

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY  
SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECTION  
NEWSLETTER

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Section Chairman: Bruce Ferguson, R.P.F.

Editor: Mack Williams, R.P.F.

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NEWSLETTER BY e MAIL

We now have e-mail addresses for many of our readers. Some have indicated a preference for getting the newsletter by e-mail. It will help if you make sure we know your e-mail address; advise Caroline at [forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com](mailto:forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com) or Mike at [oranghutan5@aol.com](mailto:oranghutan5@aol.com). Let us know too if you prefer e-mail to ordinary mail.

SECTION'S ANNUAL MEETING.

A great day is planned for our annual general meeting at Midhurst on Thursday, May 8. We'll see history, good forestry on a county forest and a private property, and a visit to a special sawmill. Please make sure you receive your notification of this meeting; especially those of you who now get the newsletter by e-mail. If you don't, please contact us. And please come on May 8 for a day of history of forestry in Simcoe County. For me it may be a dream come true: to have a CIF Section meeting visit my own property.

SOS AT KORTRIGHT CENTRE SYRUP TIME

Gleaned from and reading between the lines of, a couple of e-mails I got on March 17 (complete with reference to green beer): Maybe it was the sunny weekend, unseasonably warm after unseasonable cold. Thousands packed the Kortright Centre the Mar. 15-16 weekend for the maple syrup festival. It is the 8<sup>th</sup> year our section has taken part. Once again it was the faithful few, Harvey Anderson, Mike Clarke, Tony Molnar, Bob Burgar and George Sinclair that represented us. Quite a number of others have come out over the years. And they did a wonderful job; they are great at dialoguing with young visitors.

The display was set up a trail that includes maple syrup-making, and where usually several numbered trees have signs and interesting pieces of information contained in a leaflet about the trees, how sap runs, and so on.

Harvey's display shows some scientific stuff about maple trees, maple syrup, etc. Mike and Tony offered demonstrations, e.g. about use of an increment borer.

As in the 7 previous years, this was a high quality display that received many favourable comments, both from visitors and from the Centre.. Representing the

section, they are helping in this way to overcome the growing lack of environmental awareness that concerns us all.

We face a real challenge. Those who have carried this project this far cannot go on forever; we would invite others to consider becoming involved.

SECTION MEETS IN GUELPH

On a clear cold Feb. 25 a handful of us met at University of Guelph (UoG) for our winter meeting, that began by briefly visiting the Agroforestry (AF) Research Station. There were 17 present, including 6 Council members, 4 meeting speakers, and several who live in or reasonably close to Guelph.

AGROFORESTRY: INTERCROPPING

Dr. Naresh Thevathisan was host in the field and indoors. The intercropping experiment at the Research Station involves 10 tree species planted in rows or belts, 3 kinds of crops in alleys 6 to 15m wide between the tree rows. There are numerous interactions: shade and nutrients from tree leaves; soil protected from erosion & hot sun, competition for light, nutrients, water, less wind exposure, less drying out of soil, less heat extremes; more diversity reducing chance of some kinds of disaster. They seek maximum positive net interactions between trees and crops.

TREES AND THE KYOTO ACCORD

A lot of forestry work now focuses on using trees and forests as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to comply with the Kyoto Accord. A forestation is considered, i.e. human-induced conversion to forest of land that has not been in forest for over 50 years

How much carbon a forest can hold depends on things like species, and the management of crop, grazing and forest land. Carbon builds up in the above-ground parts of the tree (stem, branches, twigs, leaves), and below ground (roots); it also adds carbon to the soil by leaf fall and other debris. Trees are painstakingly excavated to estimate their below-ground C content.

(Note: about a year ago, S&W Report, newsletter of Ont. Woodlot Ass'n, described a way to estimate roughly the amount of C sequestered, and amount

stored, in various kinds of forest, a guide, and a spreadsheet for doing the rough estimate. It is found at <http://www.woodrising.com/moe/wmguide.html> It considers the species, age, site quality, whether or not the site was previously farmed, the soil condition, etc. It considers that in a young stand there will be a high net capture of C., as the stand ages, this process lessens. The amount of C in the tree may be affected by the loss of everything from leaves to limbs. It considers C in the litter and soil.. It considers both the amount of C being taken up, and the amount being stored at any given time).

## AGROFORESTRY

Naresh defined agroforestry as something like: integration of trees in a planned and systematic manner into agrosystems or an agricultural landscape in order to derive ecological, environmental, economic and social benefits (EEES) in a sustained way.

## FORESTRY EDUCATION AT U OF G.

Dr. Andy Gordon, referring to a For. Chron. article (May-June/02, p. 373-79), outlined the forestry instruction given at UoG. UoG neither has a forestry school as such nor gives forestry degrees, there are forestry components in many of the departments and courses. There is also the historic aspect of forestry education at UoG, since people like E.J.Zavitz, Judson Clark, Angus Hills and A.H.Richardson had a variety of ties. The first tree nursery and the first plantation in Ontario were at UoG.

UoG has its Arboretum, and several wooded parcels, that are actively used as teaching laboratories.

## ONTARIO STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Al Murray, Stewardship Coordinator for Waterloo Region, highlighted the Ontario Stewardship program and the work in Waterloo Region. Some thoughts about the program:

1. Stewardship is defined as taking responsibility for action today that (positively) influences future values.
2. Programs are not government controlled, but focus heavily at the community level.
3. Volunteer stewardship councils work very well; they vary greatly, reflecting local demographics, values, and resources. Forty councils are loosely grouped into three zones (southwestern, central, eastern).
4. Council members are chosen to represent a wide community spectrum.
5. The system has developed into a means of bringing in a broad range of people & funding

sources. (That it has done so well with so limited resources is a tribute to the people involved).

6. The system is well suited to a region so different from most of Canada in: concentration of population, privately owned land, & open fields.
7. The wide range of programs among councils likely reflects different priorities of different people in different settings.
8. Reference was made to Community Involvement Projects System. See <http://applications.intranet.mnr.gov.on.ca/cips>

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS.

Al gave some examples of programs at the provincial and zone levels, and in Waterloo Region.

Provincial level: A part of Ontario & Canadian stewardship networks. Youth program. Community fish and wildlife programs. Oak Ridges Moraine. A forestation as part of living up to Kyoto. See [www.ontariostewardship.org](http://www.ontariostewardship.org) and [www.stewardshipcanada.ca](http://www.stewardshipcanada.ca)

In the three Stewardship Zones: Demonstration area catalogue. Wetland drainage project. A river stewardship program. Guide to selling standing timber. Logger-landowner relationships. A city ecology park. Bog-to-bog

In the Waterloo Stewardship Network: Growing of native plants, involving schools. Wildlife assessment & rehabilitation. Stream rehabilitation. Nesting platforms. Trail Development. Rural water quality.

Idea seems to be to use limited resources to reach out to as many people as possible, inform them, interest them, listen to them, engage them. My own thought: it's truly amazing what has been done so far.

## FORESTRY: GRAND RIVER WATERSHED

Martin Neumann, forester, Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), spoke about forestry in the Grand River watershed, an area of 6,800 sq.km., and a large population (750,000) relying on ground water. In presettlement days the watershed was around 90% forested. That dropped to 5% during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is back up to a still-unacceptably low 19%.

Some forestry firsts in the Grand: about 1904, at UoG, the first nursery and reforestation. In 1911 the first planting to protect a municipal water supply (Guelph). It's still there, 600 acres, to which the Conservation Authority has added 400. In 1965 the first Woodlands Improvement Act agreement was signed. In 1986 the intercropping research began at UoG.

The watershed falls in three broad landscape bands. The till plain to the north, the morainic area in the middle, and the lower watershed. There are about five distinct land use bands that affect the amount of forest cover.

The Six Nations area, through its cultural history, is about 50% wooded. North, near Elmira, are good woodlots well cared for. In the upper watershed are long narrow farms, with lots of forest at the back. (In one case, six adjacent property owners have planted treed corridors connecting the six woodlots). In the Guelph drumlin area, the slopes are farmed, and the lowland is largely wetland forest. In the Eramosa area the woodland reflects the morainic landscape.

Besides having only 19% forest cover in the watershed, there are few large forest areas, so there is little if any forest interior habitat.

GRCA forestry activities include: management of 10,000 hectares of forest; private land tree planting since 1951, now about 100,000 trees/year, carefully targeted; community forestry; a watershed forestry plan, developed in close communication with communities; arboriculture: looking after 750 cottage lots and 65 residences.

GRCA is in forestry for several reasons: watershed conservation; large area of non-point pollution in the northwesterly till plain where there is lots of tile drainage and not many trees; the need for windbreaks and riparian buffers (many main tributaries and some smaller ones are buffered). Riparian planting, e.g. by 7 landowners near Wallenstein, along with roadside tree planting and windbreaks, is altering the landscape.

GRCA has good rapport with residents and land owners. They have been shown to have consistency and longevity, credibility, familiarity, approachability and performance.

Their future concerns include more riparian buffers, trees for Guelph in a program to extend over watershed, and naturalization programs; a program for species at risk; continuing protection from flooding and augmenting of low flow.

#### ONTARIO FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (OFA) CONFERENCE.

This year for the first time the OFA Conference was held outside the Greater Toronto Area--at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre, just outside Barrie. Many of us will recall it as an Ont. Government training centre. The conference, the setting, and the weather were great.

One good feature was how the conference involved the Huronia Woodland Owners Association (HWOA)

in the program, with several HWOA members putting on one of the concurrent sessions.

A major highlight was a look at tree-planting, and the prospects of its being revived in Ontario. Another highlight was a look at the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, its apparent misapplication by the crown corporation that now looks after property assessments, and what can be done. OFA is urging everyone in the MFTIP program who feels they have been mistreated in the most recent property assessment to do something about it.

Always a fun part of the program as well as a fundraiser for OFA is their voice auction (which was preceded by a silent auction). Bob Staley once again showed his considerable skill as an auctioneer and entertainer, and as far as I could tell, raised a fair amount of money for OFA.

#### MANAGED FOREST TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM (MFTIP)

At the OFA conference there was a discussion of MFTIP. There are some developments that do not seem to affect me directly, since my own property has no residence and no waterfront. But those with those features are not so well off.

It seems that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), who has the responsibility for property assessment, is using an approach to assessing MFTIP properties in a way that I cannot quite grasp but that largely negates the Province's intent of providing incentive to woodlot owners. It seems that MNR has recently determined that 60% of MFTIP properties are getting little if any incentive for being in the program.

OFA and Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) are looking into this, and I would urge concerned readers to contact OWA, or Carla Grant at OFA, &/or Wade Knight at OWA.

Anne Koven, executive director, OFA says in a letter something I think I've seldom heard before. "These landowners own forest for many values from wood supply and income to recreation, habitat and conservation. Each has made a personal commitment of time and money to maintain the managed forest property class on their property and this dedication and effort is worthy of fair assessment and taxation. These forests, in turn, provide society with multiple values such as water source protection and strength and diversity of or rural economy. The managed forest property class and its associated tax incentive are important tools to encourage landowners to develop and attain stewardship objectives for their land."

## RENEWED TREE-PLANTING?

Trees Ontario Foundation (TOF) is an independent, non-profit arm of OFA, with the specific role of promoting and supporting tree planting in the province, and with a goal increasing the forested landscape on private lands. It was formed in 1992, about the time the province stepped out of its role in tree-planting on private land, and in producing nursery stock for that purpose. Private land tree planting has since decreased to about a tenth of what it was. Landowners are no longer interested. Yet the need is there, for all the reasons we've ever wanted trees, along with some new ones, like offsetting the effect of greenhouse gas emissions.

TOF would like to revive this activity, and to forestall the loss of the tree-planting expertise developed over a century. It seems that there is 930,000 hectares of "high-potential tree-planting area" in S. Ont., and 1,244,000 ha. province-wide. TOF seeks to develop a program to sustain a province-wide agency that would work with others, seek support for a tree-planting program, and ensuring that there is enough of the right kinds of planting stock affordably available. They would do this in partnership with as many as possible like-minded agencies.

They looked into whether there is interest among owners and others, whether land is available, and whether there is a capacity to provide enough of the right kinds of planting stock. It seems there is interest in tree-planting. Owners want to do it. The rest of us think it's a good thing. It seems we can produce suitable planting stock.

So why isn't it happening: Several reasons: costs too much to buy and plant trees, though some subsidies are available in some places; people may be choosy as to species & quality; suitable stock may be unavailable; owners may not know where to go for stock or help; bad experiences with bad stock; too few people around reminding us that this is a good thing. .

TOF is considering a sizable program over the next few years, and will seek a wide range of partnerships and will do major fund-raising. They will approach the government for support. They are assuming there will be some form of meaningful owner incentive. They are hoping to meet a target of 100,000 hectares over 10 years. Rob Keen of Formac Forest Management Consultants described the Foundation's initiative to the OFA Conference, and described its business plan, which can be viewed at [www.80ivy.ca/Report.pdf](http://www.80ivy.ca/Report.pdf) . You can read more about TOF's hopes at [www.opfa.on.ca/TreesOntario.pdf](http://www.opfa.on.ca/TreesOntario.pdf) .

Mack's Comment:: Having my own property since 1946, having planted it 1946-55, with some additional WIA planting in 1979, seeing trees I planted myself, with family help, reaching pole size, working in MNR for over 30 years, and having some understanding of

the S. Ont. landscape, prompts a few thoughts. I would think that to know how big a planting program is needed, we must consider in detail what kind of landscape we want to leave to future Ontarians; how much forest is appropriate to that landscape, in relation to what is now there, and how much planting and other forms of regeneration are needed to attain and maintain that level of cover. How much of the desired forest can be achieved naturally, without planting. I would think we can then consider what size of planting program is needed.

I think we must recognize that while sound forestry, including tree planting, may benefit the owner, it is likely to benefit society to a vastly higher degree, in the economics of harvesting trees, in the wildlife that live there, in the water conservation, in recreation and education opportunities, and in community aesthetics. Since society benefits richly, does it not make sense for society to bear a share of the costs and the risks. I would hope for a fresh look at arrangements between landowner and society, in the form of tax breaks, availability of planting stock and other forest management needs, availability of technical expertise, subsidies for long-term Silvicultural work, will somehow be part of a renewed reforestation effort.

I am also aware of a certain amount of maple syrup tree orchard work, to meet a long term need to expand an existing sugar bush. In that situation, where they got their planting stock made perfect sense: they moved choice young trees from within their existing bush. I believe they even did tests to help select ones whose sap would have high sugar content.

## JOHN RILEY AT THE OFA MEETING

John Riley, formerly with MNR, then FON, now Conservation Director for Nature Conservancy Canada, outlined some trends in the Southern Ontario forest. The region was 90% forested pre-settlement, then went way down and then rebounded somewhat. As early as 1871 the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, expressed alarm about this. Reforestation began around 1900 when some farms started blowing or washing away. Our old growth forest is mostly gone (there is some in neighbouring states), so if we want it we'll need to regrow it from scratch. Most of our wetland is gone. Our trees are longer-lived than most in Canada, but the average age in S. Ont. has dropped to around 50 years. Continued fragmenting has drastically reduced the amount of unbroken interior, with serious implications for creatures that need that kind of habitat. Landowners find it increasingly difficult to plant trees. Beginning with the chestnut blight, then the Dutch elm disease, there's now a possibly deadly threat for just about every tree species in the Southern Ontario forest, and seemingly precious few weapons with which to meet these threats. And public education in forestry and environment is at a new low. These are formidable

challenges that must be met if we are to move into a new era in this region.

#### TRAILS (With Bob Baker)

Bob Baker, formerly with Credit Valley Conservation Authority, spoke about trails in the woodlot. Bob sees trails as a very personal thing; they connect you with your land and your reasons for having it: your space in history, your love of land, your joy of the outdoors. (When I used to work in an office I felt my escape to reality was a day on my forest property. More recently I was there on Sept. 11, 2001, and for the whole day was unaware of the day's dreadful events). It is your place to relax, to reflect, to have new dreams, to learn from one another, be a whole person..

He sees four stages to trails: indoor planning, a walkabout, building the trail, maintaining it. Your planning considers the property's history, features like stream and road crossings, wetland, historic logging activity, existing trails (like Bruce, Trans-Canada), why you want the trail (walk, hike, ski, snowshoe, snowmobile, horse, tractor, car---for access, for pleasure, for watching the place, for work); is there a vista, a new or special forest, a windswept area, anything else with personal meaning, deer runs, den or cavity trees, brush piles, seasonal or permanent wet spots, plant life, overgrown fence rows, rock faces, interesting boulders.

The actual trail layout can be done with an air photo and lots of flagging tape. It can be sized up at various times of year, sizing up places to stop and fully enjoy all the interesting spots. Some topographic features are best observed with the leaves off. Spring vegetation, of course, is best observed in season.

He has some thoughts for trails on steep terrain: try to avoid, or use switchbacks. Laying timbers across the trail can be considered to minimize erosion.

Stream crossings can be simple or elaborate. They can have simple stepping stones, or bridges; natural materials are a good idea. When in place, a bench or two can be placed for enjoyable viewing. Board walks can be used on wet areas.

He suggests equipment for trail building such as: pole saw, lopping shears, hand saw, rope for moving large objects, stepladder for pruning to desired height, chain saw (with proper safety gear), spade. Lengthy straight lines can be avoided.

The trail location and the actual finished trail will reflect intended use. Where wetness is a problem the trail can be crowned. It can be bordered with timbers.

He suggests trails in stacking loops, starting with a single loop, then another, then adding to a growing system. (On my own place, the main access that's

been there since before I had the place forms a loop at the back, with a couple of smaller loops and side trails, some of it easily drivable. I would like, at least on paper, to connect these in a way that roughly forms a perimeter trail around the place).

#### HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION AT THE OFA CONFERENCE.

A feature of the OFA conference was a presentation by several HWOA members of experiences in their woodlots. The room was packed so I think I missed some of it. David Devillers spoke of his 200-acre woodlot since 1988. His road system was completed in 1993; he's done early thinning of red pine, he has built a sugar shack and is gradually expanding his maple syrup operation; maple syrup time is now a family event.

Donna McQuay observed some of the values of woodland for nature, including food, cover and water for a range of animal life. There is growing interest in wild turkeys in the region, which enjoy forest and open habitat. Rain-(or dew-?) soaked vegetation can go far to meet the water needs of some wildlife. Den trees are valuable. fallen trees are also. Presence of salamanders indicates healthy habitat. Many wild flowers would not exist without forest habitat. Old growth forest reminds us of how things were, and can be a spiritually uplifting experience. The forest can have a variety of colours and textures to appeal to the senses. The forest is a very complex community.

Helen Malloy, a backyard naturalist, has had her 45 acres for about 15 years. It is about 25 ac. mixed hardwood, and 20 ac. of old pasture with some white pine. When she and her husband began, they joined OFA, HWOA, took a woodlot course, and got into the managed forest tax incentive program. Their goals are recreation, firewood, wildlife, and the joy of a healthy forest. They do culling in the woodlot to support three fireplaces, they have salamanders—Donna's sign of good health. They try to leave fallen trees for their value as a fallen tree. They have a network of trails including a perimeter trail. Helen is a licensed wildlife custodian, and does some animal recovery work, keeping recovering animals in cages. The cages are often visited by critters from the wild.

The Laking family have owned their 200-acre woodlot near Dufferin Forest since 1922. In those days they bought it for \$400 and paid for it over 10 years. It is near the remains of a logging railway, that used a lot of wood to generate steam to haul the logs. The family cuts some firewood, including things like storm-damaged trees. Jim Laking began his own connection with the woodlot when he biked from Barrie and would camp in the woodlot. The beech tree in which he carved his name still stands. He has kept track of how fast certain trees have grown. He has a perch lookout which he uses to observe and photograph

wildlife. He needs fencing, to deter trail bikers. He has taken trees from the property for use in his own back yard near Barrie.

How beautifully these and other owners show that there is far more to the forest than timber. If I can add a favourite of mine: the retired teacher who sometimes walks my trails and dreams of bringing classes to such a setting to learn art, drama, music. And one I just read: a couple, both retired musicians, who serenade visitors to their sugar bush. And communities like Elmira and Warkworth that make real events of their maple syrup festivals, the wine & cheese and lantern-lit trails at Kortright Centre for Maple Syrup Festival.

## ENVIROTHON

Ontario Forestry Association is redoubling its efforts to promote Envirothon, especially in Southern Ontario and in the Toronto Area. Envirothon began over 20 years ago in the USA, OFA began a pilot project in 1994, and in 2000-01 involved 160 Ontario schools. This program reaches out to secondary students in grades 9-12. It takes students into contact with nature, giving them hands-on experience there is scant time for in the classroom. It can use resource practitioners—or retirees—who can share their skills, knowledge and experience with students. Anyone interested in being involved may contact Maia Becker at OFA, 416 493 4565 or [maiab@oforest.on.ca](mailto:maiab@oforest.on.ca). We in forestry have so much we can share with keen young students, by sharing our forestry expertise, promotion, and in other ways. From doing volunteer classroom work (no, sorry, not in forestry) with much younger (grade 1-6) students, I know how rewarding such contact can be.

More can be learned about Envirothon on [www.ontarioenvirothon.on.ca](http://www.ontarioenvirothon.on.ca), its origin and history, its record in Ontario, its goals and program, and an impressive record of positive reactions to it by former participants.

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT

I keep daydreaming that our future forest may be very different from anything we've previously seen, in which highly intensive management, agroforestry, permaculture, forest gardening, tree orchards, and more may have a role.

I recently was given a booklet "A Photographic Treatise on How Best to Grow Veneer Quality Lumber" by Andy Dixon, who died in 2002 at age 95. The booklet was published by Northumberland Stewardship. Andy over his lifetime grew a variety of hardwoods and white pine, using very wide spacing and pruning from early age up to 20 feet. This way he was achieved good diameter growth and high quality

knot-free logs in a very short time. He did this largely on the relatively rich soils and climate of SW Ontario.

## FROM EASTERN ONTARIO MODEL FOREST: BASKET WEAVING.

A second black ash basket-making workshop (from standing tree to finished basket) hosted by EOMF in Martintown, will be given by Richard David of the Mohawk Community of Akwesasne, will be hand-on, will include preparing splint, weaving. Each person will create his/her very own basket.

## FERGUSON NURSERY FOREST.

In EOMF's newsletter is an article on the land around the former Provincial Nursery in Kemptville. Bordering the Rideau R. & Kemptville Creek is an 800-acre forest that was part of the nursery property and served as a demo of forest uses, including trails for recreation and public education. When MNR closed the nursery a few years ago the forest fell into neglect. Later the nursery operation was taken over privately, and appears to be operating successfully. In Jan 2002 the Ferguson Forest Centre Corporation assumed management of the Nursery forest.

A first step is to restore a 2.6 km. "Management Trail" starting at a log shelter near the nursery greenhouses and extending 2.6 km. to near Kemptville Creek. It had once been used by up to 4000 children yearly on school outings, where they learned things like tree ID, ecosystems and forest management. It was enjoyed by many who just enjoy walking the trails. It is to be a walking trail; a separate trail is being considered for mountain bikes; surfacing the trail with wood chips to help mark it and make walking easier, filling in holes especially wet ones, clearing brush from the sides and branches from above. and putting up signs indicating that the trail is for walking, snowshoeing and skiing.

Many worthwhile things in life would not happen without a driving force or champion or someone who sees a need and just says "do it." Alf Campbell is mentioned, who is President of the Ferguson Forest Centre, a forester who has worked in the Kemptville area since 1957, as the force behind trail restoration.

## MAKING SOCIETY WORK

In recent months I've heard five speakers address the LIFE Institute, a seniors' education group at Ryerson University, the Coalition for a Green Economy, and at the Sustainability Network. Their ideas for making society work better should inspire and challenge all of us. I feel a message for sustainable forestry can be read into them, one of working hard for the forest we want, not to be discouraged by seemingly impossible obstacles, to do it as part of our jobs, as an individual, or within the many organizations we belong to,

Colin Isaacs, an environmental consultant, believes that business and industry have a key role in making environmental change work. But they cannot do so unless it can be done profitably.

Bob Willard, a retired senior corporate executive, says, as he did in his book “The Sustainability Advantage” that companies that are responsible environmentally and socially (e.g. with work force, in the community) are more likely to be profitable. He refers to a triple bottom line: economic, social, environmental.

Bronwyn Drainie looked at the power of the civil sector (as did E.O. Wilson in his book “The Future of Life” to do things that business and industry cannot and should not do. The civil sector (charities, service organizations, and others) can see a need, enlist the funds and people and/or exert public pressure to make things happen. She also notes that important things can be done by communities that organize.

Mitchell Kosny, a planner, wonders how cities and other communities can remain “the kind of place we want to live in.” He urges the widest possible citizen involvement in planning and other civic processes. More of us need to overcome inertia or the burnout of everyday life to become seriously engaged in thinking about what we want and making it happen. Genuine public participation may be a painfully slow way of doing things, but the result will justify the patience.

Thomas (Tad) Homer-Dixon sees the world changing so rapidly as to test severely human ability to guide the changes in a desired direction. He also sees a wealth of human ingenuity (the ability to generate ideas and apply them to the work at hand). Too often it is not available when needed; too often it is discouraged or misdirected. In his book “The Ingenuity Gap” he urges us all to hang in.

Too often things don’t turn out right., but he sees signs of hope: ideas of how to do more with less demand on environment and resources, ideas to lessen financial volatility, and more. He feels it would help a lot if there are changes in our values and our perception of ourselves.

So what has all this to do with us concerned with S. Ontario forestry? I think it is to recognize that things have room for improvement, for the sake of future generations, that the future may see a forest very different than we have had, to meet new conditions of the landscape, a growing population with growing consumption habits, and adjustment to whatever climate change takes place. We are challenged to help make that forest the kind that is needed for the future.

## FORESTRY EDUCATION

As I wrote the above, I wondered what I could say about individuals, who can have a widely varied role in the above, by themselves, or as part of an organization. Most of us can, and a few of us do, become champion of a cause. A classic example in forestry education might be Fernow; in reforestation Drury and Zavits, along with several foresters in the decades that followed.

Then there is Susan Gesner’s article in the current “Working Forest” about the need to enhance citizen forestry awareness. She has done much of this in the past through Ontario & Canadian Forestry Associations, and in her own consulting firm. She notes that forestry issues are important to Canadians (whether or not they know it); the job of forestry (and environmental) education rests not just with schools or government, but with all of us, especially for us with forestry knowledge. She notes that it is rather seldom that most of us acknowledge that “forest education is MY job.”

She suggests this has changed, that more of us realize that if we are to have a forest (I’d add, continue to be the world’s forest nation), we must all accept responsibility and start to work together. She challenges readers to do just that.

She notes that there are some exciting things happening along these lines, and cites a number of examples across Canada, including OFA’s growing activity with Envirothon. Close to home, I’d think both the Huronia Woodland Owners’ Association and the Huronia Loggers Association do this in different ways. The Woodland Owners take part in a number of events where they have the chance to explain forestry to the public. Loggers Association members put on tours for area schools in their mills and in their logging operations. Our own Section maintains a forestry presence at the Kortright Centre with its input to fall colour and maple syrup events, and the prospect of a forestry display.

Susan notes the rather considerable barriers that crop up (and must somehow not be allowed to stop us); one I can think of is the elimination of environmental education from classrooms and the loss of outdoor education capability. Kids I know in a couple of Toronto schools are lucky to get one day a year at an outdoor ed. facility, and I wonder if even that will be around much longer.

Susan suggests a number of ways we can each help, ways like: personal commitment to forest education—the payoff will take time but it will come. If you are involved in a certification program, maximize its public participation component. If there is an advisory committee (she’s referring to the certification process; why not municipal advisory committees as well), do all you can to provide learning opportunity. Let

teachers know of anything you can get, freebies or anything else, that would help them.

She also suggests writing articles for teacher magazines and newsletters. I have done a forestry page for the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association's newsletter for over 5 years, and have begun a regular page for the Huronia Woodland Owners; these seem to be well received.

She says "No more excuses." I'd have said what's holding you/me back? What has to be overcome? I answer that so often you feel you're tossing all that effort into a huge black void, and have to fight back wondering what's the use. So often there's no discernible response, but once in a while, you find that it only took a single phone call or a 10-minute visit or a chance comment to win a new forestry champion. She challenges each of us to accept the responsibility for forest education, and find, create and celebrate ways to help others understand the forest.

She didn't talk about schoolyards, but I know it's one of her interests. Some schools have treed areas, others have access to nearby wooded areas. The positive impact on students and staff and on the school environment is well known, yet the concern to get rid of them if they pose a safety and security risk is strong. I'd think that if all of Ontario's 6000 or so schools had forest, or access to it, and students were taught to respect and nurture them, and if the community were involved, it would make a world of difference to public forestry awareness. I think if people realized that those school grounds are among our worst heat islands, and the implications arising from that, that things might change.

#### GOOD NEWS FROM THE GRAND

The current issue of "Grand Actions" newsletter of the Grand River Conservation Authority, features a cash crop and dairy farm in Oxford County that has been owned by the same family since 1918. Its owners have done many things to improve soil quality and the quality of Kenny Creek which crosses the farm. Besides grassed waterways on rolling land, and a soil saver (whatever that is) to reduce soil loss in corn fields, and manure application techniques that minimize runoff, they planted windbreaks 20 years ago and again more recently. They have also used trees to buffer the creek from the impacts of farming and to retire fragile lands along the creek.

The newsletter also notes a retired teacher in the Brantford area who, among a whole range of interests promotes the Grand Conservation Authority's tree nursery at Burford, and its renowned American chestnut recovery program. Her interest in chestnut is life-long: when her parents built their house they used chestnut wood for trim. Her promotion of the nursery, by distributing its brochures widely to, e.g.

horticultural groups. She also does a one-person letter-writing campaign to the conservation authority, to government and to Buckingham Palace; her letters often begin: "If I were chairman of the authority, mayor, prime minister, etc. I would -----." Her promotion of the nursery has been very effective in terms of tree restoration work.

Outdoor education program supported by Grand River Conservation Foundation. Have five outdoor education centres in the watershed. Visited by over 40,000 school children yearly from schools in the watershed, with 10,000 more coming with family, group and camp programs.

#### WHERE DID I GET THESE?

The Dalai Lama apparently said: anyone who thinks that small things can't make a difference has not been in bed with a mosquito.

Someone else said: We tend to think that protecting forests is the responsibility of government and foresters. It is not. The responsibility is ours individually.

An expert is anyone who's far enough from home.

#### LEGACY FOREST

"The Working Forest" has an article about Legacy Forest, which has been established as an ideal place for forestry research, education and baseline data collection. It is a collaboration of private and public interests, coordinated by the Faculty of Forestry at Lakehead University. Research is aimed at the relationship between intensity of silviculture treatments and site biodiversity, ecosystem function and non-timber values. There will be studies in recreation, tourism, socio-economics, wood supply and quality, aquatic and terrestrial environments. A goal is to provide a single data base, so that researchers coming to the Forest will have a wealth of data to draw from, into which they in turn will contribute.

The Legacy Forest is part of Bowater's Dog River-Matawin Forest, which has been actively managed for over 50 years. Adjacent Quetico Park offers control in the form of being a designated wilderness forest with minimal human intervention.

#### ATLANTIC FORESTRY REVIEW. (AFR)

Just when I thought I had my material complete for this issue I received the March AFR, this time with lots of articles relating to various of my articles.

1, Susan Gesner has been conducting a series of four workshops across Canada to identify ways to help owners to achieve sustainable woodlot management. Besides the one in Amherst NS, which was reported here, others were in St. Albert, AB, also in BC and in Eastern Ontario. The Model Forest Network seems to be very much involved in this, four Model Forests (Fundy, Nova Forest Alliance, Bas St.-Laurent, and E. Ont.) each have considerable private land. They have a Private Woodlot Strategic Initiative to work with woodlot owners and others.

A report was examined which has a vision for sustainable management of Canadian woodlots, a vision with five components.

- a. all woodlots seen and managed as healthy forest ecosystems.
- b. woodlot management planning at regional and landscape levels.
- c. balance between commercial & non-commercial activities, within communities, provinces, and nation-wide.
- d. highly effective communication among stakeholders.
- e. comprehensive understanding of available woodlot resources and owner demographics values and objectives will be developed.

In a discussion of owner education needs, it was noted that there is a lack of social motivation for owners to support ecologically sound management.

2. Triad forestry is a new term to me. Seems it divides the forest into three classes, each with its function and management. a. intensively managed areas, primarily plantations, that produce high quality and quantity fibre. b. protected areas exclusively managed for wildlife and other ecological purposes. c. all areas in between: extensively managed, and harvested using established silvicultural methods.

3. The NB Forest Products Association has a goal to double wood fibre production over the next 50 years.

4. There is growing interest in the merit of managing forest on a landscape basis, be it watershed or some other feature (like the Oak Ridges and Oro Moraines). But people are apt to throw up their hands at the prospect of doing this where the land is in private holdings of a few acres. But the Fundy Model Forest in southern NB has had marked success with this. They have met with many woodlot owners and find that it may not be that difficult. Many owners would be willing to follow a management plan that would contribute to enhancing their landscape ecology.

## GAVIOTAS: A VILLAGE TO REINVENT THE WORLD

One of my all-time favourite books is "Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World." By Alan Weisman. Chelsea Green Publ. Co., White River Junction, Vermont. I have mentioned it before, the truly inspiring story of a village in Colombia's hinterland, that for 30 years has proven it can not just survive but thrive in an extremely harsh setting, and in the midst of bloody civil strife, and come up with ways of doing things that have been used in many Latin American communities.

I mention it again because it appears in quite a number of internet sites, some of which provide an update. I think anyone who does not have the book but wants to share some the excitement can do an internet search for "Gaviotas." I have also just acquired a 26-minute video. Likely it's the one whose script is in [www.urbanecology.org/gaviotas/about.htm](http://www.urbanecology.org/gaviotas/about.htm) -Scroll down to Reading and click on Script from the Gaviotas video.

The book shows how a community of around 200, founded in 1971 in the most brutal environment of the Colombian interior, and in the presence of a bloody civil war, where much of the territory is either controlled or influenced by various warring factions. The story focuses on a number of things. First the leader and other people of extraordinary vision and drive. Then how they took existing solar and wind technology and advanced it in ways I've not heard of anywhere else. How they developed a society that included indigenous people, former street kids from the cities, engineers, artists, architects, intellectual people and many other ordinary people, in a spirit of collaboration not competition, where children had a voice, and matching responsibility, like everyone else. How they gained UN recognition as model for the world. How they developed a cheap blend of cement and soil as a building material.

For us, one of the highlights is their forest, some 36,000 acres, planted to Caribbean pine imported from Honduras, in "los llanos," a harsh savanna region, with conditions that have excluded forest for millennia, and which covers vast areas in South American countries. From those trees they have extracted "colofonia", a resinous substance which forms an alternate raw material for paints. It is taken from each tree through a series of diagonal slashes, something like tapping rubber trees.

Tropical rain forest in the region is pretty much confined to river valleys of the Amazon and Orinoco rivers. (Sounds a bit like forest cover on the edges of the Canadian prairie, which tends to be in the valleys). As the plantations developed, tropical rain forest tree, plant and animal species began to appear as an

understory. (Sounds not unlike our S. Ont. pine plantations, but with many more species).

It was noted that the Gaviotan trees grew faster and produced more resin than those of similar plantations in neighbouring countries. It was also noted that the Gaviotans did things differently in at least two ways: their tree nursery soils were managed in such a way that the seedlings were shipped out with roots loaded with mycorrhizae; and they decided to accept the understory vegetation that was coming in densely, and not use herbicides to try to eliminate it. Concerns of some critics that this pine might become an invasive (a bit like Scots pine here?) were eased because the trees would not reproduce in this setting.

One review notes that in 30 years they have: achieved energy self-sufficiency, with solar, wind and biomass; established sustainable industries such as a zero-emission resin factory; created a hospital and medicinal plant research centre; reforested 36,000 acres and reintroduced biodiversity; governed themselves with remarkable equanimity.

Among their achievements, they designed solar water heating and refrigeration that is widely used in the region; identified plants with highly useful medicinal values; made effective windmills that look like overgrown sunflowers and will operate in a gentle breeze; made solar panels that capture energy even on an overcast rainy day.

Their pine plantations are used not for timber but for resin. As they age they are gradually being harvested to help make the community fully self-sufficient in energy, and the pine is being replaced by the tropical rain forest understory. (Not unlike our pine plantations, but with a far greater richness of plant & animal species).

Readers may wish to go to [www.zeri.org/systems.htm](http://www.zeri.org/systems.htm), go to "reforestation finances drinking water, and click on to both "pictures" and "slide show "(25 slides). They may also go to [www.simpleliving.org/catalog/fulltext/Gaviotas](http://www.simpleliving.org/catalog/fulltext/Gaviotas) On that site is also a draft magazine article. [www.chelseagreen.com/Gaviotas](http://www.chelseagreen.com/Gaviotas) is the book publisher's web site, where you will find the 1998 announcement of the book; also a 2002 update by the author, both exciting reading. The workshop mentioned in the update did take place in New Mexico; I am told there may be a similar 3-day workshop in Colorado in fall, 2003. [www.motherjones.com/mother\\_jones/weisman.html](http://www.motherjones.com/mother_jones/weisman.html) has Weisman's magazine article. [www.context.org/ICLIB/IC42/Colombia.htm](http://www.context.org/ICLIB/IC42/Colombia.htm) has another article, as has

<http://technopapa.tripod.com/about.html> and <http://dsf.colorado.edu/archive/1996/balance2/0150.html>

## TWO BOOKS ABOUT MERVE WILKINSON

I've felt privileged to have had my forest property since 1946, witness the transformation, & see the trees, many of which I planted myself, with much help from parents & siblings, reach small sawlog size. Living 120 km. away and otherwise fully occupied limited the things I could do there, but did not stop me from dreaming of being able to do highly intensive management. And dreaming about how much of a living one could make from 40 hectares of this.

Around 1989 I heard of a man, Merve Wilkinson, who has lived on and made much of his living from 137 acres of forest at Ladysmith, near Nanaimo, BC. Since then his name has kept cropping up in various places, and recently I learned of and acquired two books about Merve and his property, Wildwoods.

He bought his property in 1938 (137 acres for \$1,500), it was typical west coast rain forest, with quite a mix of tree species and ages, and abundant other plant and animal life. He has lived in it ever since. He began to manage it in 1945; by 1995 it had been logged nine times, and still retained much of its original volume and species composition. There are significant numbers of large trees and amounts of dead and dying trees, and woody debris. Many of the largest and best trees he has kept. The abundant and diverse wildlife has become accustomed to Merve's being there.

Wildwoods became well-known publicly during the 1980's. It has been described as a forest garden, for the way he cares for and about each tree and each other element of his forest. A senior forester visiting from Germany called it "a working forest; also a forest that works." Merve has become a passionate champion of sustainable forestry, and took active part in the protests against clear-cutting on Vancouver Island a decade or so ago.

He has lectured in many places in BC and in the western US. The Environmental Sciences department at University of Victoria routinely includes Wildwood in its program of field trips.

Merve has received many awards, among them the Order of BC and the Order of Canada.

One of the books is "Magnificently Unrepentant", the other "Wildwood". Both are in the catalogue of "The Forest Shop." [www.forestshop.com](http://www.forestshop.com)

# Canadian Institute of Forestry Southern Ontario Section

**EVENT: Annual Meeting**

**DATE / TIME: Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 AM**

**LOCATION: Simcoe County Museum, Minesing, Ontario**

**THEME: County Forests and Forest History**

**How to get there:** (Highway 400 north to Barrie. Exit from highway 400 onto Bayfield Street North which becomes highway 26/27. Follow it north for 10 km. to the junction of highways 26 and 27. Turn left (west) on highway 26. Simcoe County Museum is on your left (south) side about 1 km. from the junction.)

Registration is \$20.00. Please register in advance to help with lunch arrangements.

Members and non-members welcome to attend.

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## Program

9:30 Registration and tour of museum

10:00 Welcome: Bruce Ferguson, chairman, SOS  
TBA, County of Simcoe  
Gloria Taylor, Museum Curator

10:10 Simcoe County Forest History, Ken Reese, Former Superintendent of Midhurst Tree Nursery

Forestry in Simcoe Today - 10:30 Earl Dertinger, North Simcoe Stewardship Council  
10:50 Al Foley, Ontario Tree Seed Plant  
11:10 Anne-Marie Roussy – Maple Leaves Forever

11:30 CIF-SOS Annual Meeting. Awards, reports, elections etc.

12:15 Lunch

1:00 Tour bus departure

1:15 Hendrie County Forest – Ed Sutherland, Simcoe County Forester

2:15 My Tree Farm – Mac Williams

3:15 Tour Returns to Museum

3:45 Adjournment

**Meeting Registration Form**

I hereby register for the CIF/SOS Annual Meeting and Field Day (Midhurst) to be held on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and I enclose registration(s) for \_\_\_\_ Attendees.

Names covered by enclosed registration: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this form and a check for \$20.00 X attendees to:

George Sinclair, CIF\_SOS Treasurer  
3 Clemson Crescent  
Box 783  
Maple, Ontario L6A 1S7