



# Community Forest News

Fall 2018

*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.*

## Forest Operations

**Narrows Creek logging:** We resumed working in Narrows Creek in July after some unforeseen delays. Current logging operations are in Block 3, which is the site of the climate change adaptation research trial discussed in our summer newsletter. Operations will continue through the winter as conditions dictate.

**Procter Face fuel reduction:** HPCC is developing fuel reduction plans in a 140-hectare area above Procter. This area at the top of Victor Road was high graded (heavily logged, removing all valuable timber) approximately 30 to 40 years ago. It has regenerated to very dense hemlock. Our plans are to thin the forest to reduce fire hazard and encourage growth of more fire- and drought- tolerant species. We are seeking funding to help to pay for the costs of implementing these plans.

**West Harrop fuel reduction:** Fuel reduction plans are also being developed in the Kosma Road area (at the top of Lewis Road). We are planning to expand on the work already completed in this area, and extend a fuel break to the West Arm Park boundary just west of the top of Kosma Road.

Both of these initiatives will be discussed in greater detail at the November 28 meeting. (see below)

### **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)**

**re-certification:** HPCC has been re-certified by FSC following a detailed three-day assessment conducted by auditor Larry Nall from Oregon. HPCC has been certified by FSC ([www.ca.fsc.org](http://www.ca.fsc.org)) since 2003.

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION and  
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT UPDATE

**When:** Wednesday, November 28

**Where:** Harrop Hall - 6066 McConnell Road

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Come out to learn about these two important initiatives and ask questions of HPCC Forest Operations Manager Erik Leslie RPF



## Welcome To Our New Office Coordinator!

Harrop-Procter Community Cooperative (HPCC) President Joern Wingender and the Board of Directors are pleased to introduce **Trista Verhesen** as the successful candidate replacing long-time office coordinator Amy Nealy.

Amy has been the person who has kept the organization functioning smoothly administratively for many years, almost since its inception. She joined HPCC in 2001 as a part-time employee but the opportunity for fulltime employment with Western Pacific Marine prompted her recent resignation.

"We reviewed a number of great applicants to fill the void left by Amy's departure," says Human Resources Committee Chair Gerry Held. "Ultimately, we decided that Trista was the best candidate to not only replace Amy as office coordinator, but also to take on the bookkeeping duties when Carol departs next spring as planned."

Trista has recently moved to Harrop from Alberta, where she worked for a number of years with Ledcor Inc. She was a health, safety and environment administrator with the company in Fort McMurray prior to relocating to company headquarters in Edmonton as a Senior HS&E Coordinator.

Since moving here with her partner Celina and 19-month old son Grey, she has been working remotely for several companies focused on photography, transcription and sales.

"We both had the same feeling of "finding home" when we visited in February of this year," she says with a smile. "It is so beautiful here, the people



are friendly and welcoming, and it fits our lifestyle of environmental consideration and minimalism perfectly. It is incredible! It wasn't long after that we found a beautiful place to live here in Harrop.

"I am very excited to be learning about the various aspects of the cooperative and becoming fully immersed in the day-to-day functions through my new position. There is a lot to absorb of course, but Amy has been a huge help. I'll be taking some accounting/bookkeeping courses and then work with Carol in the new year to get accustomed to the particulars of that aspect of the position."

The cooperative will cover the cost of the courses and Trista will begin working extra hours in 2019. Currently, she works Wednesdays from 9:00-4:00 but those hours will increase in the spring, meaning the office will be staffed two days a week in future.

For now, she's acclimating and enjoying meeting community members through the new position. Give her a call at 229-2271 to say hello and welcome!

## Harrop-Procter Forest Products (HPFP)

Following a busy six-month period, things are marginally slowing down at the mill. With fewer orders coming in, the managers and staff are able to focus on replenishing product lines and the log yard while undertaking a thorough inventory of existing finished products and raw logs.

Planning for an improved, more efficient utilization of existing and future space is an ongoing activity, as is compiling a list of equipment that will be needed in the coming years. A scrag mill - a specialty mill that cuts

smaller dimension logs - is being considered as part of the ongoing process.

### Lumber Special

The mill is offering a limited quantity of full one inch planed, kiln-dried white pine boards in eight, ten and twelve foot lengths. Perfect for shelving and many other applications, the price is only \$3.00/ board foot. For more information or to order call (250) 551-5452.

Harrop resident Bernie Love has been hired on an as-needed, casual basis, bringing the mill staff complement to seven full-time and three part-time employees.

Work continues on the new kiln installation. The track is on site and in place, interior equipment is being mounted and wiring will be trenched shortly. A small electrical room still needs to be built but the expectation is that the new kiln will be fully operational by early December. The old kiln will have the track removed and initially function as a much-needed materials storage facility.



Used container that will house the new kiln

## Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS)

**New Officers Elected:** At the first quarterly meeting following the July 26 HPWPS Annual General Meeting, the following Board members were elected to their positions.

Lloyd Johnson - President

Bruce Lane - Vice-President

Deb Chricton - Treasurer

Marjorie Davidson - Recording Secretary

### **A brief history, and the need for renewal:**

Following decades of community activism regarding the forests above the unincorporated communities on the south side of the West Arm, the HPWPS was established in 1995. It morphed from the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Committee, an ad-hoc, local participant in ongoing land uses processes in the 1990's that culminated in the final Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan (KBLUP) released in March 1995.

This regional land use plan resulted from the provincial Committee on Resources and the Environment (CORE) process - including the Protected Areas Strategy - begun in 1993. The Harrop-Procter watershed was identified as the second most important of 30 Priority II areas but was left open to traditional resource extraction (industrial logging) after the government established the West Arm Provincial Park.

Protests and blockades followed and the reconstituted society recognized a radically different approach was necessary. With extensive

support from the community - almost half of the population base joined as society members - HPWPS undertook the long and arduous task of developing the Community Forest Pilot Agreement Proposal.

This detailed 300-page document lays out the rationale for sustainably harvested, ecologically sound COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED forestry operations, based on research and methodology developed in conjunction with the Silva Forest Foundation. It was presented to government in early January 1999 and in July of that year the society received one of the first community forest licenses in the province.

Much has happened since that tidewater event - successes and setbacks both - and many of the people involved from the beginning remain committed and just as involved. While management and operations are now directed by the cooperative (HPCC), founded for that purpose, HPWPS provides critical oversight of planning and operations. It also undertakes important research and educational work. The reality is that the society needs volunteers and members to infuse it with new energy. It is a worthy community function that protects our water sources.

Consider volunteering some time, or joining the society as a member. Call the HPCC office at 250-229-2271 to ensure there is ongoing continuity and renewal for this important organization.

# In The Community

## Harrop Hall exterior renovations

Using wood donated by Harrop-Procter Forest Products, Phase I of an exterior renovation and siding project has been completed. As contractor Joern Wingender of Traditional Timberworks explains, "We've taken on the most pressing and difficult part of the project first. The southwest part of the building was in the worst shape. There was considerable rot in some of the structural timbers so the whole corner had to be rebuilt."

This was done using timbers from the mill. Wingender has also extended the roofline and installed timbers to better tie in a new cover for



The west side of the Harrop Hall

the existing deck. The south side of the building has been leveled and re-sided using donated HPFP wood.

Phase II will commence in the spring of 2019. The east side will be repaired and re-sided and finally the north and south sides will be re-done as part of the final phase. Funds for the ongoing renovation project are generated through Harrop & District Community Centre Society (HDCC) rental income, fundraisers and grants such as the Community Initiatives Program – more commonly known as "dot day".

Long-time HDCC Board member Helen Price says the cost is worth it. "Much of the building is sixty years old. This will ensure it remains a community centre for another sixty years, so my children and grandchildren will enjoy functions there and be involved with it too. We really appreciate the donation of quality wood from the mill to make this revitalization happen."

### Donations

Nelson Leafs	\$275
BC/Yukon Legion Command	\$100
SPCA	\$200
HDCC	\$300

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Year to date Total: \$10,150

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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)