

**CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY
SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECTION
NEWSLETTER**

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DAVE LOVE

Dave Love, who taught at the U of T Faculty of Forestry from 1946 until he retired in 1985, passed away July 2. Dave was born and grew up in New Brunswick, and often returned there to relax and to visit family. He graduated in forestry at the University of New Brunswick, and then did wartime service in the Canadian Navy. He came to the U of T in 1946—at the same time as we of the graduating class of 1950, began first year. (One of his early accomplishments: teaching some of us how to print neatly! One of his early recollections: some of us students were older than he!). During his 39 years he taught just about every person who was a student of the Faculty.

His long career at U of T was interrupted by two sabbaticals, one in Venezuela, one in Malaysia.

Dave was a very strong supporter of the CIF, having served as Section Vice-Chair, Chair and Director in 1955-58 and again in 1978-81. He also served on the National Executive, and was President in 1965-66.

In 1988 your Section Council nominated Dave for the CIF's highest honour—Fellow of the Institute. I had the pleasant task of speaking or writing to about 25 people seeking support for that nomination. The report I wrote is in the For Chron, December 1988, on page 538, (it can be found in the CIF's web site). Here are some samples of the replies I got:

--a highly respected, very professional individual who has richly earned the CIF's highest honour.

--a very unassuming person who has quietly gotten things done, while never attempting to call attention to himself.

--a hard working, compassionate teacher, always available, always helpful to the student ("Of all my professors, he was the most helpful and available).

--whenever he served as an officer on a forestry or related organization, it was a period of solid progress for that organization.

--his enthusiasm for, loyalty to, and tireless support of, and belief in, forestry in Canada and abroad, are highly infectious.

At a memorial service on July 7 in Toronto, one heard warm tributes to the kind of person he was as a family person, a colleague, a teacher, and again of his passion for and professionalism in forestry.

URBAN FOREST SEMINAR

Just as I was finishing this up, in came an e-mail from Jack Radecki, executive director of the Ont. Urban Forest Council (OUFC), announcing a seminar on Thur. Oct 16 at Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue, Toronto. It is becoming an annual event, usually well attended and excellent in content and presentation. This year they will share their perspectives on changes in our urban ecosystems past, present, and future. How we can best plan for the future with changes to water management, seed collection, and green corridors.

Jack suggests keeping in touch with www.oufc.org for more information. I suggest it would likely be a day well spent.

There is also a national urban forestry conference in Strathcona, near Edmonton, in September.

YOUR SECTION'S AGM—by Terry Schwan

On Friday June 20 the Southern Ontario Section held its Annual Meeting in Norfolk County the Forest Capital of Canada for 2008. This year is also the 100th anniversary of the founding of the St. Williams Forest Nursery, the first tree nursery in Ontario. So it was fitting to start the day with a tour of the new St. Williams Forestry Museum. The tour was led by Dolf Wynia, former nursery manager at St. Williams and the

inspiration and promoter behind the development and opening of the museum. The museum is housed in the old forestry Station office. For anyone interested in forest history in Ontario this museum is a must see.

Leaving the museum the group of 13 members and others were given a tour of current forest health issues in the Norfolk County area. Led by Eric Cleland, County Forest Technician, we first visited two Gypsy Moth infested sites. One was sprayed with Btk to maintain the foliage on these oak-hickory-maple forests. The other site was not sprayed and the difference, as expected, was outstanding. The no-spray site was sunny and open with heavy undergrowth typical of a defoliated tree canopy. We were shown some of the trap installations set up by the County to monitor the spray effects.

We also visited the site of a recently discovered Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The ash is a local area was heavily infested and the County had conducted a salvage operation to remove the ash.

Sandwiched between these visits was lunch with the Annual meeting, and a quick stop at Bird Studies Canada in Port Rowan. This beautiful field site and facility right on Lake Erie is the hub of serious bird and bird habitat research.

SECTION REPORTS 2007-08—by Mike Clarke

CIF AGM, Toronto 2007

This took place in at the U of T in Toronto in August. It was a joint event co-hosted by the Faculty of Forestry and the CIF-SOS with great success. CIF members Andy Kenney and Bruce Ferguson and the organizers should be congratulated on a job well done.

Kortright Program

We continue to do a colour tour in the fall and manage an outdoor display table at the maple festival in the spring. Harvey Anderson continues to look after these events, as he has done for about 10 years.

U of T meeting Feb 18

Section and faculty members met with CIF president Fred Pinto and executive director John Pinot, who updated us on the move from Ottawa to Mattawa and introduced us to new

programs being planned to increase membership.

Newsletter Editor's Report by Mack Williams
(See elsewhere in this issue)

Ring Ceremony, Fleming College, Lindsay
On March 8, 2008, Mike Clarke and John Pineau represented the CIF at a packed gathering of staff and graduating students and their families. As usual the students put together a terrific evening. Mike presented the rings and John presented the gold medal.

Website:

It still exists at www.cif-ifc.org/sos. All Mack's latest newsletters may be downloaded from there, and notices of future events will continue to be front page news but there is potential to do much more with the site.

THE ANNUAL MEETING—from John Pineau

CIF Executive Director John Pineau was there and e-mailed me: It was a great session - the tour of the interpretive centre/museum and of the area sites was very informative and interesting.

THE ANNUAL MEETING—by Mike Clarke.

Concerning the AGM: (Treasurer) Terry (Schwan's) financial statement was passed as presented, but little progress was made concerning new council members, as yet. Having made new contacts, however, I think we can get a program going again if we are persistent in keeping contact with all our members, through the newsletter and by e-mail.

Positive progress was made, though, in responding to the request by Dolf to move the Cairn from its current location, to a new home where it will be more secure. The SOS will be donating \$1000 (as agreed at the AGM) towards this project, which has been matched by CIF's FACT fund - thanks to John (Pineau's) initiative.

YOUR SECTION COUNCIL

So meanwhile, with no new blood, your Section Council appears to be made up of five people: Mike Clarke, John Nolan, Albert Hovingh, Terry Schwan (treasurer) and myself, Mack Williams (your editor for the 22nd year).

SECTION FINANCES—by Terry Schwan

I'm not able to reproduce Treasurer Terry's statement here (my fault, not my computer's or Terry's); however here are the main items:

Opening balance June 1, 2007	2140.28
Income: (Section dues 1105.00; Toronto Annual Meeting Benefit 1436.85)	2543.14
Expenses (Director's expenses to CIF AGM 238.47; 4 newsletters 480.82)	1019.29.
Net income	1523.85
Closing balance May 31, 2008.	3364.13.

REPORT OF NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND FORMER SECTION HISTORIAN.

I'm not sure if we had an annual meeting last year, with reports, etc., so I've included a few things about the 2006-07 year.

During the 2007-08 year the section distributed 4 newsletters totalling 56 pages. During the 2006-07 year there were 4 newsletters totalling 48 pages. Once again, mailing of paper copy was done by Caroline Mach, with e-mailing done by Mike Clarke.

In my home was an archive of four binders containing hard copies of all 91 newsletters done by me since 1987, plus 22 issues dating back to 1976 that I'd found among other material inherited from former council members. This collection has gone to the CIF Head Office, c/o John Pineau, to be placed in the CIF archives.

As of now, a summer issue (this one, my 92nd) is in the works.

Also in my home since I prepared the section's history, which was published in 1991, were 2 boxes which were in effect the section's archives.

I had condensed these into 2 boxes, which John Pineau kindly picked up at my house, to go into the CIF's archives.

From that project, I still have my own personal binder containing 162 pages of notes which were condensed into the history. This, plus the published history (64p) plus the section's newsletter archive, should contain much of the material that would be needed if the history were to be updated/rewritten.

THE CAIRN AT ST. WILLIAMS.

From the binder mentioned above comes the following.

James Herbert White Forest

Dr. White, an original professor at the U of T Faculty of Forestry (and its first graduate, 1909) retired in June 1946, and the Southern Ontario Section sought a way to honour his career. A committee that included E J Zavitz, Professor Bob Hosie, Frank Newman, then superintendent of St. Williams Nursery, and several others proposed that part of the provincial forest in the Normandale Plains near St. Williams, would be named the James Herbert White Forest. A plaque and cairn were installed. Dedication of the forest and unveiling of the plaque took place at the Section's first post-war field trip, Sept. 12-13, 1949. It was the site of another ceremony in May 1973, to replace the original plaque which had disappeared.

The original plaque read:

THE J.H.WHITE FOREST. THIS FOREST DEDICATED TO JAMES HERBERT WHITE, M.A., B.Sc.F., PH.D., PROFESSOR OF FORESTRY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, 1909-1946. A TRIBUTE TO HIS INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE. ERECTED BY HIS FORMER STUDENTS AND ONTARIO MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF FOREST ENGINEERS.

(The CIF was known as CSFE until its reorganization in 1950)

As a footnote to that, and to the best of my recollection, Dolf Wynia served as an SOS council member, then Chair in the 1987-91 period. At that time he had served for some time as Superintendent of St. Williams Nursery. He was not aware, nor I believe was anyone else at

St. Williams, until I told him of this note. When I did, it was apparently not all that easy to find the cairn.

This suggests a need not only to keep the cairn and plaque in good repair, but also make sure that the site is not once again lost-forgotten.

Indeed at the Section's AGM, some steps were taken, with funds from the section and from the CIF's FACT (Forestry Awareness in Canada Trust) to help repair/rebuild/relocate the cairn and plaque, to a more suitable location where it will be seen, appreciated, and cared for.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

I believe that some of the above items represent a challenge for our Section, and for those who believe in forestry in Southern Ontario. Once again, there is no new blood for Section Council, and apart from hosting the 2007 annual meeting, there has been no program this year. I would suggest that the challenge is to section members to bring the section back to levels of activity it enjoyed historically. There is no end of challenges in Southern Ontario forestry to justify such action. There must be no end of ideas, inspirations, etc., from Eastern Ontario (see below) and elsewhere that might help put forestry back where it belongs on the Southern Ontario landscape, economy, and culture.

Also, as noted above, James Herbert White is remembered at St. Williams for his contribution to forestry. And Dave Love has recently passed away, and I think it is equally fitting that the Section be a part of a suitable memorial to Dave's exceptional career and to the exceptional person he was.

ONTARIO EAST WOOD CENTRE AND ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARK

I received from Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) a copy of a media backgrounder on Ontario East Wood Centre and Eco-Industrial Park, to be located at Prescott, within EOMF.

It notes that in the 1980's a forester Ross Silversides had some ideas about sustainable forestry in Eastern Ontario. He noted that value-added wood processing could help a community retain jobs and wealth.

In the 1990's, there was growing concern about the forest industry, sustainable forestry, energy, and climate change. The EOMF developed the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC's) forest certification, at the same time environmentally sound models of business parks began to emerge.

In 2004 a proposal was made to a township council (Edwardsburgh-Cardinal) for a wood-based eco-industrial park, offering lower infrastructure and energy costs, and an environmentally sounder approach to industry development; and use locally grown wood.

The Council set up a wood centre committee, to investigate the feasibility of a value-added Eastern Ontario wood industry. An advisory group of scientific and technical experts, including academics, wood industry people, and forestry research have provided insight on economics, science and technology, marketing, wood chemistry, climate change, government policy, research, business practice and eco-industrial development. They have looked into the energy needs of value-added plants, and how these could be met in the region. They looked at the region's natural advantages, including recently certified (FSC) managed forests. A number of forest-based companies already operate in the area. The area is well served by highways, railways, the Port of Prescott and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Value-added wood products include those made from timber like furniture, cabinets, millwork, boards, and those not made from timber like pharmaceuticals, chemicals, foods and crafts, and health and personal care products. They also include bio-products such as bio-fuels and bio-chemicals.

Processing makes wood products about 6 times as valuable on average to the economy; in 2002 accounted for close to 60,000 people employed in Ontario.

The Ont East Wood Centre & Eco-Industrial Park is now seen as world-scale, multi-corporate, value added wood products processing, marketing and exporting complex. It will be on land now owned by the Township. As an example of cost effectiveness it will have buildings built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. By products from some plants will provide energy and/or raw material for others, and so on.

This looks like a model that could be considered for other Southern Ontario locations, especially those where there is a lot of forest and a number of established wood-using plants. There is much more on www.WoodCentre.ca.

FITNESS FOR TREE PLANTING.

You know it's the 21st century. Fifty years ago, when the reforestation effort began on Crown lands of the north, I well recall hearing from colleagues how hard it was to get good people for tree planting. I recall fellow foresters having to go into the local bars or street corners in search of people for the job.

Earlier, during the reforestation push of the 1930's to 1950's in Southern Ontario, the work force was often made up of farm people who were likely in pretty good shape and had the good sense to get a good night's sleep before and after a day of planting trees.

Today society is different. We know how professional athletes and Olympic hopefuls train endlessly. I enjoy watching Canadian football and it's obvious to me that those players, especially the smaller ones, would not last very long without being superbly equipped, superbly coached, and, most important, be in a physical (and emotional?) condition most of us can only dream of. Same goes for hockey players.

And how long would that principal dancer in the ballet last were it not for superb training and fitness. How many injuries are there, how many are career-ending, and how many more would there otherwise. And how many simply wear themselves out.

We are also learning in many ways that an ounce of prevention trumps a pound of cure. That flu shot may save me several days of illness, plus however long it takes to get back up to strength and then catch up on the accumulated backlog of work. That extra bit of care while driving may save me from being or causing yet another traffic accident statistic. For a senior, that bit of care during icy sidewalk season may prevent a fall that could curtail or end one's active life. Addressing and stamping this letter properly may avoid delay and extra expense to get it delivered, or its possible loss. A billion spent on peace building may reduce a trillion dollar conflict

with all the bloodshed and human misery. And on and on it goes.

These thoughts converged as I glanced at the February *Silviculture* magazine, and at the article "Getting Tree Planting Fit." In my 21 years as your editor the idea of physically fit tree planters had not occurred to me as a part of the sustainable forestry we all went.

Another issue of *Silviculture* had had an article on the efforts within the forestry sector, especially in BC, to reduce or eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on the job, and an emphasis on safety that led to better business practices, better worker relations, and better productivity.

Tree Planter Fit goes well beyond safe actions on the job. The article notes that "there is fit, and then there is tree-planting fit." I'm sure a regular fitness program is great, but there are additional needs for this specialized work.

For example, someone who plants 1,200 trees a day lifts a cumulative weight of over 1,000 kg., bends over 200 times an hour, puts a shovel into the ground over 200 times an hour, travels about 16 km. on foot while carrying heavy loads.

To help planters keep fit, there is a web-based fitness programs known to contractors since 2004. The Fit to Plant program helps workers avoid injury, and is based on a study that showed how improved fitness levels and diet (including what you drink while on the planting site) can reduce risk of injury and improve planter productivity. This program reduced injury by 40%, increased aerobic power so the worker can move fast all day, strengthened muscles and tendons against wear and tear, improved reflexes to protect joints, and improved productivity by 12.5%.

Common injuries among tree planters are tendonitis and leg sprains from falling on the ground. These are reduced by special attention to their fitness, which may take gradual building up. Attention is given to how the body withstands the repetitive and sudden forces that are part of the planter's job. Attention is given to diet, including drinks containing electrolytes instead of plain water during the day.

This is important enough to involve contractors, who during the winter may encourage the people they expect to hire in the spring to become

suitably fit. On the planting site it may involve the cooks and the management staff. This becomes an investment that pays off for both the worker and the contractor.

A far cry indeed from the pioneering days of Crown land tree planting of 50 years ago.

“MY GOSH, YOU’RE OLD!!!”

My granddaughter, then 7, spoke those words to me many years ago, on my 70th birthday. I recall that some trees along the face of the Niagara escarpment are over 1,000 years old. And in Jerusalem, which I was so lucky to visit in 1987, the Garden of Gethsemane contains olive trees that look really old—they may date back to the hours Jesus spent there the night before his death.

Someone e-mailed me an article about a grove of Norway spruce trees in the mountains of Western Sweden which, at an age of around 8,000 years, are surely among the world’s oldest living trees. They are high on a mountain where they have been safe from dangers such as logging but subject to harsh weather conditions. .

Carbon dating done at a Miami, Florida lab, showed the oldest to “have first set root” about 8,000 years ago, which would make it the world’s oldest known living tree.

Previously, the “Methuselah Tree,” a bristlecone pine in California had long been cited as the oldest known, at a recorded age of 4,500 to 5,000 years. Two spruce trees elsewhere in the mountains of Sweden are known to be 4,800 and 5,500 years old. They are described as trees of the first woods that grew after the Ice Age. So that one can see in these trees pretty much every climate change that has taken place since.

Over the millennia these trees have lived as shrub-like organisms, perhaps .5 metres tall; climate change in recent years has caused them to become much larger.

BIG TREE REGISTRY IN THE U.S.

Above we looked at the oldest; here we turn to the biggest. American Forests has recently published its “National Registry of Big Trees for

2008-09.” It has received citizen input of sightings of large trees, mostly in recent years, but some dating back to 1940. From the many identified and reported it has compiled a list of 826 “champions”, in effect the largest from each of many tree species. It can be seen on www.americanforests.org in PDF format.

It includes trees in the continental USA, including Alaska, but not Hawaii (I believe there is a separate registry). It specifies a tree as having one erect perennial stem, at least 3” d.b.h., a height of over 13 feet, and a definitely formed crown of foliage. It specifies trees native to the USA or naturalized (which it defines as one that has been introduced and become common and which can establish itself in nature).

Trees are judged for designation as champions using a point system, based on the tree’s circumference in inches, its height in feet, and ¼ of its crown spread in feet. They must be remeasured every 10 years to retain their status.

There are 14 or more illustrations, of trees that seem to have been chosen for their spectacular crown spread. One of them is a redbud in flower, really gorgeous, another is a shagbark hickory, where the shagbark characteristic really stands out. Another is a shortleaf fig in Florida; it has a very large crown spread, and a forest of roots of the kind that extend vertically from the leaning branches to (and into) the ground.

It appears there are plans to update the registry for 2009-10, to accommodate new sightings, and also to allow for some remeasurements, especially of trees from older sightings.

Champion trees are listed by common and scientific names, the US state where the tree was observed, the year of observation, its circumference in inches, its height in feet, its average crown spread in feet, and, using its ranking system, the number of points.

Among the champion trees, here are some of the more spectacular heights: a Douglas fir in WA, 301 ft., a redwood or sequoia in CA, 324 ft., a giant sequoia in CA 274 ft., a Noble fir in WA, 272 ft.

Trees more familiar to us in S. Ont., blue ash (NY) 120 ft., white ash (MI) 124 ft., trem. aspen (AZ) 130 ft., beech (MD) 112 ft., box elder

(Manitoba maple) (MD) 120 ft., black cherry (IN) 132 ft., basswood (PA) 89 ft., American elm (MD) 136 ft., slippery (red) elm (KY) 130 ft., hackberry (MI) 126 ft., hemlock (GA) 133 ft., bitternut hickory (IN) 136 ft., homey locust (MD) 114 ft., hornbeam (MI) 56 ft., European larch (VT) 90 ft., black locust (NY) 94 ft., balsam fir (PA) 104 ft., red maple (TN) 141 ft., silver maple (MI) 115 ft., sugar maple (MA) 112 ft., red oak 80 ft., black oak (CT) 80 ft., white oak (VA) 86 ft., eastern white pine (ME) 132 ft., red pine (MI) 122 ft., sassafras (KY) 77 ft., black spruce (WI) 78 ft., Norway spruce (NY) 110 ft., w. spruce (WI) 130 ft., staghorn sumac (AL) 57 ft., w. cedar (VA) 76 ft.

One surprise is jack pine, (IN) 49 ft., while lodgepole pine (ID) is 156 ft., I can only suppose that this reflects that jack pine is a boreal species (but so is lodgepole) whose geographic range is pretty well within Canada.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

In the winter issue of ON Nature, Ontario Nature's Executive Director Caroline Schultz has a half page titled "Teach our Children Well." She sees outdoor education as an area of particular concern, with the cutbacks of the 1990's reducing outdoor education to the point where young people have minimal hands-on outdoor learning opportunity.

So she welcomed the news that the Ministry of Education had formed a Working Group on Environmental Education last March, chaired by Dr. Roberta Bondar, to analyze needs and approaches to teaching and learning about the environment.

Three months after its appointment it produced a set of 32 recommendations related to policy, leadership, curriculum, teaching and resources. The need to ensure adequate (and reliable) funding. The group emphasized outdoor education as a vital component of environmental education. (Makes sense: if you want to learn about the environment, get out there!!).

Caroline Schultz welcomes the Government's decision to act on the Group's recommendations, to make sure environmental education has the needed priority and is adequately supported.

In another study, the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario has published "Reconnecting Children Through Outdoor Education." It notes the benefit of outdoor education that goes beyond environmental awareness, and notes that it promotes lifelong physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. (See www.coeo.org)

I know there are great forestry awareness programs for young people, such as Envirothon, Focus on Forests, etc. But given the extent to which forest dominates the Canadian environment, I cannot help wondering if forestry should not be included in any student awareness effort, or at least be on the bandwagon, if not helping drive it.

From my classroom volunteer days a decade ago, I know how great it seemed for some schools to have a taste of forest on the school grounds or otherwise easily accessible. .

ENERGY IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

As noted in the January issue of Atlantic Forestry Review (AFR), the Conservation Council of New Brunswick has a vision of a self-sufficient energy future for that province, offered as an alternative to recommendations of a provincial Self-Sufficiency Task Force which tend to lock the province into a fossil fuel-dependent future.

The Conservation Council's alternative view is for a self-sufficient future based on developing community based energy systems that employ local, renewable resources such as wood, wind and sun. One of its 22 recommendations is that the province create an energy company to develop local public power projects which use renewable energy resources. The company would champion small to medium energy developments with direct investments in community power initiatives. These might include power generated by rooftop solar cells, biogas or wind generation on farms, or methane from landfills, or sawmill wood waste, or wood pellets or solar cells in buildings.

HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS

I managed to make it to the annual Forest Health Seminar held in Barrie on May 13 by the

Huronian Woodland Owners Association (HWOA). This year their Board of Directors is headed by Peter DeVillers, Chairman, Neil Craig and Bruce Keeling as 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairmen. Their annual schedule has developed into a set pattern of five main events: their annual meeting in February, their Forest Health Seminar in May, a bus tour on a Saturday in late June, a field day at a member's woodlot in September, and their White Pine Award Meeting in November, usually in Elmvale. The bus tour is always sold out, receives consistently warm praise, and sees something new each time. This year it will travel west to the Owen Sound and Kincardine areas, and hopefully the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant, hosted by the Saugeen Valley and Grey-Sauble Conservation Authorities. (I've heard since: it was great).

A few pages back I described the Big Tree Registry of American Forests. Just as I wrote it I learned that the HWOA has begun an honour roll of Huronia trees, where members and others are encouraged to submit nominations. They will be based on a combination of height and trunk diameter.

Back to the seminar: John Osmok, Stewardship Coordinator for South Simcoe and Dufferin gave a report on butternut and butternut canker. In 2005 the butternut was declared an endangered species. He notes that the range of the canker pretty much covers the range of butternut. It is mainly found in moist valleys. It is a fungal disease, it infects through wounds, leaf scars. It does not spread through the tree, but large numbers of individual infections will in time damage or girdle the tree.

Conservation and recovery of the species includes retaining healthy trees, trying to replant in areas where trees have been lost, and management of areas where it is found. For much more on this, see the web site of the Forest Gene Conservation Association.

SIMCOE COUNTY FOREST

Graeme Davis, County Forester for Simcoe County, was guest speaker at HWOA's forest health seminar, and provided an update on Simcoe County Forest. It is the oldest county forest, and has 12,500 hectares, or 31,000 acres, and, amazingly, is growing in size. It is largely, though not completely, in the north half of the

county, not surprising, given the county's geography. They are able to add new properties each year, 500 acres last year, concentrating on lands that should be in forest, and on where they help enlarge, consolidate or connect existing forest.

The forest, now up to 85 years old, makes a significant contribution to the social, economic and environmental health of the county. It is free of debt, self-supporting.

Harvests are conducted in 500-600 hectares each year, in ways that are consistent with the forest's health and productivity, an activity that makes an important contribution to the area's economy.

The County has developed a recreation policy that has been in effect for a year, and, among other things, strives to minimize conflict in the use of the forest's trails. Some "no hunting" areas are in effect.

The County wishes to lead by example, with its county forest serving to encourage good forest stewardship by private land owners.

RED PINE

Graeme had some interesting thoughts about red pine. It has been widely used in the reforestation of open land. We know that plantations of pure red pine are not exactly natural. Failure to thin plantations as needed is likely to have undesirable consequences. When thinned regularly, and given a seed source, they are very likely to acquire an understory of hardwoods. Sometimes sugar maple and nothing else. Hopefully sugar maple with a small component of other hardwoods like black cherry, oak, beech, ash, basswood. This will form the next stand as the red pine is gradually removed.

Graeme noted the evolution of thinking about red pine. Red pine, which was widely planted on lands that had been open for decades, was important to the reforestation and rehabilitation of many sites. It is now demonstrating that it is an important and valuable crop species in our region.

It was thought of as having a rotation of 100 to 120 years. However, red pine dieback has become a problem, starting with stands around 50 years old. This affects trees that otherwise look healthy, so that one finds standing dead

trees singly or in groups. Affecting otherwise good trees it can be a serious economic problem.

Graeme cited three likely contributing causes: high soil pH, high Calcium, compact soil, and some highly damaging strains of armillaria. I have seen this in my own plantations for some years, and from colleagues and my own observations have felt that dry soil, a series of dry years, something about the farming history of many sites where it occurs, are also strong factors. On any given site it is likely a combination of one or more of these.

A number of ways of dealing with it are being considered such as: thinning earlier and more heavily than one might otherwise do, creating canopy gaps and/or disturbing the forest floor to accelerate formation of an understory, underplanting of species like white pine and red oak. Adjust the rotation to harvest trees before they are affected. Where there are groups of affected trees, remove good ones around the pocket. In general, shorten the rotation.

FOREST BIOMASS WORKSHOP

In the spring issue I reported on a forest biomass workshop that had been held at the University of Toronto in February, which involved over 100 people from across Canada and abroad, on questions relating to forest biomass and its use.

I've received from the workshop coordinator information that more on this conference can be found on http://www.sfmnetwork.ca/html/biomass_workshop_e.html.

CONGO

Article from To Star, July 02, by Mitch Potter, titled "Congo reforestation fund urged to ensure local leaders get cash.

KINSHASA—Former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin must worry about the flow of "every single dollar" if he hopes to succeed with a new \$200 million fund launched to preserve the world's second-biggest tropical forest, Congolese activists say.

Citing chronic corruption, weak governance and rampant illegal logging, African

environmentalists say the Martin initiative faces a daunting culture of impunity in the Democratic Republic of Congo, home to 52 per cent of the Congo Basin rain forest.

Yet they welcome the involvement of the former Canadian prime minister, who will co-chair the Congo Basin Forest Fund together with Kenyan-born Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai.

(Mack's note: I have mentioned Dr. Maathai on these pages before; the first African woman to receive the Nobel Award, for her decades of work with Kenya's Green Belt Movement, which led to over 30 million trees being planted, and for her involving women in that movement).

"We need the world to be watching. We need Canada and Norway and all the big countries involved, because of the climate issues at stake," said Roger Muchaba, head of the Congolese Natural Resources Network.

"But, we also need Mr. Martin and the others overseeing this fund to empower the local leadership of the actual communities who live in and depend upon the rain forest.

Deforestation is emerging as a critical element in the battle against climate change, with some studies suggesting shrinking tropical forests account for as much as one fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The Congo Basin Forest Fund, funded jointly by the governments of UK & Norway, places Martin and Maathai as key advisers on governance of the initial \$20 million – a role said to be critical to its ability to make a difference in helping steer the six countries that share the Congo Basin toward sustainable stewardship.

A senior Congolese government official last week dismissed the fund as paltry compensation for what the world asks of the countries that control the Congo forest's rich resources.

"We cannot be the ones who preserve, while others pollute without paying," said Environment Minister Jose Endundu.

"Of course, it's not enough. Congo is the country that has done the best job of preserving its forest, and that cannot remain without some kind of value. We are talking today in terms of billions of dollars."

(Mack again: strikes me that if the world could find a way to divert some of the hundreds of billions spent on preparing for, and waging armed conflict, and in the illicit drug trade, it could finance things like this, and many other things that might help keep the world liveable).

One of the fund's first projects involves a plan to establish close satellite surveillance of the Congo forest by 2010, enabling far more precise real-time monitoring of an area covering 2 million square kilometres, or about twice the size of France.

"Satellite surveillance is welcome, but you cannot talk to villagers with a satellite," said Joseph Bobia, spokesperson for the Congolese development organization.

"The crucial element here is that this project enlists the participation of the local communities. You must make them partners in finding alternative uses for the forest."

Congolese forestry officials say present practice involves the official harvesting of 500,000 cubic metres of virgin timber each year from the forest.

But unofficial logging more than doubles the total, according to Jerome Mabiala, a Congolese forestry consultant with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Kinshasa.

"There are lots of illegal bush mills. We have no way to know how many," said Mabiala.

The Congo Basin is also challenged by mining and deforestation for agriculture, which, together with logging, remove the equivalent of 25,000 soccer pitches each week.

The UN estimates that at the present rate of exploitation up to 2/3 of the Congo Basin forest will disappear by 2040. That will put enormous stress on a range of biodiversity that includes 10,000 species of plants, 1,000 species of birds, 700 species of fish and 400 species of mammals.

One environmental activist, speaking on background, told the Toronto Star Martin impressed many with his command of the rain forest file at the fund's recent launch in London.

Others say the fund's overseers must show the tenacity to push back at a culture of corruption

that permeates the awarding of forestry concessions throughout the region.

"You are talking about a population of 40 million who depend on the forest, most of whom have never heard of Kyoto or Bali, and they know their government is incredibly corrupt," said Michelle Madeiros, Africa Forests co-ordinator for Greenpeace.

"So scrutiny of the mechanism that determines the spending of every single dollar is essential."

WORLD CHAOS—LOCAL OPPORTUNITY?

An article on this topic appeared in the July issue of Atlantic Forestry Review. It referred to the growing world chaos related to spiralling oil prices, growing world hunger, the growing reality of climate change. It used examples from the Atlantic Region to suggest that adaptation to the new realities is feasible. I wonder if the same could not be said for our own and for other regions, each with its own set of advantages and challenges.

The growing realities of climate change and of rapidly changing gasoline prices affect us all. It costs more to gas up the car, and it also costs all those suppliers, professionals and others who deliver all those goods and services. On a broader scale, it makes acute hunger a growing reality for so many who already have so little. .

A family member visiting recently from Edmonton wanted to do some work around our house. He has done a lot of work in an older house in Edmonton and is familiar with the prices of things. He was quite amazed at the prices of various pieces of lumber here.

So what advantages does Southern Ontario forestry have that might be helpful? Seems to me that wood grown in relatively favourable climate and soils provides some advantage. Also commute distances for a work force from home to forest would be less than, say, Northern Ontario. Likewise transport distances from forest to mill, from mill to wherever the wood products are sold, and finally from retail outlet to consumer. All of this on a well established system of roads. Our weakness would seem to be the level of management of most forests.

ST. WILLIAMS NURSERY CENTENNIAL.

I received the following by e-mail from Dolf Wylia, on the St. Williams celebration on Saturday July 12.

The year 1908 was the year that the first Forest Station in Canada was created here in Ontario at the small but industrious village of St. Williams. The triggering decision was Provincial approval to E. J. Zavitz to purchase 100 acres for a tree nursery to provide free trees to landowners that requested them for reforestation. Early development of the program which eventually grew into a highly sophisticated system of 7 major nurseries and a branch in the government, was almost on day-to-day "order in council" approvals.

This year on Saturday July 12 the "Port Rowan / South Walsingham Heritage Association" organized a giant picnic such as was traditional for many years on the grounds of the Station when Frank Newman was the Superintendent to commemorate the event, which changed the landscape of Southern Ontario. Through the efforts of ForestCare, the County of Norfolk Staff and many volunteers, the grounds had been refurbished almost to resemble the days when the station employed two full time gardeners. Everyone was invited and thanks to the good weather about 600 showed up. Many had worked on the "Reforestry Farm" or had close relatives who had. Centre of the action was the "Big Tent" where we heard speeches: The Honourable Donna Cansfield (Minister of Natural Resources), Ken Armson, Mayor Dennis Trevale and Norm Cheeseman of Forest Care. We all had a piece of the 100th year birthday cake as well as plenty of other goodies.

The main thing on the menu was reminiscences. Local author Harry B. Barrett has written a book, chronicling the history of the Station and many in attendance took the opportunity to buy a copy.

Our section named the J.H.White Forest many years ago (it was 1948. Mack), so we have an interest. Currently the cairn is sitting in the Turkey Point Provincial Park in a rather unsuitable location so it needs to be moved and renovated. The Crown Forest has now become a Conservation Reserve, which has implications in administration, particularly with respect to "Objectives of Management". The main focus is now the protection of rare species. A citizens

committee has been appointed to oversee the management which has been absent for at least 15 years while plans were being developed.

It was gratifying to note a good number of our members at the celebration: I noted John Iverson, Terry Schwan, John Nolan, John Fingland, Dave Gordon, Al Gordon and of course Ken Armson who was one of the speakers.

Our year of being the Forest Capital of Canada is already half way over and so far it certainly has highlighted our forest heritage with thousands of children planting acorn and trees, a grandiose "Steam-up" of our restored "Alligator Tug", special "Earth Day" celebrations and all museums featuring special forest heritage exhibits. Our next and currently ongoing event is a "Great Tree Hunt". We are hoping for lots of participation as we have plenty of interesting and large trees in Norfolk County. The famous "Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show" will feature "The West Coast Logging Show" to bring the year to conclusion.

Harry Barrett's latest book "They had a Dream" is for sale at the Interpretive Centre of "Canada's First Forest Station" at a cost of \$25.- plus tax \$1.25, \$26.25 total. You can also send a cheque for \$ \$36.25 to: Port Rowan / South Walsingham Heritage Association, PO Box 130, Port Rowan, ON, N0E 1M0 (\$10.00 for mailing and handling) and we will mail you a copy.

The Interpretive Centre is open every day of the week between Victoria Day weekend and Labour Day weekend except Mondays from noon till 5 pm.

If I can make it to the MNR Picnic at Midhurst on August 20th or the annual meeting of the Ontario Forestry Association, I will have some copies available. They are also available in the bookstore in Port Rowan and in Simcoe at the "Canadian Tire" Plaza bookstore.