N R E S i

"Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Dan Adamson

Community Forest Manager, City of Prince George

Friday
Oct. 19, 2012

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE
7 - 152

MAPPING PRINCE GEORGE'S NATURAL AREAS & CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

The City of Prince George has recently completed detailed ecosystem mapping covering 65% or 22,000 hectares of land within the municipal boundary. The resultant 117 ecosystem types have been translated into 14 simplified ecosystems to facilitate broader use. Sensitive ecosystems, high conservation values, intact forest and riparian areas have also been mapped. Local climate model data, soil moisture regime models and the ecosystem mapping were then combined to predict climate change impacts. Models indicate that much of the land may move from Slightly Dry to Moderately Dry conditions by as early as 2020, meaning less soil moisture available and increased drought-stress on certain varieties of trees. A suite of Best Management Practices (BMPs) have also been completed, with particular focus on sensitive and rare ecosystems and zoned land use. The ecosystem mapping has been added to the City's "PGMap" platform allowing easy access. Links have been created between ecosystem mapping and the BMP Report to foster active use of the guide. A website has been completed allowing access to all of the mapping and reports and a Case Study Report has been completed which describes how other municipalities could develop a similar project. The project has resulted in information that will guide future growth and development planning and policies for the City, foster research, education and monitoring partnerships, and provide useful data and mapping to agencies, stakeholder groups (eg, Bear Awareness), and interested members of the public. The City is currently undertaking extension activities to ensure a broad awareness of the project and what information is available.

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