



LOWER NORTH THOMPSON COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY

SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our Spring 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!

GRANTS UPDATE

The LNTCFS received a total of twelve applications for our 2012 grants from local non-profit organizations. Based on review and discussion of applications received, the Board of Directors made the decision to allocate \$10,000 in grants as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Barriere Curling Club | \$1,000 for equipment, maintenance |
| • Yellowhead Pioneer Residence Society | \$500 for landscaping/gardening |
| • Barriere Community Quilters | \$300 for quilting materials |
| • Back Country Horsemen of BC - NT Chapter | \$1,000 for geocache / JCP partnership |
| • Little Fort Recreation Society | \$1,000 for various community events |
| • North Thompson Volunteer and Info Center | \$1,000 for cabinets |
| • Little Fort Volunteer Fire Department | \$1,200 for first responder system |
| • Barriere & District Heritage Society | \$1,000 for 'Early School House' |
| • Barriere Crimestoppers Association | \$1,000 for awareness advertising |
| • Barriere & District Food Bank | \$1,000 for trailer improvement project |
| • North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo Association | \$1,000 for Agriplex |

As well, an additional \$10,000 allocated under our 2012 grants for student awards will be distributed in the form of 5 x \$2,000 scholarships through Barriere Secondary School to support post-secondary education.

2013 JOB CREATION PROGRAM:

We are currently working to initiate our fourth Job Creation Program through the Ministry of Social Development to provide work experience for EI funded participants. Given the relatively short term of the 2012 project, the 2013 project will aim to continue trail development and maintenance work, expansion of the geo cache program, and several local partnership projects. As a sponsor, the LNTCFS contributes to these projects through in-kind donations of time, assumed accountability as a sponsor, and interim cash flow

*Promoting self determination, economic diversity, and healthy communities in
the Lower North Thompson Valley*

support. Given our shared objectives for employment creation and skills development, we feel that the Job Creation Partnerships are a good fit with our organization and welcome community feedback on suggestions for future projects.

UBC STUDENT PROJECT:

We were fortunate to have a group of 5 students from the Forestry 424 at the University of British Columbia select and use our community forest area for a Management and Business Plan project. The project included development of a Management Plan that analyzed and assessed long term sustainable harvest levels as well as a Business Plan for carbon sequestration offsets through forest fertilization.

FPINNOVATIONS PROJECT:

We were also fortunate to be selected by FPIInnovations for a project we submitted with the intent of identifying and assessing long term investment opportunities within the valley, specifically looking at underutilized species/volume within the Kamloops Timber Supply Area. The final report for this project is now complete and demonstrates significant pressures and competition for fibre on the landbase.

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM MAPPING PROJECT (TEM):

The Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) project for the community forest is now complete and provides improved inventory data that will be valuable for future timber supply projections and management of other values, such as wildlife and non-timber forest products.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Due a shortage of available contractors and unforeseen circumstances, our 2012 Fall/Winter harvesting was significantly less than planned, approximately 10% of the planned volume. Fortunately the log markets are improving and this delay in harvesting may prove beneficial as demand and prices increase. Our current plans are to commence harvesting the remainder of this planned volume in June following lifting of road restrictions.

Tree planting is scheduled to commence early May and totals 273,000 seedlings. New this year, the LNTCFS will be utilizing teabag fertilizer with our planted trees to improve establishment, reduce future brushing costs, and improve long-term growth. To date, the LNTCFS has planted 1.39 million trees reflecting a significant investment in our future!

On the administrative side, we are working to transition the community forest to a 'single cutting permit' to reduce administrative burden and improve our ability to respond to markets and forest health issues in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (250) 672-1941.

Have a great spring and look for our booth at the Rural Living Expo & Trade Show, April 27 & 28, 2013!!



Mike Francis, RPF