

The Community Forestry Project

1991-95

One of Ontario's Sustainable Forestry
Initiatives

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Purpose: Assess the opportunity to increase community involvement in forestry

Approach

- 4 pilots
- Study
- Strategy
- Section 15 Crown Forest Sustainability Act

Key “Policy” Questions

- What is “community?”
- What is the community’s (ies) interest(s)?
- How best can the community's interest be addressed?
- What does the community need to achieve its interest?

4 Pilots

- Elk Lake
- 6/70 (Kapusking)
- W.I.K.Y.
- Geraldton Community Forest Inc.

Study

- Examine experience to date with community/local involvement in resource management
- From a list of 40 across North America, 13 experiences were examined in detail

Experiences examined

- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Picton Beach Management Agreement
- Simcoe County Agreement Forest
- Algonquin Forestry Authority
- Temagami Comprehensive Planning Council
- Magpie Forest Comanagement Committee
- Armstrong Resources Development Corporation
- Ignace Comanagement Committee
- Wabaseemoong Traditional land Use Area
- Mission Tree Farm Licence
- 100 Mile House Demonstration Forest
- Inimin Forest Partnership

What is community?

- Not just a municipality (but municipality can play a key role)
- Community(ies) of interests

What is the community interest?

- Linking community objectives with forestry objectives
- Planning
- Information
- Conflict resolution
- Economic development
- Recreation (quality of life)
- Stewardship – taking care

How best can the community's interest be achieved?

- No one means - flexibility
- Planning
- Program delivery
- Information gathering and analysis

What was learned and what does the community need to address its interest?

- Vision - Know what you want
- Leadership – People make a difference
- Community representation – Know who you are
- Support of the community – Walk the talk
- Information – Know what you are talking about

What was learned and what does the community need to address its interest?

- Resources – including existing community structures
- Appropriate control over the “business” its managing (autonomy)
- No single organizational approach – but legal entity required
- Financial imperative – the bottom line
- Community education and awareness key to supporting vision

Applying the knowledge

- Westwind
- Forest Management Boards

Key Challenges

- Balancing the local and provincial interest (think global act local)
- Bridging the gap between community development and forestry – breaking the mold
- Community capacity
- It's new – building confidence