



## 2017 Directors Report

The Kaslo and District Community Forest started the past year with a new Board which was comprised by a group of very active and dedicated directors.

Steve Anderson, Tara Clapp, Steve Fawcett, Chris Webster, Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck, Jeff Mattes, Robin Mercy, Andy Shadrack and Ross Lake worked very diligently on behalf of the community.

Early in the 2017 term, an evaluation was conducted by committee and the Board of the existing Management structure. Decision was made to re-establish the management objectives of the Society and a call for proposals was initiated and the former Management Contract with Porcupine Wood Products was terminated. Three qualified proposals were received, interviews were conducted, and a local Management Team comprised of Jeff Reyden, RPF of Strathinnes Forestry Consultants, and Sabrina Mutterer, of Helica Forest Consulting were contracted on October 10<sup>th</sup>. A concept of full management service was initiated with the input of the new team and the Board. Management services expanded from “Woodlands Management” comprised of timber development and harvesting to include “Society Management”, which encompasses planning, financial, community liaison, and community benefit factors. Procedure now incorporates full Management leadership and involvement of all of the facets of the Society.

With the leadership of our Management Team, the Society has implemented a virtual Office operation which implements the requests of the membership for improved information sharing and opportunities for input into operational planning. We have reallocated resources to newsprint, rental of meeting spaces to conduct regular face to face community meetings throughout the year and the re-design of our website, improving ease of browsing, blogging and uploading of news information. The decision was based on 4 restructuring options the Management Team presented to the Board in November 2017 and recommended Option #4:

“KDCFS CLOUD Office and services. Be visible where the community visits. Maximum accessibility and productivity at competitive cost for management and board business.”

This recommendation subsequently was ratified by the Board of Directors.

The Societies’ registered address has moved to Mel B Digital after the closure of our office in the Kemball Building at the end of January. Mel houses our Server and regularly secures information on external hard drives. Current and historic records are also stored in the Cloud. Societal documents are made available for review in the Mel B Digital business walk-in location during office hours on Front Street in Kaslo. Mel is linked to our virtual Membership Hub and has several computers in her Internet Cafe to facilitate assisted or non-assisted **Societal** document viewing to our membership free of charge. Viewing of all **Operational** License information, discussions and meetings will be by appointment with Management and will take place in a different location. Regular Board meetings are held at a room rented every second Wednesday of each Month, currently in the Kemball Building, to which the public is invited.

Budgets and planning programs with 2 year horizons have and are being initiated. Full operating budgets have been adopted for annual operation, and five year management plans and budgets are being



developed in conjunction with a new Business Plan. Monthly Management reports are encompassing and detailed and formulate Team Management recommendations for consideration and approval by the Board. Committees continue to operate with Management leadership and guidance. Long Term Planning, Finance and Governance Committees are operating at the forefront. Board meetings this spring have been dedicated to the review of governance documents, such as our Bylaws, new Societies' Act compliance, internal policies in consultation with specialized legal advice. The Long Term Planning committee, chaired by Steve Anderson, is progressing toward confirming sustainability of the Licence and developing a full inventory plan, and an operating plan with appropriate restrictions.

Funding through the BC Community Forest Association was obtained to hire two UBC Forestry students, and under the supervision of Jeff Reyden, significant timber inventory and analysis was achieved.

Aided by grant money from Canada 150, Columbia Basin Trust, and the RCDK, the KDCFS, under contract with BC Parks, supplied a 4 member trail crew of local die-hards Jessie Lay, Naya Shine, Waya Aeon and Ryan Tate to fix up sections of the Earl Grey Pass Trail for the second year in a row. The crew worked through a 3 week stretch of intense summer days fraught with fire shut-downs and remote access logistics under the guidance of Chris Webster and supervision of Sabrina Mutterer. Funding was procured with the extensive assistance of John Cathro.

Columbia Basin Trust funded and provided a Consultant for a Governance Review Program which provided an overview for the Board. Further CBT involvement is available for further review of components of the report, including Management structure and Conflict of Interest procedures.

Marie-Ange Fournier-Beck attended the Annual Meeting of the BC Community Forest Association at Tumbler Ridge, and returned with valuable insights and contacts made for the Society. It is expected that the Board will continue to participate with the Association and realize benefits.

The Board of Kaslo and District Community Forest has been cohesive and very hard working over the last term.

The Board particularly asks that the Membership recognize two very significant people that have retired from service to the Society. Bill Kestell RPF provided diligent service as Forest Manager for many years. Ronnie Carmen provided office management and bookkeeping service to the Society almost from the inception of the KDCFS. We thank you both very much.

A new bookkeeper, Carol Brown, has joined the Team.

Ross Lake

President