

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY  
SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECTION  
NEWSLETTER

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Re the above: Please note Chairman Bruce's new address.

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

We are considering e-mailing the newsletter in future to those with e-mail addresses who wish to receive it that way. Let us know if you wish to receive it that way, and that we have your correct e-mail addresses. Contact Caroline or Mike.

CHAIRMAN BRUCE FERGUSON'S  
PERSPECTIVE: A WOODLANDS ACCORD FOR  
SOUTHERN ONTARIO

The transformation of the Southern Ontario landscape continues at an alarming rate. Take a ride around the GTA or any major city and all you see is new construction. A continual surge of population growth has many parts under an unprecedented pressure from urban and industrial development. So much so that municipal planners seem overwhelmed at the task of managing growth so it is in harmony with the natural landscape. Yet everyone knows the outcome of this kind of discord with nature: a failing environment and human sickness.

There has never been a time when such a common purpose should unite people to step back from the chaos and develop a common vision based upon real cooperation. NGO's, government, industry and business have to act together to create a future "City of Southern Ontario" where every vista has a natural heritage of trees, healthy watersheds and clean air.

An unprecedented partnership is needed to

develop a common vision for a healthy settled landscape within the tolerances of the natural ecosystem. A pact of common principles should be forged and communicated. A "Woodlands Accord" may serve to unite a diversity of interests to embark on an agenda of restoration, rehabilitation and sensitivity to preserving as much of the remaining woodlands as possible.

So rather than having a future of Southern Ontario as Canada's largest sick city, but as Canada's largest and healthiest urban forest, I hope that in coming Newsletters we can report real progress on developing some kind of "Woodlands Accord" that unites all interested parties in pursuit of a common vision.

In this Newsletter is a report of our January 9 meeting at the University of Toronto; we heard about private land forestry from a panel of experts. On March 9 our Section will host the first ever Silver Ring ceremony at Sir Sandford Fleming College. That afternoon Section members will have an interactive session to discuss the erosion of numbers of applicants for forestry programs at our Universities. Why is forestry failing as a profession of choice when the public's sensitivity to environmental issues has never been stronger? What can forestry practitioners do to re-appeal to the younger generation that forestry is the knowledge based profession of the future? Please join us on March 9 and provide your input to this most urgent debate.

(Mack's penny's worth: Bruce has described the need for urgent attention. Elsewhere in this newsletter is reported a book on the urgency of dealing with climate change. Our medical practitioners warn that people are dying from breathing polluted air--not just in the city, but everywhere, and that a growing proportion of all

illness can be traced to polluted air, land, water, etc. The problems are many, or maybe one with many facets. The Southern Ontario forest can contribute to their solution.

It's all very daunting, so we may need to remind ourselves: things were not good 100 years ago, or in the 1940's. But around 1940 the actions of some people who came together out of concern for conservation started a movement that achieved a major turnaround. There has been a lot more good forestry since 1940 than before it. And there are some heartwarming stories worldwide to demonstrate that Bruce's vision is within reach, if society can summon the determination to make it happen. And I can think of almost endless numbers of partners to Bruce's Accord.)

YOUR SECTION COUNCIL MET NOV. 20 AND JAN. 9.

Council met at Kortright Centre for Conservation (KCC) on Nov. 20. Chairman Bruce, Jim Cayford, Jim Coats, John Nolan, Mike Clarke, George Sinclair, Mack Williams were present, also Peter Attfield, KCC's Coordinator of Volunteers & Fundraising. Peter conveyed KCC's thanks for our ongoing contribution to, & interest in, KCC's education effort. We reaffirmed our continuing interest in that effort, and our thanks for being able to meet here.

Peter explained KCC's planned expansion of scope beyond its traditional themes, to become a centre for sustainability, a part of The Living City, for people to learn about their ecological footprint. We look forward being whatever help we can.

Bruce explained CIF's interest in promoting awareness of, and providing a voice for, Canadian forestry. He gave a set of three attractive new posters explaining CIF, available from CIF National, for display in suitable locations, for KCC to use at their discretion.

He reviewed our hope for an indoor display, perhaps seasonally changable, with the wooded outdoors as background. Our design committee might include Tony Molnar & Harvey Anderson.

Bruce, Mike & Mack would be kept informed on this and other section projects.

Other section business items included: considering recognition of Sir Sandford Fleming College as a school graduating technicians that will now receive the CIF graduates' rings; considering future joint CIF-OPFA membership; how the Section can promote Continuing Forestry Education (CFE), for example by holding meetings that qualify for CFE credit. OPFA is developing a way to keep track of CFE credits earned by each member.

Jim Coats outlined the year's section program in a leaflet that went to readers with the November Newsletter. This will be followed up with a more detailed notice of each meeting.

A nominating committee made up of Past Chairman Mike and two section members will seek nominations for next year's council.

George reported on section finances: we have \$1767.88 as of Oct. 25, incl. members' section dues for this year. Future costs include newsletter, meeting notice mailings, section meeting costs, cost of sending a delegate to the CIF Board of Directors' 2002 meeting in North Bay in September.

CIF National wants section endorsement of the ring ceremony arrangement for technicians. Jim Cayford & Jim Coats will examine this prior to our giving endorsement. Issues related to this seem to include joint membership with OPFA, continuing education, and ring awards.

Jim Cayford & Jim Coats will redraft SOS by laws, noting changes to conform to recently amended CIF by-laws, and to allow more flexibility in the role of each councillor.

We met again Jan. 9, at the lunch break during the section meeting. Bruce hopes to get the Kortright Centre committee in place and to go forth with our indoor display. Our bank balance: \$1695 as of Jan. 4. George preparing a simple budget. Jim Cayford & John Nolan continue to review section by-laws.

Long-time member Joe Mennill' death was noted. Joe had been at the section field meeting in October.

(Aside: A tiny item: A Kortright staff newsletter notes a small barn built 1856 in the Humber Valley has been dismantled & taken to Kortright for future restoration. It cautions readers not to get too close to where it is stored lest the rumour is true that the barn was haunted.)

#### YOUR SECTION METS JANUARY 9 IN TORONTO.

What a success! What a turnout! I lost count at around 43--members, students, friends, who met on the 4th floor of U of T's Earth Sciences Centre. From the adjacent corridor you can actually look down on trees: the Boreal forest courtyard three floors below. We discussed the changing role of forestry practitioners in S. Ont.'s forest, & the changing landscape of that forest. We were superbly led by Andy Kenney, head of U of T's Urban Forest Centre, a CIF member, coordinator of FON's effort to further S. Ont. forest conservation, and President of Ont. Urban Forestry Council (OUFC).

Andy used maps to point out that much of the off-Shield part of S. Ont. forest is within the urban-periurban forest influence. (As is most of the E. Ont. Model Forest and beyond that much of the area along the St. Lawrence River.) (I'd just add the interspersed farm and forest). He also noted that OUFC and York Region will host the 5th Urban Forestry Conference at Embassy Suites, Markham, October 7-9, 2002.

Chairman Bruce described CIF as a voice for Canadian forestry & for quality forest practices & practitioners; our role in the forest of S. Ont. In S. Ont., CIF will be concerned with how we can contribute to optimizing: the considerable flow of material & other forest products; the forest's contribution to quality of life; the need for research. There will be growth in manufacture & employment, with great scope to expand over the next decade or so. (My Q: how to ensure that our forest is big enough, healthy enough & properly located & managed to meet its full potential to

satisfy all this. How to bring on-side the 100,000 or so owners of that forest).

CIF might help through: working for land use policy change, public awareness, lifelong learning and adaptive management (i.e. learning from experience), innovation, positive progress, supporting research, education, training, encouraging productive healthy forestry, safeguarding our landscape heritage, promoting a "forest accord" of NGO's & others who share our passion for S. Ont. forest sustainability.

OPFA Exec. Dir. Rick Monzon discussed the changing role of R.P.F.'s in the changing S. Ont. forest. OPFA's evolving role will be to register foresters, govern what they can do & who can practice forestry in Ont. Priority activities will include a strategic plan, a continuing education program that will become mandatory for professional foresters, monitoring & peer review of work done. This is consistent with the prospect of increased provincial regulation & monitoring of professionals, & the need to balance the public and private interest. This comes at a time of increased municipal interest in areas like tree cutting by laws and increased municipal activity in safeguarding nature in its planning and other activities.

It comes at a time of similarly increasing needs of landowners, universities and colleges, NGO's, and others. Increasingly there is a need for professionals with balanced views of all aspects of natural systems, with a growing range of expertise, who are able to communicate well, and who are accountable, and who can be people of vision. There will be a growing need for foresters and other professionals. (Comment: if we are to have future candidate foresters, resource technicians, and other natural science professionals, and if we are to have citizens who understand or at least accept the need to protect and nurture our forests, it would help if they had far more exposure to the natural world in primary and secondary school than most now get). Finally there is a growing group of highly competent technicians who through intensive training, certification, and years of practice, have become highly skilled tree markers, and key people in modern forest management. Such people must

be recognized in any discussion of professionalism.

Rorke Bryan, Dean of Forestry at U of T., in his welcome, noted that forestry & forestry education are at a crossroads in Canada and abroad. In meetings with Deans worldwide, he learned of a general decline in candidates for forestry schools, while at Toronto this is somehow being turned around into growing enrolment. There is a lack of public understanding. That interest in forestry is reawakening is shown by things like an attendance of 500 at FON's "WoodsTalk" conference last summer. Forestry needs to take advantage of that reawakening public interest.

(About a year ago, I heard of a poll finding that public interest in environment is reawakening, and might be expected to peak over the next few years. Is this the same wave, does it intensify the trend Rorke describes, and does it emphasize Rorke's idea of riding the wave to greater heights? At the same time, environmental and outdoor education is being eliminated from what young people are taught in school; as well as the teaching of teachers who could teach this subject.)

I read elsewhere: The Faculty offers, in collaboration with Faculties like Arts & Science, & Applied Science & Engineering: i. undergrad. forest conservation program leading to a B.A., which focuses on communal forest management & forest policy; or B.Sc. which focuses on forest ecology. ii. Research programs leading to M.Sc.F. or Ph.D. degree in silviculture, ecology, soils, economics, management, or other. iii. Master of Forest Conservation (M.F.C.), a 16-month non-thesis program, focusing strongly on practical training, with Canadian & international residential field courses, & a 2-3 month internship. iv. a new program, Master of Wood Products Engineering, includes a research thesis & a 4-6 month internship with a company, who, with the student & the Faculty, benefits from the research.

After a buffet lunch, we heard from Jim Faught, forester & executive director of Federation of Ont. Naturalists (FON). FON has a major education program in conservation of nature, with a number of publications, including an education kit for

teachers. For some years FON focused on improving conservation of wetlands, making some valuable progress. Then came its focus on S. Ont. woodland conservation, the theme of its 2001 annual conference. In this area too it has a number of publications, one a CD-ROM of the proceedings of that annual conference and of its 1999 conference at Trent University. Its quarterly magazine "Seasons" has a circulation of 10,000 and reaches an estimated 100,000 readers.

FON is trying to construct the "bigger picture", an extension of the "Big Picture" of the Carolinian zone and similar work in the Eastern Ont. Model Forest. Jim notes that about 15% of the North American landscape is under some sort of protection, yet this, for example, is of limited use to wildlife since all the bits and pieces have yet to be well connected. So they will examine what is needed to complete the bigger picture, be it corridors, policy, whatever.

Earl Dertinger, stewardship coordinator for North Simcoe, spoke inspiringly of the make-up & role of the stewardship councils. There are 40 councils, 40 coordinators, & 500-600 citizens who serve voluntarily on the councils. He sees them as leaders of communities that strive to ease the strain of humanity on nature.

Earl spoke strongly on the value of bringing together as many people, organizations, etc. as possible in some form of partnership or alliance, and of developing political support. Some things he likes to stress:

1. informed decision-makers are needed.
2. Forest industry & the need for wood products is growing. Our forest can & must be managed to meet this need.
3. People need to know that good forestry does not degrade the site, but rather constantly upgrades both the site and the stand.
4. Many private land owners need to know that their trees are growing in value.
5. Main threats to the forest come from outside the forest.
6. People in Simcoe County & elsewhere have no idea of the value of trees & forests to their own economic, environmental & social wellbeing.
7. Woodland owners do a valuable public service, and need ever-better awareness, encouragement & support.
8. The stewardship councils have demonstrated the immense value of partnerships

in accomplishing things that would not happen if the partners worked just as hard but separately. Not just in forestry but in all conservation efforts. 9. They have demonstrated the value of all interested parties pitching in and contributing, not just letting the other guy do it.

The North Simcoe stewardship council has three objectives: i. enhance stewardship; ii. help owners plan & do good things; iii. improve coordination among all interested parties.

#### FUTURE CIF ANNUAL MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS.

In his talk at the section meeting, Chairman Bruce noted the following annual meetings: 2002: North Bay, Sept. 29-Oct. 3; 2003: Quebec City: to coincide with World Forestry Congress; 2004: Edmonton, jointly with SAF; 2005: Prince Albert; 2008: Fredericton (who have had their name in for some years to host a centennial of CIF and of UNB's forestry faculty).

He noted also: Ont. Forestry Ass'n's Annual Meeting & Conference & field tour, Feb. 8-9, in Toronto. Our own Section Meeting in Lindsay Saturday March 9 (note flyer with last newsletter and watch for detailed notice). OPFA's annual meeting at Bristol Place Hotel near the Airport April 10-11, with an urban forest field trip the first day. Our Section's Annual Meeting May 30 at Drysdale's & Somerville's Tree Farms. FON's annual meeting & conference at Port Rowan, May 31-June 2. Ontario Woodlot Association Annual Meeting in Peterborough March 2. Urban Forestry Conference at Embassy Suites, Markham Oct. 7-9. The Huronia Woodland Owners' Association Annual Meeting is likely to be in February.

#### HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION (HWOA) MEETS

On Tuesday, Nov. 13, HWOA met in Elmvale. Their Annual Meeting will be at Wye Marsh in February. They had a guest speaker, Steve Munro, General Manager of Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. This group, located in Parry Sound, has responsibility for management of the

Severn-French Forest, roughly the area between the Severn & French Rivers and between Georgian Bay and Algonquin Park.

Its area is 1.4 million hectares; of which 860,000 is Crown, and over 350,000 is productive Crown forest. Westwind does forest management in this area. It is an area of contrast, rising from 590' elevation at Georgian Bay to over 1500' inland. It has cold and warm water streams. It has both pine & hardwood forest. Its soils range from dominantly very shallow to the west to much deeper to the east.

For over a century the forest was logged for white pine, then hemlock, then yellow birch for veneer, then the best maple, in all a century of high grading. It must now be managed to bring back quality trees, and to support a sawlog economy.

Westwind has taken over the function formerly performed by MNR unit management. It has a board of directors representing the community and the industry. It aims to improve the forest and to provide a range of habitat, accommodating woodpecker trees, mast trees, supercanopy trees, cavity & nest trees. There are modified prescriptions for deer yards, reserves around lakes & streams, and buffers around private land. They use selection logging to reverse a history of high-grading logging. In white pine they most commonly use shelterwood. They are not using their allowable cut, related to the present low quality, and the need to build roads. There are 57 conservation reserves and 8 new provincial parks in the forest.

#### HWOA'S WHITE PINE AWARD

This award has been made yearly over the past 20? years. This year's recipient is Charlie Esson, who has had for decades a 400-acre property near Bracebridge, much of it was under WIA. He has restored it from a history of misuse. He has also been a forest stewardship council member, and a strong supporter of Envirothon.

#### ONTARIO URBAN FOREST COUNCIL'S ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR.

Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC), formerly Ontario Shade Tree Council, held its annual seminar Nov. 22 at Toronto's Black Creek Pioneer Village; it was titled "The Urban Forest: What is it to you? Why do we need it?"

Andy Kenney explored whether you can have a real forest in the city. Can it be an ecosystem? It is, but a different one. It has some parallel landscape features to the non-urban forest.

In nature you have canyons with unique climate & soil & vegetation patterns, and unique wildlife habitats within them. Canyons are quite common in the cities; often with wind tunnels, little soil or direct sunlight. Nature provides alvars & other areas of scant soil over a variety of bedrock. The city has many paved places like parking lots or paved playgrounds. Savanna occurs in nature and is similar to a lot of urban open space. Some urban areas have full forest cover. Forest cover in Toronto is about 20%, similar to that across rural S. Ont. About 7% of Toronto's landscape is in forested ravines.

Many of the issues in management of urban & other forests may have similar parallels. Things like vertical structure, the presence of shrubs, size and age class distribution, species diversity, and other. There are parallels and dissimilarities in the water cycle, in the energy budget, in their functions and in what it takes to ensure their long-term presence.

## THE CITY FOREST

Richard Ubbens, Chief forester for Toronto, examined in more detail the forest in the city. There is a need to work with other professionals and many citizens in defining, understanding and working with this forest. The forest must be accommodated in all planning and development, and not be an add-on or afterthought to other things.

The forest in a setting that is both natural and man-made must be better understood, like: how a tree or shrub interfaces with a house or other structure; how to accommodate trees where there

is continual change, e.g. excavation, working with overhead wires; what kind of tree(s) can be accommodated in the many places where soil volume may be limited. There is a need for wider understanding of the tree's needs; that areas stripped of topsoil during development may not be conducive to healthy trees; that excavation can seriously harm the roots of nearby trees; that in treed boulevards often seen between sidewalk and street the amount, shape and quality of space may be severely limited (besides restricted space, the soil may be compacted or stripped of topsoil), and preclude long-lived trees.

Janet Rosenberg, a well known landscape architect, notes that trees and shrubs, existing or newly planted, are important to development. A resident wants things like beauty, a businessman may have different priorities. Trees may make up a substantial part of a landscape architectural budget on any site. The city, tree nurseries, tree managers, and financial people must together ensure that what is being planted is ecologically sound, that the nurseries have some direction to grow what is needed, and that the quality of tree planting does not become the target of corner-cutting on cost in any project. It often helps if branches can be tied back to avoid damage during a project, or if construction equipment can be routed to avoid damage to roots of existing or new trees. Special soils under sidewalks may allow roots of boulevard trees to extend under and beyond the sidewalk.

The city is seen as a place where there is vast need to share information & expertise. This will help reduce the incidence of planted trees, shrubs, etc., that do not survive. There is lots of green without trees, and there is lots of things that can be planted that require minimal maintenance. There is a need to know, among all the expertise, who is making things happen.

## URBAN RESIDENTS' VIEWS OF TREES AND FORESTS.

Some time ago I discussed a spring, 2000, Environics survey of attitudes regarding land stewardship, reporting on two samples: rural landowners Canada-wide, & rural landowners in

Ontario. At the OUFC meeting, Andy Kenney described a May, 2001 Environics survey of 606 urban residents "Attitudes of Urban Residents toward Urban Forests & Woodlands Issues." It complemented the earlier survey, & included respondents who live in a city, town or village, & who own no rural property or less than two acres.

Nearly all think the presence of trees in their community is important. Most say presence of healthy trees in their community is important to their health. Over 80% feel the presence of woodlots & forests across S. Ont. is important. Almost 90% feel trees are important in helping improve air quality. Most feel trees are important in helping water quality, reducing effects of climate change & helping conserve energy by moderating building temperatures. In another part of the survey air quality issues are seen as the greatest local environmental concern.

Few feel the cost of looking after trees, or hazards to people or property e.g. from falling branches, are a serious problem. About half feel tree pollen is a problem. About 70% are concerned about tree condition in their community, and 80% about condition of rural S. Ont. forest. Human influences are seen as the greatest threat to trees.

60% feel the protection & maintenance of trees & forests in their community is excellent or good; 10% see it as poor. 80% feel the cost of maintaining & enhancing trees in their urban area should be paid mainly by the public sector, a few felt it should be private, and few felt it should be both.

About 70% make monthly or more frequent visits to treed or natural areas in their city, mostly to walk or hike; 20% do so less frequently. About 40% make regular visits to rural treed or natural areas, mostly to walk or hike. Lack of visits is attributed by most to lack of time, or for visits to rural forest, lack of transportation. About 10% are not interested in such visits.

People, asked what they would do to help the environment, most frequently said buy more energy-efficient appliances, or do less driving. These ranked above giving money to tree-planting projects.

About 60% said their household has spent money in the past 5 years on maintaining or preserving existing trees on their property. Just under half say their household has spent money on planting new trees on the property.

It is noted that about 80% of urban trees are in residential back yards, so their conservation is much more of a challenge.

#### INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN TREE PLANTING AND CARE.

LEAF (Local Enhancement & Awareness of Forests) does two things in the city: plant trees on private & public property, & raise community awareness of trees, forests, their care, & their value to the community.

They: i. hold workshops for various sized groups, in schools & elsewhere. ii. organize tree plantings, in the community and in back yards. iii. work with many kinds of groups, some in new housing projects. Some want to be involved despite a physical disability, e.g. elderly, or wheel-chair, they help people with no way to transport trees, they may help people for whom the cost of buying & planting a tree is too much. Most people they meet wish to do something for the environment &/or be a part of a tree planting.

They do pre-planting site visits, aimed at getting the right tree for the site and for its place in the city landscape, and at getting people involved. They use the occasion as an educational tool.

LEAF has learned that: it can build up trust, by its manner in working with others; the most effective message to people is a simple one, repeated many times; homeowner involvement is crucial; we need creative ways to engage and involve people as human inhabitants of the urban forest ecosystem.

#### URBAN FORESTRY AND THE MEDIA.

Daisy Moore, a gardener & broadcaster with a call-in gardening show, suggested some ways the

media, especially radio, can help convey the urban forestry message in a talk-show setting. Give accurate info in a way the listener can relate to, i.e. maybe not in technical terms used in the profession or beaurocracy. As much as possible relate info to the listener's specific environment, e.g. along the lake or on clay soil or on a north slope. Be as lively and entertaining as you can. Give just a bit more than what the listener asks for. Keep as up to date on the subject matter as possible. Have a good network as a source of good people to interview, or be asked for interviews by others. Deal with controversial matters as dispassionaetly and evenly as you can.

#### THE CEMETERY AS PART OF THE FOREST ECOSYSTEM

Jack Radecki of the Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries described his work in Toronto's 205-acre Mount Pleasant Cemetery. It & other large cemeteries may include sizable remnant patches of woodlot. His management includes an inventory of: trees prioritized for needed pruning or other maintenance; hazard trees to be dealt with; dense groves, e.g., of poplars needing thinning out; an elm program.

The cemetery includes an arboretum of trees from around the world. Includes trees that few may have seen elsewhere. They are building up a roster of staff and contractors to deal with tree management needs, including unforeseen needs.

They have developed a long term plan, a 3-year plan, and an annual plan. They are learning as they go the details of looking after the trees, including those offering wildlife habitat, and how to conserve a water course crossing the cemetery. The cemetery serves as part of a wildlife corridor, is close to the ravines, and coyotes have been seen there. They have an educational program, taking school, church & other groups on tours.

#### HACKBERRY TREES OF CARLETON PLACE.

The current Urban Forest Network Newsletter notes that in Carleton Place are a stand of 500 hackberry trees & a number of street trees. It is a

good urban tree; it suffered little ice storm damage in 1998. Seeds were collected in 2000 & stored at Ferguson Forest Centre (formerly Kemptville Nursery), to be planted in Carleton Place with the idea of maintaining genetic integrity. Trees may also be supplied from this source to nearby communities.

The town has an urban forest advisory council working on forest issues through initiatives such as: commemorative trees; a homeowner tree planting program; a 1999 damage inventory following the 1998 ice storm, leading to a program of trimming, removal, cabling and replacement of damaged trees. So far 688 trees have been trimmed, 12 cabled, 135 removed. 71 caliper trees, 100 saplings and 200 seedlings have been planted.

#### GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

In November Guy Dauncey of Victoria, B.C., came to Toronto with his book "Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Climate Change," 270 p. ISBN 0-86571-421-5. \$27.95 Cdn. Publ. by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC, V0R 1X0. 1 800 567 6772. [www.newsociety.com](http://www.newsociety.com) It gathers references, knowledge & wisdom on climate change, its urgency, causes & implications (pretty scary), suggests 101 solutions, some each for individuals, citizen groups, municipalities, businesses & organizations, energy, auto & other industries, provinces, developing & other nations, & the world.

His closing chapter notes that we live in a remarkable period. Since 1940 we have: waged history's most destructive & painful war; got rid of most dictatorships & tyrannies; removed many barriers to women participating in the world's affairs; looked back from space on Earth for the first time; doubled our population; increased natural resource use tenfold; polluted oceans, soils & atmosphere; eliminated more species than at any other time in history; moved beyond nationalism & tribalism toward a truly global society; created a global communications system & a global brain. All taken for granted, but all after 100,000 years of modern human existence.

He notes pessimistic thoughts that so easily consume us, then goes on: We see humans as having great capacity for creativity, & for compassion, imagination & action as well as for selfishness & ignorance. Once we were tribes, then nations, now learning to love the earth as a whole. Can we stop burning fossil fuels & stop destroying our soils & forests. Of course.

A crisis faces the world that invites us to act. Global climate change comes as a great teacher, underscoring Barry Commoner's 4 laws of ecology: i. Everything is connected to everything else; ii. everything must go somewhere; iii. nature knows best; iv. there is no such thing as free lunch (as I've heard elsewhere, TINSTAFL).

A profound leap in human understanding, insight & compassion awaits us if we open ourselves to the fullness of our situation & commence the transformation for which it calls. (Doesn't all of this apply to our thinking of the forest, both of S. Ont. and the world).

#### CANADA'S FOREST A CARBON SINK?

My brother Dan, sister Jane, & I grew up on the Oro Moraine, one of those parts of Southern Ontario that had had inappropriate land clearing. Our parents' vision led them into their major personal tree planting project on their property around 1930. It was exposed (you'd never know it now!); Jane recalls that when it was dry & the wind blew the sand from the blow holes & it got into everything--like into food in closed dishes in a closed cupboard in the house that was tightly closed. This all ceased as the planted trees grew just large enough to shelter then cover the site.

After high school Dan spent a year in forest inventory, then agricultural college, then a career in agroclimatology. He is retired and living near our childhood home, staying interested in climate, & has been involved in climate change & its impacts for three decades. He is interested in the role the world's forests might play in mitigating global warming. Hopefully he will write an article for these pages. His house is highly energy efficient, elevated but in a wooded setting, heated partly with wood he culls from the woods on the

property.

Global warming can be addressed several ways. One is reduce greenhouse gas emission (CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, oxides of nitrogen). One is maximize effectiveness of carbon sinks. The largest is the oceans, where half of nature's photosynthesis occurs and vast amounts of C are stored in various forms. Then comes the earth's soils. The third is forests & other vegetation of the world. In the natural C cycle, roughly half the atmosphere's CO<sub>2</sub> is exchanging with forests & soils, & half with the oceans, for a zero net change in atmospheric C. Humanity is upsetting this balance by disturbing the sinks & adding C from our immense consumption of fossil fuels.

So which one to choose. Dauncey reinforces my feeling that we need both, & soon. There is concern that the warmer it gets the more the effectiveness of the C sinks is at risk. Marine organisms that store C could be displaced by those that release it. Melting ice could release methane frozen into it. Rainfall pattern changes could endanger the potential of tropical & other forests to store C. The warmer it gets, the more the soil releases C. As ice caps shrink, frozen surfaces that reflect solar energy may become water surfaces that absorb it. The longer all this goes on, the greater the risk of the warming process becoming runaway. There is also the possibility that this sequence of events might trigger the start of another ice age.

Dauncey thinks humanity can act in time to turn all this around. (We who have children or grandchildren must fervently hope so). It will take action on many fronts. One front might be the global forest, including the forest of S. Ont. I could speculate that our forest management will have a growing array of environmental & other objectives, among them one of carbon capture, in both the trees and the soil.

#### CLOSING THOUGHTS IN DAUNCEY'S BOOK.

Within every human a hero waits to appear. If you are a dancer, dance your concern. If you are a teacher, teach it. If you are a householder, demonstrate it. (I'd add, we are forestry

practitioners, so practice it; or students, so learn it; or seniors, so support & inspire those who follow us. Let us each find within us the passion to make things happen, and among us, seek out those champions who will make it happen.)

Einstein: Our task must be to widen our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures, and the whole of nature in its beauty.

An Australian Aboriginal: Listen carefully, you can hear me. I'm telling you because earth just like mother and father or brother of you. That tree same thing---Tree working when you sleeping and dream.

I Ching: Hexagram 64: The conditions are difficult. The task is great & full of responsibility. It is nothing less than that of leading the world out of confusion back to order. But it is a task that promises success because there is a goal that can unite the forces now tending in different directions. At first, however, one must move warily, like an old fox walking over ice.

Hildegard von Bingen, 12th Century: Glance at the sun. See the moon & the stars. Gaze at the beauty of Earth's greenings. NOW, THINK.

#### OTHER FILLERS

In a Weyerhaeuser ad: Perhaps the most important place to plant a seed is in a fertile mind (or heart?).

The greatest ability? Dependability.

Exercising charity strengthens the muscles of the soul.

Our young people will more likely follow a good example than the way we point.

Underemployment? Every human brain has trillions of cells.

You can't confuse me. I was born that way.

Winning isn't everything; wanting to win is.

Two thoughts about working together: 1. A single snowflake is not very powerful. But when enough of them get together to form a snowdrift, it's a different story. 2. A single stick, arrow, or straw may be easily broken. But it's different when you make bundles of them.

#### MODEL FOREST NETWORK

I've a publication, "Innovations", Model Forest Network's bulletin. E. Ont. & L. Abitibi Model Forests are part of the network set up after the UN's 1992 Earth Summit to help meet the challenge of balancing today's demands on forests with tomorrow's needs. Ten model forests, covering 9 million hectares, plus others in Mexico and elsewhere) have been set up, to try to bring many parties together to help make sustainable forest management a reality. (More on the following on [www.modelforest.net](http://www.modelforest.net))

The work is described as one of the world's largest experiments in sustainable forest management (SFM). The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), to whom they report, has endorsed 6 criteria of SFM: i. conservation of biological diversity; ii. maintenance & enhancement of ecosystem condition & productivity; iii. conservation of soil & water resources; iv. forest ecosystem contributions to global ecological cycles; v. multiple benefit of forest to society; vi. accepting society's responsibility for sustainable development.

To address these issues, within each model forest is evolving a "tool box" of approaches. They include the model forest solution, selected tool & reports, & a featured tool.

On forest ecosystem contribution to global ecological cycles: Climate change has drawn attention to the role of forests in the carbon cycle. According to the Carbon Budget Model developed by the Canadian Forest Service (CFS), Canada's forests (& related soils, peatlands, & forest products) were a C sink until the mid 1980's, when they became a C source, releasing 45 million tonnes of C yearly. Managing forests to be C sinks, not sources, may mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emission.

(Of the many environmental & other challenges facing humanity, climate change may be the most serious. If so, might future forest management plans routinely include a C sink objective, to be met & maintained through good health of trees & other living things, & of soil. The model forests are shedding light on some of the numbers).

On society's responsibility for sustainable development, several questions are raised: i. are those most dependent on forests part of the decision-making process; ii. are forest-dependent communities sustainable; iii. are we putting social & cultural aspects of sustainable development on a par with economic & environmental ones.

Mack's comment: As a S. Ontarian I note repeated reference to Canada's forest-dependent communities, but less to the more dispersed, but at least as real, benefits of forest dispersed across a region like ours.

Here forest based industry is one of many on which a community depends, but may be every bit as important. In such situations the question might become, is the forest based support sustainable?

Also, what about new things that keep coming up, e.g. the forest as a place to teach not just forestry & nature but music, art, drama, & a place to dream. Noted in another section are things like: economic & spiritual values of black ash basket-making by First Nations; economic potential of wild mushrooms, aromatic oils, & decorative branches.

And my ongoing question: could the grounds of 6,000 schools across Ontario each be made to include a school forest, & could those schools, collectively, become another kind of model forest. A model which each school teaches by example its kids & its community; which each school becomes ecologically & economically a part of the local landscape.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY AND GIVING OF SELF

A Toronto Star editorial observes how Sept. 11, amid all the horrors & aftermath, brought out the

good in many people and gave unexpected meaning to the International Year of Volunteers. Then it notes that people are like that all the time, with 6.5 million Canadians giving 1 billion hours of their time, doing familiar and less familiar things, that 22 million Canadians give \$5 billion to registered charities.

A bit of wisdom in a Church bulletin made me reflect. Barry Commoner noted that, ecologically, everything is connected to everything else. Likewise, we are each accountable for every deed (or omission) to everyone else. We must each see one another as brother/sister, finding a way to share with one another & respect one another's rights. Heaven on earth will come when we end our isolation from one another. Meanwhile, we must keep hope alive, and set a few good examples.

One can think of so many ways in which the state of our world would be vastly improved, and in the process all of our lives enriched. I think applies especially to those of us interested in promoting awareness & conservation of the region's forest should draw inspiration from that, whatever we each do, as part of our life work or in a voluntary or charitable capacity.

#### SMOKE

We all know that smoke from a large forest fire will hang around for a long time, & spread over a large area. Dust & other debris from a major volcanic event will darken a large area of sky for a long time. We recall that contamination from Chernobyl was long-lasting and spread over very large areas. A recent Toronto Star article gives a few more examples. Dust storms in the desert regions of China have brought haze and solid particles to B.C. (causing smog-like conditions in the Vancouver area in 1998), similarly pesticides and harmful spores have crossed the Pacific.

In August 1998 over 1,000 forest fires in N.W.T. burned over 10,000 sq. km. of forest; the haze was thick enough as it crossed Europe to be mistaken for cirrus cloud, and brought with it large amounts of carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, all pushed to high altitudes by the heat of the

source fire.

Apart from wondering how and whether to control large remote fires, wondering about those affected by the travelling cloud, & wondering how this contributes to climate change, scientists now wonder how many other substances, previously undetected, harmful, beneficial or benign, are carried around the world in like fashion, and the implications for environmental health worldwide.

## TREE OF PEACE

This is from an article by Margaret George of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, published in Forestry Forum: Newsletter of E. Ont. Model Forest. It shows how the Iroquois People learned the importance of living in peace & harmony with all beings & creatures.

They see the white pine as the tallest tree in E. North America, the "Tree of Peace" or, in the Mohawk language, Tsinerathe: kowa. To Iroquois People the White Pine was a powerful peace symbol. It was used by the prophet Skennenrehowi, the Peacemaker, when he gathered the Iroquois people together to create the world's first democratic confederacy of nations: the Iroquois confederation.

The Iroquois believe the Peacemaker uprooted a white pine, creating a large cavity with an underground stream. He had the warring nations place their weapons into the stream, then replanted the tree, sealing the cavity. This ended destructive warfare, & led to commitment to resolve future disputes without violence.

The white pine's 5 needles represented the five Iroquois nations (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca & Cayuga; Tuscarora joined later). The needles were also said to represent the three words of confederation: peace, power and righteousness. The tree was tall enough to join sky and earth, tall enough that all people could see it and seek its protection.

Atop the pine, the Peacemaker placed an eagle to

watch over people & warn of danger. With the Iroquois gathered under the tree, the Peacemaker taught them how to live in harmony with one another & the natural world, with a set of rules called Kaienere: kowa or the Great Law of Peace, that if followed would preserve peace & happiness for all people.

Instructing them on the power of peace & unity, he held a bundle of arrows, saying that as long as the Iroquois were united as one, they could never be defeated, but if the bundle were untied they could easily be broken.

The white pine has inspired the Iroquois' constitution, helped shaped the USA constitution, helped shape the history of E. Canada, & is now Ontario's arboreal emblem.

## TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAWS.

A newsletter of the Ontario Chapter, Soil & Water Conservation Ass'n notes a study by the Chapter, assisted by FON & OMNR, of by-laws in S. Ont. They received 26 replies to detailed questionnaires, and did a more in-depth study of seven. Some reported highlights:

S. Ont. jurisdictions range from no by-law or enforcement, by-law supported by education & voluntary compliance, to enforcement by prosecution. Many would like to upgrade.

Current strengths include: i. properly used, trees are saved; ii. by-law officers are growing in their knowledge of forestry; iii. there are many awareness programs; iv. most people comply voluntarily; v. enforcement is increasing; vi. a wide range of enforcement tools is possible.

Some areas for improvement include: i. educate councils & judiciary in importance of by-laws; ii. coordinate neighbouring municipalities & share experiences & information; iii. improve officer training; iv. use Acts that provide more effective enforcement; v. encourage municipal use of Good Forestry Practices; vi. seek legislative changes that support & reflect good forestry principles, & facilitate a range of enforcement measures.

## CARBON MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Pollution Probe is holding workshops this winter, to examine management of forests as carbon sinks. They seek to: i. find ways to make forest C management initiatives credible & attractive to investors; ii. show the multiple benefits of well-run forest C projects; iii. identify steps needed for Canada to be a leader in forest C management. More on this from their web site: [www.pollutionprobe.org](http://www.pollutionprobe.org)

From a community newspaper: You can build fine bridges, literally & figuratively. But unless you care for them they will become unsafe and eventually collapse.