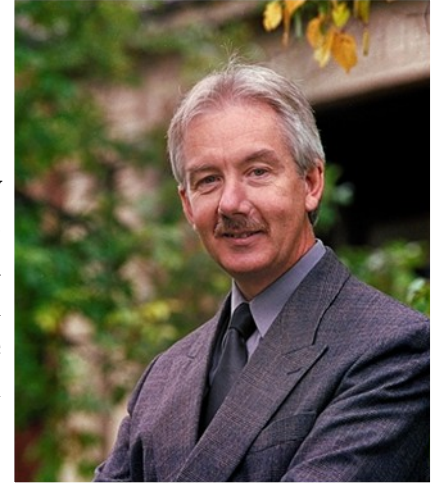


President's Message



We are now past the mid-point of our current phase (2007-2012). I am very pleased to report that we have made significant strides in achieving the goals set out in our strategic plan for these five years, as well as having established several new productive collaborations. Through General Manager Nairn Hay, we have also taken the lead in two national initiatives, one to value ecological goods and services from woodlands and the other to establish criteria to measure the social and economic progress of forest communities.

As Chair of the Board of the Canadian Model Forest Network, I see the great contribution that the research, innovation and sharing of information by Model Forests is making toward ensuring healthy forests and thriving rural communities across every forest region. Here at Fundy, in 2009-2010, we supported projects that are providing information and tools to our partners and other stakeholders to help them diversify economically, manage their woodlands sustainably, and increase the capability of communities to develop strategies to sustain them economically and culturally. Several examples:

In developing new economic opportunities

- A study examining the feasibility of small scale biomass facilities (less than 5Mw) was completed and this coming year, this project, with the support of Energy NB, will delve into the potential for long term savings from using wood or a wood product as a heat source for a large building.
- “Shaping Our Future” a one-day workshop, hosted by Fundy Model Forest, illustrated for more than 70 attendees how innovative woodlot owners are forming co-operatives to move into the processing sector and create markets for their product.
- The Model Forests of Atlantic Canada hosted a two day regional forum, “From Atlantic Fields and Forests”, which provided small entrepreneurs and woodlot owners with information to produce and market non-timber forest products. Work to encourage this sector will continue with the unveiling of a user-friendly field guide to identify forest products and assess their commercial potential.

In building community capacity

- With FMF funding, the Rural and Small Town Programme at Mount Allison University designed a workbook to aid the Village of Plaster Rock in conducting a SWOT analysis. The workbook is ready for adaption for other communities.

President's Message

- The Village of Petitcodiac concentrated on creating an integrated community sustainability plan and as a result the village, with the help of the Rural and Small Town Programme, has been able to obtain funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Rural Secretariat to complete their project in 2010-2011. The Village believes having the plan will ease access to funding to implement its development strategy.

In mitigating impacts of climate change

- The Dendrochronology Lab at Mount Allison University expanded its sampling to predict radial growth of commercial tree species and will produce a "Risk of Decline" map for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

In sustainable forest management

- Approximately 125 forest managers, researchers and other stakeholders attended the "Implications of Intensive Silviculture and Mixedwood Dynamics on Forest Management" workshop to learn the final results of a 3-year silviculture study, the most extensive ever conducted in the Acadian forest region.

In conservation and stewardship

- The Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon Stewardship Forum, shepherded by Fundy Model Forest, finished surveying the condition of water crossings in two watersheds feeding into Fundy National Park that are critical habitat in an effort to recover the Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon. Fundy Model Forest will continue to spearhead the exchange of information among agencies and grass root groups through the Forum.

2010-2011 will see the momentum continue toward accomplishing our current objectives. At the same time, the Fundy Model Forest Partnership must determine what role the Model Forest can play beyond 2012 in aiding sustainable management of forests and the sustainable development of the communities within them. Our partners began this ground-up process of identifying issues and how the Model Forest can address them at the June 23 annual meeting, "Re-imagining the Fundy Model Forest". I look forward to invigorating discussions as we set the direction for a new phase!

Sincerely,



Dave MacLean