



# What's HAPpening?

A regularly published newsletter from the MERC-Tembec Herbicide Alternatives Program (HAP) Steering Team

**The HAP Goal:**

*Develop and implement a strategy to regenerate forests on Tembec tenures in northeastern Ontario using alternatives to the application of chemical herbicides.*

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Contact us at: [editor.hap@gmail.com](mailto:editor.hap@gmail.com)



Island View Tourist Lodge at Hay Bay on Dog Lake, ON. Lodge is owned by Missanabie Cree First Nation. Photo by: Archie Nolan

## The Evolution of the HAP 2009 – 2015

Lark Ritchie, HAP Steering Team Co-Chair

*For those less familiar with the Herbicide Alternatives Program (HAP), this short version of its evolution from concept to its current status may provide a basis for appreciation of the efforts of all involved to achieve the HAP Goal expressed as: “Develop and implement a strategy to regenerate forests on Tembec tenures in northeastern Ontario using alternatives to the application of chemical herbicides.” In Ontario aerial application of registered herbicides in forestry is a standard silvicultural practice as an effective tool for vegetation management. Glyphosate is the most commonly used.*

The HAP initiative sprang from years of dialogue between Tembec and northeastern Ontario First Nation communities who had long-expressed opposition to application of chemical herbicides on their traditional territories. In 2009, Tembec engaged with Aboriginal representatives explaining that the company desired to work collaboratively with the communities to reduce herbicide use.

In the summer of 2010, Tembec initiated discussions with these communities and organizations regarding herbicide use in forestry, and proposed a joint (First Nations and Tembec) engagement to review herbicide use and explore realistic alternatives. The vision was to move beyond dialogue and to search for actual solutions to the conflict; the vision was embraced, and Tembec

provided seed money to convene a program steering team and fund group meetings throughout 2011 and 2012.

Tembec’s commitment to this initiative is to:

- Address expressed First Nation community concerns about herbicide use on their territories,
- Take FSC continuous improvement action plans on herbicide reduction to a new level, (*See Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification later in this issue for further details*),
- Address mainstream concerns regarding pesticide use.

In late 2011, Tembec with the assistance of the Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre (MERC),



a project steering team was struck to guide the implementation of the Herbicide Alternative Program.

The initial team included Tembec personnel and representatives from Michipicoten First Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, Missanabie Cree First Nation, Taykwa Tagamou Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. Since then, representation has grown to include Matachewan First Nation and representatives from the North Channel Métis Council. Since inception, the HAP Steering Team has been supported in an advisory capacity by regional staff from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Steering Team operates with two co-chairs, one from MERC, and one from Tembec, jointly accountable for moving the program forward. MERC, under contract, provides communications, facilitation, research and logistical support to the program.

From time to time, when required to provide the team additional knowledge, other resources are invited to HAP activities. Science experts, Community Chiefs, Councillors, Elders, administrative officials and First Nation knowledge keepers participate at meetings and field sessions to provide more direct input.

Early on, the HAP Steering Team focused on cementing relationships between members, sharing knowledge and developing a common understanding of current forestry management activities.

From 2012 to 2014, the team visited various Tembec sites in Ontario and Quebec to view forest harvesting and regeneration processes, the subsequent effects on the land and forest growth, all interspersed with discussions on means to reduce herbicides. During the tours, First Nation representatives shared their understandings and beliefs regarding forest life cycles; their concepts of environmental stewardship and the concern for the continued sustainability of Mother Earth.

More recently, the HAP Steering Team has moved from a theoretical discussion on the reduction of herbicides to the implementation of a non-herbicide approach for selected areas within Tembec's forest licenses. A program strategy is now in place, and in its implementation phase.

As part of the strategy<sup>1</sup>, Tembec is building a “toolbox” for their forestry practitioners that includes criteria to select ‘best bet’ areas where no herbicides are applied, and additional data collection in the monitoring process that considers Aboriginal values in forest management. Actual implementation of new techniques (planning, supervision, monitoring) is led by Tembec personnel in collaboration with First Nation representatives. The strategy also commits to the continued engagement of Aboriginal members of the Steering Team and their

communities in an effort to harmonize forestry practices with traditional Aboriginal values.

Funding for these initiatives is provided by Tembec. MNR regional staff contributes expertise to the initiative.

Look for more information on the Program in future issues of What's HAPpening.

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## New HAP Steering Team Members

The Tembec Herbicides Alternative Steering Team also wishes to welcome our newest members:

Delta Flood, Matachewan First Nation and  
Cory McLeod, Missanabie Cree First Nation.

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## Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification

Monica Patel, FSC Canada

FSC Certification ensures that products come from responsibly managed forests that are evaluated to meet FSC's strict environmental and social standards. Fibre from certified forests is then tracked all the way to the consumer through the FSC Chain of Custody system. FSC-certified wood, paper and other forest products are then sold with the FSC label by certified companies in the marketplace.



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The FSC Principles & Criteria describe the essential elements of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. Forest Management certification is awarded to forest managers or owners whose management practices meet the FSC Principles & Criteria and FSC's regional Forest Management Standards.

Chain of Custody certification applies to any company involved in the transformation, processing, manufacturing or distribution of a forest-based product and must be FSC-certified in order to sell products with an FSC logo and/or with an FSC Claim.

The FSC label can be found on products that have been independently verified to meet FSC's strict environmental and social standards. The FSC logo can be

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<sup>1</sup> HAP Strategy-See Volume 5, Winter Edition



used by FSC-certified companies and non-certified companies for promotional uses.

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## FSC Certification and Tembec

Chris McDonell, Tembec

In 2001, Tembec made a company-wide commitment to test and apply FSC forest management standards on its forest management license areas. By 2008, this goal had been reached across Ontario and Quebec, including the Martel, Gordon Cosens and Romeo Malette forests. A FSC certificate has a life span of 5 years. To maintain FSC certification, a company must submit to annual surveillance audits as well as a full re-certification after 5 years. Accredited certification bodies (certifiers) are independent of the company and the FSC standards developers (ie FSC Canada). Certifiers active in Ontario include Rainforest Alliance, SAI Global, SGS and Soil Association.

After each forest management assessment (5 years) and surveillance audit (annually), a publicly available audit summary is posted at the global website [www.fsc-info.org](http://www.fsc-info.org). 1. By simply accessing this website and following these steps, any audit report worldwide can be viewed. 2. Click on [certificate search](#) 3. Enter Canada; Tembec; Ontario into first few boxes in the search function will reveal a list of Tembec Forest Management Certificates. 4. Select an individual certificate or Forest and scroll down to see a list of audit reports 5. Click on any report and it will be visible for reading and printing.

Many interested parties use the public summaries to learn more about the forest, review the audit process, view stakeholder, First Nation and Metis input as well as review any non-conformances that were identified. Certificate holders take non-conformances very seriously as, subject to specific timelines, unresolved non-conformances lead to the suspension of certification. Audit reports remain accessible through the life of the certificate, allowing for full transparency of FSC forest management performance.

January 2016 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous FSC certification on the Martel Forest. Currently, efforts are underway to confirm the certifier and the audit schedule for the re-certification process which must be concluded by December and will run through September and October 2015. Notification of the commencement of the audit process will occur in August.

*For further information:*

Tembec FSC certification, [don.bazeley@tembec.com](mailto:don.bazeley@tembec.com)

Forest Stewardship Council in Canada: <https://ca.fsc.org/>

Forest Stewardship Council Intl: <https://ic.fsc.org/>

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## Elder's Corner

Elder Archie Nolan

Most Elders teachings consist of stories that have been passed down for many generations to others who live to repeat those stories for hundreds of years, so the history of our people will live on.

I remember when I was a child, that I was fascinated by all the stories that were being told by family and especially the Elders about life in general. I know now that each story has a vital teaching in them to help us to understand how things work in this world of ours.

So, I suspect that many of you, who take the time to read this news article, have stories that you could share with all of us.

I remember going in to the bush with my Grandfather, who among many other things, was a carver. We would go in to the bush to take cedar for his carving projects and he would show me what to do when taking the cedar.

First of all, he would say, "We ask permission" to take the cedar but as we are doing this, we offer tobacco to the cedar. Grandpa would go on and explain to me that this way of asking permission rather than just taking has always been the way of our people.

One thing I would like to point out here, that when telling a story or teaching, in my opinion that it doesn't have to be in correct or perfect English. So, when Grandpa told me these things, he always did it in a respectful way.

One teaching he shared with me was that "there are things in this world that are visible and invisible", meaning that our world and lives consisted of the physical and spiritual and that we needed to "live in balance", in order to have a good life.

At the time he shared this with me, I was very young and didn't quite understand what he meant but I have since come to understand the thoughts he expressed back then.

I encourage you to share some of your stories with us, so we can all learn from each other.

Until, the next time, may the Creator walk with you and yours.

## HAP Steering Team Profile: Ernie Gatien



Ernie Gatien joined the team in 2015, and resides in Blind River. Early on, he worked in his parents' grocery business and still has family ties to other businesses there.

A trapper, hunter and fisherman, Ernie has Voyageur roots. According to Jesuit diaries, one of his European ancestors, Guillaume Couture travelled the canoe routes to Sault Ste. Marie from Levy, Quebec in 1647.

Ernie holds a Geology diploma and attended the Laurentian University Arts Program. He retired after 35 years with the Ministry of Natural Resources where he held various positions in firefighting, road, dam and bridge construction, and Forest Management Teams. He was also the Regional and District Lands and Waters Technical Specialist, Crown Land Sales, Leases, Permits and Aggregates.

He sat on four First Nation Land Claim teams for ten years and was an assistant to the Mining Recorder, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. He also participated as a Member of the Elliot Lake Mine Decommissioning Team.

Mr. Gatien is a Regional Councilor with the Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario, and a member of the Métis Nation of Canada and Chair of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie (Region 4) Consultation Committee.

Ernie's experience will benefit the HAP Steering Team.

<b>Need more information? Contact any of these HAP Steering Team members.</b>	
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