

# Cap & Trade a Boom for Woodlot Owners?



By Maurice Rees

The cap and trade system to reduce carbon emissions in Nova Scotia could be the primary reason the rural economy could face a bright future according to Dale Prest of Community Forest International, Sackville, NB. Prest, a Nova Scotian, has family connections on the Eastern Shore and great friends in Great Village.

He was speaking in reference to the November 21st announcement the provincial and federal governments had reached a deal which will see Nova Scotia implement a cap and trade system rather than a carbon tax.

The agreement will allow Nova Scotia to develop a Nova Scotia approach that recognizes the province's leadership on reducing GHGs. Nova Scotia currently leads all provinces in cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) and has already reached the federal 2030 reduction target.

"This agreement is recognition of Nova Scotians' hard work over many years to reduce our GHGs," said Premier McNeil. "We negotiated a Nova Scotia solution that will protect taxpayers' pocketbooks and we now have an agreement that allows us to continue our efforts to combat climate change."

In his Saturday column in the Chronicle Herald, Bill Black suggested homeowners and drivers would feel the pinch and that NS Power because of its electricity purchase from Muskrat Falls

would be about the only source of carbon credits to be purchased. He even suggested that as the only seller will be able to dictate the price.

Black's conclusions did not take into account healthy forests capture and store carbon, which could be transferred into carbon credits for sale and could rejuvenate the rural economy. Black maintained that furnace fuel, and gasoline or diesel for vehicles would increase in price as they would pass along the costs of carbon credits they were forced to buy.

Prest sees another solution and that lies in the thousands of acres of woodlots around the province. However, he is cautious to point out the provincial government must design the carbon cap and trade system so woodlot owners can participate and allowed to sell their credits to a larger global market.

The provincial agreement with the federal government will allow Nova Scotia to develop a Nova Scotia approach that recognizes the province's leadership on reducing GHGs. Nova Scotia currently leads all provinces in cutting GHGs and has already reached the federal 2030 reduction target.

"This agreement is recognition of Nova Scotians' hard work over many years to reduce our GHGs," said Premier McNeil. "We negotiated a Nova Scotia solution that will protect taxpayers' pocketbooks and we now have an agreement that allows us to continue our efforts to com-

bat climate change."

Community Forests International of Sackville, NB, with which Prest is associated, says that the province of Nova Scotia has the opportunity, with their recent announcement of a Cap and Trade price on carbon, to create tens of millions of dollars per year in new exports from NS woodlots beginning in 2018. Based on the work the organization has undertaken since 2008 and demonstrated on their own landholdings, CFI says that under a Cap and Trade system linked to larger continental markets like the Western Climate Initiative Nova Scotia woodlot owners would be able to sell \$50 million worth of carbon credits once the program takes affect.

"If you look at the millions of acres of private land in the province owned by ordinary Nova Scotians, managing our forests to capture and store more carbon could be the biggest opportunity for rural NS in a generation" says Dale Prest, CFI's lead on developing carbon credits from well-managed forests.

Prest, who grew up in NS and still works in the forest industry in the province, say that by utilizing forest management practices that store more carbon than traditional forestry, CFI has already been able to sell \$300,000 worth of carbon credits from their woodlot to customers in the rest of Canada. However, these markets are small and limited compared to the markets that could be created by

the government synched their Cap and Trade system to those of other provinces.

"Today billions of dollars are trading hands every year in North American Cap and Trade markets that include California, Quebec and soon Ontario. If the Liberal government wanted to they could link NS's system to these larger markets, giving our private woodlot owners - some 30,000 of them - access to a new economic opportunity. Imagine what access to a market like that would do for our rural, resource dependent communities. Managing forests for carbon storage does not prevent the harvesting of trees for lumber and pulp, adds Prest. "The way carbon is best stored in a forest is through careful, ongoing management of the forest that aims to grow many different species with multiple ages, removing short lived unhealthy trees to make space for longer lived, more valuable trees. We will not only keep forestry contrac-

tors employed and sawmills going, but managing for carbon improves the quality and health of our forest resource, thereby improving the prospects for the forest industry long into the future

More information on Nova Scotia's action climate change can be found at <https://climate-change.novascotia.ca/>

*Best Western Glengarry*  
**New Year's Eve Gala**  
 Join us December 31, 2016  
 150 Willow Street ~ Doors 8:30 pm ~ Dance 9:00 - 1:00 pm  
 with DJ Scott Jeffrey

~~~~~  
**Buffet Only: \$26<sup>95</sup> +tx per person**  
*Evening Buffet Feast in the dining room. Serving at 4:00, 5:30 & 7:00 pm.*

~~~~~  
**Dance Only: \$60<sup>00</sup> +tx per couple**  
*Includes the dance, hot & cold hors d'oeuvres and make-your-own sandwich bar. Champagne & noise makers at midnight.*

~~~~~  
**Overnight Package: \$190<sup>99</sup> +tx per couple**  
*Includes the dance, hot & cold hors d'oeuvres and make-your-own sandwich bar. Champagne & noise makers at midnight. Plus overnight accommodations and breakfast for two.*

~~~~~

**BW**  
**Best Western.**  
**Glengarry**

Call for details  
**Carmella or Sandy**  
 902-893-4311  
 or  
 1-800-567-4276

**NEED AN IDEA?**

Give your friend or relative, a gift that keeps on giving all year long.

**The Shoreline Journal**

Use coupon on Page 5 this issue

**South Cumberland NEWS**

Use the coupon on Page SCN 4 at back of paper.

*Yes, we'll even send a card.*

**The Shoreline Journal** Deadline for the January issue of The Shoreline Journal is December 12

**Learn to Ski and Snowboard on our Magic Carpet!**

**www.skiwentworth.ca**

**Only \$75<sup>00</sup>**  
 (Includes Tax)

**WENTWORTH VALLEY OF SNOW**

**Phone: 902-548-2089**