

# The Ontario Woodlander

ISSUE 104, SEPTEMBER 2021

**PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR WOODLAND LIFE**



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Planning Your Exit • FSC Certification Program  
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# STIHL



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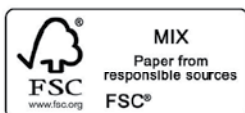
The late Dave Sexsmith, Limestone

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John Pineau, Near North

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# WORKING TOGETHER THIS FALL



## President's Message

Paul Roberston, President, Niagara Chapter

I want to be careful and not overuse platitudes or superlatives in this message. I have recently taken stock of all that our association is doing, and the rather long list astonishes me! It is not just the quantity that impresses, it is also the quality and relevance of our products, projects, programs, and services. I am very proud of all that we are doing, and of where we collectively are taking the OWA!

Starting with this issue of *The Ontario Woodlander*, you will notice a different look, feel and organization of content. This past year, *The Woodlander* has been steadily evolving to become a 'go-to' resource and a shelf-quality magazine that can itself garner a much larger subscription base. It will never lose its focus and appeal as first and foremost a member magazine, but it can and will be more, and to more people. It is our ambition to make it a high-end product. I feel we are almost there; not too bad at all for a few staff and a small but dedicated communications committee!

In this issue you will read a number of articles about our on-going projects, what progress they are making and what we hope to learn and accomplish from their outcomes and results. It is always challenging to stay informed given everyone is so busy with life and work, but I encourage all members to take the time to read about our Community Forest Owners Cooperative Pilots and the Woodlot Economics and Inventory Project. Please give us feedback on how we can best learn from and apply the information that they are giving us. We would also welcome ideas and suggestions for future projects that help to make us all the best possible land stewards we can be!

The theme of this issue—the benefits of working together, will be pervasive and permeate most of the articles, sometimes

subtly and sometimes overtly. Every product, service, project, and program that the OWA offers involves some form of collaboration and cooperation. Whether it is just our members working together internally to accomplish something educational and fun, or some kind of informal or formal partnership that pools knowledge, experience, talent, financial and human resources from multiple organizations to do something more grandiose, I am grateful for all that is envisioned, planned, coordinated, produced, and delivered. I encourage you to try to keep this in mind as you peruse and absorb this issue's content.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of our new staff members and interns, who have provided so much vigour to the OWA. You have allowed us to take on many things and you have us reaching out beyond our comfort zone. Certainly, the projects already mentioned—enhancing *The Woodlander*, the new Woodland Walk and Talk Video Series, our merger with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest including growing the certification and carbon offset program, would not be possible without you! The benefits of working together within the OWA are well demonstrated through the combination of your youthful exuberance and energy with the experience and knowledge of our committees, members, and senior staff. What a team!

In closing, it is important to acknowledge that despite generally good news with respect to the pandemic waning, the OWA Senior Management Team supports public health protocols related to COVID-19. As we get back into having in-person events this fall, we strongly encourage all of our members to be fully vaccinated, and to continue to use physical distancing and masks as regulated. Only by working together will we keep our communities safe and healthy.





# STUDENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



## Executive Director's Note

John Pineau, Executive Director, Near North Chapter

Some members may not know this, but I moonlight as a part-time professor in the forest technician program at Algonquin College, based at the campus in Pembroke. Like working for the OWA, it is a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable use of my time and energy. This past year was actually my first formal foray into this world of academia, co-teaching remote sensing and dendrology with Wayne Reid, and land stewardship with Al Stinson, both long-time friends and colleagues, and like myself members in our Near North Chapter.

As I write this short piece, the land stewardship course has just ended. It ran for six weeks between mid July and mid August. Al and I wanted the course to be field oriented and very much experiential type learning, so we organized it so that for each session we would hold a short early-morning lecture, and then have the class visit a member's woodlot for the remainder of the day. It was important that the landowners had different forest conditions and a variety of objectives for their properties, to show the students.

Since Algonquin College in Pembroke is in the heart of our Renfrew County Chapter, it was quite easy to set things up, and the members we approached were all delighted to welcome our students, to show off their woodlots, and to tell their stories. We also included data collection and analysis exercises during each field trip. This way the students could both consolidate what they had been learning all year, and also provide our members with some information on the state of their woodlots, including productivity and health. One of the field trips was to the Larose Forest in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. The students collected validation data

for our Woodlot Economics and Inventory Project, specifically the forest inventory that we have derived from LiDAR; more detail on the Larose excursion is nicely summarized by Intern Ben Gwilliam in the *Your OWA at Work* section.

The positive collaboration and synergies that resulted from the land stewardship course cannot be overstated in my mind. The students received some excellent real-world experience in private land forestry, and they met passionate and dedicated woodlot owners from our membership. The course also introduced them to the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. In fact, the assignment for the final field trip during week six included preparation of a basic MFTIP plan for the landowner. Many of the students have now expressed real interest in working in private land forestry.

## GET INVOLVED

**FSC Forest Certification**

**Carbon Offset Program**

**Educational Events**

**Forest Health Network**

**Forest Owners Cooperatives**

**Advocacy**

**Woodlot Buy & Sell**

**Woodland Store**

In closing, Al and I would like to thank our Renfrew County Chapter members who were so welcoming and engaged: Tony and Anne Bull, Tom Adamchick and Susan Taylor, Ray Bonenberg, John and Helen-Anne Stuart, and George and Susie Bruemmer! Thanks also to Steve Hunter and the staff at the Larose Forest! All of us working together made the course wonderfully informative and truly special. Word has gotten out too, and there is interest from other schools and organizations, including our own, to replicate and adapt the course elsewhere in the province. The feedback from all involved has been gratifying, but ultimately it demonstrates very well, the powerful benefits of everyone working together!



*Renfrew County Chapter member Ray Bonenberg welcomes Algonquin College forest technician students to his woodlot (Mapleside Sugar Bush) as part of the land stewardship course.*



# YOUR OWA AT WORK

By Ben Gwilliam, Master of Forest Conservation Candidate, University of Toronto, York-Durham Chapter

People working together is at the heart of sustainable forest management, as many specialties contribute to our knowledge and understanding of best practices. Organizations that foster collaboration and promote knowledge sharing are essential to good land stewardship, and our Association is certainly in this category. Through my internship this summer I have been honoured to help lead the collaborative efforts of our Woodlot Economic and Inventory Project in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. In recent years the OWA has partnered with the Master of Forest Conservation program at the University of Toronto (UofT), with the objective of providing real-world experience to students through projects that inform and empower woodlot owners. I am proud to be part of this continuing partnership between the OWA and the UofT.

Nowhere were the achievements in collective effort on greater display than during the recent data gathering blitz in the Larose Forest as a part of our Economic and Inventory Project. The goal was to update the aerial laser (LiDAR) scanning that was done in 2014 by measuring how much the forests have changed in seven years. This work involved establishing plots to measure trees for their species, condition, diameter, and height. Normally this level of effort represents a huge task reserved for an entire summer of cruising. However, with the collaborative effort of the OWA, the Algonquin College forestry technician program, the Larose Forest,

and funding from the Forestry Futures Trust, the Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio Economy (CRIBE), and Cascades Pulp and Paper... we measured over 2,600 trees in just 24 hours!

Not only was the data gathering blitz successful, but the weekend was also a blast with everyone working together during the day, and all of us sharing stories and songs by the campfire at night. On deck to help me supervise the Algonquin student crews were members Al Stinson, John Pineau, Peter Arbour, and also Steve Hunter—the Larose Forester who provided invaluable advice and support. As well, Shan, Erica and Scott from our staff came to help out, and OWA President Paul Robertson stopped by for a much-appreciated morale boost. The days were hot, and we were worn-out but well-fed. We were all left with the satisfying experience of what can be accomplished by people pooling resources and working together.

The long-life spans and many benefits of forests make their management a unique field where people are naturally encouraged to work together towards a common goal. The OWA reflects this concept, bringing together industry, government, academia, and citizens to provide a benefit much greater than the sum of its parts. If it sounds like I am gushing, it is because I am. To me, the members and chapters that make up the OWA are an inspiration in their collective achievement of advocacy for landowners and the private forests of Ontario, and I will forever be thankful for having been a part of it all!

*Organizing the Algonquin student crews for data collection at the Larose Forest.*



*Algonquin forest tech students take a break after a long day of data collection at the Larose Forest.*



*OWA interns Shan Shukla (left) and Ben Gwilliam (right) prepare breakfast for the crews at the Larose Forest.*



## POP QUIZ

1

What are the locations of the two OWA Community Forest Owners Cooperative Pilots?

2

What are the names of our two OWA summer interns who are working toward their Master of Forest Conservation degrees at the University of Toronto?

3

Where has the OWA focused its Woodlot Economics and Inventory Project this year?

### ANSWERS:

1. Fleetwood (in the Kawartha) and Huronia
2. Ben Gwilliam and Shan Shukla
3. The United Counties of Prescott and Russell





# THE BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER

**See how cooperation, collaboration and partnerships are fundamental to all successful forest projects and programs!**

## ***ON WE GO!***

### **THE FUTURE OF THE EASTERN ONTARIO MODEL FOREST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

By Glen Prevost, Certification Coordinator, Near North Chapter

**T**here are exciting days ahead for the Eastern Ontario Model Forest Certification Program. Jim Hendry, the recently-retired Certification Coordinator, has left the program in excellent shape. As the new Certification Coordinator, I am thankful to have a solid foundation for program growth. And grow we will! The merger with the Ontario Woodlot Association, opportunities in the carbon market, and the potential for novel partnerships are reasons for great optimism, and I will discuss these opportunities in a moment.

This issue of the Woodlander showcases how we achieve more when we cooperate and work together. The Certification Program is evidence of this truth. Martin Streit's article in the last issue of the Woodlander showed off many of the achievements of the Certification Program. None of these would have been possible without working together: Together as landowners



*Tony and Ann Bull enjoying their FSC certified wooded property.*



and managers, together as organizations, together as a voice for sustainable forest management in Ontario.

The Certification Program will continue to be based on cooperation and collaboration for mutual benefit. Cooperating to achieve forest certification allows for many forest owners to come together to share in the benefits and costs of FSC® certification, under one umbrella known as an FSC Group Certificate. Woodlot owners and community forest managers can struggle to achieve certification on their own. Costs, time, and knowledge of the certification process are all barriers to certification for individual woodlot owners and community forest managers. But together, we can overcome these barriers and offer affordable forest certification for private and community forest owners across the province. In this way we all work together to share knowledge, experiences, and costs and collectively raise the standard of forest management in Ontario.

The EOMF merger with the Ontario Woodlot Association will increase the collaboration and benefits to the forests and their owners certified under our group certificate. Additional training, new recruitment methods, enhanced profile, access to additional resources, and a new business plan can all become possible through this merger. These are just some of the ideas that are being considered. The brainstorm list is even longer. Although the merger is still in the early stages and these initiatives are still being developed, there is great enthusiasm within both organizations, the current group members, and the new Certification Coordinator to turn these ideas into actions.

Arguably the most exciting opportunity is in the carbon offset market. In 2018, EOMF developed a formal partnership with Bluesource Canada, a leading developer of forest carbon and other greenhouse gas offsets. Through this partnership, the Model Forest can help community forests generate carbon offsets for sale in

the carbon market. In the past few years, Quinte Conservation, Bruce County, and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville have all pursued carbon offset projects.

Forest Certification, such as that offered through our FSC Group Certificate is a prerequisite for selling carbon offsets. As other forest owners learn of the benefits of selling carbon offsets, more will be looking to join our FSC Group Certificate. Carbon offset projects are significant commitments, but the rewards can be substantial. Landowners commit to managing their lands to a Forest Certification Standard such as FSC or SFI for a period of forty to one-hundred years or more. In exchange the landowners can make a significant profit selling carbon offsets. Improved forest management practices and conservation of forest values are the direct outcome of forest carbon offset projects. For landowners who manage their lands sustainably, managing for carbon can easily be incorporated in their current practices.

It is exciting to engage in the creative planning process around the future of the Certification Program, but we must always bear in mind the main reasons we offer this Program. These reasons are to raise the standard of forest management in Ontario, to conserve our forest values, and ultimately maintain or generate healthy, productive forests. Healthy, productive forests generate all the other benefits we value about the forest such as recreation, forest products such as lumber and maple syrup, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and air and water filtration.

As we look to grow the program, I would also encourage readers to have a friendly conversation with their local municipalities, conservation authorities, or other forest owners and ask how those forests are

managed. Are they certified? If not, have they considered the benefits of certification? Certification can enhance the good work they are already doing.

*The Ontario Woodlander* provides an excellent forum for communicating with certified forest managers and owners and this article will be the first of a standing series of articles and news updates about the Model Forest Certification Program. For those who are interested in certification of their own woodlots, more information can be found at the links below or you can contact me directly.

Glen Prevost's email:  
[glen.prevost@ontariowoodlot.com](mailto:glen.prevost@ontariowoodlot.com)

Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Forest Certification webpage: <https://www.eomf.on.ca/programs/certification>

Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Forest Carbon Offset Program webpage: <https://www.eomf.on.ca/programs/carbon-offsets>



*Ray Bonenberg, owner of Mapleside Farms achieved FSC certification through the EOMF for his woodlot and maple sugaring operation and can label his products as FSC certified.*

**“WE ACHIEVE MORE WHEN WE COOPERATE AND WORK TOGETHER”**







A feller-buncher thins a plantation in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell's FSC certified Larose Forest. Ensuring harvests are sustainable is an important part of FSC certification.



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# COMMUNITY FOREST

## OWNERS COOPERATIVE PILOTS ARE GAINING TRACTION!

By: Shan Shukla, Master of Forest Conservation Candidate, University of Toronto, York-Durham Chapter

Conifer plantations in Southern Ontario were introduced in the early 20th century to help improve the state of our rapidly eroding soils. Plantations on public lands have generally been effectively managed by the provincial government, and conservation authorities. However, those on private lands have been largely neglected, and they exist now as hundreds of thousands of hectares of fragmented and orphaned plantations. The main reason for this situation stems from the cost to perform forest management activities on these private forests. Other reasons include a lack of knowledge amongst landowners, as well as constant changes in ownership in some cases.

The Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) is currently working with forest landowners in Huronia and Fleetwood (Kawartha) to undertake two community forest owners cooperative pilot projects, which will help to reduce the cost of managing their woodlots, and foster a more robust base of knowledge and understanding for these landowners. Economies of scale will be built around geographic clusters of properties where best management practices are collectively applied to help bring down overall costs. By combining individual small parcels of plantations into this larger unit, the total area available to manage and harvest becomes more attractive and viable for forest service providers including prescription-writers, tree markers, harvesting contractors, and ultimately to mills.

Being a widely connected non-profit organization, the OWA holds a wealth of knowledge in woodlot management along with many valuable connections within

the forest sector. With its longstanding knowledge and far-reaching networks, the OWA can facilitate and help oversee the management, harvesting, and subsequent sale of timber from private woodlots formed as cooperatives.

Forest cooperatives have seen success internationally and closer to home in Nova Scotia and Quebec, along with others south of the border, and out west. These successful cooperatives have served their communities for years, sometimes decades. Their mission statements include performing forest management in a sustainable fashion, with ecosystem resilience at the forefront. They also focus on supporting and advocating for local economies, community education, and democratic management. These core values stem from the three pillars of sustainable forest management encompassing economic, social, and ecological considerations.

Most of the woodlots of interest are red pine plantations established many decades ago and are in need, or overdue for a first thinning. The pilot projects will help in strengthening existing and potentially developing new markets for fibre resulting from this initial thinning, while subsequent thinnings are expected to yield higher economic returns to landowners.

“Returns from managed woodlots throughout the years will only increase with growth, resulting in more revenue to landowners” — Eleanor Reed (RPF, OWA Kawartha Chapter President). If successful, there will be potential to create more of these markets in Ontario and include other key members such as Indigenous landowners, First Nations, and Community Forests.

## **“FOREST COOPERATIVES HAVE SEEN SUCCESS INTERNATIONALLY AND CLOSER TO HOME”**

Ecologically, these projects will serve as the catalyst to initiate and sustain wide-scale improvement of woodlots through the transition from red pine monocultures to more native, mixed-wood stands. These resulting mixed-wood plantations will exhibit better health, and resiliency to future climatic changes, invasive elements, and pests. In fact, the Kawartha Land Trust has partnered with the OWA to achieve increased biodiversity in their plantations. One Landowner in the Fleetwood area noticed that: *“When I walk through the reforested pines, there are no birds, or animals. I want to create a more diverse forest so that birds will nest and live in this forest, as well as the ones around it... Also having many different types of trees will help reduce the risk of pests killing off the entire forest, reduce the risk of fire damage, and improve the soil, as it will not be as acidic with leaves falling instead of needles. I have made some attempts to do these things on my own. But having the OWA with all of their contacts, knowledge, access to seedlings, etc. makes it so much more likely that the project will be a complete success”*

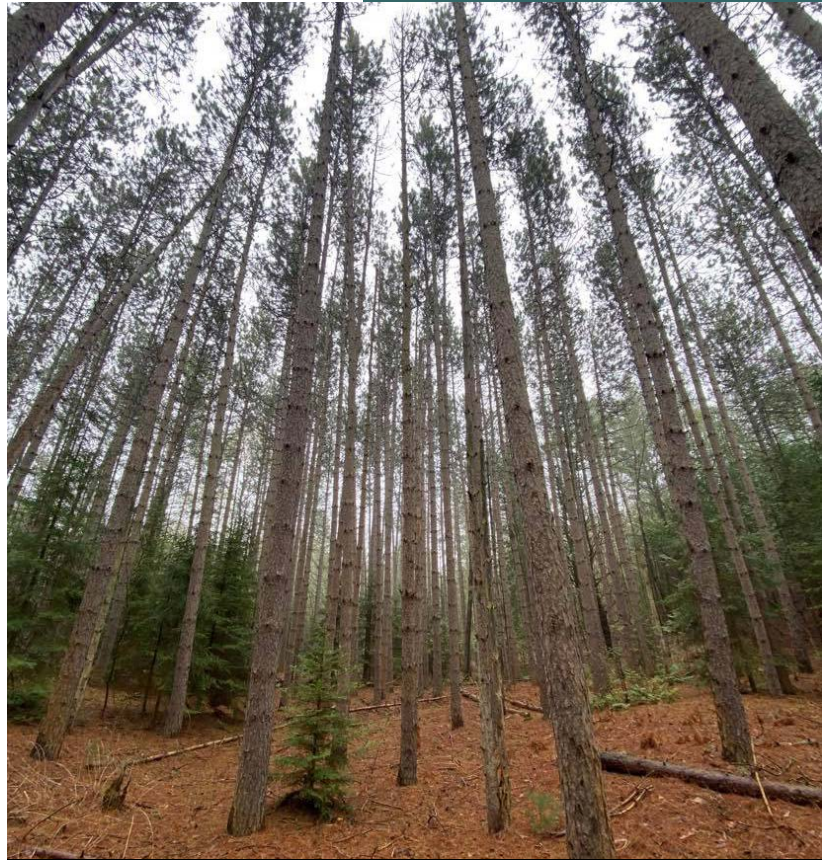
Equally valuable will be an educational component where the OWA will provide re-





sources such as educational videos, and guidance from forestry professionals to educate landowners. This will allow them to be more knowledgeable stewards of their ecologically significant lands.

As a student with the Master of Forest Conservation program at the University of Toronto, I have joined the pilot project as an impartial, third party to objectively evaluate the success of the pilot projects. My involvement will help the OWA in determining whether the cooperative projects are sufficiently rigorous and viable to continue and potentially see adoption in other parts of Ontario. The cooperative models developed by the OWA will be looked at through a holistic lens, and compared alongside other programs that have seen successes and struggles. By combining these metrics with the economic and ecological outcomes out of Huronia and Fleetwood, a conclusive evaluation can be made to determine the health of this cooperative and its future potential.



*An example of an approximately 70-year-old Red Pine plantation in the Fleetwood Watershed in need of a first thinning.*

*Myself (left) along with Art Shannon (centre) and my colleague (Ben Gwilliam) on the right taking inventory of an overgrown plantation in Southern Ontario.*





# WORKING TOGETHER

## CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES AND WOODLOT OWNERS WORKING TOGETHER

By John Enright, R.P.F., Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, Elgin-Middlesex Chapter

**G**etting to know the forestry staff person at your local Conservation Authority can be a great resource for any woodlot owner. Forestry staff can provide advice on a wide range of topics including species identification, insect/disease issues, invasive species, harvesting, pruning, wetland creation, tree planting, the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), and more.

For woodlot owners interested in purchasing trees or having trees planted, the Conservation Authority is a great option. Many Conservation Authorities offer both seedlings and large stock trees, with the choice of planting on your own or entering into a full-service contract that could include site preparation, planting, and tending. To help offset the cost of trees and tree planting, grants are usually available. Conservation Authorities are program delivery agents for Forests Ontario's 50 Million Tree, Highway of Heroes, and Over the Counter programs. In addition to the funding provided by Forests Ontario, Conservation Authorities often have other local sources of funding that can supplement or possibly fund tree planting projects that are not funded by Forests Ontario. When it comes to funding, each Conservation Authority is unique, so it is always best to check with your local Conservation Authority to see what might be available.

**“FOR WOODLOT OWNERS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING TREES OR HAVING TREES PLANTED, THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY IS A GREAT OPTION”**

### CASE STUDY – TREE PLANTING AND THE MFTIP

Conservation Authority Staff's Perspective (John Enright, Forester UTRCA)

I met Jim and Cheryl Stephenson, OWA Oxford Chapter members, through tree planting and the MFTIP. In 2008, Jim and Cheryl contacted the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) about the possibility of retiring 7.5 acres of marginal agricultural land into trees. At a site visit that fall, they showed me a piece of agricultural land with eroded knolls and wet depressions that made cropping difficult and unproductive. The site was ideally suited to trees and would qualify for funding under the Forests Ontario 50 Million Tree Program.

We drafted a planting prescription, including site preparation, species, and spacing. Jim and Cheryl would establish a cover crop of barley, timothy, and Dutch white clover in April 2009 and the UTRCA would machine plant 4500 seedlings - a mix of 75per cent deciduous and 25per cent coniferous - in May 2009.

The species we selected were black cherry, bittersweet hickory, silver maple, bur oak, red oak, black walnut, white pine, and tamarack. Our staff applied herbicide at the time of planting and again in April 2010.

In the following years, Jim and Cheryl continued to maintain the site by mowing

between the rows three to four times per year. A survival assessment in 2013 (year 5) revealed 95per cent survival. The success of this planting is a true testament to the dedication and efforts of Jim and Cheryl.

In 2010, Jim and Cheryl entered their property into the MFTIP program. The 7.5-acre plantation, plus 35.3 acres of natural woodland, resulted in 42.8 acres of their 50-acre property being MFTIP eligible. Jim and Cheryl wrote the plan themselves and I reviewed and approved it. Of all the landowners I have worked with over the years on MFTIP, they are the only ones who have taken the initiative to write the plan on their own. With a little guidance, they did an excellent job.

To this day, Jim and Cheryl continue to educate themselves on woodlot management. It is always good to catch up with them at OWA events and learn how their woodland is maturing and what new initiatives they are tackling.



*Jim and Cheryl Stephenson of Oxford Chapter.*





## WOODLOT OWNERS' PERSPECTIVE (JIM AND CHERYL STEPHENSON)

We had a goal to expand our woodlot and maintain the existing bush, to protect nature and the environment. If we keep it healthy it will help protect and benefit all of us. We appreciate nature and enjoy the variety of animals, plants, and trees that exist in our area. Nature provides us with many sights to see and there is a joy in discovering new changes in the woodlot.

In the original bush, any diseased trees are removed. Our plan was to only use what is needed for firewood and lumber, from the trees that have fallen down. Other trees are left to decay naturally and become homes for wildlife.

In 2009, after attending some tree information meetings we decided to work with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to plant 4,500 trees. Planting this many trees would have been impossible for us to do on our own. The trees we selected will provide food and habitat for a variety of species. We have seen white-tailed deer, red foxes, coyotes, a variety of hawks, squirrels, chipmunks, wild turkeys, raccoons, turtles, frogs, snakes, and skunks.

A variety of song and regular birds (blue jays, cardinals, American goldfinch, red-winged blackbirds, northern flicker, woodpeckers, and hummingbirds to name a few) enjoy the area from the woodlot to the open space around the house.

Working with John Enright and Brenda Gallagher, we were able to develop a MFTIP plan and submit it for the property. The people at UTRCA are very knowledgeable and extremely helpful. Brenda walked through the existing woodlot with us and identified tree species, invasives, and other plants. John finished the plan we had started to ensure everything was correct. Everyone at the UTRCA helped everywhere, from obtaining funding right through to the planting. I know every site is different and they took the time to talk to us about tree selection. We went back and forth to work out a good arrangement since we were after a hardwood planting. In 2019, we renewed our MFTIP with the assistance of Brandon Williamson, also from the UTRCA.

Twelve years have passed by since the little seedlings were planted. In the beginning

you had to look hard to see the trees. But now, the entire area is filled in, with some trees reaching up to 25 feet (7.5 metres) high. As the years go by, it brings us great pleasure.

The UTRCA has been an excellent partner to work with and staff are more than willing to help people out. We would highly recommend working with the UTRCA or your local CA. They have the knowledge and resources to assist you.

We have found that seminars, websites, conferences, and in recent times webinars from Forests Ontario, the Ontario Woodlot Association, and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority help keep us informed and provide information to ensure we move forward in creating a future.

The next time a forestry question arises, reach out to your local Conservation Authority forestry staff. As this story shows, building that partnership can be a great resource for any woodlot owner. To find your local Conservation Authority, visit: <https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/find-a-conservation-authority>



*Preparing the marginal agriculture land for tree planting in spring 2009.*



*Aerial view taken in August 2021 of the trees planted back in 2009.*



# COLLABORATION

## A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE FOREVER REQUIRES COLLABORATION

By Thomas Unrau, Land Stewardship Manager, Kawartha Land Trust, Kawartha Chapter



KAWARTHA LAND TRUST

**A**s the Land Stewardship Manager with Kawartha Land Trust (KLT), I've had the privilege of working with landowners who have spent a lifetime caring for their woodlots and rural acreages. When a landowner is working with the Land Trust, they are typically interested in seeing the investment that they have made in stewarding their land made permanent. Do you want to know that your land will not be lost to development? Do you care that a future owner does not take a heavy hand in management and not respect the care you have shown to nature on their property? If yes, working with a Land Trust may be something to explore.

Anyone that has marked a stand for harvest or planted a tree knows that management of the natural environment yields rewards that unfold over a long-time frame. It is no surprise that forest managers understand the importance in investing in permanent protection of land. The long term is considered in everything a wise woodlot owner does. For these landowners, with the future of their land in mind, there is a strong case to be made about working with a land trust. Something I often say to landowners is that "the land trust does not do conservation, we just make your conservation permanent".

Land Trusts are charitable organizations that own land, or own a right to land called a conservation easement agreement (CEA). Typically Ontario Land Trusts own land for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The Ontario Farm Land Trust and the Bruce Trail Conservancy notably stretch this mission to include other values.

In the U.S where the land trust movement is 40 years older than in Canada, protection of working land (farms and forests) as well as recreational access and greenspace have become a dominant role of Land Trusts.

There are 56 million acres protected by Land Trusts in the U.S., double the acreage of all the contiguous American national parks (Source: Land Trust Alliance). While comparatively in our infancy in Canada, the American experience shows what collaboration with private landowners has achieved when organizations with strong governance, financial and community structure work with landowners and other environmental organizations.

Landowners can work with land trusts in two ways: 1) Registration of a conservation easement agreement and 2) donation of land to be managed in perpetuity to protect its natural or working values. A third way is also emerging as land trusts collaborate with other organizations such as the OWA

A conservation easement agreement (CEA) permanently and legally attaches on the title restrictions against destruction of the forests, wetlands, or fields on a property. The property can be transferred but the restrictions remain forever. The land trust is responsible for monitoring the property every year to ensure that the restrictions have not been broken, and to enforce violations with legal action or restoration. Restrictions are legally agreed on that are relevant to the land, and to the landowner engaged. For example, woodlot owners that want to allow harvest of trees in a thoughtful and sustainable manner can restrict forestry that isn't done following an approved Managed Forest Plan. Such a restriction protects the property future owners high grading, over harvesting and disregarding natural heritage features, but allows wood to be harvested sustainably by any future owner. Other broad restrictions against development or aggregate extraction can be placed where appropriate, on all or a portion of the property. Some areas can



*The author leading a guided walk at the property celebration of Ayotte's Point Woods in 2018.*

be left completely unrestricted. Would you want to ensure the permanent protection of your property, especially in areas where development is on the horizon? Unlike government policy, Conservation Easement Agreements are applied based on your deep knowledge of your property, in collaboration with you applying restrictions that balance protection of nature with the livability (or ability to work on) the property.

Donating property to a land trust is another option for landowners who want the legacy of their stewardship to be maintained for future generations. Imagine your land protected in 100 years, what will the land surrounding your property look like? Land Trusts can accept land and manage it according to the intention of the donors as long as the management vision aligns with the Land Trusts objects of incorporation. Many Land Trusts bring the capacity of expert staff and volunteer ecologists, foresters, and planners as well as the passion of volunteers for boots on the ground work.





Any landowner knows that land ownership isn't free and requires hard work and commitment. Land Trusts only accept the donation of land or the responsibility of a CEA if they can ensure long term financial capacity to care for the land, through the maintenance of an endowment or stewardship fund. Land Trusts work hard to ensure ownership in the long term through solid governance structures, and mechanisms for protection of donated land in a worst-case scenario.

Fortunately the federal government recognizes the value that landowners make to Canada when they entrust land or a CEA to Land Trust. The Ecological gift program (managed by Environment Canada in Collaboration with the Canada Revenue Agency) was created to give additional income tax benefits to these landowners. When the property is donated its value is appraised, and the Land Trust issues a tax receipt for this value. When a CEA is registered, it typically is viewed as a negative impact to the lands value because it restricts certain uses. An appraisal is done considering the value of the land before the CEA and after it was registered. A tax receipt is issued for the appraised loss in value. In Canada 1,632 land owners have donated land through this program, seeing their properties protected forever and received the income tax benefits.

Some Land Trusts are realizing that to support their vision of a thriving natural environment they must move beyond the



*Fleetwood Creek property, 2019.*

tools of ownership and CEAs. After all, Land trusts should not own every property, but every property contributes to landscape health. Some Land Trust are learning ways to support landowners in stewardship of their property. Last year the OWA and KLT collaborated to pilot a plantation thinning project in a part of our shared geography. Woodland cover is exceptionally high in this area and KLT is working to both permanently protect the forests in the area, and improve the overall quality of all forests. Many small plantations however cannot be thinned because it's difficult to attract a logger to small areas. Collectively however landowners could create healthier and more productive plantations if they are thinned. KLT brought our expertise in local landowner contact, management of local landscape information and GIS capacity and the OWA

brought their knowledge of plantations, management of the contracts and forestry and industry connections willing to go out on a limb to support the concept. We have created a pilot forest cooperative, and are excited to see plantations being managed through this program. This is one example of a stewardship problem on the landscape that requires collaboration between landowners and organizations to find meaningful solutions.

The work Land Trusts are taking on partnering with landowners shows a commitment to a vision of healthy landscapes in which they work. This vision is compelling to many supporters of land trust, who support these charities with donations covering much of their operating revenue, and fundraising to protect new properties. Whether you're a landowner or a donor to an environmental charity many people envision the importance a healthy landscape for our future. The Land Trust can be a place around which to organize and actualize this vision. As a result of its merger with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, the OWA will also realize charitable status; a move that will no doubt move us closer to that shared vision. The OWA's charitable status gives you - the woodlot owner - an opportunity to consider how you and your land want to contribute to the vision we all have share of a permanently healthy landscape, where forests are well managed and protected for future generations.



*Vincent Woods property, 2017.*



# THE ECOVILLAGE MODEL

## AN INFORMAL Q&A

By Erica Dixon, OWA Communications Coordinator, Kawartha Chapter

**A**n ecovillage is an intentional, traditional or urban community that is consciously designed through locally owned participatory processes in all four dimensions of sustainability (social, culture, ecology and economy) to regenerate social and natural environments. I personally find the concept itself and the locations where they have become a reality, to be fascinating, and a practical and powerful option for our planet as we strive to make humanity's footprint much lighter! I recently interviewed members of The Whole Village; an established ecovillage located in the Caledon Hills of Ontario.

### HOW DID YOUR COMMUNITY START?

A group of folks of different backgrounds met in the mid 1990's to create a vision and founding principles for a rural ecovillage, then locate a farm that would allow for residences. Finally, a 191-acre mixed farm in Caledon was purchased in 2002 and plans for housing



*Three members working together to do farm jobs during a WorkBee.*



*Solar panels support our goal to meet our energy and resource needs locally.*

began. After many designs and a court case to test the final eco-house plan, the building of Greenhaven took place from 2004-2006. After all, 11 member/households moved in, a co-operative legal structure was chosen, and many policies and procedures were created. Although only two of the original members still live here and the vision and mission have been updated, the concept is still alive and developing. Our current mission is: Whole Village is a co-operative farming ecovillage that aspires to model and support resilient, just, and regenerative systems.

### WHO LIVES AT YOUR ECOVILLAGE?

There are singles, couples, and families with children at Whole Village, 21 people at the moment. Ages range from 3 to 87. Most of the administration and farming is done voluntarily. There have been 11 different young farmers over the years learning to run a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) business, usually living in the farmhouse with interns and single farmworkers. We have one paid part time employee for maintenance and renovation.

### HOW DO YOU GOVERN AND MAKE DECISIONS?

We use the consensus method of decision making at monthly Meetings of the Round to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. All residents, whether renters or owners have a say in decisions. There are seven mandate groups that also meet monthly to carry out various responsibilities, e.g., Communication, Farmland Stewardship, Legal and Financial.

### HOW IS LAND OWNED AND MANAGED?

The land is owned by nine households with equal shares. Two of the original shares are held by the cooperative and are waiting for buyers. The land is managed by the young farmer and members who gift their time and knowledge to aspects of farming, e.g., fruit, trees, poultry, herbs. Some residents organize their own small co-ops to raise meat animals, manage an apiary, or collect maple syrup. The group makes decisions about the farm at monthly meetings run by consensus.





## WHAT ARE SOME ALTERNATIVE LAND MANAGEMENT STYLES WITH WHICH YOU ARE EXPERIMENTING?

We started with a permaculture plan and have amended and added to it as we continue observing the land. As of 2021 we have planted 26,000 trees for windbreaks, shelterbelts, wildlife corridors, forest buffers, new forests, and silvopasturing—the integration of trees and livestock grazing on the same land. Three areas are modeling edible forests, a mixture of native trees and bushes, fruit, and nuts. Two small orchards have been established as well as cropland developed for hay, straw and sometimes grain for poultry. We are trying to move toward low and no till field preparation. With the cattle improving the soil and pastures, as well as cover crops and rotations, we are also attempting to implement regenerative agriculture. Many acres are being rewilded for animals, birds, and insects. We have a conservation easement with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy to protect and steward the land.

## WHAT ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU WORK WITH AND HOW CAN INDIVIDUALS GET INVOLVED?

We are members of the National Farmers Union, local farm groups and activists, as well as the Ontario Environmental Network and the Federation of Intentional Communities. It had been very important for us to meet local farmers and environmentalists to humbly learn about the area, its issues and needs and join in with like minded people in community events, workshops, etc. We also invite others here for educational events, socials, and work parties.

People can get involved by going to our website [www.wholevillage.org](http://www.wholevillage.org), attending an orientation, coming to the farm for a tour, or going through the membership process to join us. Work bees are a fun way to meet members and help on the farm.

## WHAT ARE SOME OTHER TOPICS YOU FEEL MAY BE RELEVANT TO ONTARIANS WHO CARE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY?

Learning about permaculture and regenerative agriculture have been enlightening for us to proceed toward our vision: We envision a transformed world in which humanity lives in right relationship within the web of life.



*Members gathering for a community social event.*



*Our state-of-the-art greenhouse that supports our CSA farm.*



# MORE TOGETHER

## ADDING VALUE IN PRIVATE FOREST OWNERSHIP

By Dr. Lauri Sikanen, Principal Scientist, Natural Resources Institute Finland and  
Adjunct Professor at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario

The word “cooperative” has a historical sense of socialism, but modern cooperatives show that all other benefits are following economic sustainability and competitiveness, not vice versa. An energy cooperative is a business typically taking care of biomass-based heating of public buildings or private business premises. Energy cooperatives found their niche when oil prices started to skyrocket in the 1990’s and early 2000’s. Many municipalities and other large-scale heating oil users found renewable energy offered by local forest owners to be cheaper and supportive of local economies. According to the last survey (2018), 112 local heating plants in Finland are owned and run by cooperatives. The Matapedian region in Quebec has successfully transferred and adapted the model in their operational environment.

In this model private forest owners form a cooperative, which enters into a heating contract with the customer. The cooperative makes an investment in a heating plant using low grade timber and sells the “heating service”. For a private forest owner, the heating business offers the opportunity to control the whole value chain and to create more value, especially for the low-grade timber and slash.

Kontio-Energia (Bear-Energy) is a good example of this business model. It was es-

tablished in 1998 by local forest owners in Kontiolahti, in Eastern Finland. Nowadays Kontio-Energia runs six heating plants. The biggest is the Lehmo plant, which is heating a local school, a nursing home, and a housing complex with blocks of flats and row-houses. The size of the plant is 1.2 megawatts.

The CEO of Kontio-Energia, Ilkka Lukkarinen says that the future looks bright. The number of members in their cooperative has grown from 12 in 1998 up to 26. New customers are sought after, but often good candidates have already contracted with someone. “Kontiolahti region is located on an important ground water zone. However, just recently the drilling of deep geoheat wells was strictly limited. That restriction might help in finding new customers”, says CEO Lukkarinen.

Becoming more common, Jointly Owned Forest (JOF) is a form of private forest ownership where owners are more often urban dwellers rather than hands on farmers or forest workers. The idea of a JOF is that forest owners join their forest properties as one legal entity. The share of ownership is based on the forest area each owner brings into JOF. By merging the forests, the JOF is then big enough to hire professionals to take care of the forests. Big forestry units also offer opportunities for hunting tourism and well-maintained



*East-Siberian Laika “Kuru” and Timo Jumisko, Chairman of the Board in Salla JOF is ready for bear hunting season. The autumn bear hunt is one of the recreational highlights in JOF’s forests.*

recreation infrastructure. Shares of JOFs are also rated better than single forest estates as a guarantee of bank loans. A JOF plans harvesting operations effectively and sells timber regularly thereby creating income for the owners.

A very typical example is Salla JOF in Northern Finland. The forest area of 71,000 hectares is formed by 1,558 separate forest estates. The growing stock is 3.1 Mm<sup>3</sup> and annual growth is 115 000 m<sup>3</sup>. In 2020 Salla JOF sold 107,000 m<sup>3</sup> of timber. Salla JOF owns five cabins, which can be rented. A hunting license for small game is EUR 31.50 per day. The chairman of the board Mr. Timo Jumisko says that a JOF is a very suitable and modern form of private forest ownership. He is getting

**“A forest is an asset, which can be managed more effectively by building networks and partnerships.”**





ready for the bear hunting season and says that non-members are welcome to hunt bear by paying a fee of about EUR 50 for a license.

Owning of forest has very long and strong traditions in Finland. While owners have different and changing objectives and priorities, the economic benefit will stay in the “top three” of the list. A forest is an asset, which can be managed more effectively by building networks and partnerships. JOFs are in the high season just now in Finland. The total number of JOFs is 520 and includes 39 which were established in 2019 according to Land Survey statistics. Sometimes the Finnish Forest Service has offered affordable land areas or land exchanges for JOF members to enlarge their business, especially in Northern Finland. JOFs have their own laws and they can be utilized also by heirs when ownership is transferring from the older generation.

Private forest ownership is a fundamental part of Finnish society. It is well understood and represented in the government. I must admit that the situation is somewhat exceptional, but Finland probably can act as a showcase for numerous features concerning private forest ownership as a part of the forest bioeconomy. What has been done in Finland can be benchmarked and adapted well into a new operational environment, like the Matapedian, Quebec example of a heating cooperative has proven.




*Kontio-Energia's Chairman of the Board, Ilkka Lukkarinen with chipper contractor Tero Liimatta, refilling the hopper of the heating plant in Kylmäoja Primary School, which is heated by the Cooperative.*



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# WOODLAND LIVING

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## MEET THE ARTISAN

**“GRUMPSY” AKA JAMES G. WALT**

By Jim “Grumpsy” Walt, Quinte Chapter

I am a wood turner, which means I transform blocks of wood using a lathe to create bowls, vases, and other pieces. I work with local and exotic woods; starting with a block of a tree that I cut to size with a chain saw, which is then further cut to the appropriate shape, called a blank. The blank might be a large circle if I am going to turn a bowl or a plank shape if I am turning a vase, hollow form, or spindle.

My turnings are started one of two ways. The first uses a green blank, which I turn twice. The first turning gives the blank a shape, and then I dry it in one of several ways. Then I turn the piece again to a final shape, at which point a finish is applied. The second uses a dried blank. The main difference when turning a dried blank is that I dry the piece before the turning process begins, rather than after the blank is turned.

I have worked with wood my entire adult life, such as building small pieces of furniture and refinishing antiques. Although I had always wanted to attempt turning wood,



*Jim “Grumpsy” Walt with one of his unique wood creations!*



## “MY FAVOURITE PIECE IS MY NEXT ONE!”

It was not until my retirement that I found the time and resources to give it a try. I started with a small hobby lathe and some basic tools, and quickly found a passion for lathing. Since then, I have progressed to using professional grade lathing equipment, and find myself continually seeking more varied and challenging projects as I continue to hone my craft.

I am mostly self-taught, having spent countless hours watching professional turners on YouTube. I also joined the Quinte Wood Turners Guild (QWTG) and befriended several of the turners there who have been turning for decades. In addition to belonging to the QWTG here in Quinte West, I am also a member of the American Association of Wood Turners, Arts Quinte West, The Quinte Arts Council as well as several online forums that include members from all over the world, this gives me several communities of turners and Artisans to learn from and share knowledge with as I advance and learn new techniques.

My favourite piece is my next one! I know that sounds peculiar but the true enjoyment for me is in the creation of each piece and dealing with the uncertainty of how it will “turn” out... pun intended. I suppose I do have some memorable pieces, but everything I make is sold or gifted to someone. I rarely keep my own work but do collect pieces from fellow turners. My pieces can be found in Scotland, Switzerland, Greece, Mexico, Iran, United States, and all across Canada.

I have turned some interesting, custom projects such as a gavel, pen, and soundboard for Mayor of Quinte West Jim Harrison, after his second term victory. I also turned a bowl from a tree donated by the Royal family to CFB Trenton in approximately 1953. The tree died in 2016 and I obtained some of the dead wood to make a bowl



*Coloured maple burl vase.*

that I gifted back to the commanders of the base as a memento of the tree. It is on display at the base pub along with other mementos. This story was covered locally in print and then on a CBC radio interview with Wei Chen. I also won a commission to produce five pieces to be presented to winning artisans in five categories for The Quinte Arts Council. I made five hollow forms for this project.

I teach, coach and mentor many other newer turners, this provides me the opportunity to share what I have learned with others and help to grow the turning community. Additionally, I am doing an increasing number of custom, commissioned pieces for families who wish to have keepsakes made from a cherished family tree that was cut down.

I am currently selling in a wide variety of venues:

- Grill's Orchard and Country Market.
- Sidestreet Gallery in Wellington, Ontario
- Tinhouse woodworking shop in Coe Hill, Ontario
- The Harvest shed in PEC, Ontario
- Ontario Woodlands Store (Ontario Woodlot Association website)

Wood turning has given me countless hours of adventure as I continue to learn new and exciting uses for Ontario wood.

Cheers,  
Jim “Grumpsy” Walt  
Email: [jwalt@cogeco.ca](mailto:jwalt@cogeco.ca)  
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# MEMBER PROFILE

ELIZABETH HEALE

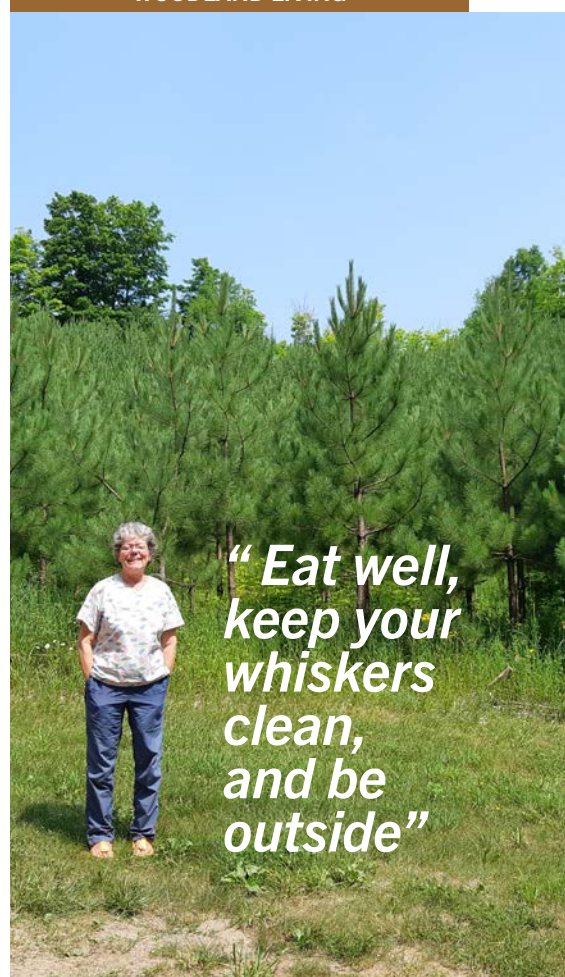
“Eat well, keep your whiskers clean and be outside.” sums up Liz’s advice regarding, not just a forest, but an outdoor centered lifestyle. Liz is a retired registered nurse whose interest in the forestry aspect of being outside evolved when she met her husband Jack, a retired forester. They have experience in woodlot management in several parts of the province. In the early years she and Jack owned and managed, under the WIA (Woodland Improvement Act), a 100-acre colonization farm circa 1854 east of Algonquin Park in the Barry’s Bay area. The farm was primarily dedicated to White Pine with some Red Pine, Maple, and a small Christmas tree plantation. Spring and maple syrup were an annual tradition.

In 2004 they sold their property in Barry’s Bay and moved back to Sault Ste. Marie where in 2009 they purchased property which contained an unsanctioned semi-rehabilitated gravel pit that encompasses a portion of an adjacent property. They planted 16,000 Red

Pine over the entire gravel pit area which they now manage with their adjacent neighbours. Unfortunately, the property does not meet the requirements to be managed under the MIFTIP program. However, to stay informed they joined the Algoma Chapter of the OWA to remain involved and keep up to date with other private and commercial woodlot stewardship activities in the Algoma area. They attended many of the local OWA sponsored outings and several local chapter annual general meetings. Liz was approached to sit on the chapter executive and ultimately accepted the position of chapter president. She has many good memories of working with an amazing group of people on the executive and with many of the chapter’s members.

Due to COVID-19 it was decided by the executive, with input from the Algoma membership, to place the chapter into hibernation and re-evaluate in 2022. Liz has resigned her position after two plus years, but she and Jack remain members of the OWA.

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# PUFFBALL TO TABLE

By Jeanette Dillon, Waterloo-Wellington Chapter

**G**rowing up, it was always exciting if one of our family members spotted a puffball. We would get competitive about who found the biggest one and each experience would stir up good memories. As a child, my mom would slice them and fry them in butter. It was a quick and easy snack after our day hiking. This recipe is more of a main course. It pairs nicely with broiled Brussels sprouts, spinach, or asparagus. Enjoy!

## IDENTIFICATION AND HANDLING

Puffballs grow in rich soil, in forests, field edges, or stream banks, and can be very large (50 cm or more in diameter). Generally, they are found in late summer through to the end of fall. They are often easy to spot due to the white contrast against the dark foliage. You do not need a knife to pick them; tip the puffball over and it will easily come free from the ground. Once harvested, place your puffball in a brown paper bag and store it in the fridge until you are ready to prepare it. You can store it for up to a week.



### GOOD

- Look for puffballs that are white, firm, and that sound hollow when you tap them.
- When sliced in half, they are uniformly white, with no “mushroom” shape in the middle.



### BAD

- This puffball was white, but not firm when tapped. When it is broken open, you can see that spores have formed. Do not eat this.



### BAD

- When puffballs are very old, they change from white to tan or brown. Do not eat this.





# PUFFBALL PARMESAN



- 1** Prepare the puffball. Peel the outside skin off, and then cut out any spots or tunnels made by insects. Do not wash the puffball because it will soak up the water.
- 2** Slice the puffball into 1.5 cm slices. Make sure the interior tissue is uniformly white.
- 3** Prepare two bowls: one with the scrambled eggs, and one with a mix of bread crumbs, salt, and pepper.
- 4** Prepare a frying pan with oil, and heat the oil.  
Cook a puffball slice:
  - a. Dip a puffball slice in egg.
  - b. Coat it with bread crumbs.
  - c. Place it in the frying pan.
  - d. When the bottom of the puffball slice turns a golden brown, flip it over.
  - e. When the second side is browned, remove it from the frying pan and set aside.
 You may want to place it on a paper towel.
- 6** Repeat step 5 until all the puffball slices are cooked. Depending on the size of your frying pan or the size of your puffball slices, you might be able to cook a few slices at once.
- 7** When all of the puffball slices are fried, lay them out on a cookie sheet. I use parchment paper under the slices, but you don't need to.
- 8** Top the puffball slices with pasta sauce, and then sprinkle with mozzarella cheese.
- 9** Broil in the oven until the cheese is melted.

## INGREDIENTS:

1	puffball (roughly 1 lb)
2	eggs
1 C	Italian style bread crumbs with Romano cheese
½ tsp	sea salt
½ tsp	pepper (optional)
~2 C	canola, olive, or vegetable oil
~2 C	pasta sauce (any red pasta sauce that you love)
~2 C	Mozzarella shredded cheese



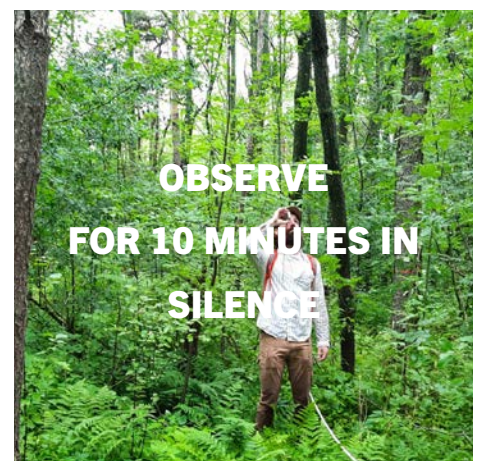
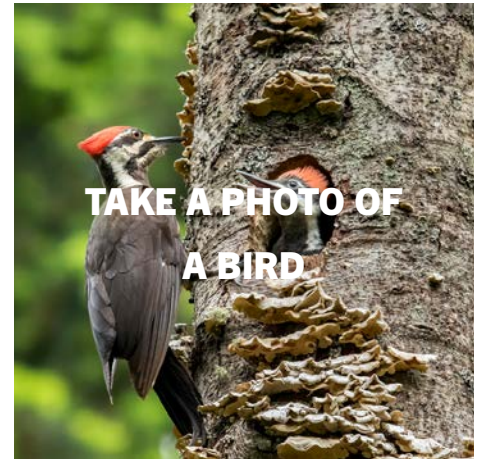


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# PASSAGES

BRENDA TONN

Communications Committee

It can certainly be said that Brenda Tonn of our Kawartha Chapter lived a full and interesting life. For those of us on the Communications Committee, we knew her for many years as she capably carried-out the design and layout for The Ontario Woodlander and its precursor the S&W Report. More recently we knew she was providing homecare and eventually palliative care for her spouse Chris Lincoln, the first President of the OWA, as he battled and finally succumbed to Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). The past few years were no doubt challenging for Brenda, and sadly she was dealing with her own health issues as she selflessly dedicated herself to family and friends. This entire situation was of course exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as well.

Although originally from Canada, Brenda moved to California with her parents when she was about 10 years old. She had an adventurous early life that included travelling to many countries around the world by crewing yachts. She spent a considerable amount of time in Germany, Iran, and South Korea, where she taught English for a year. Brenda's friends acknowledge her love of many different types of food, particularly Korean cuisine. They like to say that she was at heart, a genuine foodie.

"Brenda lived life big," says her close friend and neighbour Jan Thornhill. "She loved to show her grandkids how to eat different and sometimes weird food, and also how to garden. Brenda often showed-up to birthday parties with traditional black forest cake that she had made herself. She was very generous with all of the things she made and created, sharing so much!"

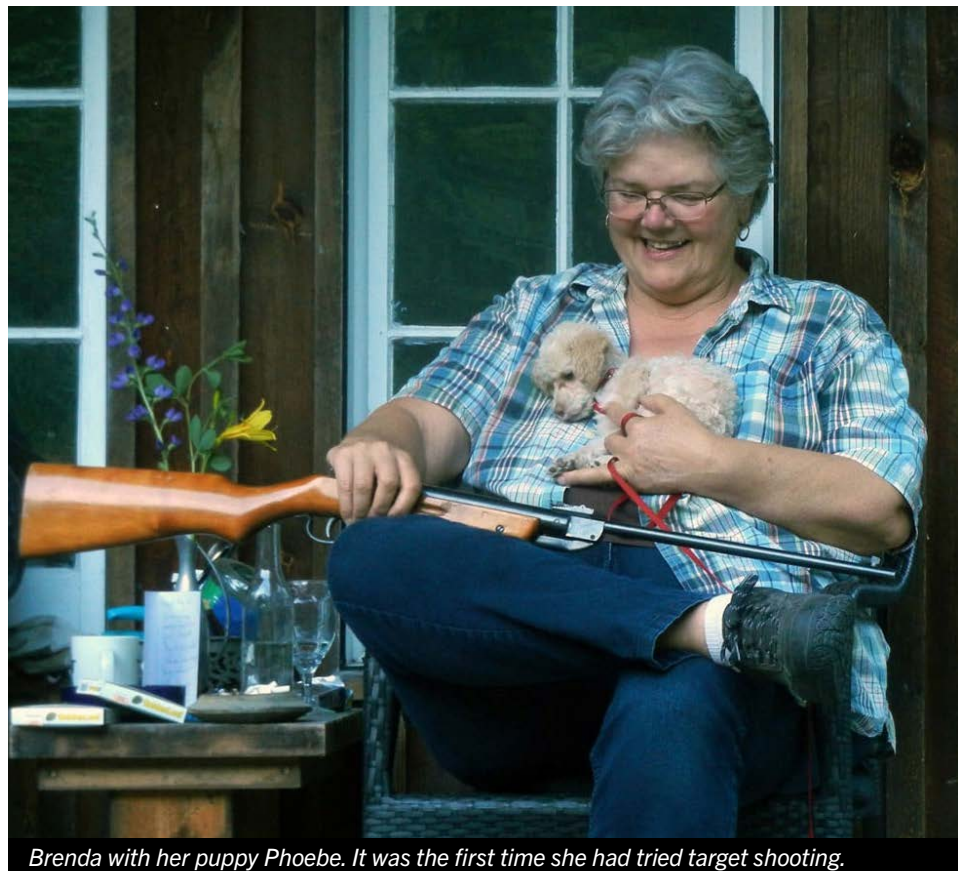
It is not clear how Brenda and Chris ended up in Havelock, but they first came back to Canada around 1987 when they were married. Brenda became a potter and Chris was a sign-painter at that time. Brenda always enjoyed being creative. She got into desktop publishing (thankfully for OWA) and was actually self-taught in many of these practical arts. Around 2000 Brenda and Chris moved to a big acreage again in the Havelock area, and Brenda became an expert organic gardener, with the family growing their own vegetables and raising livestock for their own needs, as well as running a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) business and selling at a local

farmer's market. Brenda also became a master of food preservation, and was particularly smitten by the fermentation process, which she used to make her own vinegars, kimchi, and sauerkraut.

"Whenever I visited their house," says Jan, "there was always something bubbling!"

Brenda Tonn passed away on June 13th, 2021. She is survived by her son Adrian, daughter-in-law Courtney, and two grandchildren.

It is difficult to summarize a life so well lived in this short space. From all of us at the OWA, we thank you Brenda, and we will miss you!



*Brenda with her puppy Phoebe. It was the first time she had tried target shooting.*



# WOODLAND SCIENCE & SKILLS

**Learn about forest health and productivity,  
biodiversity and wildlife habitat...  
from the skills and knowledge of your fellow  
members and forest professionals**

## ***GREENER FUTURE***

### **IT TAKES A FOREST TO ACHIEVE A GREENER FUTURE**

Submitted by Forests Ontario

**D**uring a time when climate change and its impacts have become undeniable and pervasive, our environment and the way we interact with it has been placed under a microscope. Increasingly, Ontarians are involving themselves in conversations about environmental management — and rightfully so, as this is a topic which affects us all.

Forests especially have become embedded in the climate change discussion. It's near impossible to discuss topics like carbon dioxide, greenhouse gases, global warming, or extreme weather without recognizing trees as our frontline climate defenders. Almost overnight, people worldwide have become staunch supporters of our forests. This, though a wonderful thing, underscores the importance of fact-based and publicly accessible information on our forests and their sustainable management. When peo-

ple rely on misinformation, the results can be detrimental.

Through the It Takes a Forest (ITAF) initiative, Forests Ontario, and the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) are working collaboratively to address misperceptions about our forests and forestry. Together, they are enhancing the awareness of sustainable forest management among the public, providing the tools and resources woodlot owners require to manage their own forests, and equipping forest professionals and enthusiasts with the information they need to be the best possible ambassadors of our forests and sustainable forest management practices.

#### **THE IT TAKES A FOREST INITIATIVE**

In 2016, Forests Ontario was approached by individuals in the Ottawa Valley concerning

a number of billboards located on highways around Algonquin Park. The billboards, established by a local environmental protection organization, denounced the forestry activities occurring in the park: "Logging in Algonquin Park is not sustainable." The proponents of the billboards were essentially giving them up; creating an opportunity for more positive messaging about forestry.

Logging in the region began in about 1830, predating the establishment of the park by approximately 60 years. Today, the Algonquin Forest Authority manages forestry activities in the park according to stringent forest management regulations set out and enforced by the provincial government. Contrary to what this billboard suggested, forestry in Algonquin Park is guided by principles of sustainability.

In response to the opportunity, Forests Ontario worked with local partners to develop





the ITAF initiative — a collaborative of local, like-minded individuals and organizations with the common goal of providing the public with unbiased, factual information on Ontario's forest resources. The first order of business for ITAF? Establishing a series of four new billboards around Algonquin Park.

Fast forward five years and the ITAF initiative, just like the inaugural billboards, is still standing. However, it now boasts an ever-expanding cross-province billboard network of more than 24 signs and support from over 40 organizations. Some of these organizations, like the OWA, have been advocates since the initiative's inception. "The OWA is a proud supporter of ITAF," says John Pineau, Executive Director of the OWA. "The initiative has been instrumental in raising public awareness of the importance of sustainably managed forests, especially in addressing climate change." It is with the help of partners like the OWA that ITAF has grown into what it is today.

In addition to billboards, the initiative produces a range of publicly accessible forestry awareness resources on a range of topics — from wood products to green jobs. "The essence of the ITAF initiative is to promote sustainable forestry and address misconceptions about forest management in Ontario by providing fact-based information in a proactive, positive, and user-friendly way," explained Rob Keen, Registered Professional Forester and CEO of Forests Ontario. The initiative aims to supply forest professionals and the public alike with the resources they need to inform themselves and engage in discussions about what healthy forests and their management look like.

## IT TAKES A FOREST TO EDUCATE

The spread of misinformation regarding the forest sector has real impacts. For one, it's affecting the recruitment of young workers and contributing to a serious labour force shortage. This impacts all Ontarians — from rural residents who depend upon the forest

sector for their livelihood, to city dwellers who require a steady and affordable supply of forest-based products. The sky-high price of lumber due to the COVID-19 pandemic is an example of how the forest sector workforce can impact all our daily lives.

As citizens, it's our responsibility to stay informed. As forest professionals, it's our duty to ensure that the most accurate information is available to others. ITAF ensures this information is both engaging and widely accessible to address misconceptions and provide answers to questions, such as the ones below.

## TREES SEQUESTER CARBON — ISN'T CUTTING THEM DOWN BAD?

It's true — trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, lock up carbon in their wood, and release oxygen for us to breathe. When we harvest timber, two things happen: 1) carbon remains locked up in the form of wood products, often for far longer than the natural lifespan of a tree, and 2) new trees can take root, continuing the cycle. Did you know that younger trees sequester carbon at a higher rate than mature trees?

Sustainable forest management is one of our most powerful tools for creating a net-zero future and fighting climate change.

## CLEARCUTTING SEEMS TERRIBLE! WHY ARE FORESTRY COMPANIES STILL ALLOWED TO DO THIS?

Ontario's forests are highly naturally disturbed ecosystems with some being depleted by fire, insects, and disease. Emulating natural disturbance patterns is a fundamental component of sustainable forest management. Different silvicultural systems are used to emulate different disturbances.

Clearcutting emulates the size, structure, and characteristics of wildfires and windstorms by harvesting areas ranging in size from very small to very large and leaving individual trees and clumps of trees intact.

This science-based approach exposes the forest floor to sunlight and promotes the growth of a new cohort of similarly aged trees, like fire.

## IS ONTARIO BEING DEFORESTED?

Our province is home to more than 71 million hectares of forest land — that's roughly 2 per cent of the world's forest resources and 6,000 trees per Ontarian! As stewards of such a sizeable resource, we take our commitment to sustainability seriously. The province has developed a world-class management framework in consideration of sustaining environmental and socio-economic values for future generations.

Due to these stringent regulations, the rate of deforestation in Ontario is less than 0.01 percent, which is attributed to agriculture, development, and permanent road construction. Forest harvesting on Crown lands is not considered deforestation, as renewal is required by law.

Through a range of different resource types (videos, infographics, educational activities, etc.), the ITAF initiative aims to answer the public's most pressing forest sector-related questions in an easily digestible way. These free resources are available to view and download on the ITAF website ([www.ittakesaforest.ca](http://www.ittakesaforest.ca)).

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Now, more than ever, the voices of forest professionals need to be heard. Join the conversation by visiting the ITAF website, following the initiative on social media, and distributing the resources through your own networks. If you have ideas for new resources, contact Rob Keen at [rkeen@forestsontario.ca](mailto:rkeen@forestsontario.ca).

It Takes a Forest to achieve a greener future, but it takes you to plant the seed.

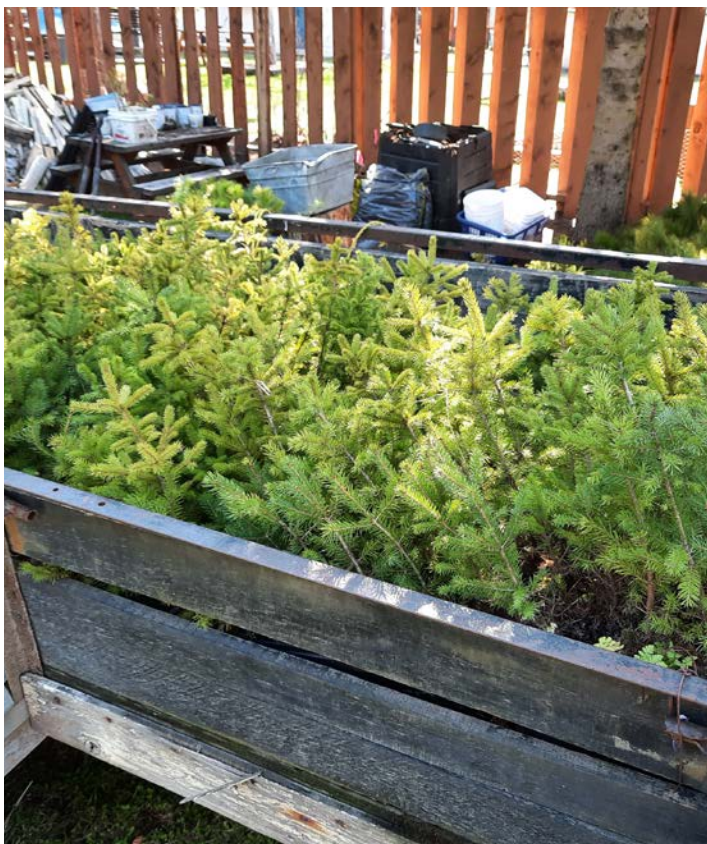
Facebook: @ItTakesAForest

Twitter: @ItTakesAForest

Instagram: @ItTakesAForest\_







*Baby spruce seedlings ready to plant.*



*Ann Bull tree planting.*



Sustainable forest management  
locks up carbon in wood products  
while rooting new trees to  
continue the cycle.

**#ItTakesAForest**  
to reach net-zero.





# AMERICAN WOODCOCK

By Ian Fife, Birds Canada, Brant Chapter

## DID YOU KNOW?

The tip of their long bill is very sensitive and can be expanded, brilliantly adapted for probing earthworms in the soil.

The placement of their eyes allows woodcocks to see 360 degrees horizontally and 180 degrees vertically. Their only blind spot is directly above them.

American Woodcock. Photo Credit: Fyn Kynd

## IDENTIFICATION

American Woodcocks (affectionately nicknamed “timberdoodles”) are camouflage artists with plumage mottled brown, buffy, and gray. They are peculiar looking birds with a round, compact body; large eyes; an overtly large bill; and almost no apparent neck. Distinctive bold brown bars cross the top of the head. Males and females are identical in appearance, but females are much larger.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

The American Woodcock population is not considered to be at risk. However, trends in Ontario show significant population declines of 2.2 per cent per year over the past 10 years and an average of 1.3 per cent per year over the past 50 years. Declines are a result of changes in land use from this species’ preferred early successional habitat to mature forest.

Birds Canada has a Citizen Science program for monitoring woodcocks in Ontario, suitable for birding beginners. If you’re interested in participating, please visit: [birdscanada.org/bird-science/american-woodcock-survey](http://birdscanada.org/bird-science/american-woodcock-survey)

## BREEDING BIOLOGY

In Ontario, breeding begins in late April. Females will have arrived to breed when most snow has melted and begin nesting before green-out. Nests made of small twigs, dead grasses and other plant fibre are built on the ground. Young are precocial, meaning they are ready to leave the nest soon after hatching.

## DIET

American Woodcocks feed primarily on invertebrates, with earthworms as the bulk of their diet. A woodcock can eat its body weight in worms per day! Seeds are

a very small component of their diet. Soil moisture can influence diet selection - drier soil make earthworms unavailable, prompting woodcocks to seek a wider variety of foods.

## HABITAT & MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

American Woodcocks prefer young, disturbed mixed forest and abandoned farmland combined with forest. They are often associated with forest/field edges and gaps, which the male will use as singing grounds. Human-related threats are related to migratory movement (i.e., hunting and window strikes).



*Recording of American Woodcock, Scolopax minor. source: [avocet.integrativebiology.natsci.msu.edu/recordings/12752](http://avocet.integrativebiology.natsci.msu.edu/recordings/12752)*





# WORKING TOGETHER

## TO PROTECT CANADA'S LAND AND WATER FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

Submitted by the Invasive Species Centre

Invasive species are among Canada's greatest threats to biodiversity; they arrive, often accidentally, from elsewhere in the world. A non-native species is not inherently considered invasive as it may not thrive in our climate and ecosystems. However, invasive species are non-native species that thrive and can cause economic, environmental, and societal impacts, and can pose risks to human health. In the absence of natural predators, invasive species can kill, crowd out or otherwise devastate native species and important ecosystems.

To protect our communities from these threats, the Invasive Species Centre has teamed up with local organizations, clubs, businesses, and volunteers to catalyze action through the Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Network. The EDRR program offers volunteers the skills and resources needed to better detect and reduce invasive species in Ontario, one community at a time. Launched in 2015 with the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) and other partners, the EDRR program has since expanded into over five areas of Ontario and has engaged over 19,000 people province-wide.

In the eastern expansion of the EDRR Network, the Invasive Species Centre and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council have partnered with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF), now amalgamated with the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA). The partnership is a natural fit as the EOMF runs the Regional Forest Health Network, a program that engages partners from over 25 organizations across the region to share knowledge on forest health.

Invasive plants like garlic mustard, dog-strangling vine, and wild parsnip are a common sight invading roadsides, backyards, and natural spaces in Eastern

Ontario. Emerald ash borer (EAB) has destroyed much of the ash tree population, while *Lymantria dispar dispar* moths, (Ldd, commonly known previously as gypsy moths), have defoliated many tree species, forever changing woodlots and urban forests. Many other invasive forest pests, including the Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, and oak wilt have not been detected in Eastern Ontario, but their possible introduction and spread could impact the forest as we know it.

Invasive species not only impact our forests but also our lakes and waterways. European frog-bit and European water chestnut are two examples of aquatic invasive plants that were first detected in Eastern Ontario after their introduction.

The new phase of the project has brought the Early Detection and Rapid Response Network's well-established training workshops, knowledge, and tools to the communities of Eastern Ontario. These webinars, local stewardship action events, and other activities reach a wide range of community members, from forestry professionals and woodlot owners to gardeners and outdoor recreationalists.

Teaching everyone about priority invasive species will help detect new introductions before they establish. Detecting species as early as possible will help us act before management becomes costly and the species cause environmental, economic, and social impacts. "Volunteers and community participation are at the core of this project," says Derissa Vincentini, Community Action Leader at the Invasive Species Centre, and Coordinator of the EDRR Network. "Our goal is to equip communities with the tools needed to slow the movement of invasive species in Ontario. The more eyes on the ground, the better chance we have at protecting



*Ldd moth egg mass scraping.*

our ecosystems and mitigating the effects of invasive species."

Since expanding into Eastern Ontario in early 2020, the EDRR program has reached well over 3,000 people through initiatives such as community action campaigns, digital training sessions, development of new management materials, and much more. The success of the program is largely attributed to the collaboration between EDRR partners and its volunteers.

With the Ldd moth wreaking havoc in Eastern Ontario over the last few years, the EDRR program has provided citizens with the information to understand what is expected, and the tools and knowledge to mitigate the effects of Ldd. Mobilizing the networks of each organization, one EDRR event on Ldd, hosted jointly by EOMF and OWA, was attended by over 1,200 people - all were eager to do what they can to manage the effects of this invasive moth on our trees. "Collaborating with the Invasive Species Centre and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council through the EDRR program and also through the Regional Forest Health Network, is providing great value to our membership," says John Pineau, Executive Director of the Ontario Woodlot Association and Eastern Ontario





Model Forest. “The information we were able to communicate and disseminate on the Ldd moth for example, helped many woodlot and private forest owners to better understand the infestation and how they could better deal with it. Getting a handle on other existing and new invasives and learning how to effectively manage for them is going to be very important in the years ahead.”

While EOMF and OWA’s focus is on forest invasive pests, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council has been providing community members with the knowledge and tools (through webinars, technical bulletins, and best management practices), to detect, monitor, and manage invasive plant species on roadways, gardens, and agricultural areas. “The Ontario Invasive Plant Council is pleased to be a partner of the EDRR Network since its launch in 2015,” says Belinda Junkin, Executive Director of the OIPC. “This partnership has been a great opportunity to raise awareness on the issue of invasive plant species and

has allowed the OIPC to use our expertise to engage and empower people across Ontario through a number of educational workshops and events.” One EDRR event hosted by the OIPC on the topic of An Introduction of Invasive Plants in Eastern Ontario, reached over 200 potential invasive species wranglers, ready to manage their own infestations.

### ABOUT THE INVASIVE SPECIES CENTRE

The Invasive Species Centre is a not-for-profit organization that prevents the spread of invasive species in Canada and beyond by connecting with stakeholders to catalyze invasive species management and communicate policy and science knowledge.

Visit their website at [www.invasivespeciescentre.ca](http://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca) to learn about invasive species, get technical information, take action, register for events, and sign up to receive news.

If you are interested in hosting an EDRR event for your community, organization, or

network, please contact Derissa Vincentini at [dvincentini@invasivespeciescentre.ca](mailto:dvincentini@invasivespeciescentre.ca).

Report sightings of invasive species to the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) at [www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org) or call the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-226-217-8555.



Working together to remove invasive plants at a special event.

## AUCTION SALE

ESTATE OF DAVID SEXSMITH

1404 SOUTH SHORE ROAD NAPANEE, ON

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 16TH AT 10:30 am**

Exit SOUTH off 401 Highway at Napanee (Interchange 579) onto County Road 41 through the Town of Napanee to County Road 8 and continue South for 9 miles and turn WEST onto County Road 8 for 3 miles and turn NORTH onto South Shore Road for 3 miles.

**LUMBER** large quantity of air dried, inside stored, rough cut hard and soft wood including maple, spalted maple, oak, ash, black cherry, pine, butternut and poplar in various widths, lengths and thickness ...some live edge; **WOOD SHOP TOOLS**

**AND COLLECTIBLES** surface planer, sanders, scroll saw, vintage 20" bandsaw, 12" disc sander, Vintage shaper, builders hardware, wood planes, clamps, broad axe, pike pole, Toledo weigh scales, numerous other articles.

*Provincial bylaws concerning face masks, social distancing and crowd size gatherings will be in effect.  
No food or beverage service available*

**TERMS - CASH OR CHEQUE**  
**OWNER & AUCTIONEER NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR**  
**ACCIDENT OR INJURY DAY OF SALE**  
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Visit our website for all the resources you'll need:

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**EDRR**  
EARLY DETECTION  
& RAPID RESPONSE  
NETWORK ONTARIO



# TALES FROM THE TREES

## THE NEWBIE VS THE ENEMY

By Marian Petelycky, Quinte Chapter



**T**o start this story requires a few definitions; 1) “Newbie”: One who did not grow up on the farm or has not been on the farm for generations and 2) “Enemy”: Dog Strangling Vine (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*).

It started in the summer of 2020 after a very informative and frightening seminar on Dog Strangling Vine. With just enough knowledge to be dangerous the newbie went to war! Like all misguided generals, the newbie fully expected to slay the enemy in a couple of days! (Yes, I can hear all you readers who are enemy combatants snickering and laughing at my naivete.)

Out I went that fateful morning, with garbage bag in hand, scouring the farm and woods for the dreaded enemy. I randomly pulled anything I could find that remotely looked like the enemy. Here and there I would find the odd satellite and do hand-to-hand combat (pulling it from the ground) and then I found the battlegrounds. Not one or two but three areas where there was nothing else to see but dog strangling vine. After three days, twenty construction bags full of the enemy, and several months of chiropractic visits, I surrendered in defeat. I would have to re-group and tackle the enemy with a more strategic plan next year.

Fast forward to the summer of 2021. Off I go again, with my trusty construction bags scouring the farm looking for the enemy. I attack the battlegrounds first. Working from the flanks, looking for satellite plants, I find the enemy. I’m elated as it has not increased its foothold! Now I get into the thick of the first battleground changing my strategy of hand-to-hand combat to the cut it down before it flowers and seeds strategy. I have my late father’s trusty scythe which I wield with abandon, cutting down the enemy in its tracks. To add insult to injury, I have another invader. It is raining Ldd moth caterpillars on me in the forested areas. As I try to slay the enemy and remove the caterpillars from my bug suit, I look up and see that the enemy had indeed increased its foothold all the way up the bank of the forest. FYI, the caterpillars do cause quite a bit of irritation if you handle them with bare hands or they touch your skin!

Discouraged but not defeated, I head back to the house for some reinforcements as I was told by an OWA member that a weed trimmer works to get rid of the enemy. As I return back to the house, I notice that my scythe blade has separated from the handle. I send it over to the mechanic to repair my scythe and head out with the weed trimmer to slay the rest of the enemy in the battleground. I start up the weed trimmer and do the first pass over the vines, I see them fall; success!

And then the weed trimmer comes to an abrupt halt. The vines are completely entangled in the head. Undeterred I remove the vines and

start again. One pass over the vines and an abrupt halt! This repeats over and over again for about 10 minutes when I acknowledge that this is not going to work. I look up and see I have not even advanced 10 feet into the battleground. I need another weapon. I evaluate the area, but it is rocky, has old stumps and goes up a steep hill so the lawnmower and the bush mower are out of the question. So back to the trusty scythe. Deflated, I move on to the other 2020 battlegrounds and see both success and failure. The hand-to-hand combat I did last year seems to have kept the enemy from taking a stronghold in one area, but I am informed by my husband Peter that we have a huge battleground of the enemy near the creek! As I walk towards the creek, I find another small patch of the enemy in another part of the farm! What is happening? I am being invaded from all sides! After taking a few deep breathes, I head back to the house for more black bags and an update on the scythe repair. The scythe repair has been completed but needs a test run to ensure the angle of the blade is correct. That will have to wait.

I head back to the third 2020 battleground and am relieved to see that this battle has been won – for now. Just a few plants which I remove and continue to proceed with the grid-like search for any satellite plants. Seeing none, I move around the edge of the rest of the fields and forest where the enemy has a tendency to grow. Several plants here and there but no substantial foothold. I head back to the house for the scythe ready to go to battle in the strongholds making a mental note that I have to go to Home Depot for another box of heavy-duty garbage bags. Although the war is far from over, the skirmishes are complete for 2021. The enemy has been cut down to prevent the seeds from forming and spreading around the farm. This newbie will live to fight another day with the enemy (without a huge chiropractic bill) but will have to wait another year to see if the war was successful. Stay Tuned!



*Marian's battle with the enemy will continue...*





# EXCELLENT TRAINING

## IRESCUE PROVIDES EXCELLENT TRAINING THROUGH ADVANCED WILDERNESS FIRST AID COURSE

By Scott Gauer, Kawartha Chapter

*Editor's Note: The emergency scenarios and first aid information presented in this article are intended only to illustrate the type of training provided by IRescue. Emergency and wilderness first aid training requires attendance at and participation in designated courses such as those offered by IRescue.*

I cannot believe I ever adventured outdoors without the knowledge of the Advanced Wilderness First Aid course I took this July. Emergencies are not on everyone's mind when going on a fun trip in the woods, but as the saying goes, "it's not if, but when".

As examples think about the following scenarios and ask yourself what you would do if you were more than three hours away from Emergency Medical Services:

- 1) You and your friends are on a hunting trip and spot someone 10 meters from their flipped ATV and they are unconscious. What do you do?
- 2) You are part of a team doing tree marking work when a storm picks up and causes a tree limb to fall and severely break your team member's leg causing the bone to stick out. What do you do?
- 3) You are going for a hike and brush up against a plant that gives you a horrific burning rash. What do you do?
- 4) You're hiking alone and you start to choke on your lunch when your airway becomes completely blocked and no one is there to help you. What do you do?
- 5) You're on a camping trip and your child who is allergic to wasps is stung several times. You give them their epi-pen shot. Do you end the trip or continue onward?

In Standard First Aid, the normal assumption is that you are never too far away from help, but as you get into Remote First Aid

(three hours from help) and Wilderness First Aid (more than three hours from help), you are forced to get more comfortable with the idea that help could be far away or not coming at all. Sometimes you might not have all the right tools. This is where the hands-on training comes in, and the ability to improvise.

The Remote and Wilderness programs are considered 'specialty' First Aid courses. You do not need to take Standard First Aid as a prerequisite for the wilderness programs. For common First Aid Training, the options are:

1) Emergency First Aid (one day)

2) Standard First Aid (two days)

For First Aid training geared more towards an outdoor setting, the options are:

1) Remote First Aid (20 hours)

2) Advanced Wilderness First Aid (40 hours)

3) Wilderness First Responder (80 hours).

The training took two full weekends to complete and my partner Erica and I took the option to camp onsite as it was being hosted at the beautiful Albion Hills Conservation Park in Caledon. Our very experienced instructor Steve, who has worked around the world performing Emergency Medical Services and Search and Rescue, spent this additional time to teach us useful knots and fire-starting skills. Considering the COVID-19 restrictions, the training was incredibly well-orchestrated so that it did not interfere in any way with the quality of the hands-on training.

The first weekend covered all the topics needed to achieve the Remote First Aid designation and included trip planning, breathing and circulation emergencies, and included hands-on CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine use

on infant (less than a year old), child (one to eight years old), and adult (over eight years old) mannequins. It also covered choking, bone, muscle and joint injuries, and sudden medical emergencies such as seizure, diabetic emergency, and even mental health emergency. Real-life simulated scenarios included making hypothermia wraps, improvised tarp stretchers, tying slings, applying a tourniquet, and dealing with wildlife emergencies such as ticks and snake bites.

The second weekend had even more scenarios with additional skills that assume help may not be coming for a while. This in depth training included evacuation procedures such as signal fires, emergencies during night-time scenarios and also included additional environmental emergencies such as high altitude illness, extreme dehydration, drowning and lightning. Real-life scenarios included removing a helmet from a motor vehicle casualty, and even included using props such as fake bloody chopped off fingers! For one scenario where I was playing an eviscerated (meaning I had my organs hanging out) bear casualty, I had bear sounds set up on my portable speaker to give the full effect for my First Aiders—it was quite a shock for them!

Referring back to the list of scenarios here are some possible approaches. These examples are not a substitute for the actual training but do give a sense of what we learned.

In the first example, after calling Emergency Services, what should you be aware of before proceeding? The injured motor vehicle rider would likely have a spinal injury and in that case you have to stabilize the head and neck at all times even when checking if they are breathing and removing their helmet.





In the second scenario, with a leg that is badly broken through skin, you must first try to stop any life-threatening bleeding. If you need to move the person, you can then assess if you can safely reset the limb and immobilize it with a make-shift splint.

In scenario three, if you don't know which plant you rubbed against, the first step would be to wash the area with clean water for at least fifteen minutes and apply a bandage to keep it protected from direct sunlight. A paste of baking soda and water can help relieve rashes or weeping lesions.

In scenario four, since no one is around to help you with the standard procedure for full choking that includes five back blows and five abdominal thrusts (Heimlich maneuver), you must attempt abdominal thrusts alone. You would use your body weight and an object like a stump padded with a sweater. Our instructor told us a story of a lady who was choking in the woods and wrapped up her water bottle with her sweater and launched herself onto it to save her life. Seeing as permanent brain damage can occur in just four minutes without oxygen, the steps you take immediately can be critical.

In the fifth scenario, the answer should be to end the trip and seek medical attention after giving the child their Epi-pen because anaphylactic reactions can occur multiple times and even be delayed up to 72 hours.

If anyone is interested in attending a course, IRescue has agreed to work with the OWA to develop a group training session for interested chapters. Simply contact Erica Dixon at [erica.dixon@ontariowoodlot.com](mailto:erica.dixon@ontariowoodlot.com) who will happily organize such trainings. Also, a reminder—the OWA has an excellent Woodland Emergency First Aid Kit for sale through the on-line store.

*A photograph from a winter training tha demonstrates a hypothermia wrap.*



*Learning how to treat bleeding scenarios such as chain saw accidents.*



*Learning how to treat for broken bones that puncture skin.*



*The author role playing a victim impaled with propane tank shrapnel.*

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+ WILDERNESS & REMOTE FIRST AID +





# WOODLAND BUSINESS

**Understand the many exciting opportunities of owning a woodland business and all that is available to help your goals and ambitions to be successful!**

## PLANNING YOUR EXIT



### START PLANNING YOUR EXIT WITH THESE THREE QUESTIONS

Submitted by Rick Wismer, CPA, CA, CAFA, PAg, LPA, MNP

**T**he 2019 Ontario Woodlot Association member survey indicated that many members were concerned and uncertain about what they would like to see happen with their woodlot in the future.

There are many options and a lot of considerations. Further, each set of circumstances and goals is likely unique. For some, this represents a significant asset and one of which at least some of their retirement plans depend. For others, the financial aspect is less important than the preservation of a legacy that they have spent time, perhaps a lifetime, creating. For others the protection of a family legacy can be the driving factor.

These scenarios would dictate very different approaches and results. The biggest stumbling block is knowing where to start. Retirement and estate planning areas are

huge topics, and much can be written about each facet of the retirement planning process. Our goal is to get you thinking about three key questions you need to ask yourself as you contemplate retirement and develop your succession plan.

Even if you've already got a succession plan in place, it's a good idea to ask yourself these same questions on a regular basis. Many factors can change during the succession process and it's important to check in and make sure your plan is still on track.

#### 1. WHAT'S MY TIMELINE?

How much longer do you want to own your woodlot before retiring or moving on? If you are 30 years old and want to work until you're 65, your timeline for retirement is a lot longer than someone who is 60 and wants to retire in five years. However, just

because you have 35 years until retirement does not mean you shouldn't start planning.

There are significant tax and legal issues in liquidating, selling, or transitioning a woodlot, so it's important to start early and speak with professionals about the pros and cons of various possible exit strategies. The earlier you start planning, the more options you have available. For example, some tax planning strategies require two or more years to put in place. If you leave your planning too late, certain strategies may no longer work. Starting early also gives you the best chance to get top dollar for your woodlot and pay the least amount of tax in the process.

When considering your timeline, you also need to consider how you see yourself transitioning from the woodlot. In other words,



what does “retirement” look like to you? Do you see yourself making a clean break one day and never working again, or gradually reducing your hours and role in the business over a period of time? Everyone is going to have a different goal and answer to these questions and there are no right or wrong answers. The key is to determine what’s right for you.

## **2. HOW MUCH MONEY DO I NEED TO RETIRE?**

Are you relying on the woodlot to fund your retirement in some fashion? More specifically, what is the annual after-tax income you need to support the lifestyle you want to maintain after you retire? Will you live in the same home? Drive the same truck? Do you plan to travel? As the saying goes, you need to begin with the end in mind. Then you can work backwards to where you are today and start making decisions that take you closer to where you want to go.

This is a particularly important question to ask if you are relying on the proceeds from the sale of your woodlot to fund your retirement. If you’re always working head down in the business, you can quickly reach the point when you decide you want to retire — only to realize you’re not in a financial position to do so. In some cases, the woodlot may not have enough value to meet your ongoing financial needs in retirement.

By comparing your desired after-tax income in retirement to what your business is worth today, you can determine if your timeline is realistic and what steps you may need to take to maximize the sale proceeds on your woodlot.

Selling a woodlot is a little like selling a house. A new roof and some fresh paint could significantly improve the saleability and the price you may receive on a house sale. A similar approach can be a positive factor on the sale of a woodlot.

## **3. HOW DO I GET OUT?**

Once you’ve decided what your desired timeline is, and how much money you need to fund your retirement, you need to ask yourself: what is your ideal exit option?

There are generally three or four main options that we consider when transitioning a business.

### **A. Liquidating your woodlot as real estate**

Given the get-out-of-the-city impact of the pandemic and the resulting significant jump in real estate values across Southern Ontario, it is almost certain that a gain will have occurred during your period of ownership. Income tax will be a significant consideration and HST may also apply. Do you log the property first to obtain maximum cash proceeds or are you better off to sell the property as is? Which approach offers you the most saleable property and the best after-tax return?

### **B. Selling your woodlot as an ongoing business**

Structuring your woodlot sale and finding a buyer both take time, which is why it is best to start planning early. Establishing a long-term track record of your business so it is profitable does not happen overnight. Planning for your exit while you build your business will help ensure you have the things buyers are looking for when it is time to sell. Putting a Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program plan in place will generally enhance the package.

Potential buyers are most likely going to be a third party. Generally, if the woodlot is in a company when selling to a third party, there are two options: the sale of assets and the sale of shares. The purchasers normally want to buy assets to ensure they are not acquiring any hidden liabilities and the purchaser also gets to increase the cost base of assets purchased for tax purposes.

The seller, however, usually wants to sell shares to potentially utilize their Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption (LCGE). To qualify for LCGE, the shares must qualify as a qualified small business corporation or as a farm corporation. Inactive assets such as other real estate and investments may need to be removed from the company to ensure the company qualifies, which is one of the reasons it is important to have a corporate structure that allows for the ongoing removal of inactive assets and

excess cash. It is also the reason that you allow sufficient time to accomplish this.

### **C. Transitioning your business to family**

Many woodlot owners look at transitioning to a family member during their lifetime. This could be children, a sibling, or cousins working in the business. It’s important to understand transition planning is a process and not an event. Including family dynamics with the already complex issue of selling a business requires that you have a solid plan and ultimately arrive at a common vision.

Successful transitions usually ensure that new owners are clearly identified and trained and that there is an open dialogue with the free circulation of information. New owners might not have all the skills required to do the job; therefore, it is important to identify them early so training can fill in those gaps. Bringing in the new owners and involving them in decision making and business management also grooms the new owners for a successful transition that reflects your long-term goals for the property. Lastly, the transferor’s acceptance of giving up control and ultimately leaving their place as the decision maker solidifies a successful transition.

### **D. Other Options**

- i) Transition via a will
- ii) Donation to a public body
- iii) Consider right of future access to specified individuals

## **A FINAL WORD**

Without question, there are many steps you need to take to successfully exit or transition your woodlot, regardless of how you plan to exit. Being well-prepared to transition the ownership will allow you to securely enjoy the lifestyle you have worked hard to achieve. By answering the three questions above and working with an advisor, you can ensure the value you have built for your woodlot is protected. Remember, planning to retire is a process. Time is your ally, so use it.

For more information, contact Rick Wismer, CPA, CA, CAFA, PAG, LPA, Regional Agricultural, Food and Beverage Lead at [rick.wismer@mnp.ca](mailto:rick.wismer@mnp.ca) or 905.225.1302







## Start taking the steps towards succession

You've worked hard to build a successful business. Get the most out of what you've created with an exit strategy that delivers answers to your questions about the future.

Rick Wismer, CPA, CA, PAg, LPA, Partner,  
Member of Ontario Woodlot Association – Niagara Chapter  
905.225.1302 | [rick.wismer@mnp.ca](mailto:rick.wismer@mnp.ca)



Wherever business takes you

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# LAND OWNERSHIP

## LAND OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION FOR THE FUTURE

By Barbara Szita-Knight, Communications Director, Bancroft-Haliburton Chapter

**L**and ownership is a source of joy that is close to the heart. It comes with responsibilities and hard work, especially when a woodlot or farm is part of your holdings. The Bancroft-Haliburton region is predominantly forest and lakes, with long histories of ownerships and toils to clear the land to make a living. As time moves forward, generations come and go, and land ownership is passed down to family members or sold to strangers. When a property is sold the old history is replaced by a new family history. Uses change but the land still remains privately owned and in most cases off limits to the public.

The Federal Ecological Gifts Program and a Conservation Easement Agreement allow for both private ownership and sharing the use of the land with others. One long-time member of the Bancroft-Haliburton Chapter chose to gift their land for others to enjoy. Margaret Dobrzensky and her mom Leopoldina donated 500 acres of land through the Ecological Gifts Program to a local land trust. Another 100 acres were retained under a Conservation Easement Agreement. Both are lasting, generous, and thoughtful gifts. The Dobrzensky family, originally from the former Czechoslovakia, fell in love with Haliburton and purchased land in the Gould's Crossing Barnum Creek area. The property has a range of ecosystems from mixed forests, to sensitive wetlands to open fields, hosting habitat for a variety of wildlife including species at risk. A perfect combination for an ecological gift donation.

The Dobrzensky property is now under the ownership and management of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, known as the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. More information on the property can be found at <https://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/nature-reserves/barnum-creek-nature-reserve/>

### WHAT IS THE FEDERAL ECOLOGICAL GIFTS PROGRAM?

A method which allows Canadian landowners to donate all or part of their land ownership to a qualified recipient, such as a land trust. The recipient must maintain and preserve the biodiversity and environmental heritage in perpetuity, ensuring the protection of ecological attributes for future generations. The plan gives taxable benefits to land donors. This Gifts Program began in 1995. As of March 31, 2021, across Canada, 1610 ecological gifts with an estimated value of over \$977 million, protecting 522,000 acres of wildlife habitat have been donated.

There are numerous options for donating land as an ecological gift. What option you choose will determine your tax credit and your level of personal usage of the property. As a land donor you do not have to give up your right to use the land. By using a Conservation Easement Agreement owners may continue to use and live on their property as well as restrict land use to conservation. The land is protected without giving up ownership. You can continue to live on the property, use it, sell it, or pass onto heirs... a win-win for nature and landowner.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change must certify the property as ecologically sensitive or significant in order to be accepted as an ecological gift. The Minister will verify the recipient is able to care for the property in perpetuity, and establish fair market value of the donation. A Conservation Easement may be created by the landowner and recipient and registered. The easement outlines the parameters by which the land is to be used and protected.

While there are tax advantages to an ecological gift, the rules governing land and

the tax implications of gifts of land are complex. It is strongly recommended you contact both lawyers and tax accounting services to assist in your decision and the process involved.

Generally, a land donor will receive a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value or the fair market value less any cash paid for the land. This receipt can be used against the donor's net annual taxable income to calculate a non-refundable tax credit. This tax credit may also lead to a reduction in provincial taxes. There is no limit to the amount of the tax credit and the donor has up to ten years to utilize the receipt against income.

The program appears to be advantageous to all parties involved including the land, wildlife and plant life that live and grow on the property.

This article has barely scratched the surface of donation options and the application process for ecological gifts. If you would like to learn more or perhaps begin the process of donating an ecological gift, please see the government links below for more detailed information.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecological-gifts-program/overview.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecological-gifts-program.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecological-gifts-program/publications/donation-income-tax-scenarios.html>

There are many land trust organizations throughout Ontario. Here are three local land trust websites you may wish to visit.





Kawartha Land Trust: <https://kawarthaland-trust.org/protecting-our-land/land-protection-options/>

Hastings Prince Edward Land trust: <https://hpelt.org/>

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust: <https://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/>

An ecological gift is a unique way to ensure the future enjoyment and preservation of land and wildlife through sustainable land uses. Our grandchildren and their grandchildren will thank us.

“For my mother and I, it was the easiest decision we ever made. I can clearly state it is all worth it!” says Margaret.

To all who have made the choice to gift land...we thank you.



*Ecological gifts benefit all future generations.*



*Our tranquil woodlot.*



*Dad and son having fun in the woods.*



**Choose  
Ontario Wood.**

It's the natural choice  
for high quality, local  
and sustainable  
wood products.

Learn more at  
[ontario.ca/wood](https://ontario.ca/wood)



Home: Confederation Log Homes  
Table: MetalWood Studio



**Ontario Wood**



# GETTING THE WORD OUT:

## THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN ONTARIO WOOD

Submitted by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

**A**s one of the industries that built Ontario, forestry has always been closely connected with the province. Ontario is recognized globally for its quality wood, responsibly sourced according to rigorous forest management standards.

Consumers know that when they buy wood products from Ontario, they're choosing quality and sustainability. Buying Ontario wood means supporting a well-managed, eco-friendly industry that provides economic benefits to all of Ontario and supports good-paying jobs in local communities.

But it's not always easy to identify Ontario products. That's why the Ontario government created Ontario Wood; led by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Wood promotes the benefits of buying wood products harvested and manufactured in Ontario.

With more than 70 million hectares of woodlands, forests cover some 65 per cent of Ontario, ranging from conifer-dominated boreal forests in the north to hardwood forests in the south and southeast.

Ontario's vast forest resources include both public forests and privately owned woodlots. Both public and private forests in Ontario are managed to optimize health and growth to strike a critical balance between ecological, economic, and social benefits.

Ontario's public and privately owned forests are home to a sustainable forestry sector that has provided well-paying jobs and economic activity for generations. The forest sector generated \$17.6 billion in revenue from manufactured goods in 2019 and supported approximately 143,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2020.

With a wide variety of hardwood and softwood species in Ontario, wood is used in many ways, ranging from lumber and construction materials to high-end furniture, cabinetry, and flooring.

Products that use the Ontario Wood logo let consumers know that the wood is sustainably grown in Ontario, and the products are manufactured here in the province. The logo also lets consumers know they're supporting local communities and economies and choosing what's best for the environment.

Ontario Wood has more than 475 partners, and the number continues to increase as manufacturers discover the advantages of membership. Ontario Wood partners include makers of heirloom-quality furniture and decorative items, builders of log homes, home improvement retailers, makers of canoes and paddles, and much more.

Ontario Wood partners use wood from various sources, including many who harvest from sustainably managed woodlots across the province. There is a natural connection between Ontario Wood and the Ontario Woodlot Association; both organizations share an interest in promoting sustainable forest management and ensuring the viability of all of Ontario's forests for future generations.

Membership in Ontario Wood gives partners the ability to connect with other businesses and introduces Ontarians to the high-quality items they produce. Ontario Wood-branded products are available at building centres, furniture stores, artisan galleries, gift shops, and many other locations across Ontario, including online stores.

Ontario Wood's partners include some of the country's largest forestry companies, long-standing family-owned operations, privately owned woodlots, and small enterprises with a few employees.

Participation in Ontario Wood is free, with numerous options for getting involved. Many partners use the Ontario Wood logo on their websites and social media accounts, marketing materials, and products and packaging. The logo offers instant recognition from prospective customers looking to buy locally produced and sustainable wood products.

Eligibility for partnership in Ontario Wood extends to any enterprise involved in the sustainable use of wood from the province's forests, including owners and operators of private woodlots. Ontario Wood partners can be manufacturers who use sustainably harvested wood from Ontario's forests, those who supply timber to these producers, those who distribute these products, builders or designers, and those organizations that promote the use of locally harvested wood.

To learn more about Ontario Wood or explore the significant advantages of partnership, including being affiliated with a brand that emphasizes the high quality and sustainability of Ontario's forest resources, connect with us online at [Ontario.ca/wood](https://Ontario.ca/wood) or on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter channels.





# FENCES

## LINE FENCES, LEGAL BOUNDARIES AND FOREST OPERATION LINES

By Kerry Coleman, Lower Ottawa Valley Chapter

**M**any woodlot owners, especially in southern Ontario, have line fences or in some cases remnants of line fences that are recognized as the property boundary. If there are just remnants of line fences remaining it is a good idea to work with your neighbor to clearly mark these with permanent markers and flagging tape. If there are no traces of a line fence you may be able to find corner pins or some other markings showing the corners of your property. On the 200-acre farm I grew up on the north-west corner of the property was marked by a stone monument. The Roman numerals identify lot number 24. I am not sure if the other corners had similar monuments, I do not recall anyone looking for them and we did have line fences.

As much as line fences are generally accepted as property boundaries, they are not necessarily legal boundary lines. Legal property boundaries may only be determined by a licensed Ontario Land Surveyor conducting a cadastral survey which is defined by the Surveyors Act as, “advising on, reporting on, conducting or supervising the conducting of surveys to establish, locate, describe or define lines, boundaries or corners of parcels of land or land covered with water”.

The purpose of the Line Fences Act is to describe a landowner’s responsibilities for line fences. It also provides a procedure for the resolution of line fence disputes between owners of adjacent properties. The Line Fence Act does not address boundary disputes.

### TREE HARVEST OPERATIONAL LINES

What if you want to conduct a tree harvest in your woodlot but you are not sure where



*Stone property monument indicating Lot 24 in Roman numerals.*

your boundaries are? The last thing you want is a dispute with your neighbor.

Rule #1 - Work with your neighbor to establish an agreed-on boundary line. Land surveys are expensive, especially

for large rural properties. Surveying is a labour-intensive job. They need to visit the land registry office, the survey crew needs to find reference points, check for easements and rights of way, and use sophisticated equipment such as a



theodolite to measure the horizontal and vertical angles between points in order to produce a legal document defining the property boundaries. The size, location and topography may all influence the price of the survey.

## TIPS TO ESTABLISH A TREE HARVEST OPERATIONAL LINE

- Talk to your neighbor(s) on the adjacent property(s). They may be aware of the location of the property line or markers such as a corner pin or perhaps they have old survey records.
- Make a trip to the local land registry office. You can find your land registry office at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/land-registry-offices-lro>

The land registration system contains official records of land and property in Ontario, including the:

- title, which is a legal term for the land rights held by a person or corporation
- deed, which is a term used for the legal document that transfers title from one person to another

Anyone can search for land records. You can search historical land registration books online using the new OnLand site (Alpha phase)

The OnLand application acts as a “virtual Land Registry Office” (LRO), where

you can search or browse land registry records in the Ontario Land Registration system. You can search for historical books, documents, and property title records in any LRO, for viewing or download.

The following is a Research Guide for Finding Land Registration Records from the Archives of Ontario

[http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/research\\_guide\\_231\\_finding\\_land\\_registration\\_records.pdf](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/research_guide_231_finding_land_registration_records.pdf)

Ontario government mapping sites such as “Make a Topographic Map” contain Ontario parcel data (property boundaries). By clicking on the property corners, you can get the latitude and longitude. You can put these coordinates into a GPS. This will get you close to the corners of the property.

When you are in your woodlot you can search for corner markers, remnants of old fences (many land grants were issued to homesteaders for subsistence farming, and they may have pastured cattle) and old blazes on trees. A blaze on both sides of a tree can indicate a line and a blaze on all four sides of a tree may indicate a corner. Sometimes old survey lines have been updated.

Ideally you and your neighbor can come to a consensus on a mutually agreeable property line (recognizing this is may

not be a legal boundary). It is important to clearly mark the line. It is a good idea to put this in writing and signed by both property owners for future reference. Property ownership changes.

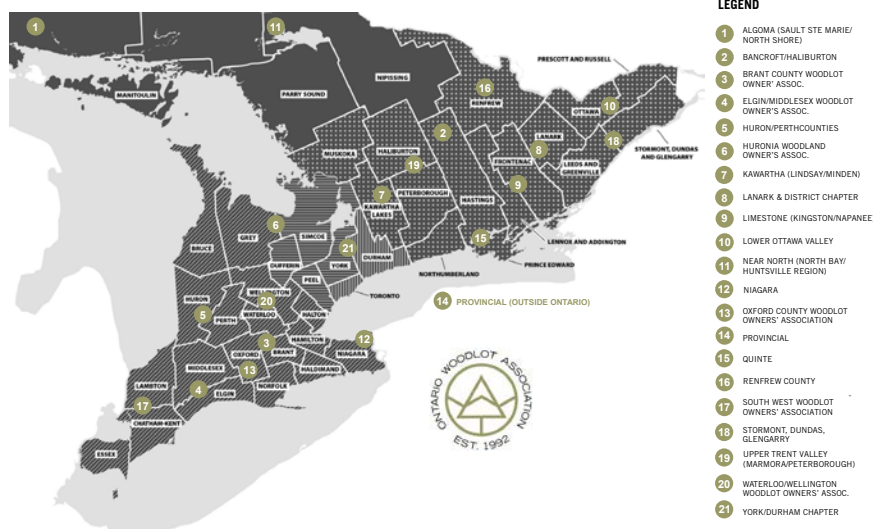
If you can’t come to an agreement on a boundary line and you still want to harvest timber, and you don’t want to pay for a survey, then the best approach is to allow for a no harvest buffer between your property and your neighbor’s so that you are well back from the property line.

A dispute with a neighbour over property boundaries can become a homeowner’s waking nightmare. Boundary disputes often result in hurt feelings and fractured friendships. At worst, these disputes transform the friendly guy-next-door into the “neighbour from hell.” This is definitely something you want to avoid.

**“Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.”**

**- Helen Keller**

# ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION CHAPTER MAP



The Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) is proud to call itself a “grass roots” association. From the association’s beginning, we recognized the need for a provincial organization that would provide a common voice for woodlot owners and foster a strong and active local presence. The OWA’s unique provincial body and regional chapter structure meets this need.

OWA’s chapter structure allows members to work with fellow woodlot owners on local needs through workshops, woodlot tours, and a general sharing of knowledge and experiences within their local communities.

We currently have 20 regional chapters across the province to serve Ontario’s woodlot owners. A reminder that we are always working to establish new chapters in other areas of Ontario.





# SEVERANCES

## ONE MEMBER'S EXPERIENCE

By Tedd Wood, Lower Ottawa Valley Chapter

**M**y wife Joyce and I live on a 65-acre property in the southern part of the City of Ottawa. We used to have horses, so the front 25 acres was set up for them. In addition to the house there is a barn, riding arena and workshop as well as fenced pastures and productive hay fields. The remaining land is primarily forested.

We truly enjoy living here, close to family, friends, and services as well as medical facilities (I should get a parking pass for the emergency department at the Kemptville District Hospital, not that I have a lot of accidents mind you!!). We have put a lot of ourselves into the property (hence the accidents). We plant 100-200 seedlings a year, we have cut trails and of course we have a Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan (MFTIP). We no longer have horses, the kids are still around but not living here, at least not as I write. Joyce has informed me it is time to move to a smaller house. After several information sessions, we looked around and decided our best option was to sever the property in half and build our retirement bungalow in the woods. Sounds easy. How hard can it be to sever your property in half? Turns out for us it was really hard, and it is expensive.

I will skip the sordid details of what we have been through and cut to the lessons learned. It is important to understand that you could be dealing with several levels of government and agencies. They all have their own agenda, policies, and rules.

**LESSON 1:** If you live in a large municipality that has policy and planning staff you need to use an agent who understands the system and the players. You may be able to work with staff in rural municipality, but talk to friends first for their experience.

**LESSON 2:** Make sure your zoning and any natural heritage designations and or mapping are current and match reality. Also make sure there is consistency between municipal and provincial information and mapping.

**LESSON 3:** Understand the rules. Severances are governed by provincial legislation in the Planning Act, the Municipal Act and the Provincial Policy Statement. Municipalities also have bylaws and their Official Plan. Conservation Authorities also have policies and regulations that may apply to your property.

**LESSON 4:** Get your prep work done as early in the process as possible. An Environmental Impact Study can tell you if you have significant issues that can or cannot be addressed, so do it first. Depending on your location other studies may also be required (these can include such things as traffic volume, drainage, archeological, natural heritage just to name the ones I am aware of). Remember a lot of this work can only be done in the summer months.

**LESSON 5:** Get out your cheque book. Fees to the City of Ottawa have cost us about \$10,000 so far. Then there are consultant fees, survey fees, and of course lawyer fees. I am afraid to say out loud what the total cost will be. You may have bought your land and pay the taxes on it, but these well-meaning folks have a lot of say about what you can do with it.

**LESSON 6:** If you are thinking long term, don't wait. Planning policies and regulations are only going to get more restrictive and limiting.

**LESSON 7:** Be patient, this is going to take a while.

It has not been fun, but we have had excellent support from our consultants, and at the end of the day we will be living in a new house with less upkeep in our woodlot still close to family and friends (and the hospital). My wife assures me it will all be worth it.



*A view of Tedd and Joyce Wood's now severed backyard with some visiting deer.*





# 2019 SURVEY RESULTS

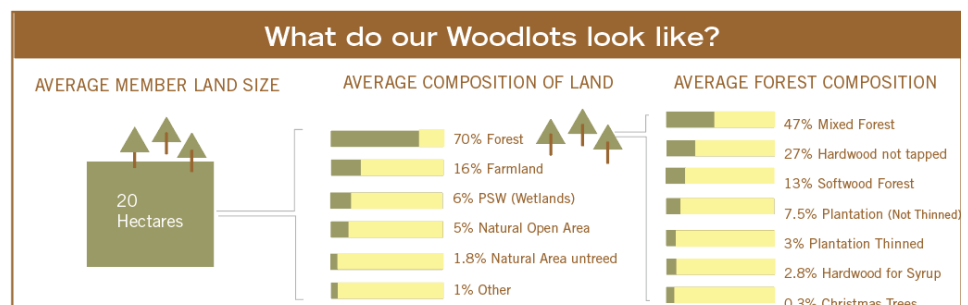
## RESULTS OF OUR 2019 SURVEY OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PART 3—WOODLAND DATA

By Erica Dixon, OWA Communications Coordinator, Kawartha Chapter

This is a continuation of a four-part series that aims to share the results of our member survey from 2019. Part 1, Introduction, gave a synopsis of membership demographics. Part 2, Needs, summarized our members' stewardship motivations as well as concerns. Part 1 and Part 2 of the survey results can be found in the 98th and 99th issues, respectively. Part 3, Woodland Data, provides a summary of what our members' woodlots look like, how they are managed, and what key recreational activities their woodlands allow.

- **Survey:** 405 people filled out the survey; 364 are members, 35 are non-members, six preferred not to answer
- **Woodlot Obtainment:** 81 per cent of owners purchased, 20 per cent inherited. 30 per cent obtained from family.
- **Location:** 62 per cent reside at one of their woodlands, 15 per cent live within 50km of their nearest woodland, 54 per cent visit the woodland every day or almost everyday
- **Forest Management Plans:** 72 per cent of owners have a management or stewardship plan and 88 per cent of these are through the MFTIP program, 28 per cent of owners plan to join MFTIP in the near future.
- **Management decisions:** 19 per cent affected by Natural Heritage, 19 per cent affected by Provincially significant wetlands, 17 per cent by Species at Risk.
- **Estate Planning:** 73 per cent of owners take their children/grandchildren into their woodland, 49 per cent of owners indicate that their children/grandchildren are interested in their woodland, 18 per cent of owners involve their children/grandchildren in forest management decisions
- **Professional Services:** 58 per cent consulted a Managed Forest Plan Approver, 40 per cent consulted a Registered Professional Forester, 38 per cent consulted a Certified Tree Marker. Biologists, Farmers, Ecologists and Environmental Planners were consulted to a lesser extent.
- **Business:** 19 per cent manage their woodland as a business; 84 per cent sold cut firewood as a part of this business and other wood products were sold to a lesser extent.
- **Harvest Method for Firewood:** 74 per cent of owners use a Stand Improvement (<5 per cent), 23 per cent use a light partial cut (15-35 per cent)
- **Tree Harvest:** Over the past 10 years, 63 per cent of owners harvested trees from their woodlot; 64 per cent harvested fallen and dying trees, 59 per cent used good forestry practices, 46 per cent cut trees "here and there", 11 per cent used a diameter limit cut.
- **Harvest Assistance:** 28 per cent consulted a Certified Tree Marker, 25 per cent consulted a Registered Professional Forester, 18 per cent consulted a Managed Forest Plan Approver, 13 per cent consulted a friend, 39 per cent consulted no one.
- **Harvest Aversion:** 45 per cent of owners plan to harvest in the next 5 years, however 23 per cent say they will never harvest; 65 per cent said their trees were not ready for harvest, 53 per cent had concerns about harvest damage, 36 per cent were too busy, 24 per cent said trees were old/dying, 25 per cent felt timber prices were too low, 25 per cent did not know how to sell timber, 22 per cent could not find a reputable logger
- **Most common Forest Activities:** 75 per cent cut trees for personal use, 64 per cent cut trees after a weather event, 57 per cent constructed/maintained trails, 41 per cent planted trees, 32 per cent cut and sold trees, 30 per cent reduced invasive species, 30 per cent improved wildlife habitat, 28 per cent thinned, 17 per cent collected non-timber forest products, 16 per cent constructed/maintained roads
- **Least Common Forest Activities:** 13 per cent battled unwanted diseases/insects, 10 per cent did a wetland project, 6 per cent reduced fire hazard, 2 per cent graze livestock in their woodlands, 2 per cent converted woodlands to something else
- **Plantations:** 45 per cent of respondents (184 owners) have a plantation, 57 per cent need a thinning, 66 per cent have thinned or are planning to; 30 per cent of the plantations were established by a Conservation Authority
- **Plantation Age:** 12 per cent established by the owner; 51 per cent are less than 30 years old, 28 per cent are 30-40 years old, 14 per cent are 41-50 years old, 17 per cent are 51+ years old, 8 per cent unknown
- **Tree Planting:** 11 per cent were interested in planting trees with the average project size of 11.3 acres; Their main objectives were to restore native forest cover (89 per cent), create wildlife habitat (87 per cent), environmental protection (83 per cent)
- **Recreation:** Most common recreation included hiking/walking (81 per cent), and cross-country ski/snowshoe (51 per cent)
- **Trespassing:** Trespassing has occurred on 56 per cent of respondent's properties in the last 5 years for decorative items such as boughs (83 per cent), berries (75 per cent), mushrooms (40 per cent) and more.

### • Average Composition of Forest:





# STANDING TIMBER PRICES

## SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Species	Sawlogs \$/Mfbm		Veneer \$/Mfbm	
	Low	High	Low	High
Basswood	100	300		
Beech	100	300		
Black Cherry	300	600	800	1100
Black Walnut	550	2500	2000	10000
Bur Oak	350	600		
Hard Maple	400	850	1500	8000
Hickory	200	400		
Poplar	50	100		
Red Oak	350	650	1000	1750
Soft Maple	200	400		
Tulip Tree	250	350		
White Ash	250	600		
White ash (dead)	50	100		
White Oak	400	850	2000	3000
White Pine	150	300		
White Spruce	NCM			

NCM = no current market

Hard Maple = untapped black and sugar maples

Soft Maple = silver, Freeman and red maples

Hickory = bitternut and shagbark

## WESTERN ONTARIO

Species	Sawlogs \$/Mfbm		Veneer \$/Mfbm		pulpwood \$/bush cord
	Low	High	Low	High	Avg
Basswood	50	200			
Beech	50	200			
Black Cherry	300	550	NCM		
Black Walnut	1000	2200	2500	7000	
Bur Oak	300	550			
Hard Maple	650	1000	1200	3000	
Poplar	50	100			
Red Oak	300	450	800	1200	
Red Pine					40
Shagbark Hickory	200	300			
Soft Maple	200	300			
Tulip Tree	100	300			
White Ash	250	350			
White ash (dead)	50	100			
White Cedar					100
White Oak	400	600	1000	1500	
White Pine	200	350			40
White Spruce					40

Standing timber prices are based on collaboration with three (3) forest service providers from each sub-region. Prices will vary based on current markets, tree quality, volumes & access. Veneer prices are based on valuations on the landing, since veneer can not be confirmed until it is felled and bucked.

## OWA STUDENT MEMBERS RECOGNIZED



Brittany MacKenzie (centre-left) and Cyril Cook (centre-right), both OWA student members graduating from the forestry technician program at Algonquin College in Pembroke, recently received academic bursaries from our Renfrew County Chapter and the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC). In the background from left to right are Renfrew County Chapter members John Stuart, Tony Bull, Peter Arbour and Katalin MacAfee, as well as Kerry Patterson-Baker of FPAC.







ONTARIO  
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**SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

Issue:	Deadline:
March	Feb 1, 2021
June	May 1, 2021
September	August 1, 2021
December	November 1, 2021

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