



Progressive Forestry. Quality Wood. Community Owned.

Community Forest News

Spring 2026

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



Harrop Procter Community Coop **2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday
June 24th**

7 PM

Procter Hall

**The agenda for the AGM
will include:**

- President's Report
- Forest Operations
Manager's Report
- Mill Manager's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Directors



www.hpcommunityforest.org

Harrop Procter Forest Products

Due in part to the mild winter experienced this year, the mill has been going full tilt since the new year. Sales figures for the first three months were up \$60,000 compared to last year and the pace shows no sign of abating. The down side to this is that orders get backlogged and take more time to be filled.

Management is looking at ways to resolve this issue. A reduction in product lines, minimum order amounts and increased pricing for special orders are all being considered to improve order fulfillment time.

The increased board foot production is having a debilitating effect on the physical well-being of employees, unfortunately. Repetitive strain injuries are increasingly more frequent among the mill tailing team. To reduce this, several new hires have been added to the team and a rotation system has been implemented. This has every member of the yard crew tailing for a maximum of two days a week, less frequently if it is possible.

Joining the HPFP team full-time are Jeremy Morin and Liam Kennedy. Shawn Whittle is working part-time two to three days a week and HPCC administrator Erika Sullivan fills in at HPFP on an as-needed basis. Kent Lui has left the operation to pursue post secondary education plans. Kyle Sokoloski has been designated the lead hand for the mill yard effective May 1.

All new and existing staff have been provided with personal copies of HPCC's Human Resources policies. These cover a wide range of items (Pay Transparency, Sick Leave, Code of Conduct, WHIMS and others) that they should be familiar with while employed by the cooperative.

The renovation of the lumber storage shed to a building housing the new moulder is nearly complete. Interior finishing work is ongoing. The dust collection system is being fabricated by Nederman Canada and will be shipped to the mill once finished.



Former lumber storage shed converted to moulder building.

Forest Operations

Public Information meeting

Approximately 35 community members joined HPCC Forest Manager Erik Leslie for an informational meeting at the Harrop Hall on April 29th. Erik talked about upcoming harvesting plans for 2026, the ongoing Columbia Basin Trust (CBT)-funded mechanical mulching project off Narrows Creek Road by local company Flow State Adaptations. Also discussed were the findings from an HPCC-commissioned report by geotechnician Chris Purdue on behalf of Sitkum Consulting Ltd. regarding the slough into Harrop Creek that occurred on March 20.

As discussed at the public meeting, during the exceptional March 20 rain-on-snow event ground water emerged at several new and unforeseen locations in West Harrop. As a result, five new culverts have been installed, and ditches have been deepened in key areas.

All told, Erik spoke for about an hour using projected photos and maps for emphasis; he then answered questions from the audience for another half hour. The evening was informative and appreciated by all in attendance.

Donations

Harrop School House Society (lumber for fencing; renovation funding)	\$20,000.00
McKim Cottage (lumber for raised beds)	\$907.00
Procter Community Society (community exhibition)	\$5000.00
Total:	\$25,907.00
Year to date:	\$30,475.00

In the Community

Ursula Heller photography exhibit - Our Side

Over five days in late May/early June, the community was invited to view a multi-decade chronicle of life here on the south shore of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. Captured through the lens of Ursula Heller's camera, the show highlighted the events and the people that make up our community fabric.

Harrop Procter Community Cooperative was the major funder of the event, providing two separate donations to enable the exhibition to be staged. Some of the wood for the show was donated from the mill (Harrop Procter Forest Products) while the Procter Community Society provided their hall at no charge over the five day long exhibition.

Many others donated time, energy and financial assistance to ensure the event's success.



Ursula Heller at her exhibit (photo courtesy of Sharon Naslund)

In the Community (cont'd)

And what an event it was. Beautifully mounted and presented, the nearly five hundred photos exhibited told of the formative community events over decades and the people involved in them. From ferry and logging protests to celebrations, bingos, fundraisers and volunteer groups; all were captured by Ursula's unerring eye for composition and artfully displayed for all the community to see and discuss.

Probably the entire population of "our side" viewed the show over the five day run. Many residents came twice, three or four times to see the show, taking their time to pick out details and nuances in each photograph while sharing stories and reminiscences with friends and neighbours. It was a heartwarming, spectacular exhibition, the culmination of years of effort. Congratulations to Ursula and Barry - and everyone who helped - for capturing the community and its residents uniqueness so eloquently.

Anne Ward Memorial Scholarship program

The Harrop Procter Community Cooperative continues to support students from the Outlet area with upcoming or ongoing post-secondary studies.

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In its ninth year, the scholarship and bursary program has increased its annual distribution amount to a maximum of \$5,000. This decision accounts for rising inflation and a record number of applicants this year.

The winner of the \$2000 Anne Ward Memorial Scholarship this year is Mia Joniec from Harrop. Mia is the daughter of Naomi Legg and Andre Joniec. Both of their children have now won Anne Ward Memorial Scholarships towards their post-secondary education.

Kalyse Kerr Memorial Bursaries of \$1000 each were awarded to the following applicants:

Korban Ashley - Balfour

Kent Lui - Procter

Neve Rawson - Longbeach

More information on the successful applicants will appear in the next newsletter. Congratulations to all who applied for an award from HPCC and best wishes in your post-secondary educational endeavours.

Follow Harrop Procter Forest Products on social media

 @hpsawmill

 Harrop Procter Forest Products

Local residents get a 10% discount, 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

Prescribed Burn near Slater Creek

On May 22, Harrop Procter Community Cooperative (HPCC) and the British Columbia Wildfire Service (BCWS) completed a 20 hectare planned burn in the Slater Creek area. It was undertaken to reduce flammable woody debris and decrease the risk of catastrophic wildfires in this area while promoting the growth of deciduous herbs/shrubs and increasing ecosystem resilience to climate change.

Prior to conducting the burn, woody debris was removed from the edges of the burn area. Sprinklers were set up at the top of the burn unit. Approximately 20 BC Wildfire Service staff and contract firefighters conducted the burn by igniting narrow strips of fuels starting at the top of the block and working downslope over the course of the day. Once underway, fire crews wetted down the edges of the burn areas to ensure no fire spread into adjacent areas.

The burn was a success, with very high consumption of fine fuels throughout the burn area. Larger pieces of downed wood were scorched but not generally consumed so there is good coverage of coarse woody debris remaining on site to continue to build soils and provide wildlife habitat. As expected, the forest duff layer was only partially consumed due to moist soil conditions at the time of the fire.

HPCC had completed a partial cut harvest in this area last year, removing most of the flammable cedar component while retaining the largest and healthiest Douglas-fir, larch and Ponderosa pine. These retained trees have thick bark and are well adapted to periodic wildfire.



Wildfire Forestry Services employee Sean Tolerton using drip torch.



The partial cut harvest removed understory trees and spaced out retained trees to reduce drought stress as the climate changes on this dry site. (Unfortunately, many of the leave trees on the highly visible west side of the block blew over in the windstorm last December. These trees were salvaged and sent to Harrop Procter Forest Products (HPFP) and other area mills before the planned burn.)

The planned burn in Slater Creek is the second HPCC and BC Wildfire Service have jointly conducted. Last year, a similar one in East Harrop Creek was done with the same positive results.



L to R: HPCC Director Debbie Crichton, HPCC Director Marie Chanton, Administrator Erika Sullivan, Forest Operations Manager Erik Leslie, BCWS Kootenay Lake Fire Zone member Amy Hetherington