



The above picture is of a selection cut in a Spruce stand that took place this past Fall in the Parrsboro area. Selection cuts are often favoured by woodlot owners who do not want to clear-cut. A selection cut allows for the regular harvest of trees without removing the entire canopy. A selection cut removes the poor quality and mature trees to create more space for new trees.
(Mac Davis Photo from CFAC Newsletter)

Trees of Cumberland

Jack Pine thrives in sandy soils and is quite variable in form. In open stands, it has a conical open crown of arching branches and a tapered trunk. In closed stands, the crown becomes greatly reduced, usually covering less than one-fifth of the length of the tree.

Jack Pine usually grows in pure stands or in a mixture with Black Spruce. It reaches heights of 40 - 80 ft, and its diameter ranges from 12 in to 2 ft. Jack Pine is used in general construction and for pulp; other uses are railway ties and poles.

Daily Schedule at the Hall

Here is what is going on at the hall daily in Parrsboro. Over the course of the pandemic, things have changed a bit.
Monday, 7pm - King Street Strummers;
Tuesday, 7 pm - Elastic Big Band;
1st and 3rd Wed. at 7:30 pm - Movies for all At The Hall, and
2nd and 4th Thursday, 7:00 pm - Parrsboro Citizens' Choir.

Membership at The Hall

Are you a member of The Hall?
If not why not consider becoming a member. It is a great organization to belong to. We carry on a lot of events and fundraisers during the year.

We always appreciate all the volunteers immensely. We have renovation projects that we have on going so as they say many hands make light work. One of the best perks of

being a member is you get first dibbs on Concert Tickets. You will be notified by e-mail a week before anyone else. Membership is only \$15 single or a family \$25. On that form you can let us know what you would like to help us with. You can go to our website at www.thehall.ca and download a membership form and send it to us or you can pay through pay pal.

Movies for All at The Hall

Movies are once again up and running again at The Hall. The canteen is now open again for freshly popped popcorn, pop/water or juice or bars. Donations greatly appreciated at the door. Movies for May are on the 4th West Side Story 2021 by Steven Spielberg and on the 18th will be Death on the Nile. At a recent meeting of The Parrsboro Band Association it was decided at all Performances or events masks will be required. We will monitor the numbers and as they decrease we will adjust our policy.

Plant, Book and Bake Sale back at The Hall

Saturday, June 4, 2022 will see the yearly popular Plant, Book and Bake Sale return to the hall after a couple of years of COVID that saw us not able to hold the sale inside. Last year we were able to hold the sale remotely on Pier Road. This sale is very popular with many varieties of perennials available at great prices. We are asking anyone who has perennials that they are digging out of their gardens and splitting we certainly will take them off your hands. Potting of these plants will take

place at 47 Pier Rd. If you can drop them off that would be wonderful or call 902-701-8951 to arrange for pick up. If you have kindly potted the plants just drop them off at The Hall between 6-8 pm on the 3 as well as books and baked items. This is a major fundraiser for The Parrsboro Band Association and any donations will be greatly appreciated. The proceeds from this event will go to insulating the hall. Come one, come all to The Hall on Saturday, June 3.

Our Battered Beech Tree is in Bad Shape

By Donald Cameron, RPF
"A relationship to the earth based only on its use for economic enrichment is bound to result not only in its degradation, but also in the devaluation of human life." - Rene Dubois



Donald Cameron, RPF

The last 130 years have been very difficult for our native beech tree. Decimated by the beech bark disease and then treated as a weed due to the effects of this disease, our Nova Scotia beech tree has fallen from its glory as a beautiful and valued Acadian Forest tree. Its usually gnarled and cankered bark does not please the eye, nor can its wood be put to the useful purposes for which it was once known such as a strong, hard building material. At best, beech is usually cut for firewood where its density makes it one of the best firewood species. However, many woodland owners would rather get rid of it.

The downfall of our beech began with a shipment of ornamental beech from Europe in 1890. These European beech trees carried with them a disease that, while not a major problem in Europe, proved to be deadly to our native beech. The beech scale insect feeds on beech trees and introduces damaging fungi that form cankers under the bark that can eventually misshape and kill beech trees. Unable to be contained, the beech bark disease spread like wildfire, and by 1950 most of the Maritime beech population was affected.

Huge amounts of beech trees were killed quickly, while most others were gravely damaged. But as woodland owners know, beech can reproduce from roots and stumps, and thus may end up encouraging more young beech stems to grow. These, in turn, were also usually infected by the disease. This vicious circle continues today and is a major problem for many woodland owners and foresters who would rather have something more economically valuable growing in place of beech. In most beech stands it is not unusual to see a foreground of ugly, twisted, and suppressed stems covered with cankers.

But all hope for beech is not lost. Thanks to a fortunate genetic twist of fate, it seems

some individual trees are naturally resistant to the beech bark disease. Here and there in most beech forests, one happens upon the odd disease-free, or clear-barked, tree surrounded by diseased ones. These disease-free beech trees are easy to distinguish: their bark is characteristically smooth, with no cankers or other evidence of the disease. Researchers now know that these clear beech trees are actually resistant to the beech bark disease, and will grow to their normal large, beautiful form. In addition, the resistance can be handed down from parent to offspring, much like the trait for blue eyes can be passed down in humans. So, any beech trees arising from root sprouts of a resistant beech will also be resistant. As well, resistant beech

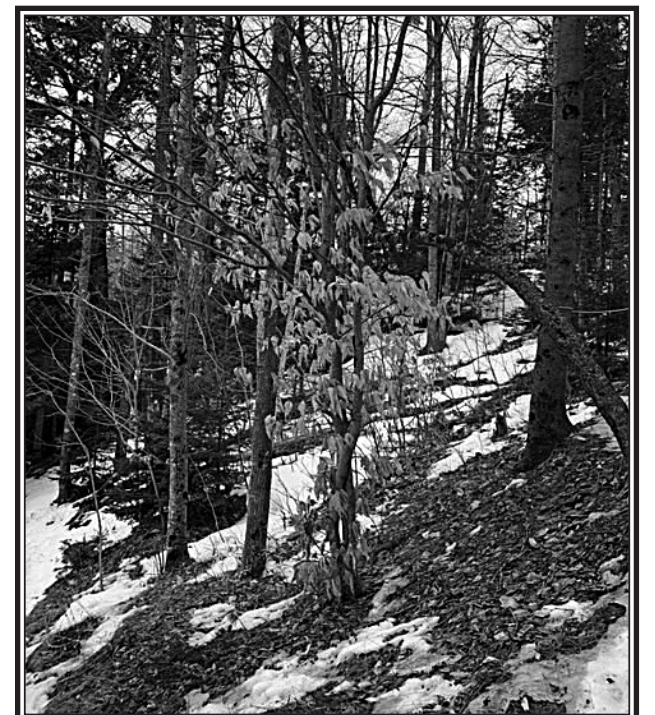
that cross with each other are likely to produce at least some seedlings containing the gene for resistance.

This is good news not only for beech, but also for the many animals that feed on beech nuts, including black bear, whose fall diet largely depends on the tree's nutritious nut.

Unfortunately, but perhaps understandably, beech trees tend to be cut indiscriminately during forest harvesting, and the valuable, resistant trees are lost in the shuffle. Given that resistance is found in less than one percent of beech trees, losing even a few is bad news for the Maritime beech population.

What can be done? Most important for woodland owners is to identify healthy, clear beech, and to save these trees from being harvested or damaged. Ideally, the diseased trees should be selectively cut, while the resistant ones are left unharmed, in order to encourage an increase in the number of resistant trees for future forests in the area. Seeds from the disease resistant trees can be planted all over, in an attempt to bring back this beautiful tree to its former grandeur.

Donald Cameron is Registered Professional Forester and works in the Truro office



The above photo shows a stand of Beech trees, which are now considered "battered". (CFAC Newsletter)

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