

# BOTTOM BROOK ARBORETUM

Bottom Brook Arboretum is a 12ha “tree garden” situated within the Bottom Brook Demonstration Forest in western Newfoundland. The Arboretum was established by Natural Resources Canada—Canadian Forest Service, to measure the growth success of introduced or exotic species in typical western Newfoundland forest conditions, and to allow comparison with native, local tree species. It lies approximately 76km west of Corner Brook on the eastern side of the TCH, 3km north of the Burgeo highway, and is directly accessible via the Bottom Brook Terminal Substation road.



Situated in the Western Newfoundland Forest Ecoregion (Corner Brook Subregion) the arboretum area originally existed as a 75-year-old stand of balsam fir, black spruce and white birch. This was harvested for pulpwood and prescribed burned in 1964-65. Over 30 native and exotic species from across North America, Europe, and Asia were then planted between 1967 and 1985. The trees were planted at a spacing of 2.4 metres (1700 stems per hectare) in 78 blocks. An additional 10ha was cleared in 1985 for expansion to the south and has since naturally regenerated with hardwoods, softwoods, and berry vegetation. The Arboretum is managed co-operatively by the Canadian Forest Service, the Newfoundland Forest Service, and the College of the North Atlantic, and although Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. holds the rights to the timber within the Arboretum, they will not conduct any harvesting in this area.





In 1995, development of the Arboretum Interpretative Trail was the primary focus of the interpretive program in the Bottom Brook forest area. The 1.4km trail takes approximately 45 minutes to walk, and displays detailed signage on species history. The trail system provides a tangible example of the western Newfoundland ecosystem, and promotes understanding and appreciation for ecosystem and integrated resource management. It is used extensively by the College of the North Atlantic as a teaching tool for its Forest Resource Technician students.



*Red Pine from Ontario planted in 1969*



One interpretative stop along the trail provides a view of a black spruce plantation, which Corner Brook Pulp and Paper initiated following a balsam woolly aphid infestation. This demonstrates a significant form of forest management undertaken as a result of a natural disturbance. Further interpretation potential exists, since the Bottom Brook forest area lies within the Newfoundland Pine Marten study range, and is identified as typical habitat for numerous mammal, avian, and fish species.



Staff from the St. Georges office of the Newfoundland Forest Service is available to conduct group tours when time permits. If you want to explore on your own, they also provide a brochure that describes the stops along the interpretive trail.