



WOODLOT ADVANCE

GROWING TOGETHER

PROFILE OF A WOODLOT OWNER

Merrill Stevens

By Dwayne Simkins

Hopewell Cape, Albert Co.

When you drive through this well known and photographed area, you will see many road signs indicating where you can find the famous "Rocks". Many people visit them every year, but there is more to this area than only these natural formations. Further down Highway #114, there is another sign. Its not as noticeable but it is a sign with a message - *S.N.B. Working Woodlot - Merrill Stevens.*

Merrill has been here for the last 32 years, living off the land which consists of 150 acres of farmland and 250 acres of forest land. His occupation includes both farming and forestry. He tends to a herd of 80 beef cattle, while in the fall and winter months his attention is turned to the woods for his livelihood. Merrill says,

"There has not been a winter that I have not cut some wood, some winters I've cut less, some more. But you do need a certain amount of land that can sustain harvesting every year"

In working with Merrill over the past three years, I've come to appreciate the way he manages his land. And when talking with other woodlot owners, I quite often refer to Merrill's work as an example to explain what someone has done over a long period of time for forest management. Over the years, the Stevens woodlot has had over 50 acres of pre-commercial thinning completed by local contractors, but Merrill also does thinning wherever he is working. He says,

"When I'm cutting a tree down, I'll sometimes spend a few minutes thinning out an area that is too thick and needs the hardwood cut down to help the spruce trees grow. Things have to be given a priority when you work on woodlots"

Merrill remembers before the S.N.B. Wood Co-op was formed,



Merrill Stevens-Enjoying Life, Making a Living

you would sell your pulpwood to a wood buyer or contractor, who in turn would sell the wood to the pulp companies, such as Irving or McMillan Rothesay. The road side price then for four foot was between \$12 and \$15 a cord. Stevens said he was prompted to get involved with S.N.B. for the obvious reason — higher prices for his forest products.

He said even though Albert County was one of the last areas to join the private woodlot owner group; woodlot owners do benefit from the opportunity to sell their products together as a group, instead of on an individual basis. He feels that S.N.B. has continued to grow and that market development is high on their list of priorities. Besides selling his wood through the S.N.B. organizations, Merrill has also been directly involved through serving as a Parish Director for 15 years for the S.N.B. Forest Products Marketing Board and for the past three years as a Director with the Wood Co-op.

He feels that S.N.B. has a big responsibility, with over 6,000 private woodlot owners in the area; there is much more involved than just selling wood. He believes that more education on the structure of the organizations is needed, explaining how decisions and policies are reached, and what services are available. Merrill experiences real satisfaction

in seeing the forest grow and becoming worth more than if it wasn't being managed. He takes great pride in being careful to protect the young growth by investing a little more time because that little bit of extra time can certainly mean more value down the road. In asking Merrill what he would say to someone who is interested in managing their property, he would tell them,

"If you don't have time, try to hire the work done. Subsidies are going down, so it may make it harder for someone that doesn't have the time to do all the work themselves, making things more expensive to accomplish. Woodlot owners should learn more about the Wood Co-op and the services that are available because an educated woodlot owner makes good woodlot management decisions"

In looking at the future for private woodlot owners, Merrill believes there will continue to be fluctuations in prices, US markets may diminish and with continued government cutbacks subsidies may be completely gone very soon. He feels the way to keep jobs here is to keep the wood here

Merrill very much enjoys being self employed and being his own boss. He says someday he'll probably retire so he can work full time in the woods. He finds it truly rewarding, seeing the fruits of his labours and enjoying a black-capped chickadee as it sings its song near by.

Hats off to you, Merrill, keep up the good work!

Importance of Protecting Natural Regeneration When Harvesting

by Brian Belyea

At a recent S.N.B. Zone Meeting, information was requested on this subject by a contractor, for the benefit of his crew and the owners whom he harvests for. Whether you are a cutter, a machine operator, or a woodlot owner; *care and consideration is important. For the cutter, safety is priceless, so clearing a work area around the base of a tree is necessary.* However, most regeneration develops best at a 6 to 8 foot spacing and safe work areas are seldom necessary bigger than this. From a daily production point of view, time and fuel spent unnecessarily cutting small trees is a

waste of both.

For the machine operator, breaking open a new trail through thick natural regeneration is slower and less productive than using well laid out and traveled forwarding trails. Many skidder and forwarder operators are the contractor. How much care you take to avoid damaging regeneration can have a big influence on what the owner and others think of your job, whether they call you back to do more harvesting work or whether other woodlot owners call you to harvest for them. It may even affect how much your stumpage rates go up or down depending on how much the woodlot owner values the kind of care you take.

For the woodlot owner, the care taken by himself or a contractor or cutter can be very important. It can make the difference between whether the next harvest from that site is in 20 years or 50 years; whether it will be worth \$10 or \$40 per cord stumpage, whether it will produce 6 or 30 cord per acre; and whether or not he has to spend a lot of money reforesting the site to get a new crop.

Financially, if you sell stumpage to a contractor who destroys your softwood regeneration, that site may eventually regenerate in low quality hardwood and give you a crop of 15 cord per acre in 50 years, worth \$10 per cord (\$150/acre). If you decide to reforest the site, it will cost you upwards of \$150 per acre (after subsidies) plus \$570 per acre in interest costs over 40 years, for a total of \$720 per acre to grow a crop of 30 cord per acre of softwood, worth \$40 per cord stumpage (\$1200/acre). This means

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that your second crop of wood costs you \$24 per cord to grow because your regeneration was destroyed.

If good care and attention is paid to protecting your regeneration during the first harvest, you will not have to reforest it. If at age 15, you pre-commercially thin at a cost of \$35 per acre, it will cost you another \$58 per acre in interest costs for a total of \$93 per acre to grow a crop of 25 cord per acre of softwood, worth \$40 per cord stumpage at age 40 (\$1000/acre). This means that your second crop of wood cost you only \$3.73 per cord to grow because care was taken to save the natural regeneration.

You saved \$20.27 per cord in the cost of growing the next crop of wood compared to reforesting it. You earned about \$850 more per acre compared to what you would have received if the regeneration had been destroyed. You earned \$427 more per acre than if it had to have been reforested. *Maybe it is worth less stumpage during the first harvest to take the time and care to insure that your regeneration gets protected.*

From an S.N.B. regional wood supply point of view, there are about 14,000 acres per year harvested in the S.N.B. area. If 65% of these acres have softwood regeneration and care is taken to protect and thin it, we could expect to grow one cord per acre per year. This area would result in 9,100 cord increase in our allowable annual cut for softwood. This would be worth an increase of over \$1 million per year in wood sales revenues and going into the hands of S.N.B. woodlot owners. Because we are sure that our softwood growth would increase by this amount for the future, we could begin harvesting at this increased rate as soon as we begin doing it — *next year, if we all start now.*

Sustainable Forest

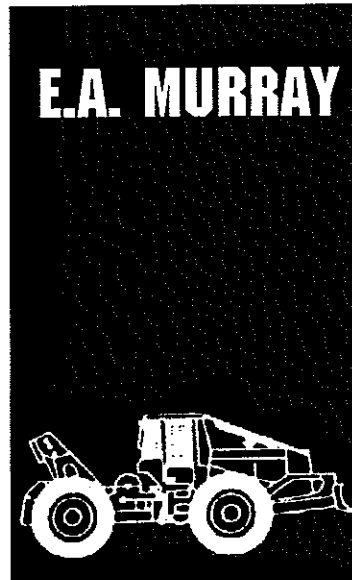
Management Planning

by Brian Belyea

The S.N.B. Forest Products Marketing Board and the S.N.B. Wood Co-operative Limited (S.N.B.) have been selected by the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners as the first private woodlot pilot area in Canada to test the development of *Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)* criteria. This criteria is being developed by a Canadian Standards Association technical committee to satisfy international demand for forest products from *certifiably sustainable sources*.

The *major task* for S.N.B. in the coming year will be to develop a regional Sustainable Forest Management Plan and Implementation Process for a real forest which is owned by so many individual owners and to do it so that it helps them meet their wide ranging personal objectives. Woodlot owner participation will be completely *voluntary*. There is anticipated to be several levels of participation opportunities. These include input into the regional planning process and at the woodlot level via S.N.B.'s Working Woodlot Program. The Working Woodlot Program is expected to be the most important mechanism which

will help woodlot owners practice, on the ground, the activities which will contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of the regional SFM Plan.



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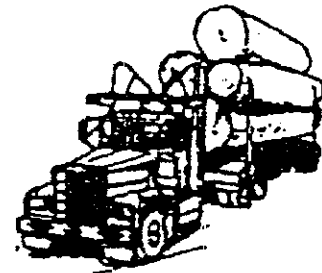
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Many *benefits* are perceived for woodlot owners and S.N.B. as a whole. First and foremost, it is expected that a good plan, which is truly sustainable, will show us how to individually and collectively continue to receive the present benefits from our woodlots without compromising those benefits for future generations. More tangibly, woodlot owners who are participating in the SFM can expect the forest product markets to improve for their products because of their recognized certified status. If demand for forest products drops in the short term, then having recognized certified management plans and practices should cushion, if not protect, buyers willingness to maintain a supply from S.N.B. The positive "P.R." which will be generated, international markets can be expected to seek out certified wood sources such as S.N.B. In short, the demand for wood produced in an area such as S.N.B. under a SFM Plan should increase and command greater value. Some of this greater value may provide the resources to do more management on the woodlots. An initial *certification audit* visit will be performed in March to help look at our present system and weaknesses. It will identify what we have to do to prepare a SFM Plan and Process which will pass the certification audit tests.

The S.N.B. organizations are confident that they can provide the planning and implementation mechanisms to make this possible. Much *co-operation* will be required from government, industry, stakeholders and woodlot owners *to* make the mechanisms *work*.

Property Lines and Related Problems

by *Chris Spencer*

Over the past three to four years, we have seen record harvest levels in the S.N.B. area. Along with these high levels of harvesting, go some associated problems. One of which unfortunately that is becoming more frequent is trespassing; although, the majority are accidental. Never the less, nothing can taint one's reputation quicker than being involved in a trespass and this is the last thing anyone wants, especially a contractor trying to generate stumpage. Therefore, here are some simple precautions you might want to consider.

If you are a contractor and a landowner has agreed to let you harvest on his woodlot, have the owner physically walk the property lines with you, marking it well with flagging tape. Also, if possible, invite the adjacent owner out at the same time or request him to inspect the line once you have flagged it out. Probably, the single biggest cause of trespassing results from people following old fence lines through dense woods and not being aware that it may be cutting into an adjacent property

This aerial photo demonstrates how easily

one can get astray when

running property lines.

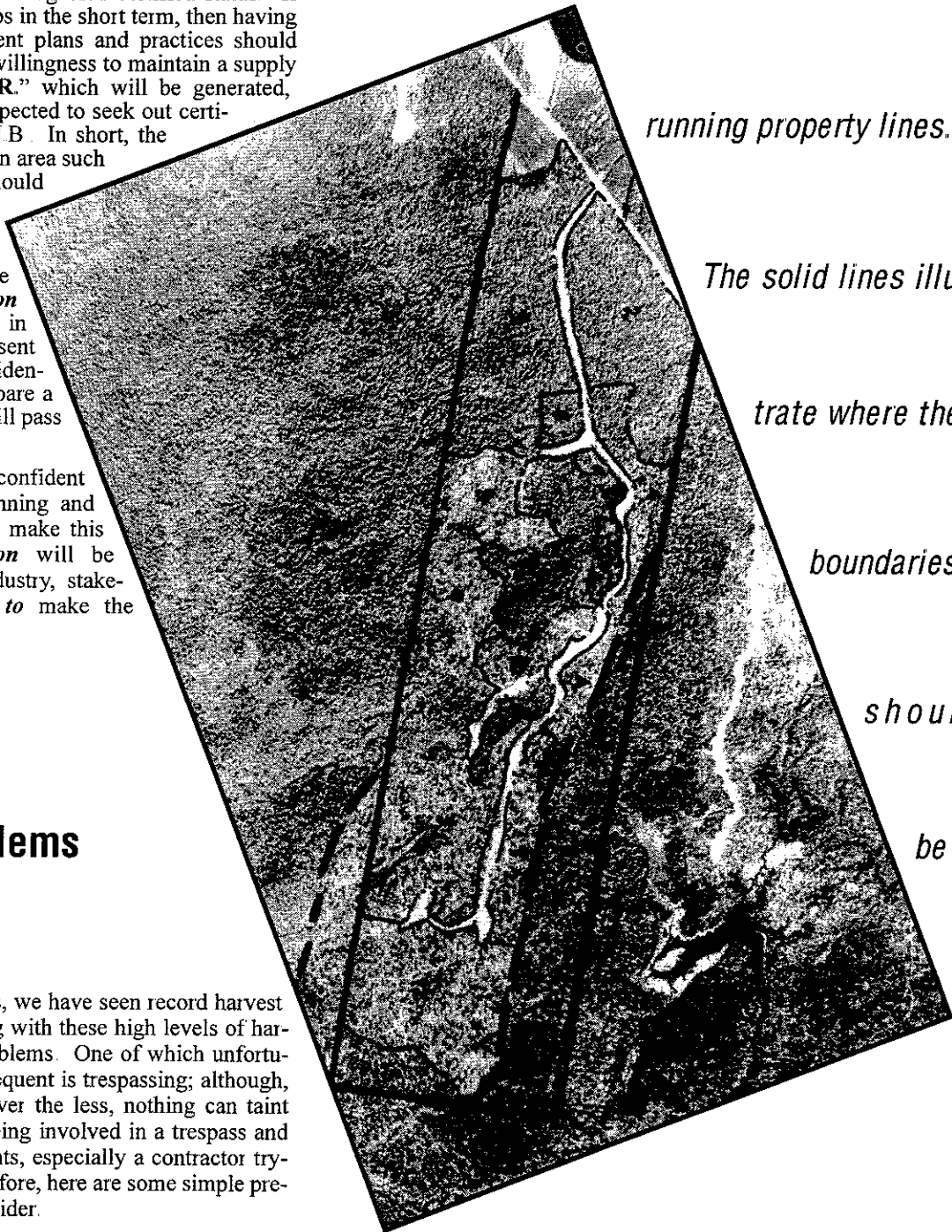
The solid lines illus-

trate where the

boundaries

should

be



located and the dotted line shows where the

harvesting actually took place.

If you are unable to determine the exact shape or dimension of a property, there are a number of sources for information. There are Geographic Information Corporation (GIC) offices throughout the Board and surrounding area, which can provide you with detailed, up to date mapping information. The Saint John office covers the Counties of Saint John and Kings (658-2419), Moncton covers Albert and Westmorland (856-2322) and Fredericton covers Queens County (453-3390). Queens County information can also be obtained at the Gagetown Registry Office (488-3501).

Frequently, local land surveyors will have a lot of well documented information on hand, particularly if they have done work near or adjacent to the property in question. The S.N.B. office is also a source for mapping information, as well as aerial photography. A word of caution when using LRIS maps. The fine print on the bottom reads, "This map is a graphical representation of property boundaries and should not be used for legal description". This simply means that they are not always 100% correct and will occasionally have errors. Ultimately, if you are not sure of a boundary location, get the assistance of someone experienced in reading maps and retracing woods lines (some of our field staff can be of assistance in this area) or enlist the services of a registered land surveyor. Initially, it may cost a few dollars to have a line location verified but it can easily save you much more, particularly if you end up in a worse case scenario of a trespass going to court.

General Guidelines for Pre-Commercial Thinning

by Chris Spencer

Pre-commercial thinning, or *what has become better known as PCT*, is and has been the single biggest silviculture activity carried out in the S.N.B. area over the past dozen or more years, with 1500 to 2000 acres being completed each year. Each year, S.N.B. field staff come in contact with 300 to 500 woodlot owners. The majority of these owners are looking to access the PCT program. Therefore, we felt it would be worthwhile to take a few minutes to explain what features our technicians are looking for when they are assessing sites for PCT. When evaluating softwood stands, usually one of the first features considered is the height. The minimum being 6' and the maximum 23'.

Although a softwood stand will qualify if it has a minimum average height of 6', results have shown that completed jobs tend to be more successful if the stand is allowed to reach a height of 8' to 10' (or more) before the first intervention. The reasons for this are that there is less risk of stumps (hardwood and softwood) resprouting and overtopping the crop trees, the more healthy, better formed dominant trees become more apparent as they grow in height, therefore resulting in improved selection of quality crop trees. Lastly, stands that have advanced to 8' or greater usually have begun to self prune at the base which makes it easier to see the base of the stem where it is actually being cut. When working in shorter stands, there

tends to be more foliage in the line of vision which quite often results in spacing saw operators having to make two, or more, cuts. The first cut is made to remove the main canopy so the stump can be seen and the second to get below the live branches.

The density (or lack of) of a stand has a direct correlation with how soon a stand will begin self pruning, which in turn determines how soon the first entry can be made. Other features that are considered before a stand is treated are most importantly its overall health and age. It will vary from species to species but it usually takes at least 15 to 20 years (of unrestricted growth) for softwood regeneration to reach thinning height. Quite often people will make an incorrect assumption that if trees are small, they are also young. Occasionally, when softwood regeneration has been overtopped by residuals for many years, it will become suppressed and will not respond to a thinning, especially balsam fir. This is just the opposite with other shade tolerant species such as red spruce which can withstand many decades of suppression and still respond to a release.

Other features that are assessed are the amount of residuals that may have been left from a previous harvest. This is often referred to as the amount of crown closure on a site, 25% being the maximum allowed on a treated stand. As always, there are exceptions to every rule. When dealing with white pine regeneration quite often it is a common practice to maintain higher than normal levels of crown closure in an effort to reduce the damage from white pine weevil. The weevil is an insect that attacks the terminal buds on white pine which causes the all too common multiple leaders. The weevil tends to prefer foliage exposed to sunlight, thus the reason for maintaining residuals over white pine regeneration.

When it comes to pure hardwood stands, the minimum height is 12' and the maximum is 30'. Again, as with softwood stands, it is better if the hardwood sites are allowed to get a bit taller than the minimum, preferably up to 16' or 20'. Increasing height while maintaining density tends to produce clearer, straight boles.

The seasonal timing of hardwood stands is also important. Treating these sites just around the time the buds begin to harden off and before they go into winter dormancy seems to reduce the amount of stump sprouting and root suckering. On the calendar, this would be between mid to late July until mid August. When the technician recommends a post density to a site, many factors will influence his decision, such as species, height, anticipated future products, drainage, slope, exposure to wind, overall health and vigor, and rockiness. Taking all of these factors into consideration, normal post densities range from 2000 to 3000 stems per hectare (7' to 6' foot spacing), but under certain conditions can extend to 1500 to 4000 stems per hectare (8.5' to 5' foot spacing).

When assessing a completed site, we are looking to see that final density has fallen within the targeted range, the best formed dominant trees have been selected, the spacing is relatively uniform, all trees cut below the lowest live branch, all cut trees have been laid close to the ground, there is no mechanical damage to crop trees, slash has not been fallen into watercourses and species diversification has been maintained.

These are just a few of the guidelines we use when assessing pre-commercial thinning and keep in mind, no two sites are the same because of the many variables that influence the wide range of regions within the S.N.B. area.

Message from S.N.B. Wood Co-operative President Percy B. Waddy

One of the most *fascinating aspects* of our forest industry is where it leads us. We all have preconceived ideas of the future; where we are headed; but the real story may be different than originally expected.

Let's focus on four examples: Maybe you can decide what the effects will be on our industry. In 1972, the United Kingdom was the leader in nuclear *energy power*. In 1995, plans for two new plants were put on hold. The Chief of British Energy is said to be worried about *cost and pollution*. Other leading nations have followed a similar policy. Does this mean our renewable forest supplies will be called upon to fill the gap?

The *Natural Gas Pipeline* from Sable Island across New Brunswick to the U.S.A.; what effect will it have on you? This summer those with woodlots on the pipeline route (it's not laid out yet) will be offered some amount for the crossing of your land and damages to your forest. Construction is expected in 1997. Do you know how much to ask?

S.N.B. Wood Co-op has located experts who will prepare a plan with a value of the assets you are losing. Do not sign anything until you have called the office.

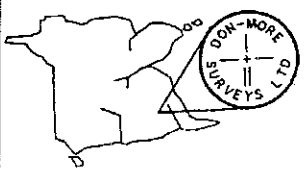
A *Hardwood Sawmill* operated by *S.N.B. Wood Co-op*, should a mill be on our "TO DO" list? We have an ongoing study that is nearing completion. It has covered wood availability, costing of mill with drying kiln and markets available. At this time, it looks like such an undertaking is financially feasible. Would you support it?

Certification: U.S.A. and European markets pay a premium on forest products from certified lands. *S.N.B.* in co-operation with *Fundy Model Forest* hopes to take the first steps in this direction in 1996. What is involved?

- * A group of owners committed to excellent management.
- * A plan based on sustainable principles
- * Research on inventory and wildlife
- * Ongoing audit of results.

Our wood supply should increase and demand greater returns. *Talk to Brian* at meetings and ask about "Certification".

Other *blips* on the horizon are of a *wide variety*. *Software programs* to help with growth estimates and costs, use of the *global positioning device* on forest locations, *new harvesting devices*, etc., etc., etc.



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Improving Wildlife on Your Woodlot

by *Darin Clark*

Throughout the S.N.B. area, there are a large number of inactive farms. Most of these farms have wild apple trees and old fields growing in alders. With some inexpensive improvements to these areas, it is easy to attract some species of wildlife to your woodlot.

Quite often these apple trees are over grown with competing bushes and trees or may have some physical damage. This makes them less fruit bearing productive and not as valuable to wildlife.

There are several steps that can be taken to improve apple trees for wildlife; such as removal of competing bushes to a 15 foot radius and removal of any nearby trees that shade the apple trees, especially to the south. Also dead or physically damaged branches should be removed from the apple tree with a pruning saw or shears to provide more sunlight.

Following the clearing and exposure of the apple trees; pruning is needed to stimulate growth. When pruning you should not remove any more than 30% of the live limbs. You should make as few cuts as possible by removing large clumps of branches. It is important to make two cuts when cutting large limbs (one inch or greater in diameter). The first cut should be 25% of the diameter from the bottom side of the limb. The second cut should come from the top and join the bottom cut. This procedure will prevent the limb from breaking and damaging the stem of the tree. It is also important to apply lime and fertilizer on the ground at the drip line of the tree. You should fertilize with calcium nitrate or ammonium nitrate every two years for best fruit production.

By following these few simple steps, you should see increased visits to your woodlot apple trees from wildlife such as white tail deer, grouse, rabbits, foxes, squirrels and some species of song birds.

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This is more studwood volume than S.N.B. wood producers have traditionally delivered to Fawcetts in any one year; however, deliveries have come close on a couple of occasions.

Woodlot Owner Survey

During November 1995, the S.N.B. woodlot owner organization held public meetings in Browns Flat, Hampton, Springfield, Chipman, Petitcodiac, Sussex and Riverside-Albert. A questionnaire was handed out and woodlot owners in attendance were asked to complete it.

Summary of Questionnaire

Woodlot owners main concerns about owning and operating their woodlots are:

- 1 } A fair negotiating system and stable markets
- 2 } Sustainable forest on private woodlots.
- 3 } Government and industry gaining more control over private woodlots
- 4 } Reduction of silviculture dollars.
- 5 } Increase in forest land property tax.
- 6 } Fire and wind.
- 7 } Wildlife sustainability.

Number One Concern:

Thirty-eight percent of the woodlot owners number one concern was a fair negotiating system and most included it in their top three concerns. Sixty-six percent recorded a fair negotiating system, sustainable forest management *or* government and industry gaining more control as their first concern.

Management by Woodlot Owners:

Eighty percent of the woodlot owners feel they are doing a fair to very good job of managing their woodlots. Twenty percent feel they are doing a poor to very poor job. They also feel that 58% of woodlot owners are doing a fair to very good job of managing private woodlots, while 42% are doing a poor to very poor job.

Crown Land Management:

Fifty-seven percent of private woodlot owners feel that Crown Land is being managed silviculturally from fair to very good, while 43% feel it is being managed from poor to very poor. Twenty-six percent feel it is being managed

financially fair to very good and 74% from poor to very poor. Environmentally, 45% felt it is managed fair to very good and 55% feel it is not.

Improve Management on Private Woodlots:

Woodlot owners feel they need:

- 1 } Fair prices and stable markets.
- 2 } More silviculture dollars.
- 3 } More time to work on their woodlots.
- 4 } More training and information.

Harvesting Practices on Private Woodlots:

Sixty-six percent of woodlot owners feel that the harvesting practices being used on private woodlots are fair to very good, while 34% feel they are poor to very poor.

Woodlot owners feel the following types of harvesting practices should be used more:

- 1 } Selection harvesting
- 2 } Smaller equipment
- 3 } Cutting only mature to overmature stands
- 4 } Alternative harvesting to clearcutting
- 5 } More planting clearcuts.

Seventy-four percent feel it is very important that woodlots in the S.N.B. area should *not be over cut*, while 23% felt it was important and 3% not important.

Sixty-eight percent expressed concern that *government* is going to get more involved in *controlling* private woodlots.

Ninety-six percent feel we must *continue our forest management programs* at past levels, even if government decreases the amount of assistance programs. Sixty-eight percent feel this can be accomplished by a forest management check off on wood sales as wood prices increase.

Ninety-five percent of woodlot owners are *opposed to industries* getting involved in *managing private woodlots* and *having first refusal* on the wood that is harvested from their woodlots. Forty-eight percent feel that *many companies* competing for private woodlot wood is here to stay, while 52% feel it is only short term.

Ninety-seven percent of private woodlot owners feel that we *need a fair negotiating system* with industry, *backed with binding arbitration*; 83% feel the present *free for all* system of buying wood is *not working*. If you would like further detail on this survey, please contact the S.N.B. office.

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Fundy Model Forest

- Model Woodlots

by Dwayne Simkins & Darin Clark

The four Model Woodlots in the Fundy Model Forest area are owned by *private woodlot owners* Deborah Boles / Ken Hardie, McCrea Farms, Richard McLeod and Whaelghinbran Farm. During the 1995-96 fiscal year, many projects were initiated for each of the Model Woodlots. These projects can be defined under three main categories; wildlife improvements, public improvements and woodlot improvements. A great number of tours were carried out, with the help of S.N.B. staff, over the past year, but there were many more visits beyond that by people who just wanted to get out and enjoy the fresh air!

The *wildlife improvements* consisted of planting a number of shrubs and trees; such as apple trees, oak, butternut, arrow wood and sumac, that benefit certain wildlife. Alders and young intolerant hardwoods were cut in certain areas to help stimulate good habitat for the American woodcock population. Bird houses, bird feeders, brush shelters, drumming logs for partridges and snag trees were some of the other improvements added. A stream rehabilitation project was undertaken at the McCrea Farms on the Albright Brook. Digger logs were installed to create better habitat for trout

Woodlot improvements included selection harvesting, release

development treatments. Pre-commercial thinning was carried out on the McCrea Farms, McLeod and Boles/Hardie woodlots, under the silviculture programs partially funded by the Provincial Government and the Fundy Model Forest. A tending for a black spruce and tamarack plantation was carried out on the Whaelghinbran Farm woodlot to release the planted stock and also to maintain some hardwoods for species diversification. Fill planting of red pine and red spruce was done at McCreas; while at McLeods an under planting of red spruce and white pine was completed to improve the future potential of a low quality hardwood stand.

For *public improvements*, a wildlife viewing platform was built at McLeods for those who are restricted to wheelchairs, so they can enjoy the outdoors as well. Improvements to trail signage and public facilities were also completed. At the Whaelghinbran Farm Model Woodlot, some road upgrading was done to improve public access.

If you would like to visit one, or all, of the Model Woodlots, information pamphlets are available from the S.N.B. or Fundy Model Forest offices, or from the woodlot owners themselves. Each Model Woodlot is *unique*; therefore, a visit to all four will provide a different *experience*.

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Horse or Harvester???

by Chris Spencer

It would probably be safe to say, there isn't a week go by that someone doesn't call the S.N.B. office inquiring what type of harvesting equipment will provide them with the best results on their woodlot. When the question is posed to me, my response is that it's not the equipment or method that is used that will determine whether or not a site is successful, but rather the operator of the equipment and the individuals doing the cutting.

Today, there is a wide range of methods and equipment being used on private land which provides the woodlot owner with a variety of options. Some of the more common methods being used include (but not limited to) horses, farm tractors equipped with a winch or power trailer, trail cutting with porters, skidders hauling tree length (limbed at the stump) or full tree (limbed mechanically at roadside), full tree chipping of hardwood which may be felled manually or by a feller buncher and being put to roadside by cable or grapple skidders; and lastly, mechanical processors. This involves the falling, delimiting and cutting to length, all at the stump, of wood and being put to roadside by a porter.

As it becomes increasingly difficult to get skilled men to operate power saws, more contractors are looking toward mechanization as an option. Unfortunately, a lot of people have the misconception that the more mechanized operations cause the most damage. Case in point, the team of E. A. Murray Logging Ltd. (Ed Murray) and D. Murray Harvestors Ltd. (Doug Murray) are a good example that this simply is not the case.

It is apparent that the team is trying to reduce the impact they have on sites by doing little things such as all delimiting on the extraction trail. This produces a brush blanket of sort and thus reduces the risk of rutting. Also, they are always conscious of the visual appearance of any site they are working on, particularly along public highways. Access points are kept to a minimum by positioning extraction trails parallel to public roads.

Portering of the wood is handled by Ed's son, Rick Murray who operates a double bunk, C5 Tree Farmer porter. Ed coordinates all of the loading and trucking responsibilities (as well as operating one of his trucks himself), delivering both shortwood and treelength products to mills throughout New Brunswick and Maine. E.A. Murray Logging Ltd. also has a conventional skidder crew that they utilize on the more difficult sites (excessive slopes, etc.)

As the accompanying photos will illustrate, the Murrays have become known for being able to carry out a variety of alternate and low impact harvesting methods. The first photo is of a site belonging to Coralie Clark/Hall off the Goshen Road. It was running approximately 15 cord per acre of dense, white birch, 6 to 7" in diameter. Below the white birch was dense softwood regeneration, 6 to 8 feet in height. The Murrays were successful in applying a release cut whereby removing the white birch while still maintaining a stocking of softwood regeneration in the range of 80 to 90%.



Release Cut -Goshen Road

To the left of

harvest trail is

pre-stand condition.

To the right is release

regeneration.

Since Doug purchased his Rottne, single grip harvester three years ago, he has been working with Ed Murray and the team has been quite successful at building a reputation of doing high quality work.

The processor is just over 9 feet wide, has 27 foot reach and can handle stems up to 18" in diameter. Doug explained when he is working off a trail system, the machine is most effective with 50 foot centers, but with some maneuvering can handle trails spaced at 66 foot centers. When necessary, Doug has a man with him operating a chainsaw for the larger stems or the ones that are just out of reach.

The second site belongs to Bryson Guptill, located off the Sanatorium Road. Approximately 12 cord per acre of over mature softwood was removed in a partial harvest from advanced softwood regeneration and dense immature hardwood. Although this sounds like a typical site and prescription, the completed job was anything but typical. Great care was taken to protect the immature components of the stand. The results were a site that is still pleasing to the eye with abundant, undisturbed softwood regeneration and immature hardwood being release.



The third photo is of a jack pine stand along the Berry Mills Road which belongs to the City of Moncton. Prior to intervention, the site was running about 32 cord per acre of dense, tall, uniform jack pine. The Murrays applied a commercial thinning to the site, removing approximately one-third of the volume (10-12 cord per acre). In total, 50 acres were treated, generating 600 cord of products. City staff have indicated they are very pleased with the results of this highly visible site and have plans to follow this up with an under planting of white pine seedlings.



Top: Partial Harvest - Sanatorium Rd.

Center: Rick and Doug Murray

getting started on the

Turtle Creek Watershed

Left: Commercial Thinning -

Berry Mills Road - Jack pine stand.

At the time of print, the Murrays were awarded another highly sensitive contract with the City of Moncton. They will be harvesting all merchantable material within a predetermined corridor around the Turtle Creek Watershed. This corridor is a result of the City planning to increase the capacity of the reservoir, by raising the dam an additional seven feet.

Although this article only focuses on one contractor, hopefully it will dispel the myth perceived by many people that mechanical operations are unable to carry out alternate or low impact harvesting applications that many woodlot owners are looking for.

And lastly, when you are planning to hire a contractor to carry out some harvesting on your woodlot; hopefully you will not rule him out simply because of the equipment he is using. The best way to evaluate a contractor is to ask for references of past harvesting sites, perhaps take the opportunity to go look at some of the jobs he has completed and talk with other owners.

Farmers & White Tailed Deer

by Barry Marchand

Every year New Brunswickers experience winter time with heavy snowfalls blanketing our forest floors. White tailed deer are thus driven to lower elevations where softwood stands are located. The deer feed on spruce tips, cedar bark and shoots, and balsam fir shoots. With repeated over browsing to a single tree or stand, it is expected poorer quality trees will develop.

Once spring arrives, white tailed deer retrieve to farmers fields where ornamental shrubs, young orchards and blueberry vines are found. The deer continue to be attracted to farmers fields throughout the summer and cause damage to home gardens and commercial vegetable crops. This leads to financial loss and frustration.

Following are some of the more popular methods for attempting to control this over browsing:

1 } **Removal**, by harvesting, of nuisance deer may seem to be an inexpensive control method but is sure to receive opposition from the public. In this case, a nuisance permit must be obtained from your local Department of Natural Resources.

2 } **Scare Devices**; such as scarecrows which resemble human form, aluminum pie plates, streamers, balloons and other unusual objects are effective.

3 } **Repellents**; such as ground chicken feathers (feather meal), naphthalene (moth balls), creosote, human hair and dried blood (blood meal) can be placed or applied near the plants you wish to protect.

4 } **Fences** are a sure way to keep deer out. The fence, be it woven wire, snow fence or fishermens nets, should be at least eight feet high, ground tight and be slanted outwards to deter the deer from jumping over them.

5 } **Electric fences** work, if properly installed. White tailed deer, being a creature of habit, can adapt to a small voltage shock and quite possibly relate it to a small hornet sting. The proper installation should be a single wire suspended about 16" above the ground, with the insulator facing the side from where the deer approaches. A recommended voltage should be 4000 or higher so as to deliver a non-fatal shock.

6 } **Lure Crops** are a great method to attract deer from protected or valuable crops to an area where browsing is welcome. However, this should be monitored carefully as it may attract separate deer to the area. These methods of control may be seen as an extra expense for an already costly career, but it is definitely less expensive than not having a crop at all. For more information on control methods, you can contact the S.N.B.

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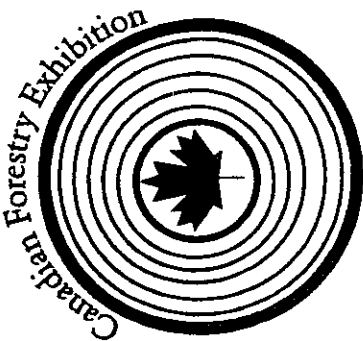
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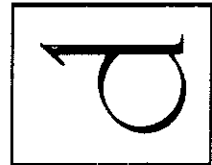
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Partners

Working Together

by Lara Inglis

The Fundy Model Forest (FMF), located in southern New Brunswick, is a **working forest** area which includes several towns and villages. In 1992, it was selected to be one of ten large scale, working models across Canada. The Fundy Model Forest lands include both public and private ownership (420,000 ha.). The Fundy National Park covers five percent, near 15 percent is Crown Land, 17 percent is industrial freehold owned by J. D. Irving, Limited, and 63 percent is owned by private woodlot owners.

The landowners in southern New Brunswick, along with a number of organizations (28 partners in total), came together with their interest in the forest. They began working and learning more about **sustainable** forest management. It was clear to all involved that to ensure a future wood supply and a healthy forest, they needed to work together. **And so the Fundy Model Forest project began.....**

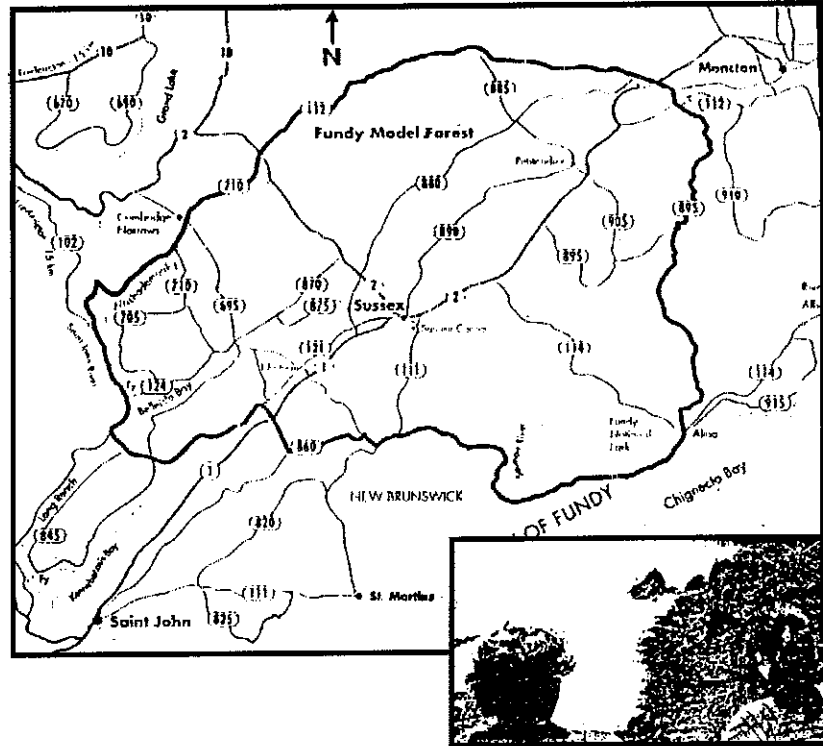
A number of committees have been established (**wood supply, communications, biodiversity, consumptive wildlife, management planning, socio economics, soils, water resources, recreation**), allowing each partner the opportunity to concentrate on specific interests; yet providing the coming together of information and ideas through **'Partners Working Together'**. You are probably asking yourself, *'What has this partnership done over the past three years since its inception? Have these organizations learned about sustainable forestry? What is being done to help people manage woodlots?'*

There are **over 50** research and operational **projects** going on in the Fundy Model Forest area. Some examples are:

Development of Model Woodlots, Decision Support Assistance for Private Woodlot Owners, Integrated Resource Management (IRM) Technical Service for Woodlots, Assessment of Deer Wintering Habitats, Stream Restoration; and many more.....

Four **'Model Woodlots'** were designed and developed on private woodlots to provide the public with the opportunity to witness the practice of environmentally sound, multiple use woodlot management. Through the **Integrated Resource Management** technical program, long term goals are established to help derive the maximum sustainable benefits from the woodlot. These include integrating resources such as **wildlife, recreation, quality forest products and education.**

Clark Phillips, private woodlot owner and Chairman of the Education and Information Committee states, *"It is important*



to get a program into schools. Students must know that we need to be growing and harvesting trees in some kind of sustainable fashion. That sustainable forestry on most woodlots, in theory, means that we can cut wood off it this year, and cut wood off it next year, and cut wood off it forever."

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The *'Students to the Forest* program is a good example; kids from Saint John get to walk the educational trails in the woodlots and ask all the questions they want: *How do you make money from your woodlot? How old is this tree? Why doesn't this field go right to the river's edge?* This is the kind of *initiative* we are trying to build on

Information and education is a two way street in the Fundy Model Forest. With over 100 volunteers actively involved in committees, people interested in the issues and the research have ample opportunity to be involved. However, volunteering does require a certain commitment, and for most people, with so many demands on their time, FMF is used as a source of information on the latest in forestry

A public participation facilitator meets with all kinds of clubs and groups in southern New Brunswick. The issues raised will guide the management planning for a case study area - the ultimate goal in the Fundy Model Forest of considering the research results and what the trade offs will be in the management of that area.

Landowner organizations such as the Southern New Brunswick Wood Co-operative Limited (S N B) and J. D. Irving, Limited prepare forest management plans. It is with these plans that we are learning to practice *sustainable forestry*, and the Fundy Model Forest has helped.

Brian Belyea, of S.N.B., explains that, *"Before we are able to do it collectively for the whole Model Forest, we need to be able to do it individually within our organizations and on our woodlots. That is why we are working towards sustainable management practices on woodlots in S N B "*

"It is complicated enough to do this within our own landowner organization. The ultimate goal is to have a sustainable forestry management plan", Belyea continues, *"The Fundy Model Forest is making it possible to go beyond planning and really do these things"*

On the 16th of January, at a FMF workshop, the *S.N.B.* Forest Products Marketing Board *area* was announced as the *pilot* area to work with the Canadian Standards Association to develop a sustainable forest management plan for private woodlots in the region. Participation of the public, and sustainability are very important to this process - and that is part of the reason why this area was selected

and the Fundy Model Forest partnership will make a valuable contribution to the process

Woodlot Owner

Information Meetings

Election of Directors— This is your opportunity, as a private woodlot owner, to become more involved. *Do you want to represent the woodlot owners from your Parish? Do you want to elect someone to represent you on the Board of Directors? Do you have ideas, concerns, input that you feel are not being addressed? Attend* the meeting in your area and *vote* in the person who will best represent you

The spring round of **Zone Meetings** will be held during the weeks of March 11th & 18th. These meetings are for *everyone* — woodlot owners, wood producers and anyone who has an interest in private woodlots, the S.N.B. organizations and its functions

At the time of print, there is definitely not a lot of good news. The demand for most products has decreased and prices have also been going down. *Hopefully*, when we get together in March, there will be some good news; such as, confirmation of silviculture program monies and changes in the market outlook.

The **major discussion topic** at the Zone Meetings will be **certification**. The S.N.B. area has been selected as the first private woodlot forest **pilot area** in Canada to test the development of Sustainable Forest Management Planning criteria. This criteria is being developed, by a technical committee of the Canadian Standards Association, to satisfy international demand for forest products from certifiably sustainable sources.

What does certification mean to me? How will it affect me? What do I have to do? Do I have to participate in the process? Come out to the meeting and learn more about certification!!!

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact your Zone Director or the S.N.B. office.

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Tuesday, March 12th Brian Scovil 468-2600

HATFIELD POINT - Community Hall

Wednesday, March 13th Ken Hardie 485-2293

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Thursday, March 14th Martin Beers 339-6709

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Monday, March 18th Brian Hicks 534-2429

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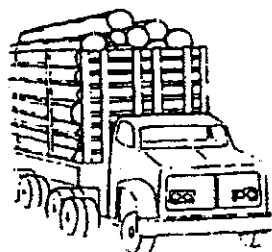
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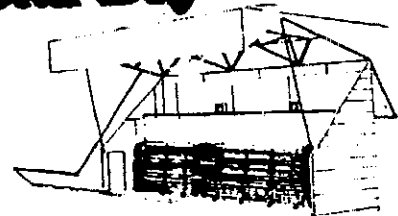
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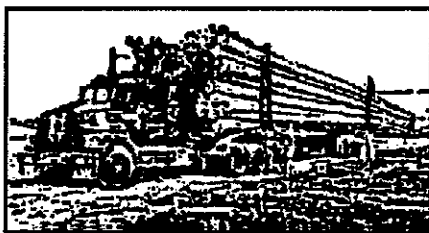
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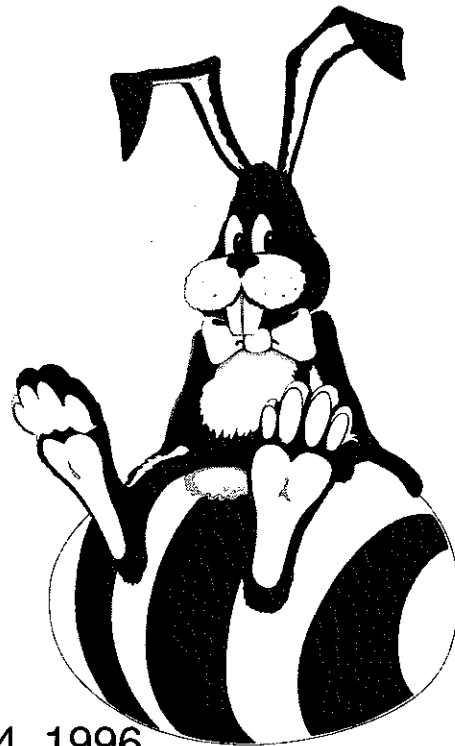
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