



Oakville Horticultural Society September 2020

September Monthly Virtual Meeting

Date: September 14, 2020

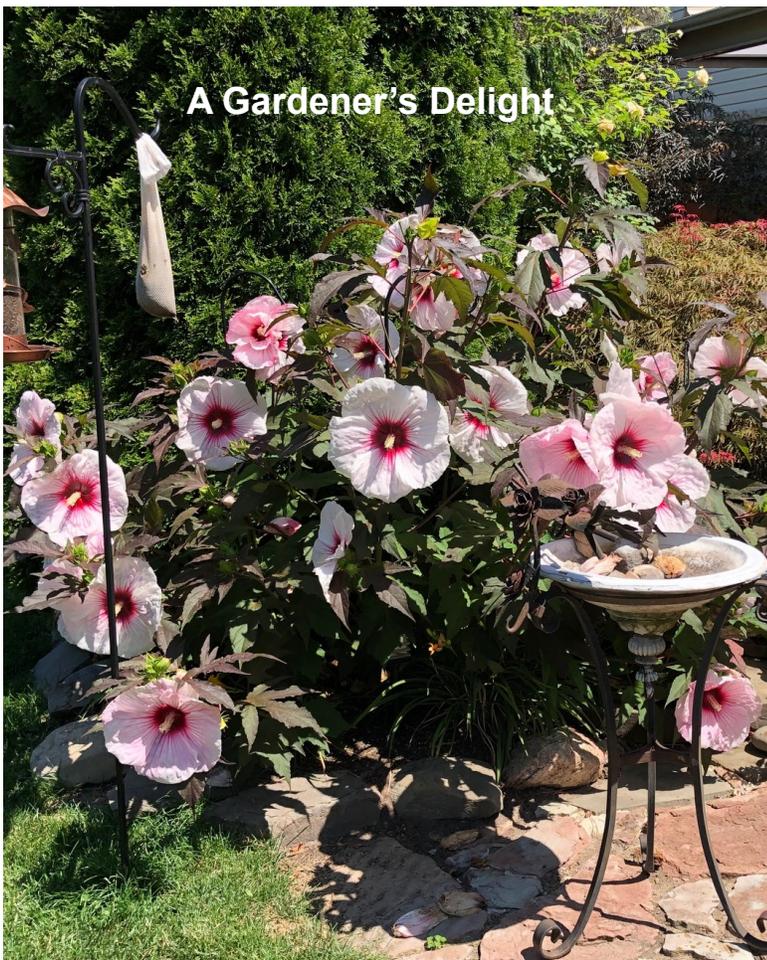
Location:

Set-up Volunteers:

Hospitality Volunteers:

Flower Show Clerks:

The Oakville Horticultural Monthly meeting has been cancelled due to health risks of COVID-19. Since we cannot meet physically, we have selected an alternative method – Zoom. On September 14, we will conduct our meeting virtually commencing at 7:30 pm via Zoom followed by guest speaker Jim Lounsbery.



A Gardener's Delight

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Late summer greetings to all of you. I hope this newsletter finds you well and happy. In spite of the restrictions we are still operating under, those of us with gardens know how lucky we are to be able to escape into our own patch of nature.



As we reported in the mid-summer edition sent out a few weeks ago, we are planning the September 14th meeting as a virtual one, using Zoom. You will receive an electronic invitation from Wade a few days ahead of time, then you can simply connect and relax at home while we bring you the latest OHS news followed by a discussion with Jim Lounsbery of Vineland Nurseries. Please plan to join us, as a very nice 'Door Prize' will be delivered to a lucky participant shortly after the meeting!

Before I close, I want to remind you about a few things. First off, the executive is interested in hearing about any initiatives you think might be suitable for the OHS in these unprecedented times. Just give one of us a quick call or email. Next, please remember that the Facebook sharing page is a good place to learn about topics of interest to gardeners. In addition, we are still making deliveries of fresh cut flowers to lonely shut-ins, so please get in touch if you have something to contribute. For instance, dahlias are a good candidate and the plant will keep on blooming well into the fall. Lastly, a small group of volunteers has been meeting at the Anderson Parkette (or the Junior Garden) every Wednesday morning, so please consider joining them some time. Get more details from Florenda at florendating1@gmail.com.

I am sorry that we still cannot meet in person, but I do hope you will join us at our virtual meeting on September 14th. Enjoy these last few weeks of summer!

Paula



Jim Lounsbery of Vineland Nurseries will be joining us for a virtual visit. His topic will be: **Little Known Gems for the Landscape, Part 2**. We will discuss native plants and conifers which are underutilized in the small urban landscapes with slides.

Jim has owned Vineland Nurseries, which specializes in dwarf and unusual evergreens, Japanese maples, bamboo, rhododendrons and heathers, with his wife, Simone, for more than 35 years. A certified arborist, Jim is also an instructor of horticulture and landscape design at Mohawk College, and has taught at Humber College, and Niagara Parks. He also supervised the arboretum and trails system at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton.



For more about this charming little nursery, visit the website, vinelandnurseries.com



Monday,
September 14, 2020
for our First Virtual Meeting



I'm not here, but my shoes say:



Join the **Shoe Strike for Climate**
On Sept 25th

Oakville: Centennial Square (Lakeshore Rd E & Navy St)
Drop off your shoes there before 11 AM, pickup after 1 PM
See haltonclimate.info for other Shoe Strikes in Halton

For more information about the Oakville Shoe Strike,
<https://www.facebook.com/events/310250340256708/>

or send email to akitanaka1983@gmail.com

society news.....





Oakville Horticultural Society

Where Gardeners come to flourish

Share the Beauty

Hi fellow Horticultural Society members!

This message is for people who have extra beautiful blooms in their garden! No pressure to participate, this is completely voluntary.

Please note:

- calling receivers before we deliver for special instructions*
- wrapping the flowers in newspaper and twine*
- delivering by drop off outside the facility or at the location designated by the facility or person*

If you have garden flowers that you feel you can spare,

- please contact us by email - paulaclayton2015@bell.net with your location and convenient time for pickup and we will arrange to get them from you and deliver them to some deserving people.

- If you could cut the blooms and leave them on your front step that would be ideal, otherwise we can come and cut for you. We will bring a container.

If you are not well, please understand, we can't take your blooms at this time. Enjoy them and get better soon!

If you would like to help with delivery, please let us know.





A new Facebook group has been created so that members of the Oakville Horticultural Society may post and share information as a private online group.

To join all you need is a Facebook account and request to join the group name "Oakville Hort Sharing" or contact our Administrator Veronica <https://www.facebook.com/veronica.heiderich> .

Access will be given as soon as possible upon request. Non Facebook members can post information by asking someone who has a Facebook account and is in the group to post on your behalf or contact Veronica by email bvervah7@gmail.com .

Share what is happening in your garden with photos. Have gardening questions, ideas or concerns? Need local or online resources identified? Want to share plants that you are digging and dividing? Do you have advice or proven methods? Anything gardening goes, meeting current bylaws and public health guidelines. The content is only limited by our imagination of what we would like to communicate with other members. The group will be moderated by Veronica our Facebook Administrator.

Let's dig in!

Thank you,
Veronica



Since the Pandemic has restricted our travels, I hope you will enjoy some virtual gardening and or travels.

BEAUTIFUL UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES TO VISIT BY BOAT

<https://www.boatinternational.com/destinations/unesco-world-heritage-sites-to-visit-by-boat--30987>

Montmarte's Sacré-Cœur Basilica

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=22&v=FhFQj-fyJ_8&feature=emb_logo

Opéra de Paris

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioG_Vfh0Kxw&feature=emb_rel_end

Louvre Museum

<https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>

Petra of Jordan

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/about/behind-the-scenes/streetview/treks/petra/>



Have an enjoyable journey!



Deadly Dinners.... No, I am not talking about the Murder Mysteries which are sometimes staged at dinner parties, nor even the possible hazards of eating out in this COVID era. I mean the potential toxicity of some of the everyday fruits and vegetables which we eat. Be assured that you are unlikely to develop alarming symptoms if you prepare them correctly, but you never know!

POTATOES: a member of the nightshade family contain solanine, which is normally broken down in the cooking process, but if the potatoes are subject to light for a long time green areas may form on the skin. These areas contain excessive amounts of solanine, which must be cut off, otherwise gastrointestinal problems may result.

RED KIDNEY BEANS: should never be eaten raw or under cooked. They contain phytohaemagglutinin which causes severe nausea and vomiting, but which is destroyed with proper cooking. I recall a Dick Francis novel where an attempt was made to ruin the reputation of a restaurateur by inserting undercooked beans in a catered event.

CORN: can be hazardous if eaten regularly in large amounts. Traditional native American recipes call for the addition of slaked lime. Without it the niacin in corn cannot be absorbed and this can result in a severe niacin deficiency which causes a disease called pellagra. Back in the eighteenth century, large quantities of corn were imported into Spain from the New World and eaten in large quantities by impoverished people. Pellagra occurred and the symptoms were known as the four D's: dermatitis, dementia, diarrhea, and death. In the first half of the twentieth century pellagra sickened three million Americans, and killed one hundred thousand.

RHUBARB: stalks are safe to eat, but the leaves contain high levels of oxalic acid which can cause breathing difficulties and gastrointestinal problems. In 2017 a minister died after eating a dish made from rhubarb leaves. During the First World War food was scarce and his cook had found a recipe in the Times newspaper entitled "War Time Tips from the National Training School of Cookery" (Don't worry about your compost pile. Composting destroys the oxalic acid).

ELDERBERRIES: are popular in jams and pies (and wine) but raw elderberries contain low levels of cyanide. In 1983 a group of people attending a health retreat in California had to be air lifted to hospital with severe nausea after drinking fresh elderberry juice.



Gardening with David continued.....

CASHEWS: are members of the same family as poison ivy. The nut forms on the outside end of the fruit and although the nuts are perfectly safe to eat, but if the nuts contact any part of the shell during processing, they can cause a rash. For that reason the shells are steamed open, which kills the toxin. In 1982 a Little League team sold bags of cashews which were contaminated with bits of unprocessed shell, and half of the people who bought them developed a rash and blisters similar to poison ivy.

STONE FRUIT: such as apricots and peaches contain a substance called amygdalin in their pits, as do the seeds of apples and pears. This can release cyanide in the stomach, but I don't suppose anyone knowingly eats the pits.

GRASS PEA: has been a dietary staple for centuries in India, Africa and the Far East and is an excellent source of protein. However it contains a neurotoxin called, wait for it, beta-N-oxalyl- diamine propionic acid, thankfully shortened to beta-ODAP. This can cause weakening of the legs and eventually paralysis from the waist down. To remove the toxin the peas must be soaked in water for a long time. Grass peas are one of the few food crops which can survive a severe drought. People are thus left with nothing else to eat and not enough water to soak the peas properly, and in times of famine many people succumb. Hippocrates wrote that people who "ate peas continuously became impotent in the legs".

But hey, we're still alive and kicking aren't we? So we must be doing something right.
Happy raking,
David Marshall



The Junieur Gardeners have been encouraged to view various gardening videos. One of the videos about composting is hosted by our own Helen. If you are interested in viewing such, please visit: the Halton Environmental Network YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrxC0VgaufvqB7BVTkzIIew>



D6 Dirt for the summer! More great reading, enjoy!

View this email in your browser :

<https://mailchi.mp/31e63dc9ff02/d6-dirt-aug-1-2020?e=a8d8dbb276>



Junior Garden Update

August to be a very productive month in the garden! I have harvested over 275 lbs. of produce from the garden for Kerr St Mission's Food Bank. Our produce was mostly tomatoes and patty pan squash, including a few hot peppers and carrots. Unfortunately, the cucumbers have succumbed to various diseases and had to be pulled. The carrots and beets were a good size, and the staff at Kerr St Missions was appreciative of the new potatoes harvested at the beginning of the month. As fall approaches, I will continue to harvest the tomatoes, peppers and squash. If you are interested in volunteering in the garden, please contact me at hstephenson25@gmail.com. (I sincerely apologize for putting the wrong email in the previous post!).

Happy Gardening!
Helen



Vol. 1, No. 5 **The Natural Gardener Inc.**
Our Journey from Oakville to Ferryland, NL.



Here we are in September, trying to figure out where August went! The summer just seems to be moving along at too quick a pace. It has been a very good growing season for both farmers and backyard gardeners this year. Most people we are hearing from are very pleased with their crops and harvesting is underway. Growing your own food has become very trendy in Newfoundland this summer, as perhaps in other places across our country.

Local garden centres have seen their sales increase 3 fold over their usual summers. Many products, including vegetable seeds have been sold out for months now. It will be interesting to see if this trend will continue into 2021. Let us hope so!!!

We just harvested the last of our garlic crop today. Later this week we will be making our first deliveries to restaurants and garden centres in the St. John's area. We are pleased that our crop is the best we have ever grown and garlic bulbs sizes are fantastic. The work we have put into elevating soil fertility and the addition of locally sourced amendments are helping to increase yields.

Here are some pictures depicting different garlic curing techniques; Jane cleaning and trimming the bulbs; our first weekend farmer's market stand at our home; Jane picking some wild raspberries on the farm – the largest and best tasting ever, this year. Wishing everyone a great September and happy gardening!



Driving down to the house after a day on the farm.
The scenery never gets old!!!





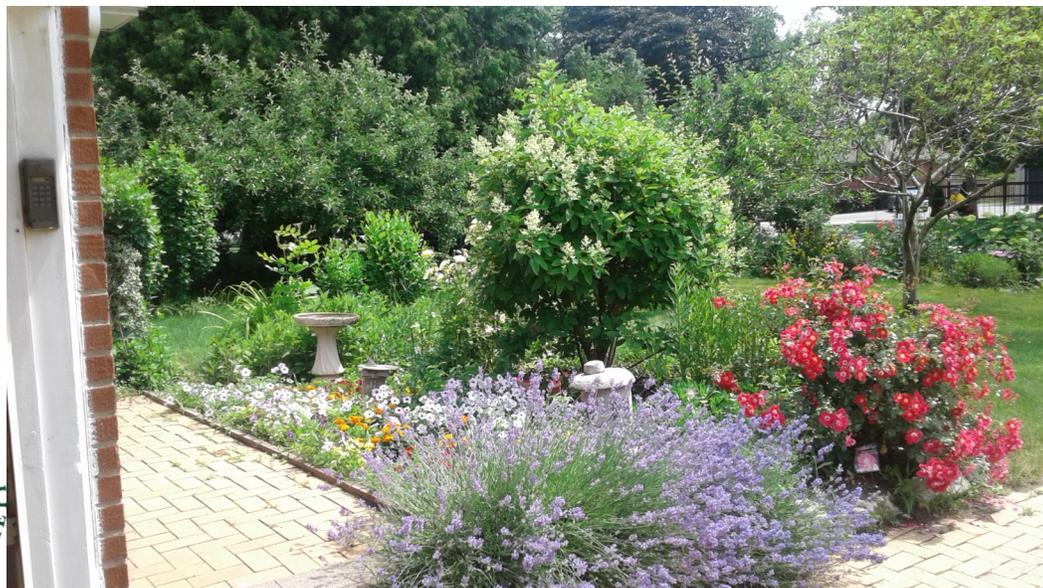
brian and jane's journey...



brian and jane's journey...



A Pictorial Garden Tour - David Marshall's Garden of Eden



in the garden of eden ...



in the garden of eden ...



WANTED

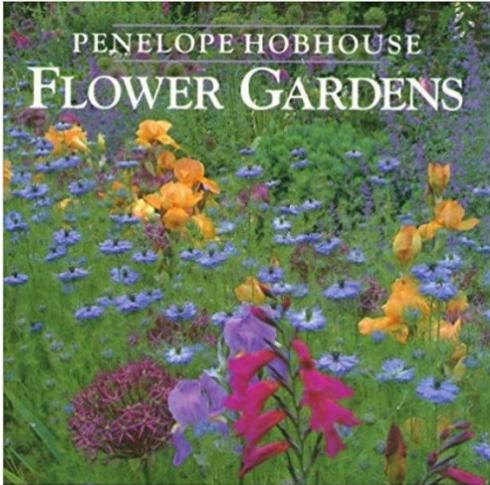
We are searching for a pictorial Garden tour (minimum of 6 photos) of your garden. If you have a phone or camera, and are willing to share your garden with us, please forward the photographs to: editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org



Winter Reads: Favourite books for Canadian gardeners

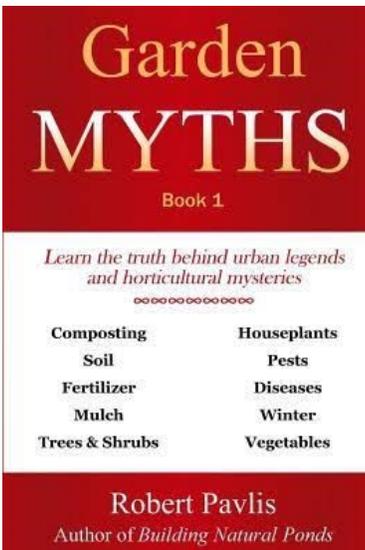
"I really love the ones that are a bit more in-depth," Victoria Goddard an avid gardener and reader who owns the Charlottetown Cheese Company said of what gardening books she enjoys. "I find that it's hard to find ones that aren't just beginner, design-a-garden books."

Flower Gardens by Penelope Hobhouse



Goddard recommends *Flower Gardens* by Penelope Hobhouse (New Line Books), who describes what she learned by being a gardener in residence at one of the National Trust gardens in England. The book offers practical growing advice as well as discussing how to arrange gardens for best effect through the seasons, and is full of colour photos of flowering plants

Garden Myths by Robert Pavlis



Garden Myths – Book 1 is a collection of over 120 myths covering a wide range of topics. It is written for the average gardener who wants to know the truth about their hobby. After discussing each myth and providing gardening information it converts the knowledge into action items for the garden. In this respect it is more of a how to source than this blog.

As of today, the book is available from Amazon.com, Amazon.ca and various Amazon websites in Europe. It will also be available from Book Depository for global sales.



"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." [Marcus Tullius Cicero](#)



British Columbia poised to lose 'white rhino of old growth forests'

did you know.....



- *In the public imagination, British Columbia is swathed in green and famous for its towering old growth forests. But while the provincial government says 23% of BC's forests are old growth, a new study finds that a mere 1% remains with tall trees.*
- *Intense pressure is now being put on the remaining trees by a forestry industry eager to capitalize on nations desperate for new "carbon neutral" sources of energy, including the revamping of coal-fired power plants to burn wood pellets.*
- *But while the UN says burning biomass in the form of wood pellets is carbon neutral, ten years-worth of new data says that burning trees to make electricity could help put the world on a glide path to climate catastrophe — exceeding the maximum 2 degree Celsius temperature increase target set by the Paris Climate Agreement.*
- *A recently elected progressive government in BC is weighing its policy options as it negotiates a new provincial forest plan, trying to satisfy the dire need for forestry jobs and a growing economy, while conserving old growth forests which store large amounts of carbon as a hedge against climate disaster. The outcome is uncertain.*



British Columbia poised to lose ‘white rhino of old growth forests’ continued.....

The lush, green interior of British Columbia, Canada, is renowned as the home of one of the last-remaining inland temperate rainforests on earth. BC’s towering, centuries-old red cedar, western hemlock, spruce and subalpine fir make up a wet, complex ecosystem brimming with wildlife, ranging from endangered woodland caribou, grizzlies, diverse birdlife and tiny lichens.

But the province’s rare old-growth forests are shrinking dramatically due to encroaching timber harvesting, especially for wood-pellets used to fuel the industrial biomass-burning industry, now fast replacing coal-fired electrical power plants around the globe.

British Columbia’s old-growth is in desperate need of protection, according to the stark findings of two recent studies prepared for the Victoria-based provincial government, which for the first time in a generation is considering a new old-growth forest management plan that could permanently save what’s left from chainsaws, sawmills and wood pelletizing plants.

“Almost every productive ecosystem across BC has very low levels of old forest remaining, and in many areas of BC, this remaining productive old growth is at risk of being logged in the next five years,” said Rachel Holt, a forest ecologist and co-author of one of the studies. “Current provincial policies are inadequate to protect old-growth ecosystems. And without immediate change to both the policy and how it is implemented, BC is on a path to losing these irreplaceable forests forever.”

“We want to stop the harvesting of primary forests here, and we think the forest industry should start focusing on second-growth forests,” said Michelle Connolly, a forest ecologist with the environmental advocacy group Conservation North, which provided research for a second study. “With the advent of bioenergy [wood pellets for export], we have to extend our area of immediate concern to all primary forests. None of it is safe now.”



did you know.....



.”Clearcut logging in the Anzac Valley, part of the boreal rainforest near Prince George, British Columbia. Image by Taylor Roades courtesy of



British Columbia poised to lose ‘white rhino of old growth forests’ continued.....

Dual reports deliver alarming news

Analyzing a range of forest-related data not publicly available until recently, Holt and two colleagues, forest ecologists Karen Price and Dave Daust, produced “BC’s Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand for Biodiversity.” A key finding: British Columbia claims that of its 57.2 million hectares (220,850 square miles) of forest, some 23% (13.2 million hectares, or 50,965 square miles) is old growth.

But the authors’ research tells a far different story. Their findings show that less than 1% of old growth with tall trees* remains in BC today, or roughly 400,000 hectares (1,544 square miles) scattered in ecosystems along the coast and interior of the province, and that’s according to an analysis of the province’s own data.

“These ecosystems are effectively the white rhino of old growth forests,” the authors write. “They are almost extinguished, and will not recover from logging.”

In April, the environmental group Stand.earth released a new report titled “Canada’s growing wood pellet export industry threatens forests, wildlife and our climate.” It points out that Canada is the world’s third-largest wood pellet producer, behind only China and the U.S., with British Columbia generating 80% of Canadian wood pellet exports — fuel headed to converted coal-fired power plants, and then into the skies above the United Kingdom, European Union and Asia.

The forestry industry, knowing a lucrative business when it sees it, has launched an aggressive PR campaign to convince the world that burning trees for energy is carbon neutral — an outdated assumption and policy built into the Kyoto Protocol, then grandfathered into the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. But leading scientists say, and myriad studies demonstrate, that carbon neutrality is a false hypothesis. Burning trees to produce electrical energy actually produces more carbon emissions than coal because more wood is needed to generate the same amount of energy, research shows.

The BC pellet industry, including Pacific BioEnergy, claims it uses only dead trees killed by the mountain pine beetle or by wildfire, forest wood residue and sawmill waste for pellet making. But Stand.earth documented the industry harvesting truckloads of healthy, whole trees, including red cedars, for pellets. The environmental NGO says Pacific BioEnergy is now eyeing old growth forests as foreign demand for pellets rises and sawmill waste grows scarce due to mill closures.

“This threat from wood pellets is relatively new,” Connolly explains. “I would argue that both the industry and government are testing the water on this; they want to see what the community reaction is. Most people don’t know that whole trees are being taken. They think it’s only waste and residue. But the industry wants to log primary forests.”

Attempts to reach Pacific BioEnergy for comment by phone and email were unsuccessful.



Productive, old growth forests are complex ecosystems. From the report: “Old forests meld light and dark; their structural complexity can include large old living trees, large standing dead snags, long downed logs, a multi-layered canopy, horizontal patchiness with canopy gaps that allow understory growth, and hummocky micro-topography.” Image by Jakob Dulisse.

did you know.....



British Columbia poised to lose ‘white rhino of old growth forests’ continued.....

The Stand.earth report notes how the popularity of wood pellet biomass burning overseas today hinges on a United Nations carbon accounting loophole approved in Kyoto in 1992: Because biomass was then, and is still, considered a renewable resource on par with wind and solar energy, carbon emissions produced when pellets are burned — replacing coal — are not counted against carbon reduction targets.

This enables countries to claim significant carbon emissions cuts, which for civilization and the planet, only exist on paper. It is estimated, for example, that the UK gets 12 percent of its energy from burning wood; Denmark is estimated to get 30 percent. None of those emissions is officially reported.

The loophole assumes that new trees planted where and when old trees are cut immediately offset wood pellet emissions. But a decade’s worth of research has established that this so-called carbon neutrality, if trees are actually replanted at all, takes 50-100 years. The UN itself has stressed that fossil fuel emissions must be dramatically reduced within just 10 years to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Preserving standing forests is seen as vital to achieving timely climate mitigation.

Government’s role and response

In 2019, British Columbia created a two-person panel to gather data and public opinion for an Old Growth Strategic Review. Foresters Al Gorley and Garry Merkel head the panel and confirmed to Mongabay that they received both of the aforementioned reports, along with 370 written submissions from the public and interested parties for their own report which has now been submitted to BC’s Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. In an email, Merkel said he and Gorley are not authorized to publicly discuss their findings for six months.

Meanwhile, BC Provincial Forest Minister Doug Donaldson told the CBC news outlet that he was not surprised to learn that the provinces old growth forests are in steep decline. He added that he has a high regard for the trio of authors who are demanding immediate protective action.

“We want to make sure that [old growth] is being managed properly,” Donaldson told CBC, “and we recognize the importance old forests have for biodiversity in the province. We also recognize the importance that it provides for communities and workers who depend on harvesting.”

Donaldson’s comment sums up the common hedging required of government officials the world over as they try to balance the dual priorities of mandated forest conservation and maintaining forestry jobs.

Forestry has been BC’s dominant industry for generations, and logging for lumber and paper has proceeded for decades as if the supply of trees in a province four times the size of California was infinite. It’s not. Aggressive logging of low-elevation coastal and interior forests has led to rural communities seeing a declining timber supply, sawmill closures and lost jobs. Unlike the US Southeast, where softwood tree farms can be harvested in 20 years or so, new trees planted in BC take at least 80 years before they can be harvested, forestry experts say.

At the same time, legislation that emphasizes the importance of forest protection for biodiversity, water quality and recreation carries an ominous caveat – as long as those protections do not unduly affect effect timber harvesting, a variety of sources confirmed. They also said that caveat may be reconsidered in future policy.



British Columbia poised to lose ‘white rhino of old growth forests’ continued.....

Rare habitat at stake

A lot is riding ecologically on whatever policy decisions are eventually enacted in BC.

Dominick DellaSala is president and chief scientist of the Geos Institute in Oregon. He specializes in studying rare ecosystems globally and says of BC’s temperate, old growth forests: “From my research, there are only two other regions on earth like it — southeast Russia and Siberia. These forests are important and rare. They have the highest richness of lichens of any place in the world, a main food source for the mountain caribou, which is circling the extinction drain. Some trees are estimated to be 1,600 years old. And they are being wasted by logging.”

DellaSala underlined the fact that old growth forests are a large, stable source of carbon: “If we are going to fight climate change, we need to get off fossil fuels and hang onto our remaining primary forests.”

Karen Price, co-author of the old-growth study with her partner Dave Daust, lives among the ancient trees of southern British Columbia. Their recommendations are uncompromising, among them: “Immediately place a moratorium on logging ecosystems and landscapes with very little old growth forests,” to preserve what’s left.

“The world sees Canada, I think, as pretty enlightened on these matters,” Price said. “But if we have an enlightened government and are unable to protect our last old growth forests, what does that tell you about systemic failure?”

“Because of past policies, job losses and mill closings are inevitable. We’ve known this for decades. No government has prepared for it. We’re running toward the iceberg and we’re going to hit it. Our argument to government is you can let this play out and have no old growth left and lose all the values — the clean water, the salmon, the grizzlies, the mountain caribou, the carbon storage, the protection from flooding.

“Or, you can try and do something now. Protect whatever old growth we have left. And protect those values that will buffer the climate affects that are coming. But it’s a helluva difficult challenge for any government.”

Justin Catanoso is a regular contributor to Mongabay and a professor journalism at Wake Forest University. Follow him on Twitter @jcatanoso.



did you know...

