



**Welcome from the New Chair  
Dr. Barb Thomas**

I am very excited by the opportunity to head-up the Poplar Council of Canada (PCC) as I take over as the new Chair for the 2009/2010 term. To begin with I'd like to acknowledge the years of service, commitment and energy that Mr. John Doornbos has given to the PCC as Chair for the past 13 years and thank him for this outstanding contribution. John now moves into the position of Past-Chair, previously held by Mr. Jim Richardson during John's tenure as Chair. I would also like to thank Jim for his unending commitment to the PCC and for his agreement to stay on as the Poplar Council's Technical Director.

As a way of introduction, I have been a member of the PCC since the early 1990's, attended most of the Annual General Meetings and held various posts including the Alberta Representative, and then moving to the Secretary/Treasurer and Co-Chair of the Genetics Working Group with Pierre Périnet. Through that Working Group we revamped the Poplar/Willow Clone Directory for Canada which is now available on-line to all members in a searchable database.

My background is in horticulture from the University of British Columbia; I also

received an MSc in forest genetics from UBC and completed a PhD (1996) at the University of Alberta (U of A) which focused on genetics and ecophysiology of aspen. Currently, I operate a consulting business (Genstat Consulting) based in Edmonton, Alberta. I work primarily with industrial based research and breeding programs and hold an adjunct professor appointment in the Department of Renewable Resources, U of A. I am also a volunteer manager of my daughter's Club soccer team.

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I am looking forward to working with our new Board of Directors and with their assistance guiding a new direction for the PCC as developed through a series of Strategic Planning meetings to be held in 2010. I would like to encourage all members to please provide input as to areas of interest or concern that you see challenging poplar and willow enhancement in Canada over the next 3-5 years. Please submit your comments to either myself ([Genstat@shaw.ca](mailto:Genstat@shaw.ca)) or Deb Brenton our Executive Assistant ([deborah.brenton@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:deborah.brenton@nrcan.gc.ca)) by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your membership in the PCC and encourage you to participate in our annual meetings where you can meet new colleagues, find answers to burning questions and enjoy a forum for information exchange devoted entirely to issues around the management, genetics and use of poplars and willows. We are also going to have T-shirts and caps available for sale in 2010 – so please check the web-site often for new information, updates, newsletters, AGM dates and items for sale ([www.poplar.ca](http://www.poplar.ca)).



**Dr. Barb Thomas**

**‘Poplar & Willow – Challenge & Change’  
Poplar Council of Canada Annual  
Meeting, Technical Sessions & Field Tour  
Jim Richardson, Technical Director**

Regina, Saskatchewan was the scene of the Poplar Council’s annual event September

28-30, 2009. About 60 people participated in total, mostly from western Canada, as well as from Ontario and Quebec. The theme of the meeting was ‘Poplar and Willow – Challenge and Change’ which was explored through two half-days of technical sessions and several field tours. The field tours will be described in the next newsletter, with the main focus being a full-day tour to the Agroforestry Centre (formerly the PFRA Shelterbelt Centre) of Agriculture and AgriFood Canada at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Following the technical sessions, optional tours visited hybrid poplar plantations of Greenfield Carbon Offsetters near Regina, and willow research trials of the University of Saskatchewan in the Saskatoon area.

The technical sessions and Indian Head field tour were smoothly and ably organized by the staff of the Agroforestry Centre, particularly John Kort, Bill Schroeder and Salim Silim. Many thanks to them and to Centre Director, Bruce Niell, who welcomed participants at the opening of the first technical session, along with John Doornbos, outgoing Chair of the Poplar Council of Canada.

During the two technical sessions, a total of 12 oral presentations and eight poster presentations were given. Each session was anchored by a major keynote address. Stew Rood of the University of Lethbridge, Alberta spoke, from his many years of study of riparian ecosystems in western North America, on the physiology and conservation of North American cottonwoods. This keynote explored one aspect of the topic of protecting poplars. A different aspect of the same topic was discussed by Richard Hamelin of the University of British Columbia (UBC) who presented a wide-ranging review of recent developments in poplar diseases in Canada.

In the first technical session, Lahcen Benomar of the Université-du-Québec-en-Abitibi-Témiscamingue presented results of a field trial looking at physiological acclimation of two hybrid poplar clones (of

*Populus balsamifera* × *P. trichocarpa* and *P. maximowiczii* × *P. balsamifera*). Brad Pinno of the University of Regina showed that there are significant differences in fine root dynamics of trembling aspen between the boreal forest and aspen parkland regions of Saskatchewan. Molecular markers were used by Mohamed Ismail of UBC to study the effect of geoclimatic factors on genetic diversity in natural populations of *P. trichocarpa*. Raju Soolanayakanahally, also of UBC used the Agriculture Canada balsam poplar collection at Indian Head to look at climate-related plasticity in bud phenology and resulting impact on carbon partitioning to roots in material grown at Vancouver and Indian Head. Plant growth hormones as useful markers for identifying poplar genotypes with a high inherent capacity for rapid stem volume growth were discussed by Richard Pharis of the University of Calgary.

In the second technical session, Jared LeBoldus of the University of Alberta presented the results of short-term screening for canker severity in hybrid poplars inoculated with *Septoria musiva*. Patricia Talbot of the Laurentian Forestry Centre of the Canadian Forest Service, who had worked at the Agroforestry Centre in Indian Head, spoke of her studies of natural hybridization between shelterbelts of hybrid poplar and the fragmented natural populations of *P. balsamifera* on the Canadian Prairies. Results of a study of soil respiration and ecosystem carbon balance presented by Shi Zheng of the University of Alberta showed that in the first few years after agricultural lands in northern Alberta were converted to hybrid poplar plantations they were CO<sub>2</sub> sources, but as the plantations aged they became CO<sub>2</sub> sinks. Ken van Rees of the University of Saskatchewan showed that the simple process-based 3PG model, once parameterized, could predict hybrid poplar growth with desirable accuracy using only commonly available soil and climate data for agricultural land. John Kort of the Agroforestry Centre presented empirical yield data for poplar and willow in

Saskatchewan, comparing them with theoretical yields and the limits to productivity.

Although the oral presentations focused primarily on poplars, the majority of the poster presentations concerned willows. Topics presented were wide-ranging, from screening salt tolerance, and examining root dynamics, to biomass production, fungicide screening, nitrogen uptake by bioenergy cropping systems, and ISSR marker systems for DNA fingerprinting of biomass clones. Other topics included using poplar trees to remove contaminants and using riparian buffer strips for biomass production as well as riparian protection.

During the event in Regina, the annual business meeting of the Poplar Council was held. Reports of the Chair, Treasurer, Executive Assistant and Technical Director were presented, all of which are available elsewhere in this newsletter. A number of changes to the Council's by-laws were approved, mainly relating to the restructuring of the Board of Directors to reflect a more practical and efficient arrangement. Barb Thomas was elected Chair, replacing John Doornbos who had served in that position for some 13 years. Dan Carson took over the Secretary-Treasurer position left by Barb, and Bill Schroeder now fills the Genetics and Breeding Working Group chair position formerly also held by Barb. Two new Directors at large were elected to the Board – Grant Harrison and Jared LeBoldus. Tentative plans were made to hold the Council's 2010 meeting in Syracuse, New York in conjunction with the Short Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group meeting there, with field visits in that area and adjacent parts of eastern Ontario.

Copies of all presentations and field tour materials were made available to meeting participants on CD, thanks to the Agroforestry Centre. For more information, contact [poplar@poplar.ca](mailto:poplar@poplar.ca).



***Barb Thomas & John Doornbos***  
***Indian Head, Saskatchewan***

**Chairman's Report**  
**John Doornbos**

This year, after thirteen years, I am resigning as Chair of the Poplar Council. I have been contemplating this for the past few years. I think it is time for new enthusiasm and fresh ideas in PCC. It has been a real pleasure serving as Chair; particularly I enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the many great poplar people across Canada.

I will not be leaving the Poplar Council entirely; by default I will now take over the position of Past Chair which Jim Richardson has ably held for the same thirteen years. As Past Chair, I am hoping to leave behind much of the day-to-day tasks and focus more on future issues and opportunities.

There are two areas that I think we need to focus on in the years to come: improving our membership and establishing ourselves as a stronger voice on issues that concern poplars and willows in Canada. In 2001 we held a strategic planning session from which we realized very tangible results:

- The updated Clone Directory,
- An expanding list of herbicides available for use on poplars and
- Resource material for prairie poplar growers

I believe we need to repeat that exercise and address the new challenges that poplar and

willow scientists and managers face now and in the future. We have discussed this a number of times and I think we need to initiate this process within the next six months.

We had a membership discussion a number of years ago and we realized then that we need to provide value to our members in order to obtain their on-going support. Our membership has been declining over the past several years for a number of reasons, a number of which are beyond our control (the current economic crisis and the merging of companies in the recent past), but some however we can control. We still need to give members a reason for staying on board. I believe we can achieve this by being that stronger voice and by having the Vice-chairs more directly engaged in membership support.

Over the past year, Poplar Council and its members have been fairly active. The Pesticide Working Group continues to work with the PPMUC, establishing trials and expanding the list of permissible uses for existing herbicides. Cees provides a detailed update in the PWG report.

Canada's report to the International Poplar Commission was completed last fall and is available on our website in English and in French (a first for this report). This report provides an excellent overview of policies, inventory, management issues and practices as well as research on poplars and increasingly on willows across Canada.

In the fall of 2008, the Poplar Council, along with Canadian Wood Fibre Centre, began the Short Rotation Woody Crop Research and Demonstration Project. Funding for the 3 year, \$3.6 million project is being provided by the Alberta Forest Research Institute (AFRI). The project consists of two components:

- Establishment of a centre of excellence for the development of short rotation woody crops best practices and



- Incorporating the treatment of wastewater, sludge and organic waste from municipalities and pulp mills into short rotation woody crop production.

The project is in its second year and is well underway. Through this project, we will establish Poplar Council as an effective delivery agent on large projects and we should be able to better support the directions and issues that we will address through our strategic planning process.

The financial affairs of the Poplar Council are in good shape. We have been working with a new accountant and have introduced a number of new procedures to make our reporting more consistent. Barb will provide more detail in her report. The AFRI project, mentioned above, will be a source of substantial revenue for the Poplar Council and will permit us to take action on some of our strategic directions that we have not been able to fund previously.

We have a new Executive Assistant. Deb Brenton joined us early in 2009 and has been working hard on many tasks. Deb was instrumental in keeping development of the new brochure on track. She also worked with Barb and I and the accountant to bring our books into better order.

As I finish my (long) term as Chair of Poplar Council, I would like to thank all of the members for their support over the years. I would like to thank the Executive past and present. Particularly, I would like to thank Jim Richardson for his hard work and his support and his commitment as Past Chair for eleven years. I also want to thank Deb, our Current Executive Assistant as well as her predecessors – Lisa, Sandra and Carol for minding the house while I was busy with other tasks. Thanks also to Barb for her diligent work in getting our books in shape and to Cees and Annie for their hard work.



*AGM Participants at Bio-Baler Demo*

### **Executive Assistant's Report Deborah Brenton**

I am very pleased to file my first report to the Poplar Council of Canada. The Executive Assistant's responsibilities include managing the daily operations of the office; membership and associated services; coordinating permanent files and membership databases; preparing agendas and recording minutes for meetings; maintaining a library of technical information; responding to and providing referrals to information requests; soliciting articles, editing and formatting the newsletter, as well as maintaining accurate financial records of all bank accounts, accounts payable and receivables. The Executive Assistant is also responsible for conference services including registration, events planning and organization.

### **Membership**

The Poplar Council welcomed four new Individual members this year – Odile Fleury, Jaconette Mirck, Warren Stewart and Stewart Blake. Currently, the corporate membership stands at 13 with 46 Affiliates. Unfortunately, we lost a number of corporate and affiliate members this year due to the lagging economy. Hopefully, these members will return once the economic climate improves. Presently, there are 28 individual members that have renewed for 2009, and 3 associate members. Please feel free to visit the website at

[www.poplar.ca/members](http://www.poplar.ca/members) for contact information for current and new members.

### **Brochure**

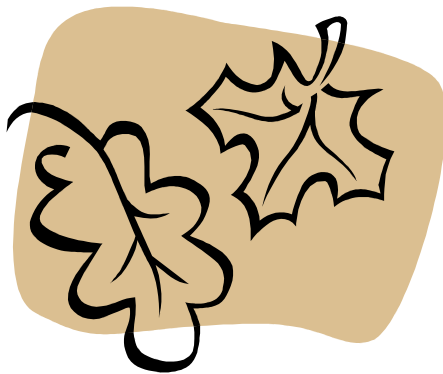
In 2007, Lisa Bowker coordinated the design and production of a three panel display unit to promote the Poplar Council of Canada at workshops and conferences. This year, I coordinated the design and production of a brochure to complement this display, a copy of which is on the CD from the recent 2009 AGM.

### **AFRI**

This year, the Poplar Council assumed the financial administration of a large governmental project with Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, of which AFRI is a component institution. This project is considered to be a very good opportunity for the PCC and an administrative fee ranging from 5-10% will be collected for this intermediary and reporting role.

### **Conclusion**

I would like to especially thank John Doornbos and the other members of the Executive Committee of the PCC for their patience, guidance and understanding in my first year as Executive Assistant. I look forward to working with the Council, the Executive Committee, and all of the members in the upcoming year.



## **Technical Director's Report** **Jim Richardson**

This is the 13th annual report to the Poplar Council membership from the Technical Director, a position created by the Executive Committee in April 1997. The general objectives of the Technical Director are to supply technical services and advice to the Council, to promote awareness and support for the Council and to increase membership. More specifically, the responsibilities of the technical director include maintaining and updating the Council's website; responding to technical enquiries using E-mail, phone, fax and mail; providing an international dimension to the Council through participation in the International Poplar Commission; contributing to the PCC Newsletter and supporting technical aspects of the organization of the PCC Annual meeting; and providing services to members and the Board of Directors of a technical rather than purely administrative nature. The specific responsibilities continue to change somewhat, reflecting the changing ways in which the Council operates and new directions and initiatives of the Council.

Recognizing the limited budget of the Council, the services of the technical director are provided for a minimal level of compensation. I work out of my home office in Ottawa, devoting on average about five days a month to Poplar Council business. However, the actual time commitment varies greatly depending on the tasks at hand.

### **Website**

Management and maintenance of the Poplar Council website ([www.poplar.ca](http://www.poplar.ca)) is perhaps the most significant on-going responsibility of the technical director. The 'What's New' pages and the 'Events' page are reviewed and updated regularly, as well as 'Links'. Information about individual and corporate members is updated once a year. The site is an important source for the electronic newsletter, which is normally uploaded to the site soon after each new issue is sent to

members by the Executive Assistant by E-mail. While the E-mailed version is in PDF format, both PDF and HTML format versions are available on the website. The website is a key resource for information about the annual meeting. A significant addition to the website this year was the Canadian national report to the November 2008 Session of the International Poplar Commission, which is a very comprehensive resource of up-to-date information on the status of the poplars and willows and related industry in Canada. Site usage in the past year has been running at about 35,000 hits and 2200 visits per month, with visits peaking in the spring months. After visitors to the site from Canada, visitors from the Netherlands and the US have been most frequent.

#### **Technical Enquiries**

The technical director responds to technical enquiries, most of which are received as a result of contact through the website and are dealt with by E-mail. The number of such enquiries has declined in recent years. When I am unable to provide the information requested, I involve other Council members who are experts in the particular field of interest of the enquirer, or who are closer to the geographic location of the enquirer. Whenever possible, advantage is taken of the opportunity to promote Council membership in responding to enquiries from non-members.

#### **International Dimension**

Together with my colleague, J.G. Isebrands of Wisconsin, I continue to coordinate the preparation and publication of a completely revised and updated edition of the FAO-IPC book on poplars and willows. This book, to be published by FAO initially in electronic format, is entitled 'Poplars and Willows in the World: Meeting the needs of society and the environment'. An international team of 12 'lead chapter authors', supported by many individual contributing authors, including several Canadians, is preparing the content. In the past year, 4 key chapters have been completed and are now available on the FAO/IPC website

([www.fao.org/forestry/ipc/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/ipc/en/)). More are expected soon.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Poplar Commission (IPC), a Subsidiary Body of FAO, was held in Beijing, China October 26-30, 2008, with technical sessions and field tours. John Doornbos and I represented Canada at the meeting. John was elected to serve a 4-year term on the Executive Committee, which met in conjunction with the full Session. I was also co-opted again to serve on the Executive Committee. As noted above, PCC prepared a Canadian national report on poplar and willow activities for the Session, and I contributed information on PCC activities to that report.

#### **Newsletters and Other Publications**

The technical director makes regular contributions to the Council's newsletter, including reports from meetings and other events. Since no issues of the newsletter were published in the past year, there is no activity to report.

#### **Annual Meeting**

I participated actively on the Program Committee for the Short Rotation Crops International Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August 2008, and was able to ensure the participation of a number of Canadian speakers at this event, in which PCC was one of the co-sponsors. The PCC annual meeting in 2008 was held in conjunction with the conference. Subsequent to the event, I continued to serve on a small editorial group which guided a number of formal papers emanating from the conference through a peer-review process to eventual publication in the September 2009 issue of the journal *BioEnergy Research* which can be accessed on-line at <http://www.springerlink.com/content/q7316q0638v2/?p=1a2b7250495c4b2ca7bbe7fe6390dab3&pi=0>. Those papers include one by PCC member Bill Schroeder and colleagues.

#### **Acknowledgements**

Once again, I would like to thank John Doornbos and the Executive Council for

their continued support and confidence throughout the year. It is a pleasure to work for the Council under the leadership of the Executive. I also appreciate very much the efficiency and hard work of Deb Brenton, the Council's new Executive Assistant who got up to speed very quickly after her appointment to the position.

### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report Barb Thomas**

The 2008 budget and actuals for the Poplar Council of Canada (PCC) are reported in Table 1. As well, the 2009 budget with actuals to June 30<sup>th</sup> is also presented (Table 2) along with the proposed budget for 2010 (Table 3). In 2008 we saw a drop in corporate membership revenues, as well as a lower than expected number of individual memberships. Our GIC revenue was larger than anticipated, as well, revenues were generated from our contract project with the Alberta Forest Genetic Resources Council, and final payments were made for the Genetics to Production Workshop (G2P), the Crop Manual, and GOFC – Gold Project for a total gross revenue of \$18,857.01 for 2008. Expenses came in at \$22,366.92 leaving a deficit of \$3,509.91 which was significantly less than expected from the budget projection (see Table 1 for details).

2009 saw a significant change in revenue generation for the PCC with a new contract/project that we are managing for three years. This project is with the Alberta Forest Research Institute (AFRI) and is anticipated to generate approximately \$114,400.00 in management fees for PCC in 2009. On the expense side, we hired Deborah Brenton as our new Executive Assistant and she began working with us spring 2009. Our net revenues based on budget are projected at \$97,458.75.

For 2010, a proposed budget is presented with revenues projected to be \$143,660.75, expenditures of \$42,455.00 with net revenue of \$101,205.75.

In addition to the budgets, we hired a Chartered Accountant, Mr. Rod Hergott, to provide us with an unaudited financial statement of our 2008 accounts. For 2009, we will be obtaining an audited financial statement due to the AFRI contract.

Mr. Hergott was also hired by PCC to provide expert advice on GST qualifications and requirements which is still under review.

I would like to thank Deborah Brenton and recognize the hard work she has put in over the past year; Deb has been a great addition to the team.

I would also like to thank John Doornbos for his support and commitment to the PCC.



*To plant trees is to give body and life to  
one's dreams of a better world.*

*Russell Page*



**TABLE 1**

<b>2008 BUDGET and ACTUALS</b>		<b>Sept. 17, 2009</b>	
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>budget</b>		<b>actual</b>
<b>Memberships</b>			
Corporate (16 @550.00)	\$8,800.00		\$4,975.00
Individual	\$1,805.00		\$389.83
PPMUC Membership Revenues only	-		\$5,250.00
<b>GIC Interest</b>	\$1,700.00		\$2,053.13
<b>Contracts/Projects</b>			
AFGRC Communications Initiative (6%)	\$1,200.00		\$1,680.00
G2P & Crop Manual			\$2,746.00
GOFC-Gold Project			\$1,763.05
<b>GROSS REVENUE</b>	<b>\$13,505.00</b>		<b>\$18,857.01</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>General Operations</b>			
Executive Secretary (12 x 960.00)	\$11,520.00		\$2,709.06
Technical Director (4 X 1337.50)	\$5,350.00		\$5,250.00
Travel Executive Secretary (1)	\$1,500.00	\$	-
Travel - Technical Director (1)	\$2,000.00		\$324.77
PPMUC Silver Membership (PCC portion of Gold)	\$530.00		\$5,250.00
Travel for Cees VO (PPMUC)	\$500.00		\$100.36
AGM expenses (Chair)	-		\$464.60
Payment to Jon Elofson for Clone Directory	-		\$1,562.50
Executive Secretary newspaper ads			\$515.33
Web Hosting (2 X 190)	\$380.00		\$377.38
PCC Promo Pamphlet	\$700.00		\$100.00
Newsletter translation	\$939.61		\$1,112.85
Bank Charges (2 accounts X 12)	\$125.00		\$118.96
Postage	\$200.00		\$38.90
Corporate Filing Fee	\$30.00		\$30.00
Accountant's Review	\$1,500.00		\$1,050.00
Accountant Fee for GST qualification	-		\$441.00
<b>Contracts/Projects</b>			
Legal Fees for AFRI			\$971.21
Director's Insurance and liability for AFRI			\$1,950.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$25,274.61</b>		<b>\$22,366.92</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>-\$11,769.61</b>		<b>-3509.91</b>

**TABLE 2**

<b>2009 BUDGET</b>		Sept. 18, 2009	
<b>REVENUE</b>			actuals to June 30th, 2009
	budget		
<b>Memberships</b>			
Corporate (20 @ \$550.00)	\$1,000.00		\$5,500.00
Individual 22 @ \$35.00 annual	\$770.00		\$280.00
17 @ \$90.00 3 year	\$1,530.00		\$810.00
PPMUC 11 members @ \$437.50 membership	\$4,812.50		\$3,937.50
11 members @ \$133.75 expenses	\$1,251.25		\$1,203.75
<b>GIC Interest</b> \$66,258 @ 3%	\$1,900.00		\$993.00
<b>Contracts/Projects</b>			
AFGRC Communications Initiative	\$2,300.00		\$2,310.27
AFRI Project (2008/09)	\$36,100.00		\$15,000.00
AFRI Project (2009/10) for first advance	\$59,500.00		
AFRI Project (2009/10) for second advance	\$18,800.00		
<b>GROSS REVENUE</b>	<b>\$137,963.75</b>		<b>\$30,034.52</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>General Operations</b>			
Executive Secretary (12 x 1500.00)	\$18,000.00		\$7,500.00
Technical Director (4 X 1312.50)	\$5,250.00		\$2,625.00
Travel Executive Secretary (1)	\$1,500.00		
Travel - Technical Director (1)	\$2,000.00		
PPMUC Gold Membership (\$437.50 PCC portion)	\$5,250.00		\$5,250.00
Travel for Cees VO (\$133.75 PCC portion)	\$1,365.00		\$968.49
AGM expenses (Chair)	\$500.00		
Newsletter translation	\$1,000.00		
Bank Charges (General & Project Acct X 12)	\$130.00		\$55.92
Postage	\$50.00		\$31.40
Web Hosting (2 X 190)	\$380.00		\$188.69
PCC Promo Pamphlet	\$700.00		
Corporate Filing Fee	\$30.00		\$30.00
Accountant's Review	\$600.00		
Accountant Fees re: GST qualification	\$750.00		
<b>Contracts/Projects</b>			
Legal Fees for AFRI	\$1,000.00		\$1,260.00
Director's Insurance & Liability for AFRI	\$2,000.00		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$40,505.00</b>		<b>\$17,909.50</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$97,458.75</b>		<b>\$12,125.02</b>

TABLE 3

2010 BUDGET		Sept. 18, 2009
<b>REVENUE</b>		budget
<b>Memberships</b>		
Corporate (20 @ \$550.00)		\$11,000.00
Individual 22 @ \$35.00 (annual)		\$770.00
8 @ \$90.00 (3-year)		\$720.00
<b>PPMUC</b> 11 members @ \$437.50 membership		\$4,812.50
11 members @ \$133.75 expenses		\$1,251.25
<b>GIC Interest</b>	\$46000 @ 0.8%	\$368.00
	~\$26000 @ 0.15%	\$39.00
<b>Contracts/Projects</b>		
AFGRC Communications Initiative		\$1,500.00
AFRI Project		\$123,200.00
<b>GROSS REVENUE</b>		<b>\$143,660.75</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>General Operations</b>		
Executive Secretary (12 x 1500.00)		\$18,000.00
Executive Secretary software training		\$500.00
Technical Director (4 X 1312.50)		\$5,250.00
Travel Executive Secretary (1)		\$1,500.00
Travel - Technical Director (1)		\$2,000.00
PPMUC Gold Membership (\$437.50 PCC portion only)		\$5,250.00
Travel for Cees VO (\$133.75 PCC portion only)		\$1,365.00
AGM expenses (Chair)		\$500.00
Newsletter translation		\$1,000.00
Bank Charges (General & projects Acct x 12)		\$130.00
Postage (1)		\$50.00
Web Hosting (2 X 190)		\$380.00
Strategic planning meeting		\$10,000.00
Corporate Filing Fee		\$30.00
Accountant's Review		\$3,000.00
Accountant Fee for GST advice		\$500.00
<b>Contracts/Projects</b>		
Legal Fees for AFRI		\$1,000.00
Director's Insurance & Liability for AFRI		\$2,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>42,455.00</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>		<b>101,205.75</b>

**2008-2009 Report of the Pesticide  
Working Group (PWG)  
Cees van Oosten - Chair PWG**

Since 2001 the Pesticide Working Group (PWG) has been pursuing labeling of useful pesticides for the management of fast-growing poplar and more recently also willow as agronomic crops for various end uses. These crops are referred to as '*short-rotation-intensive-culture*' woody crops, or simply '*SRIC poplar and willow*' or '*SRIC*'. SRIC is recognized as an agronomic crop type by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada in Ottawa due to its crop management requirements when grown on farmland. The PMRA reviews applications to have certain pesticides labeled in Canada for minor uses (such as ours). This requires field trials, analyses and reports that may take 2 (to 3) years from initiation to labeling for each 'new' product. The process is referred to as '*user-requested minor use label expansion*' or simply *URMULE*. All the active ingredients used in these products would already have been approved and registered in Canada for use in various crops.

Initially work concentrated on obtaining labeling for products already labeled for poplar in a shelterbelt setting; this resulted in a flurry of new labeling for use in SRIC poplar. More recently the PWG has also been pursuing the same for use in SRIC willow through the URMULE process. This has been and continues to be a time-consuming process and several 'new' products applied for a few years ago are still in the regulatory pipeline. Most URMULEs require field trials, which are typically carried out by PWG partners. For a few products the URMULE process was expedited through the use of existing published data from external sources. The PWG 'partnership' consists of Poplar Council members who have been actively involved in providing both financial and in-kind resources to accomplish PWG goals.

For a more complete listing of the products labeled for use in SRIC poplar and willow, and of products currently in the regulatory

pipeline, a detailed report will be posted on the PCC website<sup>1</sup> by the end of January 2010.

**PMRA - pesticide re-evaluation process**

The PMRA is periodically conducting a pesticide re-evaluation process, which can lead to serious delays or even cancellations of the URMULE process for the product under application. In 2009 Lorox L (active ingredient or a.i. is linuron) was targeted for such a re-evaluation; the Registrant of the product (in this case DuPont) must now provide additional data. This has delayed and temporarily postponed our 2009 Lorox L URMULE. It is uncertain when this re-evaluation process will be complete, but it is suspected that the re-evaluation is the result of the product production and marketing rights having been sold to Tessenderlo Kerley, Inc. (TKI) of Arizona (U.S.). Our Lorox L URMULE, which was submitted early 2009, was entirely based on use of existing published data from the Shelterbelt Centre (AAFC – PFRA) and other external sources, which supported use of this product as a pre-emergent herbicide for both SRIC poplar and willow; PMRA had already determined that no additional field data were needed (this occurred before the sale of the product to TKI). The currently approved use<sup>2</sup> is as a post-emergent herbicide in SRIC poplar in western Canada only.

**Prairie Pesticide Minor Use Consortium (PPMUC)**

In late 2004 the PWG joined the Prairie Pesticide Minor Use Consortium<sup>3</sup> (PPMUC) as a new member. The Consortium is

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.poplar.ca/science.htm> (Poplar Council Working Groups)

<sup>2</sup> The use as a post-emergent herbicide in SRIC poplar in western Canada only was approved by PMRA on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2007; however, the new label has yet to be posted by PMRA and by DuPont and now Tessenderlo Kerley, Inc.. We were assured several times in writing by DuPont that we could use the product as per the approved (and yet to be posted) label.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdo cs.nsf/all/opp5982](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdo cs.nsf/all/opp5982)



located in Brooks (AB) and has several agricultural crop growers as members (e.g. Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission, Potato Growers of Alberta, etc.).

Membership in the Prairie Pesticide Minor Use Consortium was renewed for 2009 at the Gold level. The Consortium provides administrative, technical and analytical services through the Minor Use Procurement Officer (Rudy Esau), who deals with all the chemical companies, obtains their agreement to support the labeling of their products for our (minor) uses, and handles all the business dealings with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada. Almost all PWG work dealing with pesticide registration runs through the PPMUC.

The total PPMUC membership fee for 2009 was \$5,000 (plus GST) and was paid for by 12 partners, each contributing \$525 (before GST); this included approximately \$108 to cover travel expenses for Cees van Oosten (the chair of the PWG) to attend the 2009 PPMUC annual meeting in Taber (AB). There was consensus that any surplus from 2009 would be retained as a credit towards 2010 partnership costs. The 2009 partnership includes representation from Quebec and the three western Provinces.

PPMUC Partnership by Organization 2009	Contact
AAFC – PFRA – Shelterbelt Centre	Bruce Hesselink
Ainsworth Engineered Canada LP	Fred Radersma
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.	Michelle Sulz
CFS – Canadian Wood Fibre Centre	Richard Krygier
ForestFirst (ex-Saskatchewan Forest Centre)	Larry White
Montreal Botanical Garden	Michel Labrecque
Kruger Products Ltd.	Dan Carson
(MRNF)/Ministry of Natural Resources	Roger Touchette
Pacific Regeneration Technologies Inc.	Grant Harrison
Poplar Council of Canada	Cees van Oosten
University of Saskatchewan	Ken Van Rees
Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd. - Forestlands	Tim Gylander

Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. opted not to renew its partnership for 2009.

## Pest Management Centre (PMC)

Dr. Shiyu Li of the Pest Management Centre (PMC) of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) manages three URMULEs we initiated over the last several years. These are URMULEs for three pre-emergent herbicides that were awarded full funding by AAFC for the entire application process, including field trials. ForestFirst and Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. successfully bid on several aspects of these trials (including subsequent analyses and reports), the last of which was completed in the spring of 2009. These URMULEs are still in the regulatory pipeline and involve three products we want to have labeled for pre-emergent use.

There have been delays in processing and approving two of these products pending the need for additional efficacy data and occupational exposure (Goal 2XL, a.i. oxyfluorfen) and PMRA's requirement for a re-evaluation of one product (Lorox L-linuron), as discussed above. One recently completed URMULE (Chateau, a.i. flumioxazin) required additional data on soil pH (completed) and we are hopeful it will be the first one to produce a label for our use as a pre-emergent herbicide (it will also be available then as a post-emergent herbicide).

## Pesticide Working Group – 2008-2009 highlights

### ■ *New products*

In 2009 the active ingredient flumioxazin was registered in Canada and several crop uses were approved (e.g. Chateau for potatoes and SureGuard for [ornamental] nursery and Christmas trees). Our URMULE for this active ingredient is being processed and we are hopeful the a.i. flumioxazin will likely be labeled as SureGuard Herbicide for both SRIC poplar and willow some time in 2010 (at the earliest). The URMULE requested both pre- and post-emergent use.

The PWG submitted an URMULE for the use of Lontrel 360 (a.i. clopyralid) as a post-emergent herbicide for use in SRIC willow crops and planting stock production. The

basis for the submission was the availability of external data to support its use in willow. Recently the PWG was asked to provide occupational exposure information; this is a clear sign this URMULE is being processed and we are hopeful no field crop tolerance data are required. The product is already labeled for use in SRIC poplar crops (one of our early successes).

Kruger Products Ltd. (Dan Carson), Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec (MRNF)/Ministry of Natural Resources (Roger Touchette), AAFC - PFRA – Shelterbelt Centre (Bruce Hesselink) and Pacific Regeneration Technologies Inc. (Grant Harrison) are cooperating in an URMULE to test the fungicide Folicur 432F (a.i. tebuconazole) in the control of three poplar diseases and one willow disease. Our priority emphasis is on *Melampsora* leaf rust species for both poplar and willow, for which there are currently no labeled fungicide products in Canada. The other two (poplar) diseases are *Septoria* leaf spot spp. and *Marssonina* leaf spot spp.; for these diseases there is currently one active ingredient available in three labeled products. For the first three cooperators, the trials are in their second season. Disease occurrence appears to be most predictable in Quebec and is sporadic at best in the other trials. We hope to generate sufficient data to support labeling of this product for control of *Melampsora* rust species in both poplar and willow.

#### ▪ **Product screening**

The CFS' Canadian Wood Fibre Centre (Richard Krygier) initiated greenhouse screening trials for several herbicides. The list of candidate products was carefully compiled by Richard in cooperation with the University of Alberta (U of A); the U of A has been doing the screening. The emphasis was on products that could be applied 'over-the-top' of actively growing poplar and willow plants grown in a greenhouse. Several products showed promise and were 'promoted' to the second screening phase. Final results are being evaluated.

ForestFirst (ex-Saskatchewan Forest Centre – Shannon Poppy) initiated a project proposal for greenhouse screening of several fungicides in cooperation with the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). We received permission from various chemical companies (the Registrants) to use their products for this project. Greenhouse screening and subsequent in-field inoculation protocols are badly needed due to the unpredictable nature of diseases being expressed naturally in field trials (see the Folicur trials as reported above). In the meantime ForestFirst ceased to exist and several staff (including Shannon) was transferred to the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) in 2009. The SRC has indicated it will continue with this project in cooperation with the U of S. The Poplar Council of Canada has recently invited the SRC to take out a corporate Poplar Council membership and to take over the PPMUC partnership now vacated by ForestFirst. We expect a response soon.

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Michelle Sulz) initiated a field screening project testing several products for use in SRIC poplar (and by inference also useful in willow). Initial results look promising and will provide the PWG with some ideas for future work. Late summer assessments were completed and data are being analyzed. The work concentrated on Ally (a.i. metsulfuron methyl), Express (a.i. tribenuron methyl), Ally+Express, and PrePass A (a.i. florasulam), which were all applied in tank mixes with a glyphosate-based herbicide as a pre-plant (one day before planting) and post-plant (one day after planting over dormant stock) application. The attraction of these combinations is post-emergence control of newly emerged weeds at time of planting, coupled with the soil-residual activity of these compounds, allowing prolonged weed control.

#### **Cost sharing**

All the projects described above are excellent examples of PWG partners providing the financial and in-kind resources to carry out various trials. Some partners

are in a better position than others to carry out trials on their premises, while others cannot; however, they may be able to lend support through financial and in-kind contributions. This has occurred a few times in the past and we hope these types of cooperative efforts can be continued in the future where the burden of the required resources can be more evenly distributed. There will have to be more emphasis on this aspect for 2010.



***PFRA Shelterbelt Centre  
Indian Head, Saskatchewan***

## **BYLAWS Poplar Council of Canada**

Approved at Founding Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, March 20, 1978

Amended at the 1st Annual Meeting of Members, August 16, 1979

Amended at the 3rd Annual Meeting of Members, October 22, 1981

Amended at the 13th Annual Meeting of Members, August 29, 1991

Amended at the 16th Annual Meeting of Members, September 14, 1994

Amended and restated at the 31st Annual Meeting of Members, September 28, 2009

Presented to a meeting of the Board of Directors, December 7, 2009

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**BYLAW 1 - Name.** The name of this organization shall be Poplar Council of Canada.

**BYLAW 2 -** Poplar Council of Canada is a Corporation without share capital, incorporated under Part II of the Canada Corporation Act. (Letters patent of June 13, 1979, Document 161.) The Corporation bylaws are part of these bylaws.

**BYLAW 3 - Purpose.** The general objectives of the Council are to advance knowledge of the culture of species primarily in the genera *Populus* and *Salix* (here collectively referred to as "poplars and willows"), to encourage the planting and management of poplars and willows, and to increase their utilization and conservation.

Specifically, the purposes of the organization are:

1. To encourage people to grow and use poplar and willow trees.
2. To sponsor meetings of scientists, landowners, producers, and users to discuss mutual interests.
3. To facilitate the exchange of information and materials such as pollen, seed and clones.
4. To evaluate current knowledge and to suggest and encourage research in critical problem areas.
5. To promote sound policies for poplar and willow management and conservation.
6. To represent and promote the interests of Council members to governments, non-government organizations and the public.

**BYLAW 4 - Membership.** Membership in the Council shall be open to all interested in the objectives of the Council.

**BYLAW 5 - Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee of the Council shall consist of a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons from different geographical regions, the immediate Past Chairperson, and a Secretary-Treasurer, each to be elected annually at a regular meeting of the Council. A plurality of votes cast by those present at the meeting will determine the successful candidates. The Executive Assistant and the Technical Director of the Council shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

Duties of the Executive Committee shall be:

1. Chairperson - to preside at all meetings of the Council and Board of Directors, to call meetings of the Council and Board of Directors as required, and to ensure the functioning of all committees.
2. Vice-Chairpersons - to serve as Chairperson during the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson, to confer with the other Executive Committee members and to serve on the Board of Directors, each Vice-Chairperson to represent his/her respective region, to develop regional interest in the Council and to promote membership in the Council.
3. Past Chairperson - to provide continuity in the business of the Executive Committee, to confer with the other Executive Committee members and to serve on the Board of Directors.
4. Secretary-Treasurer - to ensure a complete and accurate set of minutes of each meeting with appropriate attachments (including committee reports, technical papers, etc.) is maintained, to ensure revenue and expense records of the Council are properly maintained, to ensure meetings are duly called, and to serve on the Board of Directors.
5. Executive Assistant – appointed by the Executive Committee and reporting to the Chairperson of the Council, to support the activities of the Council by maintaining financial records, providing support to members, answering or directing member and public enquiries, coordinating communications activities, organizing and assisting with Council meetings and workshops, and serving ex officio on the Board of Directors.
6. Technical Director – appointed by the Executive Committee and reporting to the Chairperson of the Council, to supply technical services and advice to the Council, to answer or direct member and public enquiries, to promote awareness and support for the Council, and to serve ex officio on the Board of Directors.

**BYLAW 6 - Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Committee, chairpersons of all

working groups and committees, and may include representatives from governments, universities and poplar/willow industry sectors, up to a total of 12 Directors.

Directors shall serve at least one year. They shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors appointed by the Chairperson, or from the floor during a regular meeting of the membership of the Council. Nominations shall be approved by a plurality of votes cast at a regular meeting of the membership of the Council.

The duties of the Board of Directors shall be to provide full geographic, institutional and technical representation, in the affairs of the Council, to provide guidance and direction to the Executive Committee and ratify its actions, and to serve as the focal point for promoting the objectives of the Council.

**BYLAW 7 - Working Groups and Committees** of the Council shall include:

1. Genetics and Breeding Working Group
  2. Pesticide Working Group
  3. Newsletter Committee
  4. Nominating Committee
- and others as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Chairpersons of working groups and committees (with the exception of the Nominating Committee Chairperson) will be elected every two years from a slate prepared by the Nominating Committee simultaneously with election of other members of the Board of Directors. Chairpersons of working groups and committees shall appoint as many members to their respective bodies as may be required. Working groups and committees may form Subcommittees as required. Each working group and committee shall report to the Board of Directors through its Chairperson. Each Subcommittee shall report to the Board of Directors through its appropriate working group or committee.

The duties of each Working Group and Committee shall be as defined in its Terms of



Reference which shall be ratified by the Board of Directors from time to time. The Working Groups and Committees shall exist to further the objectives of the Council and to carry out the wishes of the Board of Directors.

**BYLAW 8 - Meetings.** There shall be at least one general meeting of the Council membership and one meeting of the Board of Directors annually. Between these meetings, the Executive Committee shall meet as required to ensure the coordination and furtherance of the Council's business. Meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee may take place either in person or by electronic means. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make arrangements for regular meetings of the Council. Meetings of Working Groups and Committees will be the responsibility of the Chairpersons of those bodies, and will take place as required.

For the conduct of business, a quorum shall consist of the voting members present.

**BYLAW 9 - Financing.** Membership fees for individuals and for industries and other organizations wishing to sustain the Council will be as set from time to time by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of Council members present at an annual business meeting.

Special funds may be gathered for specific projects with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**BYLAW 10 -Revision of Bylaws.** These bylaws may be repealed or amended by a motion duly passed by a majority of the Directors at a meeting of the Board of Directors and ratified by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at a general meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose by the Chairperson of the Council.



#### **Coming Events**

**IPS -V (International Poplar Symposium) – Orvieto, Italy – September 20-25, 2010 –**  
<http://www.sisef.it/IPS-V/>