

Propriétaires de lots boisés



New Brunswick Federation Of Woodlot Owners

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The Winds of Change

The winds of change are evident. Nothing is more certain than the adage that change is inevitable. Also true is the saying that the more things change, the more they stay the same. The private woodlot sector is not immune to change even though sometimes we seem to resist it. There are other changes that we would welcome with open arms, such as the end of lawsuits against private woodlot owners.

There are many factors currently at play in the forestry industry. Efficiency seems to be the buzz word with industry and government. Efficiency has many definitions. Industry sees it as getting the most primary product at the least possible cost to them.

Private woodlot owners are also interested in being efficient. They are not however, generally willing to cut the whole woodlot in order to raise their efficiency. They have a connection to their woodlot and use alternative harvesting techniques to ensure the survival of all species, provide wildlife habitat and promote biodiversity. They harvest in an efficient manner which allows them to reap the greatest financial benefit while at the same time respecting the natural forest ecology. One never knows when some obscure plant or animal may be found to hold the cure for cancer. The values of woodlot owners have been reported to be the same values that are important to many New Brunswickers.

I feel that these values are worth protecting and that we are at a critical juncture here in New Brunswick. It is in these times that we need people to come together and speak up for these values. It is time to speak to your MLA and point out the value of Marketing Boards and small private woodlot owners. Get involved in your local marketing board; follow what is happening on the Federation of Woodlot Owners Facebook page and website. Provide words of encouragement to those who are working hard to provide service to you; provide them with new ideas. Envision the future you want and let others know what that looks like. If you wish to provide financial assistance for the legal battles that Marketing Boards are facing, talk to the Federation. We are exploring the possibility of establishing a Go Fund Me page.

If we sit quietly by and wait for others to voice our opinions, if we are not willing to take the time to speak to or write to our MLAs, we will have no one to blame but ourselves when our wishes are not materialized. If you sit back and do nothing, you should expect nothing. Be a part of the change that you want to see. Marketing Boards were established by woodlot owners standing up and demanding their rights. Marketing Boards will continue to be there if woodlot owners stand up for their rights.

While times are changing, it is still true that united we stand and divided we fall. In the words of Ernest Burke "Whilst men are linked together, they easily and speedily communicate the alarm of any evil design". Let us remain linked together and fight for what we believe in. Let each and every one of us do what we can.

"I am only **one**, but I am **one**. I **cannot do everything**, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." - Edward Everett Hale

Susannah Banks
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