

Ken Hornibrook, president of the North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board

The North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board agrees in principal with growing more wood on crown land (public land) with proper harvesting procedures, following the select cut system. This being only mature trees removed and spot planting done if necessary.

We believe that an equal effort should be put into private land. It would make no sense to put a huge effort (silviculture) into crown land and forget about 1/3 of New Brunswick, which is private land. We believe that even in protected areas, blow-downs and mature trees should be harvested so that no wood anywhere is wasted. This, in the end, would lead to a very healthy mixed forest, which should satisfy everybody, even the environmentalists.

The North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board executive went to Fredericton to speak with the appropriate authorities - even the minister of Natural Resources - on November 15, 1995.

At that time, it was clearly explained that we, in the North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board area, were in a clear over-cut position. We emphasized at that time, and with every DNR Minister since, over the past eight years that this over-cut situation must stop, as it will eventually lead to no wood available for our mills. We believed at that time, and have emphasized ever since, that all wood from private woodlots go through the local marketing board. This would assure proper planning and education before wood is sent to market.

Our board has always advocated for Primary Source of Supply. This means that, before a company cuts wood on Crown land (public land) each year, it must first negotiate in good faith an arrangement with private woodlots in New Brunswick. Our Premier has promised this during last June 2003 election. Now our hope is that this will be implemented as soon as possible.

The present situation has been caused by a free-for-all in marketing wood, so that industry would get wood at a cheaper price. By not giving marketing boards the capability to negotiate realistically, this has enhanced the over-cut to the point where we are approaching a crisis in wood supply for our mills.

The North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board has been advocating that, as a minimum requirement, our government accord us the power to license **all** contractors on private woodland so that the free-for-all, cut-it-all attitude of the past be stopped and we move more prudently toward the managed woodlot. We could eventually fulfill the hopes of the Jaakko-Pöyry report of doubling our capacity to produce wood on private woodland as well as on Crown land. We have purchased the tree nursery at Madran; therefore we will have the capacity to produce much more wood. However, it is most difficult when contractors turn up at woodlots with a fist full of cash, at which time the environment and good forest management takes a back seat. We believe that the managed woodlot is the wisest investment for all concerned. We have always respected the fact that the private woodlot owner is *King*, and we exist to serve that *king*. When the wood does not go through the board, we do not get a chance to educate our woodlot owners before they accept any offer, or cash offered, by a few overzealous contractors.

A few very responsible industries, like UPM Kymmene, for example, have always purchased all their private property wood through the marketing boards. In addition, they have put forward a

\$12/cord bonus for wood coming to market from managed woodlots where the canopies are not removed. This company should be praised for these positive initiatives. However, this is not the case for other industries. Some only want to see a drive toward greater profits instead of enhancing the managed woodlot and turning our woodland into a real garden, where a maximum amount of wood can be grown.

To accomplish this objective, a minimum requirement would be for boards to license all contractors in their board area. Without this license, a contractor could not cut wood in a particular board area. Boards would encourage individual landowners to use their part of the regional Annual Allowable Cut (growth rate). Then, the remaining part of the AAC could be divided among contractors who would apply annually at the board office for that portion of the AAC, which individual landowners did not want, that particular year. Each individual landowner could hire the contractor of their choice to cut wood on their property. However, it is now late in the day, because a great volume of wood reserves has been cut in the free-for-all of the past 10 years.

However, it is impossible to build a positive future unless the marketing boards are given this power, or authority. Some may say that boards already have that authority. However, we do not see it this way. We presently have one company, which refuses to turn over the check-off fees, which we need to accomplish our silviculture objectives. The minister was supposed to put pressure by removing access to Crown land. However, this did not happen. Instead, he told us to go to court. Therefore, relying on the old checks and balances to keep a responsible system in place just does not work. We need a bill before the Legislature that would “license contractors by boards - where the board request such power.” This would be a minimum step toward primary source of supply.

Our board has done all in its power to build a positive future within the authority we presently believe we have. We have purchased the tree nursery at Madran and, up to this point; 10 million little trees have been planted in New Brunswick. We hope to be able to have six (6) million trees per year available for planting starting next year.

This has created 30 jobs in a very hard-pressed economy, and it is building our future. We would like to compliment both the provincial and federal governments, as well as UPM Kymmene, for their assistance and patronage in realizing the success we have enjoyed with this project. We would like to further point out that this project has a tremendous educational value in our region, as people - especially school children - visit our nursery, enhancing the knowledge and value of a tree and, consequently, a forest.

We have an excellent group of directors who are very interested in the future of New Brunswick and the need to produce more wood. Now, if you legislators will give us the tools (licensing contractors), we will continue to educate, to encourage and - most of all to serve the people in our board area.

Please remember that these directors are each elected to a three-year term at a public meeting. Should any tools or authority you accord our board be abused in the future, the people we serve will have the last say by electing others to correct any illness that may come into our system.

We support a change to the present provincial system that takes away all assets and income from senior citizens who must go to hospital or nursing home for an extended period of time. We believe that assets like the family homestead, the family farm, or the family woodlot should be exempt from this liquidation process. We believe it would be fair to consider income of such seniors to support their stay in hospital or nursing homes, but not their assets.

This present policy causes liquidation of woodlots and an improper forest management of such land, as people try to avoid the heavy hand of government as they impose great hardship on certain elderly or sick people. We believe that our seniors deserve better treatment than being forced to spend their last days in poverty. We say it would be proper to assess all income, but not touch the assets. This way woodlots would not be ravaged, but remain productive.

May we wish you success in you deliberations on these ideas, which have been brought forward after much deliberation in our board area. We hope that you can see the wisdom in helping us build a positive future by doubling our wood capacity through these requested initiatives.

In summarizing, two important items stand before all others: It is vital to the future of the forest industry that we immediately double the amount of money spent on silviculture for private woodland. We must never be forced to choose between planting and thinning something, which we may have to do if budgets remain at the present level. And secondly, we must obtain the power to license contractors in our board area. In brief, we need to double existing silviculture funds for our board area, and secure primary source of supply.

There are many issues related to private woodlots that need careful attention. We herewith invite any member of the Legislature who is interested in visiting our tree nursery and office to do so, so that you may more fully understand our concerns as we endeavor to enhance our forests and make New Brunswick the best place to live in Canada.