



Progressive Forestry. Quality Wood. Community Owned.

# Community Forest News

Summer 2025

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

As a part of its donations to the community, HPCC offers an annual event where community members can obtain some firewood at no cost. Previously this has been held at the Harrop Hall in late spring but the format is being changed this year.

The event will occur at the cooperative's land to the east of the nursery operations on the north side of Harrop Procter Road. The date is **Saturday, October 18th** starting at 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Participants are **required to sign up for a specific time online.**

The signup form can be found here:

<https://koalendar.com/e/free-firewood-event-booking>

All the wood will be pre-cut into rounds. There will be volunteers/staff on hand to assist in loading your pickup or trailer. There is no need to bring anything other than gloves to assist in loading and perhaps a donation for the volunteers.

Three vehicles will be provided wood simultaneously at one half hour intervals. It is important that once you have booked a time you don't show up until then. Once loaded, please exit promptly to ensure things go smoothly.

### Anne Ward Memorial Scholarship

The Community Engagement Committee along with subcommittee members Tim Held and Greg Richards (by video) met on Friday, May 2, 2025 to determine funding allocations.

After reviewing all the applications, the scholarship subcommittee allocated the following amounts to four Grade Twelve students pursuing post-secondary education opportunities in the fall:

\$1000.00 Scholarship award to Kalyse Kerr - Procter

\$1000.00 Scholarship award to Ryder Nash - Procter

\$500.00 Bursary award to Angelo Marzicola - Balfour

\$500.00 Bursary award to Lucas Prisciak - North Shore

**Kalyse Kerr** had been accepted into a two year paralegal program offered at MacEwan University in Edmonton. Tragically, she died in a motor vehicle accident on the North Shore prior to commencing her future studies. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathies go out to her parents Chris and Dolina Kerr, her sisters Kindry and Skylar, her extended family and her many friends. At the September HPCC board meeting, the Directors voted unanimously to honour Kalyse's memory by naming future bursary awards after her.



## In the Community (cont.)

**Ryder Nash** received numerous awards while playing minor hockey growing up, in addition to excelling at track and field. Recently, he was the LV Rogers high school nominee, one of 1,500 students across the country, for a prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship. One hundred are awarded annually nationally to undergraduate students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

He has volunteered throughout his high school years and has worked part-time as well while maintaining excellent grades. Ryder has been part of the Harrop Procter Forest Products crew, working twice a week at the mill for a couple of years and full-time in the summer months. He is studying Engineering at the University of Alberta with a major in electrical engineering planned. Ryder's parents are Don and Shelley Nash.



**Angelo Marzicola** will be entering the Selkirk College Industry and Trades program.

**Lucas Prisciak** will be entering the one year Engineering Transfer Certificate program at Selkirk College in Castlegar.

## HPFP

As always, the mill has been particularly busy over the summer months. A steady supply of regular customers and numerous large timber orders have kept the team going full out from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. six days a week; the early start implemented until just recently to lessen heat exhaustion.

There have been a few staffing changes recently. Nick Okros has replaced John Rawson in the log yard running the loader while Erika Sullivan is now working only one day a week at the mill. She is the administrator in the HPCC office the rest of the week, usually in the early afternoon.

New addition Oliver Houston (below) joined the crew on a full-time basis in June. He's from Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario originally but spent almost ten years tree planting in various parts of B.C. Oliver lives across the arm in Balfour; when he's not working he's usually biking on the local trails or honing his graphic design skills acquired while studying at Concordia University in Montréal.

The mill upgrade project is nearing completion. Fire suppression mechanisms and renovations to the building for the new moulder are the only outstanding items and both should be finished before the end of the year. The decision to retain the old moulder once the new one is housed will increase capacity while ensuring continuous production.



# Forest Operations

## Block 4 Slater Creek

Harvesting of the thirty hectare block above private land - one of the final major pieces of the lower elevation Wildfire Risk Reduction work to protect the community from future wildfire events - near Slater Creek is now completed.

Numerous site visits by HPCC and HPWPS Directors as well as HPFP staff confirm the quality of both the roadbuilding and the harvesting that was done. Detailed prescriptions were applied and meticulously followed by logger Shane McKinnon and his three person crew. The overall retention rate of healthy leave trees was close to the thirty per cent rate planned by HPCC's Manager of Forest Operations Erik Leslie.



Logger Shane McKinnon and Erik Leslie

"There were pockets of active Douglas-fir beetle infestations where the retention was lower," he explained on a recent site visit with HPCC President Bill Macpherson. "The time frame to salvage lumber from a beetle infested Douglas-fir log is short. A year after it dies it's often firewood, after two years it's basically worthless. So in spots where the infestation was severe, there weren't a lot of healthy fir to leave. In these areas we left clumps and small patches of mixed retention to compensate. Large reserves were also placed on gullies adjacent to Alyeo Creek, Greenwood Creek, and Slater Creek."

Block 4 is the only logging that HPCC will do this year. The best large fir and cedar logs, along with a small amount of quality hemlock, were sent to the mill in Harrop. Other logs went to the Kalesnikoff and Porcupine sawmills; Mercer Celgar in Castlegar was sent many loads of small and rotten pulp logs. HPCC loses money on pulp logs but to reduce wildfire risk they need to be removed.



Site visit by community members: (L to R) Ted Brown, Shane, Jarrod Brown, Ursula Heller, Greg Mantle, Terry Mantle, Barry Gray

Landing clean up and skid trail rehabilitation, along with some pile burning, will occur later in the fall. Next spring, the intent is to work with BC Wildfire Service to conduct a low intensity broadcast burn in the upper part of the block to reduce surface fuels and promote deciduous regrowth. HPCC is also making plans to use a mechanical mulching treatment to reduce fuel loads in other parts of the community forest going forward.

## Donations

Harrop & District Community Centre Society  
(lumber for deck renovation) \$936.32

Harrop & District Community Centre Society  
(gift certificate for event) \$300.00

Procter Harrop Seniors Association (lumber for  
access ramp) \$151.20

Total: \$1,387.52

Year to date: \$11,586.12

# Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee is chaired by HPCC Director Tim Davis. It's the only HPCC committee whose composition is mainly community members as opposed to HPCC Directors. Besides Tim, the committee members are Erik Leslie, Dana Rothkop, Catherine Donnelly, Sean Rodman, Valerie Farcelais, Paul Barrett, Candace Mead, Stew Daroux, Marie Chanton, Debbie Crichton, Britta Barteski.

They have been busy improving recreation opportunities in the community forest based on their 2023 community survey. In 2024, trail maintenance - brushing and deadfall clearing - occurred on three trails: Mill Lake, Old Growth/Proctologist and Mount Irvine (Alexander Trail).

On the Old Growth Trail, the fire crew made a sign and bench last year where it crosses over from Carson forest service road to Victor forest service road.

Additionally, an extension of the Mount Irvine (Alexander Trail) to Wilson Lake along with the creation of a campsite with two tent pads, a table, an outhouse and a fire ring was submitted to BC Parks. Construction will likely begin in 2026.

This year, trail building on the private land portion of the low-elevation Irvine Creek Trail is ongoing. A Crown land application to complete the trail to the Irvine Creek recreation site on the south arm of Kootenay Lake will be submitted later this fall. Special thanks are due to Ian Comishin for permitting trails on his private property.

A work party to improve/create stairs and footbridges on the lower Mill Lake trail sections is happening this **Saturday, October 4th**.

Volunteers are welcome; contact Tim directly

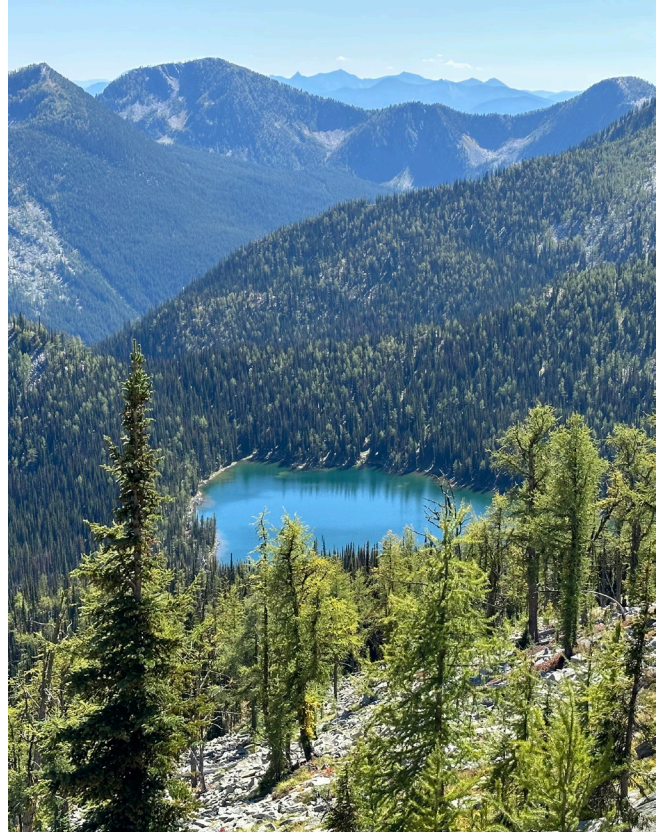
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at 1-(250) 819-9421 or leave your contact information at the HPCC office: (250) 229-2271 if you can assist with the work. Many hands make light work!



*Future backcountry hiking trail destination and camp spot - Wilson Lake*

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](mailto:coordinator@hpcommunityforest.org)

# Existing and proposed trails in the Harrop Procter Community Forest

Existing trails

Being developed / proposed trails

