

The Professional Forester

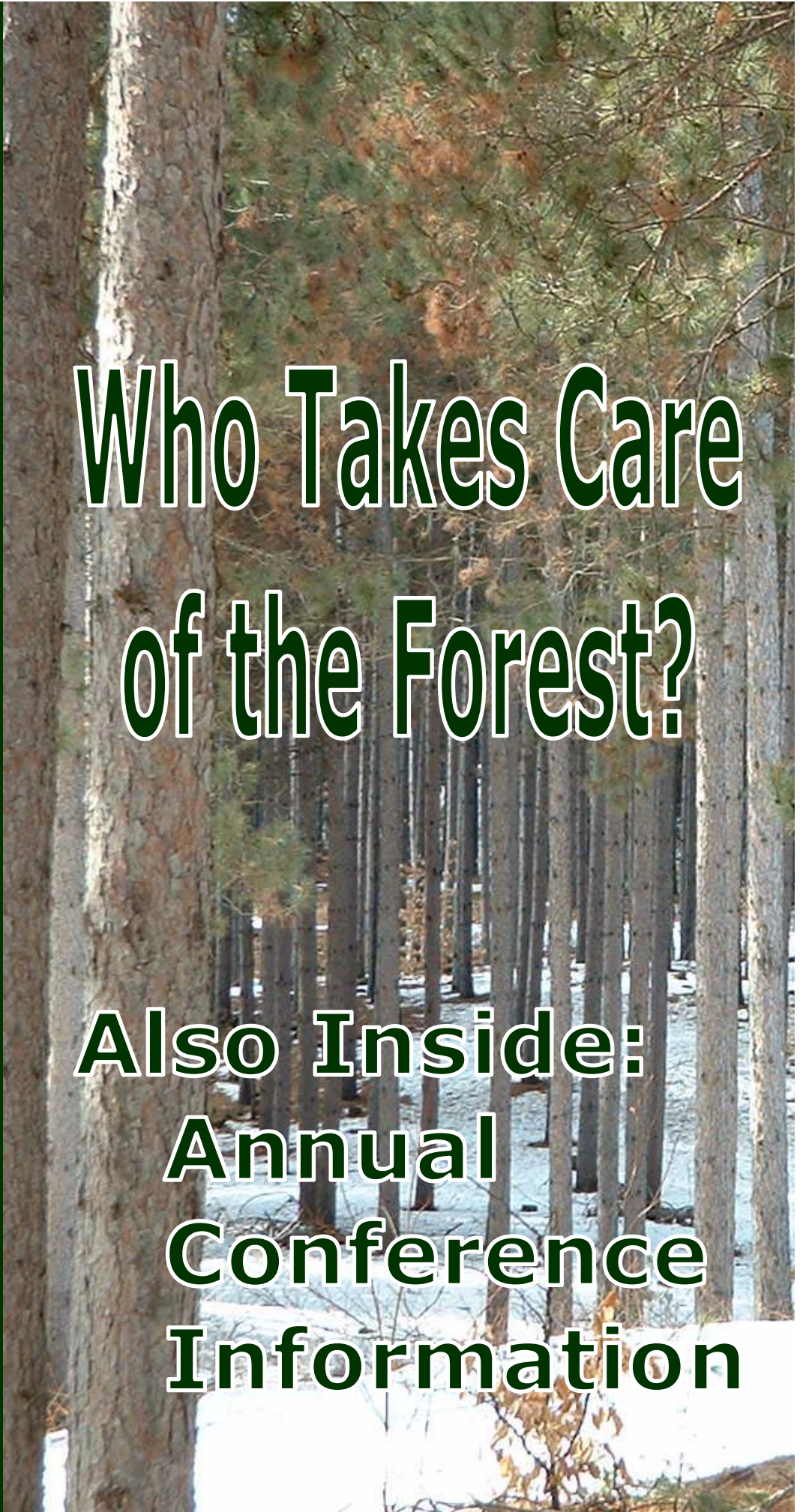
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Who Takes Care of the Forest?

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Annual
Conference
Information



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The Far North

Connie Buck
Far North Planning and Information
Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources



At 42% of the province's landmass, the Far North of Ontario is one of the last, great, largely intact spaces on our planet. The forest landscape of the Far North is also globally significant.

Together with adjacent areas of Manitoba and to some extent, Quebec, the Far North constitutes the core of the largest single existing block of boreal forest - free of large-scale human disturbance - found anywhere in the world.

Currently, the Far North contains the second largest contiguous forest landscape in the world. Of the total area of the Far North, commercial forest potential has been estimated at approximately 6 to 7%. Upland boreal forests of the greatest productivity and economic potential in the Far North are concentrated in the southernmost part of the Boreal part of the region.

Recently, the Far North has been facing increasing pressures for development. Unlike the rest of the province, however, it has never seen the kind of comprehensive land use planning that commonly occurs in the rest of Ontario. To help respond to such pressures, in 2008 the Ontario government made a commitment to work with First Nations to carry out land use planning in the Far North, and through this process, protect at least 225,000 square kilometres of this vast landscape.

Learning More About Far North Forests

To support land use decisions, planners need science and information. Approximately two-thirds of the Far North has been identified as having forest cover, but such estimates are based on definitions of "forest" that include sparsely treed systems with as little as 10% tree cover. Much of the region is characterized as having the lowest aboveground biomass of any forested terrestrial ecozone in Canada.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, through its Information and Knowledge Management Plan for the Far North, is currently revising its land-cover mapping for the region. The MNR is also conducting the first Forest Resource Inventory of areas in the extreme southern portion of the Far North.



Old-growth Forest in the Tarp Hill Area of the Far North of Ontario. Photo by Charles Latremouille.

In September, the province passed the enabling legislation behind the Far North Land Use Planning Initiative. It was proclaimed by Parliament and came into force on January 31, 2011. The *Far North Act* provides a foundation for the First Nations and Ontario to work together on land use planning.

Far North land use planning will help identify areas where natural resources are capable of supporting new economic opportunities that benefit local communities and Ontario as a whole. This planning process provides much-needed clarity and certainty about how and where sustainable economic development, such as forestry, may take place.

So what role does the *Far North Act* play in taking care of the forests in the Far North?

Under the *Far North Act*, a community based land use plan must be in place before developments such as commercial timber harvesting are approved. By developing community based land use plans, Ontario and First Nations will determine which areas will be dedicated to protection and which areas will be open for sustainable development opportunities.

Land use planning, however, is not just a means to protect the critical ecosystem functions provided by the forests in the Far North. It also provides communities with a

way to identify possible areas that may provide future commercial forestry opportunities.

The desire to pursue commercial forestry was one factor behind the completion of the first community based land use plan in the Far North in 2006. Pikangikum First Nation and the Government of Ontario developed the plan for the Whitefeather Forest called "Keeping the Land". This community based land use plan commits to protecting areas of cultural and natural significance, maintaining customary stewardship responsibilities, and creating new economic opportunities, such as forestry.

With a land use plan in place, Pikangikum has been able to move forward with its plan to acquire commercial forest tenure. In 2009, the community received Environmental Assessment coverage for the Whitefeather Forest and is now working to develop a Forest Management Plan for the area.

Since Pikangikum's community based land use plan was approved, other communities in the Far North have been making progress with land use planning.

In November, Cat Lake and Slate Falls posted their draft plan for public review. An objective of this draft plan is to identify an area that may provide a new opportunity for sustainable commercial forestry. Later that

(Continued on page 6)

The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement

compiled by Matthew Benson, R.P.F.



The Agreement

Changing economic realities and heightened public and marketplace concern over environmental issues have created both problems and opportunities for Canada's forest industry and

environmental organizations. From these challenges has come a unique collaboration between 21 major Canadian forest products companies and nine leading environmental organizations. This collaboration, called the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement, applies to more than 72 million hectares of forest from the provinces of British Columbia to Newfoundland.

While the future of forestry and conservation in Canada's Boreal Forest rests primarily with governments, both industry and environmentalists have a shared responsibility to help define and realize that future.

The shared challenge is to address sometimes conflicting social, economic, and environmental imperatives in a way that captures the economic opportunities that are emerging for forest products of the highest environmental quality. The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement sees both parties committed to working together in the marketplace and on the ground to support governments in the realization of a stronger, more competitive forest industry and a better protected, more sustainably managed Boreal Forest.

The Agreement explicitly recognizes that Aboriginal peoples have constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights and titles as well as legitimate interest and aspirations. The Agreement is intended to be without prejudice to, and in accordance with, those rights and titles. The participating companies and environmental organizations believe both successful forest conservation and business competitiveness require fair, inclusive involvement of Aboriginal peoples and their governments.

Commitments of the Signatories

a. Accelerate the completion of the protected spaces network for the Boreal Forest that represents the diversity of ecosystems within the boreal region and serves to provide ecological benchmarks.

b. Develop and accelerate implementation of plans to protect species at risk in the Boreal Forest, with a priority focus on Boreal caribou.

c. Implement world-leading, on-the-ground sustainable forest management practices that best reflect the principles of ecosystem-based management in the Boreal Forest.

d. Take action on climate change as it relates to forest conservation and forest product life cycles.

e. Take action to improve the prosperity of the Canadian forest sector and the communities that depend on it.

f. Work to achieve recognition in the marketplace for the environmental performance of the participating companies.

Work in the early stages by both parties will focus on:

a. Developing jointly supported caribou action plans that are based on leading, independent science and that provide input into relevant government processes.

b. Producing ecosystem-based management guidelines for integration into existing practices by participating companies.

c. Identifying the areas of climate and energy policy that intersect with forest management and conservation, and creating a work plan for developing joint positions.

d. Reaching out to governments and communities to seek their involvement and support for the work that is being undertaken.

Who's Involved

The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement includes 21 forest companies, who are members of the Forest Products Association of Canada, and nine leading environmental organizations.

Environmental Organizations (ENGOs) Participating in the Agreement: Canadian Boreal Initiative, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canopy, David Suzuki Foundation, Forest Ethics, Greenpeace, The Nature Conservancy, Pew Environment Group International Boreal Conservation Campaign, and Ivey Foundation.

Forestry Companies Participating in the Agreement: AbitibiBowater Inc., Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc., AV Group, Canfor Corporation, Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership, Cariboo Pulp & Paper Company, Cascades inc., Daishowa-Marubeni

International Ltd., F.F. Soucy Inc., Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Limited Partnership, Kruger Inc., Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd., Mercer International, Mill & Timber Products Ltd., New Page Corporation, Papier Masson Ltée, SFK Pâte, Tembec, Tolko Industries Ltd., West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd., and Weyerhaeuser Company Limited — all represented by the Forest Products Association of Canada

Why It's Important

An early component of the Agreement is the suspension of logging on nearly 29 million hectares of Boreal Forest representing virtually all boreal caribou habitat within company tenures, to allow for intensive caribou protection planning while maintaining essential fibre supply for uninterrupted mill operations. Another component is the suspension, by participating environmental organizations, of divestment and "do not buy" campaigns targeting the boreal operations and products of companies participating in the Boreal Agreement.

All parties in support of this Agreement commit to harnessing the necessary resources to fully participate in this groundbreaking initiative and to working together to attain long-term solutions that they will promote at home and abroad. A primary objective is that governments will also benefit from well-supported boreal policies and measures, as well as support from environmental organizations for local operations and products.

Length of the Agreement, Milestones, and Third-Party Verification

The Agreement is a three-year roadmap with mechanisms to allow for its extension. To keep the work under the Agreement on track and moving forward, the signatories have created a series of timelines and goals. These milestones, along with the implementation of the Agreement, will be periodically audited by an independent auditing firm that will report publicly.

For more information:

www.canadianborealforestagreement.com

Who is Minding the Forests of Ontario?

Wade Knight, Ontario Woodlot Association



Who is minding the forests of Ontario? The answer to this question will largely depend on who you talk to, their background, their perspectives on the topic and even their personal biases. I'm sure the answers will differ, and perhaps some will even conflict.

When asked this question, I admit that I have my own biases. My background and perspectives reflect my personal observations and experiences meeting with woodlot owners from across Ontario. And my views are focused more on private forestland and not so much on Crown land or community-owned forests.

When you ask a woodlot owner the question "Who is minding the forest?" — their response will be — us! We own and manage our forests. We have a right to make decisions with respect to the management of our property. That said, woodlot owners are also keenly aware that with ownership comes responsibility. Woodlot owners have financial obligations in the form of property taxes, insurance, mortgage payments and management expenses. At the same time, the community and other interest groups want them to consider how their management practices affect the ecological functions of their woodlot and the surrounding landscape.

Woodlot owners also recognize that in order to adequately address their obligations and to meet their stewardship responsibilities, there needs to be a balanced approach to managing private forests. This approach involves a symbiotic relationship among all who benefit from having healthy, well-managed private forests — landowners, the

forest industry and society. It would see a balanced flow of contributions and benefits transferring back and forth between all of the parties.

Unfortunately, there is a growing discomfort felt by many woodlot owners that there is an imbalance to this equation. For example, one major concern is the number of regulations governing the management activities of woodlot owners. Such rules are often introduced with minimal consultation and often enacted with little consideration of their costs or the resulting loss of opportunity for landowners. In addition, as public interest and awareness of the benefits of private forests increases so will their expectations of how private forests should be managed to meet the public's needs.

Today, woodlot owners are experiencing some of the most challenging times that they have ever faced — economic downturn, invasive species and the impacts of climate change. In addition, they are being asked to do more with fewer resources and fewer contributions from those who also benefit from their forests. Many woodlot owners believe there is a need to rebalance the flow of contributions to ensure that all those who benefit from private forests are also contributing their fair share. Here are a few suggestions about how a more balanced approach can be achieved:

- All three pillars of sustainability (ecological, social and economic) must be given equal consideration when regulatory tools or policies affecting the management of private forests are developed. This is something many woodlot owners believe is lacking today.

- A better consultation process needs to be implemented when developing regulatory tools, forest policy or programs. A process that reaches out to those directly affected and one that is driven from the bottom up and not necessarily from the top down, as we often experience today.

- More contributions from the community are needed. The public values private forests and woodlot owners are prepared to work with them; however, the community needs to contribute an equitable share.

- There is a need to reduce the use of the "stick" (regulatory) approach as a primary tool to drive forward good forestry practices. Simply relying on regulation may result in quick, short-term gains; however, it doesn't necessarily foster and encourage long-term meaningful stewardship partnerships or success. A more balanced mix of regulatory, educational and financial incentives is needed.

Private forests are an important component of Ontario's forested landscape. They contribute wood fibre to the forest industry, are an important component of our rural economy, and provide a host of other tangible and intangible benefits to our communities. Failing to find a balance — so that all of the people who benefit from having healthy, well-managed private forests also contribute equitably to these forests — will have a negative impact on us all. Our private forests can ill afford the status quo.

Diameter-Limit By-Law Article Now Available Online

Thanks to the Canadian Institute of Forestry the article "*Effects of diameter-limit by-laws on forestry practices, economics, and regional wood supply for private woodlands in southwestern Ontario*" by Terry Schwan and Ken Elliott featured in the Forestry Chronicle (September/October 2010, Vol. 86, No 5) is now available in the public domain. The article can be found on the Ontario Woodlot Association's sister website at www.ontariowoodlot.com/links_online.html.

Who's Minding the Forest?

Community Forest Managers Are!

Caroline Mach, R.P.F.



For those of you who may not be familiar, the Agreement Forest Program started in 1922 in Simcoe County involving an agreement between the County and the Province, whereby the County would purchase the land and the OMNR (then the Department of Lands and Forests) would manage it. The establishment of these agreements spread across southern Ontario and came to include not only Counties but also Conservation Authorities. If you wish to know all the details, you will have to search out a copy of *Evergreen Challenge: The Agreement Forest Story* which was written by Ed Borczon, R.P.F. and published by MNR in 1982. Suffice to say that things went along for some 70 years until the downloading of many provincial functions to the municipalities in the early 1990s. One of these functions ended up being the Agreement Forests. Since there were no longer agreements governing the management of these lands, the current managers decided, as a group, to refer to them collectively as "Community Forests". Each of the Forests has its own name, usually referring to the Forest ownership, such as Dufferin County Forest or Simcoe County Forest.

There are currently 31 municipalities in Ontario that own forested land, along with 34 Conservation Authorities. The total area

managed by these two groups is over 130,000 hectares. The degree of management varies greatly from owner to owner and depends largely on economic and public relations factors. For example:

1. will revenue from timber harvesting pay for prescription writing and tree marking;
2. will there be a strong negative public reaction to forest harvesting;
3. how will forest harvesting impact on recreational activity(ies); and
4. is revenue generation worth possibly losing Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program designation (this is a consideration for Conservation Authorities, municipalities don't pay property taxes on land they own)

In situations where there is active management ongoing, it may be done by staff, contractors/consultants, or a combination of the two. Even municipalities that have several forestry staff have contractors to do tree marking and logging.

Community Forest management plans address all aspects of managing forests – timber, recreation, Species at Risk, invasive species, carbon sequestration, biodiversity etc.

Community Forest managers are also getting on the certification bandwagon. Some are already FSC certified (e.g. York Region, Simcoe County), while others are actively pursuing certification. For most, it is an issue of both access to markets and of gaining greater public acceptance for their forest

management activities.

In the case of most Community Forests, the community has been involved in the development of both management plans and operating plans. In some, there is a Forest Advisory Group that is involved at some level in ongoing decision-making regarding the forest properties. Since many of these forest tracts are close to large centres of population such as Toronto, Mississauga, and Hamilton, the community involvement in many cases focuses on recreational use – what is allowed, what is not allowed, and when and where. Everyone has to have their say, and it seems that some recreational activities are more equal than others. It is very interesting at the annual Community Forest Managers get-together to see how many of the key issues change along a gradient from south to north or from urban to rural.

The Community Forests are an important part of their communities for numerous reasons: they conserve biodiversity, they sequester carbon, they provide wildlife habitat, they are a source of material for the timber industry, they provide recreational opportunities, they improve community aesthetics....the list goes on. There is no question that the communities would be poorer without their Community Forests.

(Continued from page 3)

month, two Manitoba communities with planning areas in Ontario, Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids, moved their draft plans to the public review phase.

Interest in community based land use planning is widespread across the Far North. Almost 90% of First Nations who could develop a community based land use plan in the Far North are already involved – ranging from initial engagement to more advanced stages of planning.

Prior to the *Far North Act* being passed, many municipalities and developers expressed concern that this legislation would "shut down" the North. In fact, sustainable economic development that benefits First Nations is one of the main objectives of the Act. Land use planning is used across the province to guide orderly development and make wise land use decisions. The Far North is no exception to the need for planned development.

The *Far North Act* enables a range of development to occur while planning is under way (such as wind and waterpower

generation, transmission lines, all-weather transportation, and associated infrastructure). This means more types of development can proceed concurrently with land use planning.

In the coming years, we expect progress to continue as Ontario works with First Nations to put community based land use plans in place - plans that will consider the importance of protecting the forest. For some communities, the desire to identify where commercial forestry may be possible will also be an important part of their planning process.

Back to the Forest

David J. Archibald, R.P.F.,
Confederation College



There have been two major revolutions that have significantly changed human history in the last three hundred years: the Industrial Revolution (1700 & 1800s) and the Digital Revolution (the last couple of decades).

The exponential increases in the capture, storage, transfer, and analysis of both spatial and aspatial forest-related data has given us the ability to make decisions on how we manage our forests with unprecedented speed and depth. The advantages are numerous and obvious, but I believe we are ignoring the down-side of the digital revolution in forestry: **We have fewer forestry professionals (foresters and technicians) actually working on the ground in the forest than ever before.**

It started in the 1980s. Within OMNR, foresters were spending more and more time behind their desks, and it was the technicians you went to if you had a question about the landbase. In the private sector, foresters and technicians were still spending a significant amount of time in the bush, but that too was changing. This trend has continued into the present day.

It became apparent to me we were in trouble when I saw folks with very little "bush time", inputting values into models that predicted forest yield and succession. At the same time, emerging technology allows us to predict forest inventory attributes (sometimes good, sometimes bad) based on minimal ground-truthing. I am not against these initiatives (I think we always need to explore and build new tools), but let us not forget that often the best information is obtained through direct measurements with a good quality control

program.

At a time when a value-added approach is being touted, attributes such as log profiles and wood quality require a heavy field presence. We need to balance our technological capacity with our understanding that we should be trying to maximize our time in the forest to better understand the ecosystems which we are entrusted to manage for the people of Ontario.

A point in closing - people often think having people on the ground is prohibitively expensive. These same people often do not appreciate the cost of acquiring data and technology, nor the cost of making poor decisions based on derived data.

Two Billion Trees and Counting: The Legacy of Edmund Zavitz

Author: John Bacher

Published by Dundurn Press, ISBN: 9781459701113

264 pages, trade paper, 6x9. 40 illustrations, notes, bibliography, index.

\$26.99. Available August, 2011.



Norfolk Wasteland Prior to 1912. Photo by E.J. Zavitz.

Edmund Zavitz (1875-1968) rescued Ontario from the ravages of increasingly more powerful natural disasters caused by floods, erosion, and deadly fires.

Numerous barren wastelands were taking over many hectares of once productive and flourishing farmlands and townsites. Sites like the Oak Ridges Moraine were well on their way to becoming a dust bowl. And all because of extensive deforestation.

From an early age, Zavitz became aware of the impending environmental dangers the province was facing. Encouraged by his family, he would become one of the first professional foresters in Ontario, Chief Forester of Ontario, Deputy Minister of Forests, and Director of Reforestation.

Zavitz's first pilot reforestation project, on his grandfather's farm in 1905, marked the beginning of his visionary practices. Throughout many uphill battles, Zavitz educated the general voting public and politicians about the need to protect Ontario forests. By the mid-1940s, conservation authorities, provincial nurseries, forestry stations, and bylaws protecting trees were in place. Land was being restored. Just a month before Zavitz's death, the symbolic one billionth tree was planted by Premier Robarts, and some two billion more followed. As a result of Zavitz's early work, the Niagara Escarpment, largely a wasteland in his time, acquired the foundation for becoming a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Other examples abound. Recognition of the ongoing need to plant trees to protect our future continues through the legacy of Edmund Zavitz, Ontario's Father of Reforestation.



Norfolk Forest Today. Photo by Dolf Wynia.

The Latest Generation of NRM Graduates; How They Differ From the Past

Nancy Luckai¹, RPF, Associate Professor and
Ulf Runesson², RPF, Interim Dean
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Management
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Forestry



Yes, they are different! More urban, less rural. More balance between the social and “hard” sciences. Maybe less hands-on when it comes to traditional field instrumentation; definitely better when it comes to computer hard- and software. Still inspired by natural landscapes but more often looking for opportunities that don’t involve physical exploitation of the forest resource. In some ways, they may be more cynical – since we tend to expose them to more controversy and compromise early on in their programs. They may also be more realistic about systems and outcomes and better able to navigate complex processes. No strangers to bureaucracy and paperwork; very comfortable defending a course of action against opponents. Any of you who have teenagers or young adults in the house will be aware of these generational differences. So what else?

In 2010, Lakehead adopted a new structure for our baccalaureate degree programs. We

continue to offer the Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry and have introduced an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Management. The latter represents an evolution from Environmental Studies to the more focused, recognized and realistic approach that we actually utilize in terms of course content and delivery. Both programs are built on a common foundation of forest science (dendrology, inventory, ecology, soils, disturbance) and complementary disciplines (chemistry, biology, geology, computer skills and statistics).

Each degree has three streams allowing students to specialize in their third year of studies. Under the HBScF, students can choose from Forest Health and Protection, Wood Science, and Forest Management; under the HBEM, students can choose from Wildlife Conservation and Management, Conservation Management as well as a Directed Learning Option. The DLO allows students, in consultation with their program Chair, to select courses that will support other areas of interest such as law, business, education and others. The HBScF remains CFAB accredited;

and the HBEM graduates are now closer to the requirements than our previous Environmental Studies students. The Wildlife Conservation stream provides students with the academic requirements for achieving Wildlife Biologist Certification through the Wildlife Society. All students participate in the Forest Management Planning and Forest Policy component of the programs and each must complete a thesis.

Another important evolution in program delivery includes the opportunity for qualified diploma graduates to enter the third year after successful completion of a summer transition program. This option was first offered in August 2010 and we anticipate increased uptake in 2011.

But don’t expect our programs to stand still – nor will our students – as we will change continuously to adapt to new challenges and opportunities.

(Continued from page 9)

I also want to acknowledge OFIA’s recent media comment about some of the wording of the proposed legislation.

I have appreciated your active participation in helping shape the approach to tenure reform; we will continue to work with you to find a balanced solution.

Let me also remind you that the current tenure system under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act already provides the Crown with certain powers related to the oversight of the management of the public forest.

In fact, this proposed legislation provides greater certainty, and is consistent with the Crown’s role in the oversight of the management of the public forest.

As I said earlier, we fully appreciate our responsibility to act with prudence and respect for the business entities that drive this key industry, and we will continue to work with them as this proposed legislation is developed.

By getting forest tenure and pricing modernization right, we can ensure that forestry remains a vital component of the province’s economy.

With our proposed legislation, we have the opportunity to strengthen Ontario’s position as a leading global forest jurisdiction.

The next step for Bill 151 is second reading debate in the House.

Should the legislation pass in the spring, we hope to engage in more formal discussions with interested parties to establish Ontario’s first LFMC.

We will strive to ensure that all interested parties understand how the proposed legislation would work, and we will continue to provide opportunities for input.

Tenure Reform Update

extract from a presentation by Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry at the Ontario Forest Industries Association Annual Meeting, March 2, 2011

Forest Tenure and Timber Pricing System Modernization



While the wood supply competition is attracting some new industry and is helping some existing industry stay viable, our government always considered it to be a short-term initiative...a

bridge to modernizing our forest tenure and timber pricing system. The process for the competition was too complex and took too long, to consider otherwise.

With the wood supply competition awards process nearing completion, the stage is set to move forward with tenure modernization. As we have discussed with industry, we believe now is the time to put a new tenure system into place to keep the industry competitive, and enable it to become more responsive to the marketplace.

As I said in January when I gave an update on forest tenure reforms, Ontario's Crown forests belong to the people of Ontario. We want to make sure that Ontarians benefit from the economic opportunities they provide, while maintaining environmental sustainability.

We appreciate the complexity of the task in undertaking the most significant change proposed for allocating, licensing and pricing Crown timber in our province in decades.

And we fully appreciate our responsibility to act with prudence and respect for the business entities that drive this key industry.

Let me emphasize that the overarching principle, as we proceed with forest tenure and timber pricing reform, is the government's commitment to the broader public interest.

The tenure modernization framework that we are proposing is consistent with the government's ownership of and responsibility to manage our valuable Crown forest resource in a way that helps the local economies of forest-based communities across the province, and for all Ontarians.

That's why we consulted widely on tenure reform...reform to which the Ontario government committed in the 2009-2010 provincial budget, two years ago.

Over the course of these last two years, we got the message that Ontarians wanted change. However, we also heard that some of our proposed changes went too far and too fast for certain companies, including some OFIA members. You asked for a more measured approach, and we agreed to a more measured approach.

One week ago, we introduced Bill 151, the *Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act*.

The proposal, supported by this legislation, embraces a modified approach that I believe responds to your concerns with our initial proposal.

The modified approach would move us toward a system that supports:

- One, greater market mechanisms in the pricing and allocation of Crown timber,
- Two, sustainable forest management business entities with clear roles, responsibilities and accountability;
- Three, local community and Aboriginal peoples' involvement, and
- Four, opportunities for new entrants.

We are proposing to do this by establishing two models for Sustainable Forest Licences, as the primary form of stewardship for Crown forests.

First, the proposed legislation, if passed by the Legislature, would enable the creation of Local Forest Management Corporations as Crown Agencies. Initially, we would look to establish two LFMCs.

LFMCs would retain the revenue from selling Crown timber, and invest it back into the forest and towards its legislated corporate objectives.

LFMCs would have to sell some of their timber through open market sales. We would use the data collected from the process to support the move to a more market-based pricing system, as opposed to the administrative timber pricing system we have today.

As I have said previously, our plan would be

to learn from these initial LFMCs before we would implement the model more broadly.

The second model we are looking to develop and implement is the Enhanced Shareholder Sustainable Forest Licence.

With our colleagues at the Ministry of Natural Resources, we would work with the forest industry and other stakeholders, and Aboriginal peoples, to design and facilitate the transition to Enhanced Shareholder SFLs.

Working together, we would establish criteria that would be used to evaluate the performance of LFMCs and Enhanced Shareholder SFLs over a period of time.

We would evaluate how each model performs in relation to our objectives for modernizing the forest tenure system.

And, collectively, we would use the evaluations to help us make improvements to the models along the way.

We expect this initiative would require five to seven years to fully implement

We would expect to see a shift from single company SFLs to Enhanced Shareholder SFLs, and improvements to the existing Co-op SFL model across Ontario.

By the end of the implementation period, we would expect most of the Crown forest to be managed by the two models, with the majority of the forest area managed under Enhanced Shareholder SFLs, and a smaller portion – perhaps 30 per cent -- under LFMCs. The single entity SFL model would be phased out wherever possible.

And we would expect to see more timber sold on the open market.

The proposal takes a measured approach in terms of implementing changes. It has been carefully crafted after extensive consultation. And we would continue to consult on the details and implementation as we move forward. We would evaluate elements of the framework, and make necessary modifications in specific areas.

(Continued on page 8)

Grey Areas: The Defence of Due Diligence



Editor's Note: The O.P.F.A. office receives the newsletter *Grey Areas* from Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc, a law firm practicing in the field of professional regulation. Articles from *Grey Areas* are reprinted on for members' reference.

When can a practitioner defend a breach of standards on the basis that it was not done on purpose? Often this defence arises where a member's support staff makes the error. The due diligence defence was explored in the Federal Court of Appeal decision in *Office of Superintendent of Bankruptcy v. MacLeod*, 2011 FCA 4

The Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy contended that the tribunal (referred to as the Delegate) hearing the matter had made an error by accepting the defence of due diligence by the Trustee in Bankruptcy ("Trustee") with respect to certain violations of professional conduct provisions in the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, its rules and directives. The transactions were described as follows:

With respect to [a number of banking infractions where money was not handled and recorded properly, although none disappeared], the Delegate found that the respondents had failed to fully comply with the relevant statutory and regulatory provisions. However, having accepted the respondents' submissions that the estates at issue represented only a small fraction of their overall business and that the infractions were the result of administrative errors which had caused no prejudice to the estates or the creditors, the Delegate found that a defence of due diligence had been established.

The Federal Court of Appeal held that the Trustee had failed to prove that he exercised due diligence to avoid a finding of misconduct.

The Federal Court of Appeal accepted that the defence of due diligence is available for

allegations of professional misconduct when the legislative or regulatory provision at issue shows that an element of reasonable care is involved. Usually, wording such as "due care" or "reasonably ought to know" illustrates that a defence of due diligence is available to counter an allegation of professional misconduct.

The Federal Court of Appeal also noted that *R. v. Sault Ste. Marie (City)*, [1978] 2 S.C.R. 1299 is the leading authority on the defence of due diligence in respect of offences. In that decision, the Supreme Court of Canada held that the defence of due diligence will be available if the "accused reasonably believed in a mistaken set of facts which, if true, would render the act or omission innocent, or if he took all reasonable steps to avoid the particular event".

For example, in the employment context, this means that a professional will not escape liability on the sole basis that the alleged infraction was committed by a staff member, unless he or she can demonstrate that: (a) the act took place without his or her direction or approval, and that (b) he or she exercised all reasonable care by establishing a proper system to prevent the commission of the offence and by taking reasonable steps to ensure the effective operation of the system.

As a result, the defence of due diligence sets a heavy burden on the member. The member must demonstrate on a balance of probabilities that he or she took all reasonable steps to avoid committing the specific offence at issue, and not that he or she was acting lawfully in a broader sense.

It is not sufficient for the defendant to plead innocent good faith in the making of an unintentional error, or to plead forgetfulness, because the offence in question is a "strict liability" offence meaning that it has as its defining characteristic the absence of any need for the prosecution to prove the existence of an intention to commit the offence. As such, errors made in good faith are not tantamount to due diligence.

The Court found that proof of reasonable care in the general conduct of one's affairs is not sufficient to escape liability. It is incumbent upon the person claiming due diligence to show that a system was in place

to prevent the prohibited act. Also, the fact that the contravention did not cause prejudice to third parties or that the contravention related only to a small portion of the person's overall practice are not relevant considerations to the establishment of a defence of due diligence.

The Court said:

The respondents rightfully submit that, as per *Sault Ste. Marie*, a defence of due diligence will also be established if the accused "reasonably believed in a mistaken set of facts which, if true, would render the act or omission innocent." However, while the respondents invoke this alternative mode of defence, they have failed to identify a precise "set of facts" which was reasonably relied on to believe that their actions were lawful. Rather, the respondents' argument on this point seems to relate to a reasonable belief that existing control measures were adequate to prevent the infractions from occurring. In my opinion, on the evidence before us, that argument cannot form the basis of a due diligence defence.

The defence of due diligence is a difficult one to make out.

The *MacLeod* case can be found at: www.canlii.org.

Ontario Tolerant Hardwood Tour Oct. 19-21, 2010

Steve D'Eon, R.P.F.
Canadian Wood Fibre Centre



As part of the Hardwood Initiative series of regional workshops, Ontario, through the Forest Research Partnership, organized a two day tour from Mattawa around to Huntsville and into Algonquin Park. Tour

participants arrived at the Canadian Ecology Centre on Tuesday, October 19th for a kick-off evening of presentations and networking. After an introduction to Ontario hardwood forestry practices by the tour organizer, OMNR's Al Stinson, FPIInnovations took the floor to discuss their Hardwood Initiative work. Isabelle Duchesne, Jean-Martin Lussier and Philippe Meek discussed a range of topics including value-chain improvements, technology development, silvicultural optimization tools (specifically BIOLLEY II), and operational research. The presentations sparked healthy discussion, an indication of the audience's attention; not necessarily their concurrence. The evening concluded with a social hour allowing participants to informally exchange ideas, beverages, and discuss collaborations.

Being a tour, day two dawned early with the big yellow school bus waiting to bounce participants from site to site focusing on shelterwood systems. First up was a yellow birch release study where OMNR researcher Scott McPherson explained the goals were to study crop tree selection and crown spacing on forest productivity, coarse woody debris, and snag dynamics. Treatments are starting to show an effect and modeling indicates an acceleration of potential sawlog and veneer yields. Decked out in a rainbow of coloured protective gear, the gang split into two at the next stop to look at red oak trials where OMNR's Andree Morneau has been studying two crown closures (40% and 70%), three renewal options (plant, sow, and coppice), and three tending options (chemical, mechanical, and prescribed fire). Take home message was control the understory and work with a good acorn year if sowing. Part II of the stop was group selection trials that were layered into the same area.

After lunch the final stop of the day was a biomass harvest trial where OFRI researcher Trevor Jones explained that this site was one of four installations. Results from the trial indicate some positives (stand improvement

done, increased growth, biomass is close to the infrastructure in this part of Ontario) and some negatives (damage to existing regen, might be carbon neutral, potential impacts on soil nutrition and wildlife). Phil Meek provided data on the small differences in harvest cost between full-tree and whole-tree. Take-home message was biomass might pay if the situation is set-up correctly. Then it was time to reboard the bus, return to Mattawa, and vehicle it down to Huntsville for dinner and the second evening program. A small group detoured to Tom Fisher's merchandizing yard in Huntsville to look at the results of the recognition, segregation, and marketing program with veneer destined for export to Wisconsin and figurewood (birds-eye and curly) awaiting trucking to New Brunswick.

Steve Bedard of Quebec MRN led off Wednesday evening with a review of practices and trials in his province. Steve stated that there is about 10,000 ha of selection harvest in Quebec each year (down from a high of 40,000 ha) with the challenge being lack of removal of the cull trees by the operators. CWFC researchers Ed Swift (collaboration is better), Steve D'Eon (merchandizing yard adds value) and Chhun-Huor Ung (Enhanced Inventory allows earlier business decisions) presented ongoing projects from the Fibre Centre/FPIInnovations. With another early start scheduled for the next day this reporter headed to the Jamison Room then some needed sleep.

Under threatening skies day two of the tour climbed upwards into Algonquin Park for a day of single tree selection (STS). Ontario's Crown tolerant hardwood management moved from variants of diameter limit harvests to STS in the 1970s. First stop was Parkside Gully which was established in 1967 and has had four STS harvests since. One message was that initial tree grading stems for quality does not track well through time (40 years in this case). Ontario's AGS/UGS system is a risk evaluation at a point in time and should not be mistaken for a valuation or an indication of future value. The other important message was that the fourth STS harvest yielded 70% sawlogs which is significantly better than sites with fewer STS harvests or less time under STS. In addition, the quality of the sawlogs allowed the mill to produce more valuable lumber than the general furnish arriving at the mill gate. Mills

like that.

The tour then moved to three operational STS sites led by the Algonquin Forest Authority's (AFA) Keith Fletcher. The AFA was established as the single licensee in Algonquin Park in the 1970s to handle the planning and harvesting of the working forest within the Park. The AFA is a unique arrangement for Ontario Crown wood in that the AFA contracts the harvesting then sells the wood to various mills. The AFA does about 8,000 ha of harvest per year with about half in STS. The AFA targets a 10% quality improvement per harvest cycle of 25 years with residual BAs of 20 m²/ha. Prior to the 1970s, high-grading or diameter limit harvesting was the norm so it will take some time for these stands to recover and emulate the results from Parkside Gully. The operational stands visited had undergone their second STS harvest. Current harvests are 40% sawlog and 5% bolt. Keith felt unacceptable levels of logging damage wiped out the improvements STS provided from the 1980 harvests. The unanswered question in this forester's mind was how to accelerate the improvement in quality in hardwoods since that is where the value lies. Should we have more frequent but less intensive interventions or will it just take time to get back what we had?

The tour wrapped up with vehicles dispersing from the middle of Algonquin Park. My ride headed east crossing the rest of Algonquin Park with a quick stop at the Visitor Centre to scout it out in preparation for the CIF-AGM and conference (September 2011) which will feature some of the same work; hopefully with fall colours and sunny skies.



**Ontario Professional Foresters
Association
2011 Conference & Annual General
Meeting**

Who's Minding the Forest?
The Changing Face of Forest Management

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

9:00 am

- Registration opens

12:00 - 5:00 pm

- Field Tour - see the website for details www.opfa.ca

7:00 - 11:00 pm

- Icebreaker Evening Social
 - Keynote Speaker: *Avrim Lazar – President & CEO of FPAC*

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Moderator: *Barry Mercer – CBC Radio*

8:00 – 8:30 am

- Continental Buffet Breakfast – Ballroom A & B
- Tradeshow all day

8:30 -10:30 am

- Welcome – *Tom Laughren, Mayor of Timmins*
- Welcome - *Mattagami First Nation*
- The OPFA – *Carl Corbett*
- Early Morning: Past , Present & Future Views
 - *Mark Kuhlberg – Laurentian University*
 - *Doug Clark – Northern College*
 - *Ulf Runesson – Lakehead University*

10:25 – 10:40 am

- Break and Tradeshow

10:40 am – 11:55 pm

- Late Morning: Past , Present & Future Views
 - *Sandy Smith – University of Toronto*
 - *Carla Grant – Ontario Forestry Association*
 - *Urban Forestry: Michael Rosen: Tree Canada*

11:55 am

- Lunch with guest speaker Hon. *Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources*



**Ontario Professional Foresters
Association
2011 Conference & Annual General
Meeting**

Who's Minding the Forest?
The Changing Face of Forest Management

Thursday, April 14, 2011 (cont.)

1:10 pm

- **Afternoon Sessions: Who Else: Evolution of Forestry Practice**
 - **Forester: *Jenny Millson & Monique Koski: Millson Forestry***
 - **Biologist: *Kandyd Szuba: EACOM Timber Corp.***
 - **Forest Tech: *Jeff Leach: Tembec Inc.***
 - **Aboriginal: *Chris McKay: WC McKay Consulting***
- **A New Way of Doing Business**
 - ***Tom Clark & Jeremy Williams – Consultants***

3:15- 3:30 pm

- **Break and Tradeshow**

3:30 – 5:30 pm

- **Annual General Meeting**

6:30 – 7:00 pm

- **Reception**

7:00 – 11:00 pm

- **Evening Banquet Dinner with Awards and Entertainment**

Friday, April 15, 2011

7:30 am

- **CIF Breakfast**

8:00 – 8:30 am

- **Continental Buffet Breakfast – Ballroom A & B**

8:30 am - 12:50 pm

- **Early Morning: A New Way of Doing Business**
 - ***Phil Green - First Resource Management Group***
 - ***Paul Poschmann – Consultant***
 - ***Rick Groves – AbitibiBowater Inc.***
 - ***Bill Thornton – ADM, MNM&F***
- **Late Morning : Broader World and Issues**
 - **Northern Private Land Forestry: *Richard White***
 - **A View from Industry: *George Graham***
 - **Forests in Parks: *Richard Raper***
 - **A View from First Nations: *Colin Lachance***
 - **Looking Ahead: *Jamie Lim***
- **Lunch and travel safely**



ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OPFA MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given of the
Annual General Meeting
of
Members of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association
to be held at the Days Inn, Timmins, Ontario,
at approximately 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 2011
for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Association including:

1. Receiving and considering reports of the President, Registrar/Executive Director, Auditor and Committee Chairs for the year December 1, 2009 to November 30, 2010.
2. Receiving the Financial Statement November 31, 2010
3. Reporting appointment of the Auditor.
4. Confirming and approving the acts and procedures of Officers and Councillors.
5. Updates on Competency Support and Standards of Practice.
6. A presentation will be made about "Growing Professionalism in the Forest", a project recently initiated by the OPFA Council.
7. Considering and if desirable, approving resolutions.
8. Transacting such further business as may properly come before the meeting.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please complete the Form of Proxy (below) and return it to the OPFA office:

- by mail - 5 Wesleyan St. #201, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 2E2
- by scanning and Email – opfa@opfa.ca or
- by fax - 905-877-6766.

Tony Jennings, R.P.F.
Registrar

OPFA: P.O. Box 91523, 5 WESLEYAN ST, #201, GEORGETOWN, ON, L7G 2E2
EMAIL: OPFA@OPFA.CA WEBSITE: WWW.OPFA.CA PHONE: 905-877-3679 FAX: 905-877-6766

ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS ASSOCIATION
INSTRUMENT OF PROXY

I, _____
(name of member) (member number)

of _____
(address of member)

Being a member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association hereby
appoint

CARL CORBETT, R.P.F. of Huntsville, Ontario

WHOM FAILING

David Milton, R.P.F. of Brooklin, Ontario

OR

_____, R.P.F. of _____

as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the
Annual General Meeting
of the members of the Association
to be held at approximately 3:30 p.m. on
Thursday, April 14, 2011 at the Days Inn, 14 Mountjoy St. Timmins Ontario
In connection with the 2011 Annual Conference of the Association

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2011

at _____.

(signature of member)

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THIS 2011 OPFA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
PLEASE RETURN THIS PROXY TO THE OPFA OFFICE

- by mail - 5 Wesleyan St. #201, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 2E2
- by scanning and Email – opfa@opfa.ca or
- by fax - 905-877-6766.

THANK YOU

Hearst District Silviculture Reunion Tour

Harold Frost, OPFA Associate Member
Retired Forest Technician, Hearst District

September 29-30, 2010



his reunion of Timber Techs and Foresters was organized to bring back staff who worked in the Hearst District from the early 1960s to the present and are/were involved with timber operations. The Tour was organized by Harold "Frosty" Frost, who spent most of his working career in Hearst District. Frosty has been retired for 17 years.

Staff from the Hearst Forest, Nagagami Forest and Gordon Cosens Forest SFLs were invited. Also former and current MNR Hearst District timber staff and Northern Regional silviculture specialists. In all, a bus load of 45 people attended the two day Tour. The farthest to attend came from British Columbia, the rest from Ontario. The Tour was well received. As part of the tour, Harold got t-shirts with native art on the front and back, designed by a former tree planter made for all who attended (see photos at right).

99% of the plantations visited were white and black spruce, which are a bit more challenging species than jack pine. The plantations involved the planting of 225 million trees from 1957 to 2010 in the Hornepayne and Hearst areas.

When Frosty was on his 1st tree plant as foreman of a crew of tree planters from Lansdowne House, bundles of 1,000 trees were dropped from the old piston Beaver aircraft... "... how things have changed!"

Hearst District had one of the biggest Crown plants in Ontario in the 60s and 70s before the Forest Management Agreements started. The biggest Crown plant one year was 4.5 million trees.

The Tour took in a variety of planting sites from low ground black spruce to very productive white spruce sites and even a successful Ontario Tube plant. The types of site preparation (SIP) varied from shark fin drums and chains, to "V" plough, to straight blade, to winter shear blade and prescribed burn to chemical-SIP-and-plant. Harold's favourite method was chemical SIP using Vision herbicide and plant the following spring with white or black spruce and, if you could stratify the area, jack pine. These chemical SIP areas usually have 10 to 15% natural regeneration of white spruce that is very tolerant and has been growing under

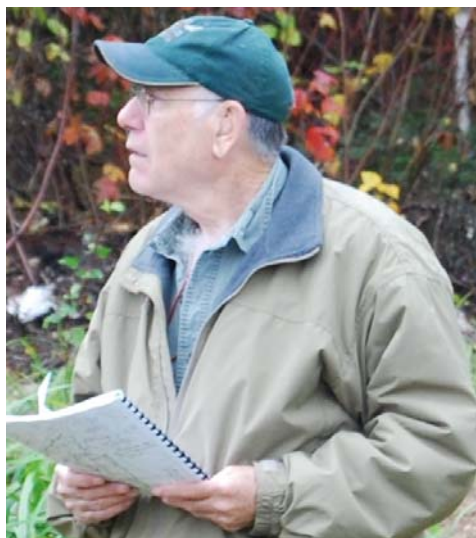


Frosty's Tour Group on Roger's Road (September 30, 2010)

heavy competition for 10 to 30 years, often only one to four feet in height. After the application of chemical SIP, the natural white spruce are released and show exceptional growth. The chemical SIP visited on the Tour was done in 1986 and 1987.

The other site preparation to get a good plantation established is prescribed burning, which was done over large areas in Hearst District at the time.

If anyone wishes more information about the Hearst District Silviculture Reunion Tour they can contact Frosty at 519-482-7176.



Harold Frost



Hearst Commemoration

During the Hearst District Silviculture Reunion Tour participants gathered in the forest north of Constance Lake for an important commemoration.

On September 30th the *George Blight Plantation* and *R. David Scott Permanent Sample Plots* were formally named to honour a location and individuals significant to the rich silvicultural history on the Hearst Forest.

The *George Blight Plantation* is the oldest, most complete, suite of applied silvicultural treatments on the Hearst Forest. The *Plantation's* forest management history spans 60 years and includes the first thinning for commercial products on the Forest.

George Blight R.P.F. (Life) was Lands & Forests' Timber Management Forester who oversaw the *Plantation's* establishment. George was the first Chief Forester for the Hearst Forest.

Dave Scott was MNR Hearst District Manager from 1989 to 2008. Dave successfully cleared substantial policy barriers to thinning that existed in



Denis Cheff, Dave Scott

Ontario in 2004, thereby enabling the first thinning on the Hearst Forest.

On that damp, cloudy morning participants took a few moments to enjoy coffee and doughnuts while hearing about the history of the site, the contributions of George, Dave and many others, and saw the unveiling of a beautiful monument.

More information about the *George Blight Plantation* is available at: www.hearstforest.com/George_Blight_Plantation.html

George Graham, R.P.F.

Registrar Sidebar Charges For Late Fees and Reporting

As of December 1, 2010, some Fee changes came into effect. The Fee Schedule (March, 2010 *The Professional Forester*) that was approved at the 2010 AGM, included several changes to late charges:

- Fees and reporting are due December 1;
- No late charge is made if received by Jan 15;
- Late Charges apply to Fees **and/or reporting** and;
- Charges are \$50.00 on Jan 16 + \$10 per month starting Feb 1.

Note: In this first year of the new Competency Reporting Requirements, late charges have not been applied to date for late competency reporting alone.

Request for Case Studies

The Private Lands Committee has been working through some recommendations from a Good forestry Practice Paper authored by Terry Schwan, R.P.F. and Ken Elliott, R.P.F. One of the recommendations requires that the OPFA provide case studies of ethical practice for OPFA members related to Tree By-Laws and Good Forestry Practice Standards. Would anyone from the OPFA membership be able to provide a case study? If so, please email it to Judy Biggar, Competency and Practices Coordinator, OPFA at dbiggart1@cogeco.ca.

Seeking Authors

The *Sawmill & Woodlot Magazine* is looking to commission interested authors to write articles, columns, and reviews for the magazine. Topics cover, but are not limited to, the following: sawmill business, woodlot management, green impact, arboriculture, sawing and drying, equipment reviews, general interest (small producer) stories. If interested, please contact Walter Andrzejewski walter@sawmillmag.com or 207-338-0300. You can find out more about the publication on their website at www.sawmillmag.com.

MPs Vote for Trees

Canada finally has its own official day to celebrate trees. Starting this fall, each Wednesday of National Forest Week in September will be known as National Tree Day. **The first National Tree Day will be September 21, 2011.**

The motion to declare National Tree Day received consent from the House of Commons on March 2, 2011 with Tree Canada in attendance.

"By passing this motion, the House will ask Canadians to spend just one day reflecting on the link between their lives and that of the tree," said Royal Galipeau, M.P. Ottawa-Orléans who presented the motion. "Canadians will dedicate trees, plant trees, learn about trees and appreciate the historical impact the tree has had on Canada's economic success as a nation."

Tree Canada and many of its partners have openly supported the motion and will work to engage Canadians in recognizing the importance of trees in our lives.

Business Cards

Your Business Card Here!

Advertise your company or services here.

Members \$25 per single issue
 \$80 per year (four issues)

Non Members \$40 per single issue
 \$140 per year (four issues)

If you would like to be included in the Business Card section please email opfa@opfa.ca.



Canadian Institute of Forestry
Voice of Forest Practitioners since 1908

The Forestry Chronicle
the national journal for forest practitioners

Our membership includes foresters, forest technicians and technologists, educators, scientists and others with a professional interest in forestry.

Reduced membership fees for OPFA members

www.cif-ifc.org



The benefits of being a member! The OPFA has arranged a Corporate Class Business Rental Program agreement with Enterprise Rent-a-Car. To receive your special rate you can do one of three things:

1. Book online at www.enterprise.com
2. Call 1-800-736-8222
3. Contact your local branch

You will be asked to provide your Corporate Class ID number which has been mailed to all members. Your Corporate Class Business Rental Program offers special pricing anytime, any day with unlimited mileage. And you can rent anywhere in North America – even for the family trip! If you have any questions, call the OPFA office at 905-877-3679.

Have you ever wondered what you can do to support the OPFA?

The OPFA functions because of the volunteer contributions of its members who serve on the Association's many Committees.

Have you considered volunteering some of your time to an OPFA Committee? Would you like to participate but are concerned about lengthy time commitments and travel?

The Editorial Board of *The Professional Forester* may meet your requirements and we are eagerly looking for additional members. Editorial Board members work remotely. Twice yearly we meet by conference call to determine the upcoming themes for each issue. Editorial Board members are expected to solicit articles in support of each theme. The work is rewarding and requires only a small contribution of your time. If you are interested in joining the Board please contact the Chair, Matthew Benson, R.P.F. at matthew.benson@ontario.ca.

Member News

New Members

Full

Barb Boysen
Jody Reid

Provisional

Shaun Dombroskie

Inactive

Abby Anderson
Dorothy Hamilton
Jon Orpana
John Sills

Non-Resident

Michael Doig

Resignations

Richard Cameron

Robin Cunningham
Murray Ferguson
Harry Hutchinson
Tom Kenerknecht
Shelley MacLean
Leo O'Driscoll
Scott Reid
Larry Skinkle

Deceased

Grant Puttock
J.R.M. (Mack) Williams

Lost

If you know the whereabouts of these members please let us know or have them contact us.

Wilfred Dyer
J. Robert Mackey
David Turner

∞ ∞ ∞

The Professional Forester is now delivered electronically except for those who have requested a paper copy. A copy is also available on the website (www.opfa.ca). To make sure that you receive all important member information, **please check that your email address and other personal information are accurate on the website.** Thank you.

Current Competency Requirements

In one fall seminar location (only), some Members recalled mention in an article by one of the Competency Committee members that the new requirements would take effect December 1, 2011. That was not the determination eventually approved by Council, as the requirements have been discussed for some time and are relatively easy to meet. As reported in the September and December issues of *The Professional Forester*, **a written Personal Practice Focus and Learning Plan were requirements as of December 1, 2010.**

Reporting of totals for continuing education continues to be an annual requirement (even if reporting zero). Reporting for 2010 and subsequent years is in hours; past records have been converted. The new minimum requirement for the three-year rolling total will be phased in to reach 60 hours in 2012.

Your Theme Ideas Wanted!

Since *The Professional Forester* switched to a theme-based format several years ago, the Editorial Board has worked hard to bring you interesting, timely, and sometimes controversial themes. Now, we are asking for your help. Is there a current issue that you are dying to learn more about? A current issue that you would be willing to write about to get the ball rolling? Please send any and all ideas to the Editor at newsletter@opfa.ca.



The Professional Forester

Publications Mail Agreement Number

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Georgetown, ON L7G 2E2

Coming Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
OPFA AGM and Conference	April 13 - 15	Timmins, ON	www.opfa.ca
Soils and Urban Trees	Apr. 26-27	Toronto, ON	www.ufis.ca/soil.php
Statistical Issues in Forest Management	May 2-4	Quebec City, PQ	www.crm.umontreal.ca/Forest11
International Symposium on Dynamics and Ecological Services of Deadwood in Forest Ecosystems	May 15-19	Rouyn-Noranda, PQ	http://deadwood2011.uqat.ca/
Canadian Institute of Forestry AGM and Conference	Sept. 18-21	Huntsville, ON	www.cif-ifc.org
National Tree Day	Sept. 21	across Canada	www.treecanada.ca
Forest Fair of Eastern Ontario	Sept. 24	Kemptville, ON	
International Urban Forestry Conference	Sept. 25-28	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	www.urban-forestry.com

If you know about an event that should be listed here, please send the information to the Editor at newsletter@opfa.ca.

OPFA 2011 Conference and Annual General Meeting **Who's Minding the Forest?**

April 13-15, 2011
Days Inn, Timmins, Ontario



Submissions

Submissions are welcome, please send them to:
Caroline Mach, R.P.F., Editor
newsletter@opfa.ca

**Deadline for the next issue:
May 15, 2011**