



## Council Report

Agenda: July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Date: July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
To: Mayor, Council & CAO  
From: **CHRISTINE RIVETT, COUNCILLOR**  
Subject: Council Report from

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### **Portfolio\Working Groups Update:**

- A. Assisted Living Society
- B. Clinton & District Community Forest
- C. Clinton Health Care Auxiliary
- D. Clinton Seniors Association
- E. Interior Health Liaison
- F. Seniors Villa Society

### **Meetings Attended:**

**June 12-14** – BC Community Forest Annual Conference – please find my report attached.

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – As stated in my last report, in lieu of the Council Meeting I attended the first Ashcroft Community Health Visioning Meeting. In attendance were First Nation Officials, First Nation Health Leads and Health Authority, Mayors and/or Councillors from Clinton, Cache Creek, Ashcroft plus representatives from TNRD, Rural & Remote Division of Family Practice, Interior Health, Patient Voices Network and WHAC. Purpose of the meeting was to connect and agree upon Collaborative Table role and vision; determine table membership and capacity; identify key priorities and challenges of each member and foster connectivity with partners. RESULTS – the committee has value, we going to continue to meet, time seemed to be an issue for some of the attendees so although they may not be able to attend future meeting they would like to be kept informed. I will be at the next mtg. scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup> where we will be focusing on the urgent matter of Ashcroft emergency room hours and closings.

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** – Clinton & District Community Forest meeting.

### **Other Activities:**



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July 1<sup>st</sup> – Canada Day Celebrations courtesy of Spirit of Clinton– a group of wonderful volunteers and myself cooked and served 19 doz hot dogs along with cake and cupcakes. The rain held off and the park was hopping. Thank you, thank you to all the volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you!

### **Comments\Observations:**

#### **Planned Activities:**

July 9<sup>th</sup> – Assistant Living Society AGM  
July 10<sup>th</sup> – Council  
July 15<sup>th</sup> – WHAC meeting  
July 16<sup>th</sup> – Ashcroft Community Health Visioning meeting  
July 16<sup>th</sup> – Community in Bloom dinner  
July 17<sup>th</sup> – Spirit of Clinton

### **Financial Implications:**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Rivett

## **B C Community Forest Assn 2019 Conference Report**

### **Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

– Conference commenced with a day-long field trip. Our first stop was the Mission Tree Farm. Their community forested was developed in 1945. Their community forest is 10,900 hectares (27 times the size of Stanley Park). 12% of the land base is municipality owned and 88% is provincial crown land. On this site, they cut 60 hectares in 6, 4 hectares blocks. The current sustainable Annual Allowable Cut is 90 hectares. The community forest presently has 2.5 million in reserve and normally maintain a reserve of 1.5 million. Their firewood piles which looked like slash piles to me were available to anyone in the community who wanted firewood.

- Next stop was a boggy pond area which the Community Forest has put wooden floating walkway throughout to encourage ecology awareness. They have agreements with a Mountain Bike Assn who have established trails in one section of the forest as well as an equestrian club who have set up corrals and campsites in a separate section of the community forest.



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- Next stop was the Stave West Forest and Recreation Area. Over a decade ago the Mission Forestry and Tree Farm were challenged with having to deal with dangerous and illegal activities in the area. They came up a plan to have a sustainability managed community forest hand-in-hand with a safe outdoor recreation area. Today they have built a shared commitment between the District of Mission, the Kwantlen First Nation and the Province of BC to work in collaboration with each other. The result has been road upgrades, improved safety and security for foresters, students and visitors. In 2018 Stave West established four new campsites which meant 200 new campsites.

- Lunch was at the Zajac Ranch. Situated in the Stave West Recreation area, this privately-owned Ranch has a primary objective to provide children and young adults with a variety of medical needs and disabilities the camp experience. It is also available for corporate retreats or a team building day. It was an amazing facility and had no problem accommodating over 200 people in the gazebo for lunch.

- Final stop for the day was a tour of a local Log Sort and High Value, Custom Cut Sawmill. Presently the mill was cutting cedar trees from an old growth forest. The lumber was headed to Japan. Absolutely beautiful high-end wood. One beam was priced at \$7,000.

- Evening was a welcome/meet and greet reception.

### **Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> – day filled with keynote speakers.**

- **Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director** addressed the need to find ways to advance reconciliation with indigenous people, to become more responsive to climate change and create healthy and resilient forest and communities. She suggested planting fire resistant plants/tree to act as a buffer for the forest and leave snags which encourage wildlife habitat. Snags can also be a soil refresher, mosses, lichens and fungi all grow on snags and aid in the return of vital nutrients to soil through the nitrogen cycle. Decaying logs on the forest floor also act as 'nurse logs' for new seedlings.

- **Bob Gray, Association for Fire Ecology, Certified Wildland Fire Ecologist.** He spoke on climate change and how it is affecting our forests. We are getting longer, drier, hotter summers that do not cool down at night resulting in energy being stored in the atmosphere which result in violent thunderstorms and destructive winds. He then addressed the issue that forest fires can have their own weather systems. This talk reminded me of the video 'Era of the Mega Fires' and most of his suggestions can be found in that video.

- **Garnet Mireau, RPF, Forsite and Logan Lake Community Forest Mgmt. Team.** Forest fires are a concern for everyone. They hire local youth to prune,



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pile, burn a buffer zone around their community. Their goal is to have a healthy forest so thinning and removal of diseased trees is essential.

- **Jessica Duncan, FIT, Prevention Specialist, BC Wildfire Service.** Her talk was on FireSmart. She covered the seven disciplines that make up the program being Education, Planning, Vegetation Mgmt, Legislation Development, Inter-agency Co-Operation and Cross Training. This was a review for me as I attended the FireSmart presentation in Clinton. You can refer to the FireSmart website for all this information.

- **Cedar Elliot and Margaret Symon, Khowutzun Forest Services** – Their community forest employees and their fire-fighting crews are mainly comprised of their own 1<sup>st</sup> nations people. The community was having problems with their youth getting involved with drugs, alcohol, criminal activity, etc. The Khowutzun Forest Services started employing these young people teaching them forest husbandry. As a result, many of these young people turned their lives around and joined the forest services and fire-fighting crews. Having these jobs available for their people has made a huge, positive impact on their community. In addition, having their forests maintained has made it safer for the community.

- **Ron Jacobson, Business Development Mgr, NATS Nursery Ltd.** - This nursery specializes in the preservation of native species of plants and shrubs. Before an area is disrupted by logging, pipelines, fire, etc. these folks have been out collecting seeds from these area across the province. They have a team with the sole purpose is to collect seeds. Each bag of seed is marked with the exact location of the parent plant using latitude and longitude. So, when the land is returned to its original state, the plants can be returned to the exact location the seeds were harvested from. He went into detail of how science has played a part in the germination of seeds. For example, some plants/seeds are ingested by bears, their digestive enzymes begin the germination process so when their scat is left on the forest floor, it will grow. It took them years to reproduce this in a lab setting.

- **Andrea Lyall, RPF, Doctoral Candidate, UBC Faculty; Garry Merkel, RPF, co-chair, Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council and co-chair First Nations Council of Advisors; Hugh Flinton, RPF Mgr. Wms Lake Community Forest and Tom Alphonse T'exelcenc (Wms. Lake Indian Band)** – These folks spoke on reconciliation as it relates to the collaborative management of our forest with First Nations. The First Nations were heavily represented at this conference. Most were proactive and concerned about the forest while working with the community forest in their areas. Hugh Flinton noted that Tom Alphonse was a very valuable member of their team; a mentor to Hugh, and responsible for a lot of their Community Forest's success.



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- The next set of speakers were addressing Provincial Policy Updates. Unfortunately, my knowledge in this area is limited and in hindsight it would have been nice to have a hand recorder so I could review the presentation at my own pace.

- **Jeff McWilliams, BA Blackwell and Associates** – The Province of BC has initiated engagement processes and action on numerous aspects of forest policy over the past two years. With 94 per cent of the land and forest resources in BC under tenure arrangements, the province is challenged to meet new demands. Innovation and initiative are required to respond to a changing climate and wildfires, global economics, First Nations rights and reconciliation, mid-term timber supply and the needs of forest communities.

- **Diane Nicholls, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Forest Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource and Rural Development** – Diane spoke to the process to improve the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) initiated by the Province. The improvement initiative began with initial enabling changes in Spring 2019 and is moving into comprehensive changes to the Act and regulations that are being developed in the participation of First Nations, local government, stakeholders, industry and professional associations over the next few years. There are two phases to this process – Phase 1. Bill 21 and Phase 2. Forest and Range Practices Act Improvement initiatives (this act is 217 pages in length and can also be found online should you choose to read it).

- Bill 21 is online for anyone who wishes to read it but here are examples of the amendments:

1 Section 1 (1) of the Forest and Range Practices Act, S.B.C. 2002, c. 69, is amended

(a) by adding the following definition:

"**ecological community**" means a group of different species occupying a particular area; ,

(b) in the definition of "operational plan" by striking out "woodlot licence plan, range use plan or range stewardship plan" and substituting "woodlot licence plan or range use plan",

(c) in paragraph (c) of the definition of "range development" by striking out "or a range stewardship plan", and

(d) by repealing paragraph (d) of the definition of "range development" and substituting the following:

(d) an enhancement to forage quality or quantity that results from a prescribed activity; .

### Explanatory Note

SECTION 2: [Forest and Range Practices Act, section 1] amends the definition of "wildlife".

2 Section 1 (1) is amended by repealing paragraph (a) of the definition of "wildlife" and substituting the following:

(a) vertebrates, other than fish, that are wildlife within the meaning of the *Wildlife Act*, .

### Explanatory Note



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### SECTION 3: [Forest and Range Practices Act, section 6]

- provides that a forest stewardship plan ceases to apply to an area that is subject to a replacement forest stewardship plan;
- is consequential to amendments made by this Bill to the Act.

3 Section 6 is amended

(a) by repealing subsection (2) and substituting the following:

(2) Despite subsection (1), when the term of a replacement forest stewardship plan begins, the forest stewardship plan that is being replaced ceases to apply to the area that is subject to the replacement forest stewardship plan. , and

(b) by repealing subsection (3).

- The afternoon was broken up into Mangers' Meeting which Steve Law attended and Board of Directors' Governance Session which I attended.

- **Gord Borgstrom, BC Rural Centre (which was previous called Beetle Kill Coalition)** – this centre assists in creating community investment cooperatives. If someone in your community is interested in developing coop business these are the folks to contact. They have expertise to offer specialized programs and services on a fee-for-service basis.

- **Jordan Fellner, CIP, CRM, CAIB, Account Manager, HUB International Insurance Brokers** – spoke on the importance of having Directors insurance and were basically available to sign you up if you interested in their agency.

### Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> – AGM

#### My Notes and Observation

- Mission was quite proud that they have trails throughout the community forest and that they are utilized by mountain bikers, AVT's, dirt bikes, hiking and horseback riders. It was as if this was rare and unique concept. Given Clinton's size I felt quite proud that we established a trail within the village, multiple trails through crown/community forest areas and with the assistance of the Clinton & District Outdoor Sportsmen Assn we have corrals, outhouses and benches on various sections of the village trail.

- FireSmart had a booth and did a presentation. Clinton did a FireSmart presentation a few years ago in the Community Hall where folks could sign on to have their properties assessed, free of charge, for potential fire hazards. From the literature that was going out the door, I came to the conclusion some communities had not introduced the FireSmart program to their residents. Another 'check' for Clinton.

- I spoke with Albert Jerome from Burns Lake. He sits on a committee dedicated to the research of Nanocrystalline Cellulose (NCC), cellulose in crystalline form is extracted from woody biomass and processed into a solid flake, liquid and gel



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form. NCC increases the strength and stiffness of materials it added to. Just a small amount can increase resistance to stress threefold, making it attractive as a high-performance reinforcing material in the manufacturing of improved construction material. According to Albert, a piece of NCC that is thinner than a piece of paper and put between two pieces of kevlar can stop a bullet to point that it never reaches the 2<sup>nd</sup> layer of kevlar. Very interest man to speak with.

- There was gentleman who spoke up during the AGM stating that his company which will be made public soon has developed a process that takes slash piles and turns the wood into diesel fuel. I didn't see any pamphlets or business cards but I'm sure it will hit the news at some point. I'm assuming he would buy up slash type piles of wood from community forest which could give the community forest another source of revenue.

- Everyone was happy to share how their Community Forest revenues have funded a significant number of community amenities. However, something I found interesting was that several Community Forests never asked for receipts or reports on what the money was used for. Policies are changing as some of the supposed projects these community groups proposed never materialized.

- Clearing buffer zones around community was heavily addressed. Again, this is something Clinton with the assistance of fire department has been doing for several years now.

- On our field trip I sat with Ainslie Jackman from the Valemount Community Forest. Their community forest purchased the property their mill sat on after its closure. They are getting serious about establishing their own mill even if it starts out doing specialty cuts. At present the land is sublet to various businesses. One is a fellow who has sea-containers and grows specialize mushroom for the restaurants in Vancouver. He apparently makes a handsome income from this venture. Another business was created when a resident started a wood flooring business. He purchases hemlock (which I learned it's the weed of the forest; no one wants it) from the community forest and mills it himself and is using it as flooring. It has a lovely grain, cheap compared to other wood flooring materials and most importantly has provided this gentleman with a good income. The hemlock must be removed so the community forest can not only recover the cost of removal, they can make a profit on this unwanted tree.

- From just talk with people the idea of community forests owning property was not a new concept. Didn't count but many either owned land or owned forested land.

- One issue the Mission community forest pointed out when they spoke about their reserve was the issue of new council members not understanding the costs associated with running a Community Forest. They would basically start attaching



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projects to the reserve money before taking the time to understand how the community forest operates. I spoke with two people from the Lower North Thompson Community Forest (Barriere) which is not connected to a municipality and although very polite, they were quite frank about having no use for Municipal Councils. Surprisingly, this was a common theme.

- There were students there from UBC and surprising to me anyway, 90% of them were female.

- All in all, the conference had a very relaxing atmosphere. Everyone was very sociable and welcoming.

Christine Rivett