



# Community Forest News

Spring 2023

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

### Firewood Event - May 27th!

Again this year, the cooperative is offering HPCC members the opportunity to cut and load some firewood for their personal use.

The event will take place at the Harrop Hall grounds on Saturday, May 27th from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Donation jars will be at the sign-in tables and all donations will go towards the ongoing Harrop Hall renovation project.

A liability waiver **MUST** be signed and proper safety measures/equipment employed. Non-members can purchase a lifetime HPCC membership for \$25 on site in order to participate.

#### Please adhere to the following:

- no cutting except during the identified times;
- take a pickup truck box (no sides) or small trailer's worth of wood **ONLY**. If there is extra at the end of the day there will be a notification on the community e-mail.
- assist others by cutting/loading once you have your own wood;
- be generous in your donation. Volunteers from both the HPCC and the Hall Society (HDCC) are giving up their weekend to staff the event and clean up the next day.
- be safe, helpful to and considerate of others.

Thank you!

### Public Information Meeting

The cooperative invites all residents to a public information meeting on forest operations, future planning, wildfire risk reduction initiatives and ongoing climate adaptation measures.

**When: Wednesday, May 31st**

**Where: Harrop Hall (6066 McConnell Road)**

**Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

Join HPCC's Forester Erik Leslie to learn more about YOUR community forest!

Q & A follows presentation; light refreshments available.

# Cooperative News

## Annual General Meeting

The Harrop Procter Community Cooperative held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, April 26. It was the first time since the beginning of the pandemic that the meeting was held in person. Twenty eight members attended, another six were linked in by video.

Following brief reports on the past year's activities by President Bill Macpherson, Forest Operations Manager Erik Leslie, Harrop Procter Forest Products (mill) Co-Manager Eric Martin, Strategic Planning Committee Chair Katie Hill and Treasurer Marie Chanton, a special resolution waiving the appointment of a professional auditor was moved and approved.

A number of questions were fielded by staff and then four Directors whose terms were expiring were asked if they intended to continue. All responded affirmatively to continuing on the Board. Two community members have joined the board for an initial two year term - thank you to Naomi Legg and Sean Reid for stepping up and providing new energy to the Board of Directors. Election of Officers will occur at the next regularly scheduled board meeting in May.

Outgoing Office Coordinator Carly Dow was thanked for her efforts over the past year prior to the AGM being adjourned shortly after 8:00 pm.

HPCC's Board of Directors for 2023-2024 consists of:

Marie Chanton  
Tim Davis  
Diane Gamble  
Katie Hill  
Bill Macpherson  
Jim Yule

Debbie Crichton  
Mike Drinkwater  
Gerry Held  
Naomi Legg  
Sean Reid

## Donations

Individual community members (firewood)  
\$500

Redfish Elementary School (garden boxes  
supplement, fence) \$1500

**Total \$2000**

## New Staff

### Curtis Eldridge

Curtis joined the crew at Harrop Procter Forest Products (HPFP) in April. Born and raised in Fernie, he's spent the last year or so dividing his time between the West and East Kootenays, with summer work in the Okanagan in 2022.

Before joining HPFP, Curtis worked in Calgary for a civil engineering and construction company, as well as doing a stint in direct marketing. He has three brothers and a sister. "Having brothers, it makes it easy to integrate with the guys here at the mill," he says. "I like the physical aspect of the work, and everyone has welcomed me as part of team, it's pretty awesome."



Curtis Eldridge, new crew member at HPFP, and Britta Barteski, new HPCC Office Coordinator

### Britta Barteski

Originally from Alberta, Britta has been a part of the community for several years. She has been working at the Procter General Store, and more recently for Redfish School's after school program as well as running her seasonal flower stand in Procter.

Britta assumes the position of office coordinator administrator. She will be at the HPCC office in the old Procter Schoolhouse most Thursday and Friday mornings.

She has traveled extensively, living in the Caribbean, Japan and Canmore for various lengths of time. She loves to garden and hike and care for her dog Ragga and cat Taro.

Britta can be reached by calling 229-2271 or by email at [coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org)  
Welcome to the organization Britta!

# Forest Operations

## Douglas-fir Beetle in The Community Forest

Douglas-fir beetles are tiny insects that kill big trees. The beetles live most of their lives under the bark of Douglas-fir trees and emerge in the spring to find new host trees. Its preferred hosts are large diameter, mature Douglas-fir trees. They bore through the thick bark of the trees, construct a gallery, and lay eggs. Beetle larvae then hatch and feed on the phloem of the tree.

The beetles also carry the spores of a blue stain fungus; the fungus colonizes the tree's sapwood, blocking water uptake and often killing the infested trees. The trees usually turn red the following year.

When you see recently killed patches of large Douglas-fir trees you are often looking at a new infestation of Douglas-fir beetles. The beetles target drought-stressed or otherwise weakened trees and fresh Douglas-fir blowdown. Given recent extreme heat and wind events, infestation levels have increased significantly in the West Kootenays over the last several years.

This year we are noticing significant beetle infestations at low to middle elevations in our community forest. This is discouraging as we prefer to leave large diameter old Douglas-fir trees when we do selective harvests. Douglas-fir is a drought- and fire-tolerant species that is well adapted to climate change.

When we find infested Douglas-fir trees in the community forest we attempt to cut and remove the trees before the beetles emerge in the spring to attack neighbouring trees. (The beetle larvae are killed when logs are milled into lumber or burned.) Tree removal is often logistically difficult given limited access options and challenging terrain.

Most of our forests are 100 to 120 years old and are very dense, in part due to 60 plus years of active fire exclusion. Many of our forest stands are also increasingly stressed because of a lack of moisture during the growing season. By actively thinning our forests we are reducing drought stress. This improves the ability of residual trees to resist beetle attacks and other forest health issues.

A key objective of the community forest is to diversify and improve the resilience of our forests over time. While many trees will undoubtedly succumb to beetles, drought, and other issues, we will continue to work at reducing risks and promoting ecological health.



Beetle infested trees in the Procter area.

## Lumber Sale

Harrop Procter Forest Products has rough cedar in stock for all your outdoor projects!

#2 or Better STK - 1 x 6 Fence Boards \$1.60 / Foot  
#3 Yard Grade - 1 x 6 Fence Boards \$1.15 / Foot

4 x 4 Cedar Posts - \$4.00 / Foot

Good Value:  
5/4 x 6 - \$1.20 / Foot

Extra Sturdy:  
#3 2 x 8 - \$3.73 / Foot

We have planed Cedar in 1 x and 2 x - 4, 6 and 8 inches wide. Also, lots of cedar decking at \$2.85 / Foot.

Please call for information/place an order, visit our website ([hpcommunityforest.org](http://hpcommunityforest.org)) to specify your needs or come by Harrop Procter Forest Products in person - 730 Ogilvie S. Road. We are open Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and Saturday 9:00 to 3:00 pm.



# In The Community

## Honorarium Proposal

As the Harrop Procter Community Cooperative (HPCC) continues to thrive and grow, the demand on Officers and Directors subsequently increases. With each volunteer Director serving on two or more committees, the commitment of time to ensure good governance and oversight has increased considerably.

As a result the Board of Directors feels that a small annual honorarium is appropriate - and overdue - given the increasing complexity and scope of the cooperative's activities. It will also provide an incentive to new community members in the future.

Recently, bonuses were awarded to staff, part-time staff and contractors based on a percentage of annual net profits. Considering some individuals on the Board are committing anywhere from five to twenty hours a week as a volunteer without any compensation would seem reason enough to recognize their efforts in some manner.

The honorarium would apply to Directors of both the HPCC and HPWPS. The amount would be determined by the following criteria: time on board, officer, committee chair and committee member status. It will be optional for Directors and can be awarded in cash, lumber or firewood.

The Board of Directors will adhere to the wishes of members. Please email whether you are in agreement with the establishment of an honorarium to [coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org). You can also leave a message (support or oppose) by calling 250-229-2271. Finally, you can go to the website: [www.hpcommunityforest.org](http://www.hpcommunityforest.org) to support or oppose the proposal.

### CONTACT US

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## Scholarship Awards

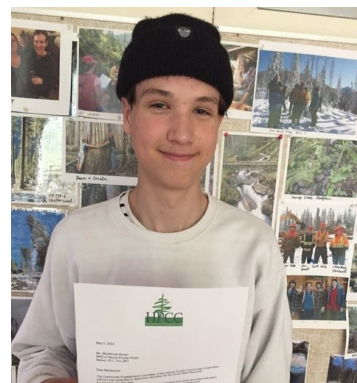
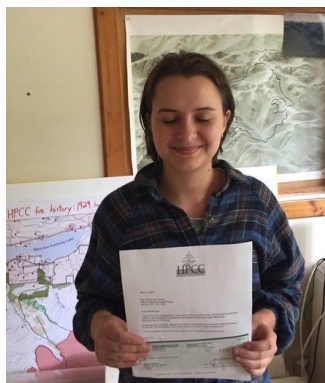
The Community Engagement Committee (CEC) determines the allotment of annual funding the HPCC dedicates to assisting local students in post-secondary education.

This year's funding will be shared equally by two LV Rogers graduates - Mackenzie Brown from Sunshine Bay and Landen Kingsland from Harrop. Both have been awarded \$1500 towards their initial year of post-secondary studies.

Mackenzie is the daughter of Jarrod Brown and Amy Thomson, graduating in 2022. She will be working towards a BSc. in Health and Exercises at the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO) campus. Her goal is to be a physiotherapist once graduated.

Landen, son of Sam and Erin Kingsland, has been enrolled in the Youth Train in Trades (YTT) program for part of his final year of high school. The program is a joint venture between SkilledTradesBC and the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care. He will enter Selkirk College's industrial electrician program in the fall, working towards Red Seal designation on completion.

Congratulations to both of our 2023 Anne Ward Memorial scholarship recipients!



Mackenzie Brown(left) and Landen Kingsland(right)  
Scholarship Recipients

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](mailto:coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org)