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ROSS GRINNELL.

Walter Ross Grinnell, an SOS member for 65 years, and a Fellow of the Institute, passed away December 17, in his 90th year, in Markdale, where he had lived since his retirement around 1980. Ross earned his BScF from the U of T in 1940 and his MScF, also in Toronto, in 1957. He made a distinguished contribution to forestry, in the reforestation work in the South in the 1940's and 1950's, and then in the early regeneration and forest management work in the North.

Ross was chairman of this section 1977-78, and helped establish this section newsletter.

YOUR COUNCIL WILL MEET MAY 20

Your section council will meet at the Kortright Centre (from 10 to 3). (Holiday weekend; I know, but turned out to be the best time for council members). While it is NOT a meeting of section members, we welcome any member.

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Once again Harvey Anderson and Mike Clarke represented our section at the Kortright Centre's maple syrup festival. They were also joined by Earl Dertinger from North Simcoe who regaled our visitors with maple myths and first hand knowledge of sugar bush management.

An observation from McCutcheon's Maple bush pegged this as a relatively average year for sap quantity. It was, however, very busy over a short period of time – a gusher. But the take has been similar to other years with longer seasons.

RING CEREMONY AT SIR SANDFORD FLEMING

Again the Section, this time in the person of Mike Clarke, represented the CIF at the

presentation of graduates' rings at Sir Sandford Fleming College's Lindsay Campus. There were 64 rings awarded this year, with about 35 recipients receiving theirs at the dinner. Faculty members also received rings to recognize their contribution to forestry education.

Other awards presented included the CIF gold medal, the OFA's White Pine award and a special award from Westwind.

Gerald Guenkel and the Fleming Forestry staff and students are to be commended for putting together yet another spectacular ring ceremony and dinner, particularly since the college strike was in full swing at the time.

MAJOR CONFERENCE IN 2007.

What will the Southern Ontario landscape be like in 50 or even 100 years? What will be the place of forest and trees on that landscape? Will they have a place that helps make the landscape liveable/enjoyable by my grandchildren (MY N---, MY N-----, YOUR N..) etc.

Will they fill ALL the roles we could ever wish of our forest? Roles such as timber to support a growing and ever more diverse wood-using industry--to boost the economy and make all those needed products, or being an oxygen factory or carbon sink--in the hope of slowing climate change, conserving water and soil, harbouring all that other life we would claim to share the planet with, some of the beauty we humans need for our well-being, a place of rest, restoration, and relaxation. Will they provide the setting for the teaching of biological sciences, of the arts, and of healthy life style?

Is that last question too big a stretch? A family member has just spent a week (with the eagles, monkeys, iguanas and much more) in the Costa Rican tropical rain forest on a retreat with a Toronto yoga studio. (For a real treat take a look at www.lunalodge.com)

Will those trees and forests be there for a possible whole host of uses we may scarcely have dreamed of, extending from the innermost city to the most rural of the settled areas?

What are some of the possibilities? What arrangements must be in place to make it happen, given that the forest of the heavily settled parts of Canada is largely privately owned, by well over 400,000 rural owners, many times more urban owners, plus owners of other land which should have forest cover? The forest we hope for is a composite of all those private holdings, and the best chances of its survival, restoration, expansion, improvement and maintenance lie in our ability to enlist ALL those owners in good forest stewardship (whatever that is).

All of this and more will be the subject of a conference at the University of Toronto in August 2007. It will be jointly the annual meeting of the CIF, and part of the Faculty of Forestry's 100th anniversary celebration (which will also include an international conference, a history of the Faculty, an updated directory of graduates, and a series of public lectures featuring prominent Canadians).

This conference will be chaired by Andy Kenney of the Faculty of Forestry and Bruce Ferguson of the CIF Southern Ontario Section. They met April 19 at the Faculty, along with Dave Martell, Faculty of Forestry, who has considerable experience organizing conferences; Mike Rosen, Vice President, Tree Canada Foundation; Adrina Ambrosii, recent MFC graduate and urban forest consultant, John Wilson, of the International Society of Arborists; Roxanne Comeau, Executive Director, CIF; Mike Clarke, Secretary, CIF-SOS, & your editor, Mack Williams.

The theme of this conference will have to do with the current issues and perspectives on the future forest of the progressively populated Southern Ontario landscape and any other urbanizing landscape, large or small, in Canada.

It will have three component themes: regional landscape planning, private land forestry and stewardship, and the urban forest and the trees that make it up.

There will be plenary sessions, as well as concurrent group sessions developing each of the

three components. There will also be poster sessions and an exhibit hall.

Having the conference in August at the U of T means that accommodations, meeting halls and various services will be available during the late summer season, with the prospect of offering a conference in Toronto at a very reasonable cost.

Sub-committees are being established for fundraising and sponsorships; technical programs, extracurricular (spouses, field tours, etc), facilities and services, promotion and advertising. These sub-committees can use all the help they can get, and would welcome the addition of anyone who could help out.

NOTE that a formal announcement of the 2007 AGM and Conference will be coming soon.

BOREAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER, 2006

The Lake Abitibi Model Forest and the CIF will jointly host a Boreal Conference October 2-5, 2006 in Cochrane. The conference will explore the dynamic nature of the boreal forest and the changing 'climates' that are influencing the relationship between people and the forest. Be they biophysical, economic, or social, boreal forest climates are intertwined with the lives and livelihoods of people in boreal communities.

The conference will present the latest science and knowledge, coupled with real-life experiences in planning, operations, and policy-making from across the North American boreal forest. Community members will play central roles in enlarging the understanding of how knowledge is applied and used, and why plans and policies need to adapt to meet dynamic environmental, economic, and social demands.

The conference will be indoors for two days, then will see the boreal forest on the Polar Bear Express between Cochrane and Moosonee.

See www.borealconference2006.ca

THE FUTURE WE WANT

A poem lingers in my memory from my elementary school days in the 1930's, between the two World Wars. It is part of Locksley Hall, published by Alfred Lord Tennyson in 1842.

*For I dipt into the future, far as human eye
could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder
that would be;*

*There the common sense of most shall hold a
fretful realm in awe,
And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in
universal law.*

Tennyson had foreseen the world progress through times of peace, two horrendous wars, and toward world governance.

In the 1980's, a man of vision, Robert Mueller, then assistant secretary-general of the UN, published his Dream 2000, which goes, in part: .

*I dream
That on 1 January 2000 the whole world will
stand still in prayer, awe and gratitude for our
beautiful, heavenly Earth and for the miracle of
human life.*

*I dream
That the few remaining years to the
Bimillennium
Be devoted by all humans, nations and
institutions
To unparalleled thinking, action,
Inspiration elevation, determination and love
To solve our remaining problems
And to achieve a peaceful united family on
Earth.*

*I dream
That the third millennium will be declared and
made Humanity's First Millennium of Peace.*

Mueller was a teen-ager living along the France-Germany border during World War II and, seeing the futility and destructiveness of warfare, spent his life at the UN and his retirement years as a champion of peace.

CHINESE RESPECT FOR NATURE

For nearly 2,000 years Daoist priests in China have promoted respect for nature and personal responsibility for the impact of one's own actions. They encourage millions of followers to plant new forest to repair denuded landscapes, to preserve wild habitats and to engage in social welfare and disaster relief. By directly working

with communities, they offer a practical bottom-up approach to complement a top-down approach from the central Government."

THE CANADA WE WANT

Forward to 1996; and these words from the budget speech of Finance Minister Paul Martin:

For Canada it is time to set goals anchored in our shared values and aspirations. We have done that throughout our history, in the day when we dared speak of a national dream and then built it; in the days when we aspired to a kinder society and then created it.

We must set great national challenges, not small ones, because it is only by reaching as high as we are able that we will discover how far we can go.

ARE WE PROGRESSING?

On all of the above we're not there by a long way, but seem to have made some moves in the right direction. And if that kind of dreaming and doing makes sense, what is our dream and our action plan for the Southern Ontario forest.

If we humans understood our place in the natural world, and treated nature with due respect, reverence and awe, might we have been spared the environmental damage that threatens our very existence?

THE FOREST IN 2092

In 1992 on these pages I described a vision of the North American forest, looking back from the year 2092. It came from Prof. Carl Reidel, then head of the University of Vermont's environment program. Some of its features:

1. World population kept on growing.
2. Global warming changed farms, forests and cities. Sugar maple largely disappeared from the Great Lakes region.
3. Air pollution forced cities and industries to disperse into smaller centres where many people worked at home, and were connected electronically to employers and customers.

4. Cities became separated by green belts and connected by electric railways and electronic networks.
5. Oil supplies ran out by 2060, solar electric power became the main transportation energy, air quality improved vastly.
6. Water shortage and climatic chaos have changed food production and regional landscapes.
7. Water and wildlife management are now major concerns. Little livestock ranching remains, red meat supply is reduced. Fish farms and synthetic soy meats are now main protein sources.
8. A system of regions evolved, crossing national boundaries, based on entities like ecoregions and watersheds.
9. Large public forest areas like US national forests became nuclei for ecological conservancy districts for which integrated land use plans were made, integrating resource and land management on public and private land.
10. Wilderness and other areas on private land are protected by a system of easements. In areas dominated by public land, private land is managed through a system of regional co-ops.
11. Forests are now managed mostly for water, wildlife, recreation, and carbon credit. At a UN environment conference in 2012, nations agreed to offset CO2 emission with CO2-consuming forest, and a system of carbon credit trading with nations with nations with abundant forest.
12. Reduced arms spending freed up funds, resources and talent for a massive growth in technology which nations traded for carbon credit. Poverty, deprivation and suffering worldwide and at home were greatly diminished.
13. Conservancy districts are managed by multi-discipline groups, which took over bodies like the US Forest Service. They employ people in the older professions of forestry, wildlife management and recreation, and a growing number and variety of environment specialists.

How much of that story do we want to happen?
How much has happened already? How does society make it happen?

HISTORIC ANGUS

A booklet, "(The village of) Angus: An Historical Sketch" was written by A.H. Richardson as a souvenir of the opening of the Angus Community Park in 1929. It traces the history of the Angus area. In the 1830's it was largely unsettled, it had only recently been surveyed and opened to settlers. The village emerged with the building of the railway to Collingwood in the 1850's, and became a central shipping point for the growing timber industry.

The area was largely under mixed forest, with lots of very large white pine. The earliest timber cutting was for masts for the Royal Navy. There was no consistent record of sizes of masts taken, but one was known to be 118 feet long; it is believed there were many larger. Their size was estimated from the numbers of teams of horses needed to move them (11 teams in this case).

In time came the squared timber industry, and then sawmilling; with 17 large mills at one time in Angus, which for a while was the centre of the lumber industry. It was not uncommon for timber to be piled in the mill yards, on the streets, on vacant lots, and elsewhere. Nor was it uncommon for 12 train loads of lumber and square timber to leave Angus daily.

This supported a community of up to 2,000, with hotels, general stores, drug stores, blacksmith shops (for all those horses), wagon and carriage shops, harness shops, tailor shops, and of course schools and churches.

It peaked in 1878, then the CPR line opened, passing a few miles to the east, and Angus lost its advantage as a shipping centre. The timber supply also ran out then. One by one, the sawmills and the other businesses in town closed. By 1901 there was no longer a general store in Angus.

Richardson continues the Angus story to 1929, the date of the booklet. But before leaving the timber days, he wrote (again, in 1929):

"It may seem a long look back to virgin stands of timber which once surrounded (Angus). It is

a long look into the future when this timber will be put back again in all its value and beauty by modern reforestation. But ---these stands need never have been cut in their entirety. By wise management and the exercise of scientific forestry knowledge, many mills might still be operating in Angus, and the village still be a prosperous settlement. And when you read or talk about forestry, remember that forestry has as its basic idea the continual cropping of the forest, and not the wasteful exploitation which has been so well demonstrated at Angus and in many other places of Ontario.”

HISTORIC SOUTHERN ONTARIO FORESTS

It is a story repeated across Southern Ontario. Deforestation of the region had reached the point of causing, for example, expressions of concern in the 1870's between Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald and Ontario Premier John Sandfield Macdonald.

Here is part of a story I recently shared with a school board environmental officer and a trustee and repeatedly on these pages. It is the story that led to encouraging people to plant more trees along fronts of rural properties. It led to the provincial tree nurseries that flourished for most of the 20th century across Southern Ontario. It also led to establishment of the county and other agreement forests.

The story arose in part from the coming together of a senior civil servant (E.J.Zavitz) and politician (Premier E.C. Drury), who together made the county forests happen. It now sees tens of thousands of acres of plantations 50 to 80 years old across Southern Ontario, where there might otherwise be expanding desert. . Without this, and without the visionary foresters present in the public service, (e.g. Carman, Richardson, Newman, Jackson, Simmons, Marritt), how much of the reforestation of the south would have happened? How much of our region might today be desert-like?

Many of those-50-80 year old plantations are now thinned regularly, and are beginning the transition to hardwood forest. They are now an important ecological asset, including ground water conservation, rich wildlife, the system of logging trails gradually being expanded as a trail system for a range of summer and winter trail activities. (At least the plantations whose

owners know enough and have the means to look after them as they develop. Too many do not).

County forests of significant size are found in Prescott and Russell County, Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, Leeds and Grenville, Northumberland County, Durham and York Regions (the Ganaraska Conservation Authority has considerable area of the same kind of forest), Simcoe and Dufferin Counties.

In 1942, following the Guelph Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources, conservation work received a new boost. The county forests were enlarged, tree planting on private land was promoted, and the ground work was laid for formation of about 38 conservation authorities.

POTENTIAL FOR SOUTHERN ONTARIO

I have lived my 82 years in Southern Ontario, and remain convinced that with the proper effort Southern Ontario could be, among many other things, a major forest area, with an industry not so much competing with or detracting from as complementing the forest industry of the north, and together helping meet probable timber shortages. I am the more convinced by the transformation on my own property over 60 years with it, and on nearby county forests over their 84 years.

The late Henry Kock of the University of Guelph Arboretum often noted that the spread of civilization across the world has too often and too closely been followed by the spread of deserts. He noted that a century ago we were well along that road in Southern Ontario, then for perhaps the first time humans turned back at the brink, and the remarkable effort at reforestation, forest management, and other conservation efforts followed.

We know the connection between good forestry and soil conservation. We are learning about the global hydrological cycle, its vital importance to all life, the threats we humans place on it, all the way from diverting or damming large rivers to paving over an area that was once green. We are looking at the various ways we can reduce our impact on our area's hydrologic cycle. One is the conservation of resources within watersheds, which of course includes having enough of the right kinds of forest in the right places.

I get mail from Food Share Toronto, who argue that if we put our minds to it, we could produce 20% of our food within our cities. Doing so might greatly reduce the amount of energy used to transport much of our food from all corners of the world. What other things can we do on our landscape, especially in our forest that we don't even think about most of the time?

IF IT CAN BE DONE ELSEWHERE

There is the story of Dr. Wangari Maathai, whom I've mentioned before, Nobel Peace Laureate for 2004, and her Green Belt Movement (GBM). This led to the mobilization of fellow Kenyan women in a reforestation effort that since 1977 has planted 30 million trees on depleted lands in Kenya. (See www.greenbeltmovement.org or www.wangarimaathai.org and see her book *The Green Belt Movement*. Recent Toronto Star items as well as her own Nobel lecture remind us how desperately this kind of renewal is needed on an even larger scale in that part of Africa.)

And the massive reforestation effort to turn back the desert in Northeastern China. These are all living proof that forest landscape can be restored in some pretty harsh conditions.

The Menominee Tribal Forest in Wisconsin shows how a large tract of forest can be logged sustainably over a period of 175 years. The case of Merve Wilkinson on Vancouver Island shows how one person can do likewise on 135 acres over a lifetime. And in the process in both cases, all the non-timber values we hold so dear were cherished and maintained. For example, many of the best trees are still there.

And dare I mention that my own property is the subject of a case study which can be viewed at www.huronstewardship.on.ca, go to case studies and then to Williams Woodlot.

WHITHER CLIMATE CHANGE?

In the Toronto Star, Feb. 18, Jay Ingram notes that James Hansen, a NASA scientist, at a recent conference, identified several lines of evidence that climate change may be dangerously close to the point of no return. (2005 was the hottest year on record, and what about this past winter). He indicated some consequences, largely unpleasant

for humanity—if not for all life, and also what we could do to forestall it or slow it down.

World Wildlife Fund, among others, was present in December at the UN Conference on Climate Change in Montreal. WWF notes that we now have the means to drastically reduce the impact on the atmosphere that lead to global warming. WWF says that what is needed is political will and corporate responsibility. I'd have thought that what is needed is for us all, government, the corporate world, the voluntary sector, and individuals with children and grandchildren to grasp thoroughly what is at stake, decide they want it badly enough for themselves, their grandchildren and theirs, to act.

Assuming that this is what we want, what does it all mean for the forest of Southern Ontario?

On one hand, it may mean that the climate is different enough that the species composition and growth rate of forest and other life will be quite different, and that adaptation to the new condition will be needed.

On the other hand, by cooling the landscape and by sequestering carbon, it may help modify the rate and intensity of climate change.

WHITHER THE GREAT LAKES BASIN

Nature Conservancy of Canada is a Canada-wide organization, part of an international body. It is a national charity dedicated to securing ecologically significant areas through purchase, donation and/or easement. Since 1962 across Canada it has secured 1.8 million acres in 1,400 properties. (see www.natureconservancy.ca).

Their efforts are Canada-wide, but somewhat concentrated in Southwestern Ontario. That is because of the high biological diversity of the area, the high human population, the amount of forest, wetland, and other features that have already been lost, and the concentration of species and ecosystems at risk. . The Great Lakes is recognized as one of the world's prime fresh water ecosystems, with 95% of North America's fresh water surface area, providing domestic water for 26 million people in Ontario and 8 US states. It has been subjected to pressures due to altered water flows, resource extraction, invasive species, climate change, incompatible forestry, agriculture, urban development and more.

NCC, its US counterpart, and others, have done studies leading to release of their Binational Conservation Blueprint for the Great Lakes Basin. This study has identified over 500 sites in the Great Lakes watershed in need of protection for conservation purposes. These include forests, coastlines, islands, wetland, rivers, inland lakes, stopover places for migratory birds, and corridors for migrating wildlife.

THE SOUTHERN ONTARIO WE WANT

Dare I hope that society might develop a statement that says that this is the kind of Southern Ontario landscape we want for 50, or 100, or more years, and that forest will be a strong component of that landscape and a major contributor to our industry and to our ecological and societal well-being.

We will have forest in places where it can provide quality timber to support a greatly enlarged and diversified industry.

We will have it in all those places where it protects and enhances our land, our farms, our homes, and the natural life with which we share this landscape and this planet. We will have it in those places where it protects our watersheds.

We will have it where it provides the setting for a growing range of recreation activity, and places of peace, quiet and revitalization for growing numbers of people.

We will have it in places that serve as a safe haven for species and systems now at risk.

We will use it in ways we have not yet seriously dreamed about, perhaps in the areas of agroforestry, permaculture, highly intensive forest management, carbon capture and more.

We may have it in places that will support major harvest of biomass for clean alternate fuels for our growing energy needs. In doing so, we will need to learn how much to harvest without risk to the organic content of our forests, or to our desire to use our forests as carbon sinks. Would abundant biomass fuels which emit less carbon, reduce or eliminate the need for carbon sinks?

Some people have done some amazing things with sewage management by creating aquatic or

near-aquatic ecosystems that make effective use of the substances found in sewage, and turn stinking canals into places of peace, quiet and good health. As we look ahead, what role will wetland, or upland, forested ecosystems have in the management of our waste.

All that must translate into actual green blobs on a map or trees on the landscape. We may get some idea from existing maps. For example:

Ontario's Green Belt is aimed at protecting 1.8 million acres, mainly forested, across the central part of Southern Ontario. Related to it is a map called NOAH: Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, A2A Algonquin to Adirondack Corridor, i.e. Niagara Oak Ridges A2A Heritage.

The map shows protected areas in the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine. In addition, areas of forest needing protection form a web over much of South Central Ontario.

A separate A2A map shows a corridor made up of a string of areas needing protection, connecting the two large parks.

In Southwestern Ontario, the Carolinian Canada Coalition a few years ago produced its Big Picture of cores and corridors of wooded areas, again forming a net over much of that area.

Another concentration of green is in what has become known as the "Land Between", a transition zone along the edge of the Precambrian Shield, with a large concentration of diverse landscape, both Precambrian and limestone, that might best be kept in a relatively natural state. This is described in www.couchconservancy.ca/thelandbetween.htm

Since the Southern Ontario forest is dominantly privately owned, we will actively seek arrangements with landowners that will allow and encourage all this to happen, while at the same time encouraging owners to continue to develop their own objectives. As a 60-year landowner, I have always felt that much could be done to develop realistic partnerships between, say, the Southern Ontario society and its 100,000 or more forest landowners. And I cannot see how much of this can happen without those owners' active engagement.

We will (re)gain deep respect and reverence for nature, and for our forest, which is a key part of

nature. We will understand that we are part of nature, not apart from it.

I have lived my life in Southern Ontario, and have not lost my hope (though it gets pretty thin at times) that something like this might happen, and that the Southern Ontario forest could be a pretty amazing part of the landscape.

COMMUNITIES AND STEWARDSHIP

On March 6, I sat with a group of graduate students at the U of T Faculty of Forestry for a presentation on two topics: the Model Forest Network established by Canada in 1992, and Ontario's Stewardship Network.

For the Stewardship Network Steve Wilkins, the Provincial Coordinator discussed how local councils are made up and how they operate, with the emphasis very heavily on enlisting local human, financial and other resources, to do projects of their choosing and at their priority.

The network was begun a decade or so, in times of shrinking financial and manpower resources to support the more traditional programs for landowners. It has achieved a remarkable amount of success, thanks probably to the calibre of people it attracted as coordinators, and the people they in turn were able to attract to local councils, and the great range of ideas and initiatives these people generated.

Today there are 41 councils, mostly in the south but with a few taking shape up north.

Steve Dominy explained the Model Forest system. It began in 1992, spurred in part by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro that year. They were to be large scale demonstrations of forestry in a range of settings, with different forestry practices and different approaches to partnerships. They started out with 10 in 1992, since then one has been dropped and two added.

Following the example of these model forests, and supported by Canada, 41 model forests have been set up in 18 countries around the world.

Work in Eastern Ontario and Lake Abitibi Model Forests was described by their general managers, Brian Barkley and Wayne Young. The contrast was noted between EOMF with its million

people including the national capital and about a third of its area in forest, with LAMF, with its Boreal Forest and rather few people.

Both forests are approaching their third 5-year period. Both have developed of partnerships aimed at advancing forestry in their areas. Not unlike the stewardship councils, their work, often at kitchen table level, has accounted for a number of significant advances, among them:

EOMF, no doubt influenced by the First Nations people in their midst, takes a forward (Seven Generations) look at the forest.

LAMF, in the midst of a downturn arising from closures in the industry, is looking at ways of promoting community-based forestry, thus developing much-needed resiliency in these communities.

EOMF has adopted a philosophy for responding to adverse events: when the world deals you lemons, you learn to make great lemonade.

To an increasing extent, and in an increasing number of ways, it is being shown that forestry in the hands of communities is a step forward economically and socially. Increasingly the community knows the forest, and assumes the work, benefits and risks of whatever is done.

The LAMF has found useful partnerships with the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi to learn more about the boreal forest.

When provincial tree nurseries were being shut down over a decade ago, EOMF led the actions that led to the Kemptville nursery being taken over by a local group, and it is still operating.

EOMF has worked out ways in which individual woodlot owners can earn certification under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).