



# Community Forest News

Winter 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.*

## In The Community

### Firefighters Party

Following the worst forest fire season in the province's history, one that saw the community under threat of evacuation for much of the summer, the Board of Directors decided a thank you party to show appreciation for the efforts of the local fire fighters was in order. The community was invited to attend and express their thanks in person while enjoying a plate of food and a beverage.

On November 17th, over one hundred and twenty residents did just that. The Procter Hall was wonderfully decorated (thanks to numerous volunteers), and packed. Almost twenty fire fighters—both wildfire crews and Balfour-Harrop fire department volunteers—were in attendance.

Residents contributed dishes for a potluck-style meal featuring a pig slow-roasted outside all day. Complimentary wine was primarily from the locally owned Cantinian vineyards located near Mendoza, Argentina. An anonymous local donor and several Nelson breweries provided complimentary beer. Nelson Brewing Company, Savoy Brewing and Torchlight Brewing are all deserving of future patronage for their generosity.

Donation jars for the local volunteer fire department were placed around the hall. A contribution gave attendees the chance to win a framed print of a wildfire crew walking uphill to deal with the Harrop/Narrows Creek fire. A draw was held and the print was won by Nancy Bardell.



Nearly \$1200 was raised for the Balfour-Harrop fire halls thanks to the generosity of the community. Everyone who attended enjoyed the dinner and slideshow that followed; it was both a thank you party as well as a small gesture of giving back to the community by the cooperative.

Special thanks go out to Amy Nealy and Gerry Held for their organizational efforts, and Ron Edwards and Wade Shrimpton for roasting the pig. Thanks also to everyone who assisted in making the evening a success.

## In the Community (continued)

### Robin Hood Memorial Award

In June 2017, the cooperative was chosen as the recipient of this prestigious award from the British Columbia government and the BC Community Forest Association, recognizing overall excellence by a community forest.



*HPCC President Terry Huva (holding award) with staff, volunteers and community members*

The award was created a year ago to honour the late Mr. Hood, a stalwart of community forestry for many years. The award is accompanied by a \$10,000 monetary contribution from the Ministry of Forests.

The Board of Directors has been deliberating for some time over the best use of the funds. Ultimately, the decision was made to use it to create a scholarship fund that will provide a financial award to a local student about to embark on post-secondary studies. Currently, criteria are being developed, as well as the structure, regulations and funding of the scholarship award, so that it can continue to be awarded in the coming years. More detailed information will be available in a future newsletter and on the HPCC website once all the necessary details are in place.

## Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS)

The society's Board of Directors met on January 17th at the HPCC office. One of the agenda items was a summary of the Narrows Creek Environmental Assessment by proponent Gwen Bridge. Unfortunately, she was out of the country but copies of the report by Masse Environmental Consulting were distributed to the Directors. Gwen will provide insight on the report findings and planned next steps to the Board on her return. The assessment is the first phase of a proposed long-term project to improve fish habitat and populations within the community forest.

If you would like a copy of the report, please contact the HPCC office at (250) 229-2271.

The new automated monitoring equipment has been installed on both Harrop/Mill and Narrows Creeks. They provide continuous information on flow levels that greatly improves the data available for planning purposes.



*Passmore Labs staff siting the water monitor in Narrows Creek*

Funding for repairs to the signage board at the ferry landing has been received from RDCK Area E Director Ramona Faust and renovations will commence shortly. The original builder - Joern Wingender from Traditional Timberworks - will do the necessary improvements. HPWPS receives an administrative fee for this and other projects it sponsors.



Please consider joining the society and volunteering a few hours of your time. The mandate of the society is:

- Promotion of the preservation and protection of all watersheds in the community and the assurance of a consistent quantity and quality of water.
- Development of public forests in the Harrop-Procter area according to site-sensitive ecologically based forestry practices modeled on the Silva Forest Foundation planning process.
- Promotion and encouragement of locally based employment available through the development of public forest lands.
- Dedication to ecosystem research, public education and sustainable rural communities.



Gauge on Narrows Creek

## Harrop-Procter Forest Products (HPFP)

While sales are, as anticipated, slower at this time of year the mill has still been a busy place.

The Board of Directors approved the sale of Dave Johnson's old mill to Darryl Fincham for the price of \$5000 and some work-in-kind. The accuracy of the cuts provided by this equipment was not to the required standards so it was deemed expendable.

The mill has been a bit short-staffed with Robert Skof off on short-term disability and sawyer David Strom on vacation. Fortunately, Jon Simington of Silvatip Custom Milling has filled in as a temporary sawyer and Kyle Erickson - who worked for several summers while a student - is back at least until the spring.

The new lumber shed has been finished, as has the addition to the office. A 110-volt, 500-gallon marked diesel tank has been purchased from Cool Creek Energy and installed on site.

Mill co-managers are negotiating with a local private partnership regarding wood waste. The issue of wood waste is complex, and a considerable impediment for small mills like HPFP. A draft agreement is being reviewed and a decision will be reached shortly. A small amount of wood waste will be retained for charitable use

by HPFP. Standing dead and downed timber from the tenure will continue to be available to cut (five cords maximum) for free by local residents.

One load of logs was received in the mill from the community forest prior to the contractor going on holidays for two weeks. A load of cedar sourced out of Trout Lake along with two other loads from private sources provided enough wood during this time. Timber harvest from Narrows Creek - Block 2 has now resumed.

The acquisition of the mill property and an additional two acres adjacent continues to progress slowly. Water use and access issues continue to be negotiated. Requirements for the provision of sufficient power capacity as the mill expands post-purchase also need to be determined.

### Additional Donations of Materials in 2017

Crawford Bay Park - **\$130**

Taghum Hall Society - **\$400**

Sunshine Bay Riding Club - **\$700**

# Forest Operations



*Spur Road in Narrows Creek - Block 7*

Salvage of some of the timber from the low elevation fireguards constructed for the Harrop/Narrows Creek fire was completed late in the year. Several loads of Douglas-fir, cedar and larch went to the mill, and a few loads of hemlock were delivered to Kalesnikoff Lumber in Thrums. Fireguard salvage timber in the Slater Creek area

is decked but will not be accessible until a short access road is built, likely next summer.

For the past several years, HPCC has been reducing post-harvest fuel loads by additional piling and burning of in-block fuels - primarily limbs and tops. (Less flammable coarse fuels are left for biodiversity and soil improvement.) Slash pile burning in Narrows Creek - Block 7 was conducted when the venting index was good in November. Erik Leslie, Floris Disselhoff and Paige Mansveld carried out the burns. In the future, HPCC hopes to be able to chip or grind post-harvest slash to avoid burning. We are currently investigating options and are in discussions with the Celgar pulp mill in Castlegar.

In part due to the extreme demands of the wildfire season, our primary logging contractor Gord Hale was unable to begin operations in Narrows Creek - Block 2 as planned this winter. However, we were able to hire local contractor Rocky Hawes - who operates a woodlot on Pilot Peninsula and has worked for the cooperative previously - to carry out a modest winter harvest. This will ensure a steady supply of logs for our mill through spring. Rocky commenced logging in January.

The proposed budget for forest operations will be presented to the Board of Directors at their February 14 meeting.

## CONTACT US

PO Box 5  
Procter, BC  
V0G 1V0  
Phone: 250 229 2271  
Email: [office@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:office@hpcommunityforest.org)

HPFP  
Ogilvy Road  
Harrop, BC  
Phone: 250 551-5452  
Email: [sales@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:sales@hpcommunityforest.org)

[www.hpcommunityforest.org](http://www.hpcommunityforest.org)

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)