

**CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY
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NEWSLETTER**

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FALL MEETING AT KORTRIGHT

Watch your mail for details of your Section's fall meeting on Saturday, October 15 at Kortright Centre for Conservation. It will be a lunch-on-your-own event, with drinks available.

For many years Harvey Anderson and Mike Clarke have represented our Section at the Centre, providing forestry content during the Fall Colours & Maple Syrup Festivals. On Oct. 15 you'll be able to go on one of Harvey's walks.

As part of our forestry contribution to Kortright, we have had a forestry display case made, and placed it in the Centre this year. On October 15 we will formally present this to the Centre and dedicate it to the memory of George Sinclair, recognizing his long-time passion for Southern Ontario forestry, and his passion for our educational involvement at the Centre, and his warm friendship.

You will also be able to tour the Centre's conservation facilities, as well as the new Earth Ranger Centre located on the Kortright property.

The Earth Ranger Centre houses facilities for new wildlife and education programs, and a veterinary hospital, and is a highly energy-efficient building, featuring radiant heating and cooling, potential for solar water heating, and high lighting efficiency. You can see more about it at www.earthrangers.ca, and more about Kortright at www.kortright.org

YOUR SECTION COUNCIL MET

Your Council met on Saturday Sept 17 at the Kortright Centre, with Bruce, Mike, Terry, John and Mack present. Harvey Anderson came during the afternoon.

Our Section Council for this year had been set as follows:

Chairman: Bruce Ferguson will remain pending finding a successor.

Vice-Chair was vacant, has since been filled by Rick Monzon.

Secretary: Mike Clarke.

Treasurer: Terry Schwan.

Councilor: John Nolan.

Student Rep: Gerald Guenkel.

We discussed the 2007 CIF Annual Meeting to be at University of Toronto the week of August 19, 2007. Co-Chairmen will be Bruce Ferguson and Andy Kenney. Using U of T residences and meeting and other facilities, and partnering with the Faculty of Forestry and others will enable us to host a high quality event at a reasonable cost with highly relevant subject matter.

C I F ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2005

John Nolan attended the CIF Annual General Meeting and the annual Board of Directors meeting in Prince Albert, SK, as our Acting Director. Some of the highlights of his report to Council:

1. Ongoing concern about declining membership, and how to overcome it.
2. Need for a policy paper on forestry education, expressed by John to the meeting
3. A forestry trip to Cuba is being planned for February 2006. There should be info about it in the November-December For. Chronicle.
4. The CIF National Executive is: President: Chris Lee, Past President: Michael McLaughlan; 1st Vice President: Doug Stables; 2nd Vice President: Fred Pinto.
5. Annual meeting highlights included the severe drought of 2001-03 that has stressed the boreal forest in Western Canada; the challenges of transition to ecosystem-based

forest management (balancing social, environmental and economic sustainability).

MEDIA WORKSHOP

At the CIF Annual Meeting John attended a media workshop. Some of the points covered are: “No Comment” is seen as admitting guilt. It is better to explain why you can’t comment than to say nothing. Nothing is ever “off the record.” “I don’t know” is an acceptable answer, especially if accompanied by an offer to find out and get back to the reporter. Perception is not reality. Reality may be irrelevant.

TRAILS

I often write about trails, trails that network a small property, or which, like the 18,000-km. (when completed) shore to shore to shore Trans-Canada Trail, the world’s longest recreational trail. In Southern Ontario are a number of hiking trails, the better known including the Bruce, the Ganaraska, Central Ontario loop, Rideau, (Lake Ontario) Waterfront. County forests may have trail networks for a variety of recreational uses.

A Trent University study referred to on Internet has an evolving list of long distance trails, which it defines as one over 30 km. long. The list has presently over 50 names. These range between 300 and 700 km. in length.

Trails on private property may differ from the long distance trails; they are more likely a single trail or a network on the property.. The trails on my 40 ha property in the Oro Moraine are of growing importance to me, as they make much of the place accessible—by car, even.

My trails were easy to establish. The place is largely on the table land of the Oro Moraine, so it is sandy. There are no wetlands, so there are no problems of stream or wetland crossings. For the most part the place slopes gently enough for the trails to be easily walkable or drivable.

When the Ganaraska Trail was established, it crossed my place, using some of my trails. Around 1998, nearby residents had concerns about the trail being so near to them, and it was relocated off my property. However, a branch from the relocated trail now comes to my front entrance and then makes a loop on my trails.

Since I am aging, and on the place on day visits only, I drive the trails two or three times each month during the snow-free season. That lets me quickly see the stands in detail.

My trails served during the 2004 logging. Parts of them accommodated a tractor-trailer capable of carrying 50 ft poles. A smaller, but still large truck was able to travel the entire loop, giving the logger flexibility as to where to pile logs.

The trails are used by some nearby residents, who were able to see the logging up close, and see that good logging is good for the forest.

Some people may have seats or benches for enjoying their trails; I do it differently. driving to a more or less random spot on the trail, and open the folding chair and table I keep in the car. Perhaps, in my hardwood stand I sit, or walk, & just enjoy being immersed in a chlorophyll sea—my very own oxygen factory, sugar factory and water and air purification plant. In my plantations I see the continuing restoration of the land from former farm land. I sit with my back to the car trunk, within easy reach of my food, drinks, and perhaps a book.

Besides the forest are a few heritage features. There are large numbers of granitic boulders that characterize part of the Oro Moraine, some in place, some that were moved to form what are now the remnants of stone fences. Certain trees were present on the property in 1946, before I began reforestation. In particular, two Norway Spruce were fairly sizable in 1946, and are now within a plantation but close enough to the township road to be easily visible.

Such a trail can be an immense educational tool. At long last I’ve figured out a way to make simple information signs using very ordinary materials. Very quickly they have caught the attention& appreciation of visitors.

So my trails facilitate logging, facilitate keeping an eye on the place, enjoying the property, and informing my visitors of what is happening, and allowing visitors intimate contact with the forest.

SOME CONTRASTS BETWEEN MY TRAILS AND THOSE OF GRANT'S WOODS

Couchiching Conservancy's office is located at Grant's Woods, a 45-acre property just outside Orillia. It offers some dramatic contrasts to my own property.

Both properties have trail networks; theirs is primarily for enjoying and learning. Theirs is in the Simcoe County lowlands, with ground water that seems everywhere close to the surface, and a network of intermittent stream courses, which necessitated building a number of small wooden bridges. Mine being high on the moraine, has no stream courses to cross. The moraine seems to be a huge reservoir; water flowing out of it feeds a network of streams and wetlands.

Grant's Woods forest is old growth, much of it up to 200 years old. It has a great diversity of tree species and lesser vegetation. There is an abundance of fallen trees and other debris, so much so that cutting of fallen trees & limbs was needed to clear the main trail.

The difference between the two is doubtless due to the physical site differences and to history. At Grant's Woods, the moisture close to the surface and the seemingly cooler than normal local climate gives rise to an abundance of yellow birch and hemlock, and of very large white pine.

INTENSIVELY MANAGED FORESTS.

One often hears that meeting fast growing global demand for wood products on a shrinking land base for wood production, would necessitate setting aside areas for highly intensive forest management. This could increase the rate of wood production, and might take some of the pressure off other forested areas, and allow areas to be set aside where logging would be minimized or excluded.

Some years ago I heard some discussion of northern Crown land forests on productive sites and close to the mill, labour force, etc., being set aside as "prime sites" for intensive management.

An article in the July issue of *Atlantic Forestry Review*, by David Palmer, a forester who works with private woodlots in New Brunswick, explores some aspects of this topic.

First, he notes that in the east if you clear forest to grow farm crops, few eyebrows are raised, even though worldwide the growing need for food-production lands eats significantly into the forest land base. Yet he finds that if some of those forests were converted into stands that are harvested then replanted and intensively tended, concerns are raised about environmental effects.

He finds that concern about intensively managed plantations hinges around three main points.

1. Tree farms create monocultures not found in nature. He argues that single species plantations are not botanical monocultures. After a forest is cut, added light on the forest floor and the nutrients released by disturbing the ground lead to a diversity of vegetation, though herbicide use reduces this somewhat.
2. The need to use herbicides. He notes that this may be needed in the plantation's early years, but that over a plantation's lifetime, the amounts used are a fraction of what would be needed on many agricultural crops on the same land over the same time.
3. Natural forests are being converted to fibre factories. He sees little biological difference between a natural forest and a tree farm, except, perhaps, the tree farm might produce more oxygen and lock up more carbon while it yields more wood.
4. He is challenged to use wood substitutes. He notes, for example, that hemp is an agricultural product that needs lots of land and intensive cultivation. Using steel instead of wood requires more energy to produce and process the material than if wood were used. Using concrete means more quarrying of a non-renewable resource.
5. He is challenged to use the natural forest, and notes that in Eastern Canada, I think including Southern Ontario, much of the available forest is not as natural as one might wish, after generations of high-grading and overcutting.

In defending tree farms, he notes that:

1. They can offer yields considerably higher than if the same area were in natural forest.
2. They help reduce the pressure to clear-cut natural forest areas.
3. With a tree farm, the time to a first harvest is substantially reduced, mainly because of the spacing of the trees, and due to starting with a much smaller number of seedlings.

4. Tree farms allow for the planting of the wanted species.

He concludes that we are faced with many challenges, including producing more wood from less land. Tree farms offer one way to meet this challenge. Plantations can be modified to look more natural, and to possess greater biodiversity.

STORM DAMAGE (This was written before Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.)

From time to time I have presented articles relating to storm damage, the risk of such damage, implications for land owners.

On my own property, on my first visit in April 2005 I found that in some places quite a number of plantation trees had broken off close to the base of the live crown. This left a green top on the ground and a standing spike with little or no foliage. This had happened with both white spruce and red pine, just a few months after the plantations had been thinned. I learned from a neighbour that late in the winter there had been a heavy fall of wet snow, followed by freezing rain, and then the wind came up.

It was a minor loss, though falling trees did damage some nearby houses. But took me back to a number of weather events over the years in Southern Ontario that led to significant damage to trees, also the devastation to Eastern Canada of the 1998 ice storm. And Hurricane Juan in the Maritimes, from which people are still cleaning up. And the far more devastating Hurricane Mitch in Central America a decade or so ago.

That pales beside the story of a storm that hit Europe from Ireland to Russia, and Scandinavia especially hard, on January 8, where large areas of forest in South and central Sweden and Denmark were destroyed; a total of 75 million cubic metres of timber, about third of Canada's total annual harvest, or the equivalent of a whole year's harvest for Sweden.

A massive effort was made to salvage as much timber as possible before the warm weather brought out the insects that would damage it. Some of the other effect include huge amounts of timber on the market all at once, forestry equipment needed to be brought in from afar for the cleanup, for weeks many people living as in

the 19th century: wood heat, paraffin (kerosene?) for lighting, and no telephones.

One firm, Sodra, is owned by 35,000 family forest owners. For many, a life's work, a way of life and many informal retirement plans were ruined in about 2 hours, Permission was obtained to store quantities of wood in three large lakes until next year.

In the Maritimes some are wondering if Hurricane Juan damage was more than it would have been due to silvicultural practices that open up stands.

I have heard suggestions that the tsunami in the Indian Ocean last December might have had a less catastrophic effect had mangrove forests still been present along exposed coastlines, breaking to a degree the effect of the wave. Likewise, I've heard suggestions that Hurricane Katrina might have been less catastrophic had the Gulf Coast wetlands in their undisturbed state been there to offer some protection.

CONSERVATION VAN

Years ago the Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) or OFA, I forget which, adapted a railway car to serve as a mobile forestry school, to take the forestry message to Canadian communities.

Ducks Unlimited Canada's (DCU's) magazine, the Conservator, describes the Oak Hammock Marsh (in Manitoba) Interpretive Centre's Watershed Ecovan and its four person team. The interpretive centre has been sending out educational teams for about a decade, visiting schools in the three Prairie Provinces and Northwestern Ontario.

They explain watershed & wetland conservation to the community They work with schools in the daytime, and with other community members in the evening, doing "citizen science" workshops and programs to teach people to observe what is around them and to record what they see. This contributes to information databases used for scientific study.

As a forester in Eastern Canada, I wonder, somewhat enviously, if a similar effort is possible to promote forestry and raise awareness, say, across Southern Ontario.

BOREAL FOREST WEST

In another article in *Conservator*, Ducks Unlimited Inc., (DCI) and DCU have jointly financed and undertaken a mapping of wetlands in the Boreal Forest of Western Canada, from Manitoba to Yukon. The boreal occupies a very large part of the four western provinces and the three territories.

Knowing that much of the southern parts Boreal is allocated to industry for forestry, mining, and oil and gas exploration, they felt there were ways to work with industry to conserve the areas of critical importance to the continent's future waterfowl populations. Farther north are very large tracts of wetland and forest. Vital information about those wetlands was pretty much lacking. They are using satellite images combined with ground checks done by landing in a helicopter.

The information, as it becomes available, is used as a basis for management, and for the immense amounts of research that will be needed.

SASKATCHEWAN FOREST CENTRE (SFC)

As part of DUC's effort, it has entered into agreement with the Saskatchewan Forest Centre in Prince Albert, (where this year's CIF AGM will have been held). The idea is to pool efforts and share interest and information regarding waterfowl habitat.

One area of interest to SFC is agroforestry. They have a team made up of forester, agrologist, and agroforestry specialist. Their interest is to broaden the economic choices and increase the long term wood supply by demonstrating that trees are a viable crop and by providing essential technical information and advice. They have held workshops for farmers and First Nations people, and have 25 demos on 950 acres to demonstrate the usefulness of agroforestry.

FROM THE EASTERN ONTARIO MODEL FOREST WEB SITE

The FGCA (Forest Gene Conservation Association) and Ontario's Butternut Recovery Team are working to protect an important, but threatened, native species.

A valuable mast (or nut-bearing) tree for wildlife, butternut (*Juglans cinerea* L.) is under great threat from the butternut canker—a fungus that can attack and kill butternut trees regardless of their age, size, or health.

Butternut canker has become a serious threat to the survival of butternut across North America; the species has all but disappeared in many parts of the U.S.A. and is in decline in Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick.

To learn more about butternut, the Forest Gene Conservation Association, and the Ontario Butternut Recovery Team, visit the FGCA Web site at www.fgca.net.

A VIEW OF EARTH

From the foreword by Father Thomas Berry to Brian Milani's book "Designing the Green Economy." (slightly edited).

Our world is a magnificent diversity of geological formations and living forms in a single community of existence. Beyond Earth, this includes the sun, moon and stars. We come into being as one of the components of this community. To be integral members of this vast and lovely world is to experience an inner exaltation that makes life meaningful.

Each mode of being has its own unique rights and functions. So too each, as species and as individual, is able to contribute something that no other being can contribute to the integral functioning of the planet. We are so related that wellbeing of each community member depends on the wellbeing of the others. This law of the integral functioning of the Earth constitutes what might be considered an ontological covenant bonding the universe into a single manifestation of the wonders of existence. This unity finds one of its highest expressions in the ever-renewing cycle of the biosystems of the planet.

The difficulty (facing) western civilization (in 2005) is a consequence of violating this ever-renewing process. (This violation has a long history but found its most severe form since about 1880, as we moved from a land-based organic ever-renewing economy to an extractive industrial non-renewing economy.)

Such an economy we might consider terminal, since a program based on extracting non-renewables from Earth and exhausting renewable resources cannot long survive, especially when the amount of extraction is so vast and our demands so relentless, and we create immense devastation, extensive toxicity and vast amounts of non-disposable waste.

Along with this, a large proportion of the natural world has been destroyed. We are told on good authority that no extinction so extensive has occurred since 65 million years ago. Our pattern of living an being is so woven together that the entire fabric of life is weakened and tends to fall apart when even a few threads are removed or when the natural setting is somehow disturbed.

When this outer world is so disturbed so too is the inner world of the human experience, for the outer world of nature and the inner psychic world are dimensions of one reality.

(Man's) need for all the wonders of Earth is (part of why) humans could not exist until the late Cenozoic when Earth blossomed in a brilliant phase of its life. Humans need such a setting. If the world is reduced toward a lunar condition, we lose the sublimity of our inner lives. We cannot live on the moon or Mars, not just because of lack of physical conditions for life, but because we would also die in our inner world.

Thus we cannot build a viable economy just by mitigating the consequences of our actions while maintaining an exploitative attitude. We need to seek an intimacy with the world, and understand it as a communion of subjects not a collection of objects. We need to integrate our technologies with those of the world, technologies like the hydrologic cycle that functions so remarkably in the service of the rest of the world's processes.

A viable economy must be planetary, one that finds a place for every member of the Earth community. If we build a dam, we must first consider its consequences to all life in the region, including the need of fish to reach spawning beds. If we build roads, railways, along rivers, we need to consider the need of other beings for access to those rivers. When we build our cars and our highways we must consider how these affect the atmosphere, the forests, and all other life. When we use pesticides we need to understand the larger consequences of so doing.

We will need all our biological and technological skills and insights to obtain the nourishment and energy needed for our own survival and wellbeing, and to establish a viable scientific understanding & organic economy. If we achieve it will offer a fulfillment beyond anything we can have in today's industrial economy.

Earth will feed, clothe, shelter, heal us and bring us to fulfillment of our deepest aspiration if only we abandon our present predatory attitude. The natural world and ourselves are not enemies. We arise from a common origin. We have a common destiny. We should find our fulfillment in each other and in the larger universe that enfolds us.

A CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

Conservation Council of Ontario (CCO) credits the August 2003 blackout with awakening people to the need to conserve.

The Provincial government has expressed a commitment to "establishing a conservation culture" across society, and to conservation, especially energy, and air and ground water quality. It has set up a Conservation Action Team of Parliamentary Assistants to 8 Ministers, and partnered with CCO to try to strengthen the role of the voluntary sector in promoting and sponsoring conservation activities.

CCO, assisted by the Province, held a Conservation Summit in November, 2004. One item discussed is how to reduce electricity consumption by 5% by 2007. A need became evident for the conservation efforts of a host of individuals and organizations to be better coordinated and supported. CCO's response has been to develop "We Conserve", an initiative to (help) coordinate and support NGO services and projects, develop co-marketing opportunities and develop provincial campaigns to promote conservation. (See www.greenontario.org).

On coordination, there are many organizations and networks that bring groups together around conservation issues and services. Among them are potential "lead organizations" with resources and expertise to develop policy and outreach campaigns. CCO is prepared to work with existing networks and organizations and help form new ones as needed.

Singled out in this group is green communities. Green Communities Canada (www.gca.ca) is a national organization of non-profit community organizations that deliver innovative, practical environmental solutions to Canadian households and communities. (One member community, North Toronto Green Community, www.ntgc.ca operates in the area where I live).

On co-marketing, NGO's and others offer a vast number of projects and services. Co-marketing is a way to package together similar projects and offer a more unified package to target audiences, e.g. municipalities, schools, businesses. Energy conservation is a priority, given the prospects of support to municipalities for energy conservation projects.

On campaigns, conservation campaigns offer organizations to unite behind a single goal. Campaigns now taking shape include promotion of fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's), education to promote energy conservation, and the Green Communities Energuide for Houses audit (www.egh.gc.ca) .

An urban villages campaign is being developed through the Ontario Smart Growth Network. (www.greenontario.org/smartgrowth/ . It promotes the village (a place that has almost anything you need within an easy walk), as an alternative to more sprawl. Communities will be provided with tools and promotional materials for developing such villages, be it downtown, in the urban fringe, or in a rural setting. –

CCO is also a founding member of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition (www.healthycommunities.on.ca), an organization that promotes healthy conditions in communities and their members.

What has all this to do with forestry and forestry organizations in Southern Ontario? Just this:

1. If someone asks me a forestry question, or if a municipality or school or other NGO needs something on forestry, where do I, as a member of CIF SOS, OFA, OWA, OPFA, FON, Huronia Woodland Owners Ass'n send them for answers I cannot give myself.
2. Forestry in S. Ont. has a long conservation history. It was the forestry community ca. 1900 that helped turn S. Ontario around from its downward slide toward desert conditions. This has been described on good authority as a bit of a turning point in human

history. Humans had settled many parts of the world and quickly turned them into deserts. We were well on the way to doing that here, but thanks to a few people with vision and drive we turned it around with the start of tree nurseries, Crown land tree-planting, reforestation on private lands, and the County forest movement.

3. We are a forest nation and forestry is a vital component of any conservation effort.
4. Current priority is toward energy conservation, with high priority also to conservation of water and air. How can we sensitize society to the reality that healthy trees (and shrubs) and forests will go a long way toward making our homes, farm buildings, factories, schools and other places increasingly energy efficient and healthy.
5. It reminds me that a decade or so ago, with Bruce Ferguson as Chair, we brought to the table reps from a number of organizations with an interest in forestry in this region. He hoped that organizations could pool their limited resources to provide a common front for Southern Ontario forestry. There was not sufficient interest then. There might be now. There is a lot of talent to be pooled.

CCO has a handsome poster to promote its "WeConserve" message. Its wording:
WeConserve: A Call to Action. For air we can breathe. For energy security. For clean water. For local, healthy food. For vibrant, walkable communities. For a natural environment. For healthy children. For a stronger, more resilient economy. FOR OUR FUTURE. WeConserve is a unique opportunity to create a united conservation movement in Ontario. It builds on the strengths of Ontario's non-governmental organizations and volunteers. It offers improved support for coordination between groups, co-marketing of our services, and campaigns to promote conservation. Together, we can make Ontario a leader in conservation.
www.weconserve.ca .

TOBACCO FARMER TURNED TREE FARMER

"Working Forest" in its summer issue tells of Paul DeCloet, who received the Ontario Forestry Association's Tree Farmer Award for 2005. He came with his parents and siblings from Belgium in 1953, where street trees had been cut for fuel

and even the roots dug up during the occupation of World War II.

The family settled in Norfolk County, on the sand plain, and established a successful tobacco farm. In the 1960's there were 3,500 tobacco farmers; now there are under 600. With this trend, many farmers turned to other crops like corn or beans. That had limited success in the sandy landscape of Norfolk.

In the 1980's he began planting trees, buying up tobacco farms. He now has 700 acres which makes him one of Ontario's larger woodlot owners. In all, he planted around 100,000 trees. He also worked for the Long Point Conservation Authority, where he oversaw the planting of over a million trees.

He notes the satisfaction of planting trees, but also the lack of financial reward, at least in one's own lifetime. He feels there is a need for reforestation to justify the expense and effort by those who would plant. He believes that government has a role in making it viable for owners to convert tobacco farms to reforestation, and that such an arrangement benefits everyone.

He notes that government has made billions of dollars from smokers, and suggests it might usefully put part of that into assisting reforestation and making a big difference.

As he walks his own plantations, he knows he has made a difference.

FORESTS AND WATER

An essay "Water, waste and disease" by Steven Lobanger appeared in Toronto Star, July 24. He quoted a UK medical professor who told a class that if they are in medicine to save lives, they should reconsider and go into water engineering.

There are increasing numbers of us. More of us live in cities. (If we didn't the whole countryside would be built up). In 1950, two cities had over 8 million inhabitants. Now 23 cities exceed 10 million, most of them in developing countries.

The disaster and heartbreak of Walkerton in 2000 pales beside the global scene of 6 million deaths yearly from contaminated water. (That is not new; it's gone on for decades) An estimated 300 million people live in areas of severe water

shortage; that number may well rise to 3 billion over the next 25 years.

Pumping and treating water, and treating waste, will take huge and growing amounts of energy.

In Southern Ontario we are blessed with lots of water, but it is not unlimited, and we are likely major consumers of water and of the energy it takes to handle it.

We will doubtless be growing more food on less land, with acreages of our best land falling rapidly to development pressures.

What is all this doing in a newsletter dedicated to Southern Ontario forestry?

For ages we have been hearing about, and perhaps contending with, growing wood shortages, worldwide and locally. In extreme cases families spend major amounts of time seeking out fuelwood so essential for their cooking. That would seem to apply, though not so extremely, to Southern Ontario as much as anywhere else. Contributing factors are there are more of us; our growing needs for wood must be met from a shrinking and often ecologically compromised land base.

Our provincial government of late has shown a growing interest in conservation which tends to focus on energy conservation, including our prodigious consumption during this summer's heat. There is also focus on quality (i.e. safe and uncontaminated) of water in our lakes, streams and wells.

Increasingly we realize how enmeshed we are in the global picture. The Gaia theory, which took shape as the space program put human, cameras, or both, aboard space craft, enabling us to see the world from afar. That brought us to a realization the world's strong tendency to behave like a single living system that has evolved to this point over several billion years, creating as it went a livable atmosphere, an ozone layer that prevents our being fried by UV rays, a highly complex global hydrological system that provides clean water, an even more complex global ecosystem with countless species, life forms, and even more countless individual living organisms.

It is in that context that we draw, among many other things, a global water and timber supply.

What has this all to do with Southern Ontario forestry? I for one cannot quite pin it down, but I think it has a lot to do with local timber supply (within the broader context), the various aesthetic and health-giving benefits to humans and others, and the conservation of water, energy, wood, and other needs. To do this will require that enough of the right kinds of forest are found in the right places on our landscape, and looked after in a way that will best meet all these needs.

TREES AND CLEAN AIR

In this summer of heat, smog, and warnings about the effects of man-made smog on human wellbeing (with scant mention of the effects of the same pollutants on the rest of the living world), it is refreshing to look back at last summer's "review" newsletter of Ontario Forestry Association. It quotes the following from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) web site:

www.treesaregood.com/funfacts/funfacts.asp (I've edited slightly):

Trees keep our air fresh by absorbing CO₂ and producing O₂.

In a year, a tree can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven 26,000 km.

Trees provide shade and shelter, reducing heating and cooling costs.

Trees lower air temperature by transpiration.

The average urban area tree survives 8 years.

A tree does not reach its most productive stage of C storage for about 10 years.

Trees act as sound barriers and reduce noise.

Tree roots stabilize soil and reduce erosion.

Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water as well as reducing storm runoff and the possibility of flooding.

Trees provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Street trees act as a glare and reflection control.

The death of a 70-year-old tree returns over 3 tons of C to the atmosphere.

Two mature trees can provide enough O₂ for a family of four.

A tree produces nearly 260 pounds of O₂/ year.

An acre of trees removes 2.6 tons of CO₂/year.

Shade trees can make buildings up to 20 degrees cooler in summer.

CEDAR

The newsletter of LEAF, Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests), a Toronto volunteer group that promotes, and assists in, tree planting in the urban setting, had a "Tree of the Month" column featuring white cedar. The bullets it contains include (with some editing):

Great for wildlife. Provide winter cover for birds. Hollows in trunk of mature trees provide dens for squirrels, raccoons and other mammals, and nesting space for birds.

Seeds naturally germinate on decaying logs or on soils where limestone is present.

In 1536 Jacques Cartier presented cedar seeds to the King of France; these became the first recorded *Thuja occidentalis* planted in Europe.

Stunted cedars over 700 years old have been found on the limestone cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment; they are the oldest, longest-ranging, and most undisturbed old-growth forest ecosystems in Eastern North America. They grow extremely slowly, the oldest among them are over 1890 years old.

FOREST INDUSTRY HURTING

Two articles appeared in Toronto Star, August 8. One, by Queens Park writer Ian Urquhart, is about the pulp and paper industry in Northern Ontario. The other, by Dene Moore, Canadian Press, looks mainly at the industry in Newfoundland. There is a disturbing number of actual or threatened mill closings that would be devastating for the communities involved.

Abitibi-Price is closing in Stephenville, NF, and cutting back at Grand Falls-Windsor, NF and in Kenora, ON. Contributing causes are the high Canadian dollar (costs more the produce, and less return for their product), shrinking demand, overcapacity, and wood shortages, and sharply rising energy costs.

In Ontario, an industry report in June to the Province described a crisis and listed a dozen mills at risk of closing. Soon after, Abitibi-Price announced closure of its Kenora mill.

A big factor in Ontario is rising energy costs (up 30% in 3 years). They use a lot of electricity,

which accounts for 1/3 of their production costs. (This summer costs have been affected by heavy air-conditioning use in the south). Other factors include the strong Canadian dollar, and duties by the US on softwood lumber, all making it more difficult to compete with mills in, say, the southern USA.

Urquhart describes the industry as “out of sight out of mind” to southerners, despite its \$10 billion in sales, and its 85,000 jobs (and how many indirect jobs?), mostly in northern communities. He notes that when the auto and film industries in the south got into difficulties, the Provincial government was there to help.

Additional problem for Ontario mills is said to be the downloading onto industry of the costs of their road systems, and the opening of the electricity market. The industry is asking the Province to reverse the downloading of road costs; provide a fuel tax credit to help with the cost of moving wood to the mill; provide a tax break for energy; and set up a fund to help mills to modernize, as was done for the auto industry.

In another article the US home construction industry is said to be hurting because the tariff is leading to wood being scarcer, more expensive, or both. There is also the hint that spreading urbanization is leading to less forest available for timber production which means a smaller future potential domestic wood supply.

This affects, or should at least concern, all us southerners. Might it not be helpful if there were better public understanding of forests and forestry. I wonder, as I have always done, if timber could not be more quickly grown in places closer to mills in the south, and if there are ways a larger industry in the south might be of help in the north. If wood shortage is an issue, a larger acreage of well managed forest might take up some of this shortage. Shorter transportation distances over established roads in S Ont between the forest and both the mill and the work force should surely be an advantage.

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

A Toronto Star item, August 12, notes that in the ongoing battle with the Asian Longhorned Beetle, there are 4 areas within the containment zone in Toronto and Vaughan where 7,000 trees will be removed; these are trees within a 400-

metre radius of where new occurrences of the beetle have been observed. In this area 16,000 trees have already been removed a year ago. These insects are believed to be part of the population established in the area, and not a new invasion, and the campaign against the beetle is judged as being successful. Trees listed as potential host trees include maple, willow, elm, birch and poplar.

THE LAND BETWEEN

The term “the land between” (TLB) is a name given the transition area between the farm land of Southern Ontario and the Precambrian Shield, between Georgian Bay and Kingston. It is often overlooked as being neither one nor the other, but is receiving growing attention from groups like Couchiching Conservancy and the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy. .

It is an important ecological zone. Geologically it goes from limestone to granite, in elevation it is between the uplands of Haliburton and Algonquin Park; and in climate it is transitional.

Because of this mix it is rich in biodiversity, and is diverse in habitat for breeding birds, reptiles, amphibians, and vascular plants. Yet it does tend to get ignored, and at the same time is now under increasing development pressure.

IN MEMORIAM

While working on a directory of university classmates last spring I became aware of how many of my class have passed on. So it had special meaning to read in Cameron Smith’s Toronto Star environment column this verse:

Do not stand by my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush.
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand by my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.