By Jeff Barton, to NOSCP Community Forest
Workshop, March 4-5, 2009, Thunder Bay
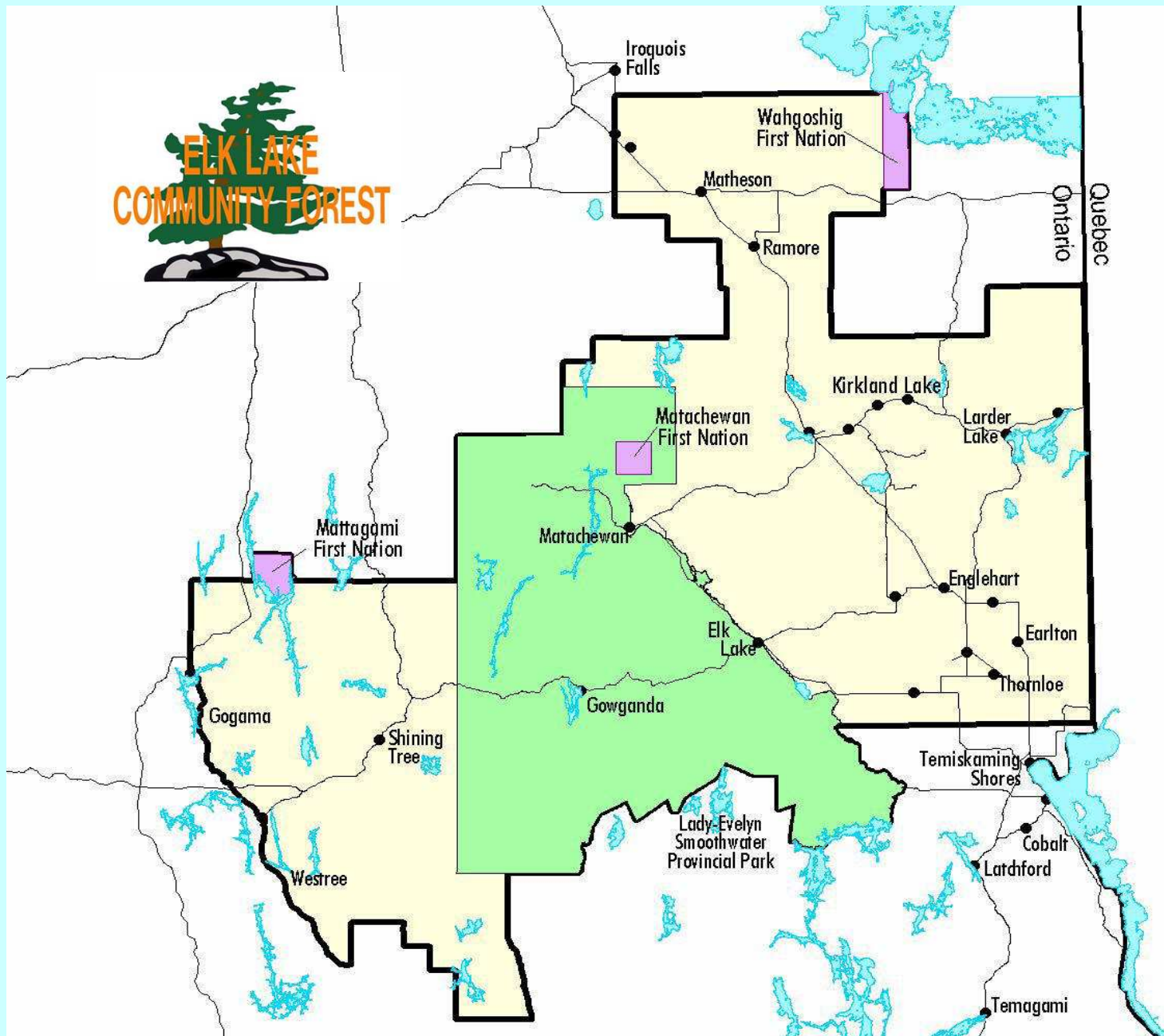
Acknowledgements

A few key individuals….

➢**Reeve Terry Fiset and Council of Twp**

➢**Stephen Harvey (MNR)**

➢**Larry Ternent, R.P.F.**

➢**ELCF Board**

➢**Bob Walroth (MNR)**

- The Landbase

- Origins

- Mission Statement

- Evolution

- Current Status

- Lessons Learned

ELK LAKE
COMMUNITY FOREST

The Landbase

- Elk Lake Crown Management Unit

- Approximately 450,000 hectares

- One organized municipality

- Borders on Temagami Area/District

- Active forestry operations and sawmilling since J.R. Booth

- Boreal and Transition Forest

The Landbase (cont'd)

• Established "semi remote" tourism sector

• Historical use by Temagami First Nation and Matachewan FN

• Mining origins…limited by Land Caution and economics of the 80's/early 90's

Origins

➢Most of Kirkland Lake and Temagami District were Crown Management units up until mid 90's

➢ Controversy in Temagami around land claim, park creation/expansion

➢Wood supply issues including shipment of roundwood to Quebec mills

➢Growing pressure on forest

Origins (continued)

➢1991 Model Forest Program Request for Proposals

➢Strong focus on enhanced silviculture, and community tenure (short listed but not selected)

➢1991 Community Forest Program

➢Focus on tenure reform (preceded "Robert Carmen" and establishment of Sustainable Forest Licences) Selected as one of four sites

Mission Statement (1991)

To promote the continued economic viability of local communities that depend on the are for their livelihood through the implementation of Sustainable Forest Practices

Objectives

Secure Local Administrative and Decision Making Authority

Accelerate the development of sustainable forestry

Promote the economic viability of local communities

Secure the permanance of the Community Forest

Evolution- Part I

➤ Silviculture, Conflict Resolution, Data collection, "towards community tenure"

➤ Funded by Provincial government

➤ Government funding ended in 1995

Evolution- Part I

➢Two key components:

        ➢ Partnership Arm

        ➢Operational Arm

Evolution- Part I

➢ 1994-1996 "Incubation" of cooperative SFL

➢ Important role as Local Citizens Committee for the development of the 1996 Timber Management Plan for the Elk Lake Crown Management Unit

➢ Significant role with respect to conflict resolution

➢ Input into the Crown Forest Sustainability Act

Evolution- Part II

➢Self-funded

- •Silvicultural contractors

- •Fire suppression/support

- •Continued role as LCC for the Elk Lake Portion of Timiskaming Forest

- •Line marking as compliance program increased

Evolution- Part III

➢ "Privatized" in 1997

Evolution- Part IV

➢Company dissolved and operations reverted to ELCF

➢MNR eliminated role as LCC as plans were consolidated

➢Silviculture, Technical and Training Services re-started

➢Advocacy during Lands for Life Process

Evolution- Part V Current Status

➢Advocacy

➢Defacto "business incubator"

➢Community/business development

➢**PROTECT ACCESS TO THE FOREST**

➢Close relationship with SFL, Industry, Development Agencies

Lessons Learned

➢ Be Flexible

➢ Not a "one size fits all" solution

➢ PROTECT ACCESS TO THE FOREST

➢ Relationships are critical!

➢ Involvement costs $$$$$.. And TIME…need strong Council support

➢ Private ownership has some positive aspect

➢ Community management of the forest is not necessarily good management

Closing Comment

…Be careful of what you wish for….

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THANK YOU