



# Community Forest News

Spring 2017

***The Community Forest is comprised of two organizations, the Harrop Procter Community Co-operative, which manages the forest tenure and mill, and the Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society, a stewardship body that undertakes monitoring of HPCC plans and activities, water monitoring, education and outreach.***

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the cooperative was held on April 26, 2017. A copy of the minutes and financial statements are available to members by calling Amy Nealy (in the office Wednesdays) at 250-229-2271 or e-mailing [office@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:office@hpcommunityforest.org).

Highlights included:

*Local employment and wages:* The cooperative is currently employing five full-time employees (a sixth will begin May 15) three part-time employees and three year-round contractors, as well as several other contractors on an as-needed basis. Wages paid annually last year were \$256,534 to employees and \$140,050 to contractors.

*Re-payment of outstanding loans:* All loans to coastal financial lenders have been paid off, as have longstanding loans to community members.

*Road building:* The bridge loan to build the Narrows Creek road was paid off in January. Logging proceeds covered the \$140,000 loan. Work has begun on the Procter Face extension spur line off Victor Road.

*Climate Change Adaptation Project:* Strategic and applied planning processes underway. The cooperative and the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) signed a contribution agreement (HPCC - \$70,000, CBT up to \$150,000) for the project including funding for LIDAR technology.

*Community outreach and publicity:* A tour of Narrows Creek road and operations is planned for the summer. HPCC was featured in CBT's annual report to residents and in *Explore Magazine*.

## Community Forest Open House and Public Meeting

Harrop Hall - Wednesday June 21st

*Open House 4:00pm to 6:00pm  
Public meeting 7:00pm to 8:30pm*

### AGENDA:

- Climate Change Adaptation project update
- Forestry planning and operations update
- Mill planning and operations update

Staff and Directors will be on hand to answer questions

*Light refreshments will be served*

*HPFP:* A 12% increase in sales year over year and a 50% increase over sales two years ago. Additional de-humidification units were installed in the kiln. Outsourcing of re-manufacturing increased product lines. Donations worth over \$8400 in wood products made to local organizations.

*Election of Officers:* All Directors agreed to staying on the Board. Two new Directors agreed to serve a two-year term, Natalie Bodine from Harrop and Russell Precious from Sunshine Bay.

# Harrop Procter Forest Products (HPFP)

The milling division of HPCC is undergoing a re-organization in light of Manager Rami Rothkop's decision to step away from the mill in order to focus more on environmental stewardship consulting. He informed the Board of Directors of his intention in late 2016. Over the current year he is assisting with the transition to a management triumvirate that will ensure the mill functions to maximum efficiency.

*Here are the managers:*



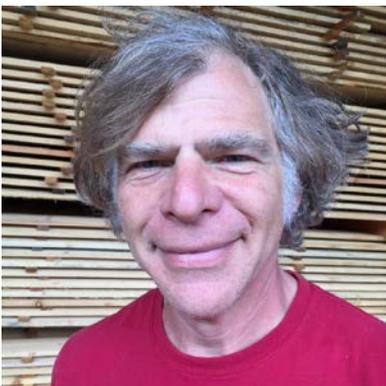
**Darryl Fincham**

Darryl has worked in large mills for his entire career. Following a stint at a Tolko mill in northern Alberta, he has returned to HPFP because he recognizes "this is the way mills should be, small scale, community- and sustainable forestry- based. I've seen the impacts of refits and automation. This is the type of operation that makes sense, it's where I want to finish my working days."



**Eric Martin**

Eric has been at HPFP for over five years already, learning all aspects of the operation. He is looking forward to the shared management responsibility. "I'll be assuming much of the sales, marketing and customer relations aspect of things. Also, primary responsibility for lumber and log yard operations although the three of us are trained in all aspects of the mill and can work interchangeably anywhere."



**David Strom**

David ran a solo sawing/value-added operation in Creston for many years before joining HPFP. He has been the chief sawyer for several years, now he'll share those duties moving forward while taking on a bunch of others - certification, kiln, moulder, electrical, and others. "I'm excited about the opportunity because we've got a wide-ranging diversity of skills and strengths between us that are complimentary. We work well together and that's very positive."

Operations have been going full out at the Ogilvie Road site. Sales have been strong this spring and seasonal help has been added as necessary. At times the mill was barely able to keep some product lines in stock. It's a positive sign for the future, and a compliment to the flexibility of managers and staff that all customers left satisfied.

# Forest Operations



In January, HPCC began work in Block 7 on the Narrows Creek Road. This low elevation block is in a high priority fuel hazard reduction zone identified in the 2016 Area 'E' Community Wildfire Protection Plan (see *related article on this page*).

Block 7 had a very dense cedar/ hemlock understory growing under a primarily Douglas-fir overstory (see *photo above*). This forest type is common at low elevations in Harrop-Procter and creates a high wildfire risk when there are no fuel breaks present.

Our approach in this block has been to remove most of the understory and some of the overstory while leaving the largest and healthiest canopy trees. Doing this creates an open forest canopy that will encourage deciduous shrub and herb growth. This approach is consistent with adapting to climate change, since this is a relatively dry site that is expected to get drier in the coming decades.

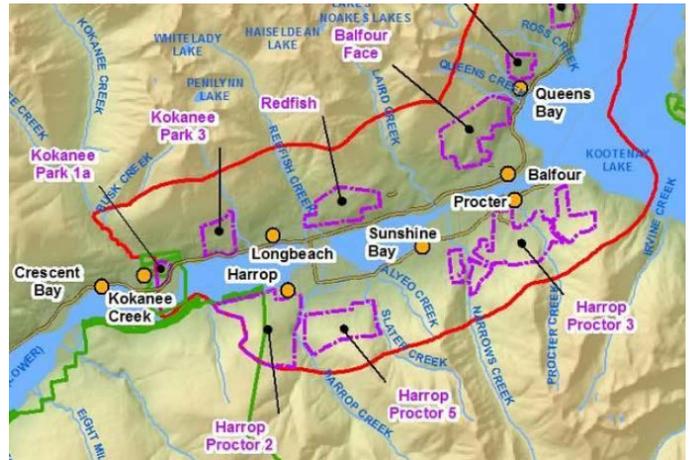
**HPCC's operational plans and our climate change adaption project will be discussed in detail at our June 21<sup>st</sup> open house and public meeting at the Harrop Hall.**

For more information, please see [www.hpcommunityforest.org/community-updates/](http://www.hpcommunityforest.org/community-updates/)

## Area 'E' Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was updated in December 2016. The RDCK plan identifies areas with high fire risk based on assessments of fuel hazards and values at risk such as homes and critical infrastructure. Several areas within the Harrop-Procter community forest were identified as top priority for fuel treatments.

A link to the CWPP is posted at [www.hpcommunityforest.org/community-updates/](http://www.hpcommunityforest.org/community-updates/)



*Highest priority fuel treatment areas on public land in West Arm area*

## Private land logging

There have been inquiries recently about logging that is visible from the ferry and other viewpoints. Most of what you can see is private land logging adjacent to McMullin Road. HPCC also has a recent cutblock (Block 7) above the private land logging. Attend the open house and public meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> for more detailed information.



*Narrows Creek area from ferry showing recent logging*

# Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society

The Society (which acts in an oversight role regarding HPCC operations) will be holding its Annual General Meeting on **July 12, 2017**.

The meeting will be held at the Community Forest Office upstairs at the Procter Schoolhouse beginning at 7:30 pm. Plan to attend, learn about and get involved in the important work the organization does to protect water quality within the community forest.

At its last quarterly meeting, Directors approved administrative responsibility for funding to repair the ferry sign. Former Secretary-Treasurer David Miller led a discussion and review of changes to the Societies Act potentially impacting the organization.

An exploration of funding avenues for upgraded water monitoring equipment and expanded coverage was committed to. A report and funding proposals will be tabled at the next regular meeting in the fall. Currently, regular water quality monitoring occurs on Harrop (Mill) Creek and Narrows Creek. HPWPS hopes to expand the program while improving existing monitoring.

*Selkirk College forestry students in Narrows Creek this spring.*



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HPCC members get a 10% discount, so send us your e-mail address if you would like to be informed of upcoming specials!



To request a donation, not-for-profit groups simply need to provide details of the project and community benefits on their letterhead and submit it to: [office@hpcommunityforest.org](mailto:office@hpcommunityforest.org)