

Mapping forests with MTRI

Monday evenings have been buzzing at Mersey Tobatic Research Institute (MTRI) this month. Local small woodland owners were invited to come along and get a free colour map of their woodlands, and so far we have had a great response.

Although most woodland owners have a pretty good idea of what's on the ground on their patch, MTRI has been providing maps of their woodlands showing bird's-eye information about forest stands, watercourses and topography.

As well as mapping, we have had chance to talk to many woodland owners about forest certification. Last year MTRI received funding from the Community Development Trust Fund for a two-year project researching the local capacity for establishing a group of local small wood-

land owners to become certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Maritime Standards.

This project will look into the feasibility of such a group in southwest Nova Scotia modeled on similar groups in North America, develop a user-friendly guide implementing FSC Maritime standards, and coordinate the formation of a certified group of small woodland owners who will be able to sell and market their woodland products as FSC certified. FSC is an internationally recognized certification and labeling system that guarantees that the wood has come from a forest that has been managed in a way that is sustainable, has safeguarded high conservation value woodland and respects social interests too.

