

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2

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LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN
BRUCE FERGUSON.

Mack's note: Bruce returns to continue his long-term contribution of vision & vigour to this Section & to CIF. Before coming to S. Ont. in 1988 he served for several years on CIF's Lake of the Woods Section Council. Starting 1990 he served 7 years on our Council, as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and as our rep. on a CIF restructuring committee. Starting 1997, he served 4 years on CIF's National Executive, for one of those years was CIF President. We are lucky to welcome Bruce back!)

Where do I start? I guess I start with the most important: our Section is alive and well. Since returning to Section affairs I am encouraged to see a revival in activity and esprit-de-corps of members. Accepting to return as Chair & Director was with a little trepidation and apprehension. However my fears have been unfounded and especially since I am honoured to have a great team on Council. Besides those who continue to serve: Mike Clarke, Caroline Mach, Mack Williams, George Sinclair, John Nolan and Tony Molnar, I am privileged to have Jim Cayford as Vice-Chair and Jim Coats as program coordinator. What a team!

Already this CIF year John Nolan served as acting Director at the CIF AGM and Conference at Whistler, B.C. Council has met twice and conference called twice and we had a very successful field trip to St Williams Nursery. This year's schedule

looks very good; I encourage all members to come and take part. CIF/IFC is the voice of practitioners. These events are important to our profession and to getting the word out.

What have we planned?

The fall meeting & field trip came off without a hitch. Dolf Wynia organized our best field trip in recent years with a turnout of over 40 members & guests. The theme was to consider the future of woodland property of the old Crown nursery. This forest tract is truly a jewel and needs our support to help maintain it for future generations.

On Wednesday January 9 we will host a panel of expert speakers to discuss & recommend solutions to the changing landscape of private woodland in S. Ont. This will be in cooperation with OPFA and U of T Faculty.

March 9 we will officiate at the first Silver Ring ceremony at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay. The 2002 forest technical grads will receive a newly created silver ring with a recessed tree engraved in it. This signifies the working bond of foresters & technicians across Canada and both as valued CIF members and professional practitioners.

In early May we will host our Annual General Section meeting, probably in the south half of Simcoe County. I look forward to a very special social event.

We had a very special ceremony at Doug Drysdale's tree farm October 31. Doug sponsored a sumptuous luncheon to honour John Somerville of Somerville Nurseries. This provided a venue to formally present John with his CIF "Fellow of the Institute" certificate for outstanding contribution to forestry in Southern Ontario. The reception was well attended with over 50 friends and family as well as local media. Council was also well represented with five of us there. Doug also presented two certificates of recognition from the local MP and MPP.

Finally, I would like to thank all who supported me from the Section while I was on National Executive. It was truly an honour to serve for four years and make the acquaintance of so many fine professionals from across Canada. CIF is by far the best group of enthusiasts I have had the pleasure to work and socialize with.

In upcoming newsletters I will update you on some other program activities we are embarking upon. And of course we will continue the good work we do at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. The next two years are very important to our Section and Council needs your support and input.

Have a safe & joyous Christmas & New Year! I look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2002.

**YOUR SECTION COUNCIL MEETS
BY CONFERENCE CALL & AT ST.
WILLIAMS**

Your Section Council met by Conference Call Fri. Oct. 5, with Bruce Ferguson, Caroline Mach, Mike Clarke, Tony Molnar & Mack Williams present. We met again at lunch hour during the Section's Fall meeting at St Williams Friday, Oct. 19.

Same members were present plus John Nolan, Jim Cayford & Jim Coats. Treasurer George Sinclair was unable to attend either meeting.

Bruce noted that John Somerville was named Fellow of the Institute at the CIF Board of Directors' Meeting. Jim Coats was welcomed as Program Coordinator; this was a small alteration in Council structure, approved by Council & by the membership. Jim Coats, Jim Cayford & Mike Clarke are to examine by-laws for change needed for this position, & also to ensure consistency with the recently revised CIF National by-laws.

Council plans to meet Nov. 20, likely at Kortright Centre. We will review & renew our relationship with the Centre, including our hopes for a permanent forestry there. We also will likely finalize plans for a January section meeting, likely at Univ. of Toronto, on forestry in the urban & urbanizing landscape.

Bruce & Mike represented CIF & forestry at a gathering in Toronto to begin to formulate Canada's position in "Rio plus 10" in Johannesburg next year to review progress following the UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. More to come on this.

This is the first year for the CIF Gold Medal to be awarded to forestry technician graduates. The award for Sir Sandford Fleming College will be on March 9, 2002, at their Ring Ceremony. The Section will be there. We may have a Section meeting then.

The Section's Annual Meeting is likely to be in May.

It is noted that CIF and about half its sections have web sites.

YOUR SECTION MEETS AT ST. WILLIAMS

Over 30 members & friends spent a great Friday, Oct. 19 at St. Williams, cradle of S. Ont. forestry, on "Ontario's South Coast." Host Dolf Wynia noted that St. Williams nursery was founded a century ago partly in response to growing shortage of timber for making furniture. We toured the Nursery, & also the St. Williams Crown Forest, comprising the forested lands that were part of the nursery property. The gathering included two former CIF Presidents (Jim Cayford & Bruce Ferguson) & at least three former SOS Chairs (Mike Clarke, Ken Elliott & Dolf Wynia).

For almost 90 years St. Williams operated as a Provincial Tree Nursery, producing tens of millions of tree seedlings. Around 1996 it was acquired by Aqua-North, a firm founded in North Bay with main office in Wawa. Aqua North's Vice-President John de Witt took us on a tour.

Here is 21st century seedling production! So automated; so much in containers; seed placed into containers just one in the right place in each container; in large trays that can hold hundreds of thousands of seedlings, on rollers for amazingly easy moving from place to place; can be stacked as needed, e.g. for winter storage. A lot of high-tech & horticultural expertise incorporated into this. What would Frank Newman, Meth Adamson, Med Linton & other heroes of the 1920's have thought of this!

Most of the stock grown here goes to N. Ont. (What that says for the state of S. Ont. forestry!) What is grown here is from seed from the right seed zone. To grow it here makes use of the Lake

Erie climate. They produce about 40 million. Their catalogue notes that 125 million seedlings are planted up north; 99.99% are container plugs; 15 years ago very few.

Next a visit to a 1908 w. pine plantation on sand that in those days was blown around so that roads were covered, & sand scooped out around houses; tree branches had to be placed to protect planted seedlings. They were from seed collected here, grown in European nurseries, & sent back here in baskets. It was soon after that St. Williams nursery was founded.

Many w. pine trees were badly weeviled; successive thinnings removed most of the damaged trees so what is left is a beautiful stand with a rich, diverse understory, that includes species of special interest to naturalists, scientists, recreation users--and loggers. A far cry from what it was like in 1908. And a good thing that the severe weeviling did not make someone decide to clear-cut it. Look at it now!

Then we saw red pine planted in the 1930's; & a site that had been cleared of Scots pine & is becoming a diverse mix of several oaks, including Chinquapin. Later looked at some younger white pine stands.

In all, the forest area of St. Williams & Turkey Point is a success story of sites made harsh by human activity, then restored by human hands to what they are now. A story repeated to some extent in many of the county & conservation authority agreement forests, & on at least a few private properties. A story worthy of comparison with the delightful story (& CBC video) "The Man Who Planted Trees" of a shepherd who, planting a few acorns daily for 40

years, transformed a barren area in Southern France. Or of the stories in the book "Forests of Hope" by a Swiss forester who described a dozen case histories worldwide.

They are success stories with a precarious future. Just as viewpoints & values are being sorted out of loggers, silviculturists, naturalists, wildlife biologists, trail users, & people seeking the therapeutic value of the forest's peace & quiet, & the challenges of developing a forest management regime that properly accommodates all of these values, financial & other support needed to stay viable seem to have largely dried up. What a challenge to find a way to move into this exciting time for these forests, to ensure that the good things come to fruition, & that all this good work does not fall victim to neglect for want of support.

We visited a "Picetum," a research area designed, planted and maintained by Dr. Alan Gordon, retired scientist, to compare the performance of various species, provenances, etc., of spruce from around the world. Yet another case of one person's work, continued into his retirement, which if maintained could provide valuable information about this valuable tree. Yet it too is at risk of loss from neglect related to inadequate funding sources.

We passed an area where research in ruffed grouse habitat is being done, and paused briefly at a lookout point established by some community initiative to give a stunning view across a large marshy area and across Lake Erie.

During a delicious soup & sandwich lunch at the Backus Woods Centre the Section Council meeting described

above took place, as well as a short Section business meeting.

FOREST MANAGEMENT SUPPORT.

How is the forest management challenge at the St. Williams Crown Forest being met? District Manager Alec Denys & District Forester Steve Williams are promoting a partnership among many people, & a sorting out of who will do what to make it work. Partners include Norfolk County, the forest industry, naturalists (Federation of Ontario Naturalists & Norfolk Naturalists), the Conservation Authority (Long Point Region), various recreation users, and others.

What is sought is active involvement of the partners & other cooperators & volunteers. MNR will provide managerial service (& technical forestry expertise?); what is to be done by each, & rewards to each, will be in a memorandum of understanding. Things like a new management plan, monitoring, infrastructure support, will be in place, also human & financial resources. An accord with the natural heritage community will be in place, & a zoning to accommodate a range of users. MNR will have a controlling & mediating role. Various advisory, local citizen, & technical committees will operate.

CHESTNUT (Yes, *Castanea dentata*!)

Late in the day four of us visited a couple who have a front lawn Chestnut tree, descended from a nearby parent tree. They collect the nuts, germinate them & grow them in pots on their property. They are willing to give (not sell!) them to anyone who will plant them in a suitable place & give them

suitable care. Another way one person (or couple) can make a difference. One of us took several for planting by scouts. What an opportunity for interested schools, scout groups, home owners & others (anyone with a suitable site) to help bring this species back from near-extinction.

BUTTERNUT CONSERVATION

Barb Boysen writes in the Huronia Woodland Owners' "Through the Knothole" about butternut, a species with wildlife, timber, aesthetic & cultural value, which is being decimated by butternut canker. The disease has been around for several decades, its origin is unknown but it is believed to be imported. Devastation is to the point of extirpation in some areas.

A butternut working group has been assembled of US & Canadian experts (incl. from U. of Guelph, U. of Toronto, Canadian Forest Service, & OMNR). A status report of the species will be developed, on which conservation & education strategies will be based.

The disease has no known control, so it may be best to search out genetically resistant trees. Owners will be encouraged to maintain butternut trees in their forest & to know which trees are most likely resistant. Since most forest is privately owned a key to success will be in encouraging woodlot owner participation.

From elsewhere I've heard of a conservation strategy for white elm that also includes finding the few trees genetically resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. That butternut, chestnut, & white elm were once such big parts of

the forest & look what's happened to them, is sad. But if this small handful of people can mastermind the saving of these species from disappearance they will deserve the gratitude of society (need I add, whether or not society knows it).

CARBON AND WATER EXCHANGE

A flyer we got notes that McMaster University in Hamilton, along with OMNR and Norfolk County is measuring carbon & water exchange & other meteorological things like radiation, temperature, wind speed, over white pine stands at the Turkey Point forest. This is to help determine C sequestration potential of S. Ont. plantations, & their sensitivity to seasonal & inter-annual climate variability; knowledge helpful in managing greenhouse gas emission & improving environmental quality. More info is available from: Dr. Altaf Arain, McMaster University, (905) 525 9140, Ex. 27941, or from Steve Williams, District Forester, OMNR; (519) 773 9241.

Next issue I may have something to tell you about a presentation on climate change.

WOODLAND EXPO 2001.

Over two late September days several hundred visitors attended Woodland Expo 2001, staged by several Stewardship Councils & assisted by Ont. Forestry Association. Weather was a bit iffy, with showers off & on, but a quite nice fall day.

David Hawke gave one of his beautifully illustrated nature talks, this one on nature in the woodlot. Wally

McNeice gave a most interesting review of local forest history & heritage. Others spoke about forest health, & woodlot management from an owner's viewpoint.

A choice from four tours was offered on each day: managing hardwoods, conifer plantations, or both; or new ways to care for young trees. I chose conifer plantations, & was treated to renewed exposure to Simcoe's County Forests, & to plantations about the same age as mine, just over 50 years. Also to demos of the thinning actually going on in the area, & of the benefits for such plantations of thinnings, properly timed, planned & done. Hosts were Ed Sutherland & Bob Hutchison, forester & forest technician, both employed by the County after working for MNR for several decades, much of it in these same forests.

THINNING CONIFEROUS PLANTATIONS IN SIMCOE COUNTY FOREST.

Simcoe County Forest is made up of about 28,000 ac. of forest, 12,350 of it plantations, mainly of red & white pine established between 1922 & 1970. Also in Simcoe County is about 35,000 ac. of privately owned pine plantations, much of which was planted and tended by MNR as part of the WIA program.

Six benefits of thinning plantations were given, at 10-year intervals beginning at about age 30. Rows (every 3rd or 4th) are removed in the first thinning, additional rows or individual trees in following thinnings, and about a third of the stems taken each time. The stand we saw was having its 3rd thinning, and might have several more before maturity.

Benefits of thinning: i. initial row thinning creates access for future work; ii. remaining trees are released, so their diameter growth increases; iii. lower quality trees & those that might die can be removed; iv. a chance to adjust species composition; v. added light in the stand allows regeneration, usually of hardwood; vi. more revenue through the plantation's life.

Two buyers are now at work thinning the stand; each demonstrated his own harvesting method. In each the tree is felled and reaches the ground with amazing ease & efficiency & with amazingly little damage to neighbouring trees or disturbance to the ground.

We saw figures that show that as the trees grow in diameter, the price tendered per unit volume of standing wood goes up dramatically, in the County's recent experience from \$4/cu. m for trees averaging 19 cm. dbh, to \$50 for trees averaging 29 cm.

We heard that prices vary with many factors: i. current market conditions; ii. volume of wood in the sale; iii. access & landings; iv. topography; v. hauling distance to the mill; vi. availability of timber closer to the mill; vii. product potential from the harvest; viii. very important: stem quality. The latter can be affected by things like the tree being off-site, or with large limbs, or butt scars (e.g. from previous logging), or and insect or disease history, or even poor planting.

We heard how poor planting, or deforming in early life by field vegetation &/or by heavy snow can cause the bottom part of the stem to be crooked or hockey-stick-shaped. The bottom foot or more of the stem must be removed. This is important due to

the concentration of log value of any tree in the bottom log of the tree.

Key message: these plantations are a long-term investment. If properly cared for they can pay big dividends.

TRAILS & GREENWAYS.

At the Woodlands Expo at the Oro Fairgrounds Sept. 21-22, an exhibit on trails confirmed for me that there is a growing number of trails in the county. Ganaraska Trail has been there for decades. The Oro-Medonte trail runs along Lake Simcoe between Barrie & Orillia. There will be 220 km. of Trans-Canada Trail joining Orillia, Coldwater, Midland, Penetanguishene, Elmvale, Minesing, Barrie, Thornton & Cookstown, much of it on abandoned rail lines. About 100 km. is already in use or in development. There is the North Simcoe rail trail, and another in Tiny Township.

This goes on in many places; as trails are laid out, normally by voluntary effort, there is a variety of help needed, among them: interpretive signage, developing guide books, & more. I think these proliferating trails offer us a means of making forestry better known to the thousands of people who regularly use the trails.

To illustrate, Huronia Woodland Owners' Association has an annual bus tour in June, this year to the Sudbury area. One stop was at the silviculture trail at Espanola, in a working forest in which intensive forest management is practised and explained.

On my own place, the Ganaraska Trail people have a side trip from their main trail which does a loop through my place. On that loop they see things like a diverse advance growth after a 1995 clear cut; a 50-year old spruce

plantation thinned in 1995; a number of 45-55 year old red pine stands thinned three times, one of which has rehabilitated what in 1952 was an eroding slope of exposed sand; two parcels of tolerant hardwood forest, and more. There is some thought of placing forestry interpretive signs along the loop.

In a book "A Decade of Regeneration" by the Toronto Waterfront Regeneration Trust, is a map showing more elements of the growing network: Bruce, Ganaraska, Grand Valley, Niagara Parkway, Welland Canal, Oak Ridges Moraine Trail, Moira River Trail, Toronto Waterfront, Loyalist Parkway (across Prince Edward Co.), Hastings Heritage (north of Trenton), Seaway Trail (along the whole U.S. Lake Ontario shoreline), Elora Cataract.

HWOA FIELD DAY, SEPTEMBER 29.

I missed Huronia Woodland Owners' fall field day, to what I hear is a truly beautiful property on the Coldwater R. near Hy. 400 in Medonte. A high school teacher & his wife, Carl & Rebecca Campitelli, are making their property into a beautiful place of forest, stream & meadow, where they can enjoy & share nature. From Adam Parker's article in "Knothole", HWOA's newsletter: The Campitellis plan to manage their forest for preservation of undisturbed old growth forest & its history, to share with interested groups.

The day began with Carl's slide show of the property's history from the late 1800's, including pictures of a once busy mill at the main entrance to Copeland Forest, & of men & boys that made a living in the woods in the

winter. Also in his slide show was "Elsie", a famous, very large rock elm, which attracted picnickers & others, & whose decaying logs are part of the forest floor. Carl has done much research into the history of the property & surroundings, and showed some notebooks from over a century ago, in which the company foreman recorded numbers, sizes & species of trees cut in any year.

Out on the trail, the property has been largely untouched for over 60 years other than creating a trail network, bridges, & some fuelwood cutting. The forest is mostly hardwood on the upland, & white pine, cedar & hemlock along the river. Carl has catalogued over 160 wild flower species. On the place is the remains of a shallow ridge, what's left of a tramway used over a century ago to move logs to the mill & to the main railway. He has built bridges over valleys & river for foot traffic, but able to support snowmobiles that are used for grooming trails for skiing. One bridge is 32' long, made of used steel roof trusses supported by pressure treated, gravel filled cribs.

On the property is the Campitellis' "Valley of the Giants", an area having large white pine, hemlock and cedar with old growth forest characteristics. One pine has a limb-free trunk for at least 50'. Among those trees are spongy areas with at least one bubbling spring that is no doubt a source for the river.

In the past Carl had made board walks over wet areas, which rotted away too quickly, so he now makes crushed stone paths with field stone borders, which should last a long time.

In the area long shaded by "Elsie" the rock elm, raspberry, sumach and other

vegetation is now filling the opening she left. Finally the group stopped to view the salmon working their way up stream to their spawning ground.

NEIGHBOURWOODS

Three partners: LEAF (Local Enhancement & Awareness of Forest), the Urban Forest Network (UFN), & the Ministry of the Environment, held a workshop at Toronto's Black Creek Pioneer Village Sat. Sept. 29. Andy Kenney very capably moderated the day's program, supported by LEAF's Project Manager Janet McKay. Attending this meant I could not attend the wonderful field day described above held by Huronia Woodland Owners Association.

We heard that a poll found that most urban people strongly favour having a good urban forest (UF). (78% of Canada's 31 million people are urban, urban said by Andy Kenney to have over 1,000 people & density of over 400/sq. km.) A smaller but still substantial % said they are concerned about trees in their community. People feel the UF is important to air & water quality, offsetting climate change forces, & for energy conservation. Other values are aesthetics, microclimate, managing storm water, property value.

Yet few urban centres have urban forest management plans; not all have street tree inventories. (The urban forest embraces the entire urban landscape, but cities & towns have control only over things like trees in streets, parks and ravines). A large % of cities with 50-100,000 people have inventories, a smaller % of larger cities, and a much smaller % of small communities. Andy notes that to be really useful the inventory must be

computerized; not all are. Some have management plans in someone's head, but not written down. Some deal with arboriculture, not with the ecosystem.

Studies in places like Chicago, & more preliminary work in Toronto, put substantial dollar value on pollution reduction, & find that shrubs contribute significantly to this effect (about 1/3 of total).

Toronto has an estimated 8.5 million trees, 3 million in residential areas. A modest replacement value of \$850 has been assigned. There is also the effect of trees on enhancing property values.

Such numbers of trees with such values, the need to manage for an ecologically sound, diverse (as to species, age classes, etc.) forest ecosystem, suggest a need to move forward with UF management. A lot of small things are going on; we need to grow into a more comprehensive system that is integrated with other aspects of municipal planning (& development).

To learn how to join Urban Forest Network, call 416 413 9244 or visit www.leafortonto.org/cauf.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

At the Neighbourhoods workshop Lynn McIntyre of Wildlife Habitat Canada described how a community can on its own initiative move forward, using the ECOPerth project in Perth, where he lives, as a case history. One which grew from a greening project to one much more comprehensive, one driven by the community, with low budget, which extended to a no-pesticide emphasis, schoolyards, spring tree sale, shading of front yards, &

community-shared agriculture. Some secrets to success include:

- i. it is possible, in money, time, resources, chances of success, and measurable result.
- ii. a champion emerges, to start it &/or keep it moving.
- iii. has a direct economic, (& I'd say social & environmental) benefit, especially if measurable.
- iv. a high profile project will boost awareness & support. They publicize projects and individuals.

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING. (UFMP).

At the same workshop Philip Van Wassanaer discussed an urban forest management plan; a pioneer plan has been done in Stouffville. His plan outline includes: introduction, visioning--goal & objectives; structure of plan; strategic plan (20 years); management plan (5 years); annual operating plan. It covers: what you have; where you are going; how to get there; relating the UFMP to the official plan, etc.

Each 5-year plan builds upon the previous one, within a 20-year strategic plan framework. Things in the plan include: inventory of trees to have inspection or maintenance; planting; hazardous trees; public education & communication; plan review.

NEIGHBOURHOODS: LOCAL TREE INVENTORY.

A student of Andy Kenney's, Danijela Puric-Mladenovic, described "Neighbourhoods", an urban tree inventory developed to gather info for developing strategic & management plans. It stresses community involvement, with the advantages of

educating residents, taking them outdoors together, & achieving resident input to good stewardship. The Inventory Sheet asks questions like: street address, tree #, species, hard surface (how much of the ground is paved), dbh, height (3 classes), crown balance, has its height been reduced (e.g. under a utility line), signs of weak foliage or defoliation, large dead branches, poor branch attachment, does tree lean, are there pruning scars, are there basal scars (e.g. hit by a car, wilful damage), are there stem cracks, are there fungal conks, is the tree in a confined space above or below ground, are roots exposed on surface, are roots of poorly planted trees threatening to girdle the stem, is there trenching that may have severed or torn some roots, is there conflict with: overhead wires, a structure, other trees, traffic sign, other. Based on the above, what trees are a hazard in the urban setting.

CAPITAL WOODLANDS.

At Neighbourwoods Workshop Seaton Findlay, member of the Ottawa Stewardship Council, & a writer of documentary films & videos, had copies of "Capital Woodlands," a handsome well illustrated guidebook to Ottawa's urban wooded areas. The book is published by Penumbra Press, is 166p., ISBN 1 894131 14-2. I think the price was around \$20.

It traces Ottawa's geology, and its natural & city history from pre-settlement to high-grade lumbering, clearing for farming then for the city, and modern efforts everywhere to retain natural open spaces in cities. It notes that urban natural areas tend to disappear, but that Ottawa still has some "nooks & crannies" that have been protected, some publicly, some privately, sometimes anonymously.

They range from well-known to near-secret. They are becoming more accessible as Ottawa's system of paths & bikeways grows.

"Capital Woodlands" provides a guide to 25 wooded areas in the new Ottawa (formerly Ottawa-Carleton Region). Among them: the arboretum at the former Central Experimental Farm; a natural & plantation forest at CFB Ottawa; the wooded escarpment around Parliament Hill; the wooded parkland along the Rideau Canal; the Richlieu Forest & sugar bush near Vanier City Hall. At the latter a sugar shack was built on the site of an earlier one built by the religious order that owned the forest, using in its ceiling maple salvaged from the 1998 Ice Storm damage.

URBAN BACK YARDS.

An item by landscape architect Marc Willoughby in Urban Forest Network Newsletter, lists components of a S. Ont. urban back yard that resembles pre-settlement ecosystems:

1. Vegetation layers: herbaceous ground cover; woody shrubs, young saplings, vines; understory trees; canopy trees; supercanopy trees.
2. Non-living elements: snags (dead standing trees) & shelter logs; humus layer; woody debris; pools; topographic variety. Dead trees, fallen logs, etc., add structural & topographic diversity & provide a variety of microclimate & soil moisture regimes.

3. Wildlife habitats:

--cut non-hazardous trees to 2.4 m. for various habitat functions.

--in sunny well drained places, 1.8m deep pits or hibernacula, filled with branches & soil & mounded to 1.2m height for shelter for snakes.

--fallen trees, upturned trunks, etc. provide cool moist sites for salamanders & for numerous beneficial insects.

It was noted elsewhere that of the urban landscape, forested or not, only a small amount is under municipal control, places like streets, parks, and ravines. Private property is not under their direct control. They seem to regard schools & schoolyards as private property. So control or influence over the landscape is fragmented. Seems there is lots of scope for activities like regulation, education, negotiation.

COMMUNITY BASED FORESTRY IN THE U.S.

Also from Urban Forest Network newsletter, in the past 4 years the Forest Policy Centre in the U.S. has implemented a community based forestry program to help local groups. They bring together a wide range of information & expertise (national, local, and more). They openly share info & promote community-based ecosystem management. A new book "Understanding Community-Based Forest Ecosystem Management" defines community-based ecosystem management, outlines how to create it. It appears to originate from American Forests (formerly American Forestry Association), with a web site mentioned:
www.americanforests.org/forestpol/index.html

GIRDLING TREE ROOTS

Something I'd heard little about before was mentioned at the Neighbourwoods workshop. A student article in "Ontario Arborist" quotes several years'

literature on girdling of tree roots or lower trunk. It happens, not in trees grown naturally from seed, but mainly in trees planted with some roots wrapped around the lower trunk or around larger roots. Now that I've been made aware, I see quite a number of trees in Toronto with roots that have been unnaturally positioned relative to the trunk during planting. It seems to be associated mainly with roots having spiralled in the tree's container, or squeezed into too small a planting hole.

When such roots (& trunks) grow, they are deformed where they make contact, & the growth of both will be slowed. Moisture & nutrient movement is restricted. The tree is weakened; in severe cases it may break in that area. A trunk fully encircled by a root may be larger above than below the girdling root. If the girdling is on one side of the tree the branches on that side will be smaller. Leaves may be fewer and smaller.

It seems proper planting will largely avoid this, making sure roots are properly spread out, that the hole & entire site are properly prepared, that buying a bare root tree allows inspection & a spreading out of roots.

In some cases, within a decade or so of planting, girdling roots can be removed, possibly with a chisel & mallet. Whether new roots will develop at the cut will depend partly on the tree's overall vigour.

CARING FOR CREATION AT TOTTENHAM

Last spring retired colleague Doug Skeates dug up about 60 trees, mainly white spruce, & some vines from his property, potted them, & distributed

them to fellow United Church congregation members in Tottenham. Each cared for one or more trees for the summer as part of a "Caring for Creation" theme. Some trees were kept by their care-givers. In September the rest were returned to the Church then taken to Tottenham Public School. One late Sept. afternoon the whole school turned out to plant the trees to launch their schoolyard greening effort.

One of the teachers told me he had taught school in Taiwan. There every school has a well tended, perhaps forested garden.

LINKING FOREST ISLANDS

Described in the E. Ont. Model Forest's newsletter "Forest Forum" is a \$420,000 investment by Ont. Power Generation (OPG) to plant 375,000 trees over 3 years, on both public & private land. Mainly to join isolated "forest islands" with planted corridors. It will be done under a partnership involving EOMF, OPG, area stewardship councils, & the S Nation Cons. Authority, with financial & other involvement from those on whose lands the trees will be planted. Sometimes the islands to be connected make up about the only forest habitat for some distance.

EOMF's annual report has an item "A2A to B2B." A2A refers to a broad wooded corridor linking Algonquin & Adirondack Parks, which I've noted before. B2B, or bog to bog, looks like an extension of the corridor notion. They hope to establish a connected series of forest corridors linking wetlands, protected parks, forests & conservation lands across E. Ont. The idea is in the landscape demo stage, with a number of partners, with the

idea of demonstrating sustainable forestry & wetland conservation.

The same Forest Forum notes a report "Canadian Accomplishments: Our Evolving Journey Toward Sustainable Forests 1997-2000", relating to things done under Canada's commitment under the second Canada Forest Accord & the National Forest Strategy for 1998-2003. It looks at recent accomplishments & at challenges we continue to face in pursuit of sustainable forests Canada-wide. A copy of the report can be obtained through the EOMF office at 613 258 8241 or at the National Forest Strategy Coalition web site at <http://nfsc.forest.ca>.

CORRIDORS

In the book "Forests of Hope" is one story about regreening a large desert area in Northern China. A picture from the air across several square kilometres of landscape shows quite a lot of forest. In the view are few if any isolated patches. Open areas were thus enclosed, and, I'd think, well protected from the elements, if you like, embraced in a protective or nurturing net.

Interesting that on my own place, a fencerow from when it was farmed before 1940 widened somewhat as the plantations grew, & is now seen as a useful corridor between two pine plantations. I'd expect that as the plantations mature & are harvested, the maple understory in both plantations will take over and the corridor will cease to be.

BLACK ASH BASKETRY

An EOMF "Forest Forum" item offers interesting insight into the importance of black ash to the Akwesasne community in E. Ont., who have from the start had a very strong role in EOMF. A Native American Black Ash & Basket Making Conference was held at Akwesasne in July, where black ash was featured from standing tree to finished basket.

Basket-making, using black ash, is a centuries-old feature of Mohawk culture. They had many practical uses; more recently, ornamental or fancy baskets were added. But by the 1980's there were threats of decline; people moved into other kinds of livelihood; black ash decline in health & abundance, likely due to the tree's low vigour & human influences like overcutting, habitat intrusion, lack of applied management practices, & low reproductive capacity.

So in the early 90's the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne & the Akwesasne Task Force on Environment joined with EOMF to consider how to regenerate & preserve black ash as a step in revitalizing this tradition. Over 10 years of seed collection, planting of 6,000 seedlings, & scientific learning about black ash regeneration, they feel they are still only scratching the surface.

Two persons, Les Benedict & Richard David, seem to have led this effort & have written an 84-p. handbook "Handbook for Black Ash Preservation, Reforestation & Regeneration," published by Department of the Environment, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Cornwall. A review in Atlantic Forestry Review, Jan., 2001, notes that it is written in a way that convinces readers that they, too, can grow black ash successfully. The reviewer found

that advice on weed control, tree shelters & guards, transplanting & fertilizing might apply to most E. Canadian hardwoods. He noted that while the future of black ash is of special importance to First Nations communities everyone's interest is served by these authors who have so capably shared their wisdom.

Also from Akwesasne, with EOMF's cooperation, a video on Akwesasne trees, & one in progress on black ash basket-making.

MULLIN DEMONSTRATION FOREST.

Earlier I described some of the numerous demonstration forests in the EOMF. There are over 30 such sites. Forest Forum carries Cameron Smith's recent Cdn. Geogr. article "Forest Sanctuary." It is a 9.3 ha old growth pine-hemlock demo. forest, close to a busy highway near Cornwall. It was not widely known until the 1998 ice storm, when owner Roy Mullin, appealed to MNR for help in dealing with his damaged trees. MNR staff felt that it is about as close as any forest in that region to being old growth.

Though it was heavily logged after its first owner acquired it in 1797, & logged several times since, it has several old growth characteristics: many trees predate the original logging; there are five canopy layers; there are pits and mounds on the forest floor from trees that fell over long ago; some of the mounds would have been over 3m high. The owner has made it accessible to those guided by MNR staff.

COMMUNITY NATURE WATCH
www.CommunityNatureWatch.com

This web site is in place to protect & enhance Eastern Ontario's natural heritage. It offers people i. a chance to get involved; ii. current listings of environmental events; iii. interactive online mapping; iv. ecological monitoring methods; v. outdoor education resources; vi. links to related web sites; vii. moderated discussion forum; viii. partnership opportunities.

People can use the web site to find out about coming events, volunteer for events, share perspectives on environmental topics, and make observations on species collections to partner data bases.

Users are invited to use interactive maps of E. Ont., to zoom from one scale to another, create your own map by adding or removing layers, or download a map of interest. They can submit observation locations by placing a dot on a map, or can view collected ecological monitoring data.

They can learn about the importance of ecological monitoring, & ways to collect & disseminate data to others. They can get the latest E. Ont. environmental news, find out about events & activities, find an older article or news item, or publicize an event, or about the growing numbers of partners in the EOMF enterprise. Outdoor educators can find a wealth of helpful info, & get help in publicizing their events. Finally, they can bring questions or comments to a topic forum, where experts in moderated forums will respond to inquiries or comments.

AGROFORESTRY (AF).

I'm less informed about AF than I'd like, I feel it rates more attention in the

context of S. Ont. forestry. I feel that, given our growing mix of urban & rural land uses, growing population, & growing need to get more from less, AF rates a growing place on our landscape, in keeping our forest, our farm land, our cities, and our people sufficiently healthy. It could be a major part of the forest conservation FON and others are seeking to achieve over the next few years. I hear a fair bit about its practice elsewhere in the world, & have read about some truly fascinating, apparently very successful, examples in places like the book "Forests of Hope."

For best results I suspect it needs special adaptation to fit here. Adapted to our growing interest in maintaining a healthy, appropriate wildlife population as one of the desired benefits of a healthy landscape. A few years ago at our section's AGM, we were shown some of Univ. of Guelph's intercropping work, where single rows of trees of several native species were planted some distance apart, with a range of farm crops between rows. These were to shed light on relationships between trees, land, & cultivated crops.

While trying to tidy up at home, I found the June/91 For. Chron, with a report on a 1991 AF conference at Guelph, & some related articles. One is on work on intercropping at Guelph & in 5 other SW Ont. places. Some are aimed at rapid growth of quality hardwood trees, like walnut, & the intensive work that will help achieve good growth. Some aim at achieving good timber production, good nut production, or both. Some aim at combined tree & other crop production better than if each grew separately. Some at reducing or eliminating environmental damage that may be associated with farming, &

environmental modification in an individual field for optimum sustainable crop benefit. Some at the interaction between forest, field crops, & animal husbandry (e.g. using trees for browse, shade, etc. for farm animals). Some at the overall role, actual or potential, of trees & forest in farming. Some at the interaction of researchers, extensionists & interested farmers to develop techniques & approaches that really work. The prize seems to be a superior blend of forest & agricultural crop & perhaps a healthy wildlife population.

Seems a bit reminiscent of hearing in 1991, during a brief visit to Costa Rica, of an effort to grow iguanas for meat. It arose partly from concern about forest clearing for cattle ranching; it was believed that a parcel of land could grow more meat with iguanas in forest than with cattle on cleared land; this might help conserve the country's forest.

There are other things, such as windbreaks and shelterbelts, riparian or valley land planting, & of course the farm woodlot, or hedgerow, or wooded fence row. Most of these form corridors, and make corridors an item of special significance in farm country.

Notes from a conference poster some years ago: In N. America, AF involves incorporation of trees into farming; intercropping of farm & forest crops, silvipasture & riparian reforestation, as well as more traditional AF activities like farm woodlot management, maple syrup, Christmas trees, windbreaks & shelterbelts. AF may be a part answer to concerns about soil degradation, faltering farm economy, water pollution, loss of landscape diversity, of wildlife habitat; growing general interest in land stewardship. I think I've

also heard that nut culture is a part of AF.

There is something called permaculture in Australian literature, that seems to carry some of this stuff to high levels of sophistication. As do some of the stories in "Forests of Hope."

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT (EF)

These days I keep hearing the term "ecological footprint" used in ways that gave me some idea of its meaning. Then I came across the book "Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth." by Mathis Wackernagel & William Rees. Publ. by New Society Publishers, P.O. Box 189, Garbiola Island, B.C. V0R 1X0. Canada ISBN 1-55092-251-3 (paperback). Price \$17.95 Cdn (+GST & shipping & handling).

Raises questions like: how much of Earth is needed to support humanity at any given level? Could the whole world live as we North Americans do? EF is described as the "load" imposed by a given population on nature. Represents the land area needed to sustain current levels of resource consumption & waste discharge by that population.

EF of a modern city can be hundreds of times its actual area; the area needed to sustain its needs for things like timber, water, food production, fuel, waste disposal, recreation opportunity, and more. The average North American's EF is 4-5 hectares. For the whole world to live as we do in N. America, we would need at least 2 additional planet Earths to produce resources, absorb wastes, and otherwise maintain support. (Small problem: where to find those two Earth-like planets).

It is noted how increasingly easily most of us forget nature & its closed loops, that we are not only connected to nature, we are nature; that nature supplies our material life-support needs, absorbs our wastes, & provides life-support, like stable climate, all of which make Earth livable for people.

Carrying capacity (CC) is the maximum population of a species that can be sustained indefinitely on a given habitat.

Fair earthshare (FE) is how much land each person would get if all the world's ecologically productive land were divided evenly among its present human population. As population rises, FE will decrease. If one's present FE were a round island its diameter would be 138 metres. A sixth would be arable land, the rest pasture, forest, wilderness, and built-up area.

Land use categories suggested for an EF assessment include: i. energy--land appropriated for fossil energy use; ii. consumed or built environment, mainly urban; iii. land currently used for gardens, crops, pasture, & managed forest; iv. less available land, like protected forest, deserts, mountainous regions, ice caps.

The EF idea, together with carrying capacity, fair earth-share, & others helps us focus on a number of questions. Such as: given such a tight fit between EF & CC, regionally or globally, how can things be eased. Will intensity of land use, including intensive forestry, crop production, etc., increase benefit per unit area & reduce our individual & collective EF's. How do various forest management systems affect EF. How might widespread deforestation affect EF? It seems like a very useful audit tool, for assessing how we are doing,

& identifying the nature & urgency of any changes needed. May shed light on things we can do to reduce our individual & collective EF.

TREES AND PEACE GARDENS.

For me Sept. 11 was a fine day of wonderful peace among my 40-55 year old plantations, actually doing the odd task, taking a relaxing lunch & nap break with a music tape in the car.

Till evening I did not know the day's events in New York & Washington. Acts described as acts of war, a war to be fought & won. I wondered. At what cost, & with what prospect of success. And how to define success. When all those in any way implicated are found & suitably dealt with, all casualties are cared for, & all wreckage cleared? Or when we step up our efforts to identify & eliminate the causes of long-lasting hatreds that lead to terrorism, or the injustices that provide fertile ground for hatreds? As one world leader suggested, items to be identified, & systematically dealt with, one at a time.

Why this in a forestry newsletter?

There is a movement (international I think) promoting peace gardens in places like schoolyards. I can't really say what makes a peace garden (maybe just a peace-seeking heart?), maybe trees & forests have a part. I've heard people on my trails, at Kortright Centre & elsewhere, enthuse at the peace & quiet there, what a place it would be to bring children for classes in music, art & drama. I've heard of the wonderful acoustics of many forests for fine music. For years I've heard of the healing effect of the mere sight of trees on someone recovering from an illness. Or more recently the therapeutic use of sights & sounds, natural or musical.

Does any quiet area qualify? A wooded or other place we can just be quiet, or reflect on tiny steps we each might take at home or worldwide to make the world a better place.

In our places of worship we learn about Creation. In our forests I feel we can see Creation at work: when a bud forms, & later opens; a leaf turning a brilliant autumn colour; what those countless organisms are doing in the ground, the miracle of reproduction, and on and on.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The fall issue of FON's "Seasons" has a page about slow but sure strangulation of environmental & outdoor education in Ontario. The past few years I've seen personally how difficult it has become to show students the outdoors, although some terrific educators still do so. I hear this is not just in the cities, but everywhere. I believe this reinforces the case for schools with grounds naturalized in a way that effectively exposes children to a bit of nature.

Again: why this in a forestry newsletter?

It is to society's detriment if Canadian children are denied exposure to trees & forests worthy of one of the world's forest nations. That it seems to be going from bad to worse may be just an intensifying warning of the need for change. Kids need that exposure if they are to hope to understand forests or the rest of nature, & as adults participate in deciding how our natural areas are to be cared for.

On these pages I have encouraged readers to consider being involved in (re)greening schoolyards. In OPFA's

recent "Professional Forester" retired forester Peter Murray encourages any of us who can to be involved in tree planting programs on streets, in urban centres that may not have an active forestry program. He noted, as would I, that this kind of useful work might appeal to retired forestry practitioners wanting to remain active. In his town (Gananoque) he has begun a tree program complete with a nursery.

I believe it will take time under the best of circumstances for significant headway on either of these fronts. (Maybe all the more reasons for taking those baby steps now). In both cases, as noted above, there will be magnificent exceptions.

Another way that may help is one I've described before: the suggestion by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON's Linda Pim) to offer to form an environmental advisory committee (EAC) to provide environmental understanding to municipal councils. Or the much larger & differently structured sustainability round table that advises Toronto's City Council.

Many schools & municipalities may just be unable to launch such work at this time. But perhaps there is something they can & should do. Perhaps plant one or two trees in a park or along a street may be a tiny act that snowballs.

More important, perhaps, I see a great need to tend the trees they do have, ensuring they are properly watered, mulched, protected from pests & from accidental or wilful damage. I would include in this interim care even the most junky stuff, like the mulberry or Manitoba Maple you find along many fence lines. Until they can be replaced by better stuff, I think a junky tree beats the socks off no tree at all.

This summer I had occasion to keep a close eye on two schoolyards, during several weeks without rain. Large expensive lawns turned the colour of the gravel walk that crosses them, dandelions & other weeds providing bits of green. Trees, especially young ones, & especially those Norway maples, showed severe signs of drought stress. Some did not make it.

For the next little while many schools are unlikely to do much naturalization work. But they may be able to consider a holding action, doing all they possibly can to ensure that the trees they do have stay, or become, healthy and productive. From the combined effect of lack of moisture and the compacting effect of trampling by countless feet, they are precluded from growing to make even a pretence of fulfilling the purposes of having them there. Any conceivable reason for their being there requires that they grow well to produce that "leaf area density" Andy Kenney so ably explains to us. And when the day does come that they can be more active, the trees & other material they have will be alive & healthy.

A note in the Urban Forestry Network Newsletter notes another problem. Trees in one urban area, instead of growing well, are being crippled by things like wires & stakes that were placed at planting time, then never removed. (I see it again & again). It suggests that people seeing stakes & wires left too long, or string & burlap around trees be reported to the city's forestry department (or school or school board) to request action--or get the okay (as I've done at two schools) to remove them yourself.

And: something Andy Kenney, & before him Erik Jorgensen, have

always noted: when excavating for a road, walk, or whatever, try to avoid damaging roots of existing large trees. One of my favourite schools was rebuilt a few years ago. The curb for the new parking lot came within 10 feet on two sides of the large tree the school had prized as its Grandfather tree for decades. That was three years ago & the deceased tree has just been removed. It has been suggested my before & after photos of this tree be made into a case history.

The word "humility" comes from the Latin word "humus", meaning having our feet on the ground, knowing what we are & are not.

Vaclev Havel, former leader of Czechoslovakia: We live in a new world, in which all of us must begin to bear responsibility for everything that occurs.

And in a letter from Conservation Foundation (of Greater Toronto): Charles Sauriol: I have lived here, I have loved my country, and I have done something positive to ensure that its natural beauty and natural values continue.

Quoted in Urban Forestry Network Newsletter: Wordsworth: This solitary tree? a living thing produced too slowly ever to decay; Of form and aspect too magnificent to be destroyed.

We can believe as aboriginal people do: we are as much alive as we keep the earth alive. As Unitarians: we affirm & promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. As Jainists: we should treat all creatures as we would like to be treated.

Canada geese are said to fly in formation so each takes advantage of the lifting power of the one ahead. Suggests that if we have as much sense as the goose we'll stay in formation with those ahead, & accept their help. And help those that follow us.

And finally: If we believe in miracles, it's up to us to make them happen.

STEWARDS OF THE EARTH. From the hymn book in my Church.

All praise to you, O Lord of Creation,
You made the world and it is yours alone.
The planet earth you spun in its location
Amid the stars adorning heaven's dome.
We lease the earth for but a short duration
Yet for this life it is our cherished home.

With wondrous grace you clothed the earth in splendour
With teeming life you filled the sea and land.
Instil in us a sense of awe and wonder
When we behold the beauty of your hand.
Then when we hear the voice of bird or thunder
We hear the voice our faith can understand.

To tend this earth is our entrusted duty
For earth is ours to use and not abuse.
O gracious Lord, true source of all resources,
Forgive our greed that wields destructive sword.
Then let us serve as wise and faithful stewards
While earth gives glory to creation's Lord.

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HYMN SUNG IN MY CHURCH ON
CANADA DAY

O God of all the many lands

We lift our hearts to thee,

For this fair land, our Canada,

A country wide and free:

For mountain heights and northern
lights,

For prairie, lake and sea,

For lavishness in all the gifts

Which find their source in thee.

We thank thee for the sacrifice

Of daring men of old,

For faith to cross uncharted seas,

For dreams to make men bold:

For valiant souls and pioneers,

For all who served their age,

And left for us who follow on

A sacred heritage.

We thank thee that from many a land,

With varied gifts they came,

To pledge their love and loyalty

Where scarlet maples flame.

May justice here belong to all,

And may our nation play

Her rightful role in ushering in

The peace for which we pray.

May we be worthy of our land

And seek her highest good,

Shaping a noble destiny

Of truest brotherhood.

May this fair land, our Canada,

Thy own dominion be:

Thy people bless abundantly

From seas to Arctic sea.

INSPIRATION

Recently The Toronto Star quoted from addresses of two University of Toronto grads as they received honorary doctorates at U of T. One, by Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson carried the heading "Graduates: Go make a difference." In one place, to graduates: "There will be many things that do not work out as you want. Does your journey end? Not if your moral stance is that you can change things, that you can affect things, that you do not have to accept the immediate and expedient way. Only with this stance can you even vaguely hope to make a difference." Or: "If you find out what is within you and you bring it out, it will save you; if you do not bring it out, it will destroy you." Or: "Joy is possible to us all if we understand what is genuine & what is false, what is true & what is delusion. What is human & what denies humanity." She quoted a favourite poet: "I'd rather learn from one bird how to sing than teach 10,000 stars not to dance."

The second person, astronaut Julie Payette: A dream requires us to face challenges head on & work out ways to overcome them. The dream of space exploration has been with us for millennia. But the dream was impossible & the challenges seemed

insurmountable. Then 40 years ago began a race fuelled by scientific curiosity, political rivalry, a way to assert national power and position.

Along the way we kept discovering and pushing the frontier, with enormous benefit in technology, advanced knowledge, learning who we are, & powerful motivation to keep pushing. We also made big mistakes, & have arms and missiles we can target at each other across oceans. We also see from space what 7 billion humans can do to the environment.

We also realize that this is our only livable planet, that you must continue your quest, keep improving. A space station now orbits Earth, with a multi-national crew, and still with major problems (still uses both Imperial & metric, so takes twice as many PhD's to figure anything out). They will be tackled; the space station will be there despite the doubters & skeptics, a token of what we humans can accomplish when we work together & when we set our minds to it.

OUR SECTION'S ANNUAL MEETING.

We met at Kortright Centre for Conservation (KCC) on June 29, with 14 members & friends present, including Kathy Lindsay, our contact with KCC for the section's forestry project (who is leaving on educational leave). We thanked the Centre through

Kathy for their hospitality over the years in having us come here for fall colours and maple syrup festival.

Under the heading of smart growth the Ontario government is looking into the kind of S. Ont. we want for the future, with a broad range of relevant interests. We need to form some ideas of the kind of forest that should be part of that region.

Our Council was elected for 2001-02. It includes: Chair: Bruce Ferguson (Welcome back Bruce from 4 years on CIF National Executive). VC: Jim Cayford (interim; veteran of many years on National Executive and in National Office!). Secretary: Caroline Mach. Treasurer: George Sinclair (again! Thank you again!). Communication Councillor: Tony Molnar. Editor: Mack Williams (15th year, this is issue #64!). Promotions & Issues: George Sinclair. Nominations & Recruitment: Mike Clarke. Working Groups & Continuing Education: John Nolan. Public Education: Mike Clarke. Thank you to all of these for agreeing to serve. We would like to find a student councillor and a post-secondary school councillor.

By-Laws: The CIF National has reviewed its by-laws, and it may be timely for our section to do so.

Membership Committee: We have 118 members. We can ALL be a membership committee and try to recruit new members.

Fifty-year members this year: Sam Linzon, Paul Masterson, Stan White.

Fall meeting possibility: tour of the plantations and other forest of the former St. Williams Forest Station.

A Woodlot Expo will be held in Oro Fairgrounds near Barrie September 21-22.

Web Site: needs update. It is linked to the CIF national web site, thus all sections that have a web site are interconnected.

MEETING OF INCOMING SECTION COUNCIL.

After our annual meeting, & our discussion of the "Woods Talk" Conference (see below), section council met briefly. Some things incoming Chairman Bruce would like to see this year: i. strengthen ties with Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON), especially on S. Ont. forestry; ii. also with OPFA, perhaps exploring joint membership; iii. also with Univ. of Toronto & Sir Sandford Fleming College, on student participation, possibly student chapters in the section; iv. also with Kortright Centre, (our continued participation there); v. technical workshop that would qualify for continuing education credit under

evolving OPFA rules; vi. forestry on urban & rural private land; vii. keep trying to attract more members & friends to section events.

Bruce plans a conference-call type council meeting in July, to prepare SOS' representative (John Nolan) to the CIF National Board of Directors' meeting in August.

Something we've dreamed about is a movable forestry exhibit in the Kortright Centre building. I'd think it wonderful if it were possible to put it in the corner where two large windows look out over a balcony & down the hill into the maple sugar bush.

PROF. ANDY KENNEY ON "WOODS TALK" CONFERENCE.

Prof. Andy Kenney kindly came to our annual meeting to discuss the "Woods Talk" conference held at York Univ. June 14-17, & suggested some implications for our section & for other S. Ont. forestry organizations.

"Woods Talk" continued FON's intended 20-year effort, begun in 1999, to transform S. Ont.'s forest, while the region continues its rapid human population growth, much of it attracted to our wooded areas. Professor Andy Kenney, from the Urban Forestry Centre, University of Toronto, joined FON to lead this effort.

With Andy we explored where this might go, some forces driving it, & what forestry organizations like CIF & its sections, OFA & OPFA might make of it, & how we can help make it succeed. While Andy focused somewhat on the forest within the urban area, our overall focus will be on the entire region.

Much of the S. Ont. forest is urban or near-urban or peri-urban. In our Section live 25-30% of all Canadians. Of all Canadians 78% live in urban areas. If one considers as urban the area actually built up in each town plus a radius of influence of about 10 km., or even 5 km., the areas within those radii take in the bulk of the landscape in our Section. Same seems to apply to the part of E. Ont. east of the Precambrian Shield. (Thus the E. Ont. Model Forest is very much an urban forest, as is the forest of our Section).

Two other pertinent points arose. First, the ecological footprint of Toronto, i.e. equivalent of the landscape required to sustain the city, fills a circle embracing most of S. Ont. Also, besides the area of influence described above, city folk who have summer cottages may take their city outlooks to cottage country with them. And think of all those commuters!

Urban emphasis may influence how we manage our woodland. Some objectives may change, or their relative emphasis may change. Forest restoration or rejuvenation will occur

as human population continues to grow. Attitudes must change, among forestry practitioners and others. And there are some practical urban forestry needs.

One aspect of urban forestry is municipal forestry--the forest actually in municipal jurisdiction. One component is street trees. The urban forest is the entire ecosystem, including parks and also privately owned--e.g. in back yards, around commercial buildings, etc., & outside the city limits.

1. Many municipalities have street tree inventories; it seems more cities of over 50,000 have these, than small communities of 5,000 to 50,000.

2. Not all are computerized, lack of this feature limits the usefulness of the inventory.

3. Who has a strategic urban forest plan, and what does it contain. Less than half the urban municipalities do, and the existing ones are so incomplete as to be of limited value.

4. Many municipal forest programs are run by horticulturists and arborists, who may know little about forest management even if they are well versed in their own fields.

5. Many U.S. cities are way ahead of ours in much of this.

How can our Section help? One way: work for better federal & provincial support of, & leadership in, urban forestry.

A U of T 1998 study, based on plots located across Toronto, found 7.5 million trees (size, species, etc., not stated). They store 900,000 megatonnes (Mg) of carbon. Each year they sequester 36,000 Mg of carbon. They also remove 1,500 Mg of other air pollutants. We need to know how much we need to remove, and the relative cost of other measures that might achieve the same ends. Chicago knows this for its city. We need to think of all the cars, how many of them must idle in traffic, and how much carbon is produced in the city.

It is not just trees that capture carbon. For example, in a forest with shrub & other understory, the shrubs capture about a third of that captured by the whole system, i.e. trees, shrubs, & other plant material are all important. At other times Andy has pointed out that roots of large trees extend far beyond their crown radius, that excavation done without awareness of this has cost the good health if not the lives of far too many trees.

Pollutants include CO₂, O₃, SO₂, NO₂, PM₁₀-

Work is needed to influence urban homeowners' attitudes. Yet a survey found that 99% of owners surveyed believed trees are important or very important; many say they are worried about the condition of our urban forest; 87% think there is a link between urban forest health and human health. What seems not to have been asked is

if my belief is strong enough for me to invest time or money in trees. People need to understand that the trees already in place are often struggling to survive in a reasonable state of health.

There is a need to understand the attributes of trees and forests, and to take this into account when planning a town, a subdivision, or a single building lot. Their needs and roles should be built into plans, and not considered as add-ons.

Would be nice, too, to know how significant those numbers are. How big a dint can they make in the things we must do to make and keep our regional environment livable.

Andy's final comment: we in forestry need to reach out to the community. We need to tell and also listen; i.e. we need to share. Above all we need to understand that urban forestry, agroforestry, and woodlot management in the urbanizing landscape are part of real forestry. We may also need to reach out to forestry people who are not yet convinced urban forestry is serious forestry.

MY THOUGHTS ABOUT "WOODS TALK".

"Woods Talk" to me was a major event for S. Ont. forestry, with over 500 attending part or all of it. FON has 109

member clubs & over 15,000 individual members, (at a guess, that might exceed the combined memberships of all Canada's forestry organizations), remarkably diverse in terms of the outdoor interests that bring them together, in their impressive financial resources and fundraising capability, & more.

At age 77, after a lifetime of hope, I welcome FON's move to pick up the dedicated, often heroic work, of the forestry community over 100 years. Several OPFA members & other foresters were prominent in the program, also U of T's Dean of Forestry. Several more were in attendance. As noted, Andy played a key role. A forester, Jim Faught, will be FON's new executive director.

I dare to dream that this effort just might give meaning to the thoughts of Adrienne Clarkson and Julie Payette, described earlier. I once saw a sign at Disney World "If you can dream it you can do it." So here, how do we "do it?" As we'll see, some of FON's own leaders have some pretty noble dreams about the S. Ont. forest.

I think this merits our full support; at stake is the future S. Ont. forest, its nature, distribution, & role in a future increasingly populated S. Ont. landscape. In this newsletter I've often thought society must dream the lofty dream, then turn that dream to an even loftier reality. One FON director dreamed his dream, based on society's choosing to promote the long-term not short-term interest. I've played the

dreamer on these pages now & then in ways I hope are helpful.

We can enhance the human state by respecting & restoring nature. We can each examine what pieces of the jigsaw puzzle we may hold, & where they fit in the end result.

I have pieced together advance literature on the conference, the notes I took, handouts, some thoughts of my own (well, I do still hold the pen!) Can I do it justice? Not likely, but let's see! I have tried to refrain from saying who said what, or even where I drift into my own thoughts. I hope I've not thereby detracted from the importance of the event.

In June 1999 350 people attended FON's Conference "Southern Ontario Woodlands: The Conservation Challenge" at Trent University. Some foresters & others challenged FON to take the lead in conserving these woodlands. A vision of an ecologically vibrant & sustainable S. Ont. was put forth as a context for woodland conservation & restoration. FON set a goal: "In 20 years (i.e. by 2019; i.e. 18 years left) to change the entire culture of woodland conservation in S. Ont."

"Woods Talk" took the next big step, as a forum for owners, educators, planners, scientists, naturalists, a diverse range of professionals & viewpoints to explore how to achieve such a goal. Three days indoors, then a selection of field tours (I took the Toronto waterfront tour), should be

covered by proceedings, as was the 1999 Conference. The stated aim: bring people together, share the vision, identify gaps & weak spots, decide who does what, how to make, measure & monitor progress, how to communicate & cooperate, set guiding principles, and develop an ongoing sense of achievement to keep everyone focused on moving forth.

An outline of "Woods Talk":

Thursday morning: Opening: Vision for (S. Ont.) Woodlands.

Keynote speakers on Regional Conservation Planning, and on: The Bigger Picture (forest in the S. Ont. landscape).

Panel: Southern Ontario landscape Components: soil, water, air (pollution), forest biodiversity.

Thursday afternoon: Concurrent sessions: woodlands science: knowledge & questions. planning and woodlands. best management practices for healthy woodlots. woodland restoration: reversing trends. woodland stewardship: pride & responsibility. education & communication: sharing the woodlands message.

Friday morning: Identifying gaps in woodland conservation. Concurrent workshops on Thursday's themes: research, planning, restoration, stewardship, best practices, education & communication, technical aspects of bioregional planning, results from

creative actions (environmental advisory committees), marketing nature.

Saturday morning: two plenary speakers on: our natural & cultural heritage; building a woodlands conservation network. Concurrent sessions on: community actions; woodlands and wildlife; urban forest; what's new at FON. Wrapping up the day: a variety of brief concurrent workshops.

"WOODS TALK:" THE KEYNOTES.
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A distinguished keynote speaker noted the need to protect nature from continued human induced extinctions; protecting habitat & the wildlife species. It was noted that reasons for extinction of once-abundant passenger pigeon included overhunting & progressive fragmenting of habitat of this, a creature whose habitat needs included space to congregate in huge numbers.

A second speaker, an FON director, assuming that society wishes to become progressively more sustainable, suggested some steps: i. set the vision; ii. assess the benefits, opportunities, challenges, etc. of the S. Ont. forest; iii. inform & excite S. Ont. people & gain their support; iv. develop a plan; v. coordinate efforts; vi. change the culture of woodland conservation.

He noted 300 years' changes to the S. Ont. landscape. S. Ont. has lost much upland, wetland & old growth forest, non-forested wetland, most of its prairie & savanna; what is left is under severe stress from things like: i. habitat loss; ii. fragmenting; iii. pollutants; iv. exotic invasives; v. domestic animals; vi. intense & varied human activity; vii. climate change. He hopes we don't need wake-up calls like Asian longhorn beetle, Walkerton, the 1998 Ice Storm, Hurricane Mitch, or other.

Another distinguished speaker explored changes on the S. Ont. landscape, centred on Toronto, where population is most concentrated, & how to build on our culture to flourish in the 21st century. Four main changes are i. in economic opportunity and growth, why people come to, and leave, the area; ii. importance of place, community, roots & identity, how life's important lessons are best learned in small communities; iii. our unique diversity in ethnicity, religion, and gender role, and the cultural differences that accompany this (in about any Toronto school classroom you'll see & even love this!); iv. perception of importance of nature, and a reawakening to its importance; v. our emphasis on peace, order and good government (Americans stress life, liberty & pursuit of happiness). We are currently confused as to the role of each of the levels of government. We tend to be shaped on our concern for wanting Quebec to continue as part of Canada. Forces at work are moving us toward Toronto as a regional city, some of whose roles are now played by all levels of government. (So what part

will all this play in shaping the forest of the 21st Century?)

This speaker sees as Jane Jacobs' three major contributions: i. has ideas, connecting new & old; ii. as an activist, thinks then does; iii. tries to do the right thing.

How will the immense diversity of the S. Ont. population, especially but not only in Greater Toronto, affect how the S. Ont. woodland is conserved. That handful of Toronto people who encourage & help community gardening can likely tell you the effect will be profound, & can be highly positive.

"WOODS TALK," SOME PRINCIPLES AND THEMES.

Some principles & themes were laid out. Three general approaches characterize science-based conservation: protecting sites of high biodiversity, samples of all ecosystems, and maintaining populations of particular species. I might add a pet of mine: have enough area & diversity, distributed in ways that make the S.Ont. landscape the kind of place we'd really want for our grandkids and theirs, with an optimum mix of economic, environmental & social benefits to society we foresters always attribute to the forest. For example, is there enough potential to produce wood (for a community & world likely facing shortages of wood),

to shelter & shade buildings to help reduce their energy needs, make them more attractive, to protect ground & surface water adequately, to sequester carbon & cleanse the air we humans are so prone to pollute? Or turn those flat roofs from heat islands to green islands? Tall order! We could have a substantial wood-using industry providing unheard of numbers of jobs, along with the host of other economic, social and environmental benefits. Is that what we want?

A big picture was developed in the Carolinian life zone, of large forest areas, smaller areas of varying size, connected by corridors. We heard this stretched into a bigger picture for the region & even for the Great Lakes Basin.

The larger elements of the "bigger picture" were portrayed. If we define S. Ont. as that area south of the edge of the Precambrian Shield, plus that part of Eastern Ont. east of the shield, and maybe the part of the Shield in between, the biggest forested elements include the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, Long Point corridor, the corridor between Algonquin and Adirondack Parks and perhaps the Great Lakes shorelines. Then we can think of a system of cores and corridors, more obvious ones being deep ravines. I think for some purposes elements can be as small as a wooded city park (or wooded school yard?); a corridor of vegetation along a laneway or back yard trees within a city block or a narrow fence-row on a farm--not the best, but the best we have. One challenge will be to see how complete the network is, and how to maintain or intensify it.

Four landscape elements were discussed in relation to woodlands: soil (how vital that top 10 cm is and how can we protect it from the ravages of depletion, erosion, development?), water (why we can't afford to sell it; the immense amounts stored in kame moraines!), air pollution (air today is not the same good stuff Grandma breathed; that bad air hurts us & hurts the trees, & there are different kinds of smog, each with its own ill effects on the trees & surely on us. Yes, it does kill trees!). Fourth element is conserving floral & faunal biodiversity for the future (losing yet more species has been likened to Spaceship Earth popping yet more rivets; maybe the exotic invasives can be seen as defective rivets).

"WOODS TALK" & SEEMINGLY CONFLICTING VIEWS.

There are many kinds of outlook toward the forest. We heard about "Tilley hats vs. hard hats." I know we are moving away from when tree huggers & tree harvesters see each other as enemy of the forest, or seeing one another across barricades, toward seeing we need both views. I feel myself that there are growing numbers of places where the good results can be seen of the benefits to the forest of properly done logging, & the ill effects of doing nothing. There are enough people who can demonstrate that harvesting in such a forest can be beneficial all round. Qualified tree markers can help make it happen.

From a lifetime of contact with my own forest, I would argue that responsible harvesting may bring the owner enough income to afford to keep the forest intact for its social and environmental benefits, & may even help resist pressure to convert the forest to non-forest uses. I would also argue that such actions have economic benefits to the community that far outweigh the revenue coming to an owner who sells stumpage to a contractor; the economic value of harvesting, transport &/or processing of wood products. There are also people who enjoy the rural peace & quiet & may not like the logging operation on the next property. We know too that properly done tree cutting can be a major tool for developing wildlife habitat.

I feel we are extremely fortunate to have in our County forests a unique demonstration of what half a century of forest management can do, & am very pleased that of four awards made by Wildlife Habitat Canada during Woods Talk, three went to County Forests: Dufferin, Simcoe, and York Region.

"WOODS TALK" AND AGROFORESTRY.

Mentioned only incidentally at our annual meeting (did it come up at all at "Woods Talk") is the role of agroforestry (AF) in its various forms, & the potential of interspersing forest on the farm landscape in shelterbelts, intercropping, silvipasture, riparian & other corridors, tree belts as part of

contour farming, in ways that enhance both the forestry & agriculture outputs over what would happen if the two were separate. This is besides the farm woodlot, the sugar bush, the Christmas tree farm, edible nut orchards, mushrooms, & others, which are often part of a farm or farm-like operation.

To my knowledge AF is much more developed in some other parts of the world than I think is yet the case here. A couple of things I came across recently fit in this discussion.

1. Parts of Northern China are subject to blowing sand from a desert region. Windbreak plantings were effective but many of the trees were themselves destroyed by blowing sand. A second planting, sometimes among the skeletons of the original trees, worked much better, & the book in which I saw this speaks of the "Great Green Wall of China." In an aerial view of some of this, open fields were surrounded by broad belts of trees which appeared to shelter the fields & themselves formed a closed net embracing very well protected fields. The view encompassed many tens of square kilometres, in which no isolated piece of forest could be seen.

2. Too often the outcome of increasing human pressure on forests is that they shrink, become depleted, or both. In a few places, attempts to forestall or rehabilitate have led to the development of "tree gardens" made up of several stories of trees, among them a number of food source trees, the lowest layer including banana. Literature from Australia describes some highly sophisticated aspects of "Permaculture."

"WOODS TALK," ONTARIO SCHOOLS, & YOUNG PEOPLE.

At "Woods Talk" we heard that school boards are having to slash outdoor & environmental education, despite a desperate need for our young people for this; that may lead to environmental education being dropped from what is taught to teachers. How serious this can be is portrayed by observing that 25% of urban residents never leave the city or go to a park. An outdoor education teacher I met notes that the places she took kids early in her career have been turned into subdivisions. She has had to recreate nature in her schoolyard (& is doing a great job!). Sometimes at forestry gatherings I hear that kids in rural areas & forest industry towns are as much in the dark about all this stuff as the big city kids. At a school I know of in a lovely rural setting, it is good a sign faces the road or you might think it's a prison not a school. It has been noted the next generation cannot miss what it has not experienced. To many kids don't know where their paper products come from, or where the waste goes. An ad by Evergreen (Foundation) notes that more trees went into the ad than you'll find in most schoolyards.

Yet some schools are doing great things. That teacher and others are doing good things in their schoolyards. Envirothon, conducted by OFA, and involving a number of our own members, is growing rapidly.

My thought: there are roughly 6,000 public, Catholic & private schools in Ont., up to grade 12, with nearly 2 million students & 140,000 teaching staff. Likely 80-90% are in S. Ont. They would be distributed more or less evenly, in a way that reflects the communities they serve. Dare we dream of schoolyards becoming naturalized so they: i. give the school shade & wind-chill shelter, reducing energy consumption & pollution related to that consumption; ii. adding beauty & wildlife habitat close to the classroom; giving shade & wind protection to play areas; iii. offer young people direct exposure to & learning about nature: so they may acquire enhanced forest-ecosystem awareness; iv. be a recognized part of the natural ecosystem of the community (just like all those back yards, parks, ravines, street trees, etc.); v. be a good example & inspiration to the community. vi. be a laboratory where some of the needed lessons are learned, with school students participating. vii. be a source of plant material for community projects. viii. enhance student awareness to the point that their generation will be asking the many questions that need to be answered.

Going outside the school property, a USA study examines 40 schools across the US who had become involved in off-campus projects in natural &/or social environment (e.g. of social: work in a seniors' home), not to teach environment per se, but to integrate academic work & form teacher teams. They found significant benefits in areas like: general school performance, language skills, math skills, science, social studies, thinking skills

(encouraged to think for yourself), interpersonal abilities (they could speak to a town council to request support for something), fewer discipline problems (teacher & administrator time then taken up in more positive things), increased teacher enthusiasm. The entire school experience becomes more positive for everyone.

I know of a few schools who have, or could have, access to sites where such projects could be tried, e.g. a woodlot next to the school, or a city park or a stream course needing work. For us, I think this could result in student bodies with vastly enhanced awareness of forest & other natural ecosystems.

Despite difficult times for schools, a few have excellent schoolyard projects; some are remarkable transformations from a much less desirable state. A few even have outdoor education teachers. Although there is little provision for environmental or outdoor education, including forestry, these days, a few people have identified remarkable numbers of places in the curriculum where an environmental or forestry message can be provided.

All this crossed my mind a few weeks ago on a bus tour to several sites on the Oak Ridges Moraine, to see the good, the bad & the ugly humanity can inflict on nature. One landowner host in a heavily forested part of the moraine reminisced about all the birds he sees, and the ones he no longer sees because of changes that have happened. His immense grasp of local nature reminded me of the odd school where a

grasshopper sighting is a real event, where a single wood duck raised her family on a vegetated downtown rooftop, & where one pair of birds found a suitable nesting spot on a newly build school--over the front door!

DAVID CRRANE ON 22 YOUNG PEOPLE.

Somebody quoted from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Nov/89: It is the right of children everywhere to receive an education directed to development of respect for the natural environment.

Lately I came across Toronto Star Economics Editor David Crane's item on 22 young Canadians & their Canada25 report, "A New Magnetic North." They want a fair & equitable society, a strong social orientation & a healthy cultural & physical environment, a culture of innovation that creates opportunity, celebrates success, & empowers people to utilize their skills & ideas. David Crane praises this group, and wishes they had given more attention to the critical value of starting in early infancy to develop a child; and to the environment and to Canada's potential to embrace sustainable development and become a leading "green" society and economy. Given the enormous environmental challenges humanity faces this century, Canada has an enormous opportunity to be a leader.

You could build countless things into that outlook, including the implementing of the ideas of "Woods Talk."

My Canada Day TV watching included an hour on how wildlife in amazing numbers (peregrine falcon to cockroach & raccoon) make it in Manhattan, &, in contrast, the life-long work of John & Mary Theberge on Algonquin Park wolves.

All of this reinforces the need to use every means we can to share with our young people,--the younger the better, our understanding of the environment, and especially the place of forest in the urban, urbanizing, agricultural and more remote regions of S. Ont.

"WOODS TALK" AND KNOWLEDGE. <

Some education & communication gaps relating to our forest were identified at "Woods Talk:" i. information, often of the most elementary level; ii. funding of education; iii. many educators lack good grasp of environment; iv. do we always set a good example. Legislation was mentioned; is this important, or are there other ways to persuade people to act responsibly. Do they always know the implications of failing to do so (and I don't mean a hefty fine). Someone suggested that legislation &

regulation are for the 10% of the population who will not otherwise do the right thing.

Among the education & communication gaps identified & discussed: gathering and transferring information; ready access to information; (crafting and) selling the messages; advocating policy; coordinating efforts; coordinating the issues; supporting educators; paradigm shift (e.g. get out of the car & into a bus or onto a bike; plant & look after those trees); support landowners, and more.

"WOODS TALK" AND ROOFTOP OR VERTICAL FORESTRY.

As we get increasingly built up, there are growing numbers of heat islands in the form of flat roofs, parking lots, etc. In heavily populated parts of Europe, people who build are required to make roofs that will support trees or other living things. This will not appreciably increase the area of vegetation, but it will help eliminate some heat islands. They will add to the building's insulation and therefore energy conservation. Similarly, trees can be planted in parking lots. Walls of buildings can be protected by vines or trees from direct summer sunshine and winter wind chill, adding to comfort and energy conservation.

"WOODS TALK" AND FOREST FRAGMENTATION.

Program material issued before the conference noted that the forest of S. Ont. continues to become fragmented (so, too, is the expertise that could be brought to bear on conserving this forest). Forest tracts become smaller in size, and farther apart, separated by increasingly hostile terrain.

Fragmenting leads to: loss of species that need interior, need a sizable area, or are wide-ranging. Loss of species means less diversity. Steps to avoid adverse effects include: maintaining ecosystem types, viable populations of native species; maintaining ecological & evolutionary processes; allowing that changes will occur. If fragmenting leads to isolation, the trees and other plant material in each island will tend to lose genetic diversity and become inbred. It is noted that few intact forest areas are left of over 500 ha. in S. Ont.

We can escape consequences of fragmenting on any given species if we keep the fragments above the size needed to be viable; if small fragments close together can be integrated; if a species can live part of its life in adjacent farm fields of the right crops; if fragments are close to larger areas of habitat.

Blocks of contiguous habitat are better than fragments. Large blocks are better than small ones; a round one with a low edge-area ratio is better than one of similar area but with more edge (e.g. irregular or elongated), it is more likely to have effective interior; a large one is

better than two or more smaller ones adding to the same aggregate area; fragments close together are better than identical ones farther apart; a cluster of fragments is better than the same number of identical ones strung out; they are all better if connected by the right kind of corridor. Areas of interior are needed by some species. Loss of interior tends to favour invasive non-native species.

Corridors provide connectivity for: mobility & dispersal; auto-ecological needs for food, shelter, protection, water, escape. They can be generalized or very specific. Connectivity may be compensated by surroundings that are compatible or not too contrasting. Corridors are not well understood, but are needed.

In some places old fence-rows will form corridors between conifer plantations for wildlife species that prefer broad-leaf to coniferous tree species. Such corridors may also provide seed for the broadleaf understory which so often finds its way into plantations after a few decades. These corridors may also contain trees of less abundant hardwood species like white ash, basswood, red oak, black cherry, in areas that might have become too dominantly sugar maple.

Barriers, e.g. highways or walls, are not crossed, or attempts to cross may lead to sudden death to animals trying to cross.

Among communities of species are some pivotal or key species. You hurt their mobility, and may hurt the whole community. e.g. if woodpeckers or large carnivores can't move in, the rest of the system may be affected.

There are sources & sinks. e.g. source woodlot is one where an abundant flow of young may migrate to other woodlots. A sink woodlot is where more die off than are born and the species declines.

So a strategy includes: i. enlarge woodlots so they become sources not sinks; ii. expand on the big picture of S. Ont. Its main elements include NOA: Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, Algonquin to Adirondack corridor, & others. Enlarge on this as much as possible, e.g. along Great Lakes shores; iii. pay attention to species most vulnerable to fragmenting; iv. provide paths of least resistance; v. try to reduce distance between fragments; vi. when in doubt, wherever possible, maintain natural connections.

Corridor attention largely focused on animals. Need also to be aware of need of plant life for connections. Where you can't have corridors, stepping stones may help. On the Toronto waterfront field tour we heard that a natural waterfront may form a bridgehead for some wildlife to (re)enter the city.

"WOODS TALK" & A LIST OF THEMES, GAPS, ETC.

Six concurrent sessions examined six themes, aiming to identify significant gaps in knowledge, policies and programs relating to woodlands. The themes included woodlands science, planning and woodlands, best (management) practices for healthy woodlands, woodland restoration to reverse past trends, woodland stewardship, education & communication.

Over 100 gaps were identified under headings like: education & communication (mentioned earlier), information & data (what we need, how to get, prioritize & use), monitoring (including criteria & indicators, what are we losing, how can we tell), leadership (who's in charge, where are they taking us, how well informed are they), coordinated effort (in many directions, e.g. can neighbouring owners work in common cause), planning (in a bioregional or landscape context, what's our carrying capacity), strategies (goals, standards, priorities), policy (new, reformed, revived, change to fill a gap), plant materials (sources), implementation (what action gives best results from your limited capacity to act), political will, pressure & support, land or conservation ethic, relation between ecosystem health, presence of trees and other living things, and human health.

Among more general gaps: how forest functions on a landscape; specific knowledge of the species, life forms, etc.; need for much more scientific

research, but also to move ahead with what we do know; need to develop a knowledgeable, skilled work force, including voluntary; need for education, support, incentives, encouragement; forest restoration and the various ways it can happen; need for a well thought out provincial (& federal?) role; support for municipalities in their ever-expanding role; need to develop a well-recognized set of "good management practices" backed by education, enforcement, information; rethinking of incentives to woodlot conservation; link between healthy forest, healthy landscape & healthy human community; the need for available knowledge, policy, etc., to get translated into practice (get on with it!); and more.

There are success stories, among them: i. naturalization and reforestation casebook; ii. publications on woodlot management; iii. York Region's green strategy; iv. environmental advisory committees to advise municipal councils, established in several municipalities; v. ecological work in the Laurel Creek watershed in Waterloo. I've mentioned the well-deserved recognition of county forests in Dufferin, Simcoe and York Region, which I've watched since I was a kid. I'd think there are endless good news stories on S. Ont. private properties. Looking back, I'd think the first tree nursery around 1905, the start of the county forests in the 1920's, the forming of conservation authorities in the 1940's, & the more recent start of urban forestry & agroforestry in S. Ont. are major milestones. The start of the model forests in Canada and abroad, among them E. Ont. Model Forest, also rates as a major accomplishment, as does its pairing with a Canadian model forest in

Mexico. Small but important successes lie in the actions of individual woodland owners, and in the greening of individual schoolyards. That we have what amounts to a massive textbook of silvicultural guidelines for our forest, & what went into its preparation, must qualify as a success story.

Some gaps in woodland restoration (and expansion?): what is it: naturalization, rehabilitation, revegetation, reforestation.

i. education; ii. funding (and/or other support?); iii. monitoring and adaptive management--learning from what you already have; iv. big picture and long term as context for work; v. how to do it; vi. research & knowledge; vii. incentives; viii. source of labour (skilled and other, volunteer and paid).

Some thoughts about how we can change the culture of the S. Ont. forest: i. dare to think big; ii. use science and all the things we know; iii. be strategic, i.e. do the things most likely to make a difference; iv. collaborate; v. seek positive action--just DO it; vi. recognize both the complexity and the subtle differences; vii. be guided & learn to the maximum from polls.

I personally feel it will help if we can visualize the entire level and range of economic, social and environmental benefits for society if the region's forest is enhanced to the extent, distribution and quality of which it is capable--and perhaps to what extent we fall short of those benefits to the

extent the forest is not what it should be.

I think it will help if we can get some idea of how much forest should be simply left alone, how much should be extensively managed, & how much intensively managed, some to a very high level, as in permaculture. And if we can get some idea of the role for which we should do management. There are textbooks that help us derive the optimum benefit from whatever old growth forest we may have. There are special forest uses, as in urban forestry, or agroforestry. There are success stories from various parts of the world in forests for protection from the harshest of wind, very intensively managed forest gardens with an amazing range of uses. We may even see flat roofs changed from heat islands which must be aggravating the global warming trend, to those with trees or other vegetation that have quite the opposite effect.

There is the forest that benefits the human personality, like helping sick people be cured faster, better, & with less treatment, or forest used as a setting for art, music & drama, or seeing the morning sun catch a spider web dripping with dew, or seeing the full moon or the sun rise, over a laneway or through the trees.

Delegates were urged to think seriously about personal commitment to woodlands, each person basing it on a careful reflection as to the source of one's interest in the cause, and on that deciding on a contribution to the cause. People will be encouraged to form and

run working groups. They will be urged to keep in touch electronically with FON; to write letters to the government (Ministers, Premier, etc.) indicating importance of this cause. Those of us who were not among the 500 at the conference are welcome to join this effort. Amounts to an "All Hands on Deck" call.

Delegates were invited to examine what got them interested in the S. Ont. forest, what keeps their interest, and what elements of that each person can use to build his/her own commitment to that forest. I think we need to know that the FON's action plan is progressing, & we need to know how we as individuals or as part of the forestry community can contribute to that progress.

Some elements of the new forest will include, in my thinking (so there are likely lots of others):

- i. tracts managed to a higher level of intensity than prevails now in the region, levels implied in the forest gardens in some parts of the world, or the permaculture being tried, e.g. in Australia;
- ii. tracts of forest on productive land and near to wood using plants, managed to high levels of intensity for timber products. This may lead to clustered industries located close to areas of intensively managed woods and with a developed work force in the area.
- iii. tracts managed to lesser level of intensity for objectives that include timber harvest.

iv. tracts managed to various levels that include the habitat requirements of a range of fish and wildlife;

v. strategy for old growth forest, and how its benefits can be maximized; establish now what will be the old growth forest in 100 years. Identify existing OGF & connect it as well as possible to other forest so OGF benefit may be extended.

vi. intensively managed sugar bushes, Christmas tree farms, tree nurseries, edible nut orchards, ginseng gardens, other;

vii. adequate protection for water-rich moraines, other ground water, stream and river corridors and sources, wetlands;

viii. parks, wooded to varying degrees;

ix. street & roadside trees; on many Toronto streets, especially older ones, & in many laneways, the trees, etc., on the two sides meet overhead to form a wonderful shading & sheltering arch. Without them, as one book suggests, those same streets and lanes might look more like airport runways.

x. forested & otherwise vegetated schoolyards, industrial sites, etc.

xi. roofs and walls of buildings covered with trees and other green material.

"WOODS TALK" AND OLD GROWTH FOREST.

We hear there is little left in S. Ont. qualifying as old growth forest (OGF)-under 1% of the existing forest. But if we look long term & if we think of OGF as anything over, say, age 150, then a woodlot now age 80 would qualify as OGF by the year 2070. If we then think of the important features of OGF, then the book "The Fragmented Forest" explores how some of OGF benefits might extend to a maximum forested area.

Applied to a large continuous forest area, this might involve a central area of OGF, with an odd number of wedge-shaped compartments arranged around it, and in which alternate wedges would be clear-cut or selectively harvested at appropriate intervals. This would give maximum opportunity for migration from the OGF to other areas.

"WOODS TALK" & WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE.

We are two years into FON's goal of changing in 20 years the culture of woodland conservation. So we need to i. think big & think long term (we ARE doing it for the future); ii. use science to the maximum (get it translated into policy, procedures, &, glory be, things happening on the ground); iii. be strategic (pick things that can be done & are most likely to make a difference); iv. collaborate as widely as possible; v. seek action; vi. build on the values urban people attach to trees and forests in the city & country, as expressed in polls; vii. build on the

range of values owners place on woodland (timber, gathering seeds, hunting, trail recreation, wildlife viewing); viii. build on the belief you can harvest soundly, as long as those involved in the harvest do so with knowledge, skill, and integrity. ix. make sure people are informed: you cannot fight for or be concerned with what you are not aware of, and too many of us lack any real contact with nature. x. identify the serious gaps in what we are thinking, learning, and doing, and try to fill them.

Some suggested first steps: i. be proactive in keeping in touch with FON (355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8; ph 416-444-8419; fax 416-444-9866; 1-800-440-2366; e-mail: info@fontarionature.org); (there seems to be a range of electronic means of keeping in touch that I have not quite grasped; ii. examine and build on one's own background--where my feeling of commitment to this cause comes from; iii. consider choice of topic or task to work on; iv. work toward forming working groups and toward each developing and implementing action plans.

You may have seen the repetitions & gaping holes in what I have reported. One thing I now see I've missed is the potential of woodlot owner associations, cooperatives, etc., to further the woodland cause. Perhaps the growing number of land trusts taking shape in the region will have a role. But I hope you will have understood, & that you will share my feeling of excitement of what at last may lie ahead for our S. Ont. forest, & that we will all be part of what happens.