



Woodlots and environment go hand in hand

By JILL BROCKLEHURST

I moved to BC from Ontario in 1993 thinking I was an environmentalist. I was appalled at the clearcuts and the apparent destruction of natural resources. I was righteous in my views, conscious of my footprint on planet earth and arrogant in my positional stance – until I met my husband, a Quadra Island Woodlot Licensee, in 2000.

Jerry confronted me on all my beliefs and had me questioning the pillage of forests for any use outside of wooded parkland and a working forest. Our most frequent conflict came with my pleas for pasture. In 2003, I brought my new horse home to our 24-acre private land portion of Jerry's Woodlot Licence. I was thrilled when he opened a less than one-hectare plot and put a great six-foot fence around it, although I told him horses really only need a four-foot high fence. We talked about how he was going to drain the soil and turn a marshy area into dryer land. We discussed grass seed and I was tickled – yes, my husband does love me, I thought.

You can imagine my confusion when the boxes of seedlings arrived and Jerry began calling it the "Maple Field." What should have been pasture, in my mind, was a maple plantation in his! The six-foot fence was to keep deer out, not horses in. Well, we experimented as he proclaimed an interest in agroforestry, a combination of forestry and agricultural practices. Fortunately my mare passed the test.

As a self-proclaimed environmentalist, I had met my adversary. I had never met a more pro-environment person than Jerry, and I soon met his colleagues who were an equal



A group of friends gathers for a hike on Alex Hartford's woodlot — the oldest on Quadra Island. Woodlot licensees are some of the most environmentally aware and community-minded individuals you'll find.

match. I have learned that every sapling these individuals plant is a part of who they are, as emphasized by Karin Nighswander, a licensee's wife speaking of her husband: "The way Mark goes about his work, it's as if he expects to live 300 years." Roads they build are low impact and are named after their children. These tenures are special in that they can stay in the family. What licensees do today, they do for their grandchildren. I have witnessed many lost hours of profitable work diverted to saving a few skinny wind-blown cedar trees.

Each licensee seems to bring their personal interest to the forest. Alex Hartford holds the oldest licence on Quadra Island and most of his parcels feature some of Quadra Island's

favourite hiking trails. Men like Grant Hayden bring their skills to the community by assisting in community trail upgrades and clearing. Dick Whittington also operates a sawmill on his woodlot licence. John and Colleen Marlow are a husband and wife team, both Registered Professional Foresters. One of the most recent licensees on Quadra Island is the Cape Mudge Band, which was awarded two woodlots in a Forest and Range Agreement.

Today, while my horse picks and searches for small grass patches in and through the trees, I am grateful to have my ideas challenged, and recognize the value of a working forest, one that is cherished by our local loggers and foresters.



The Ministry of Forests and Range continues to follow through on its commitment to increase the number of woodlot licences in BC to approximately 900 by 2011.

New woodlots announced

The Province continues to expand forestry opportunities for individuals, groups, and First Nations with the offering of three new woodlot licences near Quesnel.

“Woodlots create employment for local forestry workers and provide communities with economic, recreation, and social benefits,” said Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell. “We are helping our forest sector recover by building a stronger role for small tenure holders and forest communities around British Columbia.”

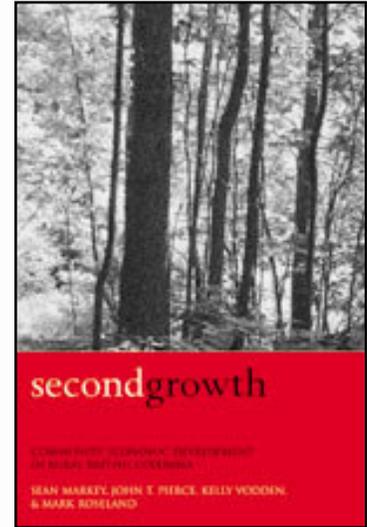
All three of the licences are within the Quesnel timber supply area near Benson Lake, about 25 kilometres from Quesnel. The first licence, W1994, includes about 1,087 hectares of Crown land with an allowable annual cut of 2,700 cubic metres. The second, W1995, includes approximately 1,191 hectares of Crown land, also with an allowable annual cut of 2,700 cubic metres.

The third, W1996, includes 981.5 hectares of Crown land and has an allowable annual cut of 3,300 cubic metres.

“Woodlot licences generate a significant amount of full-time, part-time and seasonal employment helping to strengthen the local economy,” said Brian McNaughton, general manager for the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations.

Woodlot licences are small, area-based tenures that combine private land with up to 800 hectares of Crown land on the Coast and 1,200 hectares of Crown land in the Interior. Usually, they are replaceable tenures, awarded for 20 years. There are about 850 active woodlots in British Columbia. Each woodlot generates jobs in planning, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, as well as in reforestation, silviculture and small-scale timber processing.

Courtesy Ministry of Forests and Range



Second growth a first-rate read

Broader political and economic changes are dramatically reshaping rural and small-town communities. Increasingly, however, much of the responsibility for community-based prosperity and survival is falling to communities themselves.

This book is drawn from a three-year research project with four communities in BC. The first part of the book examines historical and contemporary forces of restructuring, linking the development of rural communities with the legacy of resource development and Aboriginal marginalization. The second part of the book presents the dynamics of the community economic development process and outlines a variety of strategies communities can initiate to diversify their local economies.

The book will appeal to educators and students of rural and economic geography, policy makers, and citizens who wish to better understand the transformations taking place across the rural landscape.

Courtesy UBC Press



FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

381 Pheasant Road • Williams Lake, BC, V2G 5A9
Tel (250) 398-7646 • Toll Free: 1-866-345-8733
Email: gen_manager@woodlot.bc.ca
www.woodlot.bc.ca

WOODLOT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THE WOODLAND ALMANAC

Box 10033, Prince George, BC V2K 5Y1
Tel 1-888-925-9995 • Fax (250) 962-9199
Toll Free 1-888-925-9995 • E-mail: cjmoclary@shaw.ca