THE LOG JAM

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Our Mission Statement :

"The Woodlot Association of Alberta's purpose is to promote leadership in sustainable forest management by encouraging the development of private forest by increasing awareness of their inherent social, economic and environmental values."

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Presidents Message

Pete Mills

Hello everyone;
Welcome to another issue of your LOGJAM! I hope everyone has had both a relaxing and productive summer - maybe a chance to get away with the family. In my case here it is in August and I'm just getting ready for my son's wedding (that's 2 out of 3).

The big event coming up, of course, is our Annual General Meeting to be held on the 2nd & 3rd of this November. After the success of last year we are looking at hosting this at the same venue again this year - The Hinton Training Center. This is a provincial facility which is used for training of provincial personnel from firefighters to foresters and senior SRD people. It has training facilities in the form of classrooms and meeting rooms as well as accommodation and meals! Last years not only were the facilities pretty top notch but I thought the meals were great and everything was extremely reasonably priced. Obviously we are still working on the details of the agenda but you will find an early and somewhat tentative version here in the LOGJAM so please mark the dates and I'll look forward to seeing everyone there. One point I should bring up is that we have to give the folks at the training center a reasonably accurate idea of how many will be staying on site and how many meals they will require. This is mostly because it's getting into their off season and a weekend so they have to ensure staff such as cooks. If you think you might be attending then I'd like to request that you contact the office or one of the directors and just give us a heads up so we can start putting numbers together.

Once again, should there be articles that you would like to see or better still that you would like to write please don't hesitate to contact any of your directors or our editor, Jurgen Moll directly. In the meantime if there is anything that either I or any of the other directors can help you with please don't hesitate to contact us or the WAA office.

Reminder - Membership Renewals *due* November 1/12

For members who's membership expires in 2012 it will expire on
October 31, 2012
If you do not recall when your membership expires, call the WAA office at - **1-800-871-5680** - and ask Kim for your expiry date.

(Send your membership dues to the WAA office - Thanks)

Brazil's Forest Code - *Changed* -

Brazil's President, Dilma Rousseff, sent shock waves through that country's forest industry this week by vetoing parts of a bill proposing changes to Brazil's Forest Code, which governs how much forest landowners are required to preserve. Environmental groups, for their part, criticized the President's office for not going far enough. They demanded a veto of the entire bill.

The Forest Code in Brazil applies to all privately owned rural land, not just plots in wooded areas. The updated code, originally approved in 1965, would reduce both the amount of vegetation landowners must preserve and the future penalties paid for those who currently flout environmental laws. After valuable wood is sold, much of the land in deforested areas currently ends up being cleared for grazing cattle and agriculture.

Since harsher penalties and enforcement were introduced in the late 1990s the ruralistas, as Brazil's powerful farming lobby is known, have been trying to revise the code. On April 25th, after 13 years of arguments, rewrites and stalling, the final text landed on the desk of the President. On May 25th, Ministers went to Congress to say that the president would veto 12 of the new code's 84 articles and make 32 smaller cuts.

Rousseff vetoes include the controversial and unpopular rule that allowed amnesty to illegal deforestation before 2008. Rousseff did modify that rule to lessen the conservation requirements for small farmers in her Executive Order on Monday. Reduction of forest cover on land, which decreased from 80 per cent to 50 per cent under the new code, was vetoed, as well as clearing forests in parks and protected areas. With the exception of some small holders representing about a quarter of rural properties, landowners will be required to restore deforested areas up to levels specified by the law, including along waterways. Rousseff extended the protected area to 100 metres for large rivers on properties owned by large producers, with more limited protected areas along smaller rivers and for smaller properties. Failure to meet Forest Code obligations will result in fines and loss of access to subsidized agricultural loans.

The code is trying to do several things at the same time, according to *The Economist*, both to regulate land use and to halt deforestation in the Amazon all the while freeing farmers elsewhere to carry out their business. The original Forest Code was pioneering in some ways, in requiring farmers to set aside part of their land for natural vegetation. This may look odd to foreign eyes accustomed to governments holding pristine land as national parks and letting private owners do as they wish.

Critics claim that by merely signing up to a leisurely process of making good, any landowners who had violated the code before July 2008 would be regarded as in compliance.

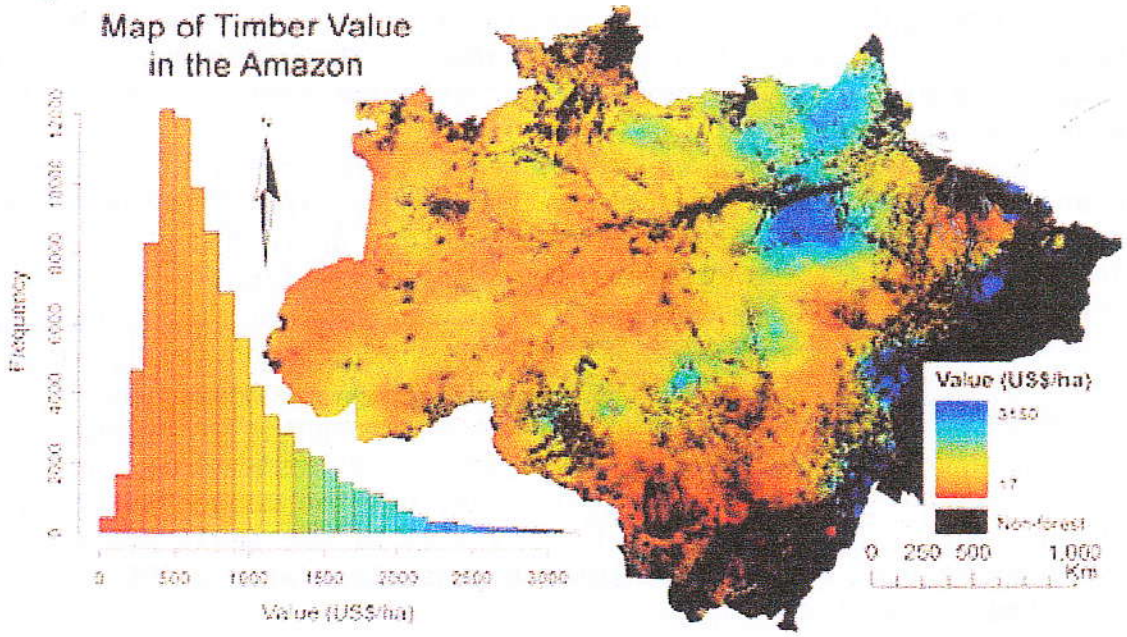
Although Rousseff enjoys widespread support among Brazilians, her party controls only 15 per cent of the seats in a Congress divided between more than 20 parties. Rousseff often has difficulty corralling a coalition to support her positions and may not have been able to hold back revisions to the forestry law any more than she did, analysts say, according to the *LA Times*.

The destruction of Brazil's Amazon rainforest had slowed in the last decade under tougher government enforcement, but at the same time the country has lived through an economic boom fueled largely by

selling commodities. The producers of products that rely on cleared land, such as soybeans and beef, have increased the country's monetary wealth and become politically more powerful.

The new legislation also codifies the establishment of a land registry that requires ranchers and farmers to report the boundaries of their holdings to the government, which will enter the coordinates into the national deforestation tracking system. The government will then use satellite imagery on an ongoing basis to determine whether landowners are in compliance with the forest reserve requirement.

Meanwhile, UK Researchers exploring the value of different types of timber across the Amazon rainforest have produced a fascinating choropleth map to illustrate their findings. Building on a previous study which found a high correlation between deforestation and road networks, with almost all logging taking place within 25 km of roads, a team from Imperial College London say their map of timber prices could be used to model regional vulnerability to deforestation across the Amazon rainforest, according to *The Guardian* last week.



"The spatial patterns of deforestation are determined largely by the patterns of roads that open access to frontier areas [. . .] largely determined by profit seeking logging activities. Here we present predictions for the spatial distribution of standing value of timber across the Amazon. We show that the patterns of timber value reflect large-scale ecological gradients, determining the spatial distribution of functional traits of trees which are, in turn, correlated with timber values," explains the abstract to '*Spatial Pattern of Standing Timber Value across the Brazilian Amazon*' published on May 8 by Sadia Ahmed and Robert Ewers.

The research document can be found here: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3348144/

Make no absolute promises, for nobody will help you preform them.

Letters to the Editor

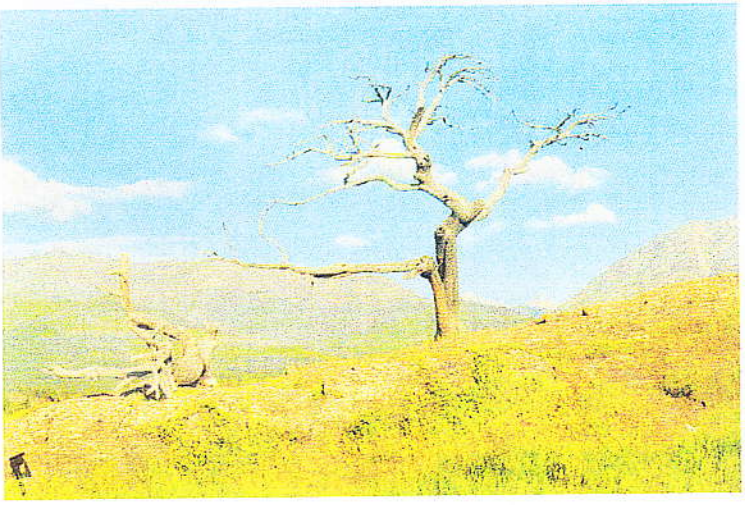
Dear Editor,
On July 15, 2012, I attended the AWA seminar on woodlot management planning which was facilitated by Jurgen Moll on his woodlot near Whitecourt. Several reasons motivated me to attend. Our weekend was free, the traveling distance from our home in Elmworth was about 5 hours and Chris and I made it into a camping trip.
We bought our homestead quarter in 1977 and added another half section of bush in the late 1980's. Sometime in the 90's we joined the WAA, and started calling our land a woodlot instead of a farm or a homestead. I realized then that our woodlot should be managed which requires a plan. Being a better procrastinator than a planner, I have never got that going.
At the seminar, we sat down and looked at a hard copy of a management plan. I should have taken notes or made an outline. Is there anywhere to find that kind of woodlot planning online or in a book?
This was followed by a presentation about traditional scaling methods from foresters where we learned how to use the tools and tables to measure timber volumes. This was all interesting and fairly straight forward, but I am not sure if it will be required when I quit procrastinating and get my own woodlot management plan going.
Next we were introduced to the 21st century mapping tool, the GPS. The GPS is a great tool for modern forestry, but the consensus among the seminar participants was that for the size of our small scale woodlot purposes we'd be better off hiring a consultant with a GPS for a day than learn that technology.
After the presentation we toured Jurgen's woodlot and practiced using the scaling tools. It was relevant to see how and ask why he did certain things. We also learned to identify some tree species, pest damage, flowers, mushrooms and berries. We had a great afternoon and made new friends with people of similar interests. The wind-up social hour and barbecue alone was worth the cost of the seminar.
Back at our campground in Whitecourt, Chris and I learned the biggest lesson of the weekend. Even if the weather is gorgeous...you should always stake your tent and fly sheet down as good as you can. After a midnight thunderstorm and deluge of rain, we woke up and were soaked by a pool of water that let loose on the dome of our tent!
Thanks to all involved in the planning and presenting of this woodlot management seminar. I found it very helpful. Now, I need to quit procrastinating and start planning. I believe that I have a very valuable woodlot that can be perpetuated by the next generation.

Larry Nofziger
Elmworth, AB

Whitebark and Limber pine recovery planning in Alberta

Whitebark and limber pine are iconic high elevation five-needle stone pines familiar to most hikers in the mountains of Alberta. These remarkable trees can live up to 1000 years and are often found on rocky outcrops exposed to the harshest conditions. Whitebark and limber pine share similar biology and a mutualistic relationship with Clark's nutcracker for seed dispersal, although whitebark pine is almost solely dependent on the bird. Both species occur in diverse community types and are considered to perform important ecological functions: the large seeds are an important food source for wildlife; they are pioneer species after disturbances; they help to stabilize soils in the harsh environment where they often occur. The most famous five-needle pine in Alberta is the Burmis Tree in the Crowsnest Pass (Photo below).

Whitebark and limber pine are both under threat from bugs and disease across much of their North American range. Most notably, the introduced white pine blister rust is responsible for high rates of mortality and in areas like Waterton Lakes National Park, and cone producing trees are becoming rare. Mountain pine beetle is devastating whitebark pine in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem because the warming climate is promoting a one year life cycle and low mortality at higher elevations. Mountain pine beetles are currently not a large threat in whitebark and limber pine habitat in Alberta but both species suffered high mortality during the last outbreak in the 1980s and the future is uncertain. The exclusion of fire disturbance and a warming climate are additional factors that interact with rust and beetles, but the impact of each factor individually is difficult to know and will vary by location. Despite a relatively large population of both species in the province, whitebark and limber pine were listed as *Endangered* in Alberta in 2009 due to the rapid decline and severe threat level. Federally, whitebark pine has been recommended for *Endangered* listing with a decision expected this summer. Limber pine may follow in the next few years.



The Burmis Tree, a limber pine, in the Crowsnest Pass. Allegedly the most photographed tree in Alberta.

The provincial *Endangered* listing of both species triggered the development of recovery plans. Recovery plans are prepared under the supervision of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's Fish and Wildlife Division. In the case of whitebark and limber pine the Forestry Division is co-leading recovery. Other agencies and groups represented on the recovery team include Alberta Parks, Parks Canada, the Canadian Forest Service, the Alberta Native Plants Council and the Albert Forest Products Association.

Plans are expected to be completed this year with the goal of keeping self-sustaining populations on the landscape. One of the keys to successful survival of both species is to identify trees that exhibit resistance to rust infection. Seeds can be collected from trees and screened for resistance, bred, propagated and planted. Other recovery objectives include reducing direct mortality when possible, enhancing natural regeneration and address habitat needs both in the context of climate change and also at the scale of regeneration sites. There are numerous conservation and recovery efforts already under way in Alberta plus some exciting research. The stakes are high and the challenge large for the management of both whitebark and limber pine.

For more information: www.whitebarkfound.org and www.whitebarkpine.ca

Photo right: Whitebark pine on the top of Table Mountain above Beaver Mines Lake in the Castle River area.

Photo below: Lone limber pine farther west than expected above the confluence of North and South Racehorse Creeks north of the Crowsnest Pass.

Brad Jones—Southern Rockies

Editorial

Jurgen Moll

Well the olympics, numerous festivals, heritage days, stampedes, and holiday trips, are over for an other year and hockey season is soon to start. These are sure signs that fall is here the prelude to winter, for all those who reside in cities.

But for us the woodlot owners we don't need these reminders, we've already felt fall in the air. As fall has that particular tang in the air about it, that one can instantly notice with every breath on a cool clear day. For gone are the over bearing days of heat and humidity that we experienced this July and part of August.

It just energizes one and makes one want to spend more time in the woodlot . This is the time to do those things you may have wanted to do in the woodlot but never got around to do them. These could include many different things, and will vary from woodlot to woodlot all depending on the plan you have for it. These could include everything from, harvesting some mature timber, checking and improving trails for cross country skiing, do some stand improvement by thinning or maybe just hiking in the woodlot taking in the wonderful colors, taking some photos and watching the wildlife prepare for winter.

We all use our woodlots for our own needs, but this is a great time to spend time in it, so don't miss this wonderful season, for it is all to short, but most enjoyable.

Have a great time in your woodlot this fall and winter.

Early Hominid First Walked On Two Legs in The Woods

Some 4.4 million years ago *Ardpithecus ramidus* lived in the Afar Rift region in Ethiopia, who walked on two legs. There sandwiched between two layers of volcanic ash were found its bones whom the scientists believe to be an early ancestor of the human linage. At that time the Afar Rift was half open grassland and half forested, the bones of 36 individuals all where found in the forested portion and non in the grassland portion. They have proved this through studying its teeth in which is found isotopes, carbon 12 and 13 which are different when feeding on forest plants as to grassland plants.

(this makes sense to me as I think it would be much easier to walk on all 4's in grassland where the food is all on the ground as compared to crawling through a forest where the food is high upon bushes)

Nova Scotia to Invest One Million Dollars
In Woodlot Road Access

The province is putting more money into encouraging woodlot owners to harvest their lands.

The latest announcement sets aside $1 million in assistance to improve road access to woodlots.

Eligible landowners can apply for funding to build roads or maintain and upgrade substandard ones on their woodland, the Natural Resources Department said in a news release Thursday.

Landowners must have landholdings of at least 20 hectares and no more than 20,000 hectares.

They also must "own, occupy or have lease control of the woodlot," the release said.

They also must be planning to engage in forest management over the next five years and cannot be a producer of softwood lumber or other wood products covered under the Canada-United States softwood lumber agreement of 2006.

The $1-million program is on top of a $1.5-million silviculture assistance package announced last month.

The push to get more production out of private woodlots comes out of the province's natural resources strategy released in August.

About 10,000 of the province's roughly 30,000 woodlot owners are not involved in the forestry market at all. The decline in activity has been blamed on falling pulpwood prices and less awareness by landowners of how to manage their timber stands.

"Woodlot owners want to improve access to their woodlands in order to manage, harvest and protect them," Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker said in the release.

"This initiative advances the province's natural resources strategy by engaging and helping small, private landowners to improve the management of their forested lands."

The Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association welcomed the access assistance cash.

"This new fund will be a significant benefit to the forest industry, and woodlot owners in particular," Kari Easthouse, an association program forester, said in the release. "Road infrastructure is often essential to proper forest management of woodlots. This strategic investment will allow improvements on private woodlots."

Willow and Poplar Biomass Plantation Production Results

Richard Krygier

The short rotation willow and poplar biomass research plantation located at Whitecourt, Alberta, continues to provide data and demonstration opportunities and to inspire thinking on a new way of treating municipal sewage wastewater while producing woody biomass feed stocks.

The Whitecourt short rotation intensive culture (SRIC) willow and poplar plantation was established by Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Wood Fibre Centre (CWFC) in the summer of 2006 with the support of the Town of Whitecourt, Alberta Environment, Geoflow Inc. and the Canadian Biomass Innovation Network. The objective of the project was to determine the effects of irrigation with treated municipal sewage wastewater on biomass production and on the environment.

Five willow and two poplar varieties were planted at approximately 18,000 stems per hectare using the European planting pattern -- a bed of 2 rows 75 cm apart and 60 cm between cuttings within the row. The beds are 150 cm apart. Half the site is subsurface irrigated with treated municipal sewage wastewater from the Whitecourt treatment plant.

The site was harvested by hand in the winter of 2008-09 and using three different mechanical harvesters in the winter of 2011-12. FPInnovations supported and monitored the latest harvest and will be producing a report on the performance of the harvesting equipment. Over the past four years, management, operation and monitoring of the site have been supported by Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions and the CWFC.

The performance of the willow and poplar clones with and without irrigation has been variable. Willow clones SV1, SX61 and SX64 grow very well on the site. The 6-8 OdMT/ha/yr (oven dry metric tonnes per hectare per year) yields of these clones with irrigation is 30% higher than without irrigation. These three clones have on occasion experienced winter damage, with the current year's shoots dying back to the snow line; however, the standing biomass of the dead stems is still available for harvesting. The researchers think the damage is more a function of the shutdown of the plants during the fall rather than the extremes of cold temperatures encountered during the midst of winter.

The willow clones Charlie and Pseudo are not performing well on this site either with or without irrigation, or on other sites in the prairies, and are not recommended for biomass production.

The poplar clone Brooks 1 is performing very well on the site, albeit it mainly retains its tree form with only a handful (<5) of stems per stool. Yields are in the same range as for the willows. The Green Giant clone has not performed well at Whitecourt but has performed well in other SRIC plantations across the prairies. It is not certain how well the poplars will perform after multiple harvests as compared to the willows.

The CWFC, with funding from Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions, has established similar sites in Beaverlodge (high density willow plantations for biomass) and Clairmont, (afforestation with poplar for log production) Alberta, with the assistance and support of multiple regional collaborators. Both sites use Geoflow subsurface drip irrigation lines.

A high density willow for biomass site using a point source surface flood irrigation technology developed by Laqua Treatment AB of Sweden is being installed in the summer of 2012 at Ohaton, Alberta, with the collaboration of Camrose County.

A decision support tool being developed by the CWFC indicates that treatment of wastewater by irrigation of SRIC plantations using either surface of subsurface irrigation costs 30-40% of that required to treat the water using traditional wastewater treatment technologies (e.g. aerated lagoons). Plantation establishment costs range between $5-10,000 per hectare (including cuttings) depending on the size of the plantation and the contractor doing the establishment.

Monitoring of the sites by the CWFC will continue to at least after the second harvest and ideally longer in order to determine the long-term effects of wastewater application to SRIC willow and poplar crops, and the environment. Collaborators in the project will manage the sites for long-term fibre production and wastewater treatment.

Richard Krygier at the Willowand Poplar Biomass Plantation, Whitecourt

(Credits to - NR Can, Canadian Forest Service)

The War on Paper

There is a highly effective wood promotion group across Canada, but it is hitting only half of the need. Not only are people against cutting trees, the extension has been made to stop the use of paper. The nation needs more confidence in wonderful paper use.

Examples are Canada Post promoting electronic mail, Sudbury's Cambrian College in Sudbury Ontario removing paper towels from washrooms and taking the door off the washrooms because there is no towel with which to open the door handle, nearly every government email in the nation imploring people to not print their messages, nasty looks when people use a photocopier at all, and countless other impediments to the most efficient and most cost effective medium and healthy option that the country and humanity has accomplished -PAPER.

Consider the cost that Cambrian College, for example, faced when they declared their new 'reduce paper campaign' by removing paper towels from the washrooms and installing hand dryers. One of the strongest of many faculty complaints was there was no paper towel to use to turn the handle to get out of the washroom. (and then toss it in the bin from the door location) Washroom doors were removed! An expensive process to save a few paper towels.

People hate hand dryers. You have to first figure out how to turn the dryer on, then stand until the little blower dries your hands. You used to grab a paper towel, dry your hands as you approached the door, turn the handle if you like, and throw the towel in the bin. Job done! The result of no towels and with hand blower options, is that people no longer wash their hands entirely. They dribble a little water over their fingers and flick the water off. Who is going to stand there for this absurdly slow process when there was a better and quick clean before? The result is an increase in the greatest threat to human health; poor hand washing.

Companies everywhere, particularly banks, are declaring themselves "green' when they go electronic. Of course this is deferring the printing to the customer so there is little real reduction, but banks are promoting the illusion that they are saving trees.

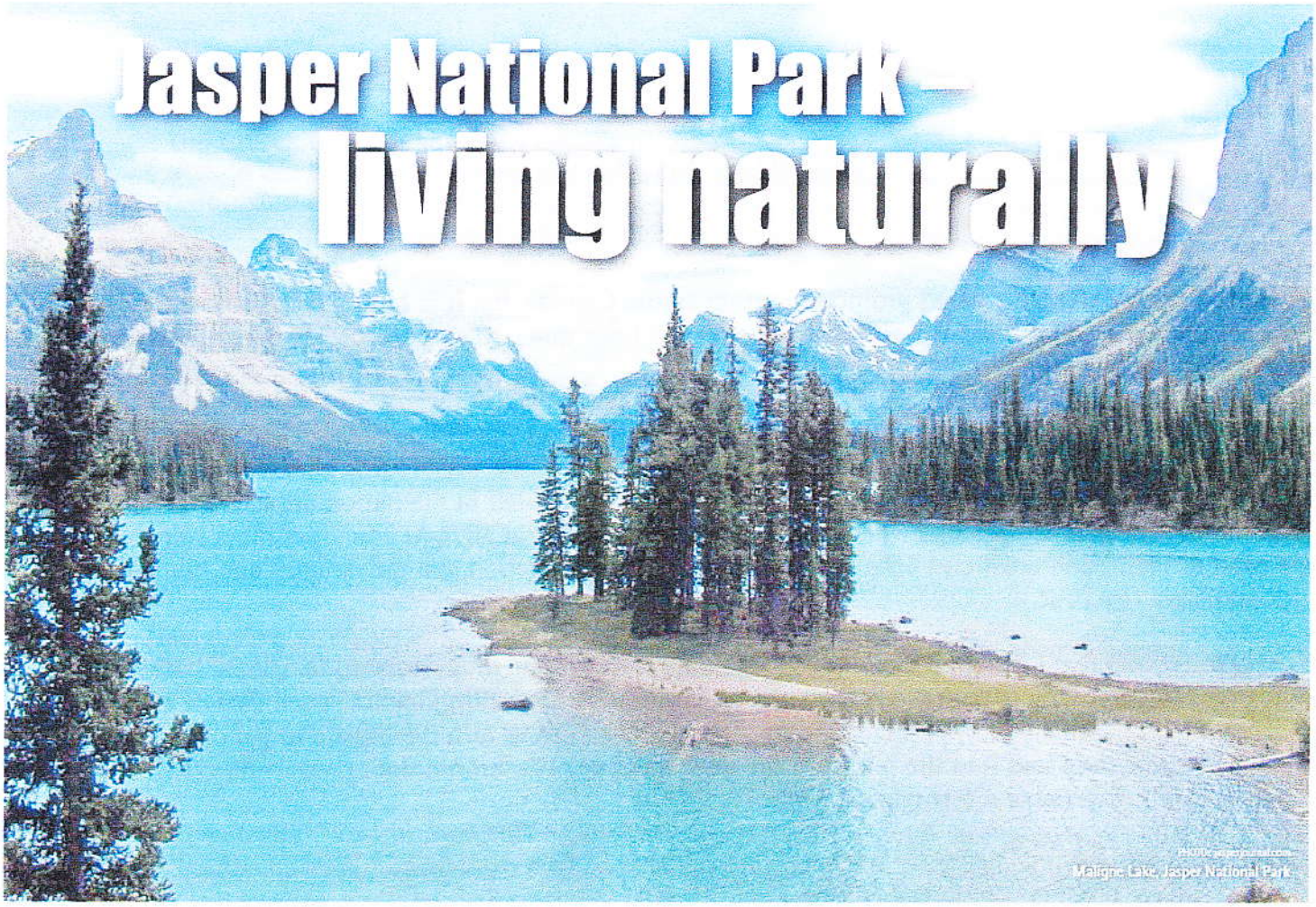
A huge anti-paper condition is seizing the nation. Its all wrong.

The solution is another campaign by the paper companies, and probably the photocopies companies, to show the real value and the renewable resource of paper.

Kill the creeping guilt of paper use.

Love thy neighbor, yet pull not down thy hedge.

Jasper National Park – living naturally



ARTICLE COURTESY
http://jasper-alberta.com

JASPER IS a small town in a national park. Landscaping choices should reflect the natural surroundings. Residents are encouraged to choose plants and trees from the Approved Planting List. This list contains plant species that are both native to Jasper National Park and non-native. These recommended species are unlikely to become ecological problems by cross-pollinating with native plants or spreading into the natural environment. Preferred plant species are also drought resistant and do not attract wildlife such as bears or elk.

Weed control initiative – spraying with herbicides

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Alien weeds spread quickly and aggressively and they cause significant ecological damage by displacing native plant communities that stabilize the soil and provide food, shelter and habitat for park wildlife.

99% of Parks Canada's weed control program involves manual and mechanical weed control and herbicide use is a last resort when no viable alternative means of control exists.

There are 120+ species of non-native plants in Jasper National Park, mostly occurring in areas where people have the most impact—the Jasper town site. Of these, ten weed species are the most aggressive and do the most damage. In response to this serious ecological threat, the Municipality of Jasper amended their Municipal Herbicide Use Policy to allow selective spraying of noxious weeds in selected critical areas by Parks Canada. Map of locations targeted for controlled spot herbicide application

Herbicides will not be used to control low priority weeds in the town site, or any weeds in public green spaces, playgrounds or school yards and ALL sprayed areas will be appropriately signed. 99% of Parks Canada's weed control program involves manual and mechanical weed control and herbicide use is a last resort when no viable alternative means of control exists.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Parks Canada will be cautiously conducting controlled spot spraying at about a dozen select locations in the Jasper town site. At the moment, most of these infestations are small (< $10m^2$) and in remote locations away from regular public use.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Weed Identification: know the invasive non-native vegetation
- Contact: Naomi Harder, Non-native Vegetation Program Coordinator, naomi.harder@pc.gc.ca or phone 780-852-6143.

My Woodlot

I purchased my woodlot in 1972, it consisted of 132 ac. of which 90 ac. were under cultivation. Th Little Smoky River runs through it and takes up 28 ac. The land not being farmed is made up of Aspen,Balsam Poplar, Birch, and a few Spruce. There are several berry bushes such as Pin-cherries and Saskatoons, plus a small meadow. The land is capable of growing good cereal crops , gardens and excellent potatoes.

Approximately 25 years ago I planted two rows of Siberian Larch seedlings as well as Golden Willow seedlings for a future shelter-belt, their progress is shown in the attached pictures (*Larch and Willow).*

The next year I planted a row of Brooks # 6 (now green giant), 50 yards north of the Larch, they have also done well *(see picture - Brooks # 6)*

Fifteen years ago I planted some two year old Spruce amongst the native mature Aspen on the east side of the quarter .

In the fall 2003 at the Woodlot AGM in Valleyview we learned of a proposal by the Federal Government called Forest 2020, in which they committed to plant a certain amount of acres to afforestation . (planting trees on previously cultivated land) due to the Kyoto agreement. I made an agreement with the Canadian Government to provide land for planting while they supplied the Hybrid Poplars and the tree planters. I have the responsibility to keep the new plantings weed free. Three varieties were planted , Walker, Assinboine, and North West in early June 2004.

The major problem I encountered were keeping the weeds under control by cultivation and during the first 3-4 years there was predation by deer. The second and on going problem is moose damage, they seem to prefer the Walkers and the Assiniboine . Whereas the North West variety is doing fairly well with the best trees are some 4 inches in diameter at the base and are 15 to 18 feet tall.(*see pictures - Hybrid Poplar)*

In 2009 the Woodlot Association was asked if their members would like to have some White Spruce trees planted on their land. An agreement was drawn up and I applied and had them plant 9990 on the east side of the quarter

That's about it, a general history of my Woodlot throughout the last nine years.

I would like to thank Jurgen Moll and the presenters for an excellent demo at his woodlot in July - the fact (I learned) is the importance of having a management plan.

Warren Stewart

Pictures of - Warren Stewarts - Woodlot

Brooks # 6 and Golden Willow, with Hybrid Poplar in the foreground

Larch and Wolf Willows in the foreground

Nothwest (Poplar) Native (Poplar)

Walker (Poplar) Native (Poplar)

Note some wildlife predation on the hybrids

GoldenWillow with Manitoba Maple in the foreground