

Logging in Port Blandford



In the late 1800's, even before the railway went through in 1892, there are accounts of settlers in Clode Sound who are logging the vast forests. Using basic tools like a bucksaw and axe, logging became the first big industry of the new community.

One of the greatest advantages of Port Blandford was the three rivers (Northwest, Salmon and Southwest) and large brook (Middle Brook) that flowed into the sheltered bay. These waterways allowed for cutters to venture deep into the country and harvest the abundance inland timber. "Driving" the logs out the rivers by floating them on the rapid moving water, "booms" were set up at the mouths of the rivers to catch the timber and prevent it from floating away. Once the logs were at the salt water, they would be moved to the closest sawmills to be run out into lumber.

Other methods of moving timber out of the woods included horse and sleigh and dog sleds during the winter. A common device used was a "go-devil", which was a type of single bunk sleigh that was towed behind a horse for short distances, steep hills and difficult terrain. The term "go-devil" was used as when you started to go downhill, it would "go like the devil."

As years passed, better equipment made harvesting easier with the introduction of tractors, power saws and harvesters, but over time, the demand in the logging industry declined and most operations were either sold or shut down.

