

# NNFO – Spatial Geodatabase Completion in May

By **Maurice Rees**

With 42 years service to its membership, North Nova Forest Owners Co-operative Ltd, managed by a six member board of directors, constantly strives to use the latest technology to help improve member's woodlots. Greg Watson, manager, says It's a never ending challenge to keep up with all the available technology which will benefit members.

Since being incorporated in 1976 the co-op's prime objective is long term forest management. The services the company provides makes it possible for woodlot owners to harvest mature timber and / or make improvements to their woodlots through various silviculture treatments.

The current technology project underway is the member's spatial geodatabase will be completed before the end of May. Primarily, it will help keep track of the size, details, silvicultural prescription history, and when there is a need to reassess land for the next viable treatment for all the woodlots under management.

Adrian Martynkiw, forest technician who is the latest addition to the staff says, "Consolidated information will provide employees with a detailed summary of every stand and how we can coordi-

nate our time most effectively and efficiently to ensure we are on top of the work necessary to ensure high productivity and member satisfaction".

He added, "It's not just on an individual property basis, but also neighbouring woodlots that are adjacent to potential sites, as well as other work which could be done within the larger district. This will enable us to reduce costs and increase landowner stumpage values".

Over 42 years ago when several woodlot owners realized forming a Co-operative was in their best interest, their vision was the Co-op's obligations would be to provide forest management services to the best of the ability of staff to woodlot owners in Cumberland and Colchester Counties. Members and staff must agree to follow sound forestry and ecological practices and to work diligently as a customer / owner team to provide a quality forest management.

Even though 42 years later the main objective is to continue to show steady growth in both membership and services; maximize efficiency; effectiveness and productivity while continuing to provide quality service. As a team, of professional staff and



The Association for Sustainable Forestry display at the conference in New Glasgow.

woodlot owners there has been a significant improvement in Cumberland and Colchester Counties by promoting the concept of forest management and sustainability through education, training and communication.

Speaking about the current technology project and its expected completion at the end of May, Co-op manager, Greg Watson said, "We will be able to use this as a historical information database providing landowners with the specific work performed on their woodlots and the size. In turn, that helps staff better qualify the quantity and type of jobs we are performing on a yearly basis, how that compares to the size/volume of our landbase, and adjust accordingly to ensure sustainable and balanced harvesting practices".

He concluded, "All of this information will also help landowners qualify for "Intergenerational Tax Transfer" reducing the burden for subsequent generations who want to manage family woodlots in a well balances socio-economic fashion".

# Northern Pulp Activities Explained

By **Maurice Rees**

Terri Fraser, Technical Manager and Rick Archibald, Woodlands Manager, Northern Pulp Corporation, Abercrombie, provided an update on Northern Pulp Mill and Woodlands activities. Fraser during the opening on the presentation stated that since 2011, the Company has spent in excess of \$70 Million on environmen-

tal improvements.

Her stats included: Reduced effluent and organic solids loading; BOD loading less than 20% of Federal PPER limit; TSS loading less than 15% of Federal PPER limit; Reduced odorous emissions by more than 90% on average; Reduced particulate emissions in the Recovery Boiler by 99% on average and Mill wide by 80% on average. The company has also reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

She explained, What is now operating as the existing Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) is very different than how it began in 1967, when Treatment plant began operating. In 1995 Northern Pulp took over operations of the facility under a lease agreement originally for 10 years, then extended until 2030.

Beginning in 1992 and finishing in 1996, multiple upgrades were made to the ETF. In 1997 The bleaching process was upgraded to meet new federal regulations. The Boat

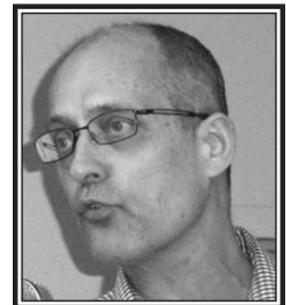
Harbour Act was enacted in 2015, requiring the current ETF to cease operations by January 2020.

With regard to future activities, Fraser's overheads showed their proposal is to construct an effluent treatment facility on land at the mill property, and lay a pipeline on the bottom of Picou Harbour. The proposed location of the outfall diffuser is within the same body of water as the discharge point for the existing ETF. The company will be completing further studies to understand the sensitivities in the proposed route. She indicated Northern Pulp is obtaining public input through pre-registration engagement with various stakeholders which began in Fall 2017, which includes: Public, Aboriginal Communities, stakeholders, along with government departments and agencies are engaged.

In his portion of the joint presentation, Woodlands Manager, Rick Archibald explained

approximately 70% of a softwood tree goes to a sawmill to be sawn for its highest value which includes: Bottom 8 - 16 ft sent to sawmill (sawlog/studwood); Center 8 - 16 ft sent to sawmill if lumber quality, sent to pulp mill if not and the top comprising low grade fibre sent to pulp mill or biofuel/energy facility.

Explaining the ratios of how the timber is used, Archibald explained: Logs & Studs comprise 70% which breaks down to 42% lumber, 38% chips, 6% for sawdust and shavings and Bark the remaining 14%. Of the 30% pulpwood



Rick Archibald, Woodlands Manager, Northern Pulp during his presentation.

in a softwood tree, chips comprise 82%; fines 4% and bark 14%.

Regarding Private Land Owner Programs Archibald said private land owners are important partners and they supply approximately 75% of the fiber supply to pulpmill and sawmills. They purchase pulpwood - gatewood; the Northern Pulp landowner stumpage purchase program is growing; and they work with landowners to meet their objectives. Services provided include management services, road construction & maintenance, harvesting & silviculture. Independent 3rd party Sustainable Forest Management certification plays a critical role in demonstrating

ecological & social sustainability.

As part of his work Private Land Owner Programs include: Harvest Prescriptions which include Clearcut, Single tree, Strip harvest, Patch harvest, Variable retention Harvest, Commercial Thinning, Shelter wood harvest and Seed tree harvest. Harvest design considers opening size, vertical structure, ecological features & variable retention.

The facilities nursery operations include current annual production 6-Million seedlings of which 5-Million are planted and the remaining 1-Million seedlings are sold. Approximately 2.5-Million seedlings have been planted on on private woodlots.



Terri Fraser, Technical Manager, Northern Pulp updated attendees on the Northern Pulp plans for a new effluent system.

Special thanks to the organizers of the 2018 Woodlot Owner of the Year Award

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**Sandy Hyde (Forest Technician)**

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