

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY
SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECTION
NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER BY e-MAIL

Growing numbers of people use e-mail as their communication medium of choice. We are interested in knowing which of our readers would prefer to get the Newsletter by e-mail. You would get it more promptly; we would save a bit in work printing and postage.

If you prefer to receive paper copy by regular mail, you need do nothing. But if you would like to get it by e-mail, would you please advise Section Secretary Caroline Mach, R.P.F., P.O. Box 95, Mansfield, ON, L0N 1M0, or at forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com.

PROGRAM FOR 2002-03.

Watch for information on three great section meetings: November at University of Toronto: Forestry Careers. February: Univ. of Guelph on Agroforestry and Forestry Developments. May: At Midhurst: AGM, County Forests, Forest History.

CHAIRMAN BRUCE FERGUSON WRITES.

Taken from Bruce's report on our Section's banner year to the CIF AGM in North Bay.

Council met 5 times & had 2 conference calls.

Jim Coats' superb work as Program Organizer brought us 4 meetings with a range of location and topic, with attendance as high as 40, and the prospect of as good a season for 2002-03.

Our fall meeting and tour was at the newly privatised St. Williams nursery and the Crown forest that was once part of the nursery property. In January, at U of T's Faculty of Forestry a panel discussed skills needed by today's forestry practitioners. In March, at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay a panel of 10 discussed the pressing need to attract high school students into a forestry career. In May we toured the Drysdale Family's tree farm and the Somerville Nursery.

Thanks to both Jim Coats & Jim Cayford for their organizing efforts.

Jim Cayford & John Nolan updated our by-laws mainly so they would conform to current CIF by-laws. Treasurer George Sinclair kept us on track on finances and budget. Mack Williams, in his 15th year as editor produced & distributed 4 newsletters totalling 48 p. Council members continue to hear how much members enjoy it. Secretary Caroline Mach continued to give us excellent meeting minutes and other items.

Besides the above, we have taken part in events like the OPFA's annual meeting.

We presently have 118 members.

Bruce describes the following projects:

1. Kortright Centre for Conservation: Led by Harvey Anderson, we contribute to their fall colours and maple syrup festivals. Harvey is also leading the development of a forestry display at KCC, to explain the CIF and to explain sustainable forest management.

2. Forestry as a Career: We work with forestry faculties at colleges and universities and with other forestry associations to explain that forestry is a highly scientific and sophisticated calling, and to try to attract the best young people into a forestry career.

3. Sir Sandford Fleming College Forest Technologist Silver Ring. Our participation in this event, began this year.

4. Continuing Education: SOS works closely with OPFA to develop programs that promote continuing education. Our programs are open to members and non-members and can be used to earn CE credits.

5. Communication: Mike Clarke maintains our web site. Mack Williams has edited & distributed the Section newsletter for 15 years.

(Mack's comment: Bruce thanks council members for their incredible support & for the rise in interest in section programs. We all must thank Bruce for the skills, vision & dedication he has brought as Chairman, building on his 4 years on National Executive, one as CIF President, and his earlier work on Section Council, both here and in Lake of the Woods Section.)

YOUR SECTION MET SEPT. 18.

Our 2002-03 program began Sept. 18 in Trenton, with 15 members and friends present. Laird Nelson, Jim Pederson, and others from Domtar Forest Products described the wood acquisition program at Domtar's Trenton mill, and the role of privately owned woodlots.

The mill acquires wood from three sustainable forest licences (SFL's), from chips from sawmills, from woodlots which they manage for woodlot owners, and on the open market from other owners.

They have a woodland development program which has developed over about a decade. They will enter into agreement with individual owners

who are serious about maintaining their woodlot, and are within about 100 km. of the mill, they assess the property for need for work, if appropriate certified tree markers on company staff will mark the forest. They provide a market for the low quality wood which their mill can use, and allow the owner to market the higher quality material, e.g. to a sawmill. They recommend reputable loggers to the owner, who then enters into a normal contract for logging. Typically they assess the woodlot 3, 7 and 12 years after the cut. The Company makes information available that owners need to maintain their MFTIP status.

In one earlier instance, one owner found that 20% of his cut was sawlog material. The stand was so improved that as it came time for the next thinning, the proportion of sawlog material in the thinning had risen to 40%, and the overall quality of the remaining stand kept growing.

There are now about 157 participating woodlot owners; the Company also does work in several County and Conservation Authority forests.

Domtar buys much of its wood on the open market, & is moving toward the day when it will buy wood only from sustainably managed forest.

Domtar's forest management work has earned it certification from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and other certifying bodies. This is for work both in its Gilmour Freehold and with private landowners. The Gilmour Freehold also has FSC's SmartWood designation.

Vivian Peachey of FSC's Canadian office located in Toronto, gave a presentation on certification, with special reference to Domtar, and to others in S. Ont. who have earned certification. To a common question "What value is certification to the holder?" she suggested it is a well-informed outside opinion that the holder is practicing sustainable forestry, adhering to the 10 principles of FSC.

We visited 4 woodlots managed in Domtar's program, the first being a pleasant lunch stop.

They covered a range of conditions from a mix of semi-tolerant & intolerant hardwoods to a largely maple stand. We saw a range of levels of owner involvement & interest in the actual work.,

For a number of us the day was completed with a tour of the Trenton mill.

At the end of the day I pondered what seemed an ideal arrangement for the company, the woodlot owner and for society; one that has earned FSC and other recognition. I note in newsletters from E. Ont. Model Forest frequent reference to Domtar's similar effort from its Cornwall mill. I wondered what it would take to have a similarly ideal situation in other parts of Southern Ontario.

WHOSE JOB IS FOREST MANAGEMENT? OR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Among the reprint items given us by Domtar is a quote by Laird Nelson, that proper forest management is not up to (the company), to (government), or contractors, or the public. It is up to all of us. We all have a role to play.

I've heard a lot of thoughts about whose job sustainability can be. Some of them:

Government (at all levels) has a role, has potential, and may desire, to move toward sustainability, but may be constrained in many ways from doing so.

Non-government organizations (NGO's) win praise, for example, in "The Future of Life" by Edward O. Wilson. They can operate without the constraints that may limit government. They can operate at a range of scales, and can often cross national or other borders. Some are highly skilled at marshalling resources needed for their goals.

Corporations may be able to do things no one else can for sustainability. A foremost mutual fund founder once said of corporations that "those who do good will do well." In the new

book "The Sustainability Advantage", author Bob Willard, an ex-senior manager at IBM, argues that business returns of sustainable development strategies are quantifiable and real, that real financial bottom line benefits are there for the taking, of following the triple bottom line: economy, environment, equity, or profit, planet and people. This, he believes, gives corporations the power to promote sustainability in ways far beyond anything imagined by government or NGO's.

Individuals are important; they are part of all of the above, & do much on their own. They need to be informed & educated to be able to make sound judgments & be effective good citizens. .

Educational institutions, from pre-kindergarten to post-doctorate, are key to educating us all, & in the long run are likely key to our hope of a sustainable future. They need to be properly run, guided & supported for this critical role.

Could forestry have something very special to offer? We have figured out how to reforest lands that should not have been deforested. In some regions we know how to push back the desert. We know how to manage many kinds of forest sustainably to meet many societal needs. This is something we can surely give the rest of society.

People of extraordinary vision have a role. The community described in the book "Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World", chose, in the 1970's, to learn to live in a harsh setting in the interior of Colombia. What they did included reforesting an area that had been treeless for centuries; in so doing they enabled the tropical rain forest to return, and their pines supported a thriving industry producing a component of paints. Much of its pine forest has lived its life, is giving way to the rain forest coming in under it, it will be harvested to contribute to their energy self-sufficiency.

There is vastly more of the Colombian llanos to be planted to continue to support the community. Much more of this can be seen in the book and also by searching the internet for "Gaviotas."

Gaviotas is an outstanding example, but not the only one, of how communities can lead the way in good forestry that serves humanity, and in other kinds of sustainable development. So, too, can places of worship (as a community; on their grounds; by making the connection between nature & creation), the media, by labour. (who, in their daily work, may see the way to sustainability before the rest of us).

Red Green would say “We’re all in this together.” Laird Nelson says we all have a role. Again I wonder: what it would take to have this kind of good forestry and sustainability in other ways across our region?

THE SECTION’S PROPOSED FORESTRY DISPLAY AT THE KORTRIGHT CENTRE.

Harvey Anderson met with Section Council on Aug. 24 to update his ideas for a forestry exhibit at KCC. Against the backdrop of a real hardwood forest seen through a corner window, there would be a photo and text display showing that logging and other forestry work in the Southern Ontario forest can be done responsibly, in ways that bring optimum economic return while at the same time maintaining or improving the forest with all its social and ecological values. We would try to involve woodlot owner associations, logger associations, stewardship coordinators and others in preparing this message.

HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS’ TOUR.

Condensed from Caroline’s article in HWOA’s “Through the Knothole”: On June 8, about 35 HWOA members & friends went on the annual bus tour, this time to the Niagara Region. They stopped at a private woodland logged in 1999, so skilfully one could hardly tell it had happened, but unhappily suffering from gypsy moth.

Next, the Henry of Pelham Winery to learn about growing grapes and making wine.

Then to the Short Hills Nature Sanctuary to see some unusual Carolinian species: tulip tree, cucumber tree, Kentucky coffee tree, sassafras, and sweetgum. Then on to the Comfort Maple, estimated to be 500 years old, one of the oldest in North America, held together with cables and filled with cement to maintain its integrity.

At the Cherry Connection they learned about harvesting & processing sour cherries for pie fillings. Finally before supper to the Vineland Experiment Station where new varieties of tender fruits are developed that are adapted to the region, and where there is also an Arboretum.

HURONIA LOGGERS’ ASSOCIATION.

About a decade ago, a number of loggers in the Huronia area formed the Huronia Loggers’ Association, partly in response to a need to create public awareness of a strong, competent forest industry among landowners, especially those who may have limited understanding of the forest on their land. They also saw a need to promote the idea of selling timber as standing trees, and to promote the many values of well managed woodlands.

It is now made up of loggers who work both in hardwood & softwood forest. Some have their own mills; many more do not, but sell to mills.

They are strongly supported by the local MNR office, and by Earl Dertinger, the area stewardship coordinator. They also work closely with the Huronia Woodland Owners Association. They have developed a code of practice to help guide its own members and so that woodland owners will know what to expect from them.

They have a distinctive yellow sign to place at properties where one of them is conducting logging; besides the cautions to people it carries their motto: Better loggers leave better forests.

CANADA'S OUTDOOR FARM SHOW.

John Nolan, representing the Section, and Melissa, representing OPFA, staffed a joint SOS-OPFA display at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show September 10-12. It was in the "Resource Tent" shared with groups like Ontario Forestry Assn, Ont. Woodlot Assn, OMNR, Conservation Authorities, Municipalities, Tree Nurseries, SW Ontario Loggers' Assn., and others.

Attendance was good on two days (heat & humidity may have kept them away the first day). Great interest was evident in OPFA's brochure "Managing Your Woodlands" and passing interest in other brochures, photos, etc. John felt it was worthwhile exposure, giving us the chance to explain ourselves to visitors & to network with other exhibitors in the Resource Tent.

FORESTRY PRACTITIONERS

CIF President Don Gelinis, in For. Chron. May-June, observes that a third of us Canadians live in rural or remote areas, where they contribute to Canada's well-being through resource based industries, including forestry. He notes the 300 or so Canadian communities, for whom forestry is the main economic base. He notes that forestry practitioners can make an important contribution to these communities' well-being.

Here are two other well-known figures. About 30% of us Canadians live in S. Ont. And about 80% of us Canadians are urban, i.e. live in communities of 1000 or more. Most S. Ontarians live within 20 km. of an urban centre.

Here, too, forestry practitioners make a solid contribution to community well-being. Here, too, forest-based industry is important, not in the sense of dominating the economy, but as an important component of an increasingly diverse array of enterprises. Last I heard (some time ago, I admit) they provide as much employment and other fuel for the economy as do their more remote counterparts. In our region they are an

important voice for sustainable forestry; many of them operate on small, privately-owned forests, & see the need to practice (and preach) good forestry if they are to continue to exist.

They also operate in a forest that is part of a diverse mix of land uses, including, sad to say, lots of forest that has had little management. There is also lots of land not now in forest that should be, if our region is to be the liveable place of the future we would hope for. It is a forest closely interspersed with where 30% of all Canadians live, offering bounty to humanity that can include choice wood products, medicinal and food products, protection from the elements, and, dare I say it, peace and quiet.

Peace and quiet? In a recent Salvation Army newsletter was an article by someone living downtown, who notes that people are bombarded by loud noise: screaming emergency vehicles, screeching subway trains, non-stop traffic, non-stop construction, blaring horns whenever the Blue Jays, Leafs or Argos happen to win, blaring car stereos, road rage, and more.

The writer went camping in a remote part of Algonquin Park, and realized he had to relearn what peace, quiet and calm are like. This is the quiet we each need, from time to time, and from the depths of our being, once again to hear ourselves think, as he suggests, to allow God back into our consciousness.

He found this peace in a remote area. But it can often be much closer at hand, even if not quite as complete: on a hiking trail, in a county forest, at the Kortright Centre, in High Park. When I was still employed downtown, a day in my plantations, then 30-40 years old, seemed like an escape to the reality of creation.

President Don Gelinis encourages graduating practitioners to be involved in their communities. Maybe we can all reach out to land owners, trail users, city folk out enjoying the countryside, to school kids, to just about everyone else.

TREE PLANTING IN BANGLADESH.

Last issue Doug Skeates wrote of massive tree planting in northern China, in part to help stem the sandstorms from the Gobi Desert, an effort called the Green Great Wall.

A Toronto Star item notes that: Threatened by global warming, depleting biodiversity and rising fear of natural disasters, Bangladesh has begun a drive to put at least 20 percent of its land area under cover by 2015, with an ideal level being at least 25 percent, well above the present 9%.

They hope to create a shield from frequent storms coming in from the Bay of Bengal, and to help lessen the impact of global climate change.

The Government is encouraging each of its 130 million people to plant at least one tree each year, and will offer over 56 million trees a year from its nurseries free or at nominal charge.

Sundraband, a world heritage site, is facing trouble as many trees die of disease. It is home to Royal Bengal tigers and many other wildlife species, It provides the country and the nearby Indian state of West Bengal with a strong shield against storms from the sea. Other forest areas are being threatened by unscrupulous timber merchants and from people collecting firewood.

TREE CLIMBING A LEISURE SPORT

Another Toronto Star item in June describes tree-climbing as a leisure activity at the school called Tree Climbing USA, in Georgia, enjoyed, among others, by a 10-year-old. Climbing techniques are taught, using climbing ropes.

This can be done by groups of up to 30 people, on trees carefully pruned for the purpose, or by heading off into the woods, finding a tree they like, and climbing. Some even spend the night in the tree, using rock-climbing tents as platforms for their sleeping bags.

Among the benefits of this activity is awareness of the natural world—and of ourselves—as seen from the treetop. It can also be used to help promote respect for trees and the rest of the natural world, and of one another.

It is noted that tree-climbing goes back to our early history, to times when people climbed trees to hide, to seek, to observe, to establish and access tree houses.

It all started about 20 years ago when an arborist working in city trees noted the interest of people in the climbing aspects of his work. In time it caught the attention of an educator working with families and youth at risk, and became part of an adventure program that included backpacking, camping, white water canoeing, and more.

LOYALIST FOREST

Using new-found capability to scan internet turns up some interesting items, some not too far from home. I share this one with readers in the belief some of you may not have seen it before either.

Loyalist Forest is a 650 acre (or 350, I'm not sure which) property, about midway between Napanee and Kaladar. It was established in 1850 by George Henry Young, a United Empire Loyalist descendant (hence its name), and, 5 generations later, is in the same family, now Mr. & Mrs. Geoff Schimmel. It is a diverse working farm and forest, located on the fringe of the Precambrian Shield, with a mix of drumlins, steep slopes, and wet bottom lands. It also has orchards, fields, pastures, patch gardens. In 1997 it was incorporated, with the idea it would be used to inspire good stewardship, by bringing the richness of nature back to the farm.

The property is 85% forested. It has been logged yearly since the family acquired it in 1850; yet its timber values remain intact. Its upland forest is a mix of maple, beech, hickory, butternut, birch, ash, oak, plus a variety & abundance of other plant life. Cedar grows in the wetter areas.

They do their own logging, using horses in some

parts & tractors & wagons elsewhere for least disturbance to the ground. They also buy logs from loggers who operate sustainably. They have a portable sawmill, where they emphasize quality over quantity production. They have a woodworking shop, where they make a variety of dining room and outdoor furniture and other products; forest product sales form the bulk of the forest's income. The products listed in their web site include kiln dried hardwood lumber, cedar lumber, maple syrup, and firewood.

The estate's program includes education, agriculture, forestry, historic preservation, tourism, some private residences, community and cultural activity. Their land use philosophy builds on bringing nature's richness back to the farm.

Their future includes: doing agriculture and forestry responsibly and sustainably; supporting themselves on non-resource-depleting work; optimizing the value of goods & products leaving the property; fiscal sustainability.

LOGGING WITH HORSES IN MUSKOKA.

The Toronto Star, July 8, ran an illustrated article about Gerald Cook who has spent a lifetime as a logging contractor with a team of horses in the Huntsville area., in a business he took over from his father and grandfather. It is hard work, and calls for special relationships with horses, and a procedure that tends to do minimal damage to remaining trees or to the site.

MENOMINEE COMMUNITY FOREST

In Toronto Star, July 13 & 20, Environmental writer Cameron Smith writes of the forestry practices of the Menominee Nation in Wisconsin. They have logged their 950 sq. km. of forest for 146 years, since they built their first sawmill; have more harvestable timber now than at the start, and over that time have cut twice as much timber (2.5 billion board feet) as is now standing

In 2000, sales of wood & wood products was \$29 million, and net income \$845,000. Figures for 1999 were \$23.7 million and \$1.3 million. Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) which manages the forest, is owned by the 8000-member tribe. It employs 350 to 460 people in logging and milling, roughly a quarter of the tribal work force.

From the start they have emphasized managing the forest as a sustainable community forest, managing each species as part of a diverse ecosystem, which also provides diverse wildlife habitat, minimizing logging damage, and managing habitat for fish and wildlife. They attribute their management skills to the wisdom of their ancestors, who have always understood ecosystems. The detailed nature of their management is such that you can still see w. pine trees 200 years old and 150' tall.

In 1995 they were recognized by the U.N. for their accomplishment in sustainable forestry. They have been certified by FSC and others.

MACK'S COMMENT

Cameron, like others, mentions large clearcuts allowed in guidelines governing Ontario Crown lands. I do not know if these actually occur; the extent they do he sees it as an act of plunder.

My impression is that in S. Ont., much of whose forest is privately owned, much is under no management; some is exploited, (e.g. subjected to diameter limit logging or high-grading), some just sits there. In many properties that are under some level of management, it is being done in a way appropriate to small parcels, and which rehabilitates the forest from the effects of less than ideal management over 150-200 years. Some, like many of the county forests, and the bulk of my own property, are being rehabilitated from being cleared and farmed when the land would not readily sustain such activity.

PRIVATELY OWNED FOREST

The internet has some general information on private land forestry being an important part of the Canadian forest. It embraces 18 million hectares, about 12% of the Canadian forest; it is owned by 425,000 owners; accounts for 21% of the national harvest of timber. It says that private forests, besides timber, provide habitat, biodiversity, clean water, spiritual and recreational opportunity.

I might have included in that list things like clean air, shelter for adjacent farm or urban settlement from the elements, an aesthetic setting, a setting for artistic or other cultural endeavour, therapeutic value (e.g. of a walk in the woods), a host of non-timber products, and more. This comes up in discussion of the model forests because four of them, including E. Ont. Model Forest, have substantial private forest.

The benefits that were listed, and the ones I suggest could be added, occur with much of the private forest not in really good shape. I would love to see us focus on what these forests could do for us if they were in good shape, and on what it might take to get them into that good shape. We know, from the better county & conservation authority forests, from the better woodlots owned by private individuals, what can be accomplished over a lifetime on them. What does it take to extend that across all the forest we should have?

In discussion of private land forestry, at least in S. Ont., I'd love to see more emphasis on that last question. How much forest do we need to make S. Ont. the truly liveable place we'd like for the future. Given its potential to help meet probable future world and regional wood shortages, might it not be much more intensively managed? Might its management not become increasingly sophisticated & intensive, embodying many of the principles of agroforestry, urban forestry, permaculture, and more? From all of that, might it not support a far larger and more diverse forest products industry than we may yet imagine? Might not, should not, that 21% figure of national timber harvest be substantially, and sustainably

increased, along with all those other value? If we used some sort of value figures for timber and other benefits, I'd suggest the figure would be vastly higher than 21%. How best can private land forestry, a work force, and all those owners be brought into such a scenario?

For anyone who like me is a bit fuzzy on some modern terminology, here are some things I've come across.

Agroforestry combines forestry, horticultural & agricultural practices to create integrated, diverse, productive, healthy and sustainable land use systems. It uses woody and other plant material. It includes alley cropping, forest farming, riparian forest, buffers, silvipasture, and more.

Permaculture uses those same practices to produce highly productive and liveable habitat, integrating optimally human shelter, energy systems, tree crops, edible & otherwise useful plant material, domestic and wild animal life, and more. It has application in urban, rural and wild settings.

IF WE DO NOTHING

Taken from something found in internet about an event at Queen's University last winter:

“Since the UN Earth Summit in 1992 at Rio evidence & public awareness have built up of links between climate change and potentially catastrophic environmental, economic, political and humanitarian effects. Extreme weather, disappearing forests & indigenous communities, sinking islands and coastal areas, famine, emergence and spread of tropical disease, dangerously increased pollution and radiation, wars over shrinking resources, economic dislocation and mass migration—these are all quite readily apparent. Yet neither technology, nor political will to address climate change in a meaningful way has kept up with awareness of the scale, complexity and urgency of these inter-related dangers. Uncertainties around the ratification of the 1997 Kyoto accord, designed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, suggest that

disjuncture between scientific evidence, vested economic interest and political will could profoundly threaten our world for centuries to come.”

Nothing very new here; just I don't think I've seen it as well or concisely said before. As noted before, I keep raising it by way of expressing a belief that forests and forestry in S. Ont. have an important part to play in dealing with the complex issues related to global climate change.

GINSENG

Perhaps a hint of the agroforestry or forest garden or permaculture diversification that might be possible in future is the advent in recent years in the “wild-simulated” growing of ginseng. An article on this is in S & W Report for Sp[ring-Summer 2002. It is said to offer economic benefit to the owner in the form of added income, and ecological benefit in the form of increased forest diversity. At last word, there are roughly 300 growers in Ontario, involving 1,600 hectares of forest land, with a total crop valued at \$24.8 million.

Like most crops, growing ginseng does take work, & some essential components, such as:

1. Quality seed.
2. Shade, as in a mature hardwood forest.
3. Fertile soils.
4. Adequate moisture.
5. Lots of patience.

Ginseng is said to have a variety of health-giving & other virtues. It has long been used in oriental cultures, also here in traditional medicine.

With continued fragmentation of the S. Ont. forest, wild ginseng is decreasing in abundance. It has been classed as an endangered species, so there are restrictions on its export.

The article in S & W Report continues under several headings: 1. Identifying features. 2. How to start growing wild-simulated ginseng—things

like quality seed, a hoe or rake, and loads of patience. 3. Site selection. 4. Site preparation. 5. Seed source (sources said to be scarce in Ont.). 6. Harvesting and drying roots.

OMAFRA appears to be the interested agency, info can be obtained from their offices. Also mentioned is the Ginseng Growers Association of Canada at 519 426 7046.

HOOKED ON FUNGI

Another hint of possible things to come: a 3-year old newspaper clipping about the work of Dr. George Hudler, author of the book “Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds”, and professor of plant pathology at Cornell University, who at that time was giving a course by the same name.

The article goes into a host of good & bad things that happen daily from the action of fungi, such as the toxic, hallucinogenic, or medicinally useful compounds coming from moulds.

The shitake mushroom has long been used in East Asian medicine & cuisine, & has substances being investigated for possible treatment of cancer and AIDS.

TAX-FREE?

Last issue I mentioned a reference to the Federal Budget of last December 10. There is more about it in the summer issue of Atlantic Forest Review, on the intergenerational transfer of woodlots.

Before, unless Revenue Canada agreed the woodland was farm property, used primarily in the business of farming, it could be liable to significant capital gains tax as it passes from one generation to the next, especially if its ownership has not changed over the past 30 years, a period of rapidly growing property prices.

Such a tax hit might be a burden, especially if it

happens at an owner's death. It may force the property to be sold, or to be too heavily logged, to enable the tax to be paid, unless there are other family resources that can be used.

The December federal budget seems to provide a break. Like farms, commercial woodlots can more easily claim year-to-year expenses against income. More important, it seems woodland can pass from one generation to the next without the capital gains tax burden.

The article describes the commercial woodlot as one having some record of work over past decades, and where there is reasonable expectation of profit. Or it may be a property under a currently active management plan, on which some regular treatment will occur. Records of past regimes of treatment are helpful in establishing this. The Government refers to a "prescribed management plan."

Such a plan has a main benefit (apart from MFTIP for Ontario owners): It ensures that when the property is passed on, the planned management regime is documented, not just in the owner's head. And, together with records of work done, it shows to all concerned that the property is run in a business-like way.

This seems like a good step forward. Almost any forest management or restoration success stories most of us can think of, whether or not owned by individuals, span one or more lifetimes. Aboriginal people speak of a forest for 7 generations. Some of our county forests are showing their true success after 80 years or so. I can see it on my own place after 56 years. It makes good sense to try to avoid disruption as the forest passes to a younger generation.

This all happens, it seems, thanks to years of diligent lobbying by the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners (CFWO). I wonder if it is not just one more step, like MFTIP in Ontario, that will be needed if we are to keep intact or restore the areas of forest needed to meet future needs and keep our region as liveable as it should be.

This was the subject of one or more workshops

given for owners in New Brunswick. Reference was made to information handouts related to this being available to woodland owners and accountants.

FERTILIZING THE SEA

An item in the August 10 Toronto Star describing life in the ocean illustrates quite nicely how land, air and water (both fresh and salty) are enmeshed in the web of life. Canada is one of 21 countries that have formed SOLAS (Surface Ocean-Lower Atmosphere Study) to investigate jointly the interactions between sea and air, bringing together scientists from both fields to help understand the top 100 metres or so of the sea that is always in turmoil.

It is noted that marine plankton account for half the world's photosynthesis. Large areas of ocean have few plankton because, while adequately supplied with most of the nutrients they need, they tend to be low in iron. Adding an iron supplement in one such area led to spectacular increase in plankton, turning the water from blue to green enough to be visible on satellite imagery.

One unanswered question is whether dying plankton took its carbon to the ocean floor, away from the atmosphere, or released it to the atmosphere through decomposition near the ocean surface.

Some kinds of plankton are known to produce dimethyl sulphide (DMS) which may act as a sulphate aerosol when released to the air, becoming nuclei for cloud formation. Cloud forming over the ocean would tend to deflect away incoming solar radiation, but would also tend to act as a blanket to reduce the escape of heat already in the system.

Some possible applications of this research relate to whether global warming is continuing, and if so whether work with the ocean's green matter might produce a suitable buffer against such warming.

Equally challenging, I'd think, is what happens with no such manipulation. What things is humanity now doing by design or by accident, that might alter marine life in ways that are not necessarily beneficial, or on a scale humanity cannot readily control or in ways humanity cannot agree on are harmful or beneficial.

OLD GROWTH FOREST AND HUMANITY

In his Toronto Star August 10 column Cameron Smith reflects on a canoe trip to some old growth hemlock forest in the south part of the 24,000-hectare forest of the Leslie Frost Centre.

This forest is largely Crown, is laced with many lakes & rivers, and therefore cottages and boat traffic. In one place, accessible by canoe is 1,308 ha. of old growth forest, with hemlocks 3 m. in circumference, 28 m. high, and known to be 250-300 years old. Another place is described where the hemlocks are 350 to 400 years old, up to 4 metres in circumference, and over 30 m tall. Some white pines in the stands are even larger. Some yellow birch are also present.

Do we know how much old growth forest (OGF) we have in S. Ont.? What kind, and how old? Wherever it is, have we any idea how to retain or restore some of it as part of our regional heritage? And since it would be a very long-term project to create OGF from scratch, are there any prospects of restoring sufficient OGF to be representative? (Long term? Had the Jesuit Missions established the kinds of forest I describe during the 17th century, they would now be 300-350 years old). It is important for heritage reasons; it is important also in terms of ecological benefits for the whole forest of the region.

It may have another importance. Cameron writes of the powerful feeling of belonging that came over him while in the hemlock OGF, as though coming home from a very long journey. The mind did not notice but the subconscious strongly recognized this as being (just like)

home. He suggested that in our early evolution we humans were at home in the forest.

He notes that the forest around the Frost Centre is easily accessible to many S. Ontarians. That makes it a treasure that should be protected and revered, as a forestry museum piece, & as a place where human beings may feel truly at home.

Reminds me a bit of a passage in the book "The Future of Life" by Edward O. Wilson, (retired?) professor of biology at Harvard University, about a preferred habitat which humans like to view, preferably from a safe distance. He used the example of a wealthy New Yorker whose penthouse overlooks Central Park; from there it looks like a landscape of open forest scattered with water bodies. He uses this to illustrate the "savanna hypothesis" of humanity originating in the African savanna, and the preference of humans for open woodland from among an array of natural and man-made environments.

GREEN CORRIDORS

A few months ago "Grand Actions", newsletter of the Grand R. Cons. Authority, noted the number of farms that have begun to fence water courses to exclude livestock, noting that it is starting to make the countryside look different.

Where often there was grass to the edge of the water, the strips are re-vegetating to grass, flowering plants, & planted shrubs & trees.

It is noted that the stream is now protected from direct contact with livestock, the water is now shaded so its temperature may be in a more natural range. Plants and soil in the buffers help filter nutrients and other substances from the farm runoff, reducing contamination.

A surprising number and diversity of bird and other animal life is noticed around these strips. Often if there are larger trees nearby, they may be used as perches or for nesting cavities. Trees and various food-bearing shrubs can be planted or encouraged in order to enhance this effect.

What goes on within these strips is complex, in terms of water flow, other ecological processes, and how the strip affects the water course or water body, how it may affect things like sedimentation and erosion, how the strip slows the movement of (and damage caused by) flood water, and may help shape the configuration (depth, width, etc.) of streams, and much more.

It is noted that a doubling of stream velocity means 4 times more bank erosion and 64 times more bottom material dislodged.

And, importantly, these buffer strips and other linear features can form important ecological linkages between otherwise isolated woodlots.

It has been said that we lack understanding of what goes on in buffer zones & can mistreat them without even knowing. Are we changing?

PEACE AND QUIET: A FOREST PRODUCT?

In the May-June For. Chron. CIF President Don Gelinis notes that nearly 1/3 of Canadians live away from cities, contribute to the economy, and that their needs must receive due attention.

The other 2/3, a fast-growing proportion of Canada's population, live in urban or urbanizing areas, and do, along with the rural and urban forest of regions like S. Ont., contribute to the national economy and well-being. Here forestry is not the mainstay of the economy, rather a significant component of a highly diverse economic and social mix. A challenge to forestry is to achieve its potential for vastly greater contribution to the region's well-being.

We, too, have our needs. An item in a recent Salvation Army newsletter notes the constant noise of the city: traffic, loud voices, construction noise, screeching subway trains, a chorus of car horns every time the Leafs or Argos win, emergency sirens, never-ending roar of the 401, & more. Lots of smog & heat alert days too.

We try to shut it out of our awareness, and tend to forget what quiet is. Until we get to go remote camping in Algonquin Park. Or stand in a woodlot, or even in a city ravine. We need to remind ourselves that this is the real world, and relearn to sit and be at peace, and listen to nature, and listen to our inner selves.

I've accompanied school classes to the sugar bush at an outdoor education centre. No, we didn't get into all the neat things about sugar maple or maple sugar as we might during Maple Syrup time at Kortright. As the has-been forester with the group, I didn't have to panic about what gem about the forest to share with the kids.

No, Suzanne had her kids & the grown-ups lie on the ground, & look up into or through the treetops for a few moments. The has-been forester learned a precious lesson about what you can learn about a sugar bush, about nature, and about oneself, from that position. (This is just a tiny glimpse of stuff that seems to be getting weeded out of what kids are taught at school).

The Salvation Army article argues that our Creator often comes to us in silence. But being so deafened by noise, so unused to quiet, so in a rush, we've forgotten how to be quiet and listen, in case our Creator does speak to us, or simply to reflect in careful self-examination and renewal.

Perhaps this is a real value of places like the depths of Algonquin or other large forested parks or a city park, a county forest or a Crown land forest, or the family woodlot, a wooded hiking trail, the University of Guelph Arboretum, the Kortright Centre or numerous other such places, even including the wooded schoolyard.

Peace and quiet, a place to reconnect with nature and with our spiritual selves, may be as important a forest product as choice veneer logs or maple syrup or Christmas trees. So might the forest as a setting for the teaching of art, music and drama.

CLIMATE CHANGE & FOREST CARBON.

Earlier this year Pollution Probe hosted a series of workshops across Canada to discuss the idea of using forests as carbon sinks as one way to help reduce net C emissions into the atmosphere.

They might think of reforestation, afforestation, reducing deforestation, and forest management collectively as FCM, or forest C management. This could help reduce the carbon going into the atmosphere, and help maintain ecosystems, recreation, and other social & economic benefits.

This is obviously a highly complex matter, tied closely with ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, and to Canada's role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There are huge numbers of issues involved, not the least being how this all fits in, as it must, with the ongoing extent, state and use of the Canadian forest, and how it will benefit us all, including those who choose to invest in it. More information is available at Pollution Probe's web site www.pollutionprobe.org , including a 72-page report.

WOOD FOR HOME COMFORT

Wood can keep us warm in more than the obvious way. A house in Edmonton is built of "cordwood sticks." The owner says the technique is centuries old. Sticks are laid across the wall—the wall in effect is a woodpile, set in a mortar mix at the ends, with the middle part filled with an insulating material. Stick length can vary with the insulation needs in any climatic zone. There are a number of such houses across Canada and the cooler parts of the USA.