

Fifty Years of Pulp and Protest: Pulp and paper's impact on our forests. MLA memo March 12, 2018

Joan Baxter's book *The Mill: Fifty Years of Pulp and Protest* is a detailed and strongly documented account of Nova Scotia's long and dispiriting experience with how multinationals exploit our forest resources.

Opened with fanfare and optimism in 1967, the mill now known as Northern Pulp, was hailed as a source of new jobs for a depressed area of the province and a new beginning for our forest economy.

Over the subsequent 50 years protests and studies have focused on the effluent and air pollution emanating from the mill. Less has been said about the effect the mill has had on the province's forests, but it has been considerable.

From the beginning the mill was designed to consume 400,000 cords of wood a year, a quantity that almost matched the combined consumption of the province's other mills, and that the then Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, Wilfrid Creighton, considered unsustainable. At the time Creighton's advice was brushed aside, but today it is clear that he was right.

Last November in *The Coast* Joan Baxter published an article that follows up that aspect of her book. It can be accessed at

<https://www.thecoast.ca/halifax/clearcutting-our-losses/Content?oid=9896802>

Recently the media has drawn attention of another aspect of clearcutting: The harvesting of old-growth hardwood in Guysborough County. That story was told by Aaron Beswick on February 26, and can be accessed at:

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1547900-video-old-growth-crown-hardwood-being-cut-and-burned-harvester-says>

In Southwest Nova Scotia, cutting by WestFor, the forestry consortium which includes Northern Pulp, has been so extensive that last year Annapolis Municipal Council called for a moratorium. See:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/annapolis-county-forestry-natural-resources-clearcutting-1.4174697>

We in the Healthy Forest Coalition urge all Members of the Legislature to read these articles.

Ask yourselves whether there aren't better ways to manage the Crown lands in order to support a forest that is more diverse and better suited to supporting wildlife, combat climate change and sustain a forest economy that is also diverse and locally oriented.

For our supporters reading this memo through the Forest Alerts, we added the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/hcambellino/videos/10159989679060521/>