

History of the Cortes Community Forest to 2018

Early days to 1978.

Logging began on Cortes Island in the late 1800's with the arrival of settlers from Europe, on the territory of the displaced First Nations people. It took place over the following fifty years mainly on the pre-empted homesteads in the central and southern areas of the Island but also on many small claims of cutting rights on Crown lands elsewhere on Cortes.

Timber was felled by hand with saws and axes and was moved to the salt water by gravity or animal power, later with steam powered "donkeys" and a couple of small railroads in the 20's and 30's. Consequently the impact of logging was slow and modest.

Around the time of the Second World War, diesel and gasoline powered equipment began to be used, including chainsaws, donkeys, Caterpillar tractors and trucks. By the 50's and 60's, much of the original timber on Cortes had been logged and there were only a handful of small, one- and two-man operations active on the Island.

During the 1950's, an agent, acting for McMillan Bloedel Company (M&B), managed to acquire approximately 4800 acres of the better timber growing private lands from the owners or inheritors of the original homesteads for a price ranging between \$25 to \$75 per acre. Land was cheap then as most of the big timber had been removed and options were limited for making a living.

The Coastal mills had been set up to process the big, old growth timber and wouldn't buy any logs that were less than 16 inches top diameter. It was only in the late '70's and early 80's that the Coastal mills began introducing new equipment that would efficiently process small logs as large timber became scarce and second growth timber began to be harvested in increasing quantities.

During his career as timber cruiser and eventually President of the Comox Railway and Logging Co., Mr. Robert Filberg had acquired approximately 7000 acres of logged forest lands situated on Vancouver Island and a number of the Northern Gulf Islands, including Hornby, Denman, Quadra, Cortes and Read. On his death, they were bequeathed to the Vancouver Foundation.

In 1978-9 the original Comox Strathcona Regional District had been negotiating with the Vancouver Foundation to acquire these lands to be managed for the benefit of the communities adjacent to them (sort of an early form of Community Forests). However those talks were suddenly terminated due to some behind-the-scenes negotiations that resulted in Raven Lumber Co., a Campbell River logging, milling and land development firm, acquiring all those parcels.

1979 - 1989 : Modern logging and Island reaction.

In 1979 Raven Lumber contracted with two Cortes loggers to harvest their ~2000 acres on Cortes. Newer equipment, including excavators, skidders and logging trucks, were utilized to build roads and move the timber, beginning on the 223 acres that is now known as South Point Road. The efficiency of both operators and machinery in getting trees down and into the water at the M&B log dump in Gorge Harbour was impressive. Raven's logging continued through the '80's.

Many in the Cortes community were very uncomfortable with the speed and impact of the harvesting on the Island landscape. Because the communities on Cortes were going to have to live with the results, many conversations and meetings during the 1980's began to focus on the question of how did the community feel about the future of forest management on the Island.

The ideal scenario voiced by many Islanders was that somehow management of all the forested parcels on Cortes, including all the M&B lands, should be controlled by the community.

The strong consensus that developed around management was that there should be a very conservative harvest rate with a long rotation period and ageing of the forests and, ideally, much of the timber cut being processed on Cortes.

Out of this process into the 1990's came a document entitled "Forest Concepts for Cortes" reflecting the desires of the broader community.

Around 1988 an informal Cortes Island Forest Committee (CIFC), headed by Martha Yendall and Pamela Craig, was constituted to represent Cortes in emerging conversations with Ministry of Forests, M&B and logging operators.

Back in 1971, M&B had done some clearcutting and replanting on their "Hanks Beach" property as well as a small selection harvest south of Smelt Bay. In the

late '80's, M&B returned to Cortes to resume harvesting. They chose to start their harvest in the Squirrel Cove area, near the Klahoose First Nation (KFN) village.

In 1987 and '88 they clearcut about 100 acres and returned in '89 to continue in that area. They were quite aware of the negative feelings growing in the community around their activities. When asked "Why there?" the response was that they felt other areas in the Island were "too sensitive".

1990 - 1997 : Community engagement and developments toward a CF.

That decision enraged many in the Klahoose village and the broader community. Kathy Francis and Liz Richardson, supported by about 120 members of both communities, had had enough and were ready to shut down the operation. There was a two day blockade of the contractor, Dennis Nelson, and his crew at the entrance to the clearcut area which led to an agreement, mediated by Colin Gabelmann, long time MLA for the North Island riding, that M&B would discontinue logging until they came up with an alternative approach acceptable to the Island.

They returned in late '93 with a proposal to harvest small "lens cut" openings along with selective logging of the remainder, removing about 1/3rd of the volume of any one property on the first pass. Their plan was to return in fifteen years and again in thirty years, by which time they would have effectively cut all the timber on each property. They planned to maintain their target harvest volume of 10,000 Cubic Metres (M3) of timber each year.

While the Island consensus still felt that this annual harvest was much too high, an uncomfortable acceptance was agreed to on a trial basis, recognizing that M&B had significantly modified their approach. There was, as well, a reluctance to push M&B too hard as there was the chance that the Company would just "bail out" and sell/subdivide all their holdings on Cortes.

At that time there was a Rural 1 zoning on all their properties which would have allowed subdivision into ten acre lots. It was a great relief to the Island when, in 1994, that concern was ended. The Provincial Government brought in a new Managed Forest Land (MFL) designation that allowed the regional District, at the request of the Cortes community, to rezone all those lands in that MFL category on Cortes into a new Forestry designation which limited subdivision parcel size to a minimum of 100 acres.

In the early 1990's Cortes Island was introduced to Herb Hammond, the originator of Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) and his Silva Forest Foundation by Klahoose First Nation. He was working with them on logging issues centred around the Toba River portion of their traditional territory.

His EBM approach to forest management was very appealing to the majority of the Cortes community concerned about the future of the Island's forests. The CIFIC, in 1994, raised \$13,000 in donated funding to hire Silva Forest Foundation to prepare an Ecosystem-Based Management Plan for the Crown Forest and M&B lands on Cortes.

The West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) organization heard about the Ecosystem Mapping proposal and received a video created by Bill Weaver entitled "Raven" which documented the impact of harvesting by Raven Lumber on Cortes as well as footage of a meeting of members of KFN, Linnaea School students and CIFIC representatives with Raven Lumber at James Creek, a salmon bearing stream running through their logged timberland and into Carrington Lagoon.

With the video, WCEL made a successful presentation to the B.C. Law Society for funding support. WCEL generously matched the funds for the Ecosystem Mapping Project raised by CIFIC. The Plan was completed in 1996 and the detailed, multi-layered information contained proved most useful in future conversations with MoF, off-island agencies and within our community.

Around this same time, M&B was embroiled in the much larger 1993 Clayoquot Sound dispute and demonstrations while their company financial standing was deteriorating. By 1997 the diminishing fortunes of the company had reached the point where a decision was made to bring in W.Thomas Stephens from the Johns Manville Co. in USA to head the firm. He restructured the Company, announced an end to clearcutting and divested some of their "extraneous assets".

Two of those "extraneous" M&B properties on Cortes were sold in 1998 to Mike Jenks, (a notorious "log and flog") operator who promptly clearcut them. He had also bought large areas of timbered lands in 1997/8 on Gabriola, Denman and, later, the Twin Islands and speedily logged them for development and/or resale.

Stillwater division of M&B, which managed their Cortes holdings, was not willing to make further concessions to the Cortes community, beyond those presented in 1993, in moderating their harvesting plans. Faced with that reality, through 1998

serious conversations developed on Cortes around the idea of finding a means of purchasing the M&B lands.

1998 - 1999 : Further steps toward a CF.

The foundation for a Provincial Community Forest Agreement (CFA) program was developed during 1997/8 by the Ministry of Forests and stakeholders interested in creating opportunities for greater participation by communities and First Nations in the management of their local forests. This resulted in the decision to pilot a community forest program to test the viability of community-based Crown tenures in B.C.

In July 1998, amendments to the Forest Act came into force creating this new form of tenure. *The Forests Statutes Amendment Act* (1998, Bill 34) includes provisions for the replacement of the pilot agreements with long-term community forest agreements of 25–99 years. In September 1998, the Ministry of Forests issued a Request for Proposals, inviting communities throughout the province to apply for a 5-year pilot Community Forest Agreement. Eighty-eight communities expressed interest in participating in this project, and 27 developed full proposals. Of the 27 proposals, seven communities were offered CFA tenures.

In early December, 1998, the CIFC wrote to M&B proposing to stop operations on Cortes and enter negotiations to acquire their lands on Cortes to become part of a Cortes Community Forest. A fortuitous encounter on the road with the M&B Forester, Rod Tysdal, who was ready to start road building operations on the Frac. NW 1/4, Sec 2 the next morning, led to an agreement to halt operations until the M&B office had a chance to respond.

These communications resulted in a meeting with Linda Coady, VP Environmental Affairs, of M&B (who had been involved in the Clayoquot negotiations) on January 26, 1999 and an agreement to continue suspension of operations pending a next meeting. The awareness of the need to replace the informal CIFC with a registered legal entity to represent the non-aboriginal Cortes community was fairly rapidly growing. Things were getting serious!

During the next meeting with M&B on March 4th, CIFC had the chance to reflect on the differences between their informal presentation and the very professional proposal (developed by Kathy Francis and George West) tabled by KFN. It was painfully obvious that substantial quality improvement was needed of CIFC.

Coincidentally, on March 4th, 1999, KFN and CIFIC learned that the future harvesting rights on Cortes Crown Forest lands had been allocated to Canadian Forest Products during an internal review by the Sunshine Coast Forest District of the Ministry of Forests.

This revelation, combined with deep appreciation that both communities were going to continue coexisting on Cortes, cemented a determination of KFN and CIFIC to positively work together as equal partners to gain control of the management of the Crown and, hopefully, M&B forests on the island.

The Cortes Ecoforestry Society (CES) was subsequently registered later in March, 1999 and held its first Annual General Meeting in April with about 90 initial members. Numbers rose rapidly to over 400 and support broadened in the next months. A much more professional presentation was prepared by CES for the next meeting with M&B on May 24, 1999.

A large meeting was held on that same day to gauge the response of the Cortes community to M&B's variable retention management approach. The consensus was very negative.

On July 9, 1999, a formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the KFN and CES, committing the two communities to work together to gain control of and manage forest lands on Cortes Island under an Ecosystem-Based Management plan. Over 250 people gathered from both communities to celebrate this milestone. Linda Coady and Bill Cafferata from M&B also attended and committed the firm to continue negotiations in good faith with CES and KFN.

Meanwhile, on June 24, 1999, there had been an announcement that M&B was going to be purchased by the Weyerhaeuser Company (WeyCo) from Seattle, Washington. The B.C. Provincial Government, spurred by public concern, required a series of public input meetings, chaired by Mr. David Perry, to be held in various centres on the B.C. Coast as part of their process of determining if the transfer was in the public interest.

Representatives from KFN and CES attended the meeting in Campbell River, voicing concerns about foreign ownership and NAFTA implications but also describing the positive negotiations that were ongoing with M&B over their forest lands on Cortes and the hopes of including them in a Community Forest.

The sale of M&B to WeyCo was approved in the end but, surprisingly to all, especially the 17 year veteran MLA, Colin Gablemann, one of the 13 requirements of the Provincial Government in allowing the transfer of M&B assets to WeyCo was that the Cortes negotiations must continue in good faith!

2000 - 2008 : A stall in the movement.

In early 2000, a dramatic political shift in the Provincial Government coupled with a change in leadership in KFN stalled movement on the road to a Community Forest tenure on Cortes. Negotiations with WeyCo limped along with no conclusion due to lack of headway locally and Provincially.

Citing lack of progress, in 2002 WeyCo made the decision to sell nine of their more scattered Cortes properties. They had registered modest conservation covenants (and received compensatory tax deductions from the Canada Revenue Agency) with Nature Trust on the parcels, precluding clearcutting, but falling far short of the Island desires for strong controls under EBM covenants.

Seven of the parcels were sold to individuals who wished to hold them. The remaining two were sold to loggers who promptly logged them as far as the covenants would allow. One was replanted and sold, the other sold "as is", leaving the new owners to do the replanting.

In 2005, WeyCo sold the remaining assets acquired from M&B to Brascan, a large Investment Income Trust organization which "hived off" the private lands to a new subsidiary, Island Timberlands. This included a belt of parcels between Coulter Bay and Squirrel Cove on Cortes Island. This effectively ended chances of them becoming a part of the proposed Community Forest.

2008 - 2013 : Renewal of the process.

In 2008 hopes for a Community Forest (CF) were raised again when the new Chief of KFN, Ken Brown, and his Council members breathed life back into the efforts to get a CF. Three people from the non-aboriginal community, Liz Richardson, Ron Wolda and Bruce Ellingsen, were invited to join Kathy Francis as the Cortes Community Forest Advisory Group (CCFAG) to meet with MoF to resume negotiations toward a Cortes Island Community Forest tenure.

In early 2010, KFN “loaned” Greg Hemphill, (the former Sunshine Coast District Manager for MoF) who worked for them on their other forestry activities, to assist the negotiation team. His connections within MoF were most valuable to furthering the process. Many meetings were held but progress was slow as there were a number of different levels within MoF that had to be approached and negotiated sequentially.

In addition, Homalco, Tla’amin and Wei Wai Kum First Nations had to be contacted to confirm, in writing, that there were no objections to the proposal to create the CF tenure on Cortes. Also, confirmation of support was requested of and received from the Strathcona Regional District.

Finally, in May, 2011 there was an invitation issued by the Minister of Forests, Steve Thompson, to CCFAG to apply for a Community Forest Agreement (CFA) with the Province on behalf of Cortes Island.

Efforts were immediately ramped up to develop an application. A Registered Professional Forester (RPF), Brian Smart, was hired in September, 2011 to develop the Management Plan and other parts of the application which were required to be prepared by an RPF.

Among many other things, unallocated cutting volume within the Small Tenures category in the Sunshine Coast Forest District that had been earmarked for an increase in Woodlot licenses had to be transferred, by Ministerial approval, to the Community Forest allocation.

A Timber Supply Analysis had to be done by the District staff on Cortes Crown Forest lands to determine the appropriate areas that would provide the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) to reasonably match the available volume of 13,600 M3. Also a map had to be prepared to show the areas that would become the Management Area.

Funds required to get the CFA up and running were estimated at \$60,000 for each of the two organizations in the proposed management Partnership.

The Klahoose First Nation registered Klahoose Forestry Limited Partnership #2 (KFLP2) to represent them.

The Cortes Community Forest Co-operative (CCFC) was registered to represent the non-aboriginal community of Cortes as well as to raise the funding and

supply representatives to the proposed partnership. Efforts to enrol members and raise the funds were very successful.

The Cortes Forestry General Partnership (CFGP) was established to replace the CFFAG and be the legal entity to apply for, hold and manage the Community Forest tenure on Cortes Island. The CFGP was registered to reflect the desires of the two communities to enjoy an equal interest in the management of the CF. Therefore, an equal number of representatives, (3), were to come from each partner organization and they were required to arrive at decisions by consensus.

The initial representatives on the CFGP Board of Directors were Chief James Delorme, Kathy Francis and Kevin Peacey from KFLP2 and Kristen Scholfield Sweet, Mark Lombard and Bruce Ellingsen from CCFC.

A celebration and public signing of the Partnership documents was held at a well attended gathering at the Klahoose Multi-Purpose Building on July 5, 2012.

The application for the CFA was completed and delivered on Sept 7, 2102. It asked for all of the Crown Forest lands on Cortes to be included in the CF. This was not acceptable to MoF as they had determined that a lesser area of the Crown lands, not including those areas North of Von Donop Inlet, would adequately support an annual cut of 13,600 M3.

CFGP was required to revise the application to only include those areas that we had been invited to apply for by the Ministry. This was done and the revised application was submitted on February 26, 2013.

Following the final assessment of the revised application, in September, 2013 the Minister of Forests awarded a Community Forest tenure on Cortes Island and entered into a Community Forest Agreement with the CFGP.

Success !! And then a whole different type of work had to begin!

The First Year : The challenge for the Partners.

One of the major commitments made by the CFGP to the Island communities was to engage in a public process to gauge their attitudes and expectations related to managing the CF. From that input a document would be developed that

would provide guidance for the management of the CF in a way that would adequately reflect, as best possible, the wishes of Cortes Islanders.

To that end, following a community meeting in November, 2013 to celebrate entering into the CFA, a coordinator was hired in January 2014. A lengthy series of open and focussed meetings were held, input collated and results presented to the CFGP Board and a final Community Forest Operating Plan (CFOP) was presented in July, 2014.

Following the presentation of the CFOP to the MoF in Powell River, a direct recommendation was relayed from Blake Fougere to the CFGP on July 30, 2014 that the CFOP “needs clarity around Ecosystem Based and Sustainable Management so that we have measurable benchmarks to compare performance to and so staff clearly know the guidelines”.

Shifting from the focus and effort involved in acquiring a CF tenure to the process of actually operating a CF was a steep learning curve for all involved.

The first choice made was that the CFGP Directors wished to be quite actively involved in guiding the overall management of the CF rather than simply hiring an Operations Managers to make all those decisions. This meant that the Directors would also be responsible to the communities for their decisions rather than being one step removed.

This, of course, requires a lot more time in meetings for the volunteer Board members and a lot more education on the part of the Board members in the details required to make the many ongoing viable decisions.

The following list gives an indication of the variety of things that the Board has had to address over the years:

- develop and submit harvest plans to Gov't Agencies, get permits, deal with a 60-day comment period, amend plans as needed
- give consideration to seasonal constraints on activities such as weather, bird nesting, tourism, fire hazard, wildfire management planning, stream assessments and crossing requirements

- inform the community of plans, organize and hold community meetings, meet with neighbours, advertise and conduct tours, field and address questions and criticisms
- consider who to hire for falling/bucking, road building, hoechucking/skidding, trucking, booming, marketing, financing, scaling, marketing of logs
- timing of availability of contractors for different activities for our small harvest
- local log sales and discount, firewood volumes and distribution methods (a major time consumer during many meetings)
- arrange with Island Timberlands (IT) for the use of their log dump (the only one on the island), deal with deteriorating condition of the dump, repair to make it useable, dump no longer useable as of 2018
- WorkSafe BC requirements, certification of workers, liability and Board of Directors insurance, onsite fire fighting equipment, availability of qualified local workers with suitable machinery
- deal with occasional blockade of activities
- ordering trees and replanting of harvested areas, arrange for planting crews, ongoing maintenance of young trees to free-to-grow stage, dealing with deer browse of seedlings (fir browsing a new reality), stakes, cones
- formalize CFGP record keeping, bookkeeper/accountant, mapping contractor, make changes in personnel as needed over time, both in Operations and in Partners Representatives on the CGP Board of Directors
- develop five-year plans, apply for and get a “One CP” permit (one cutting permit) to allow for activities in different areas of the CF without having to get specific permits for each operation
- maintain communications with Sunshine Coast District of MoF in Powell River, meet with new MoF District Manager and acquaint him with what we are doing here and why

- organize public meetings twice a year to keep the community abreast of activities and results, organize community review of the CFOP guiding document every five years to keep it current
- adapt harvest methods to reflect experience gained from previous activities
- dealing with the cost and availability of suitable road building materials - a significant cost in developing access to the CF lands
- develop a standard road use agreement where access to harvest areas involved transiting private lands
- consider “gating” the CF roads to eliminate unauthorized cutting of timber, chose not to do so unless it becomes a significant problem
- dealing with the need for ongoing education within the community about the background of and the long range plans inherent in the management of our CF, arranging for volunteer engagement by community members to help with CF activities

2014 - 2018 : Getting on with operations.

In mid-July, 2014, when the decision was made to hire an Operations Manager, a Hiring Policy had to be developed and wording chosen for the advertising to be placed for the job posting. A number of applications were received, interviews were held and a decision was made on October 16th to hire John Marlow, RPF, from Quadra Island.

Plans were developed during Fall and Winter to have our first harvest in the Larsens Meadow area and operations began with falling on May 8th. The first day meeting with the fallers went well and they were very supportive of the aims of the CF. However, there was a blockade of the activities by a local person who was objecting to not being hired for the work. After negotiations with him failed, the RCMP became involved.

Trucking of the logs to local mills and the log dump, including loads of logs for firewood to various individuals/groups began on June 18th and, in spite of fire danger delays, the harvest was wrapped up by Aug 18th, 2015. It was felt that we were late with our operations and want to improve on the timing.

With each harvest conducted, local sawmill operators had the opportunity to view and choose logs from the felled timber prior to the commencement of hauling. They paid the going market rate for the logs, less a discount of \$25/M3 to reflect the costs not incurred by CFGP to have those logs boomed and towed to off-island markets.

Waste wood left after operations were completed was opened to individuals with free permits to come into the harvest area and cut up to 2 cords each.

Over the '14/'15 winter an application had been submitted to a UBC Forestry program for two student interns to help with mapping and assessment of timber potential on our CF land base. We were successful and had our two students working over most of the area during the Summer. They submitted a written report with mapping on all the work they had done to add to the accumulation of information on the CF.

In August 2015 plans were begun for the next harvest to take place south of Squirrel Cove. It was again late in the season with road building not beginning until Jan 22, 2016 and the weather hampered activities. The difficulty of obtaining adequate and sufficient road building material was encountered.

Right-of-way falling began Jan 28th and the excavator arrived Mar 13th to move the logs to roadside. We again had a run-in with a certain local individual who chose to blockade the operation and the RCMP were again involved to resolve the situation.

The logging truck was not available until June 6th but had all the wood moved to the local mills and the log dump and the boom away by the end of June. Firewood cutting was opened but was shut down on August 14th due to a high risk of fire.

On July 20th a public meeting was held to review the 2018 operations and get community feedback. It was well attended and there were a number of serious questions raised along with some sharp criticisms.

Our Operations Manager, John Marlow, was bearing the brunt of all of this criticism each time he came to the island and, by November, chose to step down from his position, feeling that he had not signed on for that degree of "feedback" from a strongly engaged segment of the island community. He agreed to stay on as our RPF.

The CFGP Board made the decision in early January, 2017, to hire Mark Lombard as the new Operations Manager on a 6-month trial period. He has been on Cortes for many years and has been involved in the CF enterprise since he arrived. His background in forestry and his communication skills suited him for the job. He stepped down from the board of the CCFC

Around the same time Kristen Scholfield Sweet had stepped down from the CCFC Board at the January AGM so two new representative were chosen to be Representatives to the CFGP Board - Georgina Silby and Corry Dow.

A decision to return to the Squirrel Cove harvest area and do a selective Spring harvest to satisfy the demand from local mills was made, leading to more negative response from the neighbourhood and many meetings and discussions.

The harvest of around 450 M3 was to remove approximately 1 tree in 5 from an unharvested area. Road work began Jan 31st and falling on Feb 15th and the operation completed quickly.

In early May, 2017, the position of RPF for the CFGP was posted as John Marlow wished to step aside. Three applications were received, interviews conducted and Ione Brown, RPF, was selected and soon met with the Board. The question of permanent sample plots was raised with Ione as the CFOP was committed to establishing them in the CF lands.

They were intended to establish a baseline volume measurement of the timber on the CF land base and provide a means of determining the Mean Annual Incremental (MAI) growth rates that were occurring in the forest of Cortes. This information would gradually replace the assumptions inherent in the MoF calculations that were the basis for their determination of the sustainable cut they expected from the Cortes CF tenure.

Over the rest of 2017 and into 2018 plans were developing for the next harvest, which was initially proposed for the Carrington Bay area. There was sufficient opposition from the neighbourhood that a number of explanatory walkabouts as well as a four hour meeting with most of the concerned neighbours were held.

This resulted in sufficient delays that plans for the next harvest were shifted to the Green Mountain (GM-1) area for the Spring of 2018, with the operation in Carrington to be scheduled for the Fall of 2018.

This situation illustrated the ongoing need for education of our community. The perceived impact of new harvesting plans in areas of the CF that hitherto have not been entered engages a sector of the population in that neighbourhood that, in many cases, has not been too concerned in what was happening until it comes close to home.

Also, as time passes and the community slowly changes, new people arrive who have not been aware of the efforts involved in getting the CF tenure or the management framework and the long-term goals and aspirations of the Partners. Sufficient time must be allowed for this exchange of information, ideas and concerns to be worked through. The initial very strong consensus of the island supporting having a Cortes Community Forest needs regular renewal.

Meanwhile, in March, a group of 16 students from the Vancouver Island University First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program and their leader came to meet with the CFGP Board at the Klahoose Multi-Purpose building and had a tour of the Larsens Meadow harvest area to learn about how the Cortes CF was being managed by a Partnership between the KFN and the non-aboriginal community on Cortes Island.

Shortly after, Kevin Peacey, now KFN Chief, stepped down from his position on the CFGP Board and was replaced by Georgina Silby. Following her move from being a representative of the CCFC, a new representative, Aaron Ellingsen, was appointed to sit with Corry Dow and Bruce Ellingsen on the CFGP Board.

Plans for the GM-1 harvest proceeded over the '17/'18 winter. Contractors and commitments were entered into and felling started on April 5th, 2018. Also in early April a number of volunteers were engaged in tending, planting and coning seedlings, a great benefit to the young trees and to the knowledge of the helpers.

Felling timber in GM-1 was completed by April 30th and on May 2nd, the contractor's excavator was barged in and arrived on site to begin moving logs to the roadside (hoehucking). Again they were met by our blockader, the RCMP were called in, the individual was arrested and work proceeded, to be completed by May 18th.

The log dump was in poor condition so new boomsticks were towed in and sufficient repairs were made by the logging truck, which arrived by ferry on May

28th, to allow the dump to handle the watering of this harvest. Hauling started on May 29th to the local mills and the log dump and was completed on June 12th.

A new process was initiated for broadly distributing the firewood available from this harvest to many people, including those who were unable to cut or move their own. People were invited to submit their names for free wood delivery, many volunteers cut the available firewood to length on June 16th and then many with suitable trucks hauled the cut wood to those in need on June 23rd in return for a load for themselves.

Corry Dow organized this new concept and it was a great success, with many recipients expressing gratitude for the positive efforts of so many volunteers. It will likely be the format in the future for the distribution of firewood.

The issue of providing firewood to Cortes Island residents that was included in the original CFOP was overly optimistic. Cortes homes probably burn approximately 800 cords of firewood, the equivalent of 2400 M3 of roundwood, per year. For the Partnership to supply that amount would be financially ruinous.

However, the value of that amount of firewood, cut and delivered at \$250 per cord would be approximately \$200,000. It is likely that some workable arrangement could be developed to find a way to supply a significant portion of the demand.

A commitment was made in the original CFOP to hold a review of the document every five years. As 2018 was its fifth anniversary, an invitation was posted in July for applicants that would be interested in organizing the review. Two applications were received and the successful person was hired in September following interviews. A simple questionnaire was developed and made widely available soliciting feedback from the Islanders on problems, satisfaction and/or improvements that could be made. Public meetings will be forthcoming in 2019 and recommendations made to the CFGP Board for their consideration.

