

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECTION NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 2003.
VOLUME 23 NUMBER 3.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

This newsletter, which I hear is unlike any other in CIF, past or present, is playing some havoc with our finances. I took it on in 1987 when keeping it alive was a struggle. I've been so sure of its value that I've made it a major—and strenuous but satisfying—part of my life, & hope to keep on—in a way we can afford. Some cost (& paper)-saving ideas include: e-mail to readers where possible, limit numbers of pages, time distribution to include meeting notices, reduce the complimentary mailing list, which I keep as a way to “spread the forestry word” to others, like other forestry organizations, educators & woodlot owner associations. (It is from a few non-members I've received the most consistent and valuable feedback).

It is worth noting that i. the drain on the section's finances is significant, but a pittance compared to my own voluntary investment of time, energy, and finances. ii I dream of a larger audience that would make this effort more fruitful, iii. a corps of reporters might help make this more than a product largely of my own awareness & thoughts.

One thing readers can do: if you have a current e-mail address, please make sure Caroline &/or Mike know it. Caroline is at forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.ca, Mike at oranghutan5@aol.com. We plan to e-mail to all of you unless you have no e-mail or strongly prefer paper copy.

Another suggestion we've heard: Put the newsletter on our web site, and in our e-mail to members that aren't getting paper copy, indicate that they will find it on our web site. In fact, at the moment you will find our last four newsletters on the web site.

A word to those without internet access. I was one until this past summer. I have found this access has opened a new world to me in terms of finding & checking on newsletter material. I may make frequent e-mail & web site reference, to direct readers to more information, and hopefully not to make anyone feel left out. Most important, those without internet will still get paper copy of newsletters.

YOUR SECTION MET NOVEMBER 29, 2002

A small group of members & friends was joined by students at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, on November 29. It was part of a career day at which a

number of potential employers of forestry graduates had exhibits later in the day.

A panel on forestry careers was chaired by SOS Chairman Bruce Ferguson, who referred to CIF's intent to promote better public awareness of forestry, and to encourage young people to consider forestry as a career. This arises from noticeable decline in enrolment in forestry undergraduate (but NOT graduate) programs, not just here but worldwide.

Rick Monzon, executive director, OPFA, attributed loss of interest to several factors, including i. A growing choice of conservation or ecology-related programs; ii. How the public sees forestry; iii. Changing responsibilities. He challenged universities, NGO's, employers & high schools, to publicize forestry programs in ways that clearly help young people make sound choices, that will help prepare them for what they choose to do in life, & for the job opportunities likely to be available.

Good relations between the forestry schools and potential employers can help. NGO's can help to make opportunities known, by ways such as networking with secondary schools & by individual counselling.

High schools can seek information & counselling, & avoid any misconceptions about forestry.

Gerald Guenkel, head of the forestry program at Sir Sandford Fleming College looked at career opportunities for forestry practitioners, especially technicians, and at some of the perceptions of forestry, sharing some of his own observations at SSFC.

Some reasons why a student might choose forestry include: like the outdoors, like canoeing, the forest ranger image, getting away from people, working with a renewable resource.

Some reasons why a student might not choose forestry: cyclic employment, remote employment, dirty work, no mega bucks, no future, no glory.

Some realities include: may spend a maximum of 50% of time outdoors; must work with people, computers, lots of paper; wide variety of career possibilities; working with an economically important sector (of which the public is strangely unaware).

Many people are building on their forestry training. Of 100 students entering the forestry program, 80 get a diploma; 40 get additional diplomas (work common to several diplomas is not repeated), 5-10 earn degrees, 1 does post-grad work.

Where do his grads go? Job offers last year:: 43% from N. Ont., 27% S. Ont., 22% to Manitoba, 6% to Alberta, 2% to Maritimes. Of available jobs, 48% are in forest technology, 20% in nursery and tree planting work, 10% each in arboriculture & pest control, 7% in thinning & tree-marking, 3% in fire, 1% each in cutting & in GIS-Forestry.

Work term of first job: summer 57%, contract 35%, full time 8%.

Gerald sees future trends toward: more small companies, more need for computer skills, longer term contracts, more international work, vacancies due to retirement of baby-boomers, more grads seeing forestry as part of an education-career portfolio. The graduate who broadens his/her network & work experience, e.g. within an MNR office or a firm, is more likely to find rewarding work.

Dean Rorke Bryan, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, shared some thoughts. We can do more to make forestry better understood by others. (Sound familiar? An earlier Dean, C.D. Howe, made the same point at an SOS meeting over 60 years ago). This is a worldwide need, and may have something to do with: limited progress between the Earth Summit in 1992 and the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. There is progress, yet the world still loses 12 million hectares a year of forest; some developing countries may soon have no forest, the overall picture is not great. Similarly, ecological considerations are losing weight in international deliberations, relative to social and economic.

Lacking the desired influence on a seemingly uncaring society; so continue with declining enrolment—from 2400 to 1700 at Canadian forestry faculties in the past 5 years. It's the same worldwide. Forestry is not on the national agenda for innovation, despite the large size of the Canadian forest industry—and Canadian forest. Forestry as a career is lost in a sea of other choices; it's one degree of about 700 offered by U of T.

He suggested that for a young person, the world is too complex, diverse and interesting to consider a lifetime commitment restricted to one calling, even if it offers the prospect of secure employment. Perhaps forestry should be part of a well-rounded education, to examine the entire forest sector, do a range of things, do a lot of travel and networking, & in so doing, influence many people. Forestry should be part of the education of many people including senior corporate & government people. Students must be educated for jobs of the future, not of the past. They must be (or become) good at speaking, writing, teaching themselves.

Roxanne Comeau, Executive Director, CIF, highlighted some other realities. "At work I'm a forester; at other times

I'm a parent." As a matter of personal choice, her kids go to the forest (e.g. camping in Algonquin Park) whenever possible.

On job satisfaction a survey of recent grads showed that 71% would choose forestry if they had to do it over; 88% are satisfied with their jobs; 68% feel their work matches their training; 15% feel overqualified.

As to where to find jobs, she suggested: check out the internet & know someone. For the long term, continuing education and maintaining competence (not the same thing) are important. She used a graph to illustrate that the knowledge you acquire has a half life of 10 years, that it must be continually enhanced and built upon, through work and other experience, and through formal and informal continuing education.

(As an elementary school volunteer I often hear the term "life-long learning." A seniors' educational group called LIFE Institute is affiliated with Continuing Education at Ryerson University. LIFE is the acronym for Learning Is For Ever—learning does NOT stop before or after you retire. Both fit here).

GRAPE NUT WALK

On Saturday, Oct. 26, a number of people gathered at the Balls Falls Conservation Area near St. Catharines for a tour of the Grimo Nut Farm, the Hernder Estate Winery (complete with wine-tasting), and a brief look at the ecology of a part of the Niagara Escarpment. This was a joint event of Ontario Forestry Association & the Niagara Woodlot Association. At Grimo's is a nursery that breeds and sells a number of varieties of nut bearing trees. In the orchard, with trees planted around 40 ft. apart, is an amazing number of kinds of nut trees. Multiple use takes a new turn here. Some trees are grafted with other varieties at a height of 10 ft. The tree produces nuts for a time, then can be harvested, the trunk providing a quality log, which in orchard conditions puts on diameter pretty quickly.

This property is located quite close to the south side of Lake Ontario; this type of farm needs the moderating influence on climate of the lake. At the same time, I felt that the future forest of S. Ont. may very well include much more of this kind of property.

HURONIA WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION. .

HWOA's annual fall field day was on Saturday, October 5, in the woodlot of Mr. & Mrs. Al McNab, near Stayner. The property has been in the family for several generations, and consists of hardwood forest, mixed with conifer plantations. There has been some logging, there is enough maple tree tapping to support a sugar shack. There are trails for family use, and for the wagon rides they offer.

On November 12 HWOA held its fall meeting in Elmvale. Bob Hutchison, who worked for many years in MNR

before joining Simcoe County Forest as its technician, spoke about the County forest and about the management of plantations, especially red pine.

Simcoe County Forest has 28,000 acres, of which around 12,350 is conifer plantations planted 1922-70. (There is also about 35,000 ac. Of privately owned red pine plantations in the County). The county took over management of its own forest from the Province some years ago. The plantations need to be thinned regularly, starting at about 30 years, being managed in a way that they will over a rotation of 100-120 years revert to hardwood with a pine component.

Timber sales from the county forest, including plantation and hardwood thinnings have averaged over \$1 million in recent years. Products include a variety of lumber, poles, posts, etc. Some are treated at a plant in Shelburne. Clean chips (i.e. without bark) go to a pulp mill. There is also a market for bark and sawdust.

Bob went through the thinnings that occur over a rotation, noting the critical importance of the first thinning, which sets the stage for everything that follows. Over a rotation of over 100 years there is a combination of row and selection thinning, with 1/4 to 1/3 of trees removed each time. Each thinning admits more light to the interior, increasing the chance of a hardwood understory. Where planting was done at 6 x 6 spacing, the 1200 trees/acre at planting is down to 400 by age 55, 200 at age 75 and 112 at age 95.

He noted the importance of plantation owners seeking expert advice in the care of their plantations; also the long term aspects of plantations. He used County Forest timber sales to show that tree size is very important, that trees averaging 29 cm. are likely to bring 8-10 times as much as those averaging 19 cm. Sale prices also depend on current markets, ease of access to plantation, volume available in a sale, hauling cost to mill, product potential, and, most important, stem quality—free of large limbs, free from past injury, straightness, freedom from insect or disease history.

HWOA'S WHITE PINE AWARD.

Each year HWOA chooses a person for its White Pine Award, for outstanding contribution to forest conservation. This year's award went to Wally McNeice, a forester known to many members, who has worked most of his career in Simcoe County with MNR, and in that capacity has contributed much to forestry in that area.

FRENCH-SEVERN FOREST EARNS FSC CERTIFICATION

A Toronto Star article notes that French-Severn is the largest public forest in North America to receive the Forest Stewardship Council's certification as a sustainably managed forest, following a 4-year effort; it has 855,000 hectares of Crown forest. It notes that Tembec, the largest company operating in the area, along with 20 smaller

companies, formed a non-profit company (Westwind). This is pretty much an effort to restore the forest of the area to its earlier productive state, to provide adequately for a rich wildlife population (e.g. 6 cavity trees/hectare), scenic vistas, & for a setting for the cottages of cottage country.

FIFTH URBAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE.

The Urban Forestry conference took place in Markham Oct. 5-7, held jointly by Region of York and Ontario Urban Forestry Council (formerly Shade Tree Council), with support from Tree Canada Foundation. Over 300 delegates came to this rapidly urbanizing region from nearby, from across Canada & beyond.

York Region is urbanizing faster than any other part of our region. It is working hard to make sure there is enough forest & other green space for it to be the kind of place people want to live in. York Regional Forest, with its 18 tracts embracing over 2,000 hectares, was the first public forest in Canada to be certified by the international Forest Stewardship Council.

The conference theme was "Urban Forest Planning: Sustainable Forests for Healthy Communities." There were three days of addresses, sessions, workshops, exhibits, posters, demo's, & more. The keynote address "Canada Has but One Forest" given by Mike Apsey, Chair, National Forest Strategy Coalition, clearly identified the urban forest as part of the Canadian forest (thus part of the global forest, its potential and its challenges), and noted that Nature does not see all those man-made lines of jurisdiction. He urged a common vision for the Canadian forest. (I think we in S. Ont. have our work cut out to make sure that our forest, along with its problems and potential, gets full recognition & attention as part of that vision)

Mike Apsey noted that the global forest must now serve the needs of a growing population, now 6 billion people. It will need much care to reach its potential to serve that need & play its role in global ecology. Canadians have much to offer. We have 10% of the world's forest, thus a big responsibility. We have a good record of forward thinking. We have expertise; we have leaders that we and the world need. We need to think and act on a scale ranging from your front yard tree to the global forest, & in ways ranging from very narrow to widely holistic. We need to think in terms of the narrowest to broadest range of potential economic, social and environmental gifts of the forest.

On the second day Mr. Apsey discussed the National Forest Strategy in greater depth. Concurrent workshops followed, the results of which were to be summarized as input to the Strategy. The workshops were on: community action; criteria & indicators; interdisciplinary relationships; legislation, regulation & bureaucracy; professional development; research; and smart growth/infrastructure.

Mayor Ann Mulvale of Oakville spoke to a luncheon gathering about how Oakville has done so well at its forestry efforts. Among her points: i. Established a link

between trees, forests, and property values; ii. Years ago one councillor, through sustained effort, got the town to adopt a forestry program; iii. Oakville's first urban forester, John Perkins, persistently spread the forestry word, even after he moved to a higher position; iv. Knowing politicians helps, your own, and those you believe share your passions; v. Connect open space in parks & school grounds. Separate jurisdictions mean little to Mother Nature, students, or others wanting to be outdoors. vi. Let our passion for forestry show. vii. Work persistently with owners: explain, ask, help, demand, and more.

Several speakers brought urban forest perspectives from elsewhere: Western Europe; the USA; Halifax; Montreal; Ottawa and other Ontario centres; Prairies, BC. Others looked at urban forestry from the standpoint of single tree management, community action, and the bioregion.

The York Region Greening Strategy was described as a model for all. It has a rich natural heritage, including much of the Oak Ridges Moraine, in need of protection, in the face of a population that has grown from 166,000 to 753,000 since 1971, and is likely to reach 1.2 million by 2026, & where there are 400,000 jobs. There is a big need for service and infrastructure, provided in a way that balances development and conservation. The region has 18% forest cover, they want to increase that significantly.

The Greening Strategy is described in a pocket-sized publication in several sections: introduction, strategic direction, actions planned and already taken, information, securing priority greenland, role of senior governments, naturalization, community education & promotion, urban forest, corporate partnerships, monitoring results, an information system. The strategy is comprehensive, it provides an umbrella for actions by the Region and many other parties.

At the conference a need was identified for a national urban forest strategy. Andy Kenney has indicated that he will set up an electronic mailing list to facilitate exchange of information, ideas, opinions about issues relating to the forests of Canada's urban areas. He hopes to have a web site established. He invites the exchange of useful information and ideas and directs interested parties to <http://list.web.ca/lists/listinfo/canufnet>.

NATIONAL FOREST STRATEGY

A new National Forest Strategy is taking shape under the banner "Canada has but one forest." Workshops were held in six centres across Canada and a wrap-up workshop in Winnipeg. It was also discussed at the annual CIF meeting in North Bay, and at the Urban Forest Conference in Markham. Participation by all Canadians is encouraged, yet none of the 7 workshops was in the Toronto-Montreal area where roughly 1/3 of Canadians live, and where there is a major need to raise public awareness of forestry. There is a focus on the over 300 communities across Canada whose economy is dominated by the forest industry. None of those communities is in our region, yet the forest industry is

important here, not as a single dominant presence but as one component of a diverse economy and society for the entire region. So I'd hope for a similar focus on this, & on the social & environmental aspects of the forest & our forest industry's actual and potential contribution to maintain & enhance these.

I feel there is a long-standing need to recognize that Canada has but one forest, but that that forest is not a uniform mass, that S. Ont. for one has differences from the whole that should demand recognition. There is its need to rehabilitate our forest from 150 or so years of intense human contact. It needs protection from development that is spreading like wildfire. It has major potential arising from its interspersed with human population, urban, agricultural & other land uses, all this related to its rich diversity arising from its climate, soils, & species diversity. It must be a vital component of the region, if it is to be the livable place we want for our grandchildren. Special challenges arise from so much of it being privately owned, by over 100,000 rural landowners & countless city residents, the need to develop effective relationships with those owners, and by the need to overcome the unawareness of so many Southern Ontarians

I feel that if it is to truly meet the needs of future Ontarians it will be a very different forest from any we have yet seen. Different in that it will be intensively managed. Different in that it will feature a strong urban forest, a trend to permaculture, agroforestry and forest gardens, and to treed and forested areas placed to improve the environment of human structures. Different in the need to develop effective working relationships with landowners, and to strengthen community involvement in the forest---an involvement known to work around the world.

Discussion of diversity of gifts of the forest calls to Mind a web site: www.szgdocent.org/ff/f-rain3.htm on gifts of the tropical forest: foods, medicines, raw materials; gifts that have strongly influenced human history; wood, fruits seeds, chemicals, spices, as well as strong influence on climate & water. The exciting potential of forest gardens is discussed in the book "Forest Gardening" by Robert Hart.

This forest is highly diverse & productive, yet very fragile & very vulnerable to damage. It is very rich yet many of its plant & animal species are unknown, much less researched as to role in the web of life or in human life. Yet human activity puts us "in danger of destroying the treasure box before we even know what's in it." The site, originating in Singapore, offers ways to minimize the risk. (e.g. use it or lose it: find ways to use its gifts sustainably before it is cleared for usually unsustainable uses.)

While the Southern Ontario forest is a far cry from this in diversity, productivity and fragility (we don't have 250,000 known plant species or 3,000 edible fruits), there is a hint of similarity. Our forest is diverse and productive by Canadian standards; it is vulnerable to destruction (it happens daily before our very eyes) & I question if we begin to know all the potential gifts in our treasure box.

Our region's distinctiveness is well illustrated by a fact sheet "Conservation Blueprints & the Nature Conservancy of Canada." On it are 6 maps of ecoregions in Canada showing various features. Our ecoregion has by far the highest density of population, roads & cropland-woodland mix, highest richness of biodiversity, the highest risk to that biodiversity, & by far the lowest concentration of protected areas.

For more on National Forest Strategy see <http://nfsc.forest.ca> and various links.

THE WORKING FOREST (TWF)

I received the fall issue of TWF, which is largely geared to northern forestry conditions, but has articles of interest to our region. The US imposed softwood lumber trade restrictions severely affecting sawmills. The Huronia Loggers' Association's code of practice whereby "better loggers leave better forests", & their work with school students. Restoring the pine component of the Nipissing Forest through careful silviculture. With changing emphasis on natural regeneration versus planting on Crown lands, businesses that made large investments in the capacity to grow container seedlings feel left high and dry.

The Forestry Futures Trust was set up a decade or so ago to help finance intensive stand treatments, treatments of areas depleted by natural causes, and pest control. To date 290 of 370 applicants have been funded, totaling about \$75 million. The proportion of intensive management projects is increasing.

There's lots of white birch in the north; it tends to have limited use. A couple with a sawmill near North Bay have developed a promising business of using birch to make strips to be made into pallets. They employ 28 people and serve a market mainly in Southern Ontario; 20% of their output goes to the US.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) CERTIFICATION.

The winter issue of The Working Forest has a number of articles relating to SFM certification; this is being sought in many parts of Northern Ontario, using four different systems. There are 50 systems worldwide, five in North America. The number arises from differences in approach to forest management, and differences in important aspects of the forest.

The four used in Ontario are:

ISO 14001, a widely recognized international standard for environmental management; though not forest-specific it is often used as a basis for moving to other systems. (See www.iso.ch.)

CSA, is a Canadian standard, with input from a wide variety of stakeholders, & based on nationally and internationally recognized forest management standards.

SFI—sustainable forestry initiative—comes from American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA). (See http://www.afandpa.org/forestry/sfi_frame.html)

FSC—Forest Stewardship Council—is an international body that develops standards based on 10 forest principles.

(www.fsccanada.org or www.fiscoax.org)

TREES THAT EASE LEARNING

The Autumn, 2002 issue of "American Forests" tells of a Wisconsin High School that holds many of its classes outdoors. Among the comments: It's really nice having that space. In addition to helping the environment (by planting and/or caring for trees), the learning environment is improved. Studies show that trees provide direct benefits to children; besides being pleasing & environmentally essential, they have a significant impact on physical & mental well-being.

A study is quoted that found that hospital patients who could view trees and natural scenes out their windows recovered more quickly from surgery than those who could not. Other studies showed that prisoners whose cells face natural scenes have fewer health problems than those who see only other walls. Workers are more productive if their daily commutes pass by greenery-filled parks.

Another study found a broad range of beneficial effects of nature on human communities, such as stronger social ties, less violence, & people more able to cope with stress. Contrary to what we often think, crime rates are less where there is more vegetation. Teaching children in a green environment has beneficial effects on learning, and can help reduce symptoms of attention deficit disorder. It seems self-discipline and ability to pay attention are greater with exposure to a natural setting.

A Chicago city councillor has used this knowledge to push for schools with lots of green space, including trees, for greater availability of urban green space, including rooftop gardens, and for transportation to wooded parks for the elderly.

MACK'S COMMENT

A few years ago I described a study of schools across the US, who had environmental projects, usually off the school grounds. Their main aims were to provide a way to integrate various curriculum subjects, for teachers to work in teams on projects, & to engage students & staff in worthwhile service to the community. One possibility was to plant and care for trees in a park or other public area; another might be restoration along a stream.

Most schools doing such things have had improved academic standing, enthusiasm for school work by both students and staff, and fewer discipline problems. The effort needed by administration to deal with day-to-day discipline problems was replaced by effort needed to facilitate activity in the off-school project.

A young forester recently told me of growing up in a Maritime school that was located right beside a woodlot, and how that presence so profoundly influenced everyone's learning experience.

I recently shared with someone what I called my impossible dream. This person asked: Why impossible? What will it take to make it happen. She is involved in greening the grounds of her kids' school. Her voluntary research has shown that school grounds across her city were conspicuous heat islands, due to a combination of dark-coloured paved play areas, large flat roofs, & grass areas which due to heavy traffic do not cool as expected but tend to intensify the heat island effect.

This seemed to make my dream seem less wacky, so here it is. Roughly 6,000 primary & secondary schools are distributed with some degree of evenness across Ontario (5,000 in S. Ont., 16,000 in Canada). Some have some tree or other vegetation, perhaps as part of a schoolyard naturalization project. My dream is that all those schools will one day have a school forest (or other natural area), just as schools in some countries have school gardens. The forest would be made up mainly of trees and other vegetation native to the area. I think this would have several benefits:

1. Young people would grow up with much better awareness of trees, forests and other natural systems than they do now. They would see it as a natural system, and perhaps in context with the overall Canadian forest. They might also enjoy all the benefits of the off-school natural area that I described above.
2. This awareness would also affect both school staff and the rest of the community.
3. The school forest could be a demonstration for the community, and would contribute to the ecology of the area.
4. The heat island effect would be greatly reduced on the school grounds, which would become much more ecologically sensible.

Perhaps as communities become more aware of trees, forests and their values, forestry as a career might have a better chance of attracting young people.

So how to turn an impossible dream to reality? To begin, there are NGO's who encourage and support schoolyard greening. Ones like: Evergreen, Tree Canada Foundation, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment, Yves Rocher Foundation. In Toronto, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF), which uses money from a real estate sale a few years ago to fund worthy projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, has funded quite a number of schoolyard projects. I personally have

visited, camera in hand, over 100 schools who have, or have attempted, a schoolyard naturalization project, with varying degrees of success. Also many areas in parks, industrial sites, church properties, etc., whose grounds could serve to inspire and demonstrate to schools what could be done on their grounds. These include places the University of Guelph Arboretum, Humber College Arboretum, several outdoor education centres in the Toronto and other boards, The Toronto District School Board (which has 300,000 students in its jurisdiction) has a staff person whose job is to facilitate schoolyard naturalization. Staff of some (I suspect most) conservation authorities have helped schools with ideas & support.

I would think forestry-related organizations, given the resources, could play an important role in this and in the process do a lot to raise public awareness of forestry and interest young people in considering forestry careers. The organizations that most of us belong to. Perhaps each of us, working within one of these NGOs, could work toward making something happen.

ENVIROTHON

One of Ontario Forestry Association's (OFA's) educational programs is Envirothon, which is aimed at grade 9-12 students. It is a hands-on environmental education program open to youth in schools, to groups like Guides and Scouts. It operates in teams of 5 members and an advisor/teacher. It is very flexible, accommodating projects in the classroom, outdoors (wooded area, wetland, river, lake, soil pit, or other), as part of the school curriculum or outside it. It can be done competitively or otherwise. Leadership can come from within the school from staff or students, or from volunteers from outside.

It takes participants outdoors, it ties in with teaching in biology, it has opened students' eyes in a way that led to career choices, and it is a much-needed hands-on opportunity, in a way for which there is little or no time in the regular school day. It began in the US in 1979, in 1994 OFA did a pilot project, in 2001 there were 160 participating schools across Ontario. OFA is now seeking to establish a pilot project of 20 schools in the Toronto area, where there has so far been no participation, increasing to 40 next year.

Supporting Envirothon might be a good step toward raising forestry awareness in our region. For more info go to www.ontarioenvirothon.on.ca.

PELLETS OF WISDOM

In a Toronto Star column Mag Ruffman enthuses about a pellet-burning wood stove that she says is popular in Europe and which appeared on the North American market about 10 years ago; there are now over 400,000 in North America. Pellets are made from sawdust, compressed into pellets, and sold for about \$5 for a 40-pound bag which lasts for about a day. She sees a number of advantages to

this kind of heater: Pellets take up less room than firewood. They burn efficiently, producing a minimum of ash, particulate emission or greenhouse gas. They can be filled once daily. Heat level can be controlled.

The stove has moving parts that need a small amount of electricity. A battery backup system is available in case of power outages.

A DIFFERENT PELLET OF WISDOM

Seen somewhere on internet: plantations make up 5% of the world's forest cover, & account for 35% of the world's harvested wood.

MANAGING FOR CROP TREES.

Atlantic Forestry Review describes a silvicultural technique for young stands in which promising crop trees are selected, up to 150/hectare. These can be released by removing adjacent trees on two or three sides, usually south, east & west, depending on the shape of the crop tree crown. This allows the crop tree to grow in diameter and therefore in value. One question is how to move about with machinery without risk of damaging the crop trees. Another is whether and when it is financially feasible.

On my own place, without the ready means to change dream to reality, I see possible use of this approach to favour: i. specimens of several semi-tolerants to help ensure that the stand following the red pine plantations is not 100% sugar maple; ii. favouring the more promising trees in too-dense natural young growth.

Since 1995 I've been quoting from Atlantic Forestry Review. To learn more about this magazine, see www.countrymagazines.com

MANAGING SMALL HOLDINGS

In S&W Report is an article by Jon Williams, a logger and consultant in Renfrew County. In it he notes that thinning & release in close-spaced stands without damaging the remaining trees is difficult for even the best loggers, especially with conventional logging equipment.

He notes that some do-it-yourself owners will use equipment like farm tractors and recreational vehicles, which have the advantage of using what you already own, but may lack the design features needed for efficient logging. Neither machine nor operator may be well enough protected against the damage & injury possible in the forest. Poor manoeuvrability may lead to inefficient operation and to damage to residual trees and the ground.

He notes that for horses to play their potential role in the woodlot calls for, among other things, a horseman with skills and other attributes that are becoming rare.

The author describes a Gignac GM 2000, which he uses, with some modification, and its successor the Forcat 2000. These small machines on rubber tracks, while quite costly are manoeuvrable and under the right conditions quite efficient. Readers wanting to learn more about this machine are invited to contact Jon Williams at 80 Old Bridge Rd., Golden Lake, ON. K0J 1X0. Or phone 613 625 2677.

FORESTRY EXCELLENCE IN S.E. ASIA

RECOFTC, Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia & the Pacific, located in Bangkok, works in several countries in that region (countries that embrace over half the world's population). They are striving to improve people's livelihood through access to, and care for, forest resources. They emphasize learning, community forestry development, and suitable institutional arrangements for forest governance. In one of their activities they are building a file of case studies of excellence in forest management, and have so far 170 nominations from 20 countries. There is also ongoing discussion of what are the elements of successful forest management. They are at www.recoftc.org.

WOODLAND EXPO 2002

Again a number of organizations in Simcoe & Dufferin came together Sept. 20-21 to hold Woodlands Expo at Oro Fair Grounds near Barrie. There were presentations, on matters like trail layout & building, pruning, selling standing timber, and enhancing wildlife habitat on private land. There were numerous indoor and outdoor exhibits, and on each day two bus tours, one concentrating on hardwood, the other on conifer plantations.

Given the number of people that had put so much effort into this public education event, the attendance was a bit disappointing.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF ONTARIO'S ECOSUMMIT.

On November 27 CCO held a one-day Eco Summit in Toronto. It reviewed work being done by NGO's & others to make Ontario environmentally green; where we can go from here, and how parties might come together in a joint effort to move ahead—to move from crisis management to proactive conservation; to move from a consumer to conserver society; to form a collaborative rather than competitive setting for NGO's to operate; to choose from among the most pressing issues ones where effective progress can be made; how to harness effectively the massive wisdom and knowledge that are available.

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVANTAGE.

One often hears that for business and industry to operate in environmentally responsible ways involves a cost that may

impair their competitiveness. Bob Willard, who lives in Whitby, a retired senior corporate executive, in his book "The Sustainability Advantage" develops a strong case that this can be seen, not as a cost of doing business, but as a way to do business much more profitably, and in a way that is environmentally & socially highly responsible. He speaks of a "triple bottom line" (economic, environmental and social).

To learn more go to www.newsociety.com & find the title.

MEN OF THE TREES

Back in 1948, as a student, I became aware of a group called "Men of the Trees" when I placed an entry in an essay competition "Opportunities and Methods for Increasing the Value to Farmers of Farm Woodlots in Southern Ontario." This competition was sponsored by Men of the Trees. (Looking over that essay reminds me of some areas where we have made real gains, & areas where society must pull up its socks soon).

I knew little then or afterwards about Men of the Trees, beyond its being international in scope, and that Mr. Alf Barnes, for whom I worked as a summer student, was one of its strongest supporters. I also vaguely connected it with a Richard St. Barbe Baker, its founder and a champion of reforestation who travelled the world

Some time I inherited the 1956 book "Dancing with Trees" by Baker; seems it is one of at least 8 of his mentioned in the book; several more are mentioned in a biography found in the internet). In this book he worked in Saskatchewan as a young adult ca. 1910, traveled & worked in Kenya (showing Kikuyu tribes people the land conservation value of tree planting), in sub-Saharan countries (success stories in pushing back the Sahara), the American dust bowl of the 1930's, Palestine between the two world wars (quoting scripture: The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose), redwood country in California, New Zealand, Australia (where he spent much of his later life and where Men of the Trees was founded in 1922). Of post-1945 times he talks of a world-wide green front of trees, among other things to push back the world's deserts.

In 1989 Men of the Trees in Perth, Australia, published "Richard St. Barbe Baker, A Keepsake Book for All Ages and Generations." He has been described as a widely respected forester, conservationist, and writer, who had a vision of the world as a single organism (or system?), & who saw in trees and forests a vital international asset. He believed that efforts to protect and replant provided tremendous means for social advancement & economic development.

At age 93, during a visit to Saskatchewan, where he came to observe World Environment Day, and actually planted trees, he quietly passed away—his biography notes, this is as he would have wished. His grave marker in Saskatoon says, in part: Founder, Men of the Trees. Pioneer of Desert

Reclamation through Tree Planting. Crusader for Virgin Forests Worldwide.

I find this a wonderful reminder that there are a few individuals in the world that would go to such lengths, through a long lifetime, to dedicate time, talent, and personal finances at times, to promote reforestation, and that in the trees and forests of the world we have something truly worthy of that kind of dedication. I truly hope that the most dedicated among us can draw inspiration from this.

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD)

WSSD was authorized by the UN General Assembly and held in Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 26 to Sept. 4. It was a follow up to the UN Conference on Environment & Development in 1992 & the 1972 Stockholm Conference.

There seems to be disappointment at lack of progress in the face of urgent and obvious need since 1992, especially in areas of poverty & environmental degradation. (We do not need to go far to see painful examples of both of these) It seems WSSD provided the setting for partnerships to be formed to take specific actions.

ON BEING CANADIAN

In a conversation someone wondered what is distinct about being Canadian, and suggested that our forest provides that distinction. I'd think another distinction is the unmet need of most Canadians to become aware how important the forest is to our society, to the economy of Canada and the world, and to the environment of Canada and the world.

SOME NEW YEAR'S THOUGHTS FROM A CHURCH BULLETIN.

Most people will be as happy as they decide to be.
What you are willing to put up with is what you will have.
Success stops when you do.
When your ship comes in, be willing to unload it.
You will never "get it all together."
Life is a journey, not a destination. Enjoy the trip.
The biggest lie: When I get what I want, I'll be happy.
Best way to escape your problem is to solve it.
Ultimately "takers" are losers and "givers" are winners.
Life's precious moments have value only if shared.
If you don't start, you won't arrive.
We often fear the thing we want the most.
Seek opportunities, not guarantees.
Life is what's coming, not what was.
Success is getting up one more time.
Now is the most interesting time of all.

MAY 2003 BE GOOD TO US ALL.