

Stewardship Society advised on biomass



Forester Jaimie Simpson shows some of the land damage caused by Northern Pulp during a biomass harvest in northern Nova Scotia as part of his presentation *Forests and Biomass Energy in Nova Scotia* to the Annual General Meeting of the Bras d'Or Lakes Stewardship Society.

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were formally approved four years earlier and were promoted by the BSS and boaters were allowed a four year grace period to properly equip their vessels. There are now seven pump out stations operating around the Lake.

The Society participated in the preparation of a development plan, *State of the Bras d'Or Report* on land use practices within the watershed.

"Representatives from the Stewardship Society made presentations of the Report's findings to each on the five municipal councils on Cape Breton Island."

Mr. Bates said, "Within the last year, the Society chose to review its record and make a determination on its future role. It is acknowledged that new organizations have sprung up in the 13 years since the BSS has been incorporated. While the mandates are not iden-

tical to that of the Society, there is certainly a new and expanded awareness of the need for protecting the Lake. The Review included a questionnaire to members seeking their input. About one third of the members responded. The decision of the Board of Directors based on the consensus of all input was that the Society should continue its work. It was noted that continuing emphasis should be placed on monitoring improper sewage discharge activities. The Board also renewed its commitment to a school scholarship or essay prize activity to help increase the awareness level of ecosystem protection in the school system."

Guest Speaker at the AGM was Jamie Simpson who heads the Forestry Program, at Ecology Action Centre. Mr. Simpson is a forester with a background in forest ecology and woodlot management. He holds a Master of Sci-

ence from University of New Brunswick and a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from Acadia University. His topic for the BSS AGM was *Forests and Biomass Energy in Nova Scotia*.

"The EAC forestry program is promoting a shift to ecosystem-based forest management which will help restore the natural Acadian Forest which reduces clearcutting while supporting viable rural livelihoods and economies," Mr Simpson said.

The Acadian Forest is comprised of a mix of hardwood and softwood with 32 tree species which includes red spruce, sugar maple, beech, hemlock and balsam fir.

Mr. Simpson defined biomass as all living and dead matter and generally, stuff not used now.

Biomass energy can come from firewood (home heat); pellets (home and other uses); co-generation for heat and electricity; electricity (only) and co-firing (biomass + coal or oil)

Using Northern Pulp as an example of a company using forest products for biomass energy he cited that there is nutrient loss, a decline in forest productivity, damage to the forest floor, loss of local wildlife, an increase forest fragmentation, a risk of erosion and compaction, carbon loss to atmosphere and an opportunity lost for high-value trees.

His presentation showed that pursuing a renewable energy policy that relies heavily on biomass power is likely to come at the cost of a diminished forest carbon sink."

Mr. Simpson's research has led him to believe that Nova Scotia is not ready for a large-scale increase in biomass demand. His calculations show the amount of wood required for a 60 megawatt co-generation system is not sustainable.

He suggested that citizens request a ban on whole-tree harvesting while promoting small-scale, community-based biomass energy.

"You can say no to large-scale projects like the NewPage Nova Scotia Power proposal," Mr. Simpson told the Stewardship Society, "and you can attend the Utility and Review Board

hearing; and/or submit your concerns to the UARB."

The UARB is holding a public hearing in Halifax on July 26th on Nova Scotia Power Incorporated's application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for approval of capital work on Port Hawkesbury Biomass Project, which is costed at \$208.6 million.

Women in Business

Award finalists



Candace Christiano of Finewood Lumber and Flooring in Middle River and Beverly Bryson of Amoeba Sailing Tours Baddeck (L-R) were two of the three Victoria County women nominated for a Women in Business Award at the recent Women in Business Awards Gala held in Baddeck. The third County nominee was Wendy Smith of Glass Artisans Studio and Gallery North Shore.

The Gala, presented by the Cape Breton Partnership and the Cape Breton University, Shannon School of Business, Small Business Development Centre in conjunction with Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation recognized the extraordinary contributions women in business from all over Cape Breton and Mulgrave make to the local economy. Ms. Christiano was nominated for a Lifetime Achievement Award while Ms. Bryson was up for a Marketing Award and Ms. Smith for an Arts and Culture Award.

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