

## ***COMMUNITY FOREST NEWSLETTER***

Welcome to this first edition of what we hope will be a permanent Newsletter for a Community Forest in our area. In this introductory edition the Steering Committee for the Columbia Headwaters Community Forest Initiative, wish to outline what is coming in 6 background newsletters.

First let us begin with what you can expect to occur over the next few months. We are just now launching into a public information session to bring greater meaning to what is meant by having a community forest for our area. We are going to do this through 4 primary means:

- background newsletters in the newspaper
- a website at [www.chwcf.com](http://www.chwcf.com)
- discussions with community groups
- public forums in our communities

We are quite excited after more than a year in arriving at this chapter with the initiative. Our sole purpose for doing all this is give the community a chance to discuss the prospects of a community forest, how supportive are we in this endeavor and what is our sense of stewardship for the area being discussed.

We are starting out with a series of newsletters to provide the reader with information on the definition of a community forest, the area we are discussing for our community and the various types of governance models used by existing community forests around the province. All the newsletters will be available on our website shortly after it comes out in the newspaper.

Shortly after the first newsletter the Steering Committee will be contacting various groups in each community to talk about the community forest initiative. We want to be frank here in that we will not be able to talk to everyone. Let us not forget we are made up of several groups in small communities in which many of us belong to more than one group. Because of this we will get to talk to members of most groups in the community.

The public forums will come after we have a sense the community is ready to look at the more in depth details of establishing a community forest. This would include detailed maps of the area and background information supplied by government and other community forests. There may even be a guest speaker or two. In the end these forums will give the communities a chance to review critical information needed to proceed to a management plan. A plan which is built around a strong business model to ensure both long term stewardship and community needs.

Lastly the steering committee wishes to thank the Columbia Pioneer for printing these articles as a public service for this local initiative.