



FBCWA celebrates a quarter century

By LISA MARAK

The seedling of BC's Crown Woodlot License Program took root in 1948 when the Forest Act was amended to allow farmers to obtain small areas of Crown forest to manage as farm woodlots. However, excessive red tape meant this new concept of forest tenure didn't enjoy much of a growth spurt until 1979. The Forest Act was amended in 1979 following the Pearce Commission, resulting in the creation of a new type of woodlot license that was larger in area and, unlike farm woodlots, which were only available to farmers, was available to any Canadian resident at least 19 years old, First Nations Bands and small corporations controlled by Canadian residents.

This new tenure resulted in considerable growth in woodlots, with 450 new small forest tenures located in various forest regions around the province through the mid to late 80s. These small forestry businesses had similar challenges and concerns and started organizing themselves by forest district into local associations. This gave them the opportunity to network and represent common issues within their local forest district. By 1988 there were nine associations, with new associations forming each year as the woodlot program continued to grow.

Over time, the local associations came to realize they needed representation at the level of the provincial government, since BC's legislation and policies were designed for large tenures, and ill-suited to the small-tenure model. In 1988 the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) was formed to represent the interests of woodlot licensees,



Hunter Dawson (left) is the fifth generation of the Dawson clan to help manage what was originally awarded to Harry Dawson in about 1948 as Farm Woodlot #4 (now known as Woodlot #013). Sister Maddison and dad Jason (right) share some family time on the woodlot. The Dawsons received this year's Minister's Award of Excellence in Woodlot Management for the Coast Region.

via their local associations, on provincial matters such as forest legislation, regulations and policy, and work with government to improve opportunities available to woodlot licensees and ensure continued growth of the program.

The FBCWA's main purpose was to promote the economic and social benefits of small-scale forest management throughout British Columbia. What started out as a small, grassroots, volunteer based non-profit organization is now made up of 23 Woodlot Associations representing the interests of 875 woodlot licensees with many accomplishments to its credit. Small-scale forestry is well represented today on countless committees. Its advocates and practitioners are invited to participate in many forestry-related functions on a local, national and international stage. Additionally, its members have an excellent working relationship with government and other industry organizations

such as the Central Interior Logging Association, Truck Loggers Association, BC Cattle-men's Association, and the BC Community Forest Association.

The Federation's contributions are numerous, including making administration of woodlot licenses more efficient and effective, expanding the woodlot program (soon to be around 900 licenses), providing extension services to licensees and landowners in forest management, developing agro forestry as an emerging industry, funding a scholarship for a student pursuing an education in a forestry-related discipline, and participating in the award of three annual Minister's Awards for excellence in woodlot management.

The woodlot license program has been an integral part of BC's forest sector for over five decades, continuing to provide socio-economic benefits and environmentally sound management of BC's forest resources.

Future in good hands with next generation

When Janice Burns walked into a lecture hall to attend Forestry 300, she had no idea it would change the course of her studies, and her life. But four years after taking that elective to fill her timetable at the University of BC, Janice had completed the Forest Resources Management program, and was the recipient of two prestigious awards at her graduation this spring. Had her professor, Gary Bull, not seen her potential and marched her up to the office of Forestry Program Director John Nelson before letting her leave her exam, her path may very well have been a different one.

A native of Slocan, a tiny community in the Kootenays, Janice grew up in a forestry family. Her great-grandfather was awarded the first tree farm license in BC's interior, TFL #3, in the mid-1800s. Her father, Gary, holds WL 498 on the back doorstep of the Valhallas.

One of four children, she was encouraged to pursue any career that interested her, though it's apparent she "absorbed a great deal [about forestry] by osmosis", according to her father. While the kids weren't expected to follow in their father's footsteps, their mother encouraged them to be "net contributors to society ... with a compassionate heart."

Clearly, Janice took this sentiment to heart. She was awarded the Canadian Institute of Forestry Gold Medal, which recognizes outstanding scholarship, sportsmanship and citizenship. "I am honoured and humbled to be the recipient of [this award]," said Janice, "I hold the Gold Medal with pride, and with my colleagues in mind." In addition to the medal, she was presented with the Gordon Baskerville Award, recognizing outstanding



Janice Burns accepts the Gordon Baskerville Award for her academic and citizenship achievements.

achievement in academics and citizenship.

Janice represents a promising generation of forestry professionals who have the skills and desire to excel in their field, while respecting the needs of society as a whole. No doubt, her upbringing on a working farm instilled in her the sense of responsibility and the strong work ethic she displayed during her studies.

The two years her family spent in South America while Gary managed a forestry operation in Guyana gave Janice "a pretty down-to-earth understanding of priorities, knowing that food and shelter are ultimately at the top of the list and should not be taken for granted."

Janice's current passion is fire, specifically within the Wildfire Management Branch. After serving as an Aviation Assistant for the BC Forest Service Protection Branch she went through the grueling application process to become a wildland firefighter and joined the 20-person Valhalla Unit Crew. She's

dedicated considerable time and energy to researching fuel management plans, specifically in wildland-urban interface areas, as well as technologies such as LIDAR, which are aiding in fuel assessments and wildfire management.

For now, Janice will continue with the BC Forest Service, while also working alongside her father. She muses about the possibility of someday taking over the family's woodlot operation.

No doubt, she will enjoy tremendous success, regardless of the path she takes in the future, thanks to her tenacious personality and obvious intellect. "Give her a complex problem and she'll wrestle it to the ground and won't give up until she's figured it out," said her professor.

As we look to the future of our forests, both locally and globally, it's heartening to see the exceptional talent of youth like Janice on the horizon.



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: cjmclary@shaw.ca