



Family Woodlot Licence a Leader in Forest Stewardship



Westlake Woodlands in Powell River specializes in Douglas fir and cedar poles; the longest pole on this load scaled out at an impressive 10 cubic metres.

By SARA GRADY

Woodlot holders have always been held to a higher standard in the province because they're caring for a Crown resource on our behalf. The Fuller Family, who were recently awarded the dual honour of the Minister's Award for Innovation and Excellence for both their region and the entire province, exemplify the imperatives of stewardship embedded in the woodlot licence program.

Several years ago Doug Fuller was at a hockey game in his close-knit hometown of Powell River when a fellow fan took the opportunity to give

him an impromptu 'job-performance review'. Apparently Doug had mistakenly logged overtop of a hiking trail, and this gentleman was none too pleased.

That small 'mistake' led to a change in the way Doug and his forester planned their activities on Woodlot Licences 0029 and 1671, and launched a dialogue with the community that has earned the Fullers a reputation as conscientious and caring woodlot holders. As one biking club member said to Doug, "If that's you making mistakes, keep up the mistakes!"

Doug and his brother Ron now maintain an open channel of communication with all the community members who bike, hike, hunt and

ride in their woodlot. They take pains to work around the popular network of trails. In addition, they launched a website that provides detailed maps outlining planned logging, road building and rehabilitation efforts so that recreational users are aware of areas to avoid. A broadcast email list with over two hundred addresses is used to send notifications to outdoor associations when harvest plans are set, informing all the local stakeholders about the potential impact on their activities.

The original footprint of WL1671 was annexed in a First Nations land claim. In one of the first settlements of its kind, the Sliammon First Nation was successful in reclaiming the parcel

originally granted to the Fullers in the late nineties during a Treaty negotiation with the provincial government. The woodlot licence was relocated adjacent to their father's licence, WL0029, and the combined licences now operate as Westlake Woodlands.

While the Woodlands aren't part of the treaty lands, they are part of the Sliammon First Nations traditional territory. As such, the family has made a concerted effort to grant access to the Sliammon Nation before any logging occurs so that traditional plants, cedar roots and bark can

be collected prior to harvest.

The Fullers have successfully balanced community stewardship with a viable commercial forestry operation. They log in small parcels, striving to preserve visual quality, biodiversity, recreational values, as well as fish habitat.

Their specialty is harvesting cedar and Douglas fir poles, but they also supply the local Powell River sawmills and Log Home Builders with high-quality material. The remainder of their harvest is sold in Vancouver through a broker, and after the harvest and sale of the commercial

goods they operate a small firewood business, sell float logs, and utilize the pulp that would ordinarily be waste.

Known for their diligence and cooperative attitude when dealing with government agencies, the Fullers have set a high standard for the woodlot program. With dedication and communication they've exceeded their mandate, and are truly outstanding examples of Crown forest stewardship.

The Christmas Tree in BC



The business of growing Christmas trees is an important, sustainable part of the local economy and the environment in our province. In fact this tree farm, owned and operated by the Alberni District Secondary School, also serves as a Project-based classroom.

A Christmas tree is part of the holiday tradition for many people in BC. And the business of growing Christmas trees is an important, sustainable part of the local economy and the environment in our province.

There are about 450 growers who have

plantations in the Fraser Valley, on Vancouver Island and the Okanagan, Thompson and Kootenay regions, as well as on Hydro right-of-ways, and they provide over 900,000 trees each year.

About 75% of Christmas trees are harvested

from native stands produced using 'stump culture', a practice employed for the last 50 years. A tree is cut leaving the bottom two or three branches near the ground. A shoot may grow from near the cut or the uppermost of these remaining branches may turn up to form a new tree top. Recently, growers have enhanced their practices, fertilizing and shearing young trees to improve their look and marketability. The alternative to 'stump culture' is planting seedlings on a farm; these seedlings are typically ready to harvest in 6-14 years.

In addition to providing income to growers throughout the province, trees growing in a natural forest or on a tree farm are far better for the environment than artificial trees. They produce oxygen, take up carbon dioxide and can be turned into mulch when Christmas is over.

Wishing you all the happiness of the Christmas Season and best wishes for the New Year.



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