



# 2008 Annual Report

## New Developments

### Loon Lake Research & Education Centre

2008 saw the completion of one of the final phases of the redevelopment of Loon Lake. In November, the Charlie and Sue Johnson Cabins were completed and begun being occupied by guests. This 32 beds complex has both accommodation and meeting space that supplements the Walter C. Koerner Centre, as well as accommodation and activity areas for Camp Goodtimes. They were constructed from logs and lumber harvested from the Research Forest, and were funded in part from donations of UBC Forestry alumni.

Also begun in 2008 were the gateway and washroom facilities at the entrance to Loon Lake Camp. The adjoining playing field is now known as the Norm and Betty Pelton Rotary Field in honour of another UBC Forestry alumnus. It is being supported by the local Rotary Club and will fully enable the playing field to serve sick and handicapped youth.

Loon Lake hosted its fifth Camp Goodtimes in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Society and recorded over 17,990 overnight stays in 2008. This broke last year's record by 12%.

Professor Stephen Toope, UBC's President toured the Loon Lake facilities in October and was pleased and impressed with the progress to date. His office plans to use the facilities for future retreats and conferences.

With the completion of the major Loon Lake redevelopment projects, the Research Forest is now positioned to increase both visitation and income generated by the new facilities. This strategic direction will allow us to weather the "perfect storm" that has struck the forest sector with such ferocity over the past 18 months.

In addition, the interest and profile generated for Loon Lake by the redevelopment has created unprecedented demand among user groups which fit the mandate of the Forest.



*The Charlie and Sue Johnson Cabins at Loon Lake*

*"With the addition of the.....Haney Research Forest, together with the.....student quarters provided on the property, UBC's new Faculty of Forestry compares with the best on this continent."*  
*Haney Gazette, August 25, 1950.*

## Operations

2008 harvesting at MKRF is summarised below:

| Silviculture system    | Area (ha)   | Volume harvested (m <sup>3</sup> ) |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Clearcut               | -           | -                                  |
| Clearcut with reserves | 33.5        | 17,966                             |
| Group Selection        | -           | -                                  |
| Patch cut              | -           | -                                  |
| Salvage                | 0.3         | 92                                 |
| Commercial thinning    | 14.8        | 4,648                              |
| Roads/utilities        | 2.8         | 2,080                              |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>51.4</b> | <b>24,786</b>                      |

Despite poor market conditions not witnessed in two generations, the Research Forest continued its harvesting program in 2008. Our main strategy was to concentrate on producing value added products. Cedar poles, hemlock piling, house logs and timbers

were major target products, as well as sawlogs for the MKRF sawmill. Our commercial thinning program was restarted in 2008, but was once again curtailed due to market conditions.

Harvest methods employed in 2008 included ground

based, and skyline. Sawmill production totalled over 426 MBM in 2008.

New road construction in 2008 totalled 1664 meters. In addition, 250 meters of pre-1930 railroad grade was upgraded.

## Silviculture

Our 2008 silviculture program focussed on stand establishment, including deer protection and re-stocking windblow areas from the 2006-07 winter storms. Douglas-fir, western redcedar, yellow cypress, white pine, amabilis fir, and red alder were planted. A summary of silviculture achievements is as follows:

| Silviculture activity        | Hectares | Trees  |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Planting                     | 34.8     | 56,800 |
| Brushing                     | 28.0     | -      |
| Deer protection installation | 1.2      | 1,035  |
| Juvenile spacing             | -        | -      |
| Surveys                      | 150.7    | -      |
| Total                        | 214.7    | 56,800 |

For more information, please contact Cheryl Power



Students at Spring Field School learning lumber value and First Nations Forestry

## Education and Extension

2008 was another busy year for education on the Forest. 28 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 23 students.

School programs and recruitment activities continued in 2008. In total, over 6,000 K-12 students stayed at Loon Lake or participated in forestry and conservation curriculum and recruitment activities at MKRF during the year.

Forestry educational retreats were held at the Walter C. Koerner Forestry Centre at Loon Lake by Great Lakes Forestry - Trent University, the Ministry of Forests, and the Coastal Silviculture Committee.

## Research

16 research projects were initiated in 2008 bringing the total number of active projects to 103. In total, 881 projects have been initiated since the forest was dedicated in 1949. Highlights of the program were:

- Animal Browse Deterrence using systems applied at Nurseries
- Testing remotely operated hydraulic flange splitters for hand falling trees
- The effect of summer low flows on forested small headwater stream benthic communities.

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, ensure update, security and accessibility of research projects data through the Research Projects Database

([www.rpd.forestry.ubc.ca](http://www.rpd.forestry.ubc.ca)) and created a new GIS tool that enables the research forest staff to keep accurate silviculture records.

For more information, please contact Ionut Aron.

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