

Wilson's Alternative... USE BAND SAWS

By Maurice Rees

Northern Pulp might be closed sooner rather than later and Don Wilson, Debert feels that would not be the end of forestry in Nova Scotia. He's of the opinion current sawmills could modernize to use digitally operated band saws and become more efficient and other new mills could be established across the county.

In a telephone interview to discuss the 77 year-old's OP-ED article, printed elsewhere in this issue (page 4), Wilson says he wants to start discussions with various forestry groups and woodlot owners with large acreages to develop Plan "B" on transitioning Nova Scotia's forestry industry should Northern Pulp close.

In his Op-ED and a longer version sent to Premier McNeil he claims band sawmills are much more efficient; increasing the yield per log by 15% and sometimes up to 25%. His rationale is that with higher yield per log, it would require less sawlogs, and the waste by-products - bark, sawdust, and edgings could be sent to the bio-mass facility in Point Tupper.

Wilson claims NS Power is currently importing bio-mass from two Irving Mills and several other sawmills in New Brunswick. With a switch to using band saws, more Nova Scotians could be working, and Westfor, who has a sawing facility at former Bowater facility in Brooklyn, near Liverpool could stop using forest workers from Quebec.

When asked how many band saw operations would be required in Nova Scotia, he said his goal is to have at least one in each county. He suggested in Cumberland, Colchester and Antigonish Counties would possibly require two per county. He said, at the moment, Pictou County could be handled by Scotsburn Lumber and the hardwood facility in Westville.

Queried about the capital cost, he estimated each mill would cost approximately \$250,000, employ four or five people with output capacity at least 5,000 bft/per day. Most lumber trucks on the highways today are carrying 6-8,000 bft per load. Wilson said the band saw mills he prefers are manufactured in Ontario, although there are other manufacturers worldwide.

With a change to his Plan "B", Wilson is comfortable the NSP biomass in Point Tupper could handle all the waste products, and current pellet manufacturers would also be interested in additional sources, resulting in current sawmills being kept open, and by switching to band saws could make larger profits.

A note on the website of the Ontario manufacturer says, "Maximize soft wood and hard wood production with an impressive cutting speed, up to 3 ft per second, achieved with seamless back and forth sawing, high efficiency hydraulic system and computerized networks".

Other specifications indicate a cutting speed of 3 ft/sec with power source being a 115 hp turbo diesel engine and could handle sizes up to 42" in diameter x 22 ft long.

Another forestry expert, who needed to remain anonymous, indicated a "wood to energy" program would be more liable, but the provincial government has not embraced the idea to heat government buildings other than at Dal Ag, Bible Hill, and a current RFP for Dalhousie University, Halifax.

Some forestry professionals believe that Northern Pulp, which allocates saw logs to various sawmills stipulates the mills can extract up to 45% in saw logs, from their allocation, and the remaining 55% must be shipped to Abercrombie in the form of chips.

Wilson's Plan "B" suggests band saws would improve sawn lumber yield by 15%-20%.

Many professionals within the forestry sector feel the MLA's are getting the message, but the public servants are dragging their feet and slowing down greater use of Nova Scotia forest resources in district heating projects.

The current Dalhousie RFP will allow wood pellets. Cost of energy from fossil fuels is estimated at \$20-Million per year. He concluded his statement by saying, imagine what an input of \$20-Million would mean to woodlot owners within a 50 mile radius of Halifax.

Truro UCW held AGM February 19th

By Chris Urquhart

Truro Presbyterial UCW held their Annual Meeting on Tuesday February 19th at St. Andrew's United Church in Truro. 80 ladies attend this meeting, including our Maritime Conference UCW President Ruth Kennedy, who drove over from PEI. It was a cold but sunny day so it was great to have some place to go.

The worship service at the beginning of the morning, which was provided by St. Andrew's UCW, was very well thought out. Then our first guest speaker, Ken Henderson, talked about all the old Churches here in Colchester County which was the first with settled ministers in all of Canada! The first settled minister was Rev. David Smith of Glenholme in 1771. Truro is the home of the first Presbytertery! We have so much history here.

Here in Masstown the Acadians had a Mass House - hence the name - in the 1600's. You can find out more by visiting the Colchester History Museum. The next guest speaker was Rev. David LeBlanc who did his best to explain the changes from Presbyterteries to Regions and where we fit in. The newest United Church Manuel can be downloaded off the internet. The ladies had many questions and David did his best to answer them.

We broke for lunch and early in the afternoon our Maritime Conference UCW President, Ruth Kennedy installed our new executive. The new Truro Presbyterial UCW President is Evelyn Negus, Brookfield and the new treasurer is Jan Peck. After a short business meeting we closed our afternoon with a lovely Memorial Service put on by First United UCW.

HOME DECOR & MORE




Money's Worth on Jennifer Drive in Bible Hill has exciting new home decor items for Spring. (Submitted)



Looking for giftware? Check out Money's Worth on Jennifer Drive in Bible Hill. (Submitted)



Hometown Flooring on Main Street in Bible Hill has a great selection and the latest trends in flooring. (Submitted)

WINDOW BOOKING SALE!

ORDER NEW WINDOWS NOW AND SAVE!
Hurry in for best savings!

MONEY'S WORTH Renovation Centre
28 Jennifer Drive, Bible Hill - 902-893-2477

ALL BRAND VENTILATION

KEEP COOL IN SUMMER, STAY WARM IN WINTER.

Heat Pump Cleaning

Ensure your air quality is the best.

902-893-0629 Heat Pump Sales and Service

KERR Smart Energy Panasonic ideas for life Air Exchanger • HRV Service • Duct Cleaning

Colchester Containers

FREE ESTIMATES



- Construction Waste Removal • Demolition • Removal
- Registered C&D Disposal
- 7 yd up to 40 yd bins and 20' Portable Storage Containers For Rent

colchestercontainers@jrsons.ca
902-673-2808

We are "wood product specialists". Our products include: custom lumber (both rough and dressed), landscaping mulch, tree stakes, larch decking & siding, post & rail fencing, horse jump standards & rails, sawdust & shavings.

www.novatree.ca
902-662-3129

Our new civic address: **2715 Hwy #4, Glenholme NS B0M 1G0**

DIRECTIONS: Off the Trans-Canada Highway 104, take exit 11. At the top of the ramp, turn left and drive 2.5 kms and we are on the right.

Look for the big Nova Tree sign!