

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY
SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECTION
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 3
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WINTER 2006

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WARMEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND
FOR 2006. Mack.

YOUR SECTION'S FALL MEETING

Discouragingly few members made it to our fall meeting on October 16 at the Kortright Centre. Chairman Bruce discussed ongoing planning for the CIF Annual Meeting at the University of Toronto in August 2007. A beautiful display case for showing to Kortright visitors the Southern Ontario forests and their stewardship was at long last put in place, already well filled with information developed mainly by Harvey Anderson. (Mike is currently working on the SOS web site, and when ready there will be pictures of the case and its contents).

The case was dedicated to the memory of the late George Sinclair; how great that his wife Chris Sinclair could be there. Our input to the Centre's fall colour festival was also described by Harvey Anderson. Twice we actually followed Harvey as he conducted the fall colour tour.

I was struck by the contrast between the two groups that enjoyed Harvey's tours. The first went very smoothly, with a modest sized audience being very attentive, and not asking a lot of questions. The second also went well, but of the five visitors present, one young lady in a spirited yet very kindly way had a non-stop series of questions and comments for Harvey. I thought her presence made a solid contribution to the learning and the enjoyment of the tour.

FRED ROBINSON

Sad news: a 57-year CIF member, Fred Robinson was struck by a passing bus on a street in Guelph, where he had been living, and passed away October 27. His wife Fran had passed away only a couple of weeks earlier. Fred was a retired long time employee of OMNR, and was one of the instruments of progress in forest management on both Crown and private lands.

WANTED: BLOOD—NEW BLOOD!!!—
YOUR BLOOD! Section Secretary Mike Clarke says get this item onto the front page!

Our section has about 135 members. Many are long-term, some up to 60 years. Many, like me, are long retired. Some I do not recognize may be students or recent grads, or newcomers to Southern Ontario..

Your Council has 7 members. Chairman Bruce has served on section council, on the National Executive (for a year as CIF President), and on the Lake of the Woods Section council before coming to Southern Ontario, for most of the past 20 years. He'd like to become past Chairman, NOT because he's had enough, but so he can concentrate on co-chairing preparation for the 2007 CIF Annual Meeting.

Caroline has been on Council for about 10 years, most of that time as our capable Secretary. She has stayed on in order to help with the quarterly mailing of this newsletter. During those years she has also played key roles in the Ontario Forestry Association, the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, the Huronia Woodland Owners Association, and in community organizations in Dufferin County where she lives. She has earned an OPFA award for her professionalism on the job and in her profession and her community. She has stepped down so she can concentrate more on some of those other contributions she makes to forestry.

Secretary Mike Clarke has served on council for at least 10 years variously as councillor, vice-chair, chairman, and director, and as one of the handful of key section members most actively involved in the section's contribution to the education program at the Kortright Centre. He has considerable computer expertise and has developed our Section's web site. All this while playing various key roles in the Ontario Forestry Association, the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, and various community efforts in North Simcoe, and in Barrie, where he lives.

John Nolan has served on council for around 12 years; living in St. Thomas, has capably represented members from SW Ontario. He has represented us many times at events like the Plowing Match and the annual farm show, has worked on our input to continuing education programs, has set up several section meetings and represented the section at Annual Meetings of the CIF and of its Board of Directors.

Gerald Guenkel has for several years served to provide liaison with the student body at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay.

We miss George Sinclair, our treasurer for many years until his death in 2004. He was a strong champion of the effort to establish a forestry presence at the Kortright Centre.

A welcome addition to Council a year ago is Terry Schwan, who has served as Section Treasurer since then and organized our spring 2005 meeting in Oakville. .

Despite Mike's best efforts as a one-person nominating committee, canvassing the section, there is only one newcomer to Council. It is Rick Monzon, who recently completed his term as Executive Director and Registrar of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, having previously served as Executive Director of the Ontario Forestry Association, but still retaining an active role in those organizations. He is now our Vice-Chairman, and will soon succeed Bruce as Chair. We will all surely benefit from his forestry knowledge and his executive skills.

As I worked on this article, I was reminded of a promising organization with whom I'd had some contact a decade or so ago. When I inquired, I learned that issues that prompted its founding are still very relevant, there was lots of interest, they had enough money. But its founding directors had burned out, being perennially unable to find replacements. It therefore disbanded, and its resources were divided between two other organizations who were fighting the same fight. Hopefully this will not be the fate of the section.

As a footnote: the vision of the National Forest Strategy, released in May, 2003 is: The long-term health of Canada's forest will be maintained and enhanced for the benefit of all living things, and for the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of all Canadians now and

in the future. My question: how can the section and each of its members continue to be an effective instrument in making that happen in Southern Ontario.

YOUR EDITOR IN ALL THIS

I, Mack, am in my 19th year as your newsletter editor; and 21st year on SOS council, something I believe unprecedented in CIF history. This is my 82nd newsletter; people still on occasion tell me that it is a valuable effort, and may even tell me why. It has forced me to remain much more aware of forestry at home and elsewhere than I could possibly have been otherwise after 22 years' retirement. It has forced me to go to as many meetings and other events and keep in contact with as many organizations as I could afford the money, time and energy. And I have enjoyed producing each issue.

I find it is a role that not everyone would enjoy as I do. Part of me says to continue to enjoy it. But for a couple of points. First, I am not getting any younger. Secondly, much as I enjoy it, much as it has enriched me, it belongs not to me but to the Section. Might it not benefit from the outlook and energies of a new editor—one who among other things is better than I am at engaging members in its production.

So I study that 135-member list. Some are retired, some busy with family and job, some doing great work with other organizations like Ontario Forestry Association, OPFA and others in forestry or in their communities, some doing all of the above—you wonder how. But of those 135 are there not a few who might find a position on the Section's Council to be a perfect fit. Might you be one of them? You can reach Mike at oranghutan5@aol.com or 705 727 1467 or 86 Oren Boulevard, Barrie, ON L4N 4M2.

Those 135 are the bulk of my readership. I heard from one of you this summer wondering if the newsletter has a members' corner, observing that there are things in forestry that are controversial.

I warmly welcome input from Section members. In my 18+ years as your editor I have long since given up reminding members that it is their newsletter, they pay for it, and that their comments, articles, etc., would be welcome. Response, pretty consistently, is an almost audible silence. Also, on my own, I usually find

more than enough of what looks like quality material for each issue. I certainly found most of it interesting and have been glad that this job has forced me to try to get my brain at least partially around it. But I continue to feel that input from members would make this a better newsletter, especially if contentious matters are on the table.

(I have had several great contributions of material for this issue, agroforestry articles from Andy Gordon. From Terry Schwan info about the Upper Canada Woodland Cooperative. And from Doug Skeates, items on future global forest needs, and one on the value of the boreal forest).

What, I've wondered, prompted this member's enquiry. If it was a general observation, I completely agree. But was there something included in, or omitted from, recent issues, where the member felt I'd stuck my foot in it, or felt I was off base or biased, or neglected something that needs airing. Or some issue of whose various sides I am not knowledgeable about. I'd love to be set straight.

UPPER CANADA WOODS COOPERATIVE.

In 2001, some woodlot owners met with OMNR staff and local Stewardship Councils near Roslin. They sought, to find a way to educate fellow owners, to end destructive practices in woodlots, and raise the level of woodlot management. This led to the forming of what became the Upper Canada Woods Co-operative (UCWC). I've mentioned UCWC a couple of times over the past two years. I've also seen it described in Ontario Woodlot Association's newsletter, and in Cameron Smith's columns in the Toronto Star's environmental page.

Responses from 35 owners to a questionnaire sent to 120 confirmed a positive interest in managing to enhance woodlot and wildlife habitat quality, habitat, also optimizing sustainable returns from their woodlots. So far some 20 owners having in total 1,100 hectares of forest have joined UCWC. to focus on managing, processing and marketing woodlot products.

Being in UCWC enabled landowners to mark, fell, skid, collect, saw, dry, and sell their finished lumber rather than selling standing timber alone, thus greatly increasing the potential benefit of a woodlot to an owner.

UCWC's mission is to maximize ecological, economic and aesthetic benefits from forests. They promote sustainable, environmentally responsible forest practices, landowner and consumer education, and local manufacturing of value-added products.

UCWC offers member-controlled means for owners to manage, harvest, process and market forest products. It offers education and training for owners, foresters, loggers, and the public about the values of sustainable and ecologically sound forestry. It is able to help owners with marketing, and with access to forestry equipment. It recognizes the contribution of a healthy diverse industry and a healthy, diverse natural landscape to the well being of local communities and economies.

UCWC will assess a member's forest, will guide the member through development of a management and seek funding to help offset the plan's cost. It will coordinate tree marking and volume estimates. Logging will be subcontracted to trained crews who are then supervised. Higher grade wood will be kept by the co-op and marketed or processed into value-added products. UCWC will pool logs from its members to create truckload quantities. Low grade wood will be sold the best available market as pulp, pallets, firewood.

A one-time membership fee of \$200 is required, and member services, such as site visits, management plans, tree marking, logging, etc., are billed to the owner. A percentage of the value-added profit is kept by UCWC for capital expansion and educational services.

In UCWC's early days, a Queen's University School of Business study found that there are potential markets for UCWC members' forest products which could reasonably be developed.

One of the early needs identified was for each forest owner to have a professionally prepared forest management plan. This would assess the woodlot and lay out the owner's goals and objectives. Additionally, the professional marking of each woodlot will give the UCWC an accurate idea of both the existing and future product potential for marketing purposes.

By early 2005, UCWC has 33 members from Castleton to Gananoque, and north to Bancroft.

They want to expand this number to 50 and then launch their business plan. Significant funding has been obtained. Information available to members includes approved lists of foresters, markers and loggers to make sure the forest is properly treated, a semi-annual newsletter, two educational field days per year, an annual lumber auction, and subsidized tree marking after a woodlot management plan has been completed.

Also, members have access to silvicultural tools and equipment they may not have themselves; experienced advice is available to owner novices to help them manage the forest. It is hoped that subsidized seedlings and shrubs will be available this spring to help upgrade members' properties.

Recently several members have used UCWC to work in their woodlots using various approaches. Several owners have made use of a Habitat Enhancement grant from Quinte (Region) Conservation (Authority) to have forest management plans prepared,. Some have had compartments marked professionally using the subsidy available through UCWC. In one case, the member chose to sell his standing timber to another member with a saw mill and kiln.

One owner did his own felling and skidding using his own equipment. Another with a portable saw mill sawed the wood for use on his own property. Another hired a professional through UCWC to cut and skid marked trees, then sold them himself field side.

More info can be obtained from Upper Canada Woods Cooperative, c/o Moira Ridge Farms, 162 Leslie Rd., R.R.#2, Roslin, ON, K0K 2Y0, or from UCWC field rep Bruce Dodds, at 613 924 9418 or brucedodds@ripnet.com Steve Pitt, Stewardship Coordinator can be contacted at 613 531 5723 or steve.pitt@mnr.gov.on.ca .

A box on one of their publications asks: Do your neighbours live in the dark? Have you a neighbour who is thinking about letting a logger into the woodlot without proper tree marking, an ironclad contract or competitive bidding? Have you neighbours who would like to learn more about working in their woodlots but don't know where to start? Have you a neighbour who works his/her bush but would like better prices and contact with others interested in sharing services and improving the market? You can help these neighbours see the light. Speak up. Tell your neighbours about Upper Canada

Woods Cooperative and encourage them to join. They'll be glad they did. Lets bring ---forests and their owners out of the dark!

SOME INTERESTING STUFF ON AGROFORESTRY FROM ANDY GORDON.

From time to time I comment on agroforestry (AF), and speculate that it may have a future place in S. Ont. well beyond what we might now imagine. Andy Gordon sent me two items, one a paper by himself and colleague Dr. Narish Thevathisan at University of Guelph on tree intercropping, mainly their work in Guelph. The other is a booklet by the (American) National Agroforestry Center (NAC) called Agroforestry in Canada, which in a number of articles describes AF in a number of regions of Canada. One by Andy covers the Ontario scene. NAC (www.unl.edu/nac) is in Lincoln, Nebraska.

AF is described as the blending of agricultural, forestry and conservation practices. AF can be readily incorporated into most farm and ranch operations and are also useful to many communities. These practices provide cost-effective ways to diversify production and increase income, while simultaneously enhancing natural resource conservation.

AF practices include: alley cropping, forest farming, riparian forest buffers, silvipasture, windbreaks, special applications, and urban and community applications.

Some of the issues addressed:

Carbon: "Linear forests" on farms and ranches can store large amounts of C.

Communities: Trees at the community-agriculture interface provide visual screening, dust and noise abatement, modify temperature extremes, and provide green space.

Economics: AF practices, like alley cropping and forest farming, diversify production systems and generate additional on-farm income.

Livestock: Trees shelter livestock from harsh weather and reduce visual and odor problems associated with concentrated feedlots.

AF systems allow for forage production and livestock grazing in the understory of conifer stands that are managed for timber production.

Living Snowfences: Trees and shrubs help control drifting snow along roadways, distribute snowmelt in fields, protect farmsteads and communities, and provide wildlife habitat.

Water: Forested riparian buffers improve water quality by controlling soil and streambank erosion and by reducing the input of agricultural fertilizers, pesticides, and animal wastes into waterways.

Windbreaks: Many field windbreaks have aged and deteriorated. They need to be replanted or rehabilitated in ways that provide for erosion reduction, crop protection, and wildlife habitat.

It seems that AF comes to us from tropical regions. It first emerged in the USA and Canada in the form of shelterbelts and also riparian plantings on the prairies (Wind chill on unprotected prairie farms must be really something!). The Federal government is doing research with the objectives of utilizing trees to protect soil and water, better air quality, wildlife habitat and diversity. (I would think that protection from wind damage and from extreme wind chill would also be prominent in their thinking). Their web site is www.agr.ca/pfra/shelterbelt.htm .

In BC interest in AF arose from growing interest in alternate cropping methods and in good stewardship, and various educational programs. A plan to promote AF in BC involves a system of demo. Sites around the province, to be used for educational purposes. Alberta has a program called Cows and Fish (www.cowsandfish.org) that conserves riparian zones in grazing lands.

In Ontario, Andy Gordon and Naresh Thevathisan note that people have been slow to adopt AF techniques for a variety of possible reasons. Some of the benefits of intercropping (strips of cultivated crops alternating with rows or strips of trees) include: more soil organic content, more insects and birds, much more bird diversity, more earthworms, good carbon sequestration potential when intercropped with hybrid poplar, improved nitrogen cycle which may lessen the need for N fertilizers.

A table originating from David Chapeskie of OMAFRA lists some AF opportunities in Ontario: farm woodlots, Christmas trees, nuts, maple products, maple orchards, forest ginseng, windbreaks and building shelters, sawlogs from fencerows, hardwood plantations, intercropping tree nuts and tree fruits. There may be more about this on www.gov.on.ca/omafra/english/crops/facts/info_statistics.htm

University de Moncton offers a degree in AF, its suggested scope short rotation crops under a forest canopy, integrating cattle in a conifer plantation, shelterbelts, design of riparian zones, harvesting non-timber forest products (NTFP).

For more on the federal government's agroforestry program, see www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/shelterbelt.htm

A QUOTE FROM THE ONTARIO URBAN FORESTRY NETWORK NEWSLETTER.

Few are altogether deaf to the preaching of pine trees. Their sermons on the mountains go to our hearts; and if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish. John Muir, naturalist, explorer and writer (1838-1914)

AND FROM THE GLOBE AND MAIL, NOV. 25. WHAT'S A FOREST WORTH

A study done for Pembina Institute calculated the "natural capital" contained in the Canadian boreal forest. It considered the worth of pest-control provided by birds, the value of peat lands in filtering water, and a whole range of other values, to be worth \$93 billion/year.

It valued the value of a carbon sink storing an estimated 67 billion tons of C, as a C bank account, at \$3.1 trillion (US).

This past year, I have learned from my own property that a very important forest product is: peace and quiet. I learned this from walking the trails and using my folding chairs. I also learned it from the small number of people from nearby subdivisions who walk my trails and are ecstatic about the quality of their experience there. What I ask from them in return that they respect my property, respect me, and respect what they see Mother Nature doing with my trees.

A SLIDE SHOWN AT A CONFERENCE.

A theologian a century ago, observed that: The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.

A comment: Why do we talk of environment (or resource) management, when it's really human behaviour that needs managing.

Another: sustainability is not technical, it is ethical or moral.

You cannot educate 11 million Ontarians in environment (or forestry!) overnight. You must start moving and be prepared for the long haul.

Too bad there is not more environmental education in schools. It could be so easily integrated into the curriculum, and used to teach math, science, spelling, etc. (Same, I believe, goes for forestry. If every school had a small forest, young people might actually learn that Canada is a leading forest nation. Kids could just as easily learn to count, add, subtract, spell, etc., using acorns or pine cones as anything else).

LAKE SIMCOE

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) held a conference titled Restore the Land, Restore the Lake on Oct. 21-22 in Barrie. It was the 15th Anniversary of its Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) and it met in an air of just satisfaction of what has been accomplished, and of urgent need to do more things and engage more people.

Among other things the lake's restoration to a high state of health must continue, while at the same time human pressures are likely to increase significantly. Things like invasive species (sound familiar?) and less precipitation over the past 20 years must also be factored in.

There is satisfaction at the changes that have happened since the 1960's, when people were beginning to realize that growing human pressures were putting this treasure at deep risk, and since the 1970's, when people actually started doing something. There is urgency to step up the pace, so that the lake can once again be the gem it is capable of being.

I was happy to be there. I have never lived in the watershed; I rarely see the Lake, but have lived my entire life either in nearby Toronto or in the nearby Oro Hills,, where I grew up and where my forest property is.

LSEMS' Mission is to improve and protect the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed ecosystem and improve associated recreational

opportunities by restoring a self-sustaining cold water fishery, improving water quality; reducing phosphorus loads to the Lake, and protecting natural heritage features and function.

There was determination I don't often witness to engage everyone, government, business, NGO's, citizens, anyone able and willing to help, in development of a plan and more importantly in restoration of the Lake. Also from LSRCA staff a ready willingness to consider constructive suggestions and criticisms, with not a hint of defensiveness.

In the discussion of engagement, someone noted that there are several levels: i. inform; ii. consult, iii. involve, iv. collaborate, and v. empower. Each level has an objective and a promise to the public. Who should be engaged was also discussed: land owners, interest groups, government agencies, the public.

Why be engaged? Community involvement makes for better awareness by all concerned; helps identify and resolve issues and build relationships; leads to better decisions and more help. It may be costly and time-consuming, but leads to better results and is worth the effort it takes. LSEMS, in building on its 15 years of progress, is trying to do just that. See www.lsems.info

Unlike most Southern Ontario watersheds, this one is dominated by a large lake. The Lake is 722 sq. km, and its drainage basin is 3,303 sq. km., including 2,578 sq. km. of land, in about 18 subwatersheds, each with its own characteristics and its own kind of influence on the Lake. Each has studies going on to assess that influence. There are 35 rivers draining into the Lake, with five, mostly arising in the Oak Ridges Moraine, accounting for over 60% of the area.

The Lake is the largest in Southern Ontario excluding the Great Lakes. It is within easy reach of half the population of Ontario. Reference was made to the Bay of Quinte, another watershed dominated by a large central water body, one with its own challenges. Also a reference to restoration work in Chesapeake Bay, a much larger water body on the US east coast. Also reference to the largely urbanized Anacostia river watershed which drains into Chesapeake Bay in Washington, DC, and the work being done to restore it from deterioration.

The land area encompasses most of Barrie and Orillia, several municipalities in Simcoe County, and in York and Durham Regions, 19 in all. A challenge heard at the conference is that a lake this large has a long perimeter, which makes communication difficult for communities with shared interests, but who happen to be on opposite sides of the Lake.

We heard that Lake Simcoe is not a homogeneous entity but a large, diverse and dynamic system, with significant differences between places. Cook Bay and Kempenfelt Bay, for example, differ widely from each other and from the rest of the lake.

We heard, from Ontario's Environment Commissioner (Gord Miller), that LSEMS is a rare initiative, in its scope, its purpose, and in the people brought to bear on the subject, that recommendations were made and actually carried out, and that improvement is happening.

For as long as I can recall the Lake's problems have centred around phosphorus loadings and their complex effect in promoting unwanted plant life. We heard that good progress has been made toward bringing it to an acceptable level, and other adverse effects likely there all the time are now appearing and will need to be dealt with. (In Chesapeake Bay, e.g., a salt water body, we heard that nitrogen, not phosphorous, is the subject of their concern).

We heard that P comes "from everywhere", from sewage and erosion in the urban areas, erosion on the farm, runoff from the milkhouse and manure pile, streambank erosion, intensive vegetable growing areas, and, are you ready, today's atmosphere (in the form of polluted rainfall, etc.). i.e. the excess P is everywhere, even in the air.

For two days I found myself too busy to wonder what I, a forester, was doing there, even given how I feel about the Southern Ontario landscape and its future. Watershed maps and tables show about 2,600 sq. km. of land. They also show a lot of forest—a lot of it is wetland forest in the low-lying areas south and east of the lake. There is also a lot of upland, e.g. the Oro Moraine where my own property is (about 4 km. outside the watershed). I also know the Authority has been active in encouraging tree planting and management. When you see so many dead elms around, you can imagine how desolate it might

be without trees. I just hope we can all become steadily better at getting the economic, social and ecological benefit from those forests that they are capable of.

I also heard about the need to consider a wide range of factors, like the concerns of the ice fisherman, the cottager with a few feet of shore, ownership patterns that exclude the vast majority of Ontarians from access to the lake, shoreline pollution, lack of oxygen in the lake bottom, the urban garbage dump on the lakeshore. I continue to hope we will hear more about the role of trees and forests in the scheme of things, and what needs to be done to maximize their benefit.

My own Oro Hills place is just outside the watershed, but I think it useful to pretend it is inside for the moment. My forest, plus the high forest cover in the area, is surely crucial to the healthy Lake Simcoe watershed we all want. It is helping produce O₂ and remove our CO₂ to keep the air fresh and hopefully offset climate change. They must directly affect air temperatures. They must influence water flow and quality, even if ground water is hundreds of feet down. They offer peace and quiet (just as the lake itself does). They attract people, e.g. during fall colours. And their potential commercial value should not be ignored; they have the potential to support a much larger wood-using industry than we have today, surely a boost to the economy, perhaps helping make conservation of the lake and watershed that much more affordable.

CORPORATE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Carol Goar, in her regular Toronto Star editorial column on October 24, noted that a few years ago, a group was formed known as Canadian Business for Social Responsibility (CBSR).

CBSR now has members across Canada in every major industry, including many of the largest and best known. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the overall relationship of the company with all its stakeholders, including the community, employees, and customers.

Most corporations now accept the need for financial transparency, good employee relations, environmental sustainability, and to show that they are trustworthy and community spirited. It is suggested that the next level is to champion

these causes, and as well human rights and fighting global poverty, and to see these as a business opportunity.

It is argued that making respect for human rights part of their brand might give companies a competitive edge in the world's emerging economies. Bringing enlightened business practices to troubled communities might help create stability and spur economic growth. Helping meet the most basic needs of the billions of people who live on under \$2/day might help develop a large market.

THE SOUTHERN ONTARIO SCENE.

In the latest issue of review, Ontario Forestry Association's newsletter, Executive Director Carla Grant outlines some good news affecting mostly Southern Ontario and some not-so-good news affecting the north.

Some positive changes have occurred in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), that should lead to MFTIP being the incentive to good forestry practice it was originally intended to be, and extending the period covered by an owner's managed forest plan. These changes to a very large extent result from a sustained effort by the Ontario Forestry Association (OFA) and the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) to convince the Provincial Government of the need for change. Carla also acknowledges the willing cooperation of staff of the Ministries of Finance and Natural Resources, and certain individuals.

In a Nov. 17 letter to members, OFA President Roger St. Louis says: In 2005 (OFA) achieved a major accomplishment by completing 4 years of vigorous advocacy work for fair property taxation on privately owned forest. This amazingly successful effort involved working hard with MPACC, Ministry of Finance and our partners to re-establish a fair solution for forest landowners. As a result, beginning in 2006, properties in the MFTIP will be assessed similarly to farmland, and the waterfront band has been eliminated. The program is in regulation and will be stabilized from now on. The support and determination of OFA members was instrumental in making this happen.

Changes include: new assessment approach for managed forest property; it will be assessed in a

manner similar to that for farm land. An assessment floor which limits the reduction in assessment from that it would have without the MFTIP arrangement, by something called farm-forest proxy. Open areas eligible for inclusion in MFTIP are expanded to include natural areas that could not support tree growth through normal forestry activities. The MFTIP planning period is to be extended from 5 to 10 years.

Details of the MFTIP arrangements in their present form, and how they affect an individual landowner, may be had by contacting OFA or OWA.

For all of this, as a forest landowner in the MFTIP program, I sincerely thank OFA, OWA and others, for righting what seemed to be a real injustice.

Another effort arising from OFA is the work of Trees Ontario Foundation. A \$2 million grant will help them strengthen their infrastructure and organization of tree planting on private land. In their Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration and Assessment Initiative, over 2 million trees were planted on over 1,000 hectares, on 217 different sites across Ontario. They have found that there is a demand among landowners for more tree planting.

Carla notes that this good news for private land forestry comes at a time of deepening crisis in the north, with many communities facing serious job losses and associated economic uncertainty. Rising costs of doing business over the past few years have helped lead to decreased competitiveness. One of those costs is energy.

One of my recollections of the north is all those miles of roads that have to be built and maintained, and the distances wood has to be trucked over them, and the distances people have to commute to work in the woods. Related to that, I keep hearing about what it costs to operate a logging truck over those roads for such distances.

By contrast, when my own plantations were thinned in 2004, the distance to the buyer's mill is under 20 km., over existing paved roads, the two men that did the work lived within 20 km. of my place.

THE GOOSE STORY

I've heard various versions of this in recent years. Here's one in a community newspaper in my area. Having no wildlife expertise, I cannot vouch for what is said, just find it interesting.

When geese fly in V formation, science has discovered certain things about that.

As each bird moves its wings it creates uplift for the bird(s) immediately behind. Being in V formation gives the whole flock 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. When a goose breaks out of formation it feels the extra drag from going alone and quickly rejoins the formation.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another becomes leader. Geese honk from behind to encourage those ahead to keep up. (What does it mean when we humans honk or get honked at from behind).

When a goose gets sick or wounded (e.g. by gunshot) and falls out of formation, two other geese will fall out and stay with that goose, until it is able to fly or dies, and then resume their journey on their own or with another formation or catch up with their original group.

EDUCATION

Kathleen Wynne is MPP for Don Valley West, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education. I knew her as a Trustee in my own ward when I was volunteering in a nearby school.

In a recent community newspaper in my area Kathleen expresses her passion for public education. In her article she quotes several times a distinguished educator of a century ago, John Dewey. I'm using some Dewey quotes she used.

I'm sure Kathleen is focused on education at least up to Grade 12. I cannot help thinking that we in forestry could take a close look at these quotes in relation to educating ourselves as practitioners, both formally and through continuing education, and educating citizens about the importance of forestry to us Canadians.

Someone asks: What are schools for? What is all the sound and fury and expense about?

Dewey described education as the fundamental method of social progress and reform. A community's duty to education is its paramount morality---through education society can formulate its own purposes---and thus shape itself with definiteness and economy in the direction in which it wishes to move.

He describes the teacher as engaged not just in training individuals but in forming the whole social person.

The nature of democracy demands an educated population, a form of social life where interests mutually interpenetrate. This makes a democratic community more interested than others have cause to be in deliberate and systematic education.

What do we teach one another. Dewey notes that relying simply on enacting laws or threatening penalties, or changes in mechanical or outward arrangements is transitory and futile.

Democracy is seen as more than a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint, communicated experience. What Kathleen makes of that is that the life work of educators is that of helping future citizens to become social, communicative beings, work that is at the heart of our democracy. She believes that schools are so important that everyone needs to be paying attention, as a matter of high priority, even when things are going well.

Her passion is for our public education system. Should we not be just as passionate about forestry education, for educating future practitioners, for continuing education, and for making forestry and forests better known to Canadians and others, so they understand just why those Canadian forests and the practice of forestry are so important. .

I speak of passion. It reminds me that education is not just to stuff lot of things into our heads, but also fill and develop our minds, hearts and souls.

THE MIRACLE MORINGA TREE

Child View, a newsletter of World Vision, has an item about the Moringa tree, native to India or West Africa, and widely used in Africa, especially in Senegal, also in the Philippines. It is so rich in various vitamins and certain

minerals and so well adapted to harsh growing conditions that it is often called the miracle tree. There's a lot more about this tree on the internet.

India's ancient tradition of ayurveda says the leaves of the Moringa tree prevent 300 diseases. Modern science seems to confirm that idea.

The moringa has many uses for African people. Leaves, pods, seeds, flowers, roots and bark are edible, even palatable. Parts of the tree can be used for animal feed, domestic cleansers, perfume, dye, fertilizer, medicine, water purification, rope fiber, and as an agent for tanning hides.

Its leaves are very high in Vitamins C and A and various minerals, and are used to protect children from blindness, scurvy and other disabling diseases. Crushed leaves can be used to scrub cooking utensils and house walls.

Its seeds can be used to purify small quantities of water, settling solid contaminants and bacteria. Those seeds contain oil used for cooking.

The roots, when crushed, make a condiment similar to horseradish. The tree is sometimes called the horseradish tree.

Various parts of the tree are used in traditional medicine.

The bark can be beaten into fibre and used for making ropes and mats. The wood can be pulped for paper.

An ecumenical church group, in its web site, sees it as a rich blessing in nations devastated by HIV/AIDS, poverty and related malnutrition. African countries hard hit by HIV/AIDS have planted a million of these fast-growing, drought-resistant trees in the hope of (re)building immune systems and treating AIDS.

FSC CERTIFICATION

Forestry Forum, a newsletter of Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) carries some news about certification by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Seems that of late there has been a dramatic rise in areas certified by FSC, and in chain of custody certification.

Canada now has 15.2 million hectares certified, or 23% of the world's total. (My math tells me that means 66 million ha. certified worldwide.

Of Canada's forest, 5% is certified by FSC, or 11% of our managed forest.

That includes some privately owned forest, such as 4,000 ha. certified through EOMF's forest certification program for woodlots and community forests in Eastern Ontario.

A pie chart shows that of certified forest lands worldwide, 23% is in Canada, 11% in the USA, 12% elsewhere in the Americas, 48% in Europe, 3% in Africa, 1% in Asia, 2% in Oceania.

The FSC web site www.fscscanada.org shows that worldwide there is 65.3 million hectares certified in 65 countries. There are 28 forest management certificates in Canada, 735 worldwide; 127 chain of custody certificates in Canada, 4100 worldwide.

WOODLANDS IN S.W. ONTARIO.

The Carolinian Canada newsletter for Fall, 2005 describes a Carolinian Woodland Recovery Strategy (CWRS) being developed, under a new "Species at Risk Act", a geographically and ecologically ambitious program to create a "road map" for conservation of species and natural communities in the Carolinian woodlands.

CWRS covers all ecological systems dominated by woody communities in the Carolinian life zone, including forest, swamp, woodland, shrub thickets and cultural habitats. There is a 26-member Carolinian Woodland Recovery Team including academics, OMNR staff, Municipal staff, Ontario Power Generation, Ecological consultants, Six Nations, and others.

It is noted that given the fragmentation of woodlands in the region it is a challenge to develop a strategy that is relevant, effective, and achievable for everyone: landowners, government, academia, First Nations, and ecological consultants.

The Strategy has a goal and 10 objectives, which fill a page in the newsletter; the goal is to sustain and restore the evolutionary capacity, i.e. health & long-term viability of Carolinian Woodlands and their associated communities of species,

thereby protecting ecological features, functions, and services on the SW Ontario landscape.

Its objectives cover things like: enhance the Big Picture; prioritize threats and management action, work for policy change to protect Carolinian woods under provincial & municipal law, develop and support restoration capacity among stakeholders to increase extent and connectivity of Carolinian woodlands on the landscape; achieve a net gain in forest cover and manage degraded sites to restore their features and functions, forest management and restoration to achieve ecodistrict and watershed objectives. coordinate recovery activity by various groups; develop a communication & education program, promote private land owner stewardship, measure and monitor recovery results.

One of the larger forested areas in the Carolinian is a 300-acre forest owned by Imperial Oil and located at its plant at Sarnia. That forest is now the subject of an effort to recognize and protect the features on that land. For this purpose the Company has met with several government and non-government organizations.

A pit and mound restoration project is in the works on 5 sites within the Essex Region Conservation Authority. The pit and mound technique uses heavy equipment to create the pits and mounds similar to those in old undisturbed forests, due to large trees falling and leaving a pit where the root system was and a mound made of the soil that gradually washes off the tree root system. The technique used on fine soils creates a wide range of moisture regimes and tends to attract the regeneration of a wide range of plant species, and the occurrence of a diverse animal population, including frogs, toads, dragonflies, butterflies, and even deer.

A paragraph on one page reads: Carolinian Canada's Big Picture goal of conservation will happen gradually, though thousands of actions across the zone. Habitat projects are being carried out by non-profit groups, individuals, companies and government, in a wide variety of places, from corporate grounds and school grounds to natural areas, not only restore degraded landscapes; these actions can also inspire and educate.

I am pleased to report on Carolinian Canada's work. Who knows, the work being done in that region may serve as a model for the rest of

Southern Ontario. I feel the same way about the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, the County Forests, the Upper Canada Woodlands Cooperative, and others.

NATURE CONSERVANCY CANADA (NCC)

A recent letter from NCC gives some samples of recent land acquisitions. The Ontario example: This past spring NCC and partners completed a conservation vision begun 7 years ago— purchased the last piece of Clear Creek Forest, creating the 1,000-acre Clear Creek Forest Nature Reserve. It is 20 km. east of Chatham, in an area where under 4% of forest cover remains. Woodlots in the area continue to disappear, making this NCC-reserve of prime importance for protection. Species at risk, like Cerulean Warbler and Acadian flycatcher can now make use of the area, where they are ensured by a buffer zone of trees, creating an “interior forest habitat” that allows rare flora and fauna to thrive.

A NOTE IN PASSING

In a recent meeting it was observed that Canada is one of the world's most urbanized nations. We know it is also one of the worlds most forested nations. I have heard that in Canada the industry that processes lumber into products like doors, furniture, etc., is heavily concentrated in Southern Ontario.

So you wonder why the general lack of awareness by Canadians of their forest heritage, or of the extent to which it affects all our lives economically, socially and environmentally.

Must be that the bulk of urban areas is concentrated in a small part of BC and near the Quebec-Windsor axis. While the bulk of the forest is just about everywhere else.

THREE EVENTS ON NOVEMBER 22.

Three notable events took place at the U of T on November 22. The OPFA held one in a series of regional seminars across the Province that ran just about every day in November. This one was in Toronto at the Faculty of Forestry.

Later that day, slightly overlapping the OPFA meeting, also at the Faculty, U of T Forestry

Staff and Alumni met, to consider plans for celebrating the Faculty's 100th Anniversary, also the 70th Anniversary of the CIF's Southern Ontario Section, and the OPFA's 50th Anniversary, in 2007.

Part of this meeting was devoted to whether the Forestry Alumni Association, which had been inactive for a number of years, should be reconstituted. Should this happen as part of the 2007 celebration, or sooner, so it could take part in the preparation.

In the evening, at the Faculty Club next door to the Faculty, a reception was held for staff, alumni, friends and students of the faculty to meet the Dean of Forestry, Dr. "Tat" Smith.

At the OPFA meeting, Dave Milton of Ontario Lumber Manufacturers' Association, gave an excellent summary of the softwood lumber dispute between Canada and the USA. I feel I cannot do this serious issue justice here, other than to note the devastating effect on the lumber industry, especially in BC.

I caught a couple of points relevant to Dave's talk. One is a suggestion from someone that instead of paying hefty legal bills to wage this battle, why not use part of the funds to conduct an educational campaign among U S consumers.

I personally have wondered over the years this has gone on if this dispute does not impact on US people who want to use lumber, e.g. to build a house. Has the consumer no voice in this?

There was mention of the Hurricane Katrina effect. I didn't catch the numbers, but hundreds of thousands of homes were destroyed or seriously damaged. Enough standing timber was destroyed for hundreds of thousands of new homes & tens of millions of tons of paper board.

It was wondered if Canadians understand what the lumber dispute is all about. I wonder if lack of awareness about this is another sign of overall citizen unawareness of forestry and its importance to us all.

FUTURE WORLD FOREST NEEDS

The International Society of Tropical Foresters (ISTF) newsletter, in reviewing an article, says the following about future forest needs.

Current world demand for the products and services of forests is a mix of static or only slightly increasing demand for wood (e.g. roundwood and fuelwood), a slowly increasing demand for non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and a rapid but largely unmonetized demand for environmental services.

Its basis for projecting future demand goes beyond current and recent demand, and looks at several developments in and outside the forest sector. On that basis it notes that the global economic importance of forests will increasingly lie in the environmental services they provide, not from their timber and non-timber products.

It adds that the essentially social valuation of environmental services is not reflected in the financial calculations which control the monetary accounts and flows relating to forest utilization and management.

A plausible scenario of future demand might include:

- static demand for round wood—growing wood use will be met by improved processing and by competing raw materials.

- declining demand for fuelwood, possibly reversing in the more distant future.

- growing transfer of trade from primary processed timber to value added products.

- rapidly growing and broadening of demand for environmental services and gradual extension of quantitative evaluation of them.

- intensified price competition in export markets as plantation sources tend toward over-supply of commodity-grade timber

- less availability of natural forest for timber production. I'd say that steady demand for forest products and less availability of forest for timber suggests the need to protect as much of the production base as possible, consistent with other needs.