

Fort St. James Community Forest License K1D



About Fort St. James...

- Fort St. James was established as a fur trading post in 1806 and was the administrative capital of New Caledonia....which was a name once given to the mainland region as a whole.
- Our current population within the district is 2000 people. There are as much as 5000 when outlying Communities of Tlazten, Nakazdli, Binchie, Takla Landing, Middle River, Germansen Landing, are included.

We have a rich history of famous British Columbians.

- James Douglas: One of the founding fathers of what is now British Columbia. He governed from then capital of Fort St. James as Chief Factor and later became the Governor of Vancouver Island.
- Chief Kwah of Nakazdli and the owner of the famous iron dagger that nearly changed BC History...
- Famous Bush Pilot Russ Baker, to whom Fort St. James has a memorial

Fort St. Where??

- Fort St. James is located on the Southern Shores of Stuart Lake at 54.5 degrees latitude.
- The closest 'big' city is Prince George approximately 150km to the South.
- Summers are warm (25 C) and winters are cold and snowy (-30 C)

Winter of 2006-2007, 5.5 feet of
Snow in my driveway.



Fur Traders for Hockey Players...

- NHL tough guy the Infamous Brian Spinner Spencer, we now have “Spencer’s Ridge” named after.
- Larry Playfair
- Present coach of the Calgary Flames, Jim Playfair.

One the Shores of Stuart Lake



Stuart Lake has Great Fishing!



Fort St. James is the Gateway to the Northern Interior

- Vast tracts of wild country exist on all sides of Fort St. James.
- World Class hunting, hiking mountaineering, Fishing and site seeing.
- The Nation Lakes, Omineca-Manson, Spatsizi, Sustat, Edozadelly, Trembleur and Takla areas all provide miles and miles of remote wilderness experience.

Our Community Forest

License K1D was issued as one of the first pilot projects in 2001.

The original AAC was 8,300 cubic meters per year.

The tenure was not economically viable until January of 2006 through timber pricing solutions we now have a working tenure

Expansions and Accomplishments

- In the spring of 2007, the village received notification that the our requested expansion area was approved.....We now have 24,000 meters of AAC!

We now have two more chart areas....

- Shass Mountain and Grassham Lakes
- Murray Ridge Ski area.
- The criteria for selecting these areas was:
 - Long term fiber supply
 - Areas of Community Interest.

Shass Mountain

- Shass Mountain has significant recreational, visual, wildlife and cultural values associate with it.....
- The site is heavily constrained with VQOs and wildlife values and has a wide array of stakeholders.
- A perfect candidate for a community forest!

In our wildlife inventory we even found a few of these...



Fogged in....Shass Mountain



Murray Ridge Ski Area

- The front and back side of Murray Ridge Ski Area was added to the Fort St. James Community Forest
- The goals:
 - Develop the north aspect for a longer ski season.
 - Develop a chair-lift.
 - Bring in a wider range of community participation: Village, Fort St. James Ski Society, Keyoh holders, recreational skiers.

Murray Ridge Ski Area



Involvement of the Keyoh Holder.:

- A keyoh is an area that has been used by a family or extended family over multiple generations for traditional uses....
- The keyoh holder in the Community Forest is the Leon Family.
- Carl Leon is the active licensed trapper in the area as well.
- The Keyoh holder has participated in logging, FIA projects, silviculture treatments and operational planning.

Nyan Wheti Trail Bisects the Community Forest.



Community Benefits

- Benefit of economics, small communities have limited tax bases. Extra income goes a long way! Community Forest Revenues have been used for:
 - New Fort St. James Public Library.
 - Hiring of the New Economic Development Officer, whose role is to help the community deal with the economic implications of MPB and help insulate FSJ from being extremely vulnerable to downturns in the Forest Sector.
 - Community Forest Legacy Fund, more than 50% of the positive cash flows from the Community Forest have been set aside to provide for future needs, post beetle....
 - The goal is to target recreational and cultural investments, rather than roads or water and sewer systems. So far, it has been those things make the community a better place to live..

Fort St. James Public Library a place for literacy and knowledge.



Challenges....

- Everyone is aware of the devastation and implication of MPB and downturns in the forest economy...yes Fort St. James is in a sea of red trees and yes we have suffered mill closures...and yes we have serious concerns about our future.
- The village and our economic development officer hosted a Community Visioning Forum, where we wanted to distill the notion of where we wanted our community to be in 10 years and what we have to do to get there..
- We cannot sit on our hands and complain about the future. Instead our community wants to rise to the challenge and remain positive and look for new opportunities