University of Toronto/Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Winter Forestry Tour

Late in February, the CIF/IFC and the Canadian Ecology Centre welcomed a group of university students for their annual Winter Forestry Field Tour. The group, consisting of the University of Toronto's Master of Forest Conservation class and several Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue forestry students, enjoyed a four-day snow-filled tour of Nipissing Forest sites and the Petawawa Research Forest. The days' events exposed students to common silvicultural practices for a first-hand look at what happens on the ground.

The 18th annual field trip, organized by CIF-SEEK and the CIF/IFC's Algonquin Section, got under way at Tom Bryson's woodlot in Sundridge to illustrate single-tree-selection and tree marking. Scott McPherson, Andrée Morneau, Brian Naylor, and Fred Pinto of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources helped guide the students through an active single-tree-selection harvest site. Wildlife considerations, recognition of "Acceptable Growing Stock/Unacceptable Growing Stock" qualities, tree-marking, and winter tree identification were among the topics highlighted. At the Ecology Centre the students took in evening presentations

by Al Thorne of Tembec on his company's experiences with FSC certification, and Tom MacLean of Nipissing Forest gave an overview of forest management in the Nipissing region.

The second day brought students out to Tembec's Harvest Block #184 near Clear Lake. Geared up with hardhats, hi-vis vests, and snowshoes, the group headed into the tolerant hardwood stand to look at uniform shelterwood harvesting. The students observed some cutting and skidding of trees and spoke to the logging contractors and Tembec forest technicians on site. The group discussed the differences in silviculture from the previous day. In the evening, the students took in further engaging and relevant presentations; Murray Woods of the OMNR introduced students to the basics of LiDAR and Enhanced Forest Inventory, Steve Bursey from the Algonquin Forestry Authority discussed recent contentions regarding logging in Algonquin Park, while John Pineau, CIF/IFC's CEO, shared his experiences from a recent trip to China.

The next day took the students out to one of Canada's premier research forests: the Petawawa Research Forest (PRF). Peter Arbour and George

Bruemmer from the PRF discussed several sites where renowned research had taken place over the past century. Site visits included the historic PSP1 plot, the red pine plantation, fire ecology sites and the most recent biomass study plots. The students also enjoyed some delicious maple taffy and hot chocolate around the lunchtime campfire at the PRF's sugar shack!

On Saturday evening, the group sat down at Myrt's Restaurant in Mattawa for a delightful, traditional lumberjack six-pie dinner, and later gathered around a toasty campfire to unwind and sing, led by John Pineau and CEC's Bill Steer. The night was filled with lots of laughter, culminating with an exciting group wolf-howl!

On the final morning there was dogsledding at Rosanne Van Schie's farm. Accompanied by many furry friends, the group snowshoed and sledged around a picturesque winter wonderland, before heading home after what was another fantastic forestry tour!

Stephanie Parzei

*Forest Science Extension Coordinator,
CIF/IFC*

Students and resource teachers enjoy a mild winter break/Les étudiants et les professeurs de sciences naturelles profitent d'une pause hivernale par temps doux.