

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Protecting a precious resource

It's an old saying, but nonetheless true: water is everywhere, at least on Vancouver Island. Countless lakes, rivers, marshes, bogs, swamps, underground waterways and springs, streams and tiny creeks and rivulets criss-cross the land...

Because it's virtually impossible to avoid interfaces with water, for years TimberWest has followed effective policies and practices to protect water quality. Joe Friesenhan is just one of the people who sees them in action.

"The company's program is effective," says Friesenhan, director of public works for the Town of Ladysmith. "They've been very open with any work they've done in our watershed. They contact me all the time when they are working in there. When they do have problems, they let me know and they're fixed right away. Even when we have problems we don't know the source of, they help."

While water quality is regulated by government on public (Crown) land and private lands, TimberWest has gone one step further. In 1999, the company took the lead and developed a stringent watershed management policy to protect drinking water supplies.

Building on that policy, in 2000 TW developed an integrated strategy it has followed ever since, adapting it to the company's new contractor model. Essentially, it protects water quality from negative impacts on its private lands for all kinds of values — domestic water supplies, fisheries and more. While the name (Community and Sensitive Watershed Harvest Plan Review Strategy) is convoluted and the process complex, the end result is simple: clean water.

"Before any harvesting or road-building takes place on TW land, all plans are reviewed by our IRAS (Integrated Resource Analysis Section) experts to make sure those activities meet with company

policy and all laws and regulations," says TW's Al Chatterton, who checks for potential landslide or erosion problems.

"We evaluate them for many factors, but the primary one is water quality."

To protect water quality, things such as how much harvesting has gone on in the watershed, how many roads have been built, the number of stream crossings, and slope stability concerns are reviewed.

"We actually keep a kind of score sheet that lets us know if the harvest plans meet water quality standards,"

says TW resource specialist Domenico Iannidinardo, who oversees watershed reviews. "If they don't, we make changes. So ultimately we have an approved plan to go ahead and log that will maintain water quality."

Changes can include reducing the number of roads, removing bridges or culverts, planting a variety of vegetation, and waiting until trees grow bigger.

As well, TimberWest's resource technician Andy Hasanen works full-time driving around company lands, monitoring watersheds and sampling water resources to prevent problems before they arise.

"I probably inspect an average of 35 watersheds each week, making sure the water is in compliance with Canadian drinking water and aquatic guidelines, and crews are doing things properly," he says. "All of us who work here live and play in the area, so we expect to have clean water, too."

IT'S A FACT:
In 2003, the District of Campbell River awarded TimberWest a Stewardship Award for its watershed review strategy.

More water stories, page 4



PHOTO: AL CHATTERTON

▲ WALKING ON WATER: TW's water quality experts, Al Chatterton and Domenico Iannidinardo (top right, on bridge), explained how the company protects water quality during a tour of Holland Creek Community Watershed on TimberWest land. Holland Creek is the main water supply for the town of Ladysmith. Fourteen representatives from six government agencies attended, including, for the first time, representatives from the Ministry of Health. "From what I saw, it demonstrated how TimberWest is a responsible steward of private and community water supplies," says Howard Singleton, with Health Protection in the Ministry of Health.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

TW and water issues in the Beaufort Range

Lately, TimberWest forest lands and water issues in the Beaufort Range have generated a good deal of public discussion. However, some of that discussion has been based on misinformation and a lack of facts. So we would like to set the record straight.

During the past year, TW has been proactive in informing people about our ongoing activities in the Beaufort Range, including holding a public meeting and meeting individually with local residents and community leaders. Also, specialists reviewed our plans prior to harvest activities, and ensured the plans were appropriate for the site.

While TimberWest was extremely diligent in planning its Beaufort Range activities, a consistent heavy rainfall over a prolonged period in late December and early January led to boil water advisories in the Beaver Creek Improvement District (BCID).

Given the conditions, TimberWest paid very close attention to our operations, especially active ones. But in early January, a "rain-on-snow" event occurred when heavy rain fell on recent snow. This caused significant runoff from the hills, including slides on Deer and Hal creeks, which deposited significant sedimentation into the water.

It is important to note that these two slides were natural events and were in no way associated with any timber harvest activities, including those of TimberWest.

These facts were substantiated in a review undertaken by the Private Managed Forest Land Council, which monitors practices on private managed forest lands. However, during their review, which was conducted after a complaint was received, they also determined that TW had improperly installed

four culverts above Bainbridge Road. Despite this, the report concluded that "the rain-on-snow event was responsible for the unusually high stream flows... not harvesting or harvesting-related activities within the Block."

In a totally separate instance, a broken water pipe caused sedimentation problems that led to a boil water advisory.

TimberWest fixed the culverts and changed procedures so the problem would not happen again. Also, to ensure open communication, the company met with the BCID board to advise them of the facts.

Long-time BCID board member, Susan Roth, summed up the situation as follows: "Many people in the Alberni Valley believe TimberWest's logging practices on the Beaufort Range were the primary cause of four boil water advisories issued by health authorities..."

"Simply put — it is not true. There are other reasons behind the call to boil drinking water. The BC government changed the way they handle turbidity in drinking water, and Mother Nature was more of a problem than anything."

As we move forward, as always, TimberWest will continue to include planning considerations for both fish habitat and drinking water as we manage our land and forests. We will also ensure that open and regular dialogue with groups such as the BCID board, water licence holders and the regional district will provide even better understanding.

It all adds up to putting into practice TimberWest's commitment to protect water quality and other important resources on our forest lands.

— Steve Lorimer, manager,
Public Affairs and Government Relations, TimberWest



Learn more about the ways government safeguards water supplies at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/

IN BRIEF

Elk Falls running as sale proceeds

While a number of potential buyers have shown interest, the sale process for Elk Falls Sawmill is still underway as no agreements for purchase have been struck. In the meantime, the mill continues to run on a three-shift basis as markets permit.

Smooth sailing to Telegraph Cove

The 70,000 visitors who journey to Telegraph Cove — the top tourist attraction on northern Vancouver Island — are grateful that a 20-year effort has finally paid off. Government, industry and local businesses worked together to upgrade Shephard's Way, the 5.6-km road to the cove. The provincial government and owners of Telegraph Cove Resort and Telegraph Cove Marina paid for the \$2-million upgrade. TimberWest and Western Forest Products (formerly Canfor), who own the road, agreed to cede rights-of-way. "The old road would be full of potholes when it rained and dusty when it was dry, so it's made a big change," says Telegraph Cove Resort owner, Gordie Graham. "Travellers from previous years will be pleasantly surprised to see the change. It will have a more positive impact in the years to come as people realize the scenic drive is all smooth sailing." The road is named for former regional district chair Bill Shephard, who passed away last November.



Beautiful Telegraph Cove: a big hit with kayakers and others.

PHOTO: C. FORRKE

Hiking protected in Strathcona Park

The final stage in a land exchange initiated in 2004 has protected an important hiking area near Strathcona Park Lodge. As part of an agreement between the provincial government and TimberWest, 115 ha of TW land in the Tloos Creek valley have been transferred to Strathcona Provincial Park. The parcel contains pristine old growth and important wildlife habitat. Previously, an additional 40 ha of TW land in Buttle Narrows were added to the park. In exchange, TimberWest has received 265 ha on Mount Flannigan that were formerly part of the park. The area, located above Upper Campbell Lake, is steep mountainous terrain in a remote location. The site is designated managed forest under the Private Managed Forest Land Act.

New licences for cabin users

TW has entered into new licence agreements with about 100 cabin users whose cabins were built on TW land. The structures, some of which date back to the 1930s, are located near Nanaimo, Caycuse and Comox lakes. The agreements are consistent for everyone and have a fixed term to 2011. "The original intent of our predecessor companies was to allow employees to build cabins on company property," says



Marianne Stolz, manager, TimberWest properties. "But the practice was stopped in the 1950s as business changed and liabilities and land management became more of an issue, especially during harvesting." Adds Steve

Lorimer, manager, Public Affairs and Government Relations, "There are all sorts of ramifications for people having buildings on our lands without formalized agreements, including fire protection and environmental issues such as water quality and sewage. These have now been addressed."

Priorities continue with contractors

In keeping with its contractor model and focus on timberland management, TW now contracts the services of forestry and engineering crewmen and technicians. In August, the company's hourly forestry and engineering employees were laid off. Some have started their own businesses, but the majority of them have found employment with contractors who serve TimberWest and other companies. "The change should have no impact on TW's operating priorities: safety, the environment, quality and productivity," says Dave Whiteley, TW's general manager of Operations. "We've always had a large engineering and forestry contracting component to our business."



Fires limited despite dry season

Warm temperatures and extended dry weather meant TW had to curtail forest operations for up to six weeks this summer, significantly more than usual. The company's patrol aircraft identified 44 fires on or in the vicinity of TimberWest's lands. Fortunately, most of the fires were small. Six larger fires needed significant resources to extinguish them; three of them required action by the Martin Mars water bombers. The Mars also fought 15 fires for the BC Forest Service. This summer the coastal area saw 24 days when the average fire danger rating was extreme, compared to 12 days last year and the five-year average of 18 days.

PHOTO: BOOMER JERRIT



PLUGGED IN

Putting good used computers to good use

▲ GOOD CONNECTION: TW's Natalia Bowler and Kinsmen's Paul Sutton.

When Paul Sutton gets a call from Natalia Bowler at TimberWest, he knows someone is soon going to be very happy.

Sutton, who was disabled in an industrial accident, is a self-taught computer whiz and something of a clearing house for used IT equipment.

Working through the Kinsmen Club of Nanaimo, he obtains donated computers, which he rehabilitates and provides to schools, non-profit organizations and people in need. For instance, he's arranged a TW colour photocopier for the New Horizons Clubhouse, a rehabilitation centre in Port Alberni run by the Canadian Mental Health Association. And he's even customized a computer system for a young man who has difficulty moving from the neck down, opening up a whole new world for him.

Sutton works with a number of companies. But when he gets a call from Bowler, TimberWest's system administrator, he knows "it's going to be good."

"Natalia knows what we can use, and the equipment is always up to date," he says. "You should see the look on some of these people's faces — they think no one cares. As Kinsmen we are there to help, and it's fantastic we have companies like TimberWest who are willing to help us."

In a sense, Bowler acts much like a redistribution centre herself. She ensures that hundreds of pieces of IT equipment the company can no longer use find good homes in a variety of situations all around Vancouver Island. These include colour photocopiers, laptops, monitors, plotters, laser printers and PCs.

"It's good to get this computer equipment into the hands of organizations and individuals who may not be able to afford to replace theirs," says IT director Kelly Gilchrist. "While we are upgrading



▲ QUICK PICK UP: TW consultant Kevin Brown helps Haven Society's Candice MacDonald (left) and Irene Hobbins take delivery of IT equipment TimberWest donated to the society.

to newer technology it doesn't necessarily mean that our old equipment is obsolete. In many cases, there's still lots of use left in it."

Bowler maintains a definite philosophy regarding the equipment placement.

"I try to make sure that it goes to the smaller organizations that sometimes fall through the cracks when it comes to funding, places that can really use the computers not just for the staff, but for their clients, too," she says.

For example, this fall Bowler arranged to donate 18 computers to Nanaimo's Haven

Society, which provides counselling and services for women who have experienced violence. Bowler, along with consultant Kevin Brown, have offered to help set up 15 of the computers for the women's own use for doing everything from resumés to school work.

"This is tremendous," says the society's executive director, Jane Templeman. "Many women are in various states of starting out with nothing after fleeing abusive relationships. I'm sure for many of them it will be the first time they've had a computer."

Networking with schools



Over the past two years, TW has donated about \$30,000 worth of computer equipment to School District 68 (Ladysmith - Nanaimo), including 20 Dell computers. TW has also donated dozens of PCs, laptops and monitors to the Catholic school system in Vancouver, where they are put to good use in classrooms and administrative offices.



HIGHER LEARNING

Sprouting opportunities

From teaching kids all about the wonders of the forest to offering fellowships to university students, TimberWest supports a variety of educational endeavours to put learning into action. After all, all of our futures depend on today's young people and the quality of skills and understanding they gain.

A+

for achievement in the real world

When it comes to helping out students at the University of British Columbia, the financial support of TimberWest has made a real difference on campus and beyond.

"Your generosity has helped many students with the opportunity to pursue their passions and take their achievements out into the world to enact change within their communities," says Lesley Campbell, development officer of awards at UBC.

Support for UBC students over the years includes:

TimberWest Fellowship in Forest Sciences: A \$2,500 fellowship is offered by TW to a graduate student in forest sciences. Established in 1988, this award has helped close to 20 students, including Kristin Storry, daughter of TW operations planner Bruce Storry, who received this prestigious and highly competitive fellowship for the 2005 winter session.

TimberWest Fellowship in Forest Resource Management and Planning: Since 1976, TW and its predecessor companies have offered a \$2,500 fellowship to a graduate student in forest resource management and planning. This award has helped 34 students realize their goals, including last year's recipient, PhD candidate Andrew Scherer.

Robert (Bob) Willington Memorial Bursary: Bursaries totalling \$1,565 have been endowed by family and friends in memory of TimberWest's former forest hydrologist, Dr. Robert (Bob) Willington. Established in 2004, this award has helped five students, including three last term.

John Worrall Alumni Bursary in Forestry: Bursaries totalling \$7,320, in part supported by TimberWest employees who are forestry alumni, have been endowed in recognition of Dr. John Worrall in the Faculty of Forestry. The award is offered to third-year forestry students and has helped over 30 students fund their research and education in the forestry sector.

For the third school year, TimberWest once again is supporting the efforts of forest technologist and educator, Robin Williams, who has taught hundreds of Vancouver Island students in Grades 3 and 5 all about the forest. Robin uses nine hands-on lessons that cover everything from tree and plant identification to animals in the forest. The following is a letter TW received from Robin at the end of last term.



PHOTO: JOE PHOTON

Dear TimberWest:

The forest education program at Ripple Rock Elementary School was a total success. It's a brand new school in Campbell River, and they were very excited to be hosting a new program as well. The teachers were very pleased with the program, and the students were most enthusiastic.

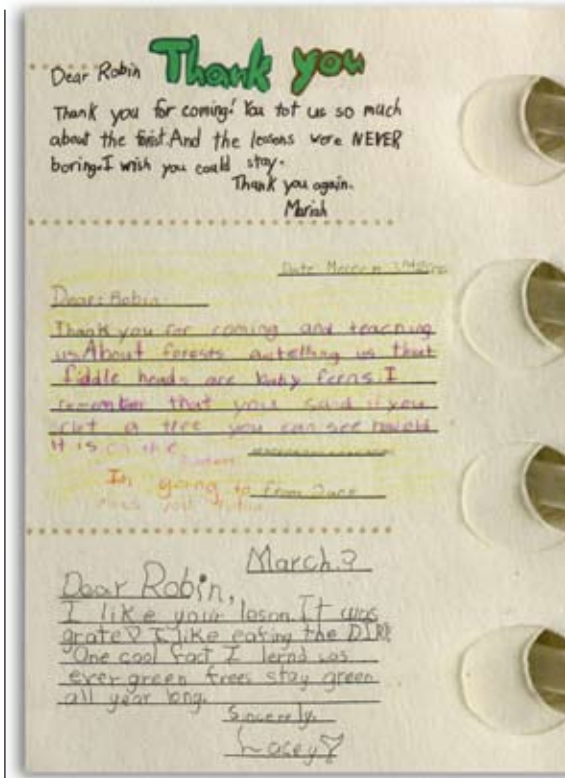
There was some discussion at a recent foresters meeting about enlightening students on forestry as a career, since college and university enrolments aren't as high as they would like them to be. One of the suggestions was to bring forest education into the elementary schools, at the age where students are still forming ideas on careers.

My goal has been to educate children on the importance of the forests, but also to develop an interest in the outdoors by exposing them to many forest elements. Hopefully, this will inspire some to choose forestry as a career.

I've been approached by several teachers regarding forestry as a career choice for their own children after they learned more about it through the forest program. I believe that in communities like ours, it's very important to make our students aware that the forests play a vital role in our culture.

Yours truly,

Robin Williams, Forest technologist/educator



OFF TO THE RIGHT START

Giving students a leg up

For years TimberWest has been helping students achieve their dreams of obtaining a higher education.

The company takes two approaches. One is to provide financial support to students who are studying forestry or related disciplines at post-secondary institutions such as UBC. The other is to offer scholarships worth \$2,000 each to high school graduates from communities in its operating areas, both to dependants of TW employees and to students from the community at large.

Once again, the winners of this year's TimberWest scholarships for dependants of employees are exceptional.

Vanessa Eng, daughter of TW's manager of treasury, Kusuma Eng, achieved such an outstanding scholastic performance she received scholarship offers from both UBC and Queen's University. Vanessa is also an accomplished pianist and has contributed to a host of community services, including Canuck Place Children's Hospice, UNICEF and the Blankets for Canada Society. Vanessa, who is planning a career in the medical field, hopes to one day volunteer in refugee camps and assist families struggling for a better life.

Kelsey Tillapaugh is the daughter of Colleen Tillapaugh, payroll/administrative supervisor at TW's Elk Falls Sawmill. Kelsey, who was selected as class valedictorian, made the academic honour role every school year and took part in an exchange trip to Germany. Besides her extensive community work with organizations like the BC Cancer Foundation, she was named the top female MVP by the Campbell River Youth Soccer Association. With her strong interest in international affairs, Kelsey aims to become fluent in German and return to Europe to work.

In addition to acknowledging these two accomplished students, TW is offering \$2,000 scholarships to two first-year students in forestry technology programs at Malaspina University College or BCIT who have graduated from a high school in a TW operating area.



▲ **CLASSROOM IN THE FOREST:** Over the years, tours on TimberWest lands have given hundreds of students first-hand insights into coastal operations in BC's forest industry, the single biggest contributor to the provincial economy. On a recent tour, these international graduates from UBC's Faculty of Forestry, accompanied by their professor, Hamish Kimmins (right), inspected everything from second-growth plantations to bracken ferns under the guidance of Steve Lorimer (left). "This may be the only chance some of these grad students have to see a working forest before they go home," says Lorimer, TW's manager of Public Affairs and Government Relations. "So it adds a whole new dimension to their understanding."

PHOTO: BOOMER JERRITT

SAFETY FIRST

TW undertakes independent expert review

"Safety is of paramount importance to TimberWest and nothing comes before it, not production, not quality, and not profits."

That powerful statement was made by TimberWest's president and CEO, Paul McElligott, when the company hired two respected forest industry experts to undertake an independent, third-party safety evaluation. This comes on the heels of an earlier evaluation conducted this spring.

The announcement was made prior to the conclusion of the coroner's inquest into the death of Ted Gramlich, a veteran faller who was killed last November while working for a contractor on TW lands. He was struck by a falling tree while working on a steep slope west of Nanoose Bay.

In its report on the accident, WorkSafe BC said the self-employed logging contractor showed a "lapse in judgment" when he continued to work in "extremely hazardous" conditions.

"The death of Ted Gramlich was a terrible tragedy," says McElligott. "Even though WorkSafe BC concluded that a lapse of judgment by the logger himself was the primary cause of the fatality, it is our duty to regularly review safety procedures, look for ways to improve, and then follow through."

To that end, TW has asked Dave Haggard, former IWA president, and Philip Halkett, former Deputy Minister to the Premier and a long-serving Deputy Minister of Forests, to undertake a thorough safety evaluation. The scope of their mandate includes the following reviews:

- TimberWest's safety obligations as a landowner and employer under the existing regulatory framework;
- TimberWest's overall safety program and related policies and procedures to identify areas for improvement;
- Enhancements to TW's safety program since November 2005;
- TimberWest's safety program with the BC Forest Safety Council to identify potential gaps and areas for improvement;
- Recommendations of the coroner's jury for potential safety improvements by landowners operating under a contractor model, and advise how they should be integrated into TW's program.

In keeping with the company's policy of safety as the first priority, TW has made numerous enhancements since the fall of 2005, including an independent review of safety procedures completed in spring 2006. All of those recommendations have been implemented.

The findings from the Haggard/Halkett review, scheduled for completion in November, will be made public.



SOLID BENEFITS FOR COWICHAN RIVER: \$45,000 of rock donated by TW adds to cleanup

A huge project initiated by the Ministry of the Environment to stabilize Stoltz Bluff on the Cowichan River received a solid boost from TimberWest, which owns most of the land in the upper Cowichan watershed.

The \$800,000+ project — likely the largest of its kind ever undertaken on Vancouver Island — saw 7,000 cubic metres of rip-rap used to control erosion at the base of the bluffs. All of the rock, valued at about \$45,000, was donated by TW from its quarry near Stoltz Pool Campground.

"The big cost is always loading and trucking, so that donation made it considerably easier because it was relatively close to our work site," says Craig Wightman, manager of the salmon and steelhead recovery program for the Ministry of Environment. "It definitely added to our cost efficiencies in a very large budget-demanding, rock-demanding project."

The rip-rap terracing, with the addition of vegetation, will prevent huge amounts of sand and

silt from washing into the river when the water level or velocity is high. The problem was critical as the river is an important source of drinking water for parts of North Cowichan; habitat for salmon, steelhead and trout; and water for Catalyst's paper mill.

"The whole phenomenon is natural, but the riverbed is gradually moving toward Stoltz Bluff and cutting away more at the base, so it's been getting worse every year," says biologist Dave Lindsay. He is one of TW's representatives on the Cowichan River Stewardship Roundtable, which was instrumental in attracting funds to remediate the river, something that the ministry has been trying to resolve since the early 1990s.

"It was such a big, expensive project that funding was always the problem. So we [TimberWest] are just happy to be able to do our share," adds Lindsay.

Support came from other sources, including the Georgia Basin Living Rivers Program, Pacific Salmon Commission, BC Ministry of Transportation, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, Catalyst and Nilox Inc.

Upping the ante for clean water

While TimberWest's water policy and strategy have been around for years, changes have arisen with two new pieces of legislation.

The provincial Drinking Water Protection Act was enacted in 2001 in response to the water contamination in Walkerton, Ont. Although regulations arising from the act became effective in 2003, the effects have just recently impacted the forestry industry.

This act, for the first time, places significant responsibility for water management and domestic water supply under BC's Ministry of Health. This means companies like TimberWest now deal with the Vancouver Island Health Authority in addition to the Ministry of Environment.

The new legislation gives the Ministry of Health considerable clout. For instance, it can issue stop work orders if hazards to drinking water quality are identified. In addition, the Ministry of Environment can expropriate land to protect source areas if water standards aren't met.

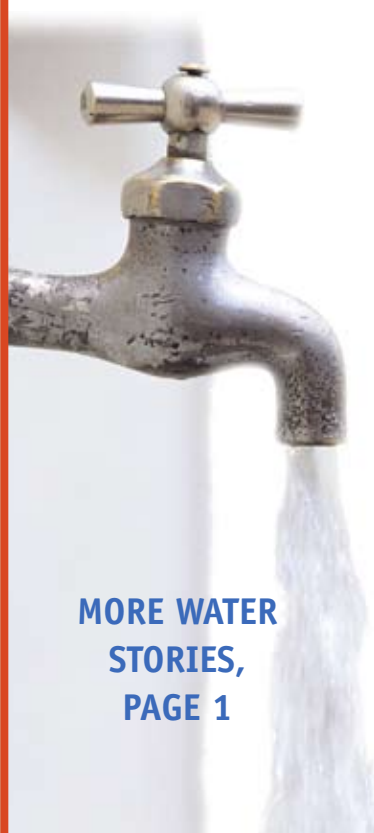
Another piece of provincial legislation, the Fish Protection Act, saw new regulations for riparian areas take effect in April. These impact lands not classified as managed forest lands, including some of TW's properties with high real estate value. In response, the company has independently assessed its lands, completed new reporting requirements, and reaffirmed that company guidelines already provide similar stream protection.

All told, in addition to its own water protection policy, TimberWest must comply with all laws, acts and regulations under the auspices of the two provincial ministries, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Private Managed Forest Land Council and, in certain cases, regional districts or municipalities.

The company also works closely with over a dozen major purveyors of domestic water on Vancouver Island to keep drinking water clean, sometimes with leading-edge results.

"TimberWest is an active member of our technical watershed committee," says Jennifer Brunn, water specialist for the City of Campbell River.

"They've contributed to developing a plan that's recognized by the province as an effective template for other communities to meet the latest regulations and approaches to protect water quality."



MORE WATER STORIES, PAGE 1



A marvellous marmot year

More good news from the Vancouver Island marmot breeding program: It's been a record year, with 29 animals released into the wild to seven different colonies, about twice the usual number and the highest ever.

The current strategy is to release family groups or breeding pairs into the wild. "We have to get more active because our breeding programs in zoos are almost too successful," says TW biologist Dave Lindsay.

The emphasis now is on raising and protecting the marmots. Only six deaths occurred in the wild this summer, bringing the total marmot populations to 60-65 in the wild and 144 in captivity, including a record 55 new pups.

For the record

In the last issue of *Neighbours* the article titled "TW buys logs from Cape Mudge band" contained an error. Timber reallocation was not enabled through the Forest and Range Practices Act, which replaces the Forest Practices Code. Rather, it was enabled through the Forestry Revitalization Act. For more information, go to www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/plan/.



Comments & contacts

Neighbours is produced by TimberWest's Corporate Affairs Department for community members and employees.

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Farewell to employee stars

TW has many fine employees, and this fall three of them who interfaced extensively with our neighbours in the community have moved on to new futures. We wish them the best.

Al Chatterton, RPF, professional geoscientist and terrain specialist in the Integrated Resource Analysis Section (IRAS), is retiring early. Since joining BC Forest Products in 1979, he has brought many years of valuable service to TimberWest, its predecessor companies and his profession.

Gordon Littlejohn, director, Real Estate, is also taking early retirement after 36 years of service with TW and its predecessors. His knowledge of TW lands as well as the successful real estate sales program have been great assets to the company.

Grace Francescato, executive assistant and Vancouver office manager, is leaving after 10 years of dedicated service to realize her goal of becoming a naturopathic doctor.

