



Forest Communities Program Newsletter

Issue #2, Winter 2009

We are pleased to present the Forest Communities Program's second newsletter, profiling some of the events and projects that are underway. With winter drawing to a close, the Forest Communities Program (FCP) is in a flurry of activity. If you have questions about any of the articles in this issue, please contact the FCP Secretariat at fcp-pcf@nrcan.gc.ca. If you want to know more, please visit us online at <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/index/fcpqgm>.

FCP Site News

The **Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest** hosted over one hundred people for a mushroom picking event in the Grands Jardins de Normandin forest on September 6, 2008. The enthusiastic response to the event reinforced the need to develop this resource. Colette Robertson, president of the Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest, used the event to pick mushrooms for the first time. "In the forest, we always see mushrooms, but we never know which are edible or not," she said.

With the help of the Mycological Society of Alma, more than 100 mushroom types were identified and harvested. Over one thousand people subsequently attended a wild mushroom tasting, which included mushroom pizza, mushrooms au gratin, and mushroom soup. Mushrooms are just one part of a larger inventory project that will catalogue non-timber resources in the area. The success of the event has prompted the Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest team to consider producing a mushroom guide for the Lac-Saint-Jean region. For more information about "mushroom fever" in the Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest, please visit <http://www.foretmodeledulacsaintjean.ca/>.



Mushroom pickers examine their harvest
(Photo courtesy of LSJMF)

In collaboration with NB Power, the **Fundy Model Forest** of New Brunswick is assessing the financial feasibility of constructing a small-scale biomass facility for energy production. The project seeks to provide guidance to organizations intent on investing, building, and operating a small-scale biomass facility for the production of heat and/or power in New Brunswick. The results of the project will help clarify the economics and viability of small-scale biomass use for heat and/or power production.

The municipality of Chapleau has launched a new bioenergy initiative, with the assistance of the **Northeast Superior Forest Community (NSFC)**. The Chapleau Biomass Project is a \$56 million investment to create a 10-megawatt power plant using wood-fibre biomass as fuel. The system will turn scrap railway ties and materials from the forest into a fuel gas using a plasma torch. The gas is then



used in generators to produce electricity. NSFC has contributed technical expertise to the project, and hopes to expand to four more locations in the region. For more information on the project, visit <http://www.sunbayenergy.com/chapleau/>.



Plains bison of Saskatchewan
(Photo courtesy of PAMF)

The **Prince Albert Model Forest (PAMF)**, local landowners, stakeholders, and interested citizens have formed the Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewards (SRPBS) to address challenges posed by free ranging plains bison adjacent to the southwest corner of Prince Albert National Park. PAMF has been instrumental in providing financial support and operational guidance for the group. The goal of the SRPBS is to create an environment where the Sturgeon River plains bison herd and local landowners can co-exist in a mutually beneficial way. For more information on the SRPBS, please contact Gord Vaadeland (vaadeland@sasktel.net).

The **Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador** is working with the City of Corner Brook to develop an integrated watershed management plan for its water supply area. The plan will determine the potential impacts of economic development and how activities will affect the quality of drinking water. The city is also exploring the potential for a stewardship agreement with the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV) to implement its commitment to wetland and waterfowl conservation in the watershed.

In partnership with St. Lawrence Islands National Park, the **Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF)** hosted a workshop on the eastern Ontario Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) pilot project on December 16, 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to raise regional awareness of the project and discuss opportunities for collaboration with government agencies and other organizations. Eastern Ontario is one of five pilot sites participating in a network that involves GeoConnections, Environment Canada and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. The sites of the other four pilots include northern British Columbia, western Newfoundland, Cape Breton in Nova Scotia, and the Mackenzie basin in the Northwest Territories. The focus of the eastern Ontario pilot is to foster more strategic approaches to stewardship and natural heritage protection.



Farms, like this one in eastern Ontario, are an important component of integrated landscape management.



At the centre of the ILM pilot project is a strategy to develop natural heritage mapping and modeling tools that demonstrate what the future landscape will need to look like in order to continue to provide the ecological goods and services that are important to local communities.

The final product of the eastern Ontario ILM pilot will be a decision-support system that helps planning authorities and communities test proposed landscape modifications and how these developments affect future sustainability scenarios. The eastern Ontario ILM pilot project began in the fall of 2008 and will run until March 2010. For more information about the project, please contact Elizabeth Holmes (eholmes@eomf.on.ca).



Participants begin a tractor ride to the
Woodlot Demonstration Day
(Photo courtesy of John Henderson)

The **Nova Forest Alliance** supported the **Prince Edward Island Model Forest Network Partnership** (PEIMFNP) in organizing a Woodlot Demonstration Day in conjunction with the PEI Department of Environment, Energy & Forestry, and two woodlot owners in the western part of the Island.

The event provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about Island forests, discover how people use private woodlots, and the importance of this resource to the Island's environment, economy and communities. It was part of the PEIMFNP's Landscape Level Pilot Project, a multi-year initiative intended to help landowners work together to use and conserve their woodlots.

Pleasant weather contributed to a successful day, with approximately 150 people, primarily private landowners, attending. There were a variety of exhibits and demonstrations ranging from chainsaw maintenance and sharpening, tree and shrub health and care, small woodlot forestry equipment, information from a local watershed conservation group, a display of non-timber forest products, and a hay-ride to and from a woodlot tour.

Participants left the event with renewed enthusiasm about private woodlot conservation and forestry. The educational components of the day stressed the importance of chainsaw maintenance and safety, and the benefits of a well managed woodlot. Several landowners subsequently indicated that they would like to have sustainable forest management plans developed for their woodlots.



Canadian Forest Communities Conference 2009

The *Canadian Forest Communities Conference 2009: Trends and Opportunities* will be held May 20-23 in Nanaimo, British Columbia. This event will be an opportunity for community-level representatives and stakeholders to exchange information on the current challenges facing forest-based communities, and for innovative strategies to be shared.

Conference announcements will be circulated broadly over the coming months. Topics for discussion will include bioenergy, non-timber forest products, environmental goods and services, climate change, innovative forest tenures, new and emerging markets for wood, and sustainable community planning.

For more information about the *Canadian Forest Communities Conference 2009*, please visit <http://www.fcc-ccf.ca/>.

Recent Publications

The Canadian Model Forest Network, in collaboration with the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners with support from Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service (NRCan-CFS), has prepared a report entitled “Valuing Ecological Goods and Services from the Forest: Overview and Results of Five Regional Workshops.” This report provides a clear and concise synopsis of what is being done regarding provision of ecological goods and services on forested lands in Canada. It summarizes the proceedings of a series of regional workshops held in 2007 to address this emerging social policy issue. For more information, visit:

http://www.modelforest.ca/cmfn/en/publications/publications/publications_record.aspx?title_id=4899

Upcoming Events

The Union of Quebec Municipalities is holding a trade show on May 13-14, 2009 at the Hilton Lac-Leamy in Gatineau, Quebec in concurrence with their annual conference and general meeting. For more information, visit <http://www.umq.qc.ca/assises/salon.htm>.

The Forest Communities Program and its partners are hosting the “Canadian Forest Communities Conference 2009: Trends and Opportunities” at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, BC on May 20-23, 2009. Municipal and Aboriginal leaders, government agencies, industry partners, economic development officers, community groups and researchers will attend to hear about bioenergy, eco-tourism, new business models and markets, non-timber forest products, innovative forest tenures, environmental goods and services, economic infrastructure and community engagement and adaptation. For more information, please visit <http://www.fcc-ccf.ca>.

The Pan Canadian Community Futures Group is holding its 2009 National Event, Spectacular Rural Canada, in Collingwood, Ontario on May 28-30, 2009. More than 600 community volunteers and professional staff from the 269 Community Futures/Community Business Development Corporations across Canada will meet to share and explore ideas on community development activities. For more information, please visit <http://www.cfnationalevent.ca/>.



About the Forest Communities Program

The Forest Communities Program (FCP) is a \$25-million, five-year program that funds 11 forest community organizations across Canada, as well as national projects. The FCP community partnerships are located in defined geographic areas at a regional scale, and include a mix of urban, rural and Aboriginal communities. Typically, these community partnerships are diverse, with participants drawn from community groups, industry, Aboriginal organizations, various levels of government, landowners, research groups and educational institutions. The FCP assists forest community organizations in developing and sharing new knowledge, practices and strategies to meet the challenges of forest sector transition and to develop new, forest-based economic opportunities.

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