

# Forest Times

Winter 2003

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Photo by Sean Francis Martin

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A Newsletter of the

## Prince Albert Model Forest

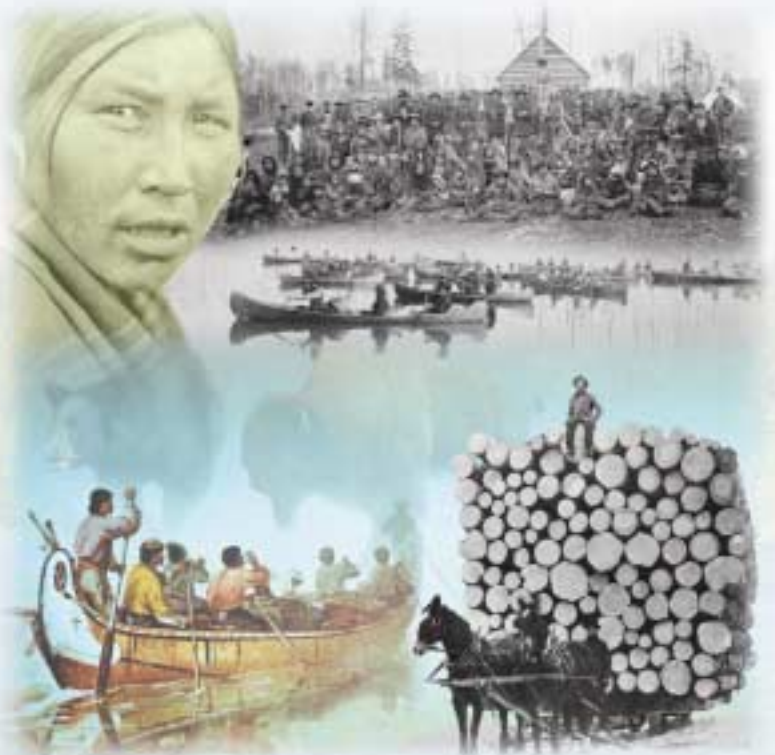
# Message from the New President Norm Stolle



Photo by Sean Francis Martin

As the new president of the Prince Albert Model Forest, and on behalf of the Partnership and Board of Directors, it gives me pleasure to announce that, as a Model Forest, we have received a new five-year mandate from Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service. The Prince Albert Model Forest Partnership and Board of Directors look forward to building on the successes achieved in the first ten years of our previous two five-year mandates. Within the changing environments of the various related fields of our mandate, we face many challenges in carrying out our goals and objectives.

The Prince Albert Model Forest is one of 11 model forests in the Canadian Model Forest Network. It is a not-for-profit organization established in 1992 and supported by direct funding from the Canadian



The above thematic image features four collages, each representing a unique aspect of the area's ecological history. The first collage is a portrait of nature as it has existed since before human habitation. A focal point is the majestic eagle, celebrated by First Nations as a creature of power and grace, and with its great vision, as the eyes of the Creator. Also repre-

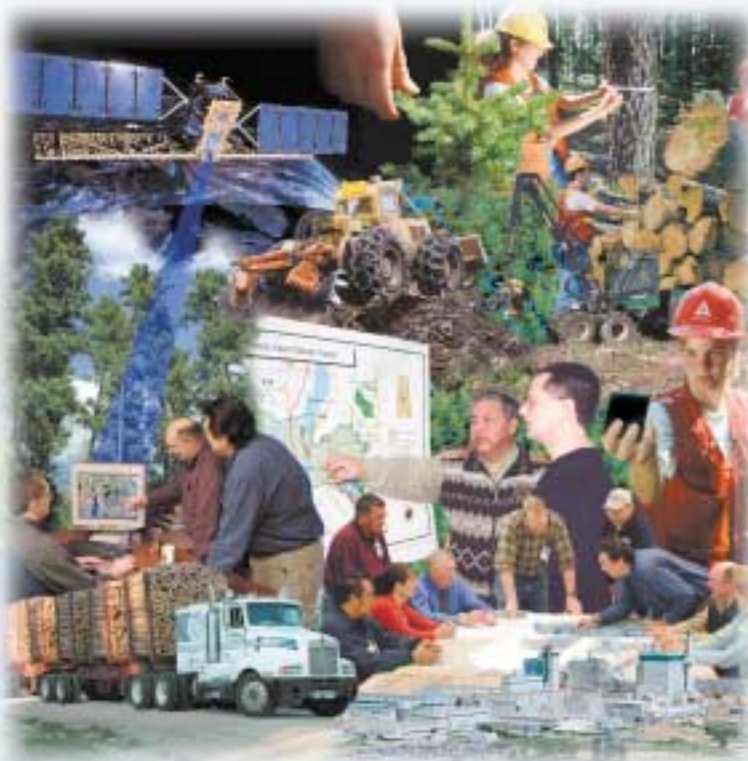
sented are the fish, birds, animals, plants, trees, water and skies - all precious resources that the Model Forest Partnership is endeavouring to sustain. The second collage portrays descendants of the original First Nations inhabitants of the area during the time of the European fur trade, arrival of settlers and beginning of the forest industry.

Forest Service as well as contributions from its eleven stakeholders-partners: Canadian Forest Service, Canadian Institute of Forestry, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Prince Albert Grand Council, Prince Albert National Park, Resort Village of Candle Lake, Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Research Council and Weyerhaeuser.

The Partnership and Board of Directors are pleased to welcome Gene Kimbley as the new General Manager. Gene was part of the original team that established the Prince Albert Model Forest in 1992, and was the first Board Director to represent the Montreal Lake Cree Nation.

In our Phase III mandate, the Prince Albert Model Forest Board has embraced the national goals of Sustainable Forest Management implementation, including becoming policy relevant and moving beyond our boundaries. Various steering committees will be introduced in future issues of our newsletter to provide updates on the progress and results obtained from implementation of our goals and objectives.

We are pleased to introduce our redesigned newsletter, Forest Times. We commissioned Willard Ahenakew to design the new thematic image (below), which will be a feature on all our future published materials.



The third and fourth collages represent the Partnership of the Prince Albert Model Forest today, in which the spirit of sustainable forest management is demonstrated through the power of working together. From high tech satellite imaging to research and nurturing of the ecosystem, the Partnership is providing a voice for all stakeholders in the management



and use of resources within the boundaries of the Model Forest. Model Forest projects gather information from research and Partnership sources, and share this information with the general public through guided tours, cultural interpretation, published reports and media releases. Current and future generations will benefit from these Partnership activities.

-Willard Ahenakew

# Message from the General Manager

## Gene Kimbley



Photo by Sean Francis Martin

The mission of the Prince Albert Model Forest is to "work towards Sustainable Forest Management through the development and testing of new forest management tools, sharing of our successes, developing linkages and expanding our partnership base." In pursuit of this mission, we look forward to working with a diverse set of Partners, many of whom are Aboriginal.

The theme of the current five-year phase is to strengthen sustainable forest management at the local, regional, provincial and national levels. The Board of Directors has identified several initiatives as potentially beneficial to Partners. With approval from Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service, we are concentrating on four areas: Science and Technology, Communications and Outreach, Beyond Our Boundaries and a strategic long-term plan.

The Science and Technology steering committee is conducting research into disturbance impacts on ecosystems, influence of climate changes on forest management practices, ecosystem-based forest inventories and modeling of landscapes over time. In other words, what impact does present and future forest management have on forest sustainability? The committee will also study long-term movement at the north-south forest/grasslands interface. Some of the research will involve scientific partnerships with other model forests and agencies.

The Communications and Outreach steering committee keeps the public informed of sustainable forest management improvements, outcomes and issues at all levels. Communication tools include this newsletter, the Model Forest web site and outreach programming with schools, allied professionals and northern communities.

The Beyond Our Boundaries steering committee is working to extend sustainable forest management beyond the boundaries of Prince Albert Model Forest. A major feature is the development of capacity within selected northern communities to produce sustainable socio-economic activities that will lead to improved quality of life, culture and dependent environments. Another feature is knowledge transfer, which will enable others to benefit from lessons learned locally and vice versa.

Lastly, a long-term strategic plan will be in place before and beyond the current mandate of March 2007. Previous steering committees have made a good start by identifying criteria for the development of sustainable forest management practices within our boreal ecosystems, then designing performance indicators to measure success. We need to add forest-based performance indicators that will measure and increase benefits to all societies connected to our model forest. For instance, what is the impact of forest disturbance on recreation? How can we improve opportunities for small businesses within our borders? These and other questions require answers before we achieve the benefits of sustainable forest management.

# Wapus Lake Elk Re-Establishment Aerial Survey



Photo's by Sean Francis Martin



For four days during the first week of February 2003, two helicopters navigating via satellite Global Positioning System scoured the snowy expanses of Montreal Lake and Prince Albert National Park. It was the first aerial survey of the Wapus ("rabbit" in Cree) Lake Elk Re-Establishment herd since their release into the wild in 1999. Since that time, some 800 elk from Elk Island National Park in Alberta and Cypress Hills Provincial Park in southwestern Saskatchewan have been released in the Montreal Lake Cree Nation area.

The concept of reintroducing wildlife into previous natural habitat within model forest boundaries was initiated in 1996 by the Canadian Model Forest Secretariat and Canadian Rural Partnerships program. As a member of the Canadian Model Forest Network, Prince Albert Model Forest took on the role of local facilitation and approached the Montreal Lake Cree Nation to select a project that would meet the national goal.

Having witnessed the virtual disappearance of elk from their local area, the Montreal Lake Cree Nation decided to embark on an elk restoration project. In 1997, a partnership was formed between the Montreal Lake Cree Nation and the province of Saskatchewan to develop and implement a project management plan. Canadian Rural Partnerships and Prince Albert Model Forest provided the initial seed money.

Several lead partners provided funding for the aerial survey, including Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan Environment, Prince Albert National Park and Prince Albert Model Forest.

Results indicate that the Wapus Lake Elk Re-Establishment project is meeting its main project goals. First, the relocated elk have adopted the greater area of Montreal Lake and Prince Albert National Park as their new home-range. Second, the relocated elk herd has increased in population and is mixing well with the original resident elk population.

# CAREERS



Photo by Sean Francis Martin

## Geographic Information Science (GIS) for Resource Management (Certificate) SIAST Woodland Campus, Prince Albert

Geographic Information Science uses modern technology to digitize, analyze, and communicate spatial information about the natural features and human activities in our environment. This certificate program is designed to meet the requirements of natural resource industries, government and non-profit agencies, and First Nations organizations for skilled technicians in this rapidly growing field. Geographic information technologies are applied in forestry, mining, fisheries, wildlife, agriculture, urban and regional planning, and an increasing number of other applications requiring geographic information. The GIS for Resource Management program emphasizes a hands-on approach to Geographic Information Systems and related technologies including photogrammetry, global positioning systems (GPS), remote sensing, computer programming, and database design in the context of resource management applications. Students work with industry standard software and equipment, and take part in a four-week work practicum.

**Entrance Requirements:** Grade 12; minimum 65% average in English Language Arts A30 and B30 (combined); minimum 65% average in Math A30 and B30 (combined) and Computer Science 30 or other computer literacy. Entrance interview.

**Length of Program:** 30 weeks - September to April

**Possible Employment Agencies:** Saskatchewan Environment (wildlife, parks, fisheries, forestry, fire control), Ducks Unlimited, Department of Highways, Devel-Tech, Eco-Dynamics, Mining Exploration, SaskPower, Weyerhaeuser, Traxis, Golder Assoc.

**Range of Salaries:** \$10.00 to \$22.00 per hour

**For More Information Contact:** Fiona Gregory, GIS Instructor, (306) 953-7050, [gregory@siast.sk.ca](mailto:gregory@siast.sk.ca) or Teal Fisher, GIS Instructor, (306) 953-7050, [fishert@siast.sk.ca](mailto:fishert@siast.sk.ca) or Hamilton Greenwood (NRT program head), (306) 953-7114, [greenwood@siast.sk.ca](mailto:greenwood@siast.sk.ca)



# Technology in Forestry

RADARSAT International has been providing Earth-observation (EO) data and derived information products as well as leading-edge services to its global clients since 1989. RSI offers turnkey solutions satisfying the economic and operational needs of forestry companies and government forest and land agencies. These solutions, derived from radar and low- and high-resolution optical satellite imagery, are used to develop effective layers for forest and land use planning, cultivation, and forest management. EO capabilities for forestry applications include: forest cover type discrimination; mapping of cleared forest areas; land use mapping; delineation of extent of vegetation and land cover types; soil moisture assessment and wetlands mapping.

RADARSAT-1 data is particularly effective for forest fire control as it can acquire imagery independent of weather conditions, and added optical data solutions have proven to be beneficial for all kinds of vegetation classification and analysis.

The RADARSAT-1 satellite uses a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) sensor that is sensitive to terrain features such as elevation change, land/water boundaries, vegetation change boundaries (such as clearcut or burn boundary delineation) and imagery is available at multiple different resolutions ranging from 8m – 100m dependent on customer requirements. RADARSAT-1 has been providing all-weather imaging since 1996 for a wide range of environmental and resource industry clients.

information courtesy of





# Prince Albert Model Forest

**Ma Maw Wechehetowin**

Working Together/Helping Each Other

## Board of Directors

Model Forest Partner  
Prince Albert National Park  
Resort Village of Candle Lake  
Canadian Institute of Forestry  
Saskatchewan Environment  
Weyerhaeuser  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
Montreal Lake Cree Nation

Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
Canadian Forest Service  
Saskatchewan Research Council

Director  
Norm Stolle, President  
Clint Mauthe, Vice President  
Michael McLaughlan, Secretary  
Ron Erickson, Treasurer  
John Doucette  
Chris LaPlante  
Cliff Buettner  
Harry Halkett  
Warren Bradfield  
Fred Charles  
Michael Newman  
Bryan Schreiner  
Mark Johnston

## Staff

Gene Kimbley, General Manager/ Irene Roy, Administrator

## Steering Group Committees

### Science & Technology

Saskatchewan Research Council

Weyerhaeuser  
Resort Village of Candle Lake  
Saskatchewan Environment  
Prince Albert National Park  
Montreal Lake Cree Nation  
Canadian Forest Service  
Prince Albert Model Forest

Mark Johnston, Chair  
Jeff Thorpe  
Darryl Sande  
Fred Chester  
Bob Wynes  
Jeff Weir  
Warren Bradfield  
Michael Newman  
Gene Kimbley

### Beyond Our Boundaries

Saskatchewan Environment  
Prince Albert National Park  
Resort Village of Candle Lake  
Saskatchewan Environment – Meadow Lake  
Montreal Lake Cree Nation  
Canadian Forest Service  
Prince Albert Model Forest

Todd Olexson, Chair  
John Fau  
Borden Wasyluk  
Jeff McKay  
Warren Bradfield  
Michael Newman  
Gene Kimbley

### Communication & Outreach

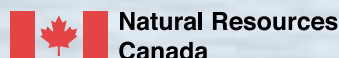
Prince Albert National Park  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
Resort Village of Candle Lake  
SE / Canadian Institute of Forestry  
Canadian Forest Service  
Prince Albert Model Forest

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Canadian Forest  
Service

