

## 2003 British Columbia Report to Poplar Council

Dan Carson

This year has generally been a quiet one for poplar in the Province of British Columbia. With the state of the forest industry being what it is, there has been little interest in poplar. Scott Paper Limited is still the major producer and consumer of hybrid poplar and black cottonwood in the province and has embarked on the following new projects:

- Tree Breeding – The provincial forest service has made funds available for a limited tree breeding program. With the help of the PFRA and their donation of *P. deltoides* pollen the province now has its first public domain clones in history. They are TxD crosses with a T from the southern interior of BC.
- Hog Effluent – Last year a plantation was established solely for the disposal of hog effluent. This year's growth response has surpassed all expectations: almost 8 m in two growing seasons.
- Land Leasing – This year we have established new plantations on 30 ha of leased land.

The city of Campbell River is developing an innovative hybrid poplar program similar to that of Woodburn Ore. A site directly adjacent to the sewage treatment plant is being prepared for planting in 2004. Sludge from the city will then be directly applied to the site/plantation.

### People

Under the direction of Bob Rogers the Norske Skog (ex MB Plantations) have once again seen some limited stand tending activities. Norske Skog has also begun limited harvesting and testing of hybrid poplar in each of their facilities.

Under the direction of Case Van Oosten, Norske Skog and the City of Powell River have begun to fertilize hybrid poplar plantations with sewage sludge.

Will Carr has established a trial of hybrid poplar for a client in the interior of the province.

Mike Van Ham is continuing his work with hybrid poplar and municipal sewage sludge.