



A perfect setting to present the WOYA large sign was on the beach where Moose River and Bay of Fundy meet. Shown holding the sign are Donald Cameron, DNRR, Truro and Simon Mutabazi, Provincial Forest Extension officer for DNRR, who specializes in Woodlot Owner Education. In the Background is Hon. Tory Rushton, Minister Dept Natural Resources & Renewables and MLA Cumberland South, plus Luther and Sears. (Submitted)



And, it's always safety first in Nova Scotia woodlands.

Sears Woodlot Chosen Central 2021 WOYA

On Saturday in Moose River, Cumberland County the hard work of Luther & Joyce Sears, was on view for the public to experience. Due to the outstanding work and objectives demonstrated by Luther and Joyce Sears, they recently received the 2021 Woodland Owner of the Year Award for the central part of the province. The couple, who reside in Brookfield, Colchester County have owned their award winning woodland property in Moose River, Cumberland County since 1999.

The public field day provided an opportunity for the wider public to visit the property. Visitors were encouraged to take a walk along the forest trails and enjoy the beautiful scenery along Moose River and the Bay of Fundy, including a view of Five Islands. The location of the woodland property is between Five Islands and Parrsboro along the Glooscap Trail. The woodland entrance is directly off Highway 2. The woods access road winds through the 120 hectare (300 ac) property, ending on the beach where Moose River and the Bay meet.

The Sears property has been managed directly by

Luther with the capable assistance of Professional Forester Craig Tupper of Athol Forestry Cooperative, which is a woodland owners co-op based out of Amherst. Each year Luther actively maintains the woods road and forest stands requiring attention. The objective of the Sears management work is to restore and improve Acadian forest conditions. The ecological forestry approach results in small patch cuts or individual tree harvesting of blown down, damaged and overmature trees such as 80year old balsam fir that have stopped growing. The small amount of harvesting Luther does each year is marketed via Athol Forestry to local companies for logs, firewood, and other products. He also harvests approximately 10 cords of firewood each year for personal use and family. Any forestry treatments too large for Luther and his Kubota tractor, such as a commercial thinning treatment in 2014, are implemented by Athol Forestry, according to the Sears directions and management plan.

The Sears woodland provides a good example of how small-scale forestry can be in-

corporated into forest recreation activities. The Sears family and friends use the property and cottage that Luther built to enjoy year-round. There are many kilometers of forested trails throughout the property to enjoy. The forest, which lies on the rolling foothills of the Cobequid Mountain range, provides valuable habitat for a wide range of wildlife such as deer, moose, coyotes, snowshoe hare, bobcats, foxes, raccoon, porcupine, forest birds, coastal and river wildlife species, eagles, and osprey. The Sears like to encourage a maximum variety of wildlife species to thrive on the property.

A number of exhibits, demonstrations and tours were scattered along the wooded trails prepared for visitors. The exhibits will include: forest insects and diseases, conservation law enforcement, wildfire prevention and suppression, commercial forest thinning, wildlife and human interaction, trapping, off-highway vehicles, Silviculture programs and funding, woodland owner organizations, pre-commercial thinning, forest industry, climate change and woodland management, ecological forestry,

provincial biodiversity planning, protected areas, Cliffs of Fundy Geopark, history of Moose River area, and a tour of the beach and rocks by Local Guy Adventures.

The event was organized cooperatively by the NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, and Athol Forestry Cooperative.

See also photos on page 10

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