



COMMUNITY UPDATE

July 2001

“It took awhile for us to build trust, for people to believe that we would do what we said we would do. There were no overnight miracles. We spent a lot of time meeting with people in the communities where we operate — at council meetings, in municipal halls, in kitchens, on site with our maps on the hoods of our trucks — explaining what we’re doing. And the work itself is a team effort. My contribution is understanding the process through which water quality is affected. And then I go to the operations people and we work together on a solution.”

[Bob Willington, Forest Hydrologist, TimberWest’s Watershed Management Program]

## ~ Watershed management ~ Pure protection

**TURBIDITY:** Water that runs off roads and ditches, or results from road, bridge or culvert construction can pick up silt and, if not properly managed, can run into creeks and rivers which, in turn, can cloud water. The Canadian Drinking Water Standards allow for a minimum of turbidity in the water before it becomes unsuitable for drinking. A good rule of thumb is if you can see some “colour” in the water, then it will not meet drinking water standards.

**W**ith Canada’s water supply so much in the news lately, it’s reassuring to know that TimberWest’s Watershed Management Strategy for private lands is delivering on its commitment to ensure that company operations don’t affect drinking water quality. The goal is to work cooperatively with local water purveyors so that everyone is comfortable with harvesting proposals located in watersheds that supply drinking water.

First implemented in 1999, the strategy requires all harvest plans in domestic water supply areas to be reviewed and approved by a professional hydrologist. Although the prime objective is to avoid negative impacts on water quality, the process also provides opportunities for the purveyor and TimberWest to improve quality through such measures as upgrading old roads and limiting access to certain parts of domestic watersheds.

“Since initiating our strategy, we’ve had no complaints about the water quality in the 50-plus watersheds located on our private lands,” says TW’s Bob Willington. “Since only about 12 of these watersheds are community water supply areas with designated purveyors, we communicate closely with many individual licencees. We also monitor certain watersheds to obtain information needed to continually improve our practices.

“What I always stress, is that first we have to understand all applicable federal and provincial acts and regulations, ensure we are interpreting them correctly through dialogue with appropriate agency representatives, then develop a system to comply with or exceed them, and ensure everyone in the company is adequately trained and committed to the system. Only then can we go to the public and promise we’re not going to affect the quality of their drinking water,” says Bob.

TimberWest’s strategy for protecting drinking water quality is believed to be at least as effective as the requirements set out under the Forest Practices Code for public lands. Under both systems, performance means ensuring that road construction and maintenance practices meet high standards, that crews are trained in proper techniques and that adequate forest cover is maintained within the watershed areas. On both private and public land, permits for works in and about streams must be secured in advance from the Ministry of Sustainable Resources under the authority of the Water Act. Field performance is assessed through monitoring and independent audits. ☺



▲ Working together: Bob Willington (left) with John Walker, Contract Supervisor, Cowichan Woodlands Operation. “John is a very knowledgeable man who has taught me a lot about operations,” Bob says.

### FYI... Dumping is illegal and environmentally irresponsible

In April, vandals dumped approximately 450 litres of oil product at the gate to TimberWest’s properties at Trent River, near Cumberland. The oil was deposited only 10 metres from a fish creek. While the crime is being investigated by the RCMP and government agencies, we would like to remind readers that not only is dumping of such wastes illegal, it’s also highly toxic to the environment, especially fisheries. **PROPER DISPOSAL: Bulk used oil can be recycled: Call Newalta Industries: 1-800-999-9441**, for pick-up of a minimum of 45-gallon drum or greater. **For small amounts** most companies who sell oil will take it back for recycling. Mohawk gas stations have free drop-offs for used oil products.

# North Region

**Includes: Beaver Cove, Johnstone Strait and Oyster River operations and Elk Falls Lumbermill.**

<b>Total Employment:</b>	<b>527 people</b>
<b>Annual Payroll:</b>	<b>\$51.3 million</b>
<b>Annual Payments to Contractors:</b>	<b>\$50.5 million</b>
<b>Annual Purchased Supplies and Services:</b>	<b>\$48.2 million</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$150 million</b>



▲ While at work, **Ken Adams**, a deckhand on the TimberWest tug "Carol Lee," snapped this shot of a sea lion sunbathing. The boom crew travels between Quadra Island and Elk Falls Lumbermill daily, delivering log booms — a journey through beautiful wilderness. A large population of seals and, occasionally, sea lions can be found at Gowlland Harbour. Eagles are abundant and, once in a while, grey whales and porpoises migrate through the area. Thanks to **Graeme Rickson**, Fibre/Quality Control Manager, for submitting this photo.

## Growing great futures

Each year, the people on TimberWest's scholarship selection committee have a rewarding but difficult task — selecting the winners of the six scholarships that the company awards annually (\$2,000 to each student attending university, and \$1,000 to each attending college). "The students are evaluated not only on their scholastic achievements, but also on their service record," says Human Resources Coordinator Suzanne Booker. "We are always overwhelmed by the dedication these students display, helping out their schools and communities while still maintaining top marks." TimberWest congratulates all the high school students who applied, especially this year's winners:

### NORTH REGION

#### Dependents of employees:

- **Ryan Veitch** (son of Gary Veitch, Engineer, Oyster River Operation): Engineering at UBC.
- **Alexis Cottini** (son of Ken Cottini, Faller, Oyster River Operation): Science at UBC.

#### From the general public:

- **Kathryn Belezny**, of Nanaimo: Science at UBC.

### SOUTH REGION

#### Dependents of employees:

- **Megan Stinson** (daughter of Dennis "Buck" Stinson, Truck Driver, Honeymoon Bay Operation): Computer animation at Vancouver Film School.
- **Manroop Padda** (son of Amrik Padda, retired, Cowichan Lumbermill): Commerce at SFU.

#### From the general public:

- **Melanie Lambrick**, of Duncan: Journalism at UBC.

## New guide for excellence

TimberWest foresters recently developed a best practices guide, "Excellence in Forestry," based on the input gathered through a company workshop. The guide provides foresters with general management criteria in many areas, including environmental protection, forest renewal, monitoring and audits, and meeting ISO and SFI certification requirements. TW employees have also recently taken training in:

- managing land beside small, non-fish-bearing streams;
- road rehabilitation and deactivation.

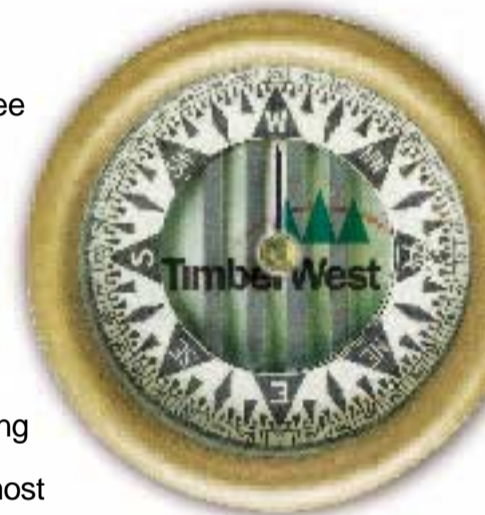
## Alternative forest uses

Cowichan Lake Region was recently designated by Tourism BC as a Superhost community, one of only three areas in the province to receive this honour.

Better signage, trail development, a 50-km adventure race — TimberWest has been helping the Cowichan Lake Gateway Project to develop alternative ways of using the forest in the Cowichan Lake area, where the former Cowichan Lumbermill was located.

"In the name of economic diversification we are promoting this area as an eco-tourism destination. I don't think it will ever replace forestry, but it is really viable," says Renee Leger, project leader. Gateway projects are sponsored throughout BC by the provincial government to develop tourism. In the Cowichan Lake area, TW provides information, maps and access to land for special events, like the August 18 Eco-Adventure Race ([www.ecowest.com](http://www.ecowest.com)).

"TimberWest also maintains three campgrounds in the area which are a big draw," notes Renee. The project team is also clearing old rail beds for mountain biking and hiking trails (like the Kettle Valley railway) and promoting the area's distinction as the westernmost point of the Trans-Canada Trail. The next step... organizing a cooperative marketing effort to draw in more tourists. 🌲



### Spring planting

## 3.5 million new seedlings

When the \$2.6-million spring reforestation program wound up at the end of April, about 3.5 million newly planted seedlings were growing toward solid returns for TW. While the majority of seedlings planted by TW are Douglas fir, forestry consultant Ron Elder, who helps coordinate TW's planting program, lays to rest any fears of monoculture. "The company uses a wide variety of trees, with a minimum of two or three different species in each setting. Altogether the company plants 15 different commercial species, from sequoia to coastal lodgepole pine and Sitka spruce, as well as a few 'brush' species from time to time, such as huckleberry, blackberry and snowberry for rehabilitation or riparian zones," he notes. The seed or cuttings for the tree seedlings are raised at TW's Mt. Newton Seed Orchard, then nurtured by contract nurseries on Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland.

### Spring 2001 planting by species:

<b>Douglas fir:</b>	2,860,000
<b>Western red cedar:</b>	401,000
<b>True firs (balsam, noble, grand):</b>	67,000
<b>Western hemlock:</b>	58,000
<b>White pine:</b>	26,000
<b>Western red alder:</b>	41,000
<b>Yellow cedar:</b>	5,000
<b>Sitka spruce:</b>	4,000
<b>Others (eg.: western larch, red pine, sequoia):</b>	11,000





120 feet long with a 200-foot wing-span; the tail sits 50 feet above the water's surface. These are the largest operational flying boats ever built.

Flight Engineer Mario Dirocco checks out the Mars, these are the only two left in the world.

# Keeping Mars in the air

The Forest Industry Flying Tankers organization ended in January, but both Martin Mars water bombers will be operational under the sole control of TW for 2001, under the new umbrella of Flying Tankers Inc. "The Mars is one of the best aircraft for initial attack in fire suppression," says Erik Bentsen, TimberWest's Senior VP of Coast Timberlands. "So we have decided to keep both bombers operational. We need to defray part of the costs, and keeping the Mars operational in the long term will be conditional on TW receiving outside revenue or cost sharing. We're looking to government to make a commitment to use the Mars, and we continue to pursue other opportunities," Bentsen adds. Terry Dixon, former FIFT General Manager, will continue on with TW, managing operations and marketing the Mars. ☺

Built in 1946 in Maryland, the original concept was for these "flying boats" to be heavy-duty long-range bombers for World War II. Named "Martin" for their manufacturer, Glenn L. Martin Co., and "Mars" for the Roman god of war, these are the most efficient water bombers on earth with their carrying capacity of 6,000 gallons (their closest competitor carries 1,350 gallons). The Mars take on a full payload of water in 30 seconds at a speed of 70 knots.

▼ Below: Pilot Rick Mathews (top) and Flight Engineer Steve Almer examine the Mars, the most efficient water bomber on earth.



MARS PHOTOS: ROB LENTZ

**DID YOU KNOW?** Wind patterns can change at different elevations, so foresters have to plan for this. Winds can also gain maximum speed in an opening only four tree-lengths in diameter, so where windthrow is expected, foresters create smaller openings or feather the edges to protect trees on the perimeter.

## Not gone with the wind



What used to be theoretical about wind and its negative impact on forests is now proven science that is constantly evolving. So people like Colin Buss, Assistant Forester at TW's Johnstone Strait Operation, are making sure they are up on the latest techniques for managing windthrow. "With variable retention and the riparian zones we leave, we have more perimeters exposed to winds, so it's more important than ever to manage for windthrow," says Colin, who attended a company workshop on the topic.

Within TimberWest, the learning occurs in a cascading way. TW Geoscientist Al Chatterton first attends workshops on the latest scientific knowledge. He then assesses what information is useful and practical for TW's applications, holds workshops for TW staff and provides on-site advice.

"We are concerned about trees blowing down onto creeks and impacting fish, and we have safety concerns — some of our operations are right against people's roads and property lines," says Al. "But we feel good about the progress we're making in learning how to minimize windthrow." ☺

**WINDTHROW AND WATER QUALITY:** When trees along a stream bank blow down and are up-rooted, this dislodges soil, which is deposited into the stream. This causes turbidity and may render stream water unsuitable for drinking and/or fish habitat.

### "A breath of fresh air"

Nearly 2,000 people enjoyed demonstrations, flypasts of the Martin Mars water bomber, train rides and free seedlings at local celebrations marking National Forest Week, May 6-12. The theme of this year's event, "A breath of fresh air," reminded everyone of how vital forests are in combatting air pollution. TimberWest participated at two sites: the BC Forest Museum in Duncan and the McLeans Sawmill National Historic Site (both sites are excellent attractions to take your out-of-town guests this summer). The winner of a logging truck load of firewood, donated by TimberWest, was Barb Camper of Duncan.



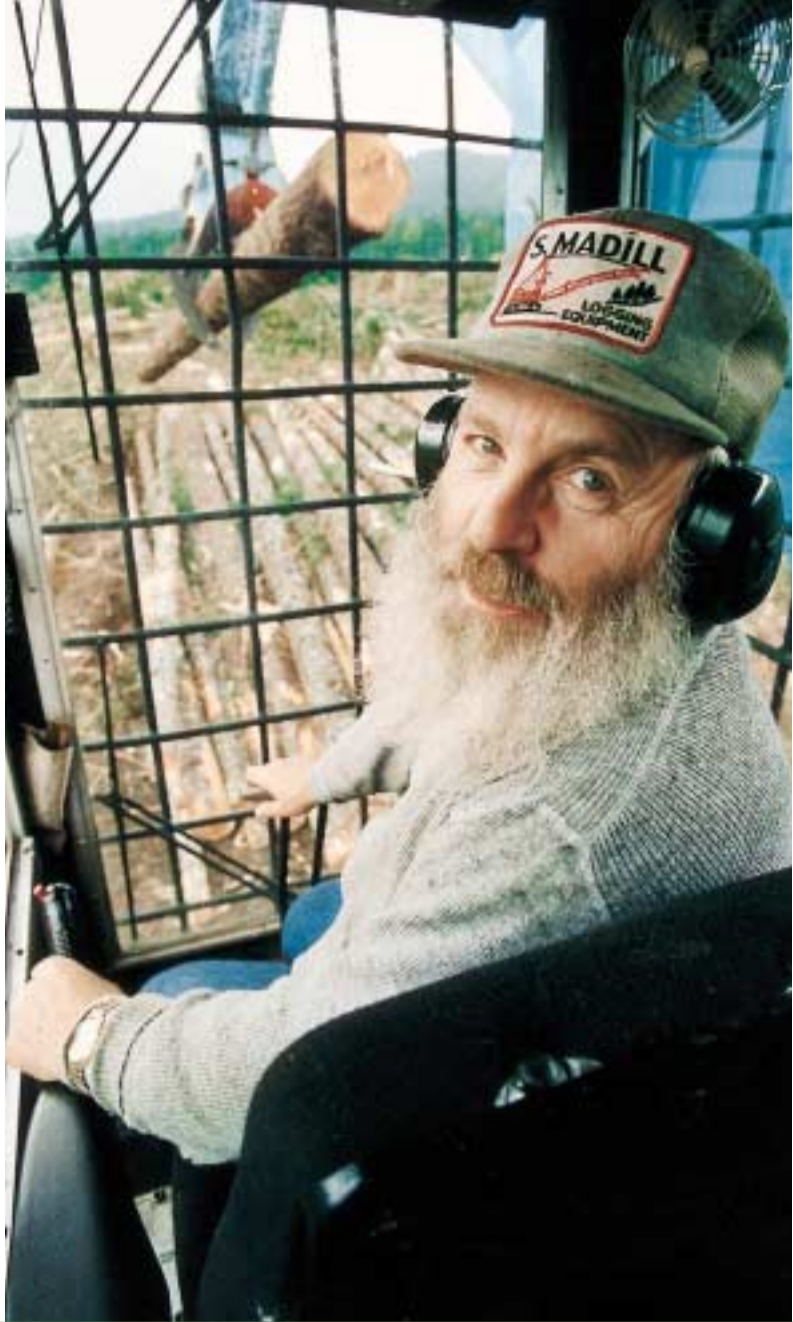
As part of our ongoing neighbourhood exchange, TimberWest meets regularly with community groups to discuss concerns and explain our operations...

# We're listening

**Honouring our commitments...** Three years ago, TimberWest started making an "annual report" to the Alberni Valley Committee (composed of the regional district and city council). These reports outline the company's commitments for the coming year, and assess the status of those made the previous year. This year, again, TW was able to "tick off every box on the list."

"We are trying to meet the expectations of people in Alberni Valley and keep our social licence," says Land Use Forester Steve Lackey. "Each year we give them commitments on things that are going to change, and each year we've kept those commitments." This year, Gary Swann, Chair of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, stated that everyone had noticed a great deal of improvement in TimberWest's operating style, including improved community communications. Port Alberni planner Libby Avis noted that the variable retention the company did on the Beaufort Range had made a "huge difference" for the better in the local viewscape.

**Notice of Correction:** In his article "From beginning to end" in the May 2001 *Neighbours*, Don McMullan, Vice-President and Chief Forester, TimberWest, described the proposal put forward last year for the purchase of the Cowichan Lumbermill. That article did not include the fact that the local IWA executive put the proposal forward to the Cowichan Lumbermill crews, who voted to reject it on May 6, 2000, prior to its withdrawal by the proposed purchaser.



◀ Ray Galeazzi always remembers May 23, 1956. It was his dad's birthday, and it was the day he started working for a small logging outfit called T. W. MacKenzie. At 15, Ray hired on as a whistlepunk, blowing a whistle to signal the operator to yard the logs up the hill. Since then, he has worked nearly every job on a landing, most recently as a hoe chucker for Cowichan Woodlands. "Logging has changed so much in the last 25 years, it's unreal," he says. "We've moved from wooden spars to steel towers, and now you have to be environmentally conscious and safety conscious all the time."



**Camping...** What's more Canadian in the summer than camping? TimberWest welcomes visitors to the 10 campgrounds it operates year-round. Fees are \$10. Facilities include picnic shelters, toilets, well water (must be boiled), and firewood, which is available for a nominal fee. Hosts are in attendance at serviced campgrounds until the Labour Day weekend.

**[1] NANAIMO LAKES OPERATION AREA:**

About 2 km north of the Nanaimo airport, take the Nanaimo River Road. The 20-km paved road ends at the security gate to TW's Nanaimo Lakes Operation; campgrounds are located about 3 km past the gate, and beyond.

- **Direct water access:** On First Lake: Windy Point (30 sites) and Old Mill (35 sites). Deadwood has limited water access to the lake (10 sites, plus overflow area). Riverside has 4 sites on the Nanaimo River.
- **Wilderness camping** (not regularly maintained) available at Echo, Fourth and Panther lakes, located about 30 minutes past the security gate. Access only on weekends. **Campground coordinator:** Diane Elzinga at Nanaimo Lakes Operation (250) 729-3798.

**[2] HONEYMOON BAY OPERATION AREA:**

Turn off the Island Highway onto Highway 18 (about 5 km north of Duncan). Take Highway 18 for 30 km to Lake Cowichan. Continue 9 km through town on South Shore Road to Honeymoon Bay. Signs are posted with directions to campgrounds.

- **On Cowichan Lake:** Caycuse (30 sites) is located 15 km from Honeymoon Bay Dryland Sort. Heather (70 sites, plus 12 tent-only sites on the beach; boat ramp) is located 29 km from HBO Dryland Sort.
- **Kissinger Lake** (26 sites, plus 5 large sites for groups) is located on site of old Crown Zellerbach Camp 3, 35 km from HBO Dryland Sort. A small 40-acre lake, which has been stocked and is also excellent for swimming. **Campground director:** Jim Eddy (250) 749-3873.

**Campground etiquette**

- Before you leave, ensure all camp fires (if permitted) are fully extinguished.
- Use firewood provided. **DO NOT CUT DOWN LIVING TREES FOR FIREWOOD OR ANY OTHER USE!**
- If you notice anything that looks like an environmental or legal problem, contact the TW staff at the operation maintaining the campsite.
- For safety reasons, off-highway vehicles are **not allowed between May 17 and Sept. 4.**

**Green tours...** Find out how good forestry practices really work — take a forestry tour this summer. Tours, which last about five hours, visit active harvesting sites and dryland sorts. This is the real thing — good walking shoes are a must. **Sponsors include:** Canfor, Interfor, TimberWest, Western Forest Products and Weyerhaeuser.

**North Island Discovery Centre:** Check out a working fish incubation box and spawning redd, or find out what a Madill tower is all about at the North Island Discovery Centre, located at the junction of Highway 19 and the road to Telegraph Cove. Free forestry tours are given at 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; first come, first serve only. Open daily 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. till September 5. **Call: (250) 956-1446 • fax: (250) 956-1448.**

**Campbell River area forestry tours:** Meet your knowledgeable guide, Danny Thran, at 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Information Centre at Tye Plaza in Campbell River. Adults: \$10; children under 12: free. **Reservations available through the info centre: (250) 286-4636, then press "1" • Paradise Found Adventure Tours: (250) 923-0848 • Danny Thran: (250) 337-5553.**



**Logging road safety**

- Obey road signs identifying public access times: **roads are usually closed Mon.- Fri., 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; open on weekends.**
- Always drive with headlights on.
- On narrow bridges allow others to cross first.
- To maintain visibility, let dust settle before proceeding.



# Sharing information...

**Valuing different perspectives...**

Thirty-three students from 21 different disciplines at the University of Victoria had an up-close look in May at TimberWest's forestry practices. Instructor Fiona Hamersley Chambers explains the purpose of their course in environmental studies, and why she brings her students on tour: "The objective is to give students a basic understanding of environmental issues and to teach them to think critically about issues. We spend Saturday with Merve Wilkinson, who practices small-scale eco-forestry, and Sunday at TimberWest. It's important to get both perspectives, as there are benefits and constraints with each method." Their guide

on TW lands, Land Use Forester Steve Lorimer, says he enjoys Fiona's students: "They come from so many different disciplines, I learn from their perspectives and gain insight into what the student population is thinking about the forest industry."

**Small is big...** In Swedish, there is no translation for "second growth." "They cut down the majority of their original forests long ago, so they don't distinguish between old growth and second growth like we do. It's all just trees," says John Mitchell, Operations Planner at Cowichan Woodlands and the guide for a group of 38 Swedish private land owners who toured TimberWest's operations in May. The visit included a stop at Honey-

moon Bay Operations dryland sort. "When a load of old growth cedar came in they were dazzled," says John. "They also laughed when we said we were making the transition to smaller second growth trees because to them, this is big wood."

**Guarding streams together...** More than 250 people met at Courtenay in May for Streamkeepers Workshop 2001. This biennial event draws volunteers who protect, restore and monitor watersheds and marine ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska and Washington. TimberWest contributed \$2,000 towards the event. Then-MLA Evelyn Gillespie spoke at the opening ceremonies, and described TW as "a good corporate citizen and a company that has demonstrated its commitment to work with communities and the public." 🌱

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**A green footnote...** To prevent waste or extra spending, we designed this issue of *Neighbours* a half-inch shorter, making full use of paper stock leftover from our Annual Report.