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# THE BOUNDARY CREEK Times

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Thursday,  
 June 30, 2011

VOL. 29 Number 26

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**THIS  
 WEEK**

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## Conversation all about forestry

"The forest is the most valuable renewable resource that we have in the Boundary," retired Grand Forks forester Ray Hanson told the 18 people who came out for a community dialogue entitled Healthy Forests - Healthy Communities (HFHC), a conversation on B.C. forests in Midway on Tuesday, June 21. The same meeting was held in Grand Forks earlier in the day.

The purpose of the meeting was summed up by Hanson, first with a question: "What is the voice of the forest in the Boundary?" And secondly with the suggestion, "Maybe we should give some thought to trying to involve more citizens with what is going on in the forests?"

It was organized by Hanson and two other Registered Professional Foresters from the area - Fred Marshall and Randy Trerise. Recorder for the meeting was Erin McGuigan, UBC Faculty of Forestry and the managing director of FACT (Forests and Communities in Transition). The meeting was facilitated by John Cathro, a forestry consultant from Kaslo.

Area E Rural Director Bill Baird addressed those assembled with an update of the Kettle River Management Study. MLA John Slater attended both the Midway and Grand Forks meetings; and two representatives from the B.C. Timber Supply office were in attendance.

Cathro said HFHC started with Bill Bourgeois, a forestry consultant in Vancouver who felt that British Columbians needed to do better on the forestry file. He organized volunteers around the province and nine community sessions are scheduled for the spring; with another 12 being planned for the fall.

A draft vision has been created (subject to modification at regional levels to reflect local conditions). The draft reads - British Columbia's forests are managed to:

- Ensure the health and protection of all forest values;
- Support healthy, diverse and resilient communities; and
- Support a sustainable and globally competitive forest products economy.



Facilitator John Cathro from Kaslo told a Healthy Forests - Healthy Communities community dialogue session in Midway last week that the conversation is meant to be built on expert opinion, science, supporting evidence, and - perhaps most importantly - on what community people are saying.  
 PHOTO BY PAT KELLY

Cathro explained that the community dialogue part is really the second piece of the HFHC program. The first piece is the online (<http://bforestconversation.com>) availability of documents written by some 30 recognized experts in the field. "These documents are meant to provide information about some of the bigger issues we have to deal with in forestry, resource, and land management," said Cathro.

He explained that central to the process is the belief by those involved that forestry and resource management have slipped down the agenda provincially.

"Some of the best discussion happens when there is a diversity of opinion on the same topic," said Cathro, adding that they were not trying to solve problems but rather trying to articulate

those problems and get them placed in front of decision makers.

After the June and July sessions there will be a draft report. After the fall sessions that will be rolled into another report along with a summary of who were the partners and how many people attended and that will be used by Bourgeois and his partner organizations to start lobbying government.

"The primary audience is the decision makers," Cathro told the group.

Several groups have lent their name to the HFHC initiative: Selkirk College, Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., and others; a complete list is available online.

Next week *The Times* will cover what issues were brought forward at the Midway meeting.



# Editorial

## Forestry has slipped as a priority

In a changing world, it is a challenge for resource managers to know if today's policies and regulations are resulting in sustainable forest use that works for all stakeholders - industry, communities, families and future generations.

The Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities initiative came to the Boundary with two meetings last week to invite discussion around that very question.

It's not often that an opportunity like this will drop into your lap. When was the last time a serious discussion like this was invited? Probably more recently than most would think, given that the Ministry of Forests is required to consult with the public. But one problem is that the public seldom feels invited or involved in the process. It is time for that to change.

British Columbia is larger than California, Oregon and Washington put together. To expect Victoria to be able to come up with the right answers for every region of the province would be rather foolish. Local input is needed to craft our local future.

There are strong opinions that simply moving the forestry offices to Castlegar and Nelson has resulted in a decline in the quality local forest management.

Tenure and access to fibre for local jobs was a theme that resonated at the Midway meeting.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have sponsored the Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities initiative. Because they are correct in saying that forestry has slipped as a provincial priority.

But for small town B.C. it has long been, and will continue to be too important to ignore.

It is time to grab the brass ring - <http://bcforest-conversation.com>

## Letters Policy

The Times welcomes letters to the editor that are of interest to our community. Whatever the subject, there are a few basic guidelines to follow before The Times will publish your comment.

- Letters should be typed or neatly written and present the issues as clearly as possible in 300 words or less.



## Spread the word - let

The Boundary Eat for Life program has generated a lot of excitement over the past two months. You may have been hearing about the success of this weight loss-health gain program from friends and neighbours.

The Eat for Life program was set out by Dr. Stefan Du Toit of Valemount BC. Dr. Du Toit in conjunction with Dr. Jay Wortman and Dr. Jonathan Price have been working out the details for a maintenance plan that will provide sustained health benefits achieved following the weight loss portion of the program. The three physicians are coming to the Boundary share what they have learned with the community.

Over the past decade, a growing number of studies have looked at the benefits of a carbohydrate restricted diet vs. the usual calorie restricted approach to dieting.

The evidence has been consistent that carb-restriction delivers at least as much and maybe more benefit than calorie control.

At the same time, there has been no evidence that carb-restriction is harmful apart from some manageable adverse effects reported in some studies.

The Eat for Life plan restricts carbohydrates, fat and calories. This structured dietary plan, administered in a group setting, has been highly successful in delivering

### A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE



Pat KELLY

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