



Box 6330, Hinton, Alberta T7V 1X6

• FOOTHILLS FOREST •

Issue 1

The Green Plan has Arrived at Hinton

The federal government issued a comprehensive environmental action plan entitled Canada's Green Plan for a Healthy Environment in December of 1990. One goal contained in the plan is to promote the "sustainable use of Canada's renewable resources" which include forestry, fisheries and agriculture. This goal led to establishment of the \$100 million Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests program and to the creation of the Model Forest Network.

Foothills Forest was selected as a Model Forest site after a National Advisory Committee of experts, supported by a Technical Review Sub-committee, examined 50 proposals submitted from across Canada. The successful sites were announced in June 1992 with funding approved for an initial five-year period (1992-97). The objectives of the Model Forest Network are:

1. To accelerate the implementation of sustainable development in the practice of forestry, in particular the concept of integrated resource management.
2. To develop and apply new and innovative concepts and techniques in the management of forests.
3. To test and demonstrate the best sustainable forestry practices available.



Don Laishley, Chairman of the Board for Foothills Forest, signs agreement with Joe Clark, MP for Yellowhead and Frank Oberle, Minister of Forestry at the official opening on March 1, 1993.

Foothills Forest Opens

The Honourable Frank Oberle, federal Minister of Forestry, and the Right Honourable Joe Clark, M.P. for Yellowhead were in Hinton on March 1st to sign a 5 year agreement with the partners of the Foothills Forest worth approximately \$5-million. Foothills Forest is a non-profit company whose members include the Alberta Government, Weldwood of Canada Limited, the Forest Tech-

nology School and 73 other partner organizations representing municipal governments, industry, local business, labour and environmental and community associations.

The overall goal of the Board of Directors is to develop an integrated resource management strategy for the Foothills Forest, using a consensus building approach with input from representative stakeholders. This means that other forest values such as wildlife, biodiversity, watersheds, recreation and culture will be



considered along with the more traditional value of fibre supply.

Don Laishley, Forest Resources Manager for Weldwood of Canada's Hinton Division and Chairman of the Board of Foothills Forest is enthusiastic about the energy and commitment exhibited by both sponsors and public partners. "The Foothills Forest will show Canada and the world that sustainable development and integrated forest management are compatible and achievable goals," he said. The Honourable Brian Evans, Alberta's Minister responsible for forests, added the provincial government is pleased to sponsor a project committed to integrated resource management, a policy long practiced in Alberta, and to post-secondary resource education opportunities. "This innovative project builds on the long tradition of government and industry cooperation in the Hinton area and will reaffirm Alberta's leadership in the forestry field," he said.

Model Forest Network

Foothills Forest is now part of a network of large-scale productive sites that represent six of the eight major forest regions of Canada. The selected Model Forests were announced in June 1992, following a national competition launched by Forestry Canada. In addition, work is now under way to extend the Model Forest Network internationally, following the Prime Minister's announcement at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992. Canada is inviting proposals from developing countries to establish similar projects abroad and to support Canada's ongoing efforts to promote sustain-

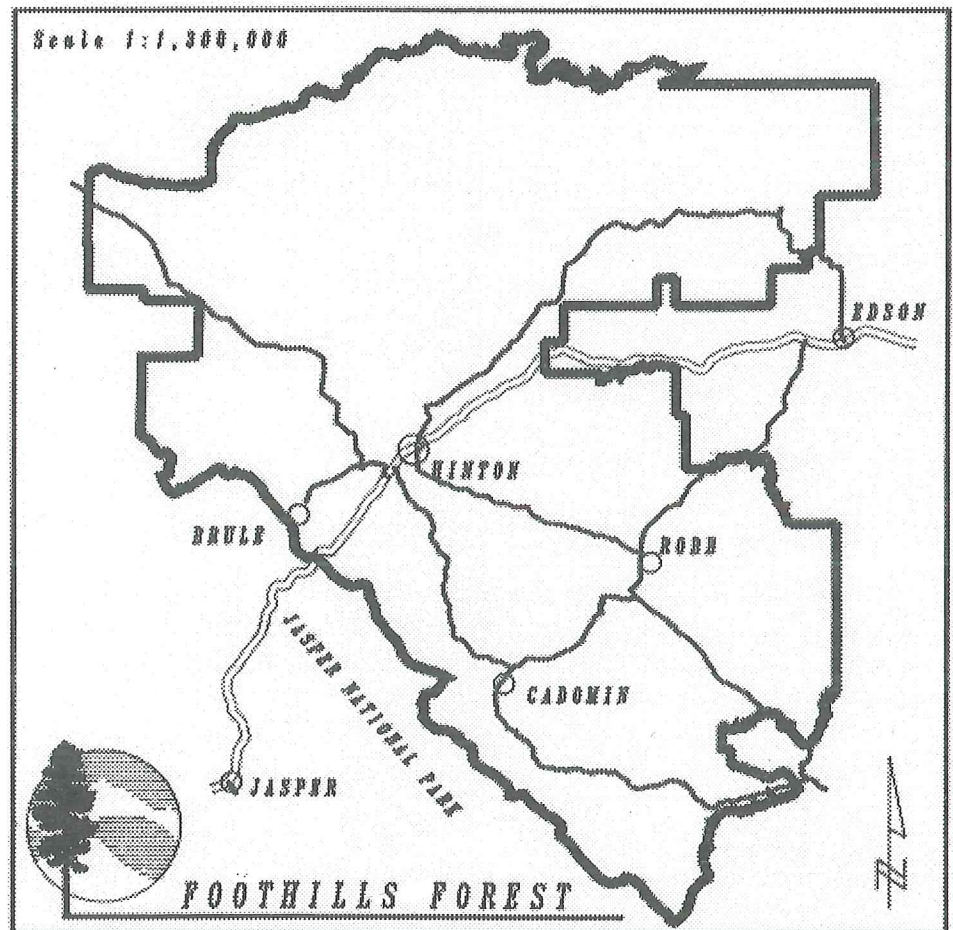
able forest management on a global basis. The first such International Model Forest will probably be established in Mexico. Seven potential sites have been identified and are competing for Model Forest status and funding.

Foothills Forest Location

Foothills Forest incorporates 1.2 million hectares (more than 3 million acres) of land immediately east of Jasper National Park surrounding the communities of Brule, Hinton, Cadomin and Robb. It includes the entire Weldwood of Canada Limited Forest Management Agreement Area, the Forest Technology School's Cache Percotte Forest, William A. Switzer Provincial Park and four other Provincial Forest Management Units. It falls entirely within the

Green Area of Alberta, which consists of land largely withdrawn from settlement, including farming and residential development. The majority of the Green Area is public land administered by the Province of Alberta and managed for multiple use.

Areas of protected and reserved lands within and adjacent to the Foothills Forest are extensive. Willmore Wilderness Park, Jasper National Park, W.A. Switzer Provincial Park, and the areas within the Prime Protection Zone of the Eastern Slopes all contain substantial reserves of wilderness. Thirty-eight percent of lands within 100 km of Hinton are currently protected or reserved by legislation or Prime Protection designation.





The Board of Directors

Standing left to right:

William Fairless
Dennis Quintillo
Frank Cardinal
Ross Risvold
Colin Edey
Gaby Fortin
James Beck
Ron Staple

R. Newstead
(Forestry Canada)



Seated left to right:

Robert Udell,
President

Don Laishley,
Chairman of the
Board

What is Sustainable Development?

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development published **Our Common Future**, a series of principles based on the belief that environmental and economic planning cannot proceed separately. The Brundtland Report, as it has come to be known, defines sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

At the core of the concept of sustainable development is the requirement that current practices should not diminish the possibility of maintaining or improving living standards in the future. This means that our economic systems should be managed to maintain or improve our resource and environmental base so that the genera-

tions that follow will be able to live equally well or better. Sustainable economic development does not require the preservation of the current stock of natural resources or any particular mix of human, physical and natural assets. Nor does it place artificial limits on economic growth, provided that such growth is both economically and environmentally sustainable. Sustainable economic development implies that resources and the environment must be managed for the long term, taking into account their possible value in the future as well as their value now.

Reprinted from "Report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy", September, 1987.

Alberta's Forest Industry
provided
13,000 direct jobs and
10,000 indirect jobs
in 1991.

Forestry Students Teach at High School

Harry Collinge High School in Hinton was recently the setting for science classes with a difference. Students from the Forest Technology School were in attendance on three different afternoons to transfer their knowledge of a forestry skill to science students from grades 10 to 12. Instructional topics included construction of a fire line, wilderness survival skills, tree identification, timber cruising, tree planting, and interpretation of aerial photographs.

Coordinated by instructors Pat Guidera and Jim Friesen of the Forest Technology School and teachers Al Shea, Lindsay Oshann and Brenda Thomas of Harry Collinge, the exercise proved to be a learning experience for all who participated. An expanded program is already being planned for implementation next year.

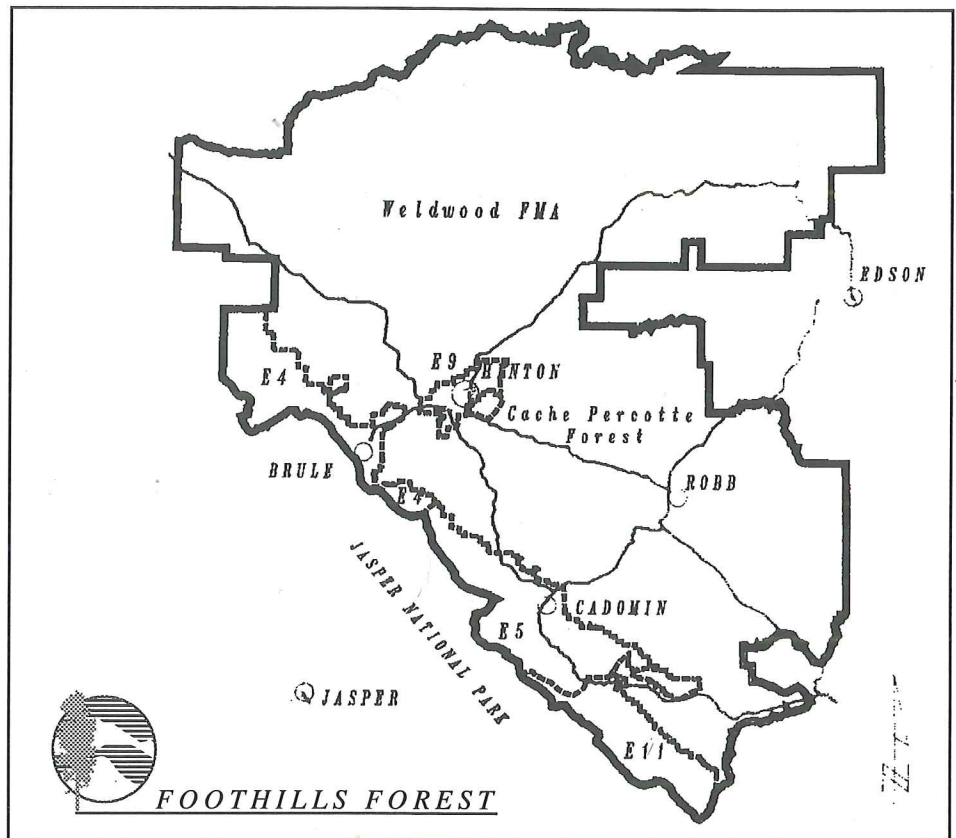


Operation of Foothills Forest

Foothills Forest has been incorporated as a non-profit company and is managed by a ten member Board of Directors. The Board approves the Annual Work Plan, Annual Report and Five Year Plan as well as the operating budget and may enter into agreements with other agencies for implementing the activities and programs of the company. Weldwood of Canada Limited has 3 members on the Board, the Forest Technology School 2, Alberta Environmental Protection 2, Jasper National Park 1, and 2 members are elected from among the Partners.

The Board is committed to promoting and developing partnerships in forest management which combine social, environmental and economic elements. To that end, a series of objectives have been adopted which state the Board members' support for expanding and accelerating research and development of a variety of resource management strategies based on a consultative process and for sharing the results of this work with local, national and international audiences.

On February 8th, 1993, the Board of Directors gave approval in principle to the 1993/94 Work Plan. Each of the Activity Teams with approved projects will now be required to develop a detailed work plan with a precise budget and timelines. As part of this process, each team member will confirm their role, and that of the organization which they represent, in meeting the objectives of the project.



Map for discussion purposes only. Boundary of the Community Forest will be established after consultation with affected groups.

A Community Forest for Hinton

One of the proposed projects under the Foothills Forest involves the development of a Community Forest. The area that is being considered for this project encompasses Crown Forest Management Unit E9 as well as portions of E4, E5 and E11.

The term "Community Forest" has been used in a number of ways across Canada and Alberta and, as such, means different things to different people. Our first priority will be to define what exactly constitutes a Community Forest. This will involve sitting down with local residents and determining a set of overall goals and objectives for such a forest such as management for local benefit, careful integration of all resource uses, educational values, benefits to the local quality of life, etc.

A literature review is already being carried out by Foothills Forest staff on other Community Forests in Ontario and British Columbia in an effort to provide interested parties with some background information on this type of project.

Open houses will be organized over the next few months to gather public input and to create an advisory board that will represent interested groups as we work towards the creation of Hinton's own Community Forest. Please look for notices in your local paper as to the time and location of these meetings. If you require any additional information on this project or would like to get involved, please call the Foothills Forest Office at 865-8332.

Comments or Suggestions?
Call Pat Golec
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at (403)865-8330