Community Forest News

The Community Forest is comprised of two organizations:

Autumn 2022

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.

Twenty + Two Community Celebration Recap

Over 100 community members stopped by the Procter schoolhouse yard in late August to help celebrate this milestone anniversary of the cooperative's formation. Delayed a couple of years by the pandemic, celebrants were finally able to gather and enjoyed complimentary smokies and burgers, beverages and cake. Music was provided by a talented local jazz trio consisting of saxophone, stand up bass and drums, providing great ambience to the gathering.

HPCC Forest Operations manager Erik Leslie provided two presentations over the three hour gathering.

The first examined the geological/geographical history of the community forest. The second talk focused on key priorities - wildfire risk reduction and climate adaptation measures now and in the coming years. Both talks were very well received.

Thanks go out to the HPCC social committee (Holly Hale, Debbie Crichton, Carly Dow, Marie Chanton) for organizing, all Directors and volunteers who assisted with setup and cleanup - in particular Mike Drinkwater and Tim Davis for manning the BBQ's all afternoon - and the Harrop & District Community Centre Society for the use of their tents.



HPCC Forest Operations Manager Erik Leslie giving a presentation to attendees



2022-23 HPCC Board of Directors L to R - Jim Yule, Bill Macpherson, Diane Gamble, Tim Davis, Mike Drinkwater, Katie Hill, Gerry Held, Debbie Crichton. Marie Chanton - absent: Russell Precious

Forestry Operations & Planning Committee Field Meeting

Committee members (Bruce Lane, Eric Martin, Erik Leslie, Jim Yule, Mike Drinkwater, Tim Davis) spent the better part of an afternoon examining recent work undertaken in the western portion of the community forest, road construction and planned harvesting prescriptions for the upcoming winter. Committee chair Mike Drinkwater summarized the October 26th field tour as follows:

CP 152-1 is a large block that has been a multiyear project and totals close to 70 hectares of harvest and fuel reduction. The block is part of a larger landscape level fuel break along the western flank of the K1B tenure.

Logger Shane McKinnon completed the final six hectares of treatment this past spring. It is comprised mostly of a permanent skid trail (~500m length) built at the top of the block (around 1000 metres elevation), running SE/NW and connecting to the park boundary and ongoing fuel treatment within it. This permanent trail will serve as a ready built, accessible and defensible position for water hose deployment and possible back burning in the event of a fire threat.

CP 155-1 is a five hectare block located adjacent to CP 152-1 a few hundred meters south up Kosma road. This block was also harvested by Shane last spring and had some steeper sections of ground (45+ per cent) so it was more difficult to log using ground-based equipment.

Temporary trails and hoe chucking were necessary, requiring extra handling of the logs by the excavator loader where the skidder couldn't reach. This added to the cost of harvesting using ground-based equipment; however, the result is superior to what could be accomplished with a cable harvesting system. The temporary trails are rehabilitated after harvest.

We drove up to the end of the Kosma road extension at approximately 6.5 kilometres and 1400 metres elevation. Here the road finally



Forest Operations and Planning Committee members: (L to R) Eric Leslie, Bruce Lane, Jim Yule, Tim Davis, Eric Martin - photo by Committee chair Mike Drinkwater

gets on to the ridge with gentler slopes. Road construction was completed by Ray Dosenberger in autumn 2021. The road has had time to settle and is providing access for continued planning - laying out future road extension and blocks up the West Harrop ridge bordering the park.

This landscape level fuel break will have treatments from just above lake level to potentially as high as 1900 metres. It will be our largest fuel break as the western flank's adjacency to the West Arm Provincial park - continuous mature forest and heavy fuel loading nearly all the way to Nelson - carries the highest wildfire risk to the community.

Donations

Friends of Kootenay Lake (habitat restoration) \$1,500

Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society (sampling/testing) \$5,000

Mount Sentinel Secondary School (woodworking program) \$750

Procter Community Society (schoolhouse upkeep) \$8,500

<u>Total</u> \$15,750 Year to date \$43,901.66

Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS)

The society continues to monitor, sample and perform in-house testing of the four main creeks within the community forest for conductivity, temperature, turbidity and PH levels.

Additionally, at low water flow levels - through September and early October - the society samples for e-coli and other coliform in the creeks that are the primary water source for many community residents.

These samples are collected in sterilized bottles and need to be transported to Passmore Laboratories in Vallican for analysis within 30 hours of sample collection.

Thorough analysis requires five weekly samples.

Passmore measures for total coliform, verified e-coli and fecal (thermo-tolerant) colony forming units per 100 millilitres. Given that the Canadian drinking water guidelines threshold for total coliform counts is zero the results did not meet that standard, as anticipated. Total coliform are not associated with human infection but may indicate the presence of other harmful organisms. The number of coliform found within all of the creeks decreased over the course of the five week sampling regimen.

Coliform/e-coli data will be compiled in an annual report that incorporates all sampling conducted by the society. This report, available in early 2023, is free to members of the society and to HPCC members.

BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) 2022 Conference & AGM

The Nakusp and Area Community Forest hosted the BCCFA 2022 Conference & AGM in mid-October. Over 200 attendees spent three days (October 19-21) attending workshops, listening to speakers, networking, and strengthening this growing segment of the forest industry. HPCC's Forest Operations manager Erik Leslie and Office Coordinator Carly Dow attended. Carly's position as a part-time employee of the BCCFA meant she was a co-organizer of the whole conference.

"The conference was a success thanks to the hard work of everyone involved and all the delegates who attended from across the province. It was inspiring to gather with so many folks who are practicing responsible forestry not only in terms of sustainability, but in managing for many values that are important to their communities," says Carly.

Minister of Forests Katrine Conroy attended, as did numerous senior departmental officials. These included Eamon O'Donoghue, Associate Deputy Minister; Julie MacDougall, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Chief Forester; and, Doug Kelly, Director, Forest Tenures Branch.

Erik Leslie participated in a panel discusson on the topic of landscape level planning approaches, providing examples of the work being done in the Harrop-Procter Community Forest.

By all accounts the 20th Anniversary Conference & AGM was a great success, as summarized by the association: "There is no doubt that community forestry provides a vision for the future of forestry in our province that is innovative, forward-thinking, and inclusive of multiple values on the landscape and in communities. Community forestry takes heart, courage and hard work, and we are proud and humbled to be walking this path alongside all of our members and partners as we continue to move forward and to support the practice and expansion of sustainable community forest management in BC."

In the Community

At the November board meeting, Directors approved funding to cover the collective costs - taxes, insurance, maintenance, etc. - of the historic Procter Schoolhouse for the next two years.

This action will enable the owners of the over one hundred year old building, the Procter Community Society, to establish a dedicated building fund with the rental income that would typically go toward paying bills.

Rents have been fixed at extremely low amounts for years so they will be increased in January 2023 to help with future scheduled and unforeseen repairs, and improvements.

The contribution helps existing tenants by paying their share of the collective building costs over the next two years. That allows them to continue to offer services to the community without disruption.

"This is a win-win situation thanks to the generosity of the cooperative," said PCS President Kim Palfenier. "It means the Society can stay on top of the building repairs while current tenants can continue to offer their services at reasonable rates. On behalf of the tenants and society members, we (board officers) are very grateful to the HPCC. The decision was above and beyond our expectations."

The decision by the HPCC Board of Directors supports maintaining a historic cornerstone of the greater community and the businesses and services housed there. The agreement will be reviewed when it concludes at the end of December 2024.



Procter Schoolhouse - photo by Ursula Heller

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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: coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org