

Dorian Clean Up/Salvage Continues

By Patrick Wiggin

Many Federation of Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners (FNSWO) members are still in cleanup / salvage harvest mode following September's thrashing from Hurricane Dorian which was quickly followed by another severe wind event the following month.

In other news - the Federation was happy to hold two woodlot education field days. The first was held at the end of October in Monastery on former Woodlot Owner of the Year, and board director, Mike Penny's woodlot. Blueberry and Christmas tree farms are a large industry in our Province and we were lucky enough to learn the tricks of both trades with Mike.

Our second event was held at another recipient of Lands and Forestry's Woodlot Owner(s) of the Year award, Pat and Janet O'Toole. The O'Toole family held an event on their 165-acre woodlot which included an interpretive walk led by a back and forth commentary by Pat and North



Dave Thomas, certified member and director of the FNSWO board, has been cleaning up many Dorian blowdowns in preparation for a snow-covered winter. This has been a shared concern for many owners managing their own land. (Submitted)

Nova's Adrian Martynkiw. Topics included, understanding your forest from the ground up, selective management, pruning, and managing tolerant hardwood stands for maple syrup production. The event concluded after everyone gathered in a self-built cabin beside a beaver pond at the back of the O'Toole's property. Everyone warmed up, ate a wonderful home-cooked lunch, and listened to the talented 4-piece band, "Big Country Ram-

blers."

The Federation still remains one of the few organizations in the province offering members the opportunity to certify their woodlots to the sustainable, and responsible standards

set by the Forest Stewardship Council, an internationally recognized standard that holds and records the accountability of forest management and all its constituents. Contact us for more information and become a certified member today!

Stay tuned for more events and meetings as we head deeper into the winter months! Remember, advice and friendly conversation is only a phone call away! The Federation has appointed Patrick Wiggin as their new Executive Director who is keen to take on new projects, new members, and meet existing ones! Stay tuned Scotians, there's plenty to talk about!

Patrick Wiggin, BSc Environmental Science, Forest Technologist, is Executive Director of FNSWO



One of the many biomass energy plants used for commercial and residential district heating. (Submitted)



There are many nurseries in Finland. The Nova Scotia delegation toured this one. (Submitted)



The Finnish Woodlot owners are extremely proud of their forest. Ownership becomes multi-generational. (Submitted)

Comparison with Finland's Forest Industry

By Maurice Rees

Finland ranks far ahead of Nova Scotia when it comes to comparison of the forest sector. Finland has 14 times the forestry related jobs; 17 times the annual harvest and 32 times the export value in forest products yet it is only five times in size and population.

MacDougall felt it was important to compare Nova Scotia's forestry industry with that of Finland. He began with explaining Finland has five times the population and five times the population, also keep in mind the Finns have very accurate inventory on both private woodlots and state forests: know exactly how much wood they are growing; know exactly how much they are harvesting; know the exact change in their forest inventory yr/yr and the information is available to anyone on-line.

In Finland the numbers show: Annual harvest of 68 M cubic meters Vs approximately 4 M in NS; 80% of harvest comes from private woodlots Vs 63% in Nova Scotia; Finland's total inventory is 2.3 B cubic meters Vs "we don't know in Nova Scotia. Finland's annual growth is 105 M cubic meters Vs Nova Scotia

where "we don't know".

MacDougall during his presentation stated, while on the trip, our delegation learned in Finland the annual growth surplus is 23 M Cubic meters, whereas in Nova Scotia, we don't know. Is we have a surplus or a deficit. We just keep plugging along on a wing and a prayer.

When he summarized the groups findings, MacDougall repeated, Finland has similar land owner demographics, and it has five times the land base and population as Nova Scotia, yet far out produces Nova Scotia.

Upon the return from their trip in fall of 2016, the five person delegation identified four key differences in the way the Finns approach forestry that we believe help explain their success: Culture and cooperative attitude; Strong Forest owner support network; Intensive forest management regime and Fully Integrated value chain.

He concluded the comparisons saying if a fifth major difference we identified it would be extremely good forest inventory on both state and private forest.



Some of the FNSWO members awaiting lunch at the Pat & Janet O'Toole field day held this fall. (Submitted)

What Can We Do?

By Maurice Rees

John MacDougall challenged the audience asking, What can we do? He and his colleagues had given the matter serious thought, and came up with five suggestions to help the woodlot owners in their thinking process. Of course, the message was intended to land on the desk and in the minds of politicians.

Policy & Governance - Support the service area initiatives fully. Implement them across the province.

Local municipal governments need to become

involved as partners in rural forest economic development.

Intensify our management approach - Maximize potential forest productivity and value.

Establish a regional approach to forests products market development. Focus on wood energy/district heating/fossil fuel displacement opportunities.

Need to engage as many stakeholders as possible including forest experts from Finland for their help and guidance.



HOLIDAY HOURS
 Dec 24th - 9AM to 5PM
 Dec. 25th to 27th - Closed
 Dec. 28th to 30th - 9AM to 9PM
 Dec. 31st - 9AM to 5PM
 Jan. 1st & 2nd - Closed



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