



# Woodlot AGM highlights audience participation

Woodlotters from across the province met in Campbell River this fall for the joint Annual General Meetings of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council, hosted by the North Island Woodlot Association. “Woodlots – The Island Way” was the theme of this year’s gathering, held at Painter’s Lodge and April Point Resort, and attendees learned, among other things, that the Island Way involves a great deal of “audience participation”.

The conference began with the presentation of a Stewardship video, which traditionally throws a spotlight on individual woodlot operations exemplifying the mandate of the program. This year, the entire North Island region received a nod for its progressive practices, including praise for the efforts of much-beloved Ministry staffer Jim Simpson.

Rick Monchak, TimberWest RPF discussed his “Woodlot Style” logging operations on Quadra Island’s TFL 47. He explained that his company had set three goals: be a good neighbor; seek respect from stakeholders (particularly First Nations); and, build a sustainable business. This required a great deal of diplomacy, transparency, and a willingness to experiment with alternative silviculture methods in order to satisfy public expectations. His mantra: “Talk first. Log second.” Throughout the weekend, attendees heard about the constant public consultation practiced by all forestry operators on Quadra.

Jerry Benner and Nigel Ross explained their collaboration with the Discovery Islands Marine



The highly popular Haskin Farm hiking trail intersects Alex Hartford's Quadra Island woodlot. Communication and cooperation allow the public to enjoy this working forest.

Tourism Group. By engaging tour operators in their decisions, these woodlotters are able to log profitably without negatively affecting the aesthetic properties that draw outdoor enthusiasts to the Island, or creating friction among community members. Tour operators, in turn, make an effort to educate their guests on the necessities of logging on Quadra, and explain the measures taken by the forest industry to preserve the pristine landscape.

Similarly, Alex Hartford works hand-in-hand with representatives of the Trail Society and the Mountain Biking Club to allow maximum access for recreational pursuits without jeopardizing the health of riparian zones or new plantings, and ensuring safety during harvest. Community members have, for the most part, come to respect

and trust his practices and realize his woodlot isn’t simply his logging operation, it’s a public resource that he’s working hard to maintain for everyone’s mutual benefit.

Minister Steve Thomson was on hand to award three woodlotters for their excellent practices. John and Dave Gregson and John and Joyce Helweg received a \$2500 regional Minister’s Award, and Rod Krimmer was awarded the \$2500 Minister’s Provincial Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management, as well as the \$2500 regional award.

It was an extremely educational and enjoyable weekend thanks to the excellent planning by the North Island Woodlot Association and the natural, rugged beauty of the region.

# Cariboo Woodlotter receives top honours from Minister



Cariboo Woodlot Association (CWA) recognizing Krimmer's contribution for his 18 years of service as the secretary of the association. L-R Brian McNaughton, FBCWA General Manager, Rod Krimmer, Minister's Award recipient, Ian Lanki, Cariboo Woodlot Association President and Rod Blake, Cariboo Woodlot Association Director.

For the past three years the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations has honoured "the best of the best" in small-scale forestry. The Minister's Award of Excellence in Woodlot Management recognizes the exemplary practices of woodlotter across the province; in addition, a special Innovation Award is given to one exceptional woodlot licensee.

This year's recipient was the Cariboo's "all-rounder" Rod Krimmer, and he most certainly exemplifies the principles of the program. A perennial presence at every Cariboo Woodlot Association meeting for the past 18 years, he's provided guidance and leadership as the Secretary, forging a link between the association and its members through constant

communication.

A thought-leader in the industry, Rod sees the Woodlot program as a vital piece of the BC forestry puzzle and is a champion of small-scale forestry on industrial certification boards, Forest Professional Committees, as well as the FSC Standards Committee. His presence raises the profile of the Woodlot program, increasing awareness and ensuring the voices of all woodlotter are heard as policies and procedures are set.

"I do many things, but when people ask me what I do, I always say I'm a woodlot owner," Rod told the Williams Lake Tribune in a recent interview. "It's the most rewarding thing I do."

According to FBCWA General Manager Brian

McNaughton, "Rod manages the woodlot the way it was intended. Not only does he manage the forest, sell the logs and reforest, but he manufactures from the trees he harvests. He makes log homes and he has a sawmill."

His efforts over the past 28 years won him the praise of Minister Steve Thompson, who said he is, "a worthy recipient of this award, who demonstrated province-wide leadership when it comes to forest stewardship and innovative practices."

By all accounts, he is most certainly a worthy recipient, and an excellent representative of this ever-growing forestry sector.



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