

SPRING / SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER



NOTICE OF *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

Athol's 34th Annual General Meeting will be held

**Thursday, June 2, 2011 at
Wandlyn Inn
Amherst**

The itinerary for the evening is as follows:

Reception and Silent Auction - 6:00 pm
Baked Ham Buffet - 6:30 pm
Business Meeting - 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker - Duff Montgomerie, Deputy Minister
of Natural Resources

Tickets \$20 /person, including HST

Please call Melissa or Jane at 667-7299 to reserve
your tickets

Visa, MC & Amex Accepted

days per week, Athol did benefit from the cost savings. Thankfully, in January Melissa Watters joined us to run the store, which will allow me to focus once again on other tasks such as building our membership and promoting our services. This past year we have approved 11 new woodlots for management with a combined total area of 1,334 ha.

The forest industry has been experiencing a bit of a revival however we are not out of the woods yet. Demand is up, supply is down so that should equate into higher prices and better stumpage rates. However with rising fuel costs and with no clear insight as to how high they will go, it is difficult at this time to predict the overall result.

Athol has been fortunate over the past two years to have received \$150,000 in Forest Improvement funding from DNR as part of the Federal stimulus program; and at the present time there is no indication of funding levels for the coming year, so that could present a few challenges as well.

We are in the planning stages and looking forward to our Annual Meeting this year, which is being held earlier than usual, on June 2 at the Wandlyn Inn. We are excited to have the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Duff Montgomerie as our guest speaker and encourage all members to join us for the evening. Tickets are \$20 each including HST and you can call any of the staff to book your tickets. Once again we are asking everyone to pay in advance. See you on the 2nd.

Regards
Jane

JANE'S REPORT

This is always a busy time of year for me as we approach our year end and I finalize all our financial reports in preparation for our annual review (previously an audit). From all appearances we will finish the year with a surplus which is attributable mainly to Neal and Craig being on work sharing (worked four days per week and on EI one day) and the store not being staffed full time.

With mixed feelings by all involved, the work sharing ended in February. Neal enjoyed having the extra day at home to do all the many chores required around the house and Craig had the benefit of accompanying his wife to her pre-natal appointments (congratulations to Craig and Janice on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Will, who arrived right on schedule on December 23) and while I missed having the guys available 5

The Earth Laughs in
FLOWERS



CRAIG'S REPORT

The sun has finally returned and the snow is all but gone from most places. I know we are all looking forward to a good summer with lots happening. Keeping abreast of all the changes that are taking place in the forests of Nova Scotia lately can be dizzying. Forest policy is changing radically. We are all waiting for news of what to expect with the new forest policy of the NDP government. Hints being dropped are that limits on clear-cutting will be imposed along with a slew of other policies such as increased funding for other treatments and mandatory management plans for commercial woodlots or any woodlot with commercial harvesting taking place. The other big policy direction that is going on behind the scenes is "Right-to-Practice" for forestry professionals. Many provinces already have this, it is already in development in New Brunswick and it is being seriously investigated in Nova Scotia. This may take several years to fully investigate, legislate, and implement; therefore, this is all speculation as to how it will unfold. As it has been proposed, this will mean that in order to make large scale decisions about forest management on any woodlot other than your own, you will at least have to be under the supervision of or have consulted a registered forest professional. This will have the most impact on small contractors, but will also have an impact on woodlot owners as well. It will be a mixed blessing, because gone will be the unregulated contractor knocking on your door with cheque book in hand looking for wood. Harvesting will have to be under the direction of a forest professional with a management plan and an idea of how that site will be regenerated and managed well into the future. The downside is this will increase the cost of management which will undoubtedly fall on the woodlot owners shoulders. Hopefully, there will be some offsetting incentives from the provincial government for all this responsible management of the forest resource; and of course we will be here to help you navigate through the process. Neal and I were part of these discussions and both of us have voiced our concerns and hopes throughout this process with the council with regards as to how it will affect our membership.

Silviculture this year is going to be piecemeal at best. The last two years we have had the benefit of \$150,000 from the federal government plus some funding from wood producers in the province and the Association for Sustainable Forestry. This year we are relying primarily on the wood producers, our own funding, and the ASF. Combined, this has almost halved our program funding. We will make the most of this funding with a small planting program focused on the most necessary sites, along with some pre-commercial thinning, commercial thinning, selection management, and some chemical weeding for those interested landowners.

On the Certification front, it looks like the round of free management plans is over and the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners (FNSWO) is going to impose a yearly fee for maintenance of the program. I have spoken with Andrew and Mike about that cost and it is basically to offset the continuing administration and auditing of the program. It is a good program and if you are active and serious about forest stewardship then the fee is well worth it. If you are harvesting, and selling wood to Newpage, then you will at least see \$1 per tonne, possibly \$2 per tonne for certified wood which, depending upon how much you harvest, could more than offset your yearly fee. Athol will continue to provide its members with the option of having a Certified Plan prepared; however, the landowner would be responsible for any fees assessed by the FNSWO to receive and maintain "woodlot certification" status.

This spring I was on the organizing committee for the Central Woodland Conference held in Wentworth on April 2nd. The event turned out to be a great success with over 120 participants from all over the province and even from New Brunswick. Several of our members attended the all day workshop with topics ranging from financial and legal planning related to woodlots to landowner experiences, and selection management. There was also a large range of exhibitors, great door prizes including a professional chainsaw, and a turkey dinner with local organic turkey! If you've never attended one of these workshops, I highly encourage you to attend the next one. They are a great source of free information. Also, please bring a young person with you to these events. Looking around these conferences it is disheartening to see the average age approaching seventy and being able to count the number of people under 30 on one hand. The future of our woodlots depends on the next generation taking an active interest.

Our Facebook page has also taken off well with weekly sales being promoted by Melissa. I will be maintaining an active discussion forum on there as well with current forestry issues, product reviews, and news. So if you're web savvy, check out our page and stay up to date. There are links to our Facebook page as well as our current catalogue and useful forestry links from our regular webpage at www.atholforestry.com.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting in June, please be sure to attend.

Craig Tupper, BScF

NEAL'S REPORT

The 2010-11 harvesting program started on a positive note; harvesting sites were confirmed, markets were stable and prices were reasonable compared to previous years. Spring came relatively early with the forest floor drying quickly and conditions became favorable for harvesting activity. A month or so into the harvesting season, torrential rain storms dropped several inches in a short period of time, destroying our woods roads and causing havoc for our truckers, porter and skidder operators. With the colder weather in January, the rain changed to snow and the accumulations went far beyond anyone's expectations. Creative ingenuity on the part of our contractors and willingness to take time and additional energy allowed us to continue through the weather conditions and minimize cost. One of our contractors for example practiced old time forestry; the job consisted of a three man operation; one shoveled the snow from around the tree, another cut the tree using a chain saw and the other forwarded the wood to road side. In between the felling and forwarding one of the men would process the wood. During difficult times it is rewarding to have contractors who are willing to go that extra mile to ensure we meet our harvesting commitments.

Despite the weather conditions, work continued and we were able to fulfill our harvesting obligations on 24 woodlots covering at least 400 ha of mature mixed forest, providing over \$380,000 in stumpage to our landowners.

A lot has been said about the overall affect the clear-cutting method of harvesting has on the forest. Like most forest treatments it has its advantages and disadvantages and careful consideration is given to the forest, wildlife and the environment. The condition of each individual stand determines the method of harvesting done and clear-cutting is usually the last option considered. One of the benefits of harvesting forest land is the employment it generates. Athol harvested approximately 11,000 cords for 2010-11 generating significant employment opportunities for our contractors, truckers, road construction crews and plow operators, to mention a few. There are other considerations that can be added to the equation but it is clear that employment can be created in forestry and that you the landowner can make it happen. The ability to create much needed employment during a recession is something to be proud of and is appreciated by everyone involved.

It has been a pleasure working with you in 2010 and I am looking forward to 2011 with high expectations of increasing markets and better values for your forest products.

Thank you
Neal Hewitt, CFT
Forest Operations Supervisor



MELISSA'S REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new retail marketer for the Athol Forestry store. I joined the company on January 3rd and would like to thank everybody for making me feel so welcome and comfortable in my new position. I am looking forward to making this year a more profitable one for our store!

In saying that, I am excited to announce that we will have authentic Canada Goose outerwear available for purchase in our store this coming fall! Canada Goose has been manufacturing innovative, high quality outerwear in Canada for over 50 years. We were advised recently by a local trapper who attended the annual NS fur trapper convention that Canada Goose actually purchased most of our locally trapped coyote fur for their hoods. Its nice to know that they strictly adhere to all such industry and government guidelines. Canada Goose does not buy fur from farms of any sort- ever.

Our new Helly Hansen leisure jackets for Spring/Summer have arrived as well as CAT wear. Please join us on Facebook to get the latest specials and information available on our store products.

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone; I have met many in the store already and hoping to meet many more at the annual meeting in June! I want to quickly remind everyone we will be holding a silent auction at the annual meeting to raise funds for our scholarship program and encourage you to make a donation to be auctioned, every little bit counts!

Regards
Melissa Watters

Nominations for Board of Directors

There are two vacancies to be filled on the Board of Directors this year: Terms of service for Shelagh Rayworth & Ian Ripley are up for renewal. Both have decided to re-offer.

We would like to invite other members to consider putting their names forward for election to the Board. Nominations are open to all members of the Cooperative. They must be in writing and recommended by two other members.

Please complete the Nomination Form below and submit to Jane Berry, General Manager, on behalf of the Secretary, prior to the commencement of the business meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 7:30 pm.



thol Forestry Cooperative Limited

"We are our members"

21397 Hwy. #2
R.R. #7
Amherst, Nova Scotia
B4H 3Y5

athol.store@atholforestry.com
www.atholforestry.com
Tel.: (902) 667-7299
Fax: (902) 667-0684

NOMINATION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned hereby nominate _____ for appointment to the Athol Board of Directors for a term of three years.

Date

Please print and sign your name

Date

Please print and sign your name