

**1996 WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND
MODEL FOREST
BUS TOUR REPORT**

Prepared for

Western Newfoundland Model Forest Inc.

Prepared by

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Public Awareness Project # 0-403**

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- Western Newfoundland Model Forest Bus Tour Guide
- Survey Questionnaire
- Newspaper Advertisement

Introduction

The 1996 Model Forest Bus Tour concluded for another year on October 11th. It basically followed the same format as the previous year. A tour guide was employed and a fifteen passenger was rented and equipped with a mobile phone and a public address system. The bus was used to transport interested persons to and from various forest observation sites that were situated along Logger School Road. At the observation sites, the tour guide provided interpretation of specific features such as flora, fauna, forest management activities, and local logging history.

During summer months, tours began at the Model Forest Building, where the participants were given a short presentation on the Western Newfoundland Model Forest concept. Guests would then embark on the bus tour and be transported to the specific forest sites. I was hired on September 9, to take over from Mr. Stan Pidea, who was returning to work at Westviking College. At this point the tour was directed solely towards school groups. A presentation was delivered in the classroom and continued en-route as the bus headed out to the balsam fir ecology site on Logger School Road.

The 1996 Western Newfoundland Bus Tour was once again popular with both local people and tourists. The integration of the insect collection equipment at the balsam fir ecology site proved to be very interesting to the public, and the silviculture management site made people more aware of the benefits gained through pre-commercial thinning. The tour was also enhanced through the distribution of pertinent literature and resources provided by the Model Forest and Provincial Forestry staff.

The response from local schools this year was very encouraging. The tour is very popular with all grade levels, and responses from teachers indicate that it ties in well with the curriculum of several courses. It gives students a first hand look at many of the things they have been learning about.

Bus Tour Information

The bus tour operated Monday to Friday from July 9th to October 11th for a total of 68 days. Seven interpretation sites were utilized during the tours:

- The Balsam Fir Ecology Site
- The Hemlock Looper Cutover Site
- Silviculture Management Site
- The Duck Pond Picnic Tour
- Spruce Budworm Salvage Site
- Four in One Site

A summary and description of the activities undertaken at the specific sites is found in Appendix 1.

Daily tour attendance is presented in Tables 2.1(a) and 2.1(b).

Table 2.1(a): **Daily Tour Attendance**

Daily Number of Bus Tour Guests and Totals						
DAY	July* 12	July 19	July 26	Aug 02	Aug 9	Aug 16
Monday	-	20	Rain	4	14	2
Tuesday	14	Rain	4	12	10	11
Wednesday	Rain	19	CBD	11	2	Rain
Thursday	2	9	2	0	22	2
Friday	24	80	0	13	22	4
Total	40	128	6	40	70	19

* Date refers to week ending

Table 2.1(b): **Daily Tour Attendance**

Daily Number of Bus Tour Guests and Totals								
Day	Aug* 23	Aug 30	Sept 06	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27	Oct 04	Oct 11
Monday	14	0	0	0	28	22	Rain	22
Tuesday	2	4	0	0	24	Rain	15	28
Wednesday	0	10	0	0	28	28	22	25
Thursday	0	5	26	0	28	33	23	24
Friday	2	6	7	0	26	27	14	28
Total	18	25	33	0	134	110	74	127

* Date refers to week ending

A total of 824 people took advantage of the tour during the 1996 season. This was 183 more people than the previous year, and of the total, school tours accounted for 445 people in the last 4 weeks alone. This is a good indicator of how popular the student tours have become. In fact, the Department of Education specifically mentions the Western Newfoundland Model Forest as an important resource in the high school Forestry module in the Biology curriculum.

The following tables and graphs detail the tour operations. Table 2.2 provides a summary of the operational days. Cancellations were due to rain, no tours, no guests, or days off. The tour operated for a total of 68 days with 18 cancellations for an operational percentage of 74 percent.

Table 2.2: **Tour Cancellation/Operating Days**

Number of Tours and Cancellations		
Status	No. of Days	Percentage
Cancelled	18*	26
Operating	50	74
Total	68	100

* School presentations given on 2 rainy days

Survey Results

The guests were given the option of completing an evaluation questionnaire of which 274 were returned. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix 2. The responses provided information about the quality of the tour, how the guests became aware of the tour, and suggestions for future improvements. Tables 2.3(a) and 2.3(b) indicate the results concerning how enjoyable and informative the tour was while Table 2.3(c) rates the quality of the presentation. The totals on these tables vary due to the fact that everyone did not totally complete the questionnaire.

Table 2.3(a): Tour Rating (Re. Enjoyable)

Tour Rating (Re. Enjoyable)		
Rating	Number	Percentage
Excellent	194	72
Good	73	27
Fair	3	1
Poor	0	0
Total	270	100

Table 2.3(b): Tour Rating (Re. Informative)

Tour Rating (Re. Informative)		
Rating	Number	Percentage
Excellent	244	90
Good	27	10
Fair	0	0
Poor	0	0
Total	271	100

Table 2.3(c): Tour Rating (Re. Presentation)

Tour Rating (Re. Presentation)		
Rating	Number	Percentage
Excellent	230	85.2
Good	38	14
Fair	1	0.4
Poor	1	0.4
Total	270	100

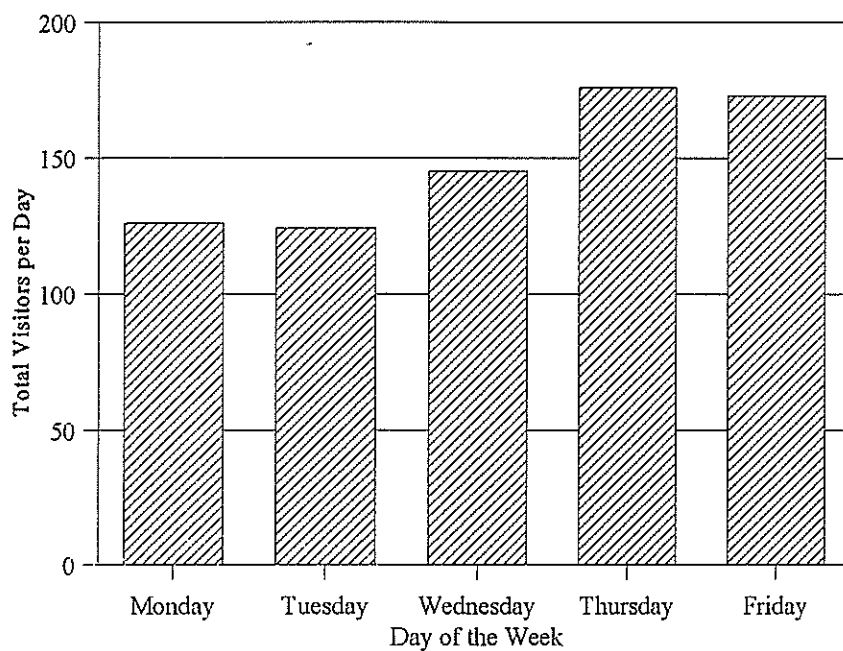
Table 2.4 provides a synopsis of how people became aware of the tour. The questionnaire was updated in September to add a space for schools. The table also has a listing for tourist chalets as some people listed it on the surveys.

Table 2.4: Bus Tour Awareness

Bus Tour Awareness		
Form of Awareness	No. of People	Percentage
School	133	50
Newspaper	27	10
Friend	88	33
Radio	4	1.5
Tourist Chalet	7	2.75
T.V.	7	2.75
Total	266	100%

Chart 2.5 illustrates the number of visitors for each day of the week. Attendance was highest later in the week.

Chart 2.5: Total Daily Visitors (including schools)



On July 24th Corner Brook Day was celebrated and the Model Forest again had a display where literature and information was given out. However, due to a labour dispute between City Management and the unionized staff, this was not as successful as the previous year. The Model Forest also hosted a nature walk at the Salvation Army summer camp at Silver Birches. 80 people participated in this activity.

Costs and Disbursements

A complete listing of costs and disbursements for this program was unavailable when this report was written. For further information please contact the Western Newfoundland Model Forest Inc.

Recommendations for Improvements

Following are a list of suggestions that may increase public participation and awareness of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest. They deal mainly with improving the service directed at school groups as they accounted for over 57% of the participants this year.

1. Demand for school tours is increasing, and the educational value is recognized and recommended by the Department of Education. Maybe they should be approached for extra funding to support a more extensive project.
2. To prevent overlap and increase exposure, schools should be asked to limit tours to one grade level, e.g. highest level. This will allow all students the opportunity to participate at some point in the future, but avoid repetition.
3. The tour could start later in the summer and extend further into the fall to accommodate more schools. (possibly one or two weeks)

Conclusion

Attendance during the '96 season was up significantly from last year due mainly to a slightly longer school season. Feedback from the general public, teachers, and students alike has been very positive and I think that the program definitely raises public awareness of both the Model Forest Program and forest issues in general. To conclude, the high rating of the tour by those who participated signifies the quality of the tour and the valuable experience gained by those who attended.

APPENDICES

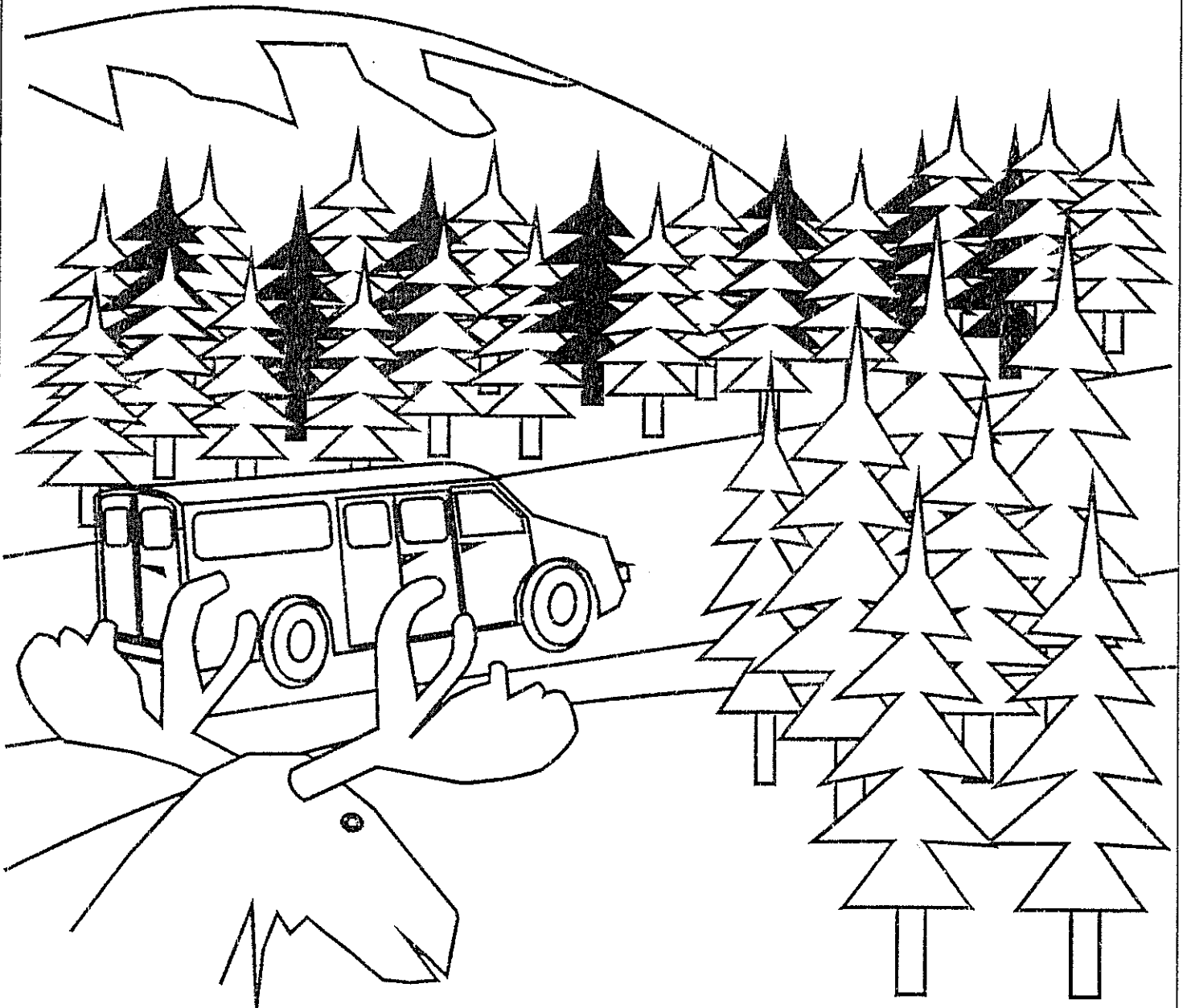
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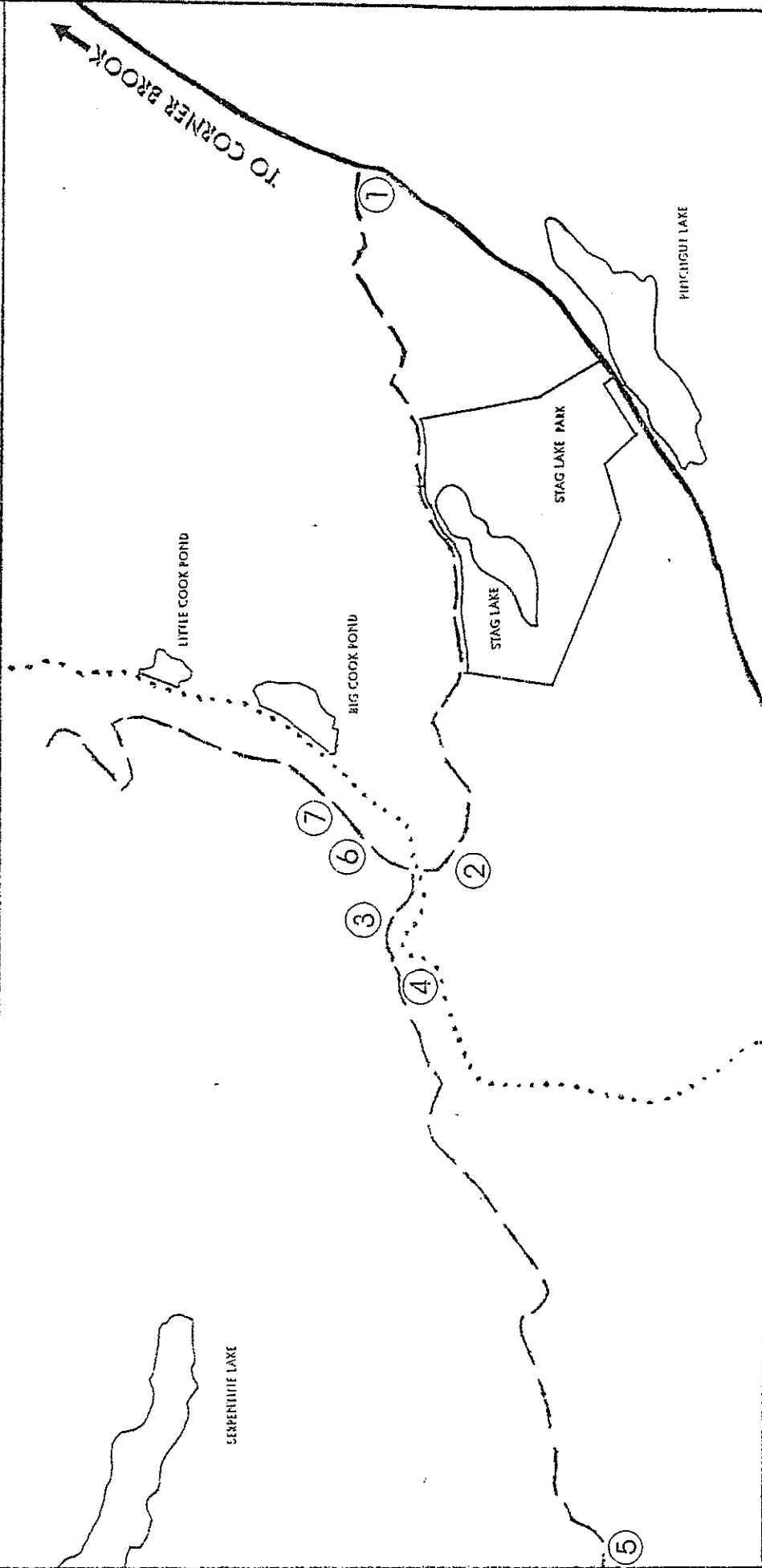
MODEL FOREST
NETWORK

RÉSEAU DE
FORETS MODÈLES

WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND MODEL FOREST BUS TOUR GUIDE



WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND MODEL FOREST BUS TOUR STOPS



LEGEND

<p>TRUE NORTH</p>	<p>○ BUS STOP</p>
<p>— TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY</p>	<p>— LOGGERS SCHOOL ROAD</p>
<p>■ ■ ■ ■ ■</p> <p>CNR RAISED</p>	<p>SCALE 1:100,000</p>

WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND MODEL FOREST

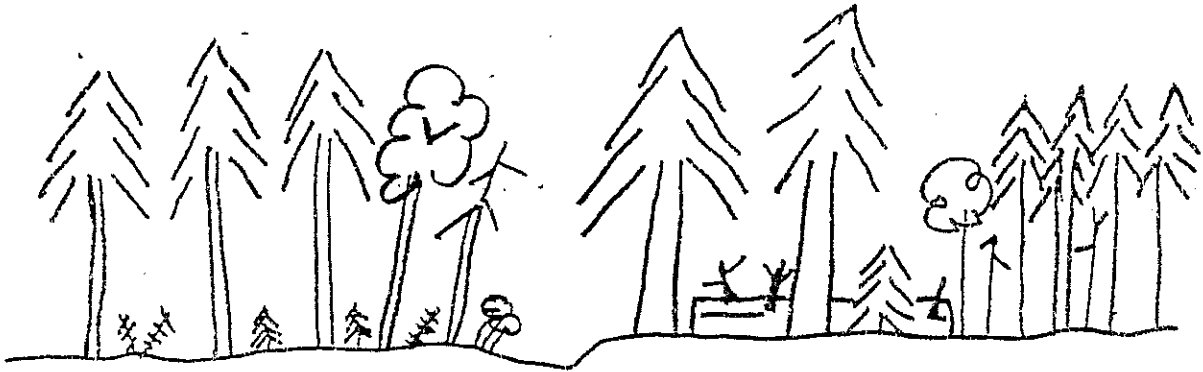
This model forest with its rolling hills has Corner Brook situated in its geographic centre. The weather and soil are suited for good forest and vegetative growth. Half of the land is good for commercial forestry while the remainder contains scrub, rock, barrens, water and development. This forest helps to keep the Corner Brook and Stephenville papermills working with 900 papermakers and 1650 forest workers.

The 280 km of paved Trans Canada Highway and secondary roads and 550 km of gravel forest access roads and 100 km of abandoned CNR railbed provide an excellent transport base for a variety of commercial, outdoor and wilderness activities for much of the year. There are protected areas such as the Pine Marten Study Area and Provincial Parks.

The forest is a balsam fir type with balsam fir being the most abundant tree and included are smaller amounts of white spruce, black spruce, white birch, yellow birch, red maple, mountain ash, black ash and juniper(tamarack). Many species of plants, mushrooms and insects make up the remaining land coverage. From 1977 to 1984 the spruce budworm damaged much balsam fir as did the hemlock looper from 1986 to 1987 which

TOUR STOPS

1: THE BALSAM FIR ECOLOGY SITE

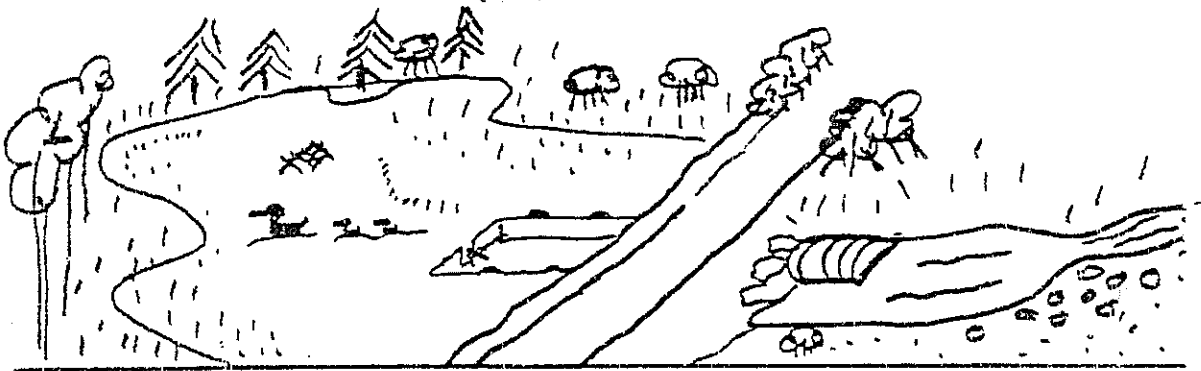


This area is located at the start the Loggers School Road near the Trans Canada Highway. It has a sample of a 75 year, 90 year, and 45 year aged stand of the fern-moss balsam fir forest type. All three stands regenerated naturally but only the 45 year stand was cut and is now called second growth. The dominant trees are balsam fir, white spruce and white birch. The forest floor is covered in ferns, mosses and herbs.

Robins, woodpeckers, squirrels and moose like to visit here. As well, there is evidence of the 10,000 year old glacier meltdown.

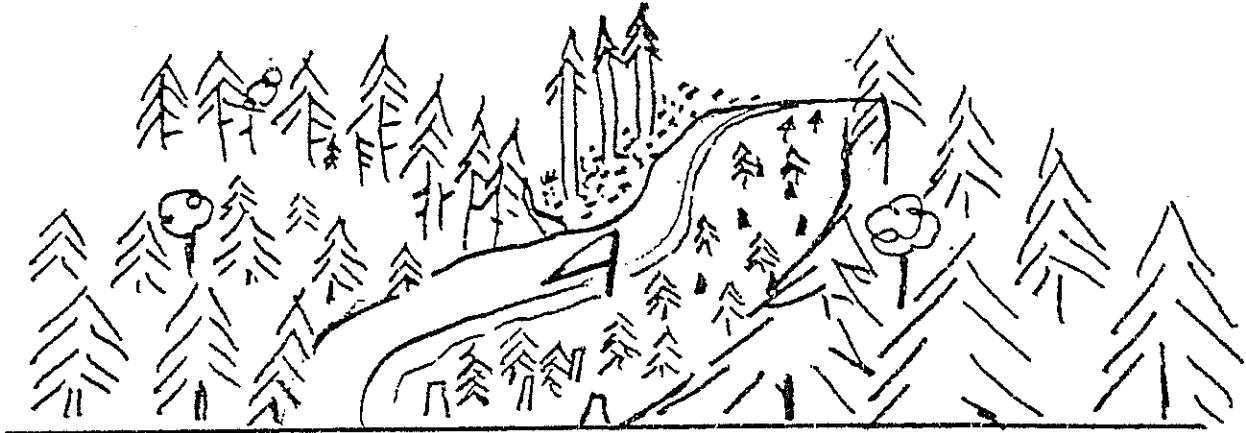
2,000 per hectare. Now 15 years later these trees have the same trunk diameters as the trees in the 45 year stand. This is a typical and desirable result so that healthy trees can be harvested earlier. The scattered birches, mountain maple, squash berry and mountain ash add to the food supply for moose. Ruffed grouse, white throated sparrows, red foxes and other animals and birds also make this location their home.

4: THE DUCK POND



This marsh and pond was established as a wetland in 1983. Through the cooperation of the then Bowater Co. and Ducks Unlimited a dam was built and the water level was raised and stabilized. Thus a suitable habitat of 65 acres was created for dabbling duck nesting and brooding such as black duck, pintail and wigeon. The trout fishing is good. Moose have been seen here and there is a beaver lodge in the pond.

Nfld's provincial tree and flower, the black spruce and pitcher plant grow here as well. It is a nice spot for a boil up

6: FOUR IN ONE SITE

These four fern, moss and balsam fir forests display an eye catching difference in ages.

The first site was a white birch stand that was cut in 1982 and used for biomass or fuel. Now it has reverted to a sapling or a 10 year old balsam fir forest. Railway fires especially from the steam locomotive days would result in the balsam fir forest being totally killed as the fir seed, seedlings and trees die. Then the ground is free to reseed to a new species as white birch. The surrounding balsam fir tree seeds blew in and started the new forest that is christmas tree height now and may be considered for thinning later.

The second area was thinned in 1983 after it was logged in about 1962. These trees are robust, healthy, bushy and about 30 years old.

The third and adjoining balsam fir site was cut out back in 1947 and left to regrow on its own, as that was the management decision then. This 45 year wood will be ready for harvest in about 25 years. The beauty of this is that the

T H A N K Y O U

It has been a pleasure to guide you through some of these forest sites. You are welcome to return and follow all the roads and trails for your own exploring and enjoyment.

We appreciate your comments and will use your suggestions in improving our bus tour.


RAY HUMBER
PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT
WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND MODEL FOREST

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Bus Tour Survey Sheet

Address: Town/City  Province Country

Bus Tour Rating: Please Tick your Choice

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Enjoyable	_____	_____	_____	_____
Informative	_____	_____	_____	_____
Presentation	_____	_____	_____	_____

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS TOUR?

Newspaper Ad _____ Radio _____ TV _____ Friend _____ School _____

Comments/Suggestions:



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EVERYONE WELCOME "EXPLORE THE FOREST"

FREE BUS TOUR
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

NATURE TOUR: MONDAY to FRIDAY (1 p.m.- 4 p.m.)

PICNIC TOUR: WEDNESDAY (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)

On Tuesdays, a representative of the Humber Naturalists will provide assistance in identifying birds and bird calls. Tours start from the back of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest office at 89 West Valley Road and are FREE but reservations are required. Call 634-6383 or 634-5978, Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for further information.