



The Nova Scotia delegation on a tour with representatives of a Forest Management Association. (Submitted)

Wood Supply Problem Eliminated

By Maurice Rees

During the trip to Finland in fall of 2016, the five person delegation from Nova Scotia learned a lot about how Finland has changed courses and successfully managed its forests. John MacDougall explained, in 1960's and 1970's the Finns were very concerned about wood supply and worried that harvest levels were exceeding forest growth. A major and crucial decision was made: the Finns decided to heavily invest in silviculture and intensive forest management and solid forest inventory. It paid off.

Today they no longer have wood supply issues. In fact Finland now grows way more

forests than it can use, in fact their AAC is 30% or 23 M cubic M more than they harvest each year. In fact Finns are managing their forest so well it is attracting significant new investments to the country-side.

MacDougall explains, "In the town where we stayed investors want to build what could be the largest pulp mill in world....and the public is on side... Why?

They know the wood supply is available and it will help the economy; They know certification proves that it will be sustainable and will be environmentally friendly and best of all they know it will help the finns improve their forest".



Nova Scotia delegation participate in a vocational training session. (Submitted)

NS Forests Present a Choice in the Carbon Cycle

By David Stevenson and Greg Watson

(NOTE: See letter to editor on Page 4 for explanation of what is in the works).

The forests of Nova Scotia are a remarkable part of the carbon cycle that works in combination with renewable energy to lower the need for fossil fuels.

The future is bright for the role of our forests in this period when renewable energy is at a standstill. Indeed, the forests can keep growing, gathering carbon and holding it. And wood can be harvested carefully while maintaining the forests through sustainable management practices.

As Natural Resources Canada puts it, "Forests are a vital part of the carbon cycle, both storing and releasing this essential element in a dynamic process of growth, decay, disturbance and renewal. At a global scale, forests help maintain Earth's carbon balance." We are part of that globe, and sustainability is the key to our local energy future.

In our province Dr. William Lahey (President, the University of King's College) has examined forestry practices and forestry policy from a range of perspectives in his independent review. One of his top recommendations states, in part, that "economic, social, and environmental values and objectives must be balanced within a policy and operational framework ..." in which conservation and sustainable management have priority.

Greg Watson, the Manager of the North Nova Forest Owners Co-Operative Limited, recognizes

the role of the cooperative members in improving their stands of trees: "As a group of woodlot owners, we work together to improve the quality and the value of our woodlots. This happens through leadership and cooperation, with communication among our members and with other agencies that support our management efforts."

A well-managed forest, yielding a range of quality products from the ongoing growth, is an essential asset that Watson and other managers expect to maintain. Sustainable practices are the rules of this developing picture, and North Nova has a long record of sustainable management.

Lahey has called (in recommendation #35) for agencies of the provincial government - along with municipal governments - to enable small scale wood energy projects. They can supply space heating and hot water for hospitals, schools, government office structures, correctional facilities, and other public buildings. This recommendation offers a huge opportunity for private woodlots under sustainable management.

There are good reasons for the Nova Scotia government to promote small-scale wood energy projects. In the wake of paper and pulp mills closing, the local forestry communities benefit from sustaining and selectively harvesting the renewable resource.

Jobs are both maintained and created to service this renewing sector. Moreover, use of our own wood can replace imported fossil fuel, keeping local dollars circulating within the provincial economy. All of this supports a healthy

NS Forestry at a Cross Roads

By Maurice Rees

(NOTE: Background data for this article was extracted from a presentation by John MacDougall to the spring Forestry Conference in Lantz in 2017).

As we near the completion of 2019, Nova Scotia's forest sector is at a crossroads, and mountains of indecision remains about the future of the industry. With the government mandated closure of Boat Harbour in January 2020 industry executives and harvesting companies have curtailed many investment decisions awaiting word if Premier McNeil will follow through with closing of Boat Harbour.

Members of the Nova Scotia Wood Manufacturers Association, which comprised

the provinces sawmills, have stated if Abercrombie is forced to close in January 2020, closure of their mills be almost immediate.

Will McNeil force the closure of Boat Harbour or come to an arrangement to keep the Northern Pulp mill in Abercrombie operating, while environmental studies are completed, leading to possible construction of an effluent treatment plant?

Government officials are close lipped and although many have tried, there does not appear to be a "Plan B" should Boat Harbour close. Woodlot owners and various woodlot owner co-operatives are worried will there be a market for low grade products, sawlogs and pulpwood.

At a resource to better understand Nova Scotia forest sector and how it compared to other countries, the Shoreline Journal and South Cumberland News decided to go back and dissect a comparative presentation given to John MacDougall on Finland Vs Nova Scotia.

When MacDougall gave the presentation he was executive director of the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association. He has been part of a team participating in NSWOOA's Forestry Lab, Forestry Learning Tour of Finland, Sept 28th - Oct 5th, 2016, one of several Prototype projects designed to address problems in the Nova Scotia forest Sector.

MacDougall has since left

the association and is now president of Riverside Forestry Limited, in Waverly, NS.

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The various parts of MacDougall's findings from his 2016 trip to Finland and his presentation to the woodland conference in Lantz in spring 2017 are presented here on this "Forestry" feature page.

Finland's Newspapers Supports Forestry

By Maurice Rees

John MacDougall began his presentation by focusing on the media in Finland stating, he would attempt explain what is behind their success and perhaps some lessons he and his colleagues might bring back to Nova Scotia.

The 2nd largest daily newspaper in Finland is "Future of the Country Side" Solely devoted to forestry and agriculture. A Finnish monthly forestry magazine is called "Aarre" which translated to English means "treasure", which best describes how Finns feel about their forests.

In explaining his DNA, in addition to being executive director of NSWOOA, MacDougall is a private woodlot owner with land in Hants

County; his family heritage is forestry and goes back many generations; his grandfather, Donald, was a sawmillier in Riverside Corner, Hants CO and his father is Jim.

He further stated, "I've sold millions of dollars of forest products from my woodlots to Nova Scotia's sawmills and pulp mills and I'm very proud of the way I manage my woodlots, plus he's been fortunate enough to make my living from it over 30 years.

MacDougall used the reference to print media in Finland and how it is supportive of forestry, he added, "What I read in our news paper about forestry in Nova Scotia, I do not like and I'm concerned about the state of our industry and the public's view.

After acknowledging funding sponsors and in-kind sponsors from within the industry, MacDougall provided a list of industry groups in Finland the five person delegation from Nova Scotia met during the 11 day visit.

The delegation met with MTK, the national lobby voice for the forest industry; spent time with a forest management association (FMA) who help woodlot owners at the local level; spent time with family forest owners and were amazed with their passion and knowledge of their land; visited a local forest nursery; visited a forest vocational school which free and lasts from 1 to 3 years; visited the Pensee factory; spent time in a harvesting operations, in a CT and visited a bioenergy facility,

which sits on a lakeshore with a residential subdivision beside it.

Facts about Finland: One of the dominant wood producing nations in Europe; one of the most intensely studied forestry nations in the world; 5 times the size of NS; 5 times the population of NS; Small Private woodlots cover 60% of the land base and provide 80% of the wood supply.

Average size of final harvest block is approximately 3-7 Ha. This means they must be highly organized, lots of small blocks. Lots of floating and moving of gear, many lakes. Everymans Law - in Finland the public can walk anywhere on private forestland for recreation, food gathering or hunting etc., and the land is respected. 14% of forest land in Finland is protected or restricted use.

TC Truro Colchester

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- Jason Steele, Business Development Officer

- ▶ One-on-one Advisory Visits with Business Owners to Support their Continued Growth
- ▶ Identify and Support Key Clusters that Differentiate the Colchester Region
- ▶ Cultivate More Business Start-ups Affiliated with or Supported by Dal and NSCC
- ▶ Identify any Trends that may Exist with Local Business Owners to Optimize Resources for Group Education, Training and/or Coaching Support

Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity works to promote the Truro Colchester region, support business, and help with workforce development. The TCPEP is funded by the local business community, the Towns of Stewiacke and Truro, Millbrook, Colchester County and the Province.



Truro & Colchester Partnership
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