

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### WFN Forestry Update



It has been a very busy time since our last report. In May of 2007 we started our first tree planting program on the Community Forest. We planted over 150,000 seedlings last spring, of which the Tronson family planted 10,000. We expect to be planting approximately **300,000 seedlings** in May and June of 2008, so if you are up for the challenge give Grant a call in the forestry office.

In the summer and early fall, **mountain pine beetle** moved into the Community Forest in a very big way. Since the winter of 2005/06 we had been focusing our harvesting in pine stands to stay ahead of the beetle that we knew was coming our way. The beetle has now caught up to us and for the next 12 to 24 months we expect to be harvesting stands that it has moved into.

As you have probably heard elsewhere, the forest industry is in the midst of the toughest market conditions in the past 40 years. **Our logging crew** has developed a great reputation in the valley with regards to log quality and timeliness of deliveries. This positive reputation has allowed us to continue harvesting through this economic downturn which is expected to extend into 2009.

We have now published a new **Woodlot License Plan for Woodlot #346**. WFN's woodlot is located east of Kelowna on McCulloch Road and Myra Forest Service Road. This new plan identifies where harvesting will be avoided and specifies performance targets and management objectives. Since we are so busy trying to keep up with mountain pine beetle in the Community Forest, we do not expect to conduct any harvesting in the woodlot for the next couple of years. If you want to review the Woodlot License Plan please contact Grant.

We invite you to join us at an **open house** on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00 in the multi purpose room at Sensisyusten School. It will be our opportunity to recap our successes on the Community Forest and discuss our activities for the coming year.

If you have any questions about WFN's forestry program feel free to contact Grant Thompson at 769-5671, via email at [Grant.Thompson@wfn](mailto:Grant.Thompson@wfn) or drop in to our office in the basement of the fire hall.



*Pre work meeting near Sunset Lake: Harvey Tronson, John Derrickson, Percy Allercot, Neil Tronson, Danny Fulton, Brent Tronson*