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YOUR COUNCIL MET DECEMBER 17.

Your council met for about 90 minutes by conference call December 17, our first meeting since May 29. This kind of call seems to be the way to do business, with everyone leading full lives, with council members located in Port Hope, Barrie, Mansfield, St. Thomas, Guelph and Toronto, and with concerns about long distance driving, especially in winter, for at least five of us. We plan to meet face to face at the Kortright Centre, likely January 22.

We discussed prospects for this year's section program, as well as a proposal for the Section to host the 2007 CIF Annual Meeting. Also the building of our forestry display case at the Kortright Centre. This will cost roughly \$1700, to that end we have received \$500 from the CIF's FACT (Forestry Awareness in Canada Trust), we have earmarked \$500 of our Section funds, and need \$700 from a source in S. Ont.

Chairman Bruce, having attended the CIF Directors meeting, noted that CIF's theme for the year will be communication, especially with politicians receptive to the forestry message. It was noted that in Ontario the Ministers of Agriculture and Environment look like good candidates. I personally feel this emphasis is timely, given the strong conservation interest of the provincial government, described elsewhere in this issue.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT AND
APPRECIATION OF FORESTS (LEAF).

LEAF has worked in Toronto since 1996 to raise awareness and promote interest in sustaining Ontario's urban forest; to help connect those who work on urban forest issues across Ontario; to implement projects that actively involve urban residents in urban forest stewardship. Along with the Ontario Urban Forest Council and others it has developed an Urban Forest Network (UFN), which in turn has an e-mail newsletter to interested persons, always packed with really good stuff.

Over the past year or so, LEAF and the UFN have followed the work of Toronto City Council in its forestry work, including the passing of its Tree Protection By-Law. At each step of the way LEAF and UFN have contacted their extensive mailing lists, to remind readers of the steps taking place, and ask that they consider contacting people on council to encourage them to make decisions in support of forestry.

TORONTO'S TREE PROTECTION BY-LAW.

Before Toronto's amalgamation the cities of Toronto and Scarborough had by-laws protecting trees on private property. This fall, after considerable effort by many parties, including Councillor Tree Advocate and Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, many letters and e-mails (I wrote several) to City Councillors, a by-law was passed that extends protection to trees on private land across Toronto. Council support was certainly not unanimous, the vote was 27-15 in favour. And the day before the vote, in a widely publicized incident, a developer who had recently purchased a property removed dozens of trees and beat the deadline. Council then made the by-law effective immediately.

CARE TREE ON A B.C. ISLAND.

CARE Canada's newsletter has an item about a "CARE Tree" on Pender Island in the Gulf of Georgia between Vancouver and Vancouver Island. In the 1960's a couple living on that island decided that what they might otherwise spend on Christmas cards, gifts, and postage, would go to CARE Canada, and continued that practice. They decorated a 25-ft. Douglas Fir tree on their property with lights that could be seen for some distance across the water, as a reminder of the needs of others and to encourage donations. In 1975 the couple were aging and the tree was 50' high and the local Lions Club took over its care and decoration, which they continue to do. Each year the tree is lighted during December and until January 6. Captains of passing ferry ships point this tree out to passengers, and encourage donations. To date

that Lions Club has raised over \$275,000 for CARE Canada.

GRAND RIVER C.A. NEWSLETTER.

For some years I have enjoyed a complimentary subscription to “Grand Actions” and have greatly enjoyed its quality and its content. The Sept-Oct issue has quite a number of items on forestry in the Grand. Some gems from these.

Trees are good for environment. They have an economic value in helping reduce the cost of treating and managing water supplies, heating and cooling our homes, combatting air pollution and producing energy. In the urban setting they help clean air and water and counteract many of the effects of urbanization.

There have been 50 years of tree planting involving many millions of trees on private land in the Grand Conservation Authority.

In 2002 a tree planting program began at Luther Marsh wildlife management area; 65,670 native trees have since been planted on 67 hectares. Ontario Power Generation contributed to the cost of this work, as part of the effort to offset CO₂ buildup in the air. OPG is interested in building up an increasingly scarce habitat in S. Ont.: large blocks of forest.

Guelph has had 14 years of urban forest enhancement and education, and is working toward a program to offset carbon emissions with tree planting

The Watershed Forest Plan for the Grand River, approved in 2004 by the Authority, can now be viewed on the Authority’s web site www.grandriver.ca as can its wetlands policy and the CA’s Burford tree nursery, which produces over 200,000 trees and shrubs a year for use in the watershed.

Did you know:

- i. Two mature trees provide enough oxygen for a family of four.
- ii. Trees help reduce greenhouse effect by absorbing CO₂. One acre of trees removes 2.6 tons of CO₂/year.
- iii. In 1965 the maple leaf flag became Canada’s flag. In 1996 the maple was officially recognized as our national tree.

WHAT KIND OF FUTURE

The Toronto Star, October 22/04, had an article by Gord Miller, Ontario’s Environmental Commissioner, containing the substance of a preamble to his annual report. He notes that previous generations consistently wanted a better world for their children, grandchildren, and beyond. He invites readers to reflect on what our generation’s legacy will be. What are our dreams, what are we trying to achieve, what kind of world will we leave for our grandchildren, and how will they judge us? (There are those who accuse society of acting as though it will have no children and grandchildren, and offer a painful lot of supporting evidence).

He notes that if we continue to aspire to continuing a compounding annual growth rate of 3%, there simply will not be enough to go around. At some point, something must change, and can change now, if we begin to change our ways and become less consumptive. He notes some changes that have taken place, like Crown Forest Sustainability Act, the Environmental Bill of Rights, Ontario’s Living Legacy and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, and a lot of proposed planning policies, and more. But he doubts all this is enough. He notes that until we begin to take personal charge of our life styles, our ecological footprint which is already unsustainably large will continue to increase.

Readers will know that I continually wonder what kind of future we want for S. Ont., and what will be the part of trees and forests in that future, and how will society help make the desired kind of forest happen. How will all those wonderful forestry initiatives over the years, by governments, NGO’s, and individuals be made to add up to the kind of forest I speak of. For all their wonderfulness, are they sustained and are they enough to create the kind of forest of which I speak? As an 81-year-old lifelong S. Ont. resident, and a 59-year forested property owner, and an 18-year editor of your newsletter, I squirm at whatever answers I see, and hope my three grandchildren will be forgiving,

I squirm especially as I read another Star article, on Oct. 26, headed “Ontario a swath of unprotected green,” and sub-headed “Report shows a lack of consistency in greenbelt defense. It’s hoped province will take note----.” But I take heart at some of the things I know of. Like LEAF (Local Enhancement and Awareness of

Forests (and Trees)), which I described earlier, who has done a lot in Toronto in awareness and in actual planting of and caring for trees; Huronia Woodland Owners Association, that for over 30 years has worked tirelessly to promote good forest conservation among its members and neighbors, the Huronia Loggers, who promote and practice responsible logging operations; Groups that have taken over operation of outdoor education facilities to prevent their closure as their owners decided they could no longer operate them (e.g. Wye Marsh), the Cobourg Ecology Garden, whose designers attempted to mimic various ecosystems to create what might qualify as a forest garden, the group described in the last issue that preserved the Museum that used to be in the St. Williams Tree Nursery Office before it closed. FON's ongoing long-term effort to develop a woodland strategy for Southern Ontario. Simcoe County's Museum, located in a planted forest and with its forestry emphasis.

PROTECTING OUR URBAN FORESTS

On Sept. 27 LEAF and others hosted a lecture in Toronto's Metro Hall by James Urban, an internationally recognized landscape architect, known for work with trees in the urban setting.

He noted that it is larger trees that are effective in providing benefits we attribute to them, like improving air quality, reducing storm water runoff, shade, and other benefits. He then outlined some common sense principles for ensuring that street trees achieve a functional size:

1. Plant in the easiest places with best growing conditions first.
2. Plant trees in large spaces, designing the location for maximum root space.
3. Where soil is compacted and of poor quality, improve or replace it before planting.
4. Provide enough space for the trunk to grow; avoid guards meant to protect them but in time may restrict growth and even kill them.
5. Rooting space created under pavement or pits or trenches filled with good soil can increase the amount and quality of root space.

In the Toronto Star, November 15, an article notes that a common sight in the city is trees planted along streets, on the sidewalk or in planters, are unhealthy, dead, or gone. Such sites

are clearly inhospitable to trees, in inadequate soil, harsh climate, and, in winter, loads of road salt. Too often the soil available to them is subsoil that has endured a century of compaction and is isolated from nature by being paved over.. Too often they have been disturbed or damaged by installation of, or work on, underground sewer, water, or gas pipes. Life expectancy of many trees has been reduced to as little as 5 years.

It has been found that one way to keep such trees alive is to water generously and regularly. But in a city like Toronto, with 16,000 downtown street trees, it is difficult to begin to keep up with the need, especially in times of tight budgets.

In Toronto a technique has been worked out, attributed to Peter Simon, a city architect who specializes in integrating trees into landscapes, and tried out on a city block, University Avenue north of Queen. A trench was dug the length of the block. (How deep or wide it did not say). It was then filled with sandy, nutrient-rich soil, in which roots could expand. Concrete blocks are laid over it in a way that leaves an air space between the soil and the concrete, enabling air to circulate. Raised planters were then placed for the trees; raising them provides a degree of protection from road salt. In each planter are four air tubes connected to the air space below.

There is a proposal before Toronto City Council to develop this technique further.

LOG SHORTAGE CLOSSES NORTHERN MILL

A tiny item in Toronto Star, Nov. 10, 2004, notes that "Tembec is shutting down the operations of its Opatatika mill in Northern Ontario for up to 6 weeks because of a log shortage.

One can but guess at the cause of the log shortage, but it makes me wonder if this might reinforce a case for producing more timber in Southern Ontario.

This year I witnessed on my own property the thinning of 70 acres of plantations 51 to 58 years old, most for the 4th time. I witnessed one truckload after another of utility poles 50 and 25 feet in length. There was at least one load of material that I'm sure a log house builder would love to have. There were lots of loads of sawlogs

headed for a mill under 25 km. away, over existing paved roads, and more loads of logs headed for a pulp mill. Most of the logging and forwarding was done by two men, both of whom lived within 25 km.

No need to build roads to access this timber, over areas where one might prefer to have no roads. No need to build roads within the property: few parts of it are over 500' from my network of drivable trails. No need either to keep people out; the handful of people who regularly walk my trails kept right on during the logging, and hopefully saw that logging can be done sensibly, without disruption of recreation, water or soil conservation, in a way that continually improves the forest and causes a minimum of damage.

To repeat, all this is from trees planted under 60 years ago. To give some idea of size, I have at home some tree cookies (slices cut from the butt ends of some logs/poles as they loaded them on their trucks), up to 16 inches in diameter. (So far one day-care supervisor and 5 teachers, including both art and science teachers, have been delighted to get them, plus an assortment of pine and spruce cones).

While most people associate forest industry with the boreal and other northern forest, this reinforces my feeling that the populated areas could quite easily sustain a powerful forest industry, probably much more diverse in its products than those up north, largely due to the more diverse forest and the different geography.

SOME INTERESTING AWARDS

Two awards made on December 10 caught my attention. First, I learned that the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded each year on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Nobel. The award this year went to Wangari Maathai, Deputy Minister of Environment for Kenya, and originator, in 1977, of the Green Belt Movement, an effort to plant trees to offset the deforestation and its effects across much of Africa. As a result of this movement some 30 million trees have been planted in her country. She is the first African woman and the first environmental activist to receive this award.

In her address Maathai attributed to the Norwegian Nobel selection committee the idea

that sustainable development, democracy and peace are indivisible.

The Green Belt movement began in 1977, in response to growing need for, and diminishing supply of, firewood, clean drinking water, balanced diets, shelter and income. These things were identified by women, who as primary caregivers and tillers of the soil are first to recognize arising problems. There was also recognition of environmental degradation leading to reduced quality of life now and for the future. The movement has led to the planting of 30 million trees across Kenya, which supply fuel, food, shelter, and income which supports household needs and their schools, as well as improving jobs, soils, and watersheds.

The next day I caught a rebroadcast of the December 10 ceremony at Rideau Hall, where several dozen people received the Order of Canada from the Governor-General. Among them was Harry Lumsden, a wildlife biologist who had worked for many years in MNR and I'm sure is known to many readers.

And even closer to home, the Huronia Woodland Owners Association at its November meeting made its annual White Pine Award to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to woodland management, conservation, and education. The award for 2004 went to Alan McNab, for nearly a half century a woodland owner near Stayner.

CONSERVATION SUMMIT

On November 24 in Toronto the Ontario Government and the Conservation Council of Ontario hosted a Conservation Summit, which was attended by several hundred people. The idea is that the Province wishes to nurture a conservation culture that is well coordinated provincially and locally, is broadly based and well supported, that makes Ontario a leader in conservation, and creates a conservation culture among Ontarians, and is reaching out to NGO's for help in making this happen.

You can see more about the summit on www.greenontario.org/summit. You can go to addresses by Ministers Duncan (energy) and Dombrowsky (Environment), and to the summit challenge paper, the booklet distributed at the summit. You can note the significant number of

organizations listed and described. In this context, with energy and water dominating. With such a broad spectrum of interest, it is disconcerting that forestry still did not make it to the table for discussion, or to the booklet's table of contents, nor are there forestry NGO's identified in the booklet.

The Premier has made conservation a personal priority, and early in 2004 the Province set up a Conservation Action Team made up of 8 Parliamentary Assistants. It is chaired by Donna Cansfield, of Energy, and includes Carol Mitchell (Ag & Food), Richard Patten (Education), Wayne Arthurs (Management Board), Brad Duguid (Municipal Affairs—Urban), Bill Mauro (Northern Development and Mines), Lou Rinaldi (Public Infrastructure and Renewal), Kathleen Wynne (Training, Colleges, Universities), John Wilkinson (Environment). Several members of this team attended the summit, and Ministers Dombrowsky (Environment) and Duncan (Energy) gave keynote addresses.

High on the agenda is the question of how Ontario's conservation movement might help in meeting our goals and priorities, among them a 5% reduction in energy consumption by 2007 and a 60% diversion of our waste by 2008, compact healthy urban form, and promotion of public commitment to conservation. Another key item is the conservation of water, including ground water quality and the taking of water from, e.g. the Great Lakes.

Key issues for discussion include natural areas, water, urban planning and design, community action, energy conservation, renewable energy, transportation, health and environment, waste reduction, education and awareness, first nations and environment, culture and environment. For each of these the document that preceded the summit listed and described a significant number of non-government organizations that do superb work, in research, public outreach, hands-on projects, and public service. It also notes that many of us belong to other organizations like a place of worship, a service club, or other, whose purpose in life includes a care for conservation.

Thus we have a conservation movement, and the intent is to build on its effectiveness.

Forestry in Southern Ontario had a high profile in conservation concerns around 1900, and again

around 1920 with the opening of tree nurseries and the seed plant, and the start of county forests, again around 1950 with a core of zone foresters whose role was extension, and a new impetus to the county forest movement and the conservation authority movement, again around 1966 with the Woodlands Improvement Act.

I think there is an urgent challenge to do whatever it takes to get forestry in this region back up onto the table. To me, part and parcel of the above concerns is what kind of landscape will we develop for the region? (If we come up with a landscape that our grandchildren and theirs will thank us for, what will it look like?) What part will forestry play in that landscape.

I think that if we are to do it right it must have a larger and broader role than we have ever imagined. I think it will play both an environmental, social and economic role. I think that developing a larger, stronger wood using industry can be made to make it affordable to keep our forests in a way that satisfies our other economic, social and environmental needs. I think it will include a slow restoration of areas of old growth forest, of areas highly managed for high quality products grown fast, of agroforestry, permaculture, of forest gardening, and of urban forests.

(Forest Gardening is described in Robert Hart's book "Forest Gardening" as he did it in England, and felt it could be done anywhere in the temperate zones; a hint that it might work well here may be found in the Ecology Garden developed in Cobourg by its Environmental Advisory Committee. It is said to have a productivity for food and other products that far exceeds that of other types of culture on a given site).

A part of the challenge is how to enlist the region's over 100,000 landowners in this process, to show them that meeting both their own objectives and the common good across the landscape is attainable. I think that enlisting them in such a process will require a total rethink of how society supports its landowners. I think it is also important for citizens to be made aware of this need, through education. A good illustration of the value of informed citizens was when the Asian Longhorned Beetle was discovered in the Toronto area. Despite the most vigilant efforts of trained observers, it was a curious kid who

wondered what that strange ugly insect was that first found it.

As I sit here writing, the December “Professional Forester” arrives, and on the front page, a plea for intensive management of the industrial forests of Ontario, given the growing world demand and the increase of other demands on the forest base. It seems to me that increasing world needs provide a precious opportunity that can be met by intensive management. And if that is true in our province’s industrial forests, I think it is true in spades in the South. And if there are growing hints of log shortages in the north, and of trouble in the log trucking industry, induced partly by long haul distances, and growing concerns about the scale of logging in the boreal forest, does that not suggest a precious opportunity for intensive forestry in the south? Likewise, in a recent issue of Working Forest is an article about trouble in the logging trucking business in the north, partly due to long hauling distances over remote logging roads.

MFTIP AND OTHER ISSUES.

The Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner for Ontario (ECO) for 2003-04 gives some attention to the privately owned forests of Southern Ontario, “which poses a special challenge for government agencies, landowners and organizations trying to preserve biodiversity.” The ECO notes their role in issues such as biodiversity, climate change, and invasive alien species.

He recalls the agreement forest program that involved 130,000 hectares of land across the region and the planting of 147.5 million trees over 75 years, the ecological benefits of those forests to surrounding areas, and the gradual return of control over the land to the counties, conservation authorities etc., that own them, and, being in Southern Ontario, the growing pressures to develop them.

The report does not mention the economic benefits that have arisen, for example, from the logging that has gone on as part of managing and improving those forests, or the local industries that benefit from the timber harvested; or of the potential economic benefit of having in a region such nice places to hike and relax.

ECO then discussed the MFTIP, in effect since 1997, replacing previous incentive arrangements, and currently “providing protection” for over 720,000 hectares on over 10,400 properties. He noted changes in how property assessments are determined, starting in 2002-03, and that these changes tend to undermine the effect of the incentive, and putting the region at risk of losing protection of its managed forest.

ECO notes that MNR’s strategy is to manage forest information, provide planning leadership, strengthen strategic partnerships, promote sustainable management, recognize the forest sector of the economy, provide leadership in developing and transferring knowledge, engage in forest awareness, provide client services and be responsible Crown land stewards. ECO goes on that this does not resolve the issue of owners, or of intensive management of agreement forests, that the MFTIP, as currently applied, can act as an incentive to deforest. Some property owners have responded by closing their lands, for example, for use as snowmobile or hiking trails.

As an individual 59-year owner, I see the changes (which have not yet seriously affected me but do affect others) less as an incentive to deforest as a disincentive to manage, a backward move from a step that, while very helpful financially to an owner, only managed to enlist 10,400 owners of 720,000 hectares. It is also a step in a history of on-again-off-again series of incentives to attract owners.

To me this reinforces the government’s case for developing a strong conservation ethic within its own ranks and with Ontarians, one that includes maintaining, expanding and enhancing our privately owned forests, and fully recognizing how they are needed if we are to have the future Ontario landscape we truly want. I feel that the relationship between society and its private forest owners needs a thorough reexamination. What will it take to engage far more landowners, and convince them collectively to have in place the right kinds of forest in the right places, manage it for the full mix of needed benefits of which it is capable.

WoodWORKS

WoodWORKS is a project of the Canadian Wood Council, aimed at promoting the use of wood as a primary design material for building.

Its program includes an annual gala event where recognition is given. An award winner in 2002 was Casino Rama, and this was the venue for the 2004 gala event. There are 12 awards, and this year there were 56 projects in competition. News about woodWORKS appears regularly in "The Working Forest."

Two mayors were honoured, Roger Sigouin of Hearst and Ann Mulvale of Oakville. Mayor Mulvale has been lobbying for a "Build with Wood" resolution with the Canadian and provincial municipal associations, as has Mayor Sigouin.

CATS ON THE TRAIL

The newsletter of the Ganaraska Trail Association has an article "Cats of the Ganaraska Trail." It refers to the puma, also known as mountain lion, cougar, and eastern panther. Its range once extended from Yukon to Patagonia, and from Atlantic to Pacific. Persecution, and no doubt loss of habitat, led to its near extinction before 1900. Over the last 100 years it has regained much of its range. Here are about 550 in Ontario presently, and their numbers continue to grow. The territory of several individuals is crossed by the Ganaraska Trail, especially between the Oak Ridges Moraine and Orillia. They are said not to be a risk to humans, and to go out of their way to avoid people.

Anyone wishing to find out more, and anyone spotting one, is encouraged to contact the Ontario Puma Foundation at www.ontariopuma.ca.

SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA).

There are 233 species in Canada protected by SARA, including 17 extirpated, 105 endangered, 68 threatened, and 43 of special concern. To protect these needs the cooperation of all Canadians. SARA makes it an offence to kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect and sell species at risk protected by the Act. Or to possess, collect, trade or sell parts or products from protected species. It is illegal to destroy or damage the residence e.g. nest or den, of a protected species.

More about SARA may be found at www.sararegistry.gc.ca.

The most recent "Grand Actions" newsletter of Grand Conservation Authority, has an item on protecting species at risk in the Grand watershed. In that area as everywhere in S. Ont. the occurrence of many ecosystems has been diminished by human settlement. But many support a diverse mix of plant and animal species. Many "hot spots" are on lands owned by the Authority. On these lands are about 175 species listed as rare, a quarter of these are species at risk.

The main threat is habitat loss, though some species have been affected by pollution, disease, and human exploitation. The bald eagle was largely eliminated from S. Ont. by the 1970's, but is making a comeback, thanks to a reintroduction program. American chestnut, once widespread in the S. Ont. forest, is largely eliminated, though there are a number on both private and Conservation Authority properties, and it is being grown in the CA's tree nursery at Burford, near Brantford. American ginseng has been over-collected for medicinal use, and is further threatened by loss of continuous hardwood forest. There are a number of ginseng sites in parks and other protected areas.

A number of ways for landowners to protect species at risk are noted: a forested or wetland restoration or enhancement plan; planting of native trees; create natural buffers next to wetlands, woodlots, streams; report sighting of rare or unusual plants or animals, in this case to the Grand CA; do not collect wild plants or animals; avoid planting non-native vegetation near natural areas.

BIOSOLIDS AND FORESTRY

An article in Atlantic Forestry Review describes biosolids as the messy biological by-product of humanity. There is growing attention to how best to dispose of or recycle this waste. There is ongoing research into its use in agriculture, forestry and horticulture.

Its components are mainly useful for plant growth, but there are pathogens and chemicals that may be harmful to plant life. (I'd have thought the pathogens and organic chemicals would be dealt with in a healthy soil, leaving inorganic chemicals as a matter of concern).

Trials of use of this material on spruce plantations have been going on since 1991 at Acadia Research Forest, 25 km. east of Fredericton. Information to date is pretty tentative, but the CFS Scientist Dr. Taumey Mahendrappa (affectionately known as The Dirt Man) is hopeful of a practical application to increase plantation growth.

HERITAGE TREES.

A workshop held in Toronto on October 5 by Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC) on heritage trees reflects growing interest in these trees and their recognition and protection.

Paul Aird's definition, written about 2001, and which I also stated last issue: A heritage tree is an outstanding specimen because of its size, form, shape, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution, or other distinctive community landmark; a specimen associated with a historic person, place, event or period; representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors, that is at risk of disappearing from cultivation; a specimen recognized by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition.

As I understood it: a tree worthy of recognition and/or protection for a number of reasons. And the case is being made for identification, registration, and protection of heritage trees, similar to that offered other heritage features.

OUFC President Philip Van Wassenaer discussed heritage trees with illustrations such as: large trees that break up or become hollowed out with time but still stand; an oak 1000 years old in the UK, giant sequoias in the western USA, heritage elm in Winnipeg, a Ficus planted by then President Roosevelt in 1900, a special tree in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and more.

OUFC's newsletter notes the variety of participants representing many different interests yet sharing the common goal of heritage tree protection. Greg Ward from Surrey B.C. and Joanna Dean from Ottawa described their approaches to tree hunts; as did Paul Cadieux of the Hockley Valley, Heather Thomson and Paul King from the Ministry of Culture clarified current provincial legislation and suggested how to use these laws; Urban forester Bill Morsink did a "talk and walk" on the Edwards Gardens

grounds to explore possible heritage tree candidates; and Leslie Coates from the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation presented the new 2005 calendar "Toronto Tree Portraits" with spectacular pictures of heritage trees. . Barbara Heidenreich, Natural Heritage Coordinator at the Ontario Heritage Foundation presented a proposal to recognize Ontario's heritage trees.

Bill Morsink, in his walk, seemed to give some emphasis to trees that are nearing the limit of their range, e.g. the Carolinian life zone.

To try and make some head or tail of all this, while on my property the next day, I really stretched my imagination to place the following on some sort of heritage list.

i. large, very limby, old maple shade trees, many disintegrating, the remnants of a row along the roadside and lining the entrance lane. These could have been there due to a provincial effort to encourage farmers to do the planting to provide a degree of wind protection; they might have come from the woodlot right on the place. Many are still going strong; many have disintegrated to the point that only a stub up to 10 ft. high, or a stub plus one large limb, remain.

ii. two Norway spruce. They were fair sized trees out in the open when I bought the place in 1946. I'd guess they were planted a few decades earlier when many farmers planted single rows of Norway spruce along their entrance lanes. During my days of travelling S. Ont. with MNR, I was among many who noticed that these rows did well at first but seemed to be short lived. These two are just now starting to show their years--and have dbh of 20 and 22 inches. Why did they perform so differently from others around the countryside? Mine were in an open field, then in a Scots pine plantation, and now tower over the maple sapling undergrowth which is taking over. I suspect that many of the trees in farm laneways were next to fields that were cultivated in a way that unwittingly severed most of the lateral roots, thus weakening and eventually killing the trees.

iii. a white pine, which as a shade tree in 1946, stood out on the skyline, until the plantations around it grew up and then seemingly swallowed up the pine. It is still there, with huge limbs, slowly disintegrating.

iv. another large-limbed, gradually disintegrating sugar maple is now a few feet from the edge of a red-white pine plantation planted in 1951.

Earlier, it was a pasture field, and no doubt the cows took refuge under it from the hot summer sun. At times it may have been a hay field, and the farmer and his horses would also have taken refuge from the hot sun.

Needless to say, I'm aware of each of those trees but for 58 years had given them little special thought, apart from noticing how my plantations seemed to swallow them up. The workshop sensitised me to the notion of heritage trees. I'm sure none of these would make it onto any community's top 100 list, maybe not even onto their top million list. But in a sense I'm not sure that would matter. I'm more aware of them now.

It's like the remnants of stone (and pine stump) fences around the property. I knew they were there, I knew they were removed from fields with unbelievable effort by farmers, who then found that on the Oro moraine at least the dry sandy land might not sustain a good farm. Then in May 2003 our AGM field tour included my place. Several people on the tour commented about the stones. Again, I'm more aware of them now. And they do provide some hints about the area's history. Likewise the remains of a pine stump fence along part of my property boundary, and to which the neighbour resensitised me.

MENDING THE WORLD

In a recent church bulletin is an article "Mending the World: Renewing the Sacred Balance, a Jewish perspective." It notes that humanity comes from the earth, and we are one with it from the moment of our creation, that the earth is not our possession, that we are meant not to dominate but to care for the earth. We must be concerned for the needs of future generations, and not just immediate benefit. We must look ahead and understand the consequences of whatever we do.

In the Talmud is the story of an old man who was planting a carob tree as the King passed. The King asked the man his age. 70. He asked how long before that tree will bear fruit. About 70 years. Do you expect to eat any of that fruit? Your Majesty, of course not. But I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted for

me. So I will do so for my children and grandchildren.

We care for Earth for future generations, looking ahead and seeing the consequences of our actions, and not just think of our immediate benefits. Judaism is conscious of the seasons, celebrating the new year with a Seder meal that reconnects humanity with the fruits of the Earth. The Torah, or Divine Law, is connected with the image of the Tree of Life. Some mystics use the image of a tree rooted in heaven, drawing divine blessings down and renewing the earth.

It goes on that we have lost sight of the sacred balance, and take the earth's beauty and bounty for granted, the gift of air, water and land. Creation is amazing, but can stay so if we act as partners with God in maintaining it. Judaism speaks of "Tikkun olam" our responsibility to work for the mending of the world as God's partners. We must do this in the land where we live, in the here and now. We must all help renew God's sacred balance.

LEN MUNT AT FACULTY OF FORESTRY.

Len Munt, who for several years was forester for York Region, and then worked for a year at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, is now District Forester for Queen Charlotte Islands. He was at the University of Toronto on December 6, and in the evening spoke to a group at the Faculty of Forestry, partly about the contrast between work in a strongly urbanizing region like York and the Queen Charlottes, a group of 150 islands totaling 1 million hectares and a population of 4,900, mostly indigenous, where fishing and forestry make up 31% of the economy and services the rest.

He feels that his main challenge is to use the forest in a way that provides strong support and stability to communities, to help people understand their true worth, to reward innovative thinking, to turn the region from a place you leave to find work to a place where you want to come and work, and to figure out how to get young people genuinely interested in forestry as a career.

In looking ahead, Len spoke repeatedly of a need to find workable solutions to challenges, to be honourable and in good faith with people, to

bring opposing sides on issues together in pursuit of mutually satisfactory viewpoints,

SIGNS OF AGING

From Newsletter of Ganaraska Trail Association.

Things hurt, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
You'd procrastinate but don't get around to it.
You know all the answers but never get asked the questions.
You sit in the rocking chair but can't start it.
Your back goes out oftener than you do.
You stop looking forward to your next birthday.

OUR INFLUENCE ABROAD

CODE, formerly Canadian Organization for Development through Education, is an NGO that works in developing countries, operates on the idea that a good way to help people is to support programs to educate their young people. CODE's newsletter Ngoma: The Talking Drum describes work in Mozambique, with an illustration of a poster in a local language distributed by CODE and CIDA (Canada's International Development Agency) to 1250 elementary schools, on the benefits of trees.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY IN B.C.

World Wildlife Fund Canada's newsletter "Working for Wildlife" notes that Tembec has been awarded a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate for environmentally and socially responsible forest management in its Southeastern BC holdings. This brings to nearly 3 million hectares the area now certified under Tembec across Canada.

The article notes that to be certified by FSC, forestry operations must be:

Environmentally appropriate—biodiversity, productivity and ecological processes of the forest must be maintained.

Socially beneficial—both local people and society at large must enjoy long-term benefits.

Economically viable—forestry operations managed to be sufficiently profitable, but not at the expense of the forest resources, the ecosystem or affected communities.

WWF and Tembec have worked together since 2001, in consultation with local environmental groups, to develop measures that give long term protection to wildlife habitat, in the BC instance species like grizzly bear, as well as areas critical to plant and animal species at risk. Measures taken by Tembec include: No logging or road building in key wildlife habitat areas; maintaining significant amounts of old growth forest; creating adequate buffer areas along streams.

OUTSTANDING WOODLAND OWNERS

Atlantic Forestry Review has a series of articles on an award made yearly in several (regions?) of NB and NS, that of Woodlot Owner of the Year (WOY). The program features field days held at the award winning woodlots, where other owners can take away ideas and inspiration. Similar recognition to owners that don't quite make it to the winners' circle tend to convey the message that "you're on the right track" or "you've done wonders with the situation you have."

The article suggests a need for continuing tax reform, and also a program to provide technical advice and assistance. There is reference to a NS program for subsidy for silvicultural work in certain kinds of forest.

FOREST POLICY FOR P.E.I.

The web site www.gov.pe.ca/go/forestpolicy describes PEI's plans to develop a forest policy for its 263,000 ha. of public and private forest, which covers 45% of the land surface. It notes that "When people visit PEI they often comment on our well kept landscape---." It also notes the importance of the forest as part of that landscape.

Of their forest, 88% is privately owned in the form of thousands of small woodlots, each of which has its own unique history of use and management and each owner has his or her own goals for their forest land. Public forests, which account for the remaining 12%, are managed for timber, parks, education, wildlife conservation, and other uses.

The new policy will guide the government in supporting and guiding use and conservation of the forest.