

Présentation à la Forest History Society

28 avril 2017

Jean-Claude Mercier asked me to present the evolution of forest management in the province of Quebec. You will understand that I was not there at the beginning but I will do my best !!!! First of all, let me introduce myself, Marc-André Boivin, I'm a forester and I am the region director for the Capitale-Nationale-Chaudière-Appalaches region which covers the region we are travelling through today.

I will start in 1895, the year the government created the Laurentien Parc. It was named a Parc but it was closer to a Forest reserve where we could manage the wildlife and we could harvest the timber. The Parc was at the beginning 2 531 square miles and it was increased to 3 700 square miles. The Parc covered the whole region and the access was controlled.

The 1900 – it was the beginning of the forest concessions. The government gave concessions (pieces of land) to companies so that they could manage and harvest the timber. The companies were responsible of the aspect of the forest management, from surveying to the logging.

You can see that there was a 6 concessions in the region. They covered the majority of the region.

In 1905, the government created the department of Land and forest. It was greatly influenced by 2 people, :

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- Gustave Clodomir Piché
- Avila Bédard

They came back from Europe and began applying forest management concepts.

A date to remember, 1910, was there creation of the forestry faculty in Laval University.

The Donnacona paper co. built a pulp mill a the head of Jacques-Cartier river en 1912. It was the beginning of the Jacques-Cartier river concession. The company had private lands as well. In 1920, they built houses and some garages in Stoneham for the workers that had to go in the park to log.

The map show's all the logging operation from the 1920 to the end of the 70's.

The gouvernement adopted the first law that regulated the harvesting in 1922. There was the obligation to do some surveying and some logging plans. We started to talk about yield and sustainability.

The Donnacona paper co passed to the hands of the Price Brothers from 1927 to 1932. Then it became Domtar limited in 1957. The company still operates today.

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All of the wood at to be carried to the pulp mill in Donnacona. To do so, the logs were carried by the Jacques-Cartier river. To do so, the company had to build dams on small brooks and rivers were the logging operation to place. The dams had to accumulate enough water that in spring time, the logs could go all the way down to Donnacona. This was done up to 1975 where it all stopped and the wood was carried out by trucks to the pulp mill.

In the 1970's, Hydro-Québec had a hydroelectric dam projet on the Jacques-Cartier river. This project raised the population concern's about the park and the conservation of this piece of land. Finaly, Hydro-Québec abonned the project but the population still had some preoccupation about the futur of the area. Finally, the gouvernement created the Park de la Jacques-Cartier in 1981. This area was to be preserved from any type of exploitation (forest, wildlife or mining).

At the end of the 70's and the beginning of the 80's, the saw mill industry started to bloum. The demand for wood increased and put some pressure on the gouvernement to supply this growing industry.

In 1986, the gouvernement adopted the Forest Act. With this Act, the gouvernement introduced officially concepts like :

- Resources protection ;
- Access to forest ressource ;

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- Preparation for forest management plans ;
- Multiple-use of the forest environment.

The forest Act put in place the management unit where contract's were signed between companies and the gouvernement for wood supply. This brought the end of the Domtar concession of the Jacques-Cartier river. There was a multitude of wood supply contract that were signed between companies (pulp and saw mill) and the gouvernement. These contracts came with some responsibility on the companies side, like taking in charge all the management activities like planting, spacing, tending of the forest stands and the harvesting of mature stands. The companies had to elaborate a general plan and an annual harvesting plan. The gouvernement assured control of all the activities from harvesting, planting all the way to the scaling of the wood. Stumpage was determined by cost analysis by the gouvernement.

In 2002, the gouvernement elaborated a consultation policy so that the public could participated and be eard in the process.

In 2005, the Chief forester was created. His main mandates are to :

- determine the annual allowable cut
- establish the methods, means and tools required;
- Review the allowable cuts every 5 years;
- Support the gouvernement for development strategies
- Analyse sustainable forest development and do a report.

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In 2008, it was the beginning of a vast public consultation on forest management. It led to the adoption of the Sustainable forest development Act that was in place in 2013. This Act put's in place :

- Integrated forest development planning by the government, this means from the tactical plans (5 years) to the annual plan;
- Agreement with timber supply guarantee holder;
- Local integrated land and resource management panels (native communities, holder of supply guarantees, outfitters, holders of trapping licences, regional environmental councils, etc.)
- The Timber marketing board, where this division has the mandat to sell timber on the market, to determine from these sells the stumpage and annual fee for the supply holders, to establish the scaling methods.

There's 25% of the wood supply that is sold by the Timber marketing board across the province.

The government took charge of all the planning aspect. This means that we have operation panels with the supply guarantee holders. We talk of strategical planning (long terme orientation) and the annual planning.

We're responsible for all of the activities in the planning process from the timber surveying to the prescription of the stand. This means that we have alot of discussion with the different parties present on public land.

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I did not talk about the Montmorency Forest, the research forest associated with Laval University. They are present in the region since 1965. I will let them present the evolution of the research forest when we get there.

Do you have any questions ??