



# The Leaflet



FGSA's Monthly Newsletter



## In This Issue

It's Almost Summer  
(p.1)

June Birthdays  
(p.1)

MFC Internships  
(p.2-4)

Equity in Forestry:  
Christine Leduc  
(p.5)

Daniels Virtual Studio  
(p.6)

Tree of the Month:  
*Tsuga canadensis*  
(Eastern hemlock)  
(p.6)

Follow Us:  

Contact Us: [fgsa@utoronto.ca](mailto:fgsa@utoronto.ca)

## It's Almost Summer...

We hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather and looking forward to a fun summer! The FGSA would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy start to the summer.

## June Birthdays

This month, we are celebrating five birthdays!

- June 10: Sanda Violoni (MFC student)
- June 18: Bridget Trerise (MFC student)
- June 20: Jared Haney (PhD student)
- June 28: Vanessa Nhan (MFC student)
- June 29: Joshua Quattrociochi (MFC student)

Happy Birthday to all with a June birthday!

# MFC Internship: Sara Deslauriers



Sara's project involves studying the effects of landscape configuration on flying squirrel population viability in Rouge National Urban Park. She'll be working in...you guessed it! Rouge Park! Sara will be working for Parks Canada.

## **About Sara:**

Sara's academic interests are wildlife conservation and landscape ecology. She loves adventure, sports, and the great outdoors! Sara is a hopeless romantic, and enjoys yoga and meditation.

# MFC Internship: Vanessa Nhan



Vanessa's MFC internship this summer will be with the Mass Timber Institute in Toronto, Ontario looking at the sustainability of Ontario's wood supply for mass timber. Her work will involve modelling the wood supply in two Ontario forest management units while accounting for wood supply commitments and sustainability values to examine how much wood may be unutilized and available for mass timber.

Prior to joining the MFC program, Vanessa completed her B.Sc. in biology at the University of Toronto-Mississauga and discovered her passion for the field of forestry while working in Michigan's northern hardwood forests. In her spare time, Vanessa enjoys hiking, reading, volunteering with local conservation authorities and organizing her life through bullet journaling and Excel sheets.

# MFC Internship: Shan Shukla



Red and white pine plantations in Southern Ontario were introduced in the early 20th century to help improve the state of its rapidly eroding soils. While the plantations on public lands have generally been effectively managed by the provincial government and companies, those on private lands have been largely neglected. The main reason being the cost to perform forest management activities on these private woodlots.

Shan is currently working with the Ontario Woodlot Association to evaluate their current forest co-operative pilot project whereby they are building economies of scale amongst geographically clustered private landowner woodlots in Huronia and Fleetwood. The main goals of the project are to provide the crucial first thinning these red and white pine plantations require and realize the revenues amongst landowners. Utilization of local forestry businesses and smaller, local mills will be the main driver for this.

The end goal of the program is to build unique management plans that will improve the state of the plantations leading to more mixed-wood, native stands. These stands will be more resilient to climate change, pests, and invasive species. They will also be more ecologically valuable, and more economically viable. The project also aims to educate landowners in the management and stewardship of their woodlots.



# A CONVERSATION ON EQUITY IN FORESTRY

## between Christine Leduc & Monique Dosanjh



Congratulations Monique on being the first ever equity commissioner for UofT forestry students.

Thanks! I'm looking forward to exploring the challenges that various groups are facing and seeing how I can contribute in a positive way.



And the timing is right too. I started my career in 2013 and I've noticed a big change in how the forest industry engages on matters related to gender equity and diversity & inclusion. So, what does it mean for you to be the equity commissioner?

Since it is a new position, I'm trying to understand student perspectives, identify the issues, and spark a conversation between students, faculty, and alumni so we can make forestry a more equitable field. Since there have been so many women in the MFC program for example, I think it's easy to think we've achieved a perfect gender balance, but I have not seen that reflected in the industry workforce.



You're right, and although in both our MFC classes women outweigh men, women still represent such a small percent of the industry workforce.

Exactly. I think women are pursuing forestry as a field of study, but not necessarily going into the industry. I don't see many of my female peers wanting to pursue an industry job or work in a northern or remote location. There are maybe 2 in my class of 24.



Why? Perhaps because you don't have enough good examples yet. Because there is totally a place for women in industry and working remotely is not that scary.

I do agree that students need to see themselves in those roles to believe they can also carve a similar path.



Interesting. As a student, is your perspective that women are working in other forestry areas – e.g., policy, conservation, urban forestry, but less interested in working for the industry?

I do think there is a shift and more UofT forestry students are generally interested in urban forestry combined with barriers to students pursuing those industry roles.



We could also argue that urban regions or public institutions may be a bit more progressive when it comes to diversity & inclusion.

Something that I did want to point out is that when my class had opportunities to connect with various groups for virtual networking events, it does appear that there is more diversity in the conservation or urban groups compared to industry.



You mean industry is dominated by white guys. I get it. But we are changing, and I think the first woman or the first young person or the first person of color will have the hardest path, but now I see women in all aspects of the industry, and it has been a game changer in helping me see a path to operations where you typically see very few women.

Yes, it's important to have examples you can relate to in imagining yourself in a potential job.



What about your professors or guest lecturers? Do you feel that those presenters have reflected the same diversity you see in your student cohort?

I think efforts have been made by our professors to bring in a more diverse and gender balanced guest lecture list. Part of my job as equity commissioner will be to engage professors & university partners to ensure that guest speakers or participants in virtual events continue to represent more diversity.



That's part of the journey. We have to educate our peers and colleagues where we can and raise awareness to unconscious biases so we can all improve how we engage with different groups.

Those are certainly discussions I am hoping to have. More and more, the MFC class is diversifying, and it is important that guest lecturers or prospective employers make efforts to connect with these diversities as they interact with the MFC class.



I look forward to seeing more from you on this topic.

Feedback is welcomed. To share comments or suggestions, please email Monique Dosanjh @ [monique.dosanjh@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:monique.dosanjh@mail.utoronto.ca)

# Daniels Virtual Studio



If you have been missing the experience of being on campus, come stop by the new **Daniels Virtual Studio**! It is an online re-creation of the Daniels 1 Spadina studio via gather.town. This virtual space allows students to interact and chat with video calling, to play online games and to have a place to study and collaborate with peers! The studio is accessible 24/7 and is available to all Daniels students. To register for access, visit [this link](#). For more information, check out their [instagram](#)!

## Tree of the Month: *Tsuga canadensis* (Eastern hemlock)



Image credit: <https://arboretum.uoguelph.ca/thingstosee/trees/easternhemlock>

Eastern hemlock is a common coniferous tree in southern Ontario. Its oil-rich seeds are an important food source for many bird species. Its dense branches also provide important habitat for species such as wild turkeys and deer. Eastern hemlock trees are very long-lived, with trees living up to 800 years or more!

Sadly, eastern hemlock stands are currently under threat due to several pests including hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), spruce budworm, and gypsy moth.