Stillwater all live in the local community and they welcome recreational use and are proud to showcase their forest management activities.

Forest management is a complex science that professionals pursue with diligence. They enjoy working with local recreation and advisory groups to apply detailed, site specific management to their harvesting plans.

An example is the 180-km Sunshine Coast Trail, of which 48 km pass through the TFL. The trail offers hut-to-hut hiking through forested and sub-alpine landscapes.

The Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society (PRPAWS), the nonprofit group which built and oversees the trail, works according to management principles established by Recreation Sites and Trails BC. These principles recognize that sections of the trail exist within a working forest and therefore provides for a hiking experience



At Tony Lake this spring, WFP workers found a campsite that had been attacked by wild creatures: campers. The picnic table benches were broken, the ground was torn up by tires, and garbage was strewn over the site. Please keep campsites clean!



that isn't available within park and wilderness areas.

WFP foresters walk each section of the trail with PRPAWS, where the trail and harvest areas intersect. We try to find site-specific, long-term solutions for areas where our activities – recreation and forestry – meet each other. Examples include trail reroutes, retention harvesting, and cleaning of the trail after harvesting.

Landscape-level planning was completed for the TFL area over 10 years ago. This process identified the areas where harvesting

can and cannot occur at the broad landscape level. For example, in 2000 a total of 2,763 hectares was removed from the TFL in order to establish Inland Lake Park. An additional 7,645 hectares was established as permanent Old-Growth Management Area Reserves throughout the TFL.

A recent Forest Practices Board audit demonstrates that WFP maintains a world-class working forest that is fully compliant with – and, in fact, exceeds – the forestry requirements established in BC.

Clearly, outdoor recreation and timber

harvesting can both be successfully met within a sustainably-managed working forest. In Powell River, a healthy mix of recreation and industry makes for the best kind of forestry where all the values of the land base are fully realized.

Traditional thinking has been that we have to choose between forestry or recreation, but WFP's practices prove that there is a new and better way to operate. All work and no play will never be a problem in Powell River where the playground and the work ground are the same place – the working forest. **FF**

Western Forest Products hopes you will:

Go camping!

There are over a dozen free public use recreation sites within the TFL that WFP jointly manages with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. These recreation sites - complete with camping sites, picnic tables, fire pits, and toilets - are maintained during the summer months to provide visitors with a memorable camping experience (find them at www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca). WFP also maintains an extensive road and bridge network that provides abundant opportunities to access the back country. A 24-hour road information hotline is kept up to date by WFP with current road access information. Visitors are encouraged to call (604) 485-3132 prior to traveling into the TFL to help make sure their trip is safe and rewarding.

Be prosperous!

One in 10 full-time, year-round Powell River jobs is in the forestry sector, or related to it.

Of WFP's local TFL total forested landbase area, only about 40% is harvested. This 40% is a critical economic contributor to the local economy, providing over 180 high paying, full-time equivalent jobs. Over the last three years alone, approximately \$73 million was spent in the Powell River region on salaries, benefits, and local contractor payments. Economists estimate that this spins an additional 220 jobs in the region.

Harvesting activities here also provide revenue for the province that supports our roads, schools, hospitals and community. Best of all, this is a sustainable business, meaning it will continue to be a key economic driver for generations to come.

Breathe healthy!

Our local forest is also helping in the fight against global warming by sequestering approximately 65,000 tonnes of CO_{2e} each year.

To put that in context, each Canadian is responsible for 19 tonnes of CO_{2e}, according to a formula devised by *The Guardian* in advance of the 2009 UN Copenhagen climate change summit.

Eating Dirt: treeplanting in BC

This is an excerpt from an essay by Powell River writer Charlotte Gill, which was originally published in the Vancouver Review.

*The essay became her award-winning memoir, **Eating Dirt: Deep Forests, Big Timber, and Life Among the Tree-Planting Tribe** (2011) – which is available at the Powell River Public Library and local bookstores.*

We tumble out from pickup trucks like clothes from a dryer. Earth-stained on the thighs, the shoulders, around the waists with muddy bands, like grunge rings on the sides of a bathtub. *Permadirt*, we call it. Disposable clothes, too dirty even for the laundry.

Just two hours ago we fell out of bed and into our rags, still crusted with the grime of yesterday. Now here we are, spilling from one day into another, as if by accident, with unbrushed hair, stubbled faces, sleep still encrusted in the corners of our eyes. We drink coffee from old spaghetti sauce jars, gnaw at protein bars dressed in foil. Cigarettes are lit before feet hit the ground, and the smoke drifts up in a communal cloud.

We tighten the laces of our tall, spike-soled boots, strap on soccer shin pads. We dig through rubber backpacks for Marigold gloves and duct tape and knee braces made out of hinged aluminum and Neoprene. We tug it all out in preparation for a kind of battle. We're proud, and yet ashamed.

There is something bovine about us, our crew. We let ourselves be steered this way and that by the barks of our supervisors. At the same time we hate to be told what to do. We slide waxed boxes from the backs of the trucks and fling them down at the road. *Handle With Care*, the boxes read. *Forests for the Future*. Nothing about this phrase is a lie, but neither is it true.

Young planted forest dots the valley the way hair grows in after a transplant. Loggers crawl the mountains. Their trucks climb in the distance, like white bars of soap carried by ants. Trucks going up, trucks going down. The tidal motions of bush work, up to the peaks in the morning, down to the mainlines in the evenings. Logging roads

cross-cut the landscape like old surgical scars. Few residents but plenty of business. Every crag and knoll cruised, engineered, divvied, high-graded, surveyed from the air. *Creamed*, as we are fond of saying.

"Damn cold," we mutter, rubbing our palms together. We're in shadow, and the air has the stale, uncirculated feel of a cold-storage room. A preserved chill. There is nowhere to hide from it. No inside to duck into for warmth. Ancient forest surrounds us at the far edges of the clearing. Wind-beaten underdog trees with flattened bonsai crowns. Douglas-fir with the tops blown off. Gnarled cedars with bleached wood tusks protrude from lofty, lime-green foliage. Trees with mileage, like big old whales with harpoons stuck in their flanks.

A buzz develops all at once and out of nothing at all, the way bees begin to vibrate when they're about to flee the hive. A box of seedlings is ripped open. A paper bag torn. Bundles of plastic-wrapped seedlings jumble out. The stems are as long as a forearm, the roots grown in Styrofoam tubules to fit in the palms of our hands. We like this thought, it lends a kind of clout—trees grown to our ergonomic specifications.

Boot spikes crunch around in the gravel. A runaway seedling rolls down the road. We jostle around one another, hungry for the day that awaits us. We throw down our treeplanting bags and kneel down next to them and cram them with trees. We do it with practiced slapdash, as cashiers drop groceries into white plastic bags. We bump shoulders, quick-fingered and competitive, like grannies at a bargain bin.

Treeplanters—one word instead of two. Little trees plus human beings, two nouns that don't seem to want to come apart.

Pierre is 55, the oldest among us. Jake likes to call him "Old Man." Jake is the youngest. He calls himself "Elfie" in the third person. Rose is a child of treeplanter parents. Her middle name is Blueflower. Wherever she goes she brings a coffin box full of

wardrobe changes. Nick is red-headed, like Richie Cunningham. He doesn't drink, though he used to. Some call him "Risky," like the business. Melissa is an Australian with a constant smile, a spray of brown

freckles, buxom lips.

She arrived late.

Heads turned. There were bouts of sudden shaving. There is John, our Jack of Spades.

When he smiles his eyes are empty. And there's me, forgetting to take notes. I push myself into the huddle and switch off my thinking mind.

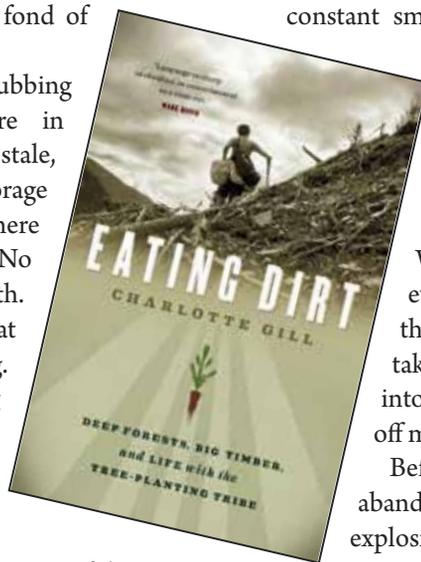
Before long we've abandoned the scene, an explosion of litter, brown paper and Saran wrap snaking

around on the road. We stomp out in every direction, right and left, up and down the mountain. We lean into the next minute and the next like runners in blocks. We don't know how to work without pitting ourselves against one another, without turning it into an amazing race. Otherwise piecemeal is grindingly relentless, countless tiny things passing negligibly through human hands. An inaudible gun goes off over our heads and the day begins. The sun is our pace clock in the sky.

We came as one, and now the space between us stretches like the filaments of a web. Soon there will be wind, but for now all the moisture has crystallized and fallen out of the air. We see the puffs of our breath. Our nostril hairs crisp with each inhalation. Our treeplanting bags ride heavily on our thighs. Human saddlebags, one pouch in the back and one on each side.

In our daydreams they have sentient, subservient lives. They fill themselves up, we whistle them to life, and they trot out to do the job on their own.

Until someone invents a treeplanting robot, a plane that shoots seedlings from the sky, it's just us and our speed spades—gardening trowels with long wooden necks, plastic handles, blades like oversized coke spoons. **FF**





Battling Bugs

Forest diseases can ravage timber. So far, nothing of the proportion of the mountain pine beetle threatens coastal forests.

Foresters are intent on keeping it that way.

DOUGLAS-FIR BARK BEETLE

Dendroctonus pseudotsugae

After the windstorm of 2006 (the one that devastated Stanley Park), forest companies couldn't get to all the blown-down wood fast enough. The Douglas-fir Bark Beetle was faster. Attracted to the dead wood, the beetles attacked the downed wood. Then they started on the standing timber. Fortunately, the loggers weren't very far behind the beetles, and, in infected stands, they would drop a truckload of logs, wait for the beetles to move in, then pick up the logs and dump them in the ocean, where the beetles would die. It seems to be working. "We have set up a series of funnel traps again this year to monitor bark beetle numbers. They seem to be trending downwards in the past two years, which is a good thing," says Blake Fougère, Forest Stewardship Officer for the Ministry of Forests.

Foresters like Stefan Zeglan, Coast Area Forest Pathologist, had hoped to discover whether this white pine might be a strain resistant to white pine blister rust. After it was attacked by bough harvesters, they'll never know.

WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST *Cronartium ribicola*

Western white pine used to be one of the most productive tree species in western North America, but the introduction of the white pine blister rust in 1900 prevented it from being considered an acceptable species for regeneration in BC. Rust spores infect new needles, eventually causing a canker to develop in the bark of the host. If the canker girdles the main stem, the tree dies. Branch pruning can protect some trees; without it, most white pines die. Several trials are underway around Powell River and on Texada Island, trying to grow trees that are resistant to white pine blister rust. In some of these areas, though, bough pickers have destroyed candidate trees.

ROOT DISEASE

Phellinus weirii

Laminated root rot is the most prominent root disease of Douglas-fir on the Sunshine Coast, although *Armillaria* root disease (*Armillaria ostoyae*) takes it toll, too. While treatment options are limited, areas with root rot are often targeted for earlier harvest, then foresters use various strategies to prevent the root disease from seriously infecting the new stand. **FF**

No war in these woods



BC Bike Race host and trail-builder Wayne Brewer is also a former forestry tech. No wonder these woods are peaceful.

Powell River’s hikers and mountain bikers play in the same forests where loggers toil – sometimes even through cut blocks. While the shared space isn’t perfectly conflict-free, foresters and frolickers both acknowledge that the other is here for the long-haul. How did the Northern Sunshine Coast get this so right, while other places struggle? *By Pieta Woolley*

When he’s hurtling through Powell River forests on his yellow Santa Cruz Tallboy LTc bike, Wayne Brewer doesn’t mind a cut block or two. Nor do the mountain bikers he hosts here each July for the BC Bike Race, he says – an event that pulls 500 cyclists and 200 supporters into Powell River’s working forests.

“It doesn’t bother them,” he explains, as we stand on the newly-built Aloha Trail, which runs stream-side through the Powell River Community Forest. “But then, mountain bikers are a different breed.”

To this crew, Brewer notes, cuts equal views; without them, cycling through the rainforest is one long tunnel of shade. Also, mountain bikers are often not welcome in

parks. But on crown land that’s being logged? No problem.

At this moment, he’s visualizing racers on the Aloha’s switchbacks and bridges, under what appears to be a pristine canopy of cedar, just weeks from now.

Wiry and tanned, the 66-year-old Brewer talks at a great speed, to keep up with his thoughts. It’s no surprise, given his pace, that he spent 20 years as a lawyer, here and elsewhere. But, true to his role as a mediator,

he’s also been a coffee roaster, a clothing store owner, and a forestry tech, when he worked for his son, Russell Brewer.

Having a foot in forestry, he notes, has helped him grasp his current role as a trail-builder in local forests – almost all of which are under tenure to forestry companies.

“If you don’t understand forestry, you’ll build a trail and then be shocked when it gets logged,” he said. “If you understand it, you’ll know where they’ll want to cut, and what

“Everyone has a different idea of what ‘protecting’ a trail means. That’s the stickiest issue we have.”

- PRRD planner Jason Gow

will be left. It helps us all to work together, when we understand each other.”

Brewer probably represents the most rose-coloured view of the relationship between recreation groups and forestry companies in Powell River. But he’s far from alone.

A new kind of post-Clayoquot collaboration has evolved on the Northern Sunshine Coast, between those who might otherwise be protesters, and the local forestry companies. It’s not perfect – conflict still happens. But thanks to the interdependent relationship between recreation groups and forestry companies, the region enjoys a rather unique peace.

Most people get what they mostly want, most of the time.

Some parts of the Sunshine Coast are still mired in the protester-versus-logger tug-of-war. The Gambier Island Conservancy is fighting two new woodlots on the island, for example. Elphinstone Logging Focus, on the Lower Sunshine Coast, is lobbying for a park on Mount Elphinstone to halt logging near the trails, among other campaigns.

Yet here, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, ATVing, camping, canoeing and many other rec activities take place in the working forest, as the industry continues to employ about 900 locals directly (or one in 10 jobs), and pump more than \$500 million into the economy annually.

How did this happen, here?

And why doesn’t this level of collaboration happen elsewhere?

Wrestling, together

Eagle Walz knows about conflict. Twenty-two years ago, he and a few friends started building trails in the forests adjacent to Powell River – trails which became, in 2009, Canada’s longest hut-to-hut hiking opportunity, at 182 kilometres: the Sunshine Coast Trail (SCT).

Unlike other BC destination trails, such as the West Coast Trail or the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail, most of the SCT does not go through a designated park. It goes through forests being actively managed by Western Forest Products, and also Sliammon First Nation, the Powell River Community Forest, and other licensees.

“We have conflict virtually every time they log,” said Walz, over coffee at Magpie’s Diner. “Each time they want to log over the SCT or in the vicinity of the SCT, I end up going out with their forester [Stuart Glen] and we have a walkabout. We look at their cut block map. We look for ways of getting around them logging over the trail, in an area that is already constrained by Old Growth Management Areas, riparian areas, rock outcroppings, and others. So these days, we just work hard to get a buffer,” a strip of forest along the edge of the trail, that camouflages logging activity.

Loggers, said Walz, “have a most legitimate reason for being where they are.” He also noted that in the 22 years of trail building, his group, the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society (PRPAWS), has “never stood in its [forestry’s] way; we’ve not caused a day of work stoppage.”

How does this happen? Walz credits communication on the part of both foresters and PRPAWS.

Certainly, everyone should get plenty of credit for communication.



The public interest – making it work

For David Suzuki’s “30x30 Challenge,” Canada’s most prominent environmentalist pushes all citizens to spend half an hour each day in nature. As part of his job as a professional forester, it is something Stuart Glen gets to do every day anyway.

Glen is Western Forest Products’ operations planner at its Stillwater Forest Operation – a man who helps manage one of the biggest chunks of forests close to Powell River.

“Being a forester is fascinating; it’s half-science and half-art,” said Glen, a graduate of UBC’s forestry program. “As a professional forester we accept a commitment to society’s well-being. We are obligated through the Foresters Act and our Code of Ethics, to practice sustainability in the interests of the public. So you have to ask yourself, what is the public’s interest?”

At the end of the day, he said, it is a whole lot of things including economic, ecological, legal, and social considerations. This not only comes from the clarity that government provides, but it is also why foresters enjoy working with the public when they are practicing professional forestry. Developing relationships with locals, Glen explained, helps define what the public interest here is on the Northern Sunshine Coast.

When people try to solve challenges by simply removing more area from the working forest, we all lose, he said. Better to build relationships, work together, and create innovative harvesting plans so that a range of uses can all co-exist: harvesting, recreation, biodiversity, and others, Glen believes.

“When we’re in the working forest, the public has essentially said, This [crown land] is the base we’re going to sustainably manage to generate economic activity on. Yet it’s not timber harvesting before everything else. We get it wrong when we put one thing, no matter what it is, over another – this is what creates conflict.”

The widest possible group of interests comes together at the Powell River Parks and Green Space committee, which is facilitated by regional district planner Jason Gow.

“Stuart [Glen] and Eagle [Walz] are at odds sometimes,” said Gow. While those discussions don’t happen directly at the committee table, he says he’s “had the pleasure of witnessing them discuss issues.”

In the two years he’s worked here, Gow says he’s never witnessed yelling or screaming over what sometimes can be genuinely different views of how crown land should be managed. “They’re a good example of people who sit down and work things through.... How do we protect what some people see as a public amenity and others see as a licensed tenure? Everyone has a different idea of what ‘protecting’ a trail means. That’s the stickiest issue we have.”

The key, he said, is both the recreation and industry groups respect that the other is here for the long term. No one is leaving. They have to work together.

At Doug and Ron Fuller’s woodlot around Duck Lake, the brothers organized a public meeting in 2011 to increase communication between trail users and themselves. Since then, they’ve created a Web site and an email notification system to keep users informed.

“It’s different from the old days when you tried to hit it [log] as fast as you could and get out before anyone noticed,” said Doug Fuller.

He’s also a mountain biker and a hiker – and helps build trails through his own tenure alongside rec users.

Community members act as hawks over the operations at Western Forest Products and Island Timberlands, through the mandated Community Advisory Group (see Page 28). And the Powell River Community Forest, which pumps about \$1.5 million directly into the civic budget each year, is run by a board of nine community volunteers.

To help streamline negotiations, recreation groups came together to form ORUG – the Outdoor Recreation Users Group – in 2011, and are in the process of getting society status.

It’s not all pals and parties, though. When the public has a problem that can’t be solved locally, it may be addressed through the provincial Forest Practices Board, the regulatory agency for the industry. For example, in 2012, a local hiker anonymously filed a complaint that Western Forest Products was “not maintaining the integrity of the [SCT] trail when harvesting close to it.” After an 18-month-long investigation, the board determined that WFP was harvesting according to government-mandated sustainable management principals; in part, according to the FPB report, it was the company’s proactive communication with the public that showed their commitment to coexistence.

Realistically, there’s nothing fluffy or cute about industry and recreation users’ reasons for communication. They communicate because they have to – for mutual survival.

Recreation groups understand that the forestry industry employs one tenth of the Powell River workforce directly, and nearly twice that indirectly. They’re planning to



Happy

In his tidy office at the Powell River Regional District, planner Jason Gow unrolled a table-sized map of the local forests. A tangle of yellow and blue lines, representing trails, made a spider web from top to bottom.

“That’s because people just go out and build trails,” Gow said.

So many trails have been built through local forests, he explained, that many of them don’t even show up on this already-overwhelming map.

There’s nothing wrong with building trails; as a relatively newly arrived former North Vancouverite, they’re one of the amenities that drew Gow to the region. With his young family, he runs, hikes and bikes on them.

However, as a planner, he’d like to get a handle on the existing trails, so they can be better mapped, maintained, and prioritized.

His work is part of a province-wide initiative. The Ministry of Forests released a Trails Strategy for British Columbia recently, with the aim of providing “the framework,

Left: the BOMB Squad was at it again...

be here for the long-haul, and they've designed their forestry operations to last into the next century, and beyond.

Similarly, foresters understand that, without their cooperation, the current loggerheads over logging on Gambier Island, for example, could easily happen here.

Throwing stones

Take the Langdale Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Gibsons, and you'll pass Gambier Island. With jutting green-blue mountain tops, it's the largest land mass in Howe Sound, but with a population of just 200 year-round residents mostly living on the southern tip of the island.

Peter Scholefield is one of them. In 2000, the United

Before Inland Lake Provincial Park was created in 1997, it was a Forest Service Recreation Area: accessible to hikers and campers, but still available for logging. Designating it a park removed 2,763 hectares from local industry's economic base. Over time, will increased tourism revenues make up for the missing forestry dollars? And, is that the most important question we should be asking?



trails

Provincial strategy designed to streamline BC's backwoods bonanza

principals and guidance necessary to develop a world-class trails system for BC." The ministry has encouraged regional districts – meaning Gow, here, along with the Outdoor Recreation Users Group (ORUG) and others – to develop their own trails strategies and prioritize which trails should get what kinds of recognition and resources.

"People are still trying to get their heads around how big an issue this is," Gow said. "We see the value that people are expressing about their trails. It's a highly important topic."

One group responsible for many of those trails is the BOMB Squad – a group of senior men with chainsaws, who have snaked trails through Powell River forests since 1986.

Over coffees at the Quality Foods café, five members explained to *Ferns & Fallers* that they've built trails through tenures owned by

the Powell River Community Forest, Western Forest Products, Sliammon First Nation, Island Timberlands, the Fuller's woodlot, the regional district, and provincial parks.

Because they build bridges and other structures, figuring out liability has always dogged them.

"We've asked about just putting a sign up saying, 'use at your own risk,'" said Roger Taylor, a retired master carpenter and a founding member of the Bloody Old Men's Brigade. "But we were told no, that wouldn't hold water."

Now, the group works with Recreation Sites and Trails BC for liability coverage.

The trails strategy, in other words, will help sort out the Northern Sunshine Coast's enthusiastic network of fabulous, but totally unregulated, trails.

Nations meteorologist bought a retirement home on the island. Now he chairs the Gambier Island Conservancy, a lobby group dedicated to keeping Gambier – which is largely crown land – green.

In early May, he was on Global TV and quoted in the *Coast Reporter*, asking for supporters to help prevent new logging on the island.

The Ministry of Forests had opened two new woodlots on the northern end of Gambier, and was searching for contractors to manage them.

After a year of meeting with various government officials, Scholefield's group won a victory – the contracting has been paused, while the government organizes yet another meeting.

“Having logging in the middle of this tourist mecca is not at all conducive to that particular industry,” he said, in a phone interview. “There is already an existing operational woodlot of the island. If these two others come in, over a quarter of the island will be under active logging. Howe Sound is already the second most popular destination in Lower Mainland, second to Stanley Park. We feel that having clear cut patches will not be an attractive feature.”

Ferns & Fallers asked Scholefield to explain the difference between a woodlot on Gambier and the woodlots on the Northern Sunshine Coast. If we can all get along here – hikers and foresters – why not there?

“There’s no benefit to the local community here,” he said. “The proposed woodlots are too far away, and there’s no roads. We’re not going to see island jobs or even service use coming from this.

“You’re in a forest industry place,” he said,

noting that he doesn’t have any particular opposition to logging or woodlots in general. “So you’re going to have a completely different view. Your area depends on pulp mills and sawmills. Here, the economic benefit to be gained is from tourism.”

In other words, Northern Sunshine Coast recreation groups tolerate logging because they have to.

The future is fir

“This is the question,” declares Brewer, standing on the Aloha Trail. “This is the very question. What is the future of Powell River?”

Brewer is referring to the unsettling question that underpins the shared space in the forest. Is the future of the Northern Sunshine Coast about forestry, or is it about tourism and retirement? Which should trump which in the woods?

Over the past 20 years, Walz notes that the number of forestry jobs here has plummeted, as technology replaces humans in the woods. He also notes that forestry employs just 17,000 people across BC, while tourism employs 127,000 – numbers that are contested by industry.

“We’re in the process of gathering hard data about the value of the SCT to tourism in Powell River,” he said. “My guess is, it will end up contributing as much if not more than logging. This isn’t about either/or. But we want to show that recreational tourism has a place in the forest and should be considered a valuable resource that guarantees money and jobs on an ongoing basis.”

For forest-dependent industries, those numbers already exist. The value of Catalyst

to the Powell River region is \$360 million per year, and WFP alone draws another \$78 million.

But WFP’s Stuart Glen says this magic balance could fall apart, if recreation and forestry start battling for the upper hand.

Sitting on a PRPAWS bench on the Sunshine Coast Trail, with a view out over a retention-harvested cutblock near Lois Lake, Glen explains the growth and range of age classes in the surrounding forest. From where we sit we can see everything from young seedlings through to mature Douglas-fir. There’s really never a point in time when we’re not growing trees everywhere, he says.

“The key is coexisting,” he said. “We’ll always get letters that say, ‘We can’t have logging on the canoe route,’ but the reality is, we can do all these things on the land base. Why is there logging on the canoe route? Because we need education, and health care, and other services. With the right expertise, we can have it all.”

To the Bloody Old Men’s Brigade (BOMB Squad), forestry is simply a non-issue. For the past 30 years, the group of senior men has been building trails, bridges, docks and other recreation infrastructure in the forests, and they simply see no problem with co-existence.

When the Powell River Community Forest logged over Larson’s Landing trail, member Patrick Walsh said, the foresters remediated it.

Cuts grow back, Walsh said. Sharing the forest means, for 80 of 100 years in any given spot, you’ve got a useable public forest with no logging activity on it.

“There’s nothing we can do about a cut block,” said Walsh. “Logging has to exist.” **FF**



At work or at play, please protect our streams.

The success of salmon begins in our forests. Please tread carefully.



PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION

Powell River Salmon Society
prsalmon.org



STOP THE ALIEN INVASION!

NASTY PLANTS LIKE **JAPANESE KNOTWEED** AND **GIANT HOGWEED** (GIANT HOGWEED LITERALLY DRIPS TOXIC SAP THAT CAN BURN YOU!) HAVE INVADDED OUR FORESTS. YOU CAN HELP STOP THEM! CHOOSE NON-INVASIVES FOR YOUR GARDEN, AND REPORT INVASIVE PLANTS TO 1-888-WEEDSBC OR GO TO REPORTAWEEDBC.CA

Learn more at:
www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants or www.bcinvases.ca



Interfor: Solid Roots and Great Future on the Coast

By Alan Blattler, RPF

Interfor got its start almost 50 years ago on the coast of British Columbia.

And although we've tripled in size in the last decade – becoming one of the top seven lumber producers in the world – we will always feel at home on BC's Coast, and it will always be special to us.

Like all of the people who live here and visit this amazing region, we appreciate BC's diverse coastal forests, and we make sure we manage them with care.

In fact, Interfor strives for excellence in everything we do – in our forest operations and our mills. We embrace world-leading safety and environmental standards, support healthy local economies, and deliver quality products to customers around the world.

Our sustainable forest practices were recognized last year by BC's independent Forest Practices Board, which acknowledged our diligence in applying ecosystem-based management and in meeting BC's strict forest laws in our operations on BC's mid-coast region, part of the globally significant Great Bear Rainforest.

As a member of the Joint Solutions Project, we worked for years with environmental groups and other forest companies to develop an ecosystem-based management

approach for the Great Bear Rainforest that maintains ecological integrity and achieves community well-being.

At Interfor, we are proud of our performance record, and our culture of continuous improvement. Our woodlands and manufacturing operations are independently certified to internationally recognized and respected certification standards. We build value for communities in our operating areas by protecting the environment and supporting healthy economies.

First Nations people have unique ties to their lands, and Interfor works in partnership with Aboriginal communities to build capacity and to protect their cultural heritage. Interfor has a long-standing respectful and positive relationship with the Shíshálh Nation which has resulted in the enhanced stewardship of the land and resources within their territory on the Sunshine Coast.

We have signed several agreements to foster positive working relationships with First Nations in BC's coastal region. And we're partners in a co-op run through the First Nations Forestry Council that matches First Nations students with sponsoring companies to help them find skilled employment in the forest industry.

There is a robust future ahead for our sector. US markets are recovering; there is

growth in offshore markets such as Japan and China; and wood is being used in more applications such as mid-rise residential and commercial structures.

At Interfor, we are well positioned to meet this increased demand today and into the future.

In the last 10 years, we invested nearly \$1 billion to expand and to upgrade our operations across North America. We have one of the most diverse product lines in the business, and are adding to it so we can deliver quality lumber products to customers in 30 countries around the world.

For 2,400 people across North America – including people like me right here on the Sunshine Coast – Interfor provides a fulfilling career. As we grow, we will be looking for more motivated people who share our focus for excellence and want to be part of our future.

Interfor offers a lot more than just a job – it is a place to grow a career. We have opportunities in forests, in sawmills and in offices. If you think you have what it takes, check out the careers section on our website at www.interfor.com/careers.

*Alan Blattler is a registered professional forester at Interfor's office in Sechelt. For more information about Interfor, visit www.interfor.com. **IF***



Lund 125: archival logging photo exhibit

Memories of danger and dirt

In fading black and white, photographs of Powell River's early logging days tell safety tales where words might fail. Men – wearing no equipment other than plaid shirts and felt hats – seem infinitely small and young, next to the mammoth 1,000-year-old cedars. The machines, the railways, and the saws seem perilously dangerous up against the softness of the people who use them.

These images are poignant for Roy Blackwell. The co-owner of The Boardwalk seafood restaurant, in Lund, logged the forests near Sooke and Port Alberni during summers in his university years in the mid-1970s, and full-time after graduation. He retired from it in 1981 – but not before a piece of butt rigging fell on him and crushed two vertebrae and broke several ribs.

At the time, accidents were all too common in the woods, he said. Several of his former colleagues left their jobs because of injuries. Others perished on the job.

“Clear-cut logging was just inherently dangerous,” said Blackwell. “It fed into our sense of adventure, and it paid all right. It was hard, dirty work. The risk factor was both a draw for the people doing it, and part of the tragedy of what we were doing.”

As dangerous as it was, he and his colleagues loved the forests and the work.

So it's fitting that this summer, Blackwell and his former logging-truck driver wife Rayanna will host a historic forestry

“Clear-cut logging was just inherently dangerous. It fed into our sense of adventure, and it paid all right. It was hard, dirty work. The risk factor was both a draw for the people doing it, and part of the tragedy of what we were doing.”

- Roy Blackwell

photography exhibit with the Powell River Museum and Archives Society – right in The Boardwalk restaurant.

For those who don't work in the woods, the exhibit – plus Lund's other forestry events – offer a glimpse into one of BC's biggest and oldest industries. A 1930s steam donkey, along with other equipment, will be placed along a local trail, and guided by former foresters and forestry enthusiasts. Other events are in the works.

“I hope people who view the photographs will see how amazing the [historic] forest was,” said Blackwell.

“Having toured some of the great cathedrals in Europe, you get the same feeling from standing in an old growth forest, with the light shining through.” **FF**



Former logger Roy Blackwell at his Lund restaurant, The Boardwalk, where he's hosting an exhibit of archival photographs from the Powell River Forestry Museum this summer. It's part of the Lund 125 celebrations, which highlights forestry history in July, 2014.

For more about the forestry museum, see the next page.

Saving lives through safety: 100 years of change

By the BC Forest Safety Council

Before the early 90s, no health and safety association guided the forestry sector in BC. The gap resulted in many preventable injuries and deaths.

Historically, for example, logging accidents took 84 lives in 1929.

A lot has changed since then. And it's changing more swiftly now, since the provincial government mandated the creation of the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) in 2004.

In modern harvesting operations, deaths reached a peak in 2005 when 34 men lost their lives in the woods. In comparison, far fewer have perished in the woods since then; eight people in 2011; 11 in 2012; and 11 in 2013.

The reason for the decline is intention.

“Our commitment is to facilitate continuous improvement in safety and demonstrate that it is not just the right thing to do for workers and their families, but good for business and saving money,” said Rob Moonen, the director of SAFE Companies, which is part of the BCFSC.

The BCFSC is a not-for-profit society, charged with helping to reduce serious injuries and fatalities in the sector. The organization works with industry to identify, develop, implement and continually improve initiatives that will secure improved safety performance in forest harvesting operations.

SAFE Company Certification, for example, is a success. Through
(continued on Page 42)

(continued from Page 41)

education and audits – the SAFE Companies Certification process – industry ensures trucking, falling, silviculture and other forestry companies meet industry standards.

Launched in late 2006, more than 4,600 forestry operations have registered and more than 2,600 companies have achieved SAFE Certification as of March 2014 – including the Sunshine Coast's Full Scope Fallers, 3 Leaf Contracting, Cook and Sons Contracting, Forshner Bros. Trucking, and many others.

SAFE certification is now a prerequisite to bid on BC crown forest contracts.

The BCFSC also administers faller certification in the Province of BC under the BC Faller Training Standard. It champions safe faller training, certification, supervision

and promotion of falling to ensure industry is able to meet increasing demands to replace retiring fallers.

In 2014, 40 to 50 new fallers are scheduled to be trained.

Supporting the development of a confident, competent and well-trained work force, where safety is integrated into every action and process to maximize safe, effective and efficient performance, the BCFSC trained 1,266 workers in 2013, bringing the total to more than 12,000 workers who have received training from the organization since its inception.

In addition, industry drives many safety programs and tactics. The BCFSC provides technical and administrative support to each of these initiatives such as the Trucking Advisory Group, Log Truck Technical

Advisory Committee, Falling Technical Advisory Group, Coast Harvesting Advisory Group, Prequalification Steering and Working Groups, and an Injury Management/Return To Work two-year pilot project.

Last but not least, an independent Forest Safety Ombudsman, appointed by the BCFSC, conducts reviews and produces reports on major forest safety issues, as well as being an impartial third party for individual cases involving safety. Roger Harris has held the position since the organization's inception in 2004.

All of these elements together with a continued commitment by all forestry workers, companies, associations and unions, makes today's BC forest workplaces a much safer place. **FF**



Page 40: Fallers working at Kingcome Inlet. ca. 1926. Fallers standing on spring boards wedged into the butt of the tree. They are using a double-bit axe and a cross cut saw to make an undercut in the tree in order to fall it in the direction that they want it to go. The Powell River Company ran this camp which was north of Lund on Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation traditional land. *Copyright, Powell River Historical Museum and Archives 2012.85.13. Photographer possibly Leonard Frank.*



Page 43: Locie ca. 1920-1930. Logging companies used locomotives ("locies") and track to extend the reach of logging operations before the advent of logging trucks. This locomotive was built by the Climax Manufacturing Company of Corry, Pennsylvania (USA), purchased by the P.B. Anderson Logging Company, and used near Egmont, British Columbia. Egmont is near Earls Cove on the Sechelt Peninsula, Sechelt First Nation traditional land. *Copyright, Powell River Historical Museum and Archives 2012.85.4. Photographer possibly Leonard Frank.*

This page, top: Choker men. 1920's. This crew, working for P.B. Anderson Logging at Pender Harbour, on Sechelt First Nation traditional land, attach short pieces of cable, called chokers, around logs so that they can be hauled to a specific site by a donkey engine winch. *Copyright, Powell River Historical Museum and Archives 2012.85.3. Photographer possibly Leonard Frank.*

This page: B.C. Mills, Timber and Trading Company Ltd. 1904. Known as Hastings Mills, in 1902 the company took over the pioneer Moodyville Sawmill Company in the Powell River region. This logging camp, known as Camp F, was in Wildwood (Powell River) on Tla'amin traditional land. The train is a Porter -0-4-2ST. A large fire in 1904 caused Camp F to shut down; the company moved to Vancouver Island in 1905. *Copyright, Powell River Historical Museum and Archives 2007.50.15966. Photographer unknown.*

Copies of these photographs are available from the Powell River Historical Museum & Archives 4790 Marine Avenue, P.O. Box 42, Powell River BC V8A 4Z5. www.powellrivermuseum.ca



Ghost Trains

'Locies' once criss-crossed the region

Walk down the lush-green Willingdon Beach Trail — as the sea laps the shore and chipmunks frolic — and it seems the place was just made for leisure; a perfect tourist attraction. But the trail's history is far more industrial. From 1910 to 1915, steel rails dominated the wide gravel path, part of the Michigan-Puget Sound Logging Company railway. It transported logs from Powell Lake to the Salish Sea, where they were boomed to market.

No railways remain anywhere in the Powell River region, though a century ago, they formed a steel spiderweb deep into local forests.

"The whole of the Powell River Forest was at one time logged by rail," said Dave Florence, the energetic president of the Powell River Forestry Museum Society — who claims he is "not a train buff," but seems to know an awful lot about trains.

Florence explained that rail lines once ran to Lang Creek, from Scow Bay to what's now underwater at the Scanlon Dam, to Tony

and Spring lakes, and one at Theodosia Arm — which has been replicated in miniature by Peter Sansburn, and can be seen at the Forestry Museum's exhibits at Willingdon Beach.

"It didn't last long. Six to eight years was the typical time for a track to stay in the ground..."

"The public doesn't understand our train system as much, because there's no surviving train in Powell River... But there is definitely a strong curiosity."

Today, former rail beds form a significant part of the local forests' trail system, though nothing remains of them but the routes.

Trains, however, are not just ghosts here, thanks to the Forestry Museum Society. Go for a ride on the miniature train at the Open Air Farmers Market this summer, for a child-size taste of the era.

Or, head to the Forestry Museum itself; archival photographs of the region's trains help transport visitors to an era of big steam, big timber, and big men. **FF**

Visit the Forestry Museum

It's a sunny Sunday afternoon and you've got the kids. First stop: the Open Air Market, where they squeal for a chance to ride the miniature railway. Next stop: Willingdon Beach Trail, where they clamber up the sides of the red-sided boom boat, and into the driver's seat. Finally, you hit cool air inside the Powell River Forestry Museum at Willingdon Beach.

Guess what? All afternoon, you've been visiting attractions maintained by the Powell River Forestry Museum Society!

With budget of just \$10,000 a year, volunteers work hard to educate new generations and visitors about the region's historic industry.

This summer, the museum building and contents will be passed to the Powell River Museum and Archives Society, to be run under that umbrella. But the trail and railway? Still run by the forestry folks.

Miniature Railway

Open Air Market, Padgett Road
Sundays 12:30 to 2:30 pm, \$2 per ride

Willingdon Beach Trail

Always open & free
Vintage logging equipment along an accessible 1.2 kilometre seaside path

Forestry Museum

4815 Marine Avenue, by donation
Open daily 12:30 to 4:30 starting June 28

Paradise, found

Nature education for a screen-obsessed era



“Today, kids are aware of the global threats to the environment—but their physical contact, their intimacy with nature, is fading....A kid today can likely tell you about the Amazon rain forest—but not about the last time he or she explored the woods in solitude, or lay in a field listening to the wind and watching the clouds move.”

– Richard Louv, 2005

Finding frogs: at Terracentric Coastal Adventures, youth get up close with nature.

In his 2005 book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Journalist Richard Louv makes the case that separation from the wild is disrupting child development. Even before its publication, the drive to reconnect children with wilderness was strong among many parents and educators.

Nowhere is this drive richer or deeper than here on the Sunshine Coast, among those who work here in the woods, and in more urban areas.

Whether you live here, you're visiting from elsewhere — or planning a move here — learning has never been so organic.

The Sea to Sky Outdoors School for Sustainability Education

For: Children and teens

Location: Camp Elphinstone
and Camp Fircom
seatosky.bc.ca

This summer, 9- to 12-year-olds can participate in a four-day nature education trip by large voyageur canoes (Aug. 26 to 30).

The school also runs day and residential programs — about sustainability and nature — for students throughout the school year.

Iris Griffith Nature Centre

For: Everyone

Location: 10 mins south from
Earls Cove Ferry
lagoon-society.com

A green building, restored wetland, trails, nature reserve kids activity area and exhibits of locality. Regular programs available for school children, attendance at nature school, group bookings and tours welcomed.

Perfect for bird watchers, hikers, picnics and great rain or shine. Free admission.

Open to the public all year round plus open everyday throughout summer months.

Terracentric Coastal Adventures:

For: Everyone

Location: Lund and region
terracentricadventures.com

The company has offered half, full and multi-day as well as semester-based nature based learning programs to local, regional and international children & youth since its inception in 2001, through school programs, summer day camps, and even eco-based birthday parties. Terracentric, through all its programming and tours, strives to connect the human animal with the natural world around them.

Haywire Bay

For: Everyone

Location: Powell River
sd47.bc.ca

Located on the secluded shores of Powell Lake, School District 47's Haywire Bay Outdoor Learning Centre is the permanent home to the many experiential activities offered to the students of School District 47. The Outdoor Learning Centre is the ideal venue for school classes, outdoor education programs, conferences, retreats and other group gatherings.

Lund Puddle Jumpers Preschool

For: Preschoolers

Location: Lund
frenchbean808@hotmail.com

Nestled in the forest at the edge of the Lund harbour. This unique nature-based parent participation model for early education was founded by local parents who were seeking to create a sense of community for their children. Regular field trips into the Lund harbour, local forests and farms provide a deep connection for the children to our beautiful west coast community. On sunny days, most of the program including lunch, circle time and art are spent outside in our garden and natural playground.

Wee Explore Outdoor Early Learning Centre

For: Preschoolers

Location: Powell River

weeexploreearlylearning@gmail.com

Montessori-based program with an emphasis on using the natural environment for outdoor learning and exploring adventures. Rain or shine, snow or high winds, Wee Explore children are out and about discovering all the educational wonders our natural surrounding have to offer. Providing a cozy, homelike environment that brings out strong connections among everyone here will create a sense of belonging and security for each child.

Coast Mountain Academy

For: All senior high teens, from anywhere

Location: Powell River
outdoors.sd47.bc.ca

The Coast Mountain Academy is a semester-long, enriched outdoor education



Leafy learning: Lund Puddle Jumpers in their living Wigloo.

program at Brooks Secondary School which focuses on character development. Open to students from across BC. Obtain high school credits, hard-skills, and outdoor certifications.

LEAP: Leadership Ecology Adventure Program

For: All teens 14+, from anywhere

Location: Powell River
outdoors.sd47.bc.ca

During this 9 day outdoor and experiential immersion, students journey by sailboat, Voyageur canoe, SUP, and kayak. LEAP is a transformative passage where learners develop a deeper relational understanding of themselves within the greater cultural and biological ecology of the Pacific Northwest. Coming in 2015 - LEAP Walkabout (hike the Sunshine Coast Trail).

Eco-immersion

For: Elementary students on the Upper Sunshine Coast

Location: Wildwood
sd47.bc.ca

Nature-based learning and French immersion — together in one elementary program! Currently serving students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. At James Thomson Elementary School.

The Sunshine Coast offers many other opportunities for young people to reconnect with nature, from a simple walk on the beach, to postsecondary programs. This list is a sampling, not a comprehensive guide!

DIGS

For: Elementary students on the Upper Sunshine Coast

Location: Wildwood
sd47.bc.ca

In 2011, a group of parents dedicated to helping the kids “get outside the box” started the Discover-Imagine-Grow Schoolyard (DIGS) enhancement project.

The “playground” now includes a 12-bed garden space, a domed willow play structure (a “wigloo”) and is working to transform a section of a large asphalt space into a warm, welcoming entrance with a wall mural around a First Nation carving piece, asphalt murals with local fauna footprints, as well as nurse logs, stumps, benches, native shrub gardens to “bring the forest into the courtyard.” **FF**

No small fry

Legacy of an early salmon enhancement pioneer

Gino Devito was one of Powell River's unsung heroes in the world of salmon enhancement. He was born in Italy in 1921, came to Canada at the age of two, and spent his childhood on his father's homestead in Lund.

He died at the age of 78, in July 1999, leaving his legacy with the Powell River Rod & Gun Club and the Powell River Salmon Society.

In the early 80s, Gino and his pals Ken Newbury and Abe Goldberg started doing egg takes [collecting wild roe]. The hatchery was at upper Myrtle Creek located on Tom Parson's property. It still exists there today. The facility was engineered by Gino and built with the help of volunteers and donors. It was comprised of a concrete dam which held the water back and ensured a fresh supply to the rearing trough. A simple shed contained holding boxes for alevins – the newly spawned salmon. On average, these efforts produced between 20,000 and 35,000 coho smelts per year.

At 7 am Gino and Ken would have coffee where they both worked – Powell River Tru-Mix, a concrete company – and wait for Abe to drive in from Okeover. Fortunately, they had the full support of John Carlson, owner of PR Tru-Mix. Then the three musketeers would head off.

Their strategy was to get to Myrtle Creek in the dark so the fish would not see their shadows. They would check the brood stock fence at which time it would be removed for the day. This would allow daylight movement of fish up the stream for natural enhancement.

In the evening, the fence would be reinstalled for overnight brood stock capture. Each morning after checking the fence, brood stock were moved to the holding boxes for future egg takes.

They would also monitor accumulated thermal units by taking the water temperature each day, and keeping records on the accumulated numbers after the first



The late Gino Devito and partner out on the water. Without much more than a passion and some can-do, Devito added up to 35,000 coho fry to Myrtle Creek each year.

“Another improvement was the installation of battery-operated automatic feeders built by Jack Dice. They were installed so Gino [Devito] wouldn't have to drive up there and feed the fish four times a day.”

eggs were incubating.

Over the years, Gino's team continued with improvements by installing spawning gravel supplied by PR Tru-Mix. Grant McBain of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans was instrumental in supplying a counting fence at George Houle's old property. This helped get accurate numbers of fish returns. Another improvement was the installation of battery-operated automatic feeders built by Jack Dice. They were installed so Gino wouldn't have to drive up there and feed the fish four times a day.

Strong local support enabled Gino's

efforts to have a lasting impact in Myrtle Creek, where our coho continue to show healthy returns on a yearly basis. In 2000, DFO designated Myrtle Creek as an indicator stream. The ongoing efforts of salmon enhancement there have now been undertaken by Esther Dyck.

Gino's vision was more than just salmon. As Ken Newbury stated, “Gino was dedicated to the whole equation.” For example, the harvesting of our residential herring was starving our local salmon. Gino was an initial member of the 1988 Herring Group which sent members off to Vancouver talk-radio to convince DFO that our herring were unique – contrary to the beliefs of the biologists of the day. As a member of the Rod & Gun Club, Gino spearheaded the Steelhead Derby and was also instrumental in bringing the elk here from Madeira Park.

Gino's endless efforts as a year-round conservationist and salmon habitat pioneer remain as an inspiration to all of us who enjoy the natural beauty and bounty of this area. Let us celebrate his many efforts and contributions and continue to work to keep his legacy alive. **FF**

High-ho, high-ho, it's off to work they go

Head out into the woods, and you may stumble on groups of trail builders – heads down and scraping organics, or hammering on bridges. Who are these hearty souls? *Ferns & Fallers* rounded up three of these crews and asked what they do.

B.O.M.B. Squad Bloody Old Men's Brigade

PRPAWS Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society

The Chain Gang Trail building arm of Powell River Cycling Association Society

Claim to Fame	Bridge & trail builders	Lobbying for parks; building Canada's Longest Hut-To-Hut Hiking Trail (180 km); protecting old growth trees	We are developing a world-class network of mountain biking trails worthy of events such as the BC Bike Race.
Year started	1988	1992	2009 (officially)
Number of members	Currently 20. It averages between 16 - 20 active members	About 50 members currently, hundreds of participants over time	It is usually just 3 or 4 building but we occasionally have large work parties that draw as many as 20-25 people.
How many hours of volunteer time in 2013?	Average over 2,000 hours	About 2,000	Well in excess of 2,000
Sample of member day jobs	Retired carpenters, electricians, pipe fitters, instrument mechanics, millwright, loggers, ranchers, teachers, doctor, police officer and retail workers.	They come from all walks of life, retired folks, plus working volunteers in their spare time.	Wayne Brewer aka the Phantom, retired lawyer; Ron Diprose, aka Dipper aka the Wizard, retired forester; Chris Carnall aka the Lost Sailor, retired sailor; Linda Diprose aka the Sandwich, retired lab technologist.
Goal	To keep active and busy, fostering camaraderie within the group but to also provide a community service by establishing and maintaining local trails that all members of the community can use and enjoy.	To build and protect world-class amenities in Powell River's back country to grow a vibrant tourism industry in our area, creating jobs, and to protect portions of our natural environment for future generations.	To create a vibrant sustainable community by developing a world-class network of cross-country mountain bike trails to attract tourists and also to create a lifestyle that will lure more young people to move here to live and work and raise families. We now have approx. 1250-1500 mountain bike visitors riding our trails every year. We think it is realistic to double that within 5 years.
Biggest frustration	No frustrations - we're retired!	Not having the ferries on the coast exist as part of the provincial highways system.	Lack of funding.
Biggest thrill	The public recognition and accolades for accomplishments over the last 26 years.	Seeing locals and visitors alike enjoy the trails and parks – and the great variety of all the other outdoors experiences, both water- and land-based. Working together with other groups in the community to achieve common goals.	1. Having world class athletes such as the organizers of BC Bike Race and participants from more than 30++ countries around the world tell us how much they love our trails. 2. Being told by members of the BOMB Squad that they love the work we are doing.
Contact	www.squad.ca	www.sunshinecoast-trail.com prpaws.bc@shaw.ca www.facebook.com/SunshineCoastTrail	www.bikepowellriver.ca



Ferns & Fallers

Forests and forestry on the Sunshine Coast
a publication by *Powell River Living*

