

# between the BRANCHES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TIGERCAT INDUSTRIES INC.

## FORESTRY PIONEER

Innovative Quebec logger overcomes lifetime of professional challenges.

— Yves J. Léveillé

A pioneer of mechanized logging, Guy Savard recently retired after a successful 50 year career requiring ingenuity, technical skills and most importantly, the confidence and nerves to gamble by investing in new equipment that was supposedly more advanced and productive but completely unproven. Guy was also involved in developing new methods of forestry work in collaboration with various companies. The story of Guy Savard, logging entrepreneur and president of Savifor Inc. is a fine example of courage, tenacity and work well done.

Guy's life is full of challenges and experiences that I would love to share with you. Born in Portneuf on the high northern coast of the St. Lawrence, he started as a forestry worker in 1959 and following his studies at the Institute of Trades in Quebec, became a heavy equipment operator for Anglo Canadian Pulp in Forestville, Quebec. In 1965 Anglo Canadian, recognizing

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Guy Savard with Yves Léveillé.

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his mechanical skills, promoted him to a field service technician. His rapidly acquired knowledge and experience made him an expert on Koehring logging equipment. In 1972, Koehring Waterous hired him as a service technician, bringing new challenges for a period of eighteen months spanning until 1973.

Increasingly bold, Guy teamed up with a fellow employee, Robert Neal to create the company Neal & Savard. This company became a subcontractor for Acadia Pulp in Miramichi, New Brunswick. In partnership with Acadia Pulp, Neal & Savard acquired three Koehring KH3B harvesters for a five-year contract.

When the contract was completed in late 1978, Guy bought out his partner and found himself working for Kruger north of Chapais, Quebec. A fourth machine, identical to the first three was added to Guy's fleet to harvest eight foot logs which fed the paper mill in Trois-Rivieres. During this period in 1984, Guy and his brother Daniel partnered to form the company Savifor Inc. The contract with Kruger carried on until late 1991. Subsequently, Savifor Inc. did small contracts for Kruger and other companies. In December 1993, Savifor Inc. signed with the company Barrette Chapais (BCL). One of the largest sawmills in Quebec at the time, BCL was located near Chibougamau.

## Development and Innovation

At BCL, a new challenge awaited the Savard brothers. To meet new Department of Natural Resources standards, BCL was required to significantly modify



The first four-wheel self-loading carrier could haul 20 cubic metres or around 200 stems.

its logging operations. Working closely with the Savard brothers, BCL switched from full tree felling and roadside processing to at-the-stump delimiting and processing so that all branches and tops remained in the forest. Savifor used a modified CAT excavator equipped with a FMG 762B harvesting head to fell and delimit at the stump.

To bring the delimited, full-length stems to the loading area with no drag traces on the ground, a new type of full-length log carrier was necessary. To achieve this, Guy, Daniel and another brother Luc began the task of designing and building a self-loading carrier that could place full-length logs on a specially designed bunk with a carrying capacity of 15-20 m<sup>3</sup>, representing 150 – 200 stems. The brothers achieved this engineering feat by modifying equipment that already existed in the market, including their own aging Koehring KH3B shortwood harvesters.

The design of the four-wheel drive machine with a modified truck loader took about a month's work. Following start up of this first prototype, the construction of a second machine began. This project was more difficult, requiring no less than three months of intensive work to complete a six-wheel-drive carrier. The resulting machine was 15 ft 3 in (4,65 m) wide with a 235 hp diesel engine installed at the rear, a continuous rotation turntable on the front chassis and a 26 ft (7,9 m) boom fitted with a live heel and rotating butt-n-top grapple.

The machine had an articulating frame and oscillation between the front and rear chassis, combined with oscillation of each of the independent rear differentials. This provided full traction by following the shape and contours of the terrain.

A harvester that could perform cutting, delimiting and topping at the stump and a carrier that could bring the stems to roadside without drag traces on the ground significantly improved the quality of the harvested wood, while meeting the new standards dictated by the Department of Natural Resources of Quebec. From 1993 to 1996, Savifor Inc. operated with a single harvester and the six-wheel-drive carrier

described above to bring the harvested stems to the loading area.

To maximize the productivity and utilization of the carrier, it soon became necessary to add a second harvester. Guy, who knew Tigercat president Tony Iarocci in previous years from Koehring Waterous, visited the Tigercat factory and subsequently purchased a Tigercat 853E track harvester. Equipped with a specially designed boom system, this machine had a 34 ft (10,4 m) maximum reach in compliance with ministry standards. Fitted with a 762B harvesting head, Savifor Inc. took delivery of this new harvester in late May 1996.

### Newfound Productivity

The Tigercat 853E harvester quickly established productivity levels averaging 1 000 m<sup>3</sup> per week for 88 hours of operation. From July 1996 to 2000 26,390 hours were recorded on the hour meter. In 2000 a second Tigercat 853E was acquired to replace the CAT excavator — a used 1995 model feller



This second machine, driven by an articulating frame and oscillation between the front and rear chassis, combined with the oscillation of each of the independent rear differentials, provided full traction while following the shape of the terrain.



With two identical machines and similar productivity, the six-wheel-drive carrier was fully utilized and operations were on a regular pace.

buncher. Guy converted the machine into a harvester, copying Tigercat's harvester boom so that the two machines were virtually identical. With two machines achieving similar productivity, the six-wheel-drive carrier was fully utilized and operations were on a regular pace.

From 2000 until 2010, it's easy to imagine the number of hours accumulated on the harvesters. Although several major components were replaced over the period, the basic structure of the machines remained original. According to Guy, the average long-term availability of each harvester is estimated at 94%. The total number of hours accumulated on the 853E acquired in 2000 is around 44,500 while the 853E acquired in 1996 is estimated at 64,300 hours.

Both harvesters and the six-wheel-drive carrier are still in operation with a new owner and still producing for BCL, confirming the productivity of the machines and the quality of the work performed.

Now logging entrepreneur Guy Savard has bowed to undertake a new challenge — his retirement. Although Guy and Daniel sold the business, it is difficult to stop someone as active as Guy and sometimes he goes to the bush to see his old machines and if asked, does not hesitate to get his hands dirty. Daniel is working for the new owner.

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I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Guy Savard for their warm hospitality, which allowed me to experience the journey and the years of ingenious work of Guy and Daniel and to also realize that even with innovative methods, rigour and consistency in operations are keys to success. ■

*Based in Amos, Quebec, Yves J. Léveillé also undertook the challenge of retirement in 2006 after a long and varied career in the forestry industry. From 1998 to 2006 Yves was the Tigercat district manager for Quebec. Previous to that he was service manager for Services Forestiers Mont-Laurier, in Amos.*



Guy Savard (front left) and Robert Neal (front right) in front of the KH3B shortwood harvesters.

## PIONNIER FORESTIER

**Un forestier québécois innovateur surmonte une durée de vie de défis professionnels**

— Yves J. Léveillé

Un pionnier de la mécanisation forestière, M. Guy Savard se retire après 50 années de travail demandant ingéniosité, habileté, et surtout, la confiance et le courage de prendre des chances avec de nouveaux équipements supposément meilleures et plus perfectionnés que les précédents. Il a aussi été participant pour développer de nouvelles méthodes de travail en forêt en collaboration avec différentes compagnies. L'histoire de M. Guy Savard entrepreneur forestier et président de Savifor Inc. est un bel exemple de l'audace et la ténacité du travail bien fait.

La feuille de route de Guy est remplie de défis et d'expériences que j'aimerais partager avec vous. Natif de Portneuf sur la haute côte nord du St-Laurent, il a débuté comme travailleur forestier dès 1959, et suite à des études à l'Institut de formation des métiers du Québec, il devint opérateur de machineries

lourdes pour la compagnie Anglo Canadian Pulp de Forestville, Québec. En 1965, cette même compagnie, reconnaissant ses habiletés mécaniques, le gradua mécanicien de services aux chantiers. Ses connaissances et l'acquisition d'expérience en firent rapidement un spécialiste des machines d'abattage de marque Koehring. En 1972, Koehring Waterous l'embaucha comme mécanicien de service, toujours de nouveaux défis, pour une période de dix-huit mois s'étalant jusqu'en 1973.

De plus en plus audacieux, Guy s'associa avec un compagnon de travail, Robert Neal pour former la compagnie Neal & Savard. Cette compagnie devint sous traitant pour Acadia Pulp de Miramichi au Nouveau-Brunswick. En partenariat avec Acadia Pulp, Neal & Savard fit l'acquisition de trois abatteuses Koehring KH3B pour un contrat de cinq ans.

Fin 1978, ce contrat complété, Guy racheta son associé et commença à travailler pour la compagnie Kruger au nord de Chapais, Québec. Une quatrième machine, identique aux trois premières, propriété de Kruger, s'ajouta aux machines de Guy pour effectuer la coupe du bois de pulpe en 8 pieds afin d'alimenter le moulin de papier de Trois-Rivières. Durant cette période, en 1984, Daniel le frère de Guy s'est joint à l'entreprise comme partenaire pour former la compagnie Savifor Inc. Ce contrat avec Kruger

s'échelonna jusque vers la fin de 1991. Par la suite, l'entreprise exécutait de petits contrats pour Kruger et autres compagnies. En décembre 1993, Savifor Inc. signa avec la compagnie Barrette Chapais (BCL); l'une des plus grosses scieries au Québec à l'époque, située près de Chibougamau.

## Développement et Innovation

Chez BCL, un nouveau défi attendait les frères Savard; pour satisfaire aux nouvelles normes du ministère des ressources naturelles, BCL devait modifier sa méthode d'intervention. En étroite collaboration avec l'entreprise des frères Savard, les opérations de BCL ont changé de méthode en passant de la coupe en longueur et l'ébranchage au bord de la route vers la coupe, l'ébranchage et l'écimage à la souche, de cette façon, toutes les branches et cimes demeuraient en forêt. Savifor utilisait une excavatrice CAT modifiée équipée d'une tête multifonctionnelle FMG 762B pour couper et ébrancher à la souche.

Pour amener les tiges ébranchées à l'aire de chargement sans traces de traînée au sol, la construction d'un nouveau type de transporteur de tiges en longueur s'imposait. Pour ce faire, Guy, Daniel et un autre de leur frère Luc se mirent à la tâche pour concevoir et construire un transporteur auto-chargeur pouvant déposer les tiges en longueur sur des berceaux spécialement conçus pour des charges de 15 à 20 m<sup>3</sup> pouvant représenter de 150 à 200 tiges. Les frères Savard ont réalisé cet exploit d'ingénierie en utilisant et modifiant de la machinerie qui existait déjà sur le marché, y compris leurs propres abatteuses Koehring KH3B.

La conception de la première machine, à quatre roues motrices, avec une chargeuse de camion adaptée, a nécessité environ un mois de travail. Suite à la mise en marche de ce premier prototype, débuta la construction de la deuxième machine. Ce projet fut plus ardu et ne nécessita pas moins de trois mois de travail intensif pour finaliser ce transporteur à six

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roues motrices. Le produit fini était d'une largeur de 15 pi. 3 po. (4,65 m) avec un moteur diesel de 235 hp installé à l'arrière, une tourelle à rotation continue sur le châssis avant avec ensemble de mât et flèche ayant une portée maximale de 26 pieds (7,9 m), muni d'un grappin rotatif « Butt & Top » et talon mobile.

Cette seconde machine conduite par articulation des châssis, et l'oscillation entre les châssis avant et arrière, combinées à l'oscillation indépendante de chacun des différentiels arrières, assurait une pleine traction tout en suivant le profil du terrain.

Une abatteuse pouvant effectuer la coupe, l'ébranchage et l'écimage à la souche, un transporteur pouvant amener les tiges sans laisser de traînée au sol; la qualité des tiges récoltées et amenées à l'aire de chargement était grandement améliorée, tout en respectant les nouvelles normes du ministère des ressources naturelles du Québec. De 1993 à 1996, Savifor Inc. opérait avec une seule abatteuse équipée d'une tête multifonctionnelle, ainsi que le transporteur à six roues motrices décrit précédemment pour amener les tiges récoltées à l'aire de chargement.

Pour une utilisation plus productive du transporteur, l'ajout d'une deuxième abatteuse devint rapidement nécessaire. Guy ayant connu le président de la compagnie Tigercat, M. Tony Iarocci au cours des années précédentes chez Koehring Waterous, visita l'usine de Tigercat et fit le choix d'une abatteuse sur chenille 853E. Dotée d'un ensemble de mâts spécialement conçu, cette machine permettait une distance d'abattage maximum de 34 pieds (10,4 m) en respectant les nouvelles normes d'exploitations forestières du ministère. Munie d'une tête d'abattage multifonctionnelle FMG 762B, Savifor Inc. pris livraison de cette nouvelle abatteuse en fin mai 1996.

## Nouvelle Productivité

La productivité de l'abatteuse Tigercat 853E s'établit rapidement à une moyenne de 1 000 m<sup>3</sup> par semaine pour 88 heures d'opération. De juillet 1996 à 2000 - 26,390 heures furent enregistrées sur l'horomètre. En 2000, une deuxième Tigercat fut acquise et mise en service pour remplacer leur excavatrice CAT modifiée — une abatteuse usagée de modèle 853E de 1995. Guy modifia cette dernière en abatteuse multifonctionnelle, et fabriqua un système de mât et

flèche semblable à sa première Tigercat pour avoir deux machines virtuellement identiques. Avec deux machines réalisant une productivité similaire, le transporteur forestière à six roues était utilisé à plein temps et les opérations s'effectuaient à une fréquence régulière.

De l'an 2000 jusqu'en 2010, il est facile d'imaginer le nombre d'heures accumulées sur chacune des abatteuses. Bien qu'il y a eu remplacement de plusieurs composantes majeures au fil des années d'utilisation, la structure de base des machines est demeurée originale. Selon Guy, la disponibilité moyenne de chacune des abatteuses est évaluée à 94%. Les heures totales accumulées sur la machine Tigercat 853E acquise en 2000 sont évaluées à 44,500 tandis que celles de la 853E acquise en 1996 sont évaluées à 64,300.

Les deux abatteuses ainsi que le transporteur à six roues motrices sont toujours en service avec un nouveau propriétaire et produisent encore pour BCL, confirmant la productivité de ces machines et la qualité du travail effectué.

Eh oui Guy Savard, entrepreneur forestier, a tiré sa révérence pour entreprendre un nouveau défi — sa retraite. Bien que Guy et Daniel ont vendu l'entreprise, il est difficile d'arrêter une personne aussi active que Guy, il se rend parfois en forêt pour voir ses anciennes machines, et si on lui demande, il ne se fait pas prier pour mettre la main à la pâte, comme on dit. Son frère Daniel est maintenant à l'emploi du nouveau propriétaire.

Je remercie M. et Mme. Guy Savard de leur accueil chaleureux, ce qui m'a permis de découvrir le parcours et les années de travail ingénieux de Guy et Daniel, et de réaliser aussi que même avec des méthodes innovatrices, la rigueur et la constance dans les opérations sont gages de succès. ■

*Basé à Amos, Québec, Yves J. Léveillé a lui aussi entrepris le défi de sa retraite en 2006, suite à une longue carrière diversifiée dans l'industrie forestière. De 1998 à 2006, Yves était gérant de territoire Tigercat pour le Québec. Auparavant, il était gérant de service pour Services Forestiers Mont-Laurier, à Amos.*



The 604C pulls a six tonne full stem log out of a very steep (60% grade) gully on a privately owned woodlot on a farm.

## NICHE OPERATION

### Local knowledge and experience helps Bluewood Logging harvest Radiata pine in the steeps of Invercargill, New Zealand.

— Glen Marley, district manager Australasia and southeast Asia

Back in February 2011, Clint McIvor and Norman Butcher of Bluewood Logging based around the Invercargill region in Southland, New Zealand took delivery of their first Tigercat, a 604C cable skidder.

Bluewood Logging was formed five years ago as a partnership between Clint and Norm who possess vast forestry experience and irreplaceable local knowledge in a region known to have very challenging conditions — extremely steep terrain and high annual rainfall.

Clint has been in the industry for sixteen years and Norm, with over 30 years experience, is one of the most highly regarded loggers in the region. This deep experience helps Bluewood meet its 30 000 tonne annual quota of large Radiata pine in the steep and challenging Earnslaw One Forests and privately owned farms and woodlots.

Clint explains, “We run the only cable skidding crew in the district and the operations we generally work in are extremely steep and sometimes very hard to access and even a little environmentally sensitive so the cable

skidder was our only option in what is quite a niche operation.” Niche and unique are two words that aptly describe their daily challenges but they perform exceptionally well with a wealth of knowledge on what is required to get the job done.

Most of the saw timber grade round wood is exported directly to China but the company also supplies chip wood to the Dongwha Medium Density Fibre Board Plant in Mataura, Southland.

“The Tigercat has got around 450 hours on it now and we’re very impressed with the amount of pull the machine has. We think we have it specified just right for our application,” says Norm.

It wasn’t a hasty purchase decision by any means. Clint and Norm had definitely been doing their homework, investigating websites and talking to sales reps for some six months prior to making the final decision. “We looked into everything available on the market, but thought we wanted something made a little stronger for the New Zealand market and



Tigercat was only too happy to listen to our suggestions,” says Clint. “They beefed up the specs to what we knew we needed. The backup support in New Zealand was also very important to us and we know we’ve got that. The guys at AB Equipment have been terrific with us and at this point in time, we couldn’t be happier.”

The machine was delivered with a higher engine output of 220 hp, larger SFD axles (used on the 630D), a deep reduction transfer case, heavy duty winch brake and 30.5x32 tires. They wanted a tough machine and they know that they’ve got one.

On the topic of tough, Clint still plays in the front row (prop) for his local rugby side in the district’s ‘Senior Club Rugby’ competition which is a very high standard of play in a country that dominates and terrorizes the rest of the Rugby Union playing countries around the world. Although now in his late thirties, Clint has only just stopped playing higher representative rugby to concentrate on work and local club rugby commitments.

Dean Cousins, sales specialist for AB Equipment sums up the Bluewood operations nicely suggesting that “Clint and Norm are always looking at doing things more efficiently and in some ways are pioneers in the



The Bluewood crew (L-R) Clint McIvor, Nathan Stuart, Trent Brown, and Norman Butcher.

region. After they bought the first Tigercat to go into the Southland, many others have now followed their lead.”

With the increase in exports to China fuelling a huge resurgence in the New Zealand industry (the 2010 annual round wood cut increased to around 25 million tonnes), the market is healthier than it has been for many years. No doubt the upcoming FICA Forestry Expo held in Rotorua September 5 – 7 will definitely be well attended — yet another boost for the Tigercat expansion throughout New Zealand. ■



An eight tonne log – par for the course in Bluewood’s niche operations.

# 2011 INWOODS EXPO



*Swamp Loggers* crew shooting in front of a Tigercat 635D skidder.

Bobby and Justin Goodson and Bobby's brother Mike (Michael L Goodson Logging Inc.) as Chad and Dallas from Genesis, along with US sales manager, Kevin Selby walked them through the GIS system. On Friday and Saturday, Bobby and Justin visited with many show attendees and signed hats and t-shirts or posed for photos. ■

The Tigercat booth was a hub of activity during the three day 2011 InWoods Expo, May 19 – 21 held in Hot Springs, Arkansas and hosted by the Forest Resources Association and the Arkansas Timber Producers. In the days leading up to the show, staff from Davis Tractor & Equipment worked alongside with Tigercat personnel to prepare the site.

Chad and Dallas Geis from Genesis Industries installed their Timber Guide system in a Tigercat 620D skidder and 724E wheel feller buncher to demonstrate the value of the GIS systems to show attendees.

On Thursday morning Tigercat feller buncher designers provided dealer sales personnel with a walk around tour of the new Tier IV 724E buncher. Other machines on static display were the 718E feller buncher, 480 mulcher, 630D and 635D skidders and 250B loader.

During the live demonstrations, Tigercat showcased a 724E, a 620D skidder and a 234 log loader.

Also on Thursday, a film crew from Discovery Channel's *Swamp Loggers* spent several hours with



Justin and Bobby Goodson pose with a limited edition woodprint of their 635D skidder as seen in *Swamp Loggers*.

# LOGGING-ON HITS 4000<sup>TH</sup> SUBSCRIBER

In April, online newsletter and forestry news aggregator Logging-on acquired its 4000th subscriber, Matthew Mangan of Mangan Logging (Australia). With the kind support of Tigercat, Matthew was presented with a Tigercat jacket and diecast model 620C grapple skidder.

Headed by editors, Andrew McEwan and Michal Brink, Logging-on supplies useful, objective and current information to the logging community related to improving timber harvesting, forest roads and log transport operations globally. McEwan and Brink are both trained forest engineers and share a passion for logging information sharing.

According to McEwan, “Logging-on has the aim of getting new, relevant, unbiased information to the user as quickly as possible. Industry information is often fragmented, in different formats and time consuming to source and then filter out useful information.

Logging-on aims to short cut this, placing the useful information at the fingertips of the user.”

The twice monthly email newsletters contain information on new products, research results, events and industry happenings with links to more detail on the [www.loggingon.net](http://www.loggingon.net) website. ■



Australasia district manager Glen Marley (right) presents Matthew Mangan, Mangan Logging with his Tigercat swag.



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# TIGERCAT MAKES A NAME IN RED GUM TERRITORY

RSN Pty Ltd operations manager, Todd Gelletly, explains that improving forest health is the aim of New South Wales red gum harvesting operations.

The red gum forests sprawled out along the flood plain of the mighty Murray River that separates the states of Victoria and New South Wales in southeast Australia had been hard hit by a ten-year drought. The extended dry spell recently broke bringing large scale flooding to many red gum forests. Hardest hit were the Koondrook/Perricoota group of state forests.

The drought had brought about a change in the way the forests were managed in certain areas. The main problem was that due to previous flood events, the forest was heavily over stocked and the drought took its toll, as the standing tree population could



A recently thinned red gum forest. Ecological thinning improves the health of the forest and provides a number of environmentally friendly products.

not sustain the lack of moisture, soil nutrient and regeneration that was suppressed by a lack of sunlight reaching the forest floor. Fortunately Forests New South Wales had the foresight and industry backing to conduct ecological thinning in targeted areas to reduce the impact of drought and unsustainable tree population, thus improving the health and long-term survival of these magnificent forests. RSN Pty Ltd and O'Briens Red Gum, have been the driving forces behind the thinning operations. Both companies have Tigercat H845C harvesters and a wealth of experience in red gum harvesting.

I am operations manager for RSN Pty Ltd. We recently put the H845C to work in a red gum ecological thinning operation. The decision was easy when it came to making a choice for a new harvester as the Tigercat was streets ahead of the rest. After purchasing a second hand zero-swing excavator conversion years ago, I was immediately impressed with the access to the working components that the H845C offered. The cabin offers comfort, safety and excellent visibility to the tracks and immediate working area. Another key point was the fuel-efficient Mercedes engine. I talked to other owners of Tigercat harvesters and was repeatedly assured of the reliability of the machines. In addition, the backup service and product knowledge at Forest Centre in Tumut is excellent and they have plenty of spare parts at their disposal to ensure a productive piece of equipment.

In the first 100 hours I have put on the machine I have already noticed the difference in production as I haven't had any lengthy breakdowns. The power delivered to the head is great, speeding up processing performance. I am really impressed with the power through the tracks, making it easy to turn in tight places. The cooling capacity is excellent ensuring minimal stress on the components when summer can bring temperatures over 45°C (113°F).

## Origins of RSN Pty Ltd

After working in an office for his whole life and never having seen a chainsaw before, my father started this business with a chainsaw,

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The Tigercat H845C is dramatically improving productivity in red gum ecological thinning applications.

an old tray truck, a strong back and a pair of running shoes, cutting chip wood into four foot lengths and loading and unloading every load by hand. At first the other cutters called him 'wheelbarrow', reasoning that it took him so long to bring a load that he must have been bringing it to the chipper in a wheelbarrow. Fast-forward 25 years and the company is producing over 25 000 tonne of firewood annually and is one of the largest red gum firewood producers in southeastern Australia. The company is fully integrated with two harvesters, two log forwarders, four Bell Ultra loggers, three log trucks, a firewood mill tip truck and a front end loader.

## New Technology, New Focus

A recent regional forest assessment designated an additional 100 000 ha (247,000 acres) with National Park status. This effectively locked up some of the most productive areas, decimating a thriving red gum timber industry and leaving a paltry 30 000 ha (74,000 acres) for timber harvesting. Then Forests New South Wales introduced the ecological thinning model to all harvesting sites within the red gum forests.

The process surrounding ecological thinning involves extensive research from Forests New South Wales to formulate a harvest plan, ensuring all environmental considerations are covered. Once a harvest plan is approved, it is given to an experienced local state forest officer who hand picks trees for retention, habitat trees, recruitment trees (the next generation of habitat trees) and of course trees for harvesting. The

harvested timber is used to produce high grade saw logs for furniture, structural timber for projects such as the magnificent Echuca Wharf, rail sleepers, landscape timber, firewood, chip wood and mulch. Even sawdust recovered from the mills is marketed. These carbon-storing products reduce the effects of climate change on our planet and are an environmentally friendly alternative to concrete sleepers, fossil fuels and electricity-guzzling split systems used for heating.

Since the first trials of silvicultural or ecological thinning back in 2003, the industry has moved with the times, using the latest technology in planning and harvesting. Satellite imaging and GPS assist Forests New South Wales in targeting the areas that require thinning the most.

Attitudes have also changed from what was once an industry driven by the production of saw logs to an industry totally focused on improving forest health into the future. Red gum is a fire sensitive species. Unlike other eucalypts, it never really recovers from bush fire. Ecological thinning can be credited with lowering the available fuel load, reducing risk of fire and increasing the prospects of a fire being contained. It also decreases the chance of a wild fire entering the crown of the retained trees, again allowing for greater control of a fire. The alternative is a wild fire that wipes out all in its path, including rare and endangered species of flora and fauna that are heavily protected under the harvest plan produced by Forests New South Wales and members of the industry.

Since the introduction of ecological thinning to the red gum forest, the harvesting industry has made the adjustments necessary to better manage this diverse and complex landscape. Tigercat will help our business become more efficient and profitable into the future.

The most satisfying part of our ecological thinning operation is when you drive past an area we thinned one, two and three years ago and see what the forest looks like now compared to when we began harvesting — it makes me proud to be a part of it. The results we achieve for forest health make ecological thinning a key management tool into the future. ■

# TIGERCAT PROWLs THE AUSTIMBER SITE



Ken MacDonald, chairman and CEO of Tigercat and his Australasian team recently inspected the site for AUSTimber 2012. AUSTimber 2012 is the world's only combined softwood and hardwood plantation expo and the biggest forestry and timber expo in the southern hemisphere. AUSTimber 2012 will showcase the latest in technology, machinery, products and services for the forest and timber industry.

David Quill, general manager AUSTimber 2012 and Ian Tyler, site manager were delighted to provide Ken, Glen Marley (district manager Australasia and South East Asia), Steve Green (product support representative Australasia) along with Lex McLean (managing director Forest Centre Pty Ltd, the Australian dealer for Tigercat), with a tour of the in-forest site. Ian walked everyone through the proposed layout and this resulted in positive suggestions by the Tigercat team that AUSTimber organizers were able to implement.



“The planning and layout is first class and I am looking forward to AUSTimber 2012 delivering an event that will assist us in connecting with our customers,” commented Glen Marley. “AUSTimber will give suppliers every chance to showcase their product and I would say it is probably the best forum in which to do this in the southern hemisphere. The

site plan is well laid out, with very good space and variety. There is plenty of plantation eucalyptus and also some decent sized Radiata pine clear-fall and thinning blocks on site, which gives all suppliers a good variety to showcase the different harvesting systems and machinery. The layout will be very good for our customers, who will be able to easily traverse from static through to active sites.”

AUSTimber 2012  
March 29-31, 2012  
Mount Gambier, South Australia

For more information,  
visit: [www.austimber2012.com.au](http://www.austimber2012.com.au) ■



(L-R) Lex McLean, Ken MacDonald, Glen Marley, Steve Green, David Quill on tour at the AUSTimber site.



According to Johan, one of the advantages of the 1055B is the ability to stack the brush higher without fear of turning over the machine.

## LIMBS AND TOPS HEAT SWEDISH TOWNS

With a strong domestic market for wood chips, Swedish contractor uses 1055B with Bresons brush compactor to extract biomass from recently harvested blocks.

— Paul Iarocci

It is estimated that Sweden's district heating plants consume six million cubic metres of wood waste from harvesting operations and sawmill byproduct annually. Possibly nowhere in the world are limbs and tops collected as meticulously from recently harvested sites as in Sweden.

The Swedish biomass model involves extracting limbs and tops from the ground shortly after harvesting operations have been completed with a forwarder and stacking the material at roadside where it is

left to dry for six to twelve months. Then a second forwarder equipped with a wagon frame mounted chipper travels along the road, chipping the material into containers which are loaded onto highway trucks and transported up to 50 km to district heating plants. The material is used to fire boilers that provide hot water requirements for an entire town.

Biomass contractor Stig Löf and his son Johan Bjorkberg specialize in the first half of the model – collecting biomass from the forest floor. Stig has been

in business eight years and Johan has worked in the business for the past six years. Stig has a 70 000 m<sup>3</sup> contract with Moelven Skogs AB, amounting to daily production of 400-600 m<sup>3</sup>.

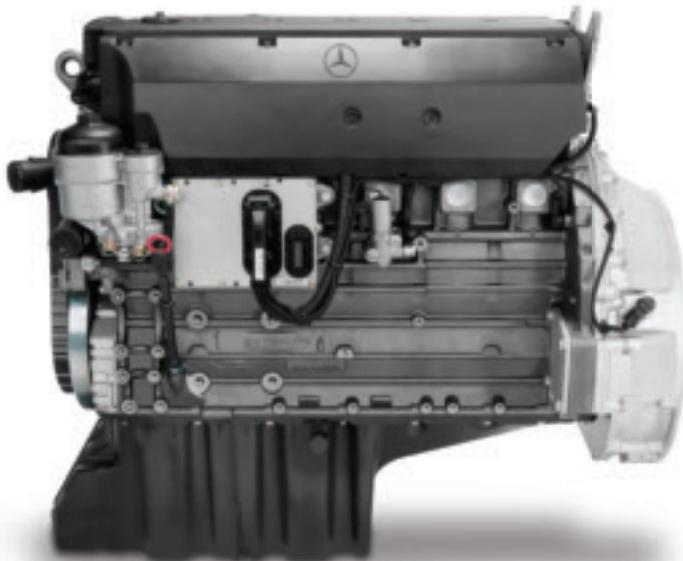
To achieve this production, Stig and Johan double shift a Tigercat 1055B forwarder equipped with a Bresons brush compactor. Their typical schedule is four five-hour shifts, five days per week, year round. They work within a 150 km radius of their hometown of Skinnskatteberg, often living in a trailer in the bush during the week.

In winter, it is important to follow closely behind the harvesting contractor so that the brush does not get covered with snow. During summer, the material can stay on the ground longer if necessary.



Load size is typically 15-20 tonnes.

cont'd on page 16



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When collecting the limbs and tops, great care must be taken to not introduce soil and rock contaminants.

To minimize contaminants in the chips, Johan explains that the forwarder operator must take great care to not inadvertently collect dirt and rocks along with the brush. The root systems of small trees must also be avoided. Also any material that has been driven over by the harvesting equipment is unusable.

“We have a very good reputation for providing good material,” asserts Stig.

This has caused a fundamental shift in the way that the typical harvesting system works. Previous to Sweden’s biomass recovery initiatives, operators were encouraged to drive over the limbs and tops to reduce ground disturbance and increase flotation. Travelling on top of the brush mat provided the added benefit of aiding in the breakdown of the organic material.

After collecting a 15 – 20 tonne load of brush, the forwarder returns to roadside to unload. All the branches and tops must be stacked at roadside in the same orientation because the material must be fed into the chipper top first. Care must be taken when initially grabbing the material and loading it into the compactor and again when unloading.

Another challenge is the relatively small size of the cut blocks. Stig estimates that they had to move the machine 128 times in 2010, sometimes working tracts as small as two or three hectares.

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When passing by standing trees or balancing the load in rough terrain, the compactor sides can be opened and closed independently.

Usually biomass collection is only performed after final felling. In some situations, mature trees are left standing on a cut block. Johan says that this reduces production because they cannot keep the brush compactor wide open all the time — they must close it to get around trees.

The Bresons compactor has independent controls for each side so that the operator can shift the load, readjusting the balance when operating in poor terrain. In addition, the operator can close one side to get around standing trees with minimal manoeuvring.

Stig and Johan see a number of advantages of Tigercat 1055B in their application. Compared to the Ponsse forwarder they owned previously, the Tigercat is more reliable, suffering less unplanned downtime. The machine is also more stable – Johan says he can stack higher, heavier loads and can travel more quickly without fear of the machine tipping over. Johan likes the HID lights so much that he prefers to

work at night, citing fewer distractions (the phone) and no worries about the glare of the low tracking winter sun. Because they must work rain or shine in order to meet production requirements, they have seen another big advantage in the 1055B — high tractive effort for excellent performance in soft terrain. ■



Biomass contractor Stig Lof and his son Johan Bjorkberg work the machine in four five-hour shifts.

# SUBTITLED IN SCOTLAND

Tigercat export manager, Gary Olsen reviews the Forestry Harvesting Demo in the Forest of Ae – Scotland’s first live forestry equipment event.

A brave group of equipment suppliers, contractors and landowners some time ago decided they had just about had enough of attending static shows in order to catch up with the latest forest harvesting technology advancements. Deciding that the ten minute on the hour demonstrations typical of most live demos was not going to cut it either, the entrepreneurial group suddenly transformed into a band of newbie show organizers, presiding over an event with a unique and innovative format.

The inaugural 2011 Forestry Harvesting Demo held at the Forest of Ae in southern Scotland consisted of continuous harvesting operations for the entire duration of the two-day show. Sixteen hours of typical UK production harvesting allowed visitors to see the real deal for as long as they desired. It looked like any regular jobsite, except that multiple brands of harvesting equipment were working side by side.



The 1135 harvester generated a great deal of interest for thinning applications.



Treetop’s technician, Charles Grey was on hand for the duration of the show.

Contractors interested in getting up close to the machines for a full appreciation of the features and operator ergonomics were allowed to do so under the safe guidance of designated staff on each site.

Tigercat’s UK dealer, Treetop Forestry Ltd., based out of Alford, Aberdeen-Shire was an instrumental part of the organizing committee. Dealer principal, Stewart Booth pulled out all stops to ensure that Tigercat was well represented. The site was located on undulating terrain, with wet soil conditions in the lower lying areas. The trees were a combination of blow-down

and standing planted spruce and standing planted spruce saw timber. Tigercat and Treetop demonstrated LH870C, H855C, H845C and LH845C harvesters and a 1075B forwarder working their magic in these challenging conditions. The Treetop stand was the only one to feature purpose-built tracked harvesters and consequently was designated to the area with blown down trees because the powerful boom and slew power of the tracked machines are far superior to wheeled harvesters in this tough application. On static

display were Tigercat's 1135 wheeled harvester and a second LH845C harvester, allowing customers and youngsters easy access to the machines.

As the marginal Scottish weather is always a major talking point and possibly the fundamental reason for the Scottish nation in general being so angry, it would be important to mention that for the duration of the show the weather was near perfect. The other, often underestimated issue regarding the attendance of a Scottish forestry show is the need for absolute concentration when listening to customers. Otherwise one might find the need for either an interpreter or subtitles.

Attendance was far greater than anticipated and the continuous demos seemed to encourage a greater



The 20-tonne 1075B hard at work.

amount of albeit largely unintelligible dialogue and conversation regarding the machinery than I've normally observed at shows in the past. From an OEM standpoint, this was a major success and Tigercat certainly will support a repeat of the show the next time around. ■



The Tigercat harvesters worked the tough blow-down areas.

# GET READY FOR DEMO INTERNATIONAL 2012

Judy Brooks (marketing assistant), Sandy Hodgson (forestry manager for Wajax, Maritimes) and additional Tigercat team members, Don Snively (Georgia/Florida district manager and show set up expert), Richard Racine (service representative), Ron Montgomery (Canadian sales manager) and Scott Earle (eastern Canada district manager) recently selected the show site for Demo International 2012. This is a large, significant, world-class forestry equipment event by any measure. Mark your calendars and plan to visit us in St. Raymond, Quebec, Canada, September 20 – 22, 2012.

For more information, visit:  
[www.demointernational.com](http://www.demointernational.com) ■



## dealer news

### FORESTRY 21 IN PIEDMONT

Alabama Tigercat dealer opens third full service facility.

Congratulations to Forestry 21 staff and dealer principal, Ricky McConnell on the successful opening of the company's third sales and service facility in the state of Alabama. Forestry 21 hosted an open house at the Piedmont location on June 10, drawing over 150 customers, local dignitaries and Tigercat staff to support Ricky and admire the newly built, first-class facility. Forestry 21 has locations in LaFayette and LaGrange and is a long-time member of the Tigercat dealer network. Piedmont area loggers can expect top notch after sale support from the Forestry 21 team. ■



Staff from all three Forestry 21 stores and Tigercat personnel gather for a group photo during the open house.

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