

Mayor's Report – Late Item – October 2019

Resiliency & Change in BC Forests.

While at UBCM in Vancouver I attended a forum on Forestry, and another forum previously in Revelstoke about **Resiliency and Change in BC forestry practices.**

Also, heard at our open house Official Community Planning Week, Nakusp requires more forestry value-added and industrial land, and that the Village of Nakusp can play a vital role in forestry value-added, as the Village of Nakusp is the owner and sole shareholder of Nakusp and Area Community Forest (2013) Inc. NACFOR is governed by an eight member Board of Directors.

At these forums we heard loud and clear that BC's forests, forest industry, and its forest dependent communities are in the midst of a transition that is unprecedented. At least 22 mills in BC's interior have either closed or curtailed their operations this year. Presenters confirmed and described the present crisis and pointed to signs of hope for rural communities.

A few takeaways were that we need to manage our forests differently to create more resiliency in the face of climate pressures, addressing carbon issues, water issues, and many other issues; and that we require a vision for a brighter future for forestry communities based on a newfound maturity focused on **value-added** rather than **volume**. What is surprising was not that the transition was coming, but the speed with which it has overtaken our province.

BC Community Forest Associations, pointed to BC's 59 community forests and the growth of this tenure model, with its lens on multiple value-added resources, as a hopeful sign.

Nakusp can look at examples of forestry value-added successes in our own backyard. For example, Box Lake Lumber who employs 45 full time jobs, Madden Timber, Herridge, Pippco, and Rick Dyck. Along with the Harrop Proctor Community forests who operate their own sawmill, cutting their own logs for sale locally and abroad.

Click on the link on Harrop Proctor Community Forest and Box Lake Lumber to understand more of the opportunities of Value-Added. <http://hpcommunityforest.org/> <http://www.boxlakelumber.com/>

Harrop-Proctor Community Forest has come to be internationally recognized as one of the most successful community driven forestry operations in North America. Milling and selling their wood locally rather than shipping logs out and then back as finished product also **dramatically reduces the carbon footprint of**



lumber manufactured, along with creating more jobs locally.

When you purchase from a local sawmill, you're also supporting traditional, land-based businesses—landowners, loggers and the mill—that promote responsible stewardship of the forestland, which is an important renewable natural resource.



Buying local does more than just lower your carbon footprint. Buying local is an investment in your local community. When you buy local, you support local jobs; these workers then put more money into the local economy.

Harrop Proctor budget for about \$10,000 in lumber donations for community projects such as a public fishing wharf, a bike park, community gardens, and much more projects.

As the Village of Nakusp is the owner and sole shareholder of Nakusp and Area Community Forest (2013) Inc. we have a great opportunity and an obligation to work with local value-added companies, to work together to find a solution to keep most of our logs local, instead of trucking our community forest logs long distances that benefit other communities. We must continue to be pro-local and in turn will reduce our carbon footprint similar as Harrop Proctor community forest has successfully done.



We require a vision for a brighter future for our local community forest, based on a newfound maturity focused on value-added (cutting less) rather than more volume.



When selling logs on the open market the seller is obligated by the buyer to cut logs to certain mill specifications, leaving valuable shorts, longs butts, and other in the forest, and then burning these piles as per example.