



As part of our ongoing neighbourhood exchange, TimberWest meets regularly with community groups to discuss concerns and explain our operations.

We're listening

Finding common ground on water

"We had a jolly good discussion and found some common ground, which is our goal — to find common ground between people who could potentially be in dispute. Otherwise we are at loggerheads and no one listens to anybody," says Dave Ferguson. Dave, one of the regular members of the Comox Valley Watershed Assembly, invited TimberWest's Land Use forester Steve Lackey to attend a meeting about water quality in the Comox Valley. "After Walkerton and North Battleford, Saskatchewan, a lot of people don't feel tap water is safe to drink," says Dave. Since TW owns two-thirds of the land in the watershed, the group felt it was important to understand the company's perspective on water quality management. To continue the conversation, a forum on water quality was held in November in Courtenay, with numerous representatives, including those from TimberWest, BC Hydro, the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona and the Health Services Society.

Safety first on Echo Mountain

"We will never, ever expect residents to drive in a manner that is unsafe," says Land Use forester Steve Lackey. "The community needs to know we will be looking out for them, but they should expect to see us too." Steve joined Nanaimo Lakes Operation production superintendent Terry Francis and operations planner John Kay when they met with members of the Echo Mountain Community Group to allay fears about road safety. With TW actively logging in the area, residents were concerned about logging trucks using narrow community streets. To address safety issues, TW has committed to several initiatives, including:

- On Summerset Road, having its logging trucks stop 300 feet back from the intersection with the highway so car drivers do not feel intimidated.
- Avoid hauling on Sundew and Summerset Roads when the school bus is picking up children.
- Notifying Main Road Contracting when Summerset Road has black ice to ask for salting as soon as possible.

After the meeting, one of the organizers contacted John Kay to express the group's thanks for the way TW addressed their concerns.

A note of thanks...

Dear Virginia,

Many thanks for a marvellous story on the North Island Community Forestry Program!

I would like to distribute copies of the September 2001 edition of Neighbours

to various program participants and to my board members. Would it be possible to receive an additional

20 copies? We appreciate receiving copies of TimberWest's corporate newsletter at the Regional District

— the newsletter keeps us posted of the company's activities on the North Island and other parts of the Island.

Kindest regards,

Annemarie Koch

Manager of Development Services,

Regional District of Mount Waddington, Port McNeill, BC



Community update

Opportunities being explored in Lake Cowichan

The consultants funded by TimberWest have completed their initial task and have reported to both the board of the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Cooperative and to MLA Graham Bruce. The report confirms that the economic realities do not support the establishment of a primary breakdown facility such as a large sawmill in the area. Instead, the consultants have identified a number of investors who may have the desire to build a small value-added facility should there be a reasonable chance of securing a reasonable return on such investments. These opportunities are being explored at present and the results will be reported to the Board over the next several months.

Dididat/Pacheedaht Interim Measures Forest Licence

The company worked with these two First Nations communities to explore options under which TimberWest would assist in the harvest of 30,000 m³ per year over the next 10 years. The volume, part of these First Nations' Interim Measure Agreements with government, originated from a previous undercut in TFL 46's AAC that resulted from poor market conditions and impediments in securing approvals following introduction of the Forest Practices Code. TimberWest had hoped that we would be selected to work with the First Nations to harvest the volume supporting employment of company crews as well as building stronger relationships with the First Nations. But our offer was not accepted.

SFISM and ISO certification maintained

Fall audits conducted by KPMG Registrar Inc. show that TimberWest has maintained its certification under both the Sustainable Forestry InitiativeSM and ISO 14001 programs. To maintain the standards required under these environmental management systems, regular surveillance audits are done by an independent party. Environmental management systems on all of the company's operations were



first granted ISO certification in November 1999.

TW's private forestlands received SFI certification in November 2000. • Being certified under ISO and SFI means TimberWest conforms to

certain internationally recognized standards in environmental management and sustainable forestry. "The most important thing to come out of these audits is that our employees and contractors have an increased awareness of certification requirements, and are continually improving the way we manage the environment," says John Phillips, TW's management forester.



How do SFI and FSC compare?

A common question asked regarding forest certification is, what is the difference between the Sustainable Forestry InitiativeSM program and the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) certification system? An independent review jointly commissioned by these two organizations, along with Home Depot, concluded that the two programs are very similar in most scientifically significant areas related to forest management and environmental protection. The programs were deemed fundamentally the same with respect to water quality and soil protection; forest protection from fire, pathogens and disease; and protection of cultural, archeological and historic sites.

Key differences identified in the report were:

The FSC program has more explicit restrictions on intensive management, plantations and genetically modified organisms.

The principal objective of the SFI program is to expand sustainable forestry across all forestlands. The FSC system is based on rewarding exemplary forestry in the marketplace.

The SFI program strongly emphasizes outreach, education, research and continuous improvement to expand the practice of sustainable forestry.

The FSC system places a much stronger emphasis on the assessment of social impacts of the forest operation.



Nov./Dec. 2001

Giving back to our communities

The holiday season is a special time of year that inspires the spirit of giving. Like so many people, TimberWest employees like to give back to the communities they live and work in, both now and throughout the year. Here are just a few examples:

* "We realize how lucky we are and what a good quality of life we enjoy," says Suzanne Booker of Cowichan Woodlands. "It's only right to help others." For the past few years at Christmastime, many Cowichan Woodlands employees donated a portion of their pay to the widow of a young co-worker who died suddenly from illness. Christmas is also the time to "adopt a family" through the Cowichan Family Life Services. The BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver also benefits from Cowichan Woodlands employee efforts.

* "I have the pleasure of distributing some of our donations to various organizations," says Land Use forester Steve Lackey. "While they are all worthy, the one most special for me is the Bread of Life Centre in Port Alberni. This small soup kitchen and thrift shop serves hundreds of meals each week to those in need. The wonderful staff is headed by Vera Seydel, who is passionate about her organization and overwhelmingly warm of heart. There is no question that every single dollar we donate to this organization helps Vera and her loyal staff provide hot, wholesome meals and the basic needs for all those who step across her threshold. TW will give to the Bread of Life Centre again this year and we would like to recognize Vera for her tireless dedication."

* Tim McGonigle, a loader operator at Honeymoon Bay Operation, lives in Lake Cowichan and every Saturday heads to Victoria to coach a hockey team. That might sound ordinary, but this team, the Victoria Storm, is special. All 14 players, ranging in age from 15-26, have a physical limitation, such as spina bifida or muscular dystrophy, so they are in electric wheelchairs. A forward, Adam Sohye, is the son of

Tim's co-worker, Nick Sohye. "I have gotten to be good friends with Nick and Adam," says Tim, who has coached minor hockey and is a hockey player himself. "I lost a young son, Christopher, and I feel I'm giving back this way."

* Because the United Way reaches out to so many members of the community, TW is a long-time supporter. This year, TW donated \$65,000 to United Ways in Campbell River, Courtenay/Comox, Nanaimo/Ladysmith and the Cowichan Valley. In addition, employees at the Vancouver office, fewer than 40 in number, have pledged to donate \$20,940, which will be matched by the company.

* Karol Jeffrey, payroll clerk at Oyster River Operation, knows what it's like to be involved in a traumatic incident. She now volunteers hours of time working with the critical incident debriefing team in the Campbell River area. The team connects with accident victims and emergency responders and helps them resolve their emotional reactions to trauma. "If there had been a debriefing after the accident I faced, it would have cleared things up a lot quicker for me," says Karol.

* The holiday spirit runs deep at Elk Falls Lumbermill. Every year employees "adopt" two families, one from Campbell River and one from the Comox Valley and, through various employee efforts, donate \$500 to help each family. "We buy gifts, food, clothing — whatever they need," says planerman Dan Willis. "Last year, we adopted a young couple who had very little, and our people even donated furniture and appliances." Forklift operator Doug Turko will add a special touch by donning his Santa suit to deliver the gifts this year.



► On behalf of TimberWest, this little angel Mariah Smith (at right), granddaughter of Honeymoon Bay Operation's Diane Smith, wishes you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Honeymoon Bay

Sharing initiatives to cope with crisis

"We're an industry in crisis and we're looking for ways to enhance our job security by either increasing the value of our product or reducing our costs," says TW's Public Lands employee relations manager Don Gill. To that end, all employees at Honeymoon Bay Operations gathered for a daylong session in September to share information about initiatives they are undertaking to meet the forest industry crisis. Some of the 275 people who gathered for the sessions were guests from outside the company. Here's what they observed:

"The thing that impressed me was that TimberWest was actually taking the time to go through the process and was including the employees as part of it. I think it's important for the employees, and the community in general, to realize that TimberWest has a heart and is concerned enough to do the best they can by the workers they have."

"I was extremely interested in the presentation on long-term planning — the logging that has taken place, and the re-growth that is going on right now; especially the before and after pictures they showed that demonstrated what it looked like 10 years ago and what it looks like now, or some of the logging that took place 20 or 30 years ago and how it has filled in and is ready again."

~ Tara Daly, Youbou/Meade Creek
Director for Cowichan Valley Regional District

~ Jack Peake, Mayor, Town of Lake Cowichan

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The winning ways of Dr. Willington

TimberWest's forest hydrologist Bob Willington has received the prestigious Forest Engineering Award of Excellence, presented jointly by the Association of BC Professional Foresters and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists. Don Dobson, chair of the Division of Engineers and Geoscientists in the Forest Sector, had this to say when he presented Bob the award:

"I have known 'Dr. Bob' for nearly 20 years. I knew of him long before I first met him, since he is a legend in his own time.

"Bob received his PhD in Forest Hydrology from UBC in 1971 and later taught forestry there as an assistant professor. He also conducted important research in the Greater Vancouver watersheds. In 1978, Bob accepted a position with BC Forest Products (BCFP), managing the Integrated Resource Analysis Section (IRAS) in Crofton. BCFP was subsequently sold to Fletcher Challenge, then TimberWest. It is a tribute to Bob's abilities that through all the changes, IRAS remains an important part of company operations today, providing advice regarding non-timber resource issues to operations staff.



▲ **Bob Willington** has demonstrated a passion for all aspects of forest engineering.

"When we were reviewing the nominees for this year's award, the committee was unanimous that it go to Bob. He has demonstrated over the past 30 years a passion for all aspects of forest engineering. But first and foremost, he has always been a teacher.

"Today, you seldom find Bob in the office — most likely he is out in the bush or standing in a creek with his operations folk and agency people discussing some hydrology issue. If there is an issue in watershed management, forest hydrology or water-related forest development, Bob has been there. It is a privilege to make this presentation to a friend, a colleague, and a very wise man."

Placing the highest value on conservation

"This agreement is, we believe, part of practising sound forest stewardship and sustainable forest management — ensuring that key forest values are conserved while continuing to invest in growing commercial crops of trees."

~ Don McMullan, former TW chief forester

Last year, TimberWest determined that certain of its private lands would have higher value as formal conservation areas than as working forests. Chief forester Don McMullan, now retired, approached the Nature Conservancy of Canada and proposed a unique agreement between the NCC and the company. The result of Don's innovation was a 10-year agreement in which TW is identifying potential conservation sites, providing funding for scientific evaluation of the sites and working with NCC to

conserve sites found to contain high conservation values.

In October, specialists with the BC government's Conservation Data Centre

(CDC) met with Don, TW's biologist Dave Lindsay, director of Corporate Affairs Virginia Aulin and NCC representatives as part of the next step in the agreement. TimberWest has identified several parcels throughout its private lands on Vancouver Island "which may have ecological and biological values, and in addition may be important for reasons other than the timber on them, such as recreation use," says Dave.

TW is working with the CDC, an agency held in high regard internationally, to assess these parcels for conservation values. These include entire ecosystems, plant communities and threatened and endangered wildlife species. The company is spending \$300,000 over 10 years on the assessments.

"We're giving TimberWest scientific information

on which areas within their holdings have the highest conservation values," says Jan Kirkby, a conservation science ecologist with the CDC. "It's unusual for a forest company to actively seek this type of information, especially because some of the areas of greatest conservation concern are also areas of high productivity for the forest company."

The conservancy will be compensating the company for these special areas; the scientific assessments help NCC to raise funds if they can tell donors how important it is to conserve them. Once funds are raised, TW and the NCC will work out agreements — for example, outright purchase of the lands or conservation covenants — so each area can be set aside.

"Everything is going fantastically," says NCC executive director Jan Garnett. "It's one year later and we are all just as excited as we were when we first signed the agreement about what we can accomplish together. TW is working in a completely open and cooperative way with a conservation organization and independent scientists to determine the best use of their lands over time, which includes preserving ecological values for the future. It's very enlightened."

Jan Garnett notes that "those who know about things like this" consider the initial agreement between TW and the NCC as the most significant agreement in conservation in North American history. TW has already donated a 131-ha. parcel valued at \$704,000, known as the Headwaters lands, which was added to the Sooke Hills Regional District Park, near Victoria.

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~ Jan Kirkby, conservation science ecologist with the CDC

Mars bombers

Facing the fight of their lives

They have been part of the Port Alberni community landscape since 1962, and they're one of the most effective tools for initial attack on forest fires. Now the Flying Tankers Inc. (FTI) water bombers are facing the biggest fight of their lives: survival. "Our services were enlisted only once this year by customers outside the company — a job with the Department of Natural Resources in Washington state," says FTI's general manager Terry Dixon. "To remain a viable operation, as a wholly owned subsidiary of TimberWest, we need to fly 75 to 100 hours each year for customers outside the company."

"Talks are underway with the BC Forest Service, but they have a mandate now to cut costs by 35 percent, so it's difficult. However, we believe the

Mars would provide an economic and effective alternative to the existing air tankers currently under contract to the government," says Terry. Now FTI is pursuing the political trail. Meetings have been held with Port Alberni MLA Gillian Trumper, and Terry hopes to meet with Minister of Forests, Mike de Jong.

"People in the valley have quite a bit of attachment to these aircraft. With everything else that has been happening here to the forest industry, it would be a shame to lose them," he says. Flying Tankers welcome your ideas and input (call Terry Dixon at 250-723-6225). He also encourages you to write a letter to your local MLA or mayor in support of the continued service of the Martin Mars bombers.



▲ **New trucks, more safety** The only thing that could improve the experience of driving a new truck is a brand new road to drive it on. So it was fitting that TimberWest truck drivers Steven McArthur and Brian Grills celebrated the opening of the final leg of the new Island Highway by driving in two of the new logging trucks the company recently acquired. Oyster River Operation has seven new rigs, with 12 more on the way, while Honeymoon Bay Operation has 12, with 10 more coming. The trucks drew lots of "wows" from the opening day crowds, as they do from TW and its drivers — they increase load hauling efficiency by 10 percent and save money through fuel economy and improved maintenance. The new highway delivers reduced travel time and increased safety.



COHO

Signs of the fish

Next time you're driving the Island Highway north of the Cumberland turn-off, watch for signs marking three new stream enhancement projects on TW's private land in Oyster River Operation. The cooperative projects, on Powerline Creek, Dove Creek and a tributary to Keddy Swamp, are aimed primarily at enhancing coho habitat. "These are areas where the Vancouver Island Highway Project did not have room to do enhancement in the highway right-of-way to compensate for the road being built, so we allowed them to do it on our property," says TW's biologist Dave Lindsay. "This is no small thing. It means restricting our harvest by leaving wider strips of land near these streams." Vancouver Island Highway Project environmental coordinator Craig Barlow says, "We've already seen benefits — summer juveniles and winter adults are using the sites already. In Dove Creek, thousands of coho juveniles are using the habitat. Dave has been very supportive of this work."



CHUM

Digging round China

The dam on China Creek, near Port Alberni, is a beauty to behold. Built by a mining company in 1895, it is still a viable structure. However, it was trapping so much gravel, TW employees were concerned it could collapse and destroy fish habitat downstream. Financing was available through the San Juan Opportunistic Fund and approval was given by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Then TW's contractor, Black Label Ltd., with guidance from TW forest hydrologist Bob Willington, drilled and blasted through rock to deepen a channel around the dam where the creek was already finding its way. "This was a cooperative project to alleviate erosion concerns on TimberWest's private land. The company was willing to divert water through a bedrock channel and build up the spawning gravel downstream, improving habitat for salmon, steelhead and trout," says Fisheries and Oceans Canada habitat field technician Brad Rushton.

San Juan Agreements end

The San Juan Agreements between TimberWest, Weyerhaeuser and the BC and federal governments are scheduled to terminate at the end of this year. Over the past five years, large sums of company money supplemented with federal salmon enhancement funds and Forest Renewal BC contributions have gone into joint projects improving fish habitat in the San Juan Valley and on company private lands. Further funds have been applied to road deactivation and landslide stabilization works, with the two companies funding projects on their private lands and FRBC funding those located on Crown lands.

A new agreement begins

A five-year agreement between TimberWest and the Pacific Salmon Foundation will see about \$300,000 invested to improve salmon habitat in streams located on TW's private lands.

The foundation will manage salmon habitat restoration and enhancement projects supported by company funding. The agreement continues the commitment TimberWest made five years ago under the San Juan Agreements, which saw the company working with federal and provincial fisheries agencies to identify technically sound in-stream works that benefit fish production. The partnership with the Pacific Salmon Foundation uses existing mechanisms to maximize expenditures on works, not on paperwork.



PINK



CHINOOK