

Free Gifts from All Nova Scotia Forest Landowners

This research was done by me, David F. Barrett (BLC), because Halifax Water and the Nova Scotia Utility Review Board (URB) dismissed the BLC stormwater appeal. To my knowledge, Halifax Water and the URB did not use any professional forestry personnel to help them in making a decision on how much stormwater if any was produced after the harvest of timber. They just assumed it was the same as a Costco parking lot and charged the Barrett Lumber Company accordingly (\$3000/year). Thus, making forestry unsustainable in the Halifax Regional Municipality. To this day I cannot understand how so many intelligent people of Halifax Water and the URB could compare a timber lot to a Costco parking lot where the stumpage, roots, tree limbs, tree tops, moss with its water containing properties, etc. Not to mention where the top soil is removed and replaced with pavement.

The never-ending benefits to Nova Scotia from the Harold T. Barrett Family and all Nova Scotians who keep their land in forestry especially a managed forest.

Recognize that managed forests help:

- To provide an income for forest land owners for their investment in forestry property.
- To sequester the large amount of carbon (trees) rather than have them rot and release all that carbon into the air.
- Fight flooding, for a forest is like a great sponge.
- Slow the water flow by reducing the surface runoff.
- Fill the groundwater.
- Fill the underground aquifers while sustaining watershed stability and resistance.
- Provide mulch with its water saving qualities.
- Act as a natural reservoir, treatment plant and stormwater management system.
- Pump water into the air by way of its leaves, needles etc.
- Accept the runoff of adjacent roadways.
- Mitigate pollution from highway spills etc.
- A managed forest provides a higher quality of drinking water.
- A managed forest provides positive carbon credits.
- A non-managed forest provides negative carbon credits.
- Provide shade and cool air.
- There are more Forests in Nova Scotia now than 100 years ago despite twice the population.

Recognize that:

- Private forest land owners do more stormwater control than the land produces. In fact, the forest land owners provide relief to the storm water infrastructure.
- Private forest land is completely different than retail, service businesses and industrial land.
- Satellite imagery is wrong as it relates to forestry and does not work on freshly harvested forest or forest blow downs.
- The misrepresentation of forest land by satellite imagery has the potential of destroying forestry.
- Satellite imagery taken before the leaves are out on private forest land in the spring will give false readings.
- Rock outcrops are a fact of nature and has nothing to do with private forest land disturbances.
- Trees blown down by hurricanes or other large wind storms are a fact of nature and has nothing to do with forest land owners disturbing the forest land.
- A forest landowner should not be penalized because the local planning committee zones forest land commercial (1986 Beaver Bank Plan).

- HRM Fire departments were able to stop the Kingswood fire because BLC had well maintained gravelled ditch forest extraction road in front of that fire.
- Thousands of Nova Scotia private forest land owners provide forest extraction roads for recreation.
- Private forest land owners spend thousands of dollars each year to maintain and upgrade miles of forest extraction roads for public use and fire protection.
- The more private forestry land owners that keep their land in forestry, the less stormwater management our municipalities have to do.
- No government should tax forest land beyond its ability to grow wood fibre.
- Forests continue to sustain communities across Canada as well as a vast diversity of plants, animals, fungi and ecosystems.

“Gills of the Planet”

- Forests are one key source of breathable air. They provide oxygen, an essential element to life.
- Every ton of wood that a forest grows releases 1.07 tons of oxygen.
- On average one tree produces nearly 260 lbs of oxygen each year.
- Two mature trees can provide enough oxygen for a family of 4 per year.
- One acre of forest produces enough oxygen for 18 people to breath for a year. This is one of the reasons you feel better after you walk in the woods.

Sequesters Carbon Dioxide

- Every ton of wood that a forest grows it removes 1.47 tons of carbon and can store that carbon for centuries.
- One acre of mature trees absorbs the amount of carbon dioxide produced when you drive an average car 26,000 miles in a year.
- Forest provides jobs and efficient building materials that store carbon.

“The Lungs of our Land”

- A forest helps to stabilize and cool the climate in general, helping to regulate regional temperatures, by releasing water vapor into the air through leaves.
- A forest absorbs odors, pollutant gases such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone... a forest filters particulate matter which causes respiratory irritation and illness. Trees do this by trapping particulates on their leaves and bark. In other words, trees act as filters to clean the air of dust etc. that we breathe. A single tree can absorb 10 pounds of air pollution per year.

Water Purifiers and Flood Control

- A forest contains the necessary mechanisms for clean healthy filtered water.
- A forest fights flooding for it's like a great sponge. The forest slows the water flow by reducing the surface runoff, refilling the groundwater and underground aquifers while sustaining watershed stability and resistance.
- A forest provides mulch with its water saving qualities.
- A forest promotes regular rainfall.
- A forest acts as natural reservoirs, treatment plants and stormwater management systems.

Healthy Living

- A forest provides society a healthy atmosphere of shade, greenery, activity and tranquillity be it visual, physical or spiritual.
- A forest provides both food and shelter to humans, animals, birds etc.
- A forest reduces pollution.
- A forest provides a wind break.
- A forests root network stabilizes huge amounts of soil.
- A forest reduces ultraviolet radiation levels and noise (USDA Forestry Service).
- A forest uses Phytoremediation to clean up a contaminated environment. Trees can either sequester the toxins away or degrade them to make them less dangerous such as sewage, roadside spills or contaminated runoff.

A forest is great at controlling and curing mental health.

A forest slows global warming.