

THE EDGE



2.5 MILLION

Trees planted by The Gorman Group EVERY YEAR.

Congratulations to

Avery Kembel

for being the **first person to get 100%**
on their first writing of the COFI Lumber
Grading Course Exam!





CEO Report

In August, I visited four mills in the Kootenays to get a better understanding of what they produced and how they were handling the many challenges currently being faced by the forest industry. These mills ranged from small to medium sized family-owned companies and a division of one of the province's largest public companies. There was a common theme amongst all of them. All produced high quality lumber products and were in the process of adjusting to reduced log supplies, changing profiles, and changing social expectations and demands. The themes I observed made me extremely proud of the industry we all work in. There was ingenuity, entrepreneurship, and a fierce drive to survive and be successful. Above all, there was a commitment to their employees, their families, and the communities they live in. They strive to be successful as the means to an end to support the families and communities that they reside in while supplying customers all over the world with a product they want.

I saw us in all these companies.

Reading through a draft of the various stories in this newsletter reminded me of who it is that makes this group what it is today. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the retired employees who still pride themselves in the work they did while working here, such as Chris and Ray, and those who volunteer in their communities at both local and international levels, such as Luke and Greg, and those in their current jobs wanting to see healthy forests for the future, such as Stefanie and Kaitlin. They all represent the broader group wanting to make a positive difference. They represent so many of our almost 1000 employees across the Gorman Group. We are all motivated by each other, and our employees are the ones who created the desire to help each of the communities we operate in during the pandemic with the COVID relief donations.

Another major theme of the newsletter focusses on sustainable forest stewardship. It is about finding the balance that protects our environment for future generations while producing a product that can help in the fight against climate change. The forest industry, and the wood products it produces, is a major part of the solution and not the problem as some would claim. Sustainably managed forests retain their carbon capture potential, as do the products produced from those forests. We all should be proud of the fact that we truly do work in a green industry. Our new endeavour with the vineyard at our West Kelowna operation is an added testament to wanting to ensure the land is well managed for the future.

Thank you, again, to all of you for making us who we are.

Nick Arkle



SUSTAINABILITY, THE GORMAN WAY

The forestry landscape is constantly changing. It's our job to anticipate and adapt to the change, and to take a leadership role when conditions shift. Beetle infestations, extreme wildfire events, and changes in the government's forest management policies present challenges to our team.

We're proud of the team at the Gorman Group. Dedication to high standards, a willingness to innovate, and a commitment to the sustainability of our precious resource – BC's forests – result in exceptional performance.

At every stage along the chain of custody, the trees we plant, manage, harvest and mill adhere to the collective requirements of the Ministry of Forests, the Sustainable Forest Initiative, the First Nations partners, and our customers.

We're proving, every day, that it's possible to be stewards of the environment while still creating jobs and providing high-quality building materials. And we do it while maintaining a family-focused culture.

Building relationships with First Nations

The Gorman Group is committed to consulting with and listening to the First Nations partners.

Luke Gubbels, RPF, Planning Forester at our Canoe mill, considers his relationship with the Secwépemc Nation one of the best parts of his role with the Gorman Group. Ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, like the Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band, have resulted in sound plans for harvesting near salmon-bearing Scotch Creek. Roundtable discussions take all factors into consideration: the preservation of a cultural and/or wildlife habitat, the diversity of the ecosystem, and the sustainability of a source of fibre.

The example set by Matt Scott, RPF, Planning Forester at the West Kelowna operation, is an inspiration for other branches of the Gorman Group. For the past six years, Matt has been the Gorman Bros. liaison with the Okanagan Nation Alliance – which represents the Okanagan Indian Band, Upper Nicola Band, Westbank First Nation, Penticton Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band and Lower and Upper Similkameen Indian Bands.

Planners, like Matt and Luke, are taking cues from First Nations – reinforcing practices that have already been in place and building on them to ensure a more stable ecosystem that isn't simply focused on fibre.

According to Harvesting Supervisor, Brenden Tostenson, RPF, the Westbank First Nation has provided invaluable guidance, “especially in interface areas, they look at a proposed block, identify the values and we organize the harvesting plan to strategically leave tree groupings behind.”

“We’re doing more partial cuts of dead trees, reducing fuel for wildfires while increasing forage for wildlife.”

As Heidi Marks, RPF, Planning Forester at Downie Timber in Revelstoke observed, “forestry in general has a big role to play in terms of the sustainability of BC’s forests...silviculture is vital and the Gorman Group has a huge investment in surveys, replanting and making sure our forests are growing to their full potential.”

Finding new ways to harvest fibre

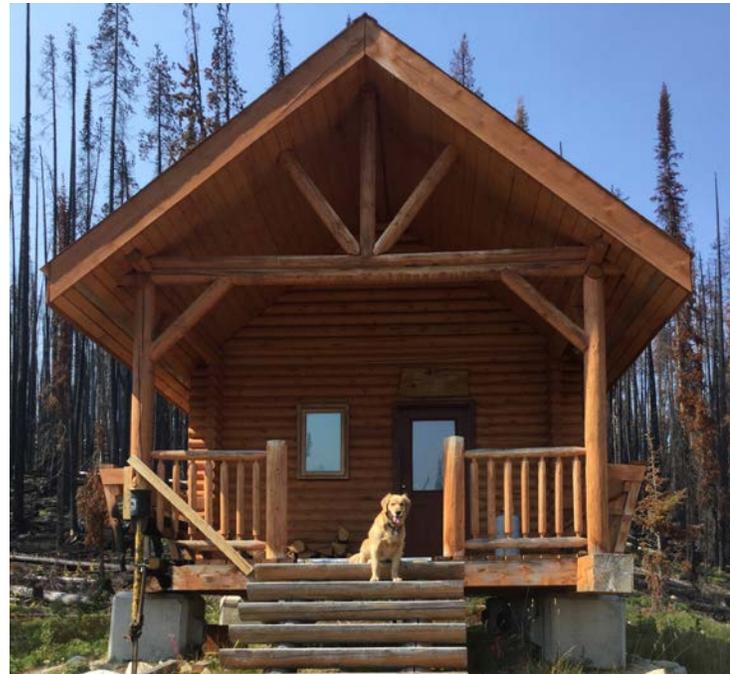
A combination of aggressive pine beetle harvesting and devastating wildfires have reduced the volume of fibre that’s readily accessible through conventional means. Many of our Licenses are on steep terrain – particularly near the Downie mill in Revelstoke.

We are making adjustments to our replanting processes, including moving from monoculture to diverse tree species in order to better wildlife habitat and encourage resiliency against tree disease and wildfire.



DID YOU KNOW?

100% of our harvested wood is converted to carbon-sequestering products or to renewable bioenergy.



Adjustments are also happening with our harvesting crews. “Back in the day,” said Dawn Doebert, RPF, Harvesting Supervisor at Downie, “we would harvest the area, then plant the entire block to spruce.”

“Now, we know we can grow multiple species – a Kootenay mix, for example. Our plantings are driven by long term forest health, not just fibre production.”



DID YOU KNOW?

We’re converting propane forklifts to electric, eliminating over 160 tons of carbon emissions a year per worksite. That’s the same mass as **30 elephants!**

It’s always our goal to keep a flow of fibre at all our mills, keeping our teams at work. We’ve achieved that by employing heli-loggers and an ingenious new harvesting tool: the tethered feller/buncher.

“The tethered buncher allows us to get to more of the tough terrain while still keeping conditions safe for our crews,” according to Harvesting Supervisor, Jason Neumeyer.

“They have been revolutionary. They allow us to go into smaller patches, unlike traditional cable logging, so we can be more selective while increasing output. A cable-logging crew with power saws cuts an average of 200 trees per day. A tethered buncher gathers 800 with a crew of 4-5 people.”

A further advantage is the need for fewer skid trails to be built and then rehabilitated, minimizing impact on the visual qualities of a cut block, while reducing the disturbance on watersheds and wildlife habitat.

Heli-logging has opened opportunities to log areas that, in the words of Valhalla Helicopters’ Blair Savege, “are steeper than a cow’s face.” Blair spends time with Jason Neumeyer assessing a block for environmental and safety concerns before deploying his crew.

Valhalla uses Bell 206 helicopters to transport 2-3 crew members into an area for hand-felling, and flies Bell 205 and 212 equipment to transfer logs to a landing for sorting and shipment to one of our mills. As a “stump-to-dump” contractor, his crew takes care of every aspect of the logging operation from start to finish, following the guidelines we’ve set.

New ways to track our success

We’ve always taken pride in our forest practices, treating our forests with the utmost care. But, as conditions have changed, so too have the standards been raised – and we’re up to the challenge.



That's why we were pleased to undergo the certification standards set out by the Sustainable Forest Initiative, and every member of our planning and harvesting team – including our contractors – follow these standards to the letter.

In fact, every contractor undergoes annual training on SFI standards, and receives our internal “Wood Producers” information package detailing the standards for road building, harvesting and rehabilitation. We're told that our contractors appreciate the transparency and access to information.

Our Harvesting Supervisors routinely get calls from our contractors with questions about variances from the prescription, or unexpected conditions. They'll discover an endangered bird's nest, or some ground that isn't stable enough to traverse with their equipment; they'll halt work, pick up the phone and consult with us. We've built a reputation with our contractors for being quick with our response, and never compromising on safety.

“Whenever I have an issue onsite, I know I can reach out to Greg [Hislop] and it will be safely dealt with by day's end,” said Gorman contractor Brad Schulte of Tor-Kel Contracting.

“Working for Gorman's is never a struggle. Everything just flows along. We're one big group.”



“Any dealings I have with buying equipment, the first thing I'm asked is who I'm working for. Working for Gormans is the silver bullet. I had one saw supplier tell me I'm with the 'best group of people in the area, by far'.”

– Brad Schulte, Tor-Kel Contracting

The Right Log to the Right Mill

Our planting practices have shifted, giving us more diverse varieties of timber to harvest, and this culture-shift has paid dividends for our mills. With our commitment to get the right log to the right mill, all the timber is used to generate the highest possible value. Every mill now has a focus, a specialty, resulting in exceptional quality and minimal waste.



DID YOU KNOW?

We've invested \$2 million for an enviro control device “RTO” that has reduced particulate emissions by **92%** and visible smoke by **94%**!



30 YEARS LATER

— A WALK THROUGH TIME —

For some, 30 years feels like a lifetime ago, but if you ask forestry professionals Ray Van Ingen and Chris King to tell you some stories, they'll tell you 30 years feels like yesterday.

Both Chris and Ray – who are now enjoying well-earned retirements – can be dropped down onto any logging road between Penticton and Vernon and would likely be able to find their way out. All the while, they'd amuse you with tales connected to the many cutblocks stamped with their fingerprints.

As forest technicians, they have had the unique opportunity to see the fruits of their labour and witness first-hand forest regeneration, proudly observing the positive impact they had during their careers as true stewards of the forest.

Chris first came to Gorman Bros. Lumber in 1978. He held several positions in the Woodlands Department, eventually working as the Harvesting and Roads Supervisor for nearly 20 years. He was responsible for building logging roads, ensuring the logs were safely harvested and delivered to the mill, then ensuring the recently logged sites were replanted according to the prescription.

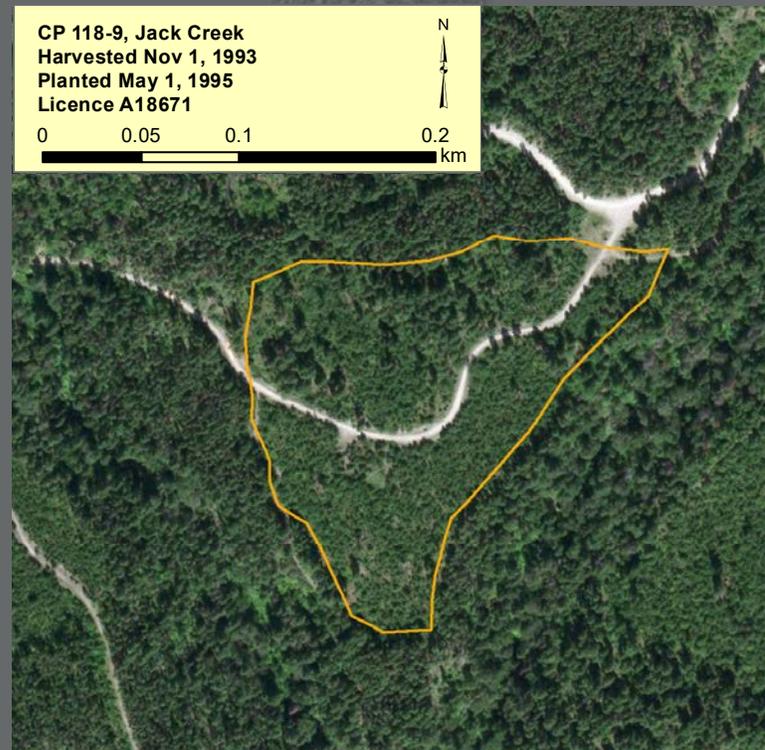
Ray, who joined Gorman Bros. Lumber Woodlands in 1981, spent the first several years working alongside Chris as a Layout Crew Technician, managing, conserving, and harvesting forests. In 1986, he began working as a Silviculturist.

Chris and Ray spent much of their career working closely together, as the Logging and Harvesting Supervisor consults with the Silviculturist about how best to leave the land after harvesting.

But even more so, the Woodlands group at Gorman Bros. has always felt like one big family. You can still see that when you spend time with them. Chris and Ray have maintained a brotherly, playful and teasing love for one another, so given the opportunity to spend a day in the woods together, sharing their knowledge with others is a no-brainer for them.

Chris mentioned how he had been mountain biking with friends only 30 minutes up the road from the Gorman Bros. office in West Kelowna, and how he had remarked to his friends that he had logged those forests “not too long ago”. His friends looked at the 15-20 metre trees around them and attempted to call his bluff. These forests, to an untrained eye, looked as if they hadn’t been touched for centuries.

This same block had been wiped out by a forest fire decades ago, a fact Ross Gorman, one of the founders of Gorman Bros. Lumber, mentioned during a 1995 harvest planning meeting. Ross Gorman would recall from his youth that he would hunt with his brothers and father in those very woods. The forest had recovered from the fire and was a productive block to harvest.



“Chris and I couldn’t be more proud of our work with Gorman Bros. and managing the forests the right way.”

– Ray Van Ingen



Forest fires can be unpredictable and can wreak havoc on a community and the environment. Carbon is released both during the fire and as the remaining matter decays. As a result of managing the forest and harvesting in a responsible manner, carbon dioxide is sequestered from the air by new trees as they grow. It also allows for individual trees to be retained for silvicultural reasons or to provide protection for wildlife. Species such as the lodgepole pine require a large-scale disturbance to regenerate and grow. Our harvesting practices emulate the required natural disturbances, but with the added benefit of control over the outcome. We aim to find a balance between the carbon released due to harvesting or natural disturbances and the carbon absorption from the growing forests.

Chris and Ray are proud of their careers working in an industry that cares for the forests that they consider their backyard. They look back fondly on the work they did with the Gorman Group, joining other foresters, loggers, silviculturists, and mill workers who are passionate about the long-term sustainability of forests and their surrounding communities.



COVID RELIEF

From its founding, the Gorman family and the Gorman Group have always had the conviction to give back to our communities. Over the COVID pandemic, there have been many hardships faced. We reached out to each municipality and asked how we could help. With a \$50,000 donation to each project, the Gorman Group was able to help four amazing organizations make our communities a better place.



Gorman Bros. Lumber Julia's Junction Inclusive Play Space

Julia's Junction is an all-inclusive play space that will be built in West Kelowna at the Westbank Town Centre Park. Julia's Junction is designed to accommodate all abilities and disabilities that any child may face, whether it be physical, social, emotional, or cognitive, as well as friends and families of those with disabilities. This will be a safe and FUN space to help all children build confidence, make friends, and most importantly play in an environment where everyone can play together without barriers.

For more information, please go to the juliasjunction.ca website.



Downie Timber/ Selkirk Cedar Community Connections Revelstoke Society The Neighbourhood Kitchen

Community Connections provides support for individuals and families in Revelstoke by providing and advocating for accessible, responsive social services. The Neighbourhood Kitchen is a shared space to make ready-to-eat meals for those in need and to be rented out to food entrepreneurs in the community. The Neighbourhood Kitchen will also be the center of the Connections' Food Recovery program, which will use food that is mis-shaped, close to expiry, and has other "flaws" that prevent these items from being sold at local grocery stores and make healthy meals for those in need to take home.

For more information, please go to the community-connections.ca website.

Canoe FP Canoe Beach Playground

Canoe Beach Park sits on Shuswap Lake within the municipality of Canoe, BC. The beach provides access to the lake, as well as a boat-launch, off-leash dog park, playground, baseball field and access to many walking trails. Unfortunately, the children's park was aging and needed an update! The renovated playground provides fun for children of all ages and is centrally located within the park.

Oroville Reman and Reload Oroville Grange Hall Kitchen

The Oroville Grange is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that is used to support the local farmers and ranchers in the Oroville area. The Grange Hall was built in 1947 and has been used over the decades for many purposes, including supplying food for the Widland Fire Fighters. In recent years, the kitchen has needed a significant renovation, and the Gorman Group's donation will allow for the installation of a new gas/ electric range with dual ovens, gas burners, and exhaust fans to vent the upgraded space.

EMPLOYEES GIVING

Shuswap Search And Rescue

Employee Interview: Luke Gubbels



Who are you, what do you do at the Gorman Group, and what is the non-profit you work with?

A: My name is Luke Gubbels (RPF), I am a Planning Forester at Canoe Forest Products, and I am also the president of the Shuswap Search and Rescue (SSAR) specializing in the Winter Mountain Response

How/ why did you first get involved with this organization?

A: I got involved with the Shuswap Search and Rescue (SSAR) when I first moved to Salmon Arm over 15 years ago. I was looking for an opportunity to meet some new people and get connected with my community, and one of my oldest friends was a volunteer, so it was a good fit.

What has surprised you most about working with SSAR?

A: The passion of the volunteers - the amount of work and effort that goes into everything is incredible! From training to fundraising, every volunteer puts their whole heart and soul into what they do. There are 38 volunteers, and we have people who specialize in winter mountain response, rope tech, ice rescue, swift water rescue, people who are running the communications and getting the responders to the people in need. There is so much training that goes into these positions, but people are more than happy to volunteer their time.

What is different about working with this non-profit vs others like it?

A: We are a non-profit, but a part of the emergency service. Although we put in similar long hours as

the paid emergency service work, aside from free training that is provided by the SSAR, there is no compensation for the SSAR volunteer and we have to purchase our own backpacks and first aid gear.

What type of people volunteer with SSAR?

A: Volunteers have been teachers, veterinarians, school administrators, chiropractors, hospital staff, accountants, mechanics, carpenters, electricians, anyone willing and who is older than 16 years of age. We have volunteers as young as 16 and some in their 80s!

What would someone need to do to volunteer/ support your non-profit?

A: We will take anyone and everyone, there is always something you can do. However, we do help volunteers get their ground search and rescue course, mapping training and level 1 first aid work, this works out to about 80 to 100 hours of training that takes about a year. Then you can be a full member.

What would you say your personal strongest beliefs are about your cause?

A: Wanting to give back to the community, be known and helping.

When it comes to donating to SSAR, what do people need to know?

A: We are always fundraising, however, our big event tends to be the Banff Winter Film Fest in November in Salmon Arm, so be sure to attend that!

NG BACK

T&G Helps Ukraine

Employee Interview: Greg Bertrim



How/ why did you first get involved with this organization?

A: When the war in Ukraine first started, I went down to a rally in Kelowna. Initially, I had thought I would give \$100 for resources for those in Ukraine, but then I saw a continuing need and wondered how I could do more. I didn't think that the war would happen, or it would

get to this level of devastation. My Grandson is a part of the Canadian Military, so my hope was to do what little I could, and that the war would be over before he would be sent there.

What is the cause that you are involved with?

A: We are calling ourselves T & G Helps Ukraine. My Ukrainian partner, Tatiana, and I are working together to get lifesaving supplies to those on the ground in Ukraine, soldiers, displaced peoples, and refugees. We are doing this by raising money in Canada through events like community garage sales and art shows with all the proceeds raised used to purchase supplies such as life straws (that filter bacteria out of water), meal replacement bars, and other supplies that will be sent to my partners in Ukraine, then distributed to those in need.

How are you doing this?

A: I have been helping non-profits for many years; raise money by holding community garage sales, where people donate items, then all the proceeds raised go to various causes. Currently, we are organizing large-scale garage sale events throughout the Okanagan, and hopefully, soon, all-around BC. I also have artwork sent from Ukraine to sell at these events.

What has surprised you the most in doing this?

A: The generosity of the people in our communities. Even if people don't have the financial ability to help, they are still doing what they can to help those overseas.

What do you want people to know?

A: Because we are a small group, we can do a lot of things much quicker than bigger organizations who will deal with red tape. All donations go immediately to supplies and will be sent directly to the hands of those who need them. If people choose to give financially, they can specifically send to a PayPal account that is run by a group of women who live in Rivne, Ukraine.

What else have you been working on?

A: I am also working with the local Ukrainian churches, and other community organizations that are helping those refugees that are here in the Okanagan. Many people are donating not only for supplies back in Ukraine but have been delegating their donations to help the long-term refugees here in Canada with things like winter coats, daycare, and even tickets to local sporting events!

What events are people getting involved with?

A: A dinner and art show at the Penticton Legion was held on October 1st. Please look out for more opportunities that may be planned.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SILVICULTURIST

Silviculturists perform a variety of duties related to reforestation and to the management, improvement and conservation of forests. We asked Stefanie Rothenburger, RFT, and Kaitlin Conroy, RFT, what a day in the life would be like for a silviculturist with the Gorman Group. What happens to the land after we have harvested the logs needed for our mills? What do foresters do to ensure healthy forests for generations to come?

For many, remembering that the first step in making a Quality Proud piece of plywood or the Finest Board starts with getting the right log. The Gorman Group is known for producing premium products, but it also has a large woodlands group spread between three sites, who are passionately committed to protecting the forests and ensuring that the renewable resources are protected, cared for and continue to regenerate for generations to come. We are committed to maintaining 100% Sustainable Forestry Initiatives (SFI Certification) on all log inputs. SFI is an internationally recognized standard that promotes sustainable forest management. Fibre utilization and sustainability are vital to our business model, and that requires us to act as a cohesive unit in getting the right log to the right mill at the right time.

The first step in planning a new forest begins before a stand of trees is harvested. This starts with Joel Springer, RPF, who has been the Corporate Log Purchase Manager for many years. Joel purchases timber marks and consults with his team on how best to harvest the area. Timber marks are designated areas of forest that are put to bid by the provincial government to be logged and reforested. BC Timber Sales (BCTS) manages about 20 percent of the province's allowable annual cut for Crown/public timber. There is a collaborative effort when it comes to developing these site plans. The Planning Foresters will discuss reforestation options with the Silviculturists. Stefanie at Gorman Bros. Lumber, jokes that, "most people probably think we simply grow trees. However, it is much more complex than it sounds - we are legally obligated to reforest specific species to specific areas at a designated density."

Despite the different locations and products produced through the Gorman Group, a day in the life of a Silviculturist does look quite similar for Stefanie and Kaitlin. Kaitlin works for Canoe Forest Products, that sits beside Shuswap Lake near Salmon Arm. Stefanie works at the Gorman Bros. Lumber site in West Kelowna. Both Stefanie and Kaitlin are responsible for the planning, procurement and the planting of the over 2.5 million trees that we plant each year.

Before the Silviculturist can 'grow trees', they need to confirm they have sourced the necessary trees, which includes checking on the crop status in the autumn prior to planting. We use trees grown at local tree nurseries.



DID YOU KNOW?

Each and every year, our newly planted sapling trees absorb **20,000 tons** of carbon, enough to offset the annual carbon footprint of all Gorman Group employees and contractors.



Stefanie Rothenburger



Kaitlin Conroy

The Silviculturist will walk the site to determine if site preparation is required and if there are areas with special planting instructions.

Site preparation is frequently necessary, which involves coordination with our Vernon-based site preparation contractor. Conditions are often not ideal. Ground saturation can be a barrier with early site preparation.

As the temperature increases, there can be operational restrictions due to fire hazards. There may be legal requirements to create piles to be burned in the autumn so the debris in the block does not exceed fire hazard thresholds. Once the fire danger ratings have receded, it can be a race to get ground work done before the snow flies!

During planting, coordination with planting contractors, nursery, and planting quality supervisors is key for the Silviculturist. They are ‘chasing the snowline’; just because a block is snow free doesn’t mean the road is open. We have been proud to partner with the same contractors for over 20 years!

Planting season is the time when Kaitlin gets to do what inspired her to pursue being a forester many years ago. When Kaitlin was first working on her undergrad in history and indigenous studies at UBCO, she had no plans to go back to Ontario for her summer break. During this time, a friend invited her to come work as a tree planter in Northern BC. “It’s hard work, but once you get the hang of it, many planters can make up to \$400 in a day, so it is pretty ideal for any student,” Kaitlin recalls. However, jumping onto a planting crew involves a very sharp learning curve. Kaitlin points out that “it’s hard work, the terrain is always new and can be a challenge, you spend weeks with the same crew, so if you don’t get along, its going to be very tough for you”.

Luckily for Kaitlin, her outgoing, friendly personality and hard work ethic made it easy to fall in love with the planting life. One day, she watched an ATV pull up to her planting site. Not sure who this newcomer was, Kaitlin was curious. The driver jumped off the ATV, had their dog riding shotgun on the back, and the driver had the biggest smile on their face. Curious to why this person just seemed to be loving their life so much, she asked her planting supervisor “who is that?”, surprised, the supervisor replied “that’s the forester, he’s here to inspect our work and see how we’re doing”. Kaitlin, being new to the forest industry was now intrigued: what job was this that allows you to spend your days in the woods alongside your dog, taking care of the forest?

“Most people probably think we simply grow trees. However, it is much more complex than it sounds.”



After finishing her degree in Political Science, Kaitlin did not pursue her initial plans of law, something that would involve her being stuck at a desk all day, but decided to pursue a career that would give her the same joy each day as she saw on that forester's face. Instead, she attended BCIT in 2014 and studied Sustainability Resource Management.

Now, Kaitlin will head out to view blocks that were harvested during the winter months and begin making site preparation and planting plans for them. Some of our Silviculturists will survey blocks, however, most surveying is contracted to a tree planting operation which the Gorman Group has worked so closely with for many decades and trust to uphold the quality they are known for. Outside of the planting season, they will address any issues that may have been identified when surveys were delivered.

Our Silviculturists would agree that they prefer to be in the field as much as possible. Nonetheless, they have audit, budgetary and legal obligation reporting responsibilities which take them into the office. The role of our Silviculturists is more complex than simply growing trees, but with that Stefanie shares, "This company has always made it clear that work-life balance is important. That has made it very easy to transition into working motherhood."

For those considering a future in forestry, specifically as a Silviculturist, it is a rewarding career that is key to the sustainability of the industry. Stefanie has been with the company for 8 years and recalls that, "The team here immediately made me feel welcome. I have yet to encounter any situations or conversations where I've felt 'out of place' for being a woman. It's a very inclusive, friendly environment."



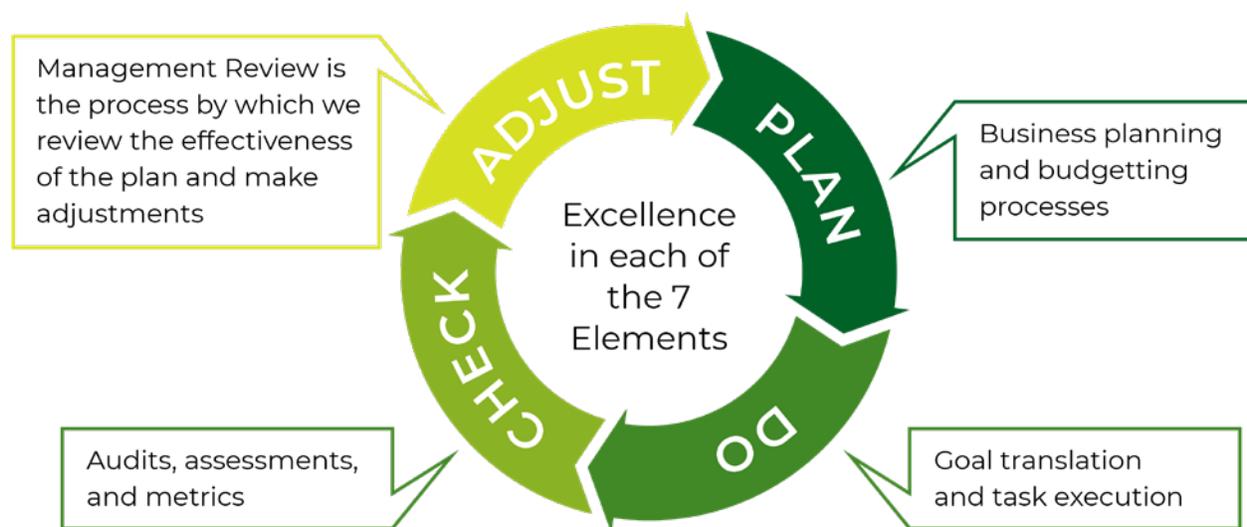
DID YOU KNOW?

The Gorman Group partners with engineered wood products companies to reduce the need for traditional, high carbon footprint construction materials such as steel and concrete.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

British Columbia is one of the most beautiful, yet one of the most heavily regulated jurisdictions in the world. There are many layers of well-intentioned and necessary rules, regulations and policies that prescribe what, when, where, and how forest management practices can occur on the landbase.

To ensure our activities meet all these requirements, we've established an "Environmental Management System" centered on a **Plan-Do-Check-Act** cycle of continual monitoring, measuring and improvement.



The Gorman Group Woodlands EMS is linked closely to our SFI® and PEFC certifications and is a major component of those programs.

The independent 3rd party audits that certify the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Chain-of-Custody programs include scrutiny of the underlying EMS that ensure all elements of the programs are addressed.

Carefully designed plans and procedures are combined with training and awareness sessions that ensure everyone involved in forest management activities have clear direction, expectations, and desired outcomes for the project.

Of equal importance, we also ensure that our staff and contractors are trained and equipped to address a variety of emergency situations. Annual training events take place to ensure personnel are prepared for wildfires, spills, and various emergency evacuations. When something goes wrong, everyone knows what to do and what resources can be called for support.

We take pride in our collaboration with the community, our contractors and our staff.

VINEYARD PROJECT

As you enter the Glenrosa suburb of West Kelowna, your eyes are instantly drawn to the sweeping acres of newly planted vines surrounding the upper Gorman Bros. lumber mill land that was purchased in the 1940's by Ross and John Gorman's parents, Milton and Eva.

In 2021, the Gorman family began development of a new vineyard in the agriculture land reserve (ALR) north-west of the sawmill site, with the goal of supplying premium grapes to wineries in the Okanagan valley. The newly established vineyard is 28 acres with 24 of those acres planted with organic vines. This year, 42,000 vines were planted, and an additional 5,000 will be planted next year. There are roughly 2,100 vines per acre. Viticulturist, Reid Jenkins, who has 30 year's experience in the Okanagan Valley, was able to select 8 varieties that complement the soil and climate profiles. Utilizing European clones that were grown in a nursery in California, the vineyard will grow an even mix of red and white grapes. Uniquely, the vineyard will grow Cabernet Franc grapes. This is typically seen as a Southern Valley grape, but with the warmer temperature, vineyard supervisor Craig Galloway is confident it will be successful. "We put in a grape that will work with us, and we believe we can successfully grow it here." Craig is the Quality Control and Optimization Specialist for the Gorman Group but has taken the lead on the vineyard project and envisions it growing to 100 acres in the next 10 years.

The location of the vineyard is ideal due to the sun hours and soil composition. Only slight contouring of the land was required to improve the air flow across it which will protect it from frost pockets. The vineyard

has a sophisticated irrigation system that is connected to in-ground moisture sensors to ensure adequate watering. Irrigation of the vines will be through a drip system to minimize the opportunity for powdery mildew forming on the grapes. It will incorporate a fertigation system which will increase fertilizer efficiency and help to reduce tractor hours.

"Along with being a serious commercial endeavor, the new vineyard is also a nod to the mill's founders," says Nick Arkle, CEO of the Gorman Group.

"They were fruit farmers, first and foremost, before a harsh winter froze their trees and forced them to look elsewhere to make a living for their families," adds Arkle. "This winery is a tribute to their legacy."

Grapes grown will be organic. The first harvest is anticipated to be in 2024, and the team is hoping operations will eventually become carbon negative. One effort to reduce their environmental footprint will involve the use of the mineral sourced from Quebec called Wollastonite, which is a carbon sequester. The vineyard is piloting the use of Wollastonite in the fall with the goal of reducing powdery mildew spores, lessening tractor hours, and gaining benefits to grape quality.



Photo Credit: Darren Hull

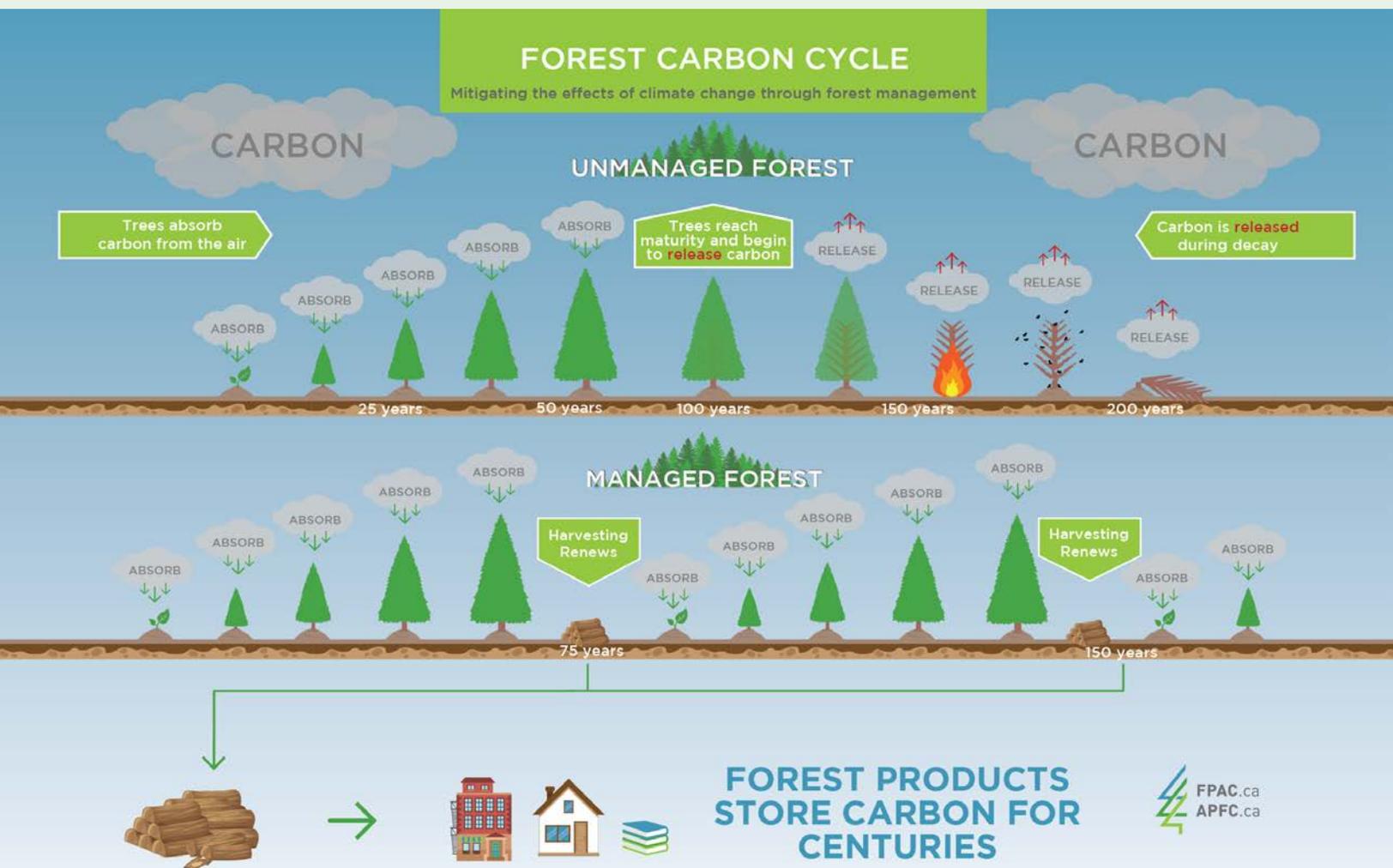
“Being an organic vineyard requires us to be more in-touch with the ground and soil; to know about potential mineral deficiencies, and use that information when we are selecting the appropriate nutrients,” shares Galloway.

Manure for planting was supplied by Superior Peat, a subsidiary of Valley Carriers. This is a synergy with one of the existing mill partners. Galloway believes that there is an opportunity for a compost program which could involve providing our screening plant material to create a compost mix suited for vineyards.

The vineyard has been working with the Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship society, a not-for-profit that works with local landowners, to promote voluntary conservation, stewardship and enhancement of important habitats. Local native plants will be incorporated into property in areas that are not planted with vines. Hydroseeding the rockface with wildflowers has already begun, attracting pollinating bees and other beneficial insects. Attracting the variety of pollinators helps to increase the biological diversity of the vineyard, with the added reward of being visually appealing.

“We were thinking about how to get the most benefit out of it for the community. And we think our vineyard beautifies our landscapes” says Galloway.

Only one question remains: what will the illusive vineyard be named? Family members will be hosting a competition for the naming with hopes to share that in the fall.



MORE GORMAN NEWS

Sustainable Forest Certification

The Gorman Group's commitment to sustainable forestry practices was initiated in 2006 when Gorman Bros. achieved Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification under the Canadian Standards Association's (CSA) guidelines.

Since that time, we've combined the SFM Certification to include Downie and Canoe Woodlands, both of which were previously certified under the SFI® program, as well as our purchase wood program, under the SFI® SFM and Wood Procurement Standards. These certifications are reviewed by a third party independent auditor every year to ensure that all elements of the standards are met.

The SFM certification, combined with chain-of-custody certification from the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), provides a framework to manage the legal, environmental, and social objectives on the land on which we operate. It also delivers independent verified assurances to customers that the wood products they purchase from us are from sustainable and ethical sources.

“71% of consumers say that wood products from sustainably managed forests are a good choice for combating climate change.”

From the SFI Website: forests.org

Getting certified to SFI is one of the best things that organizations can do to support the long-term sustainability of forests and ensure the multitude of benefits that forests provide for future generations.

SFI's work includes organizations across the supply chain — from forest managers to manufacturers to distributors to printers. Once certified, organizations can apply to use SFI on-product labels, which are globally recognized and show customers products are responsibly sourced.

SFI standards are the fastest growing, highly trusted solution that can support a growing need for products from the forest, as the drive to reduce carbon pollution and waste intensifies. SFI is working to shape markets today and ensure that properly managed forests will continue to play a crucial role in keeping the planet healthy.

Sustainable Harvest Levels

Sustainable harvest levels are the cornerstone of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and ensure both timber and non-timber values are conserved on the land for generations to come.

Every 5-10 years, the Chief Forester of BC establishes an Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) for each one of roughly 100 management units in the province. Each year, only 0.35% of the total landbase of BC's forests are harvested for timber production.

The Ministry takes into account:

- The condition of the existing forest;
- The growth rate of the existing and harvested forest;
- How the forest is managed for timber and other resource values;
- Choices around the rate of harvest.

Timber Supply Review and Allowable Annual Cut

From Ministry of Forests Website: gov.bc.ca

Timber supply is the amount of timber that is forecast to be available for harvesting over a specified time and under a particular management regime.

It's a combination of:

- The condition of the existing forest
- The growth rate of the existing and harvested forest
- How the forest is managed for timber and other resource values
- Choices around the rate of harvest



DID YOU KNOW?

0.35%

A fraction of 1% of BC's forests (Approx. 200,000 hectares) are harvested annually. By law these lands are reforested promptly.

Working to Restore Caribou Herds

For the last 15 years, the Gorman Group has been involved in numerous efforts to revitalize the endangered Southern Mountain Caribou herds. We've funded and supported activities such as GPS-tracking Caribou habitat use, protecting those important habitats, and rehabilitating linear corridors.

Working in conjunction with the Splatins First Nation and the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society (ALCS), we are promoting the benefits of creating maternal calving pens designed to give calves early-stage security from predators until they can fend for themselves.

We're pleased to share the great news that the Central Selkirk Maternity Pen just completed its first year of operation, and on July 22nd released thirteen healthy Caribou. They made their journey up Raven Creek from the Kuskanax Forest Service Road to access their alpine habitat and arrived safely on July 24th. They'll be tracked by GPS collars and the ALCS will continue to monitor their health and well-being.



In 2013, the Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild Society (RCRW) began an initiative to conduct a maternity penning pilot project. Their aim was to increase Caribou calf survival in the Columbia North region. They secured a 6.4 hectare pen near Lake Revelstoke, and the program has seen strong results. Under an initiative led by the Splatins First Nation, efforts are underway to relocate the pen to a higher, cooler setting that's more representative of the natural climate the calves would inhabit in their first few months of life.

The Gorman Group is proud to be working with local and Indigenous communities to support these important initiatives towards the recovery of this iconic species.

DID YOU KNOW?

To date, Gorman Group's Sustainable Energy Management Program has reduced the equivalent GHG emissions to taking **1000 vehicles off the road!**



↳ Over 12GWh in electricity savings and 86,000 GJ of gas savings annually from energy efficiency projects.

*NRCAN estimates the average vehicle emission of 4.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year from a typical, non-electric passenger vehicle.

What We Are Doing:

GORMAN *The Finest Boards*

- Recently installed an **economizer & oxygen trimming** in our heating system to optimize combustion to greatly improve efficiency and reduce gas consumption.

DOWNIE TIMBER LTD. SELKIRK

- Study underway to convert from **propane boiler to electric**, potentially reducing the sites annual GHG emissions by the equivalent of 350 vehicles off the road.

CANOE brand® *Canoe Forest Products*

- Recently installed a **Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer** (RTO) to vastly reduce particulate and VOC's emissions from the veneer dryers.
- Study underway to **use waste heat** from RTO exhaust to heat log conditioning vat water potentially reducing the sites annual GHG emissions by the equivalent of 135 vehicles off the road.
- In the process of converting to full time **electric forklifts** (from propane) potentially reducing the sites GHG emissions of 35 vehicles off the road.



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