



# Community Forest News

Fall 2017

*The Community Forest is comprised of two organizations, the Harrop Procter Community Co-operative, which manages the forest tenure and mill, and the Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society, a stewardship body that undertakes monitoring of HPCC plans and activities, water monitoring, education and outreach.*

## Thank You Party for the Firefighters!



**HARROP-PROCTER COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE (HPCC) INVITES COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO A CELEBRATORY THANK YOU PARTY FOR THE FIREFIGHTERS!**

**WHEN:** Friday, November 17

**TIME:** 6:00-10:00 PM

**WHERE:** Procter Community Hall

Bring a side dish, an appetizer or a dessert and enjoy a complimentary beverage and plate of food.

# Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS)



2017-2018 Officers (L to R) Lloyd Johnson, Bruce Lane, Bill Macpherson, Carol Feagan

Since the last newsletter there have been several changes within the society. The Annual General meeting of July 26, 2017 saw the following officers and directors elected or returned:

<b>President</b>	Bruce Lane
<b>Vice President</b>	Lloyd Johnson
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Bill Macpherson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carol Feagan
<b>Directors:</b>	Debbie Crichton Catherine Donnelly Russell Precious Kevin Shepherd Joern Wingender

Each Officer and Director will serve until the next Annual General meeting. If you would like to get involved with the organization plan to attend then, contact any of the persons listed above, or call the office at (250) 229-2271 any Wednesday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Former Secretary/Treasurer David Miller and Administrator Amy Nealy have worked diligently to transition the society into desired accordance with the Model Bylaws of the revamped Societies Act legislation. All societies are required to ensure their constitution and bylaws reflect the new legislation, which they have done. Thank you both!

HPWPS is sponsoring two projects that are underway. First is the rejuvenation of the signage structure at the north side of the ferry landing. The second is an environmental assessment of Narrows Creek drainage regarding fish habitat conducted by Masse Environmental Consulting. It is the first phase of a proposed ongoing remediation/improvement project. The Society will determine its continued sponsorship as the project moves forward.

Automated water monitoring equipment purchases were approved at the September 20th Board meeting. The equipment will be installed in Harrop (Mill) and Narrows Creeks, providing greatly enhanced flow data. The installation of similar equipment is planned for Procter Creek in 2018.

## Harrop-Procter Forest Products (HPFP)



New lumber storage shed

The extremely dry summer and ongoing threat from the 3100 hectare Harrop Creek fire resulted in a shutdown of logging operations for six weeks. This impacted the mill's supply of wood and it's a testament to the staff and managers that almost no orders were cancelled, and that the mill continued to work at full capacity even while operations in the forest were suspended.

HPFP continues to show increased productivity on a year-to-year basis. As of the end of October, income was 97 per cent of the 2017 projection, with two months of milling and sales left. This was a revenue increase of nearly \$56,000 compared to the same time period last year.

Expenses were slightly higher compared with the previous year, up by \$56,000 with 91 per cent of projected costs recorded by the end of October. This is to be expected given the increased productivity and ongoing growth of the mill.

The co-management team took advantage of the temporary log flow cessation to clean up and maximize space in the yard. Low-grade logs unsuitable for milling were cut into rounds and delivered to staff and Board members in appreciation for their volunteer efforts. The local volunteer fire department had a logging truckload delivered to them as well.

Ongoing improvements in operational and safety/training aspects of the mill continue to be implemented. These include:

- new/part time worker training program;
- lock out procedural development and implementation;
- expanded first aid training;
- implementation of daily pre-operation safety inspection and checklist;
- documentation of employee/employer rights and responsibilities; and
- FSC chain of custody training and system implementation, among others.

Work is underway on both the new lumber storage shed (see photo) and a proper bathroom off the office/lunchroom structure. Both of these projects should be finished by year-end. The former will provide much needed additional covered storage space; the latter is long overdue. Changes are also being made to the waste management system. Slabs and cutoffs are being triple-banded to minimize any waste and maximize loading/hauling capability. Sawdust is being placed directly into the trailer for delivery rather than accumulating in a pile.

### Donations (to-date):

**Harrop & District Community Centre Society**  
\$2500 (re-siding of Hall)

**Kootenay Cooperative**  
\$2000 (fencing/trellis)

**Kokanee Creek Provincial Park**  
\$2500 (information shelter)

**Gift Certificates**  
\$1000 (various community fundraising efforts)

# Forest Operations

Until very recently, the Harrop Creek fire was the sole focus for HPCC's forester Erik Leslie. Coordinating with fire crews, planning fire guards and informing the community through frequent electronic updates kept him extremely busy - a great job done Erik, during a stressful, worrying time for all!

Now that the threat to residents is past, all of the recently constructed fireguards have been assessed and rehabilitation plans developed for each. Guard rehabilitation work is nearly complete - done by local contractors - with most of the felled logs going to our mill. All stream crossings have been completely rehabilitated (logs removed from channel, approaches de-compacted and re-contoured, fine branches across exposed soil, grass and straw mulch applied) as are fireguards upslope of sensitive terrain.

Residents should have received a post-fire analysis preliminary report conducted by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) and mailed by the Regional district of Central Kootenay (RDCK). If you did not get a copy contact the RDCK or MFLNRO offices.

In related news, two wildfire mitigation projects are underway in the community forest. The HPCC is involved in a fuel management planning process that, once fully developed, will be applied in the northwest part of the community forest and the northeast portion of the West Arm Provincial Park. In addition, currently Loki Tree

Service as part of the RDCK's Wildland Urban Interface fuel reduction program is carrying out forest fuel modification work south of Lewis Road. Another project has our planned Block 3 in the Narrows Creek drainage being included in an expansive, long-term, University of British Columbia Douglas-fir regeneration study. Four 4-hectare harvest units - clear cut, seed tree, patch retention, high retention - will be planted with Douglas-fir seedlings from across its natural range. Ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and larch will also be planted. This study will improve our understanding of regeneration in a changing climate.

Fall outreach regarding the community forest has included a meeting with the new Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, a presentation at the Columbia Basin Trust Symposium in Kimberley, and a presentation to the national Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF).



## CONTACT US

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HPCC members get a 10% discount, so send us your email address if you would like to be informed of upcoming specials!



To request a donation, not-for-profit groups simply need to provide details of the project and community benefits on their letterhead and submit to: [office@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:office@hpcommunityforest.org)

Images from the Harrop Creek fire (all photos by Erik Leslie)



Images from the Harrop Creek fire (all photos by Erik Leslie)



**The entire community is appreciative of the efforts of all the crews fighting the Harrop Creek fire throughout the summer and fall. Thank you!**

