



## LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY

### FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER



*Photo Credit: Connie Falk*

Welcome to our Fall 2013 newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to keep you up-to-date and informed on the activities of the Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society. Your support as a member is greatly appreciated and important in ensuring the continued success of our organization!

#### **2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – TWO DIRECTORS POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held next Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 7:00pm at the North Thompson Volunteer Centre located at 4936 Barriere Town Road (District of Barriere Building), at which time it is intended that Directors be elected for the ensuing year. All members and non-members are welcome to attend.

At this time, it is anticipated that two director positions will become vacant and as such, it is requested that anyone interested in standing for election as a Director on the Board of the Society attend the meeting or contact me at the number below for further information.

#### **2013 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT**

The LNTCFS is pleased to announce our decision to donate a total of \$ 30,000 for 2012/13, with \$15,000 going towards student awards (the final form of disbursement yet to be determined), and \$15,000 to be distributed through our grants program to local non-profit organizations. Application forms and guidelines for community organizations are available at our office at 4648 Barriere Town Road or via email request at [LNTCFSociety@telus.net](mailto:LNTCFSociety@telus.net) . All applications received by December 31, 2013 will be reviewed by the LNTCFS board members who will award the money to successful applicants.

#### **SPLASH PAD**

On July 8, 2013, the Board of Directors voted in favour of donating up to \$150,000 to the Barriere 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, a group associated with the District of Barriere. This donation was made specifically to help build the Committee's Splash in the Past waster park, which is estimated to cost about \$550,000 to complete. This funding is contingent on a \$250,000 Legacy Fund Grant from Heritage Canada, for which an application has now been submitted. Additional fundraising is also underway and anyone wishing to help the committee or who would like more information about this project is encouraged to contact either Tasha Buchanan, 250-672-9751, or Lindsay Arcand, 250-672-9736 local 5402, co-chairs of the Barriere 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

### **2013 JOB CREATION PROGRAM:**

Our fourth Job Creation Program (JCP) through the Ministry of Social Development was approved and is now underway with Rick Proulx hired as supervisor and four participants gaining work experience and training. The 2013 project activities include trail development and maintenance work in the Skull Mountain and Bonaparte Lake areas, expansion of the Lower North Thompson Geo Cache program, improvements to the Fish Trap Recreation Site, and several local partnership projects. Total funding for this project is \$230,000.

### **FOREST STEWARDSHIP FUND:**

In July, the Board of Directors decided by way of motion to set aside \$30,000 each year for a Forest Stewardship Fund, with the amount reviewed by the board annually. The objective of the Forest Stewardship Fund (FSF) is to provide for the reinvestment of LNTCFS revenues back into the Lower North Thompson Community Forest landbase as a means of supporting long term improvements to this area.

### **OPERATIONS UPDATE:**

We have now transitioned the community forest to a 'single cutting permit' covering the entire license area. This provides a significant benefit to our organization by reducing administrative burden of multiple applications and providing substantial flexibility in harvest plans. Given the shortfall of contractors and potential instability in log markets, the single cutting permit enables us to focus on good forest management and maximizing value for the timber we harvest.

Harvesting on Cutting Permit 8 Block 1 (Wikkiup Creek) commenced June 2013 and is now completed. DRB Contracting completed the logging on this block and Midwest Excavating is now preparing the site for planting through stumping and brush piling.

Road construction is currently underway in the Dixon Lake area on the 3140 Roads; these are long term roads that will provide access to future harvest blocks within the community forest. Stamer Logging is completing the work.

Our fall/winter plans are to harvest approximately 19,000 cubic meters of timber off the community forest, primarily in the Wikkiup Creek area. A large portion of the harvest operations will target the rehabilitation of lower value/volume stands impacted by past harvesting and root disease; this demonstrates our long term commitment to improving the community forest landbase and our 2013 Forest Stewardship Fund allocation is planned to facilitate a portion of these operations. Some small scale pine salvage is also planned.

### **INTERIOR SAVINGS - MILLION DOLLAR BURSARY PROGRAM**

Although not related to our organization, I thought I'd mention this program. To help support young people in our communities and their plans for furthering their education, Interior Savings has introduced a new component to its Member Rewards Program. The Million Dollar Bursary will provide up to 1,000 post-secondary bursaries, each valued at \$1,000, to high school students graduating in the Interior Region of British Columbia. Visit [www.GraduateWithAGrand.com](http://www.GraduateWithAGrand.com) for information on the program and how to apply. Together we help support young people in our communities and their plans for furthering their education.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (250) 672-1941. Hope to see you at our Annual General Meeting next Thursday!



Mike Francis, RPF