

Speculation on wood supply for biomass

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Corp, in partnership with Nova Scotia Power is expected to begin in 2012 under strict forest harvesting guidelines announced in November 2009. New policies to reduce clearcutting to 50 per cent will also apply to NewPage.

NewPage Port Hawkesbury is presently consuming 655,000 tonnes and will incrementally require an additional 385,000 tonnes to feed its 60 megawatt generator.

NewPage is expecting to obtain its biomass requirements from private lands, sawmills and random hardwood and off species from both private and crown leased lands.

Jaimie Simpson from the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax is dubious the amount of waste wood and private lands wood will become available especially when NewPage is not paying the land owner very much for their fibre.

When the Renewable Electricity Plan was released in April 2010, the province made a commitment to defer to the Natural Resources Strategy process in setting the biomass cap.

"The Phase Two steering panel report in the Natural Resources Strategy process states that government should exercise caution in the use of biomass for power generation," said Mr. Parker.

"We are paying attention to that advice while continuing to rely on forest biomass as part of a diversified approach to renewable energy."

The NewPage project, a \$208.6

million project to collect and burn biomass from the seven eastern counties of Nova Scotia (including Cape Breton) to generate 60 megawatts of electricity, is being viewed as an experiment by the province.

Provincial forest biomass will not be co-fired in Nova Scotia Power generating plants to help meet the province's 2015 regulated target of 25 per cent renewable electricity. Co-firing is burning two fuels at a power plant and is the least efficient way to use biomass to generate electricity.

Other biomass projects will continue to be covered by the cap, including community-based biomass projects under the province's new Community Feed-in-Tariff program.

Typically harvested as a byproduct of regular forestry practices, biomass is a renewable fuel source suitable for generating electricity in large power facilities and small community biomass projects. Forest biomass in Nova Scotia is used as a fuel in a number of applications, including firewood in more than 100,000 homes, a co-generation facility in Brooklyn, Queens Co., the agricultural college in Truro, two South Shore hospitals and several other institutions.

Within the next few weeks, the province will release an economic impact analysis of recent policy changes on the forestry industry, particularly a clear-cutting reduction target. The provincial Natural Resources Strategy also will be released this spring.

Baddeck Bay Hospital Auxilliary buys centrifuge



Fran MacRitchie, Brenda Cook, Mora Nicholson (L-R) are pictured with the new Centrifuge purchased by the Baddeck Bay Hospital Auxiliary. The Centrifuge spins blood samples at high speeds to prepare for analysis. It is essential to the lab especially when the old centrifuge was breaking down. Lab technicians say it is a necessary piece of equipment and they cannot operate without it. The Auxiliary is grateful to the community for their donations which made the purchase possible.

School review process a stress on community



Middle River Consolidated School is up for a school review which makes parents and the community advocate for the continuation of the school's funding.

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The community has had some success in the last couple of years attracting new families to the area. Having a school in the community certainly helped these families in their decision to choose Middle River for their new home.

School bus services and policy changes allowing parents to send their

children to other schools rather than their community school has also eroded the school's population.

Perhaps the most irksome of all is the responsibility the review process puts on the community to prove to the Board that their school is a fully functional educational facility that can deliver an excellent education at the Primary to Grade Six levels.

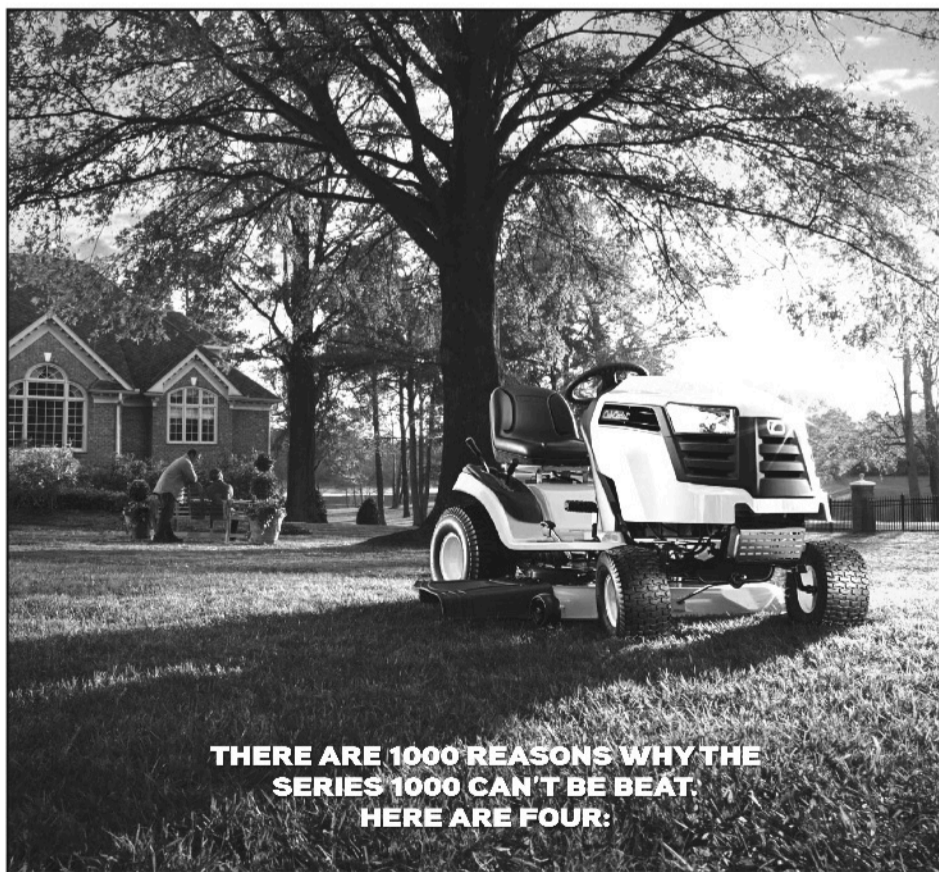
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