

## Hartford pioneers collaborative forestry

By SARA GRADY

Alex Hartford came to Quadra Island in 1970 and “soon became fascinated by the second growth forest.” What started as a fascination has evolved into a rewarding and productive career as a forester and advocate for the Woodlot program.

Since receiving the first woodlot license ever issued for the Campbell River Forest District in 1987, Alex’s service to the industry has been characterised by passion, curiosity, and a healthy respect for the community with which he shares this precious natural resource.

Pat Bell, Minister of Forests, Range and Mines, selected Alex and two of his colleagues, Rod Blake and Anne Davidson, to receive the inaugural “Minister’s Award of Excellence for Woodlot Management” in recognition of the legacies they have created within the program.

While Alex joked that he received the honour by virtue of

“being old,” it’s clear that his contribution to the industry is significant, and offers the promise of continued growth in the sector as a whole.

The Coastal forestry sector has seen some rocky times, and no doubt woodlot licensees suffered whiplash from the clashes between environmentalists, government and big industry.

When Alex received his license in ‘87, he was met with some resistance from the community, and with good cause. The landscape had already been radically altered by the clear-cut culture of big business decades beforehand, leaving the community scarred and suspicious.

Those who understood the program would know that licensees

were mandated to be stewards of their land. Educating those who didn’t know that sustainability resides at the heart of the woodlot mandate is one of the legacies Alex has created.

For example, in the 90s he and a fellow licensee were a part of the “Forest Resource Committee” – a roundtable panel comprised of representatives from special interest groups such as the Sierra Club, provincial forestry, as well as experts in silviculture.

The priorities of each group were shared, weighed and managed; compromises were an essential ingredient as stakeholders worked to balance economic, social and environmental objectives.

The program has expanded on Quadra Island, with nine licensees now working together on this diverse landscape.

Alex knows that the success the program has enjoyed in his region is due in large part to the collaborative nature of forestry in this district.

While he and his fellow woodlotters have managed to maintain strong relationships with community partners and groups dedicated to conservation, they have also forged strong

bonds with their regulatory partners at Forest Services.

Underpinning Alex’s practices – those of the Woodlot program as a whole – is the firm belief that cultivating and harvesting woodlots in small parcels is the most effective means of managing timber over a long time frame.

Woodlotters manage their properties for life and our understanding of silviculture evolves on a continual basis, so the opportunity to “test drive” some theories on a micro-scale can have macro-benefits. Perhaps, as the Woodlot program continues to expand and flourish, larger operations will be inspired to consider de-industrializing their timber production, as well.



Alex Hartford received a Minister’s Award of Excellence for his pioneering work in community collaboration. WIM TEWINKEL PHOTO

# BC sets example for world in Year of Forests

The United Nations has declared 2011 the “Year of Forests” – a year to celebrate the important role our forests play worldwide, and to acknowledge the vital link between our collective actions and the health and longevity of our woodlands.

“Forest 2011” will throw a spotlight on issues surrounding sustainable management, conservation and utilisation of global forests and should prompt a dialogue about practices that can be adopted to protect and enhance this valuable resource.

One of the resounding themes when discussing the future health of the world’s forests is the need to transfer ownership of small parcels into the hands of families or private stakeholders. It’s been demonstrated that when individuals are responsible for the well-being of woodlands – both socially and economically – the resource is managed more effectively and generates greater revenue and stability.

Where have we seen this kind of success? Well, in Sweden, where over half of their productive forests are managed by private interests who are governed by federal guidelines. Their practices encourage a balance of yield, multi-use and biodiversity and they possess more productive timber now than they have in the last 100 years.



The Woodlot Licence program in BC is unique in the world, and has resulted in richly diverse forests managed for all their value — and, most importantly, managed for future generations.

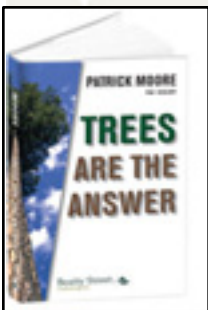
Where else? Right here in British Columbia.

Since its inception in 1979, the Woodlot Licence program – unique to the forestry sector worldwide - has entrusted provincial Crown land to a diverse and dedicated group of foresters who manage this publicly-owned resource under strict guidelines.

The result: one of the most progressive and innovative methods of simultaneously protecting our forests and creating jobs, and revenue.

BC is an industry leader in sustainable forestry and as the world celebrates the Year of Forests, be sure to enjoy the rich diversity of the province’s forests.

## Fibre for thought: former Greenpeacer provides new take on forest sustainability



Greenpeace co-founder and former leader Dr. Patrick Moore, an ecology PhD, challenges our common assumptions about forests and forestry. Dr. Moore argues the best way to sustain our forests is by growing more trees and using more wood and forest products — not less.

Written for the expert and novice alike, this book will entertain and enlighten by taking you behind the scenes, showing you forests and forest management in a way

you’ve likely never seen before.

Illustrated with beautiful photography, this is a must have book for anyone interested in how forests can help us solve some of today’s toughest eco- challenges from green building to climate change, renewable bioenergy to paper and product recycling.

Visit [www.treesaretheanswer.com](http://www.treesaretheanswer.com) to purchase Trees are the Answer.



**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](mailto:gen_manager@woodlot.bc.ca)  
[www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://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: [cjmclary@shaw.ca](mailto:cjmclary@shaw.ca)