A Brief History of Fuel Management in Logan Lake, BC

By Garnet Mierau, RPF
Bruce Morrow, RPF
Fire Chief Dan Leighton
Mayor Robin Smith
“And see this ring right here, Jimmy? ... That's another time when the old fellow miraculously survived some big forest fire.”
Outline

1. Introductions
2. How it all Started (Robin)
3. Champion the Cause (Dan)
4. Professional Standard (Bruce)
5. Strategies & Partnerships (Garnet)
6. Questions (All)
Introductions

Garnet Mierau, RPF
Bruce Morrow, RPF
Introductions

Fire Chief Dan Leighton  Mayor Robin Smith

New Fire Hall Ceremony – April 18, 2016
The Little Engine That Could
How it all Started

Logan Lake is nestled 60 kilometres south of Kamloops via the Coquihalla Highway on Highway 97D.
How it all Started
The District of Logan Lake
Population 2,000+
Things to do...
How it all Started

2003

• Big Fire Year in BC
• Landscape level risk identified by retired Fire Zone Manager Tom Lacey, RFT
How it all Started

Mountain Pine Beetle Invasion

2004 – 65ha harvested
2005 – 115ha harvested
– pilot for Community Forest
– landscape level impacts of beetle
How it all Started

Mayor & Council Goals of 2007

• Become the first Fire Smart Community in British Columbia.
• Continue the leadership role in interface!
• Invest in ongoing UBCM projects.
• Support the Ministry of Forests harvesting tenure.
Champion the Cause
Champion the Cause

Initiatives

- Engaging the residents
- Engaging Schools
- Logan Lake Interface Fencing
- Grazing Cows (Grass)
- Grazing Goats (weeds)
- Exterior Sprinklers
- Deciduous Trees Planting
- Structure and site assessments on residents properties
- Community Awareness BBQ
- Fire Smart Information
- Establishing Fire safety covenants on new development
Champion the Cause

Community Awareness BBQ
Champion the Cause

Exterior Home Sprinklers
### Home and Property Assessment

#### Important Features of Material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Features</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Potential Fire Damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What kind of roofing material do you have?</td>
<td>If you have asphalt shingles, metal, thatch, or OCN strand mat</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you have wood shakes or other combustible materials</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A scattering of needles and leaves</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chipped shingles and loose leaf litter</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are your eaves and vents checked and cleared?</td>
<td>Cleaned eaves and vents with 3 mm mesh</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All decks, balconies, and porches are screened or covered with fire resistant material</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decks, balconies, and porches are screened or covered with combustible material</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire resistant are your windows and doors?</td>
<td>Tempered glass in all doors/windows</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double pane glass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single pane glass</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is your woodpile located?</td>
<td>More than 10 meters from any building</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low than 10 meters from any building</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is your house set back from the edge of a slope?</td>
<td>Building is located on the bottom or lower portion of a hill</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building located on the top or upper portion of a hill</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Important Hazard Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Hazard</th>
<th>Potential Fire Damage</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What type of fuel surrounds your home, and how far away is it?</td>
<td>Diesel, 10 meters (30 feet) within 10 meters of buildings</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deciduous, evergreen, or mixed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed wood (pine, fir, or oak) within 10 meters of buildings</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coniferous (pine, fir, or oak) within 10 meters of buildings</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What kind of vegetation grows in the zone around your buildings?</td>
<td>Well maintained lawn or non-flammable landscaping material</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulch, good</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead and down woody material within 10 meters of buildings</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As there abundant underbrush and ladder fuels in the surrounding forest?</td>
<td>None within 10-20 meters</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scattered</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other FireSmart Considerations

- Do you have adequate insurance on your home and property? **Yes**
- Do you have the necessary fire suppression equipment: shovels, water, buckets, hoses, etc. easily accessible? **Yes**
- Are your been burns cleared and at least 10 meters from combustibles and buildings? **Yes**
- Are overhead powerlines clear of vegetation and at least a tree’s height away from nearest house? **Yes**
- Are propane tanks clear of vegetation and at least 10 meters from dwellings and other buildings? **Yes**
- Are emergency fire service within a 10 minute drive from your home? **Yes**

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**NAME:** ___________________________  **DATE:** __________
**ADDRESS:** ___________________________  **DEL. BY:** __________
**PHONE:** ___________________________

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[Logo] Forsite
[Logo] Morrow Forest Consulting Ltd.
[Logo] District of Logan Lake

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[Logo] Community Forest
Champion the Cause

Not just talk...
Champion the Cause

Recognition of 10 years of FireSmart
Champion the Cause
Ongoing Communications with the people of Logan Lake

Wildfire Management Branch Crews Can Help
The Wildfire Management Branch is an important partner in the Logan Lake Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The priority for forestry crews is fire fighting—but when time allows forestry crews are available to assist community fuel management efforts by clearing, pruning and otherwise reducing interface areas of potential fuel sources.

Forestry crews return year after year to help in the Logan Lake area. A single spark can be enough to set a forest ablaze in some high fire hazard areas—so crews often work without the benefit of so much as a chainsaw, using only hand tools to clear the brush.

Communities are responsible for initiating the preliminary plan, but the Wildfire Management Branch is available to provide expertise, help assess priorities and advise on ways to reduce fire risks.

Logan Lake’s Young Firefighters
Tapping into Logan Lake’s young people has been a successful part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Every year, the District of Logan Lake funds a summer employment program that hires students from Logan Lake Secondary to work in the interface areas around the community. They prune, rake, and stack material left behind after the heavy work is done by provincial forestry crews.

The program provides good paying jobs close to home and teaches young people the importance of fire safety. Their work is vital to the ongoing maintenance operations required to keep interface areas free of the fuel that can lead to a serious wildfire threat.

Energic, enthusiastic and committed to protecting their community, many are part of the Logan Lake Fire Department’s Jr. Firefighters program and may become volunteer firefighters in the future.

"Logan Lake still could have fires, but all the work that has been done there means a safer environment for forest fire fighters—all the pruning has been done, all the danger trees have been addressed, the fire intensity wouldn’t be as severe.”
— Steve Schell, Kamloops Fire Centre Manager

“We want our youth to understand how the Community Wildfire Protection Plan works and to understand what a wildfire in a deep forested area can do.”
— Dan Leightom, Logan Lake Fire Chief
Professional Standard
Fires still happen...
Professional Standard
Updated the CWPP in 2014
- still a significant potential
Professional Standard

Professional assessment in the field
Professional Standard

2015 Treatments
36 ha
$178,636 total
$4,962/ ha
Professional Standard

2016 Treatments
37 ha
$180,258 total
$4,898/ ha
Professional Standard
Professional Standard

Fuel Management Prescriptions

Where do we draw the line?
Professional Standard

Fuel Management Prescriptions

1. Realistic Goals

2. Can not manage wildfire in isolation of other forest values

3. Respect all other forest values on the landscape

4. Cost Effective
Professional Standard

Fuel Management Prescriptions

**Forest Values on the landscape impacted by Fuel Management**

- Wildlife habitat – trees, CWD, visual barriers
- Water Quality
- Biodiversity
- Stand Resilience
- Visual Quality
- Recreation
Professional Standard

Fuel Management Prescriptions

Logan Lake specifically

ATV, snowmobile, ski, hike and bike trails
Paintball
Disc Golf
Parkland
Bike Park
Strategies & Partnerships
Strategies & Partnerships

The Logan Lake Community Forest

Strategic Planning

Give BACK to the Community

24,000 m³/ year

16,722 ha
Strategies & Partnerships

The Logan Lake Community Forest

Intensive Planning
Strategies & Partnerships

Webmap Technology

http://services.forsite.ca/llcf/
Strategies & Partnerships

Social Media

5,700 people reached
Strategies & Partnerships

The Logan Lake Community Forest – CP 10, Block 4

Commercial Intent – **Give BACK to the Community**
Strategies & Partnerships

Logan Lake SuperKEY - Youth Career Development
Strategies & Partnerships

First Nations
Strategies & Partnerships

Ongoing Awareness – Gov’t & Community Leaders
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