



# 2006 Annual Report

## New Developments

### Loon Lake Research & Education Centre

2006 was another year of milestones at Loon Lake. In July, Ronald MacDonald attended the opening of the new dock at the Loon Lake Student Centre. The dock was funded by a grant from the Ronald MacDonald Foundation

Charities made possible through the Canadian Cancer Society.

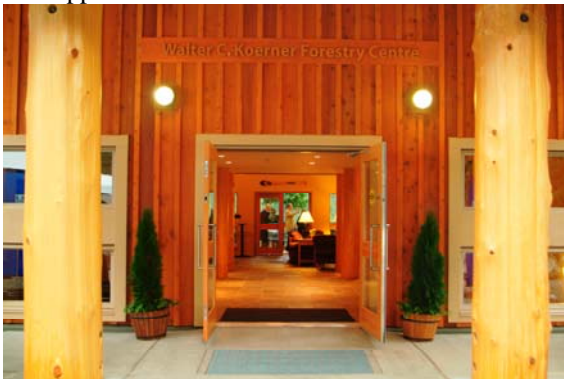
In October, Loon Lake also held the grand opening of

the \$2.5 million Walter C. Koerner

Forestry Centre. This was the culmination of over five years of design and fundraising, led by the support of the Koerner Foundation. The



*The Loon Lake Student Centre Dock*



*The Walter C. Koerner Forestry Centre* building holds up to 40 guests in 16 bedrooms with full facilities for conferencing, dining and education.

Design work also began in 2006 on the replacements for the original log cabins.

Loon Lake hosted its third Camp Goodtimes in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Society and recorded a record breaking 15,284 overnight stays in 2006.

### Log Home Training Facility

In late 2006, in partnership with Artisan Log Homes of Mission B.C., we opened a major new facility next to our sawmill. Designed as a training site for log and timber frame construction, this facility will be where the new

cabins for Loon Lake will be constructed using timber from MKRF along with student labour.

Artisan has installed their 4 tonne overhead crane on the site and is in the process of integrating operations with the sawmill in order to automate cutting and finishing of house logs and timbers.

Long term plans are to construct a new student residence adjacent to the site so that students can reside on the forest during their training.

## Operations

2006 harvesting at MKRF is summarised below:

Silviculture system	Area (ha)	Volume harvested (m <sup>3</sup> )
Clear-cut	26.9	16,510
Clear-cut with reserves	6.3	6,016
Shelterwood	-	-
Group Selection	-	-
Patch cut	7.5	3,853
Salvage	-	45
Commercial thinning	2.8	262
Roads/utilities	2.5	1,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>26,526</b>

The Research Forest made a change in 2006 by retaining Southview Forest Services as our logging contractor. Southview's expertise in mechanized harvesting enabled us to realize substantial cost savings over the year in what has become a "low-cost producer" driven industry on the BC Coast.

2006 saw somewhat improved market conditions for timber products. Our commercial thinning program was once again curtailed due to market conditions.

Harvest methods employed in 2006 included ground based, skyline and helicopter.

New road construction in 2006 totalled 1891 meters. In addition, 3800 meters of existing road was reactivated or upgraded. A major upgrade of the road to Loon Lake began in 2006, and over 3000 meters were resurfaced with crushed rock.

Continuing investment in fire prevention and suppression infrastructure has resulted in four new fire ponds being installed.

## Silviculture

Once again in 2006, our silviculture program focussed on basic silviculture. Two native conifer species and one deciduous species were planted. A summary of silviculture program achievements is as follows:

Silviculture activity	Hectares	Trees
Planting	23.2	40,760
Brushing	30.2	
Deer repellent application	11.6	
Juvenile spacing	-	
Surveys	116.7	
Total	181.7	40,760

For more information, please contact Cheryl Power.

## Education and Extension

2006 was another busy year for education on the Forest. Twenty-four UBC students attended the annual Spring Field School at Loon Lake in April. Conservation Field School was also held at the forest in October and was attended by 28 students.



Ronald MacDonald and the MKRF staff



The MKRF log construction training site and sawmill

High school programs and recruitment activities continued in 2006. In total, over 100 K-12 students participated in forestry and conservation curriculum and recruitment activities at MKRF during the year.

The Stand Management Cooperative, Wild BC, Ministry of Forests, and the Association of BC Forest Professionals all utilized the forest for educational retreats in 2006.

Work was continued on an image database which will include our entire library of images from 55 years of projects.

## Research

11 research projects were initiated in 2006 bringing the total number of active projects to 124. In total, 842 projects have been initiated since the forest was dedicated in 1949. Highlights of the program were:

- Initiation of a study on the effect of coarse woody debris on invertebrate abundance and diversity
- The impacts of clear-cut logging on the movement patterns of a threatened amphibian, *Bufo boreas*
- Remeasurement of the 1957 conifer spacing trials

With a grant from the BC Forest Sciences Program, long term research installation funding was used to maintain and improve access and signage for several major projects on the Forest such as the Spacing,

Provenance, and Rectangularity Trials.

For more information, please contact Ionut Aron.

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