



Progressive Forestry Quality Wood Community Owned

# Community Forest News

Summer 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.

## Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS)

The society continues to monitor, sample and test the four major creeks (Procter, Narrows, Slater and Harrop/Mill) within the community forest boundaries. Samples are tested in-house for conductivity, turbidity, and PH levels. Testing locally reduces the overall cost of the water monitoring program, as does no-cost sampling on two of the four creeks.

Coliform testing continues to be done by Passmore Laboratories in Vallican. On the recommendation of the society's contract hydrological technician - Kootenay-Columbia Environmental Innovations (KEI) - the sampling regimen has been adapted to reflect changing environmental conditions.

Previously, the society sampled year-round; there was a ramping up in the number of weekly samples taking prior to and during freshet (four in March, eight in April and a dozen in both May and June). Testing for coliform and e-coli occurred only in the month of September and the first week of October. This five week window when flow levels are historically at their lowest provided a good snapshot of coliform counts.

Currently, we are now collecting one coliform sample per month for much of the year. In both the spring and fall now, coliform samples are being taken for five consecutive weeks. Regular sampling has been reduced somewhat - a sample is taken every two weeks in winter and weekly for the rest of the year.

The new sampling regimen reflects changing climate conditions - earlier freshet peaks, increased coliform sampling - while ensuring major drinking water sources for residents continue to be effectively monitored.

HPWPS has had some preliminary discussions with Living Lakes Canada (LLC) regarding financial assistance to assist with the water monitoring program. If it comes to fruition, this could enable additional smaller creeks/springs to receive some sampling in the future.

The society is always looking for new members to get involved. The cost of a lifetime membership is only \$50; a three year membership for \$25 is also available. Like the community cooperative, there is the need for more youthful community members to become involved. The HPWPS Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 18th. Mark it on your calendars and plan to attend/join! Call Britta at 250-229-2271 to register.

### Harrop Procter Community Co-op Donations

BrainFlex (youth housing)	\$1000.00
Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society (wetlands restoration)	\$1500.00
Harrop & District Community Centre Society (hall renovations)	\$4170.00
Harrop Procter Community Newsgroup (moderators honorarium)	\$200.00
Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation (gift certificate)	\$250.00
Procter Community Society (half load firewood for raffle)	\$1500.00
Procter Community Society (benches)	\$700.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,320.00</b>
<b>Year to date:</b>	<b>\$11,320.00</b>

# Strategic Planning

## A Quick History

The Harrop Procter Community Cooperative (HPCC) was formed in 2000, three years after the community applied for a license to have control over the forests above them. The cooperative is a sister organization to the Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society (HPWPS), the original applicant. HPCC is one of the first community forests in the province - it remains a model operation more than 20 years later.

Our central purpose is unchanged. We manage the public forests in our area according to ecologically-based forest principles, and stimulate local employment from our forests. We do this through our forestry activities and the operation of the Harrop Procter Forest Products (HPFP) sawmill. Annually, we provide work to approximately 30 local and area contractors, and ongoing employment (both part-time and full-time) to over a dozen community members.

Over the last two years, the cooperative's Board of Directors has been working to better align planning for forestry and value-added milling with our core values - and the changing conditions we see in our physical and economic environment.

## Forest Operations

We are adapting our forest management to respond to a changing climate and increased fire risks. This requires the removal of many smaller diameter, lower quality trees to thin the forest while leaving healthy fire- and drought-tolerant trees on site. Current and planned harvesting and evolving silviculture practices will increase the resilience of the forest and put HPCC on a solid ecological footing in the coming decades.

This adaptive management approach means that the community forest fibre supply is shifting towards more smaller diameter trees.

## Mill Operations

Value added lumber milling of sawlogs from our own and other area community forests means adjustments are needed. A review was recently conducted to determine enhanced fibre processing activities, improve efficiencies and reduce waste from our operation. Several operational elements were identified that need attention for the mill to successfully adapt, ensuring its sustainability. We also identified opportunities to market higher quality lumber more responsively to our customers.

As a result, HPFP will undertake a modest operational upgrade over the next two years. The goal is to make the best use of the materials harvested from our forests and position the mill to continue to provide safe, well-paid jobs that reflect the values of the community.

- Improving mill ability to process the materials we expect to harvest, increasing energy efficiency and the quality and range of lumber products milled.

- Reducing the risk of injury and creating a better work environment for staff by improving workflow and protection from the weather.

- Reducing waste, and finding new uses for shavings, sawdust and wood slabs created by milling.



*This lumber shed will be renovated to house new equipment*

1. Installation of 3 Phase power – will improve our electrical capacity and efficiency and reduce our reliance on gas powered equipment. We are working with a local contractor and Nelson Hydro on this component and hope to have it in place by the end of 2023.

2. Replacement of moulder, adding a dust collection system – will facilitate higher quality finish in our lumber, reduce noise, and collect and bale wood shavings for other uses. The project will re-purpose a storage shed on the property to house the equipment and replace our 35-year-old moulder with a new, electric moulder and dust collection system. Target completion date: next summer.

3. Roofing over main milling area, addition of triple blade re-saw unit – will cover the main work area, reducing staff exposure to the weather, and creating less mud and dust on the ground. A new re-saw unit will improve our capacity for processing logs into lumber, with less repetitive lifting and moving of materials by staff. We hope to have the new roofing in place by the end of 2023, and the re-saw unit operational by the end of 2024.

# Forest Operations

## Where do we send logs from our community forest?

This spring and early summer, HPCC was busy in the woods as numerous truckloads of logs came down from the community forest. Where did these logs go?

They went to several local and area mills: our own milling division - Harrop Procter Forest Products (HPFP) in Harrop, Kalesnikoff Lumber in Thrums, Porcupine Wood Products outside of Salmo and the Celgar pulp mill in Castlegar. Over a dozen truck loads of firewood were also delivered to local residents.

Why ship logs to so many different mills, and why not send all our logs to our own mill in Harrop? The answer to those questions is that HPFP is a non-mechanized specialty mill that exclusively mills higher quality Douglas-fir and cedar. We mill approximately one logging truck load per week.

Meanwhile, our community forest is a diverse mix of Douglas-fir, larch, pine, cedar, hemlock, grand fir, spruce, and balsam fir. Log sizes and quality vary considerably - from high quality sawlogs to dead and dry logs to small diameter and rotten logs.

As a result, HPCC sends higher quality cedar and Douglas-fir sawlogs to HPFP, and elsewhere occasionally. Other species and qualities of logs are sent to the other mills. It's worth noting that a truckload of Douglas-fir going to our mill

is typically 30 to 60 logs, a load of cedar going to Porcupine generally has 200 to 300 logs, and a load of pulp going to Celgar can have 800+ logs (mostly small rotten trees and tops).

HPCC's continuing fuel treatment operations produce a high percentage of small and low quality logs. This is because we are retaining the largest and healthiest trees while removing suppressed and understory trees, especially highly flammable cedar and hemlock.

Occasionally we generate larger sawlogs; this spring we salvaged several loads of large Douglas-fir that had been attacked by fir beetle. These logs didn't travel far, they were milled in Harrop.



*A mixed deck of hemlock (left) and pulp logs (right)*

## Committees of the Harrop Procter Community Cooperative

Committees are an integral, important part of the cooperative's governance and day to day functions. Directors are encouraged to serve on at least two committees; staff and community volunteers make up the rest of the individual committee composition. Meetings are called by the chair on an as-needed basis but it is expected each committee will meet a minimum of three to four times annually.

If you would like to volunteer a bit of your time and/or expertise, please contact the HPCC office at 250-229-2271 or email office administrator Britta Barteski at [coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org).

Community Engagement Committee - Bill Macpherson (chair), Gerry Held, Diana Gamble, Britta Barteski

Finance Committee - Marie Chanton (chair), Terry Huva, Naomi Legg, Erik Leslie, Eric Martin, Russell Precious, Rami Rothkop

Forest Operations & Planning Committee - Mike Drinkwater (chair), Tim Davis, Bruce Lane, Erik Leslie, Jim Yule, Eric Martin

Human Resource Committee - Gerry Held (chair), Debbie Crichton, Katie Hill, Bill Macpherson

Recreation Committee - Tim Davis (chair), Catherine Donnelly, Mike Drinkwater, Ceceila Hobson, Erik Leslie, Sean Reid, Dana Rothkop

Social Committee - Holly Hale (chair), Britta Barteski, Marie Chanton, Debbie Crichton

Strategic Planning Committee - Katie Hill (chair), Diane Gamble, Naomi Legg, Erik Leslie, Eric Martin, Michael Martin, David Strom



## In the Community

### Improvements to the Mill Lake Trail

On Saturday, August 26, members of the HPCC Recreation Committee and several volunteers hiked most of the way up the Mill Lake trail to improve access across a series of muddy sections.

The previous day committee members Tim Davis and Dana Rothkop had carried up a chainsaw, guide ladder and an apparatus (Alaskan bush mill) for milling trees in place, and had done some preparatory work. Joining them on Saturday were committee members Cecilia Hobson - who also provided lunch, drinks and snacks for everyone - and Sean Reid. Volunteers Rob Fox and Bill Macpherson rounded out the work party.

Four muddy sections were tackled; downed or standing dead trees were felled and milled on site. Old, rotting crossings were removed and parts of them reused. At the end of the day two new crossings were in place, each approximately 30 feet in length. The planks for the other two sections have been milled but finishing the crossings (better structural support, mesh installation, etc.) will require another trip. If you are planning to hike to Mill Lake in the next while, please keep this in mind.

Overall it was a very successful day, capped off by a cold beer at the trailhead at the end of it. If you would like to volunteer to help with finishing the project at the end of September, please contact the HPCC office at 250-229-2271 or email [coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org) and your name will be passed on to Recreation Committee Chair Tim Davis.

### CONTACT US

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Follow Harrop Procter Forest Products on  
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[www.hpcommunityforest.org](http://www.hpcommunityforest.org)



Tim Davis (left) and Rob Fox (right) milling on site



One of the new crossings

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)