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MACK'S NOTE

Two items: Last issue I reported on two Council meetings, & should have said that John Nolan and Jim Cayford are the Council members that worked hard on revisions to the Section by-laws, which then were approved by Council for submission to the annual meeting.

In the Editor's part of the Section's Annual Report I did not mention how much I have enjoyed and appreciated the outstanding articles by Chairman Bruce to the last few newsletters.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

May 30 was one of those warm humid late spring days when it rained before & after our meeting, during the outdoor part of the meeting the constant threat of rain did not materialize. A great turnout (I lost count at about 40) members, spouses, friends & hosts gathered to tour the Drysdale Tree Farms & nearby Somerville Tree Nurseries.

Huronian Woodland Owners Association's newsletter had mentioned the event, so we welcomed several of its members.

We began with Doug Drysdale's story of the family farm business' evolution to its present state, starting with his father's interest in buying and reforesting land (at 1930's to 1950's prices!) and in educating young people. From there it went to interest in harvesting Christmas trees, to a cut-your-own operation, the gift shop with a real difference, corporate

parties, Santa claus, weddings, wagon rides, & more, and to be able to provide school groups a "bush lunch" and a taste of the outdoors.

The tree farms now include several properties, some around the Essa Township headquarters, and some scattered across Simcoe County and into York Region.

After a wagon tour to see Christmas tree & other operations, & after our annual meeting (more on that in a moment) we enjoyed a Drysdale "bush lunch" and then moved on to Somerville Tree Nurseries, to be hosted by Paul Fraser, Carl Mansfield, John Somerville & other Somerville staff & family members. We enjoyed a tour of the headquarters and the extensive fields of Christmas trees and seedling nursery beds. This business also embraces several properties located in South Simcoe County.

We were treated to two outstanding success stories, of family businesses that took advantage of events to expand into major operations with significant economic benefit & employment. We saw the entrepreneurial spirit which, if extended to other parts of the region's forestry sector, just might transform the Southern Ontario forest.

Our Annual Meeting was chaired by Vice-Chairman Jim Cayford. Annual reports were presented & approved, contained in a single document which members not present at the meeting will receive with this newsletter, along with an updated member directory.

We briefly discussed the topic "Forestry as a Career", touching on Bruce's article in the last newsletter. Despite the growing need, there is low interest among young people in forestry as a life work. Reasons for low interest in forestry careers include: we don't publicize what we're all about; we don't publicize good news stories; the public too often hear all the bad news things; we don't tell high schools; working conditions; we're not seen as a needed calling; and more.

Our Section will present a resolution on this subject at the CIF Annual Meeting in September.

Finally, in this issue is a list of four events planned for your section for 2002-03. This past year a similar list was prepared in the fall for 2001-02, and adhered to. Each of the meetings has been well publicized in the section, well organized and well attended. In my years in the Section I cannot recall our programs ever being so well organized. Jim Coats has our warm appreciation for this.

HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSN MEETS.

About 50 members and friends gathered in Barrie May 14 for HWOA's annual Forest Health Seminar. It was a very special evening, which I'll get to in a moment. First, Tony Hopkins, Scientist with Canadian Forest Service in Sault Ste. Marie, spoke about some of the pests that affect trees in the Huronia area. He noted that forest decline is prevalent, that it is caused by many factors, man-made, or due to things like insects &/or disease. Tree health is affected by many factors, but trees generally are quite resilient.

1. Beech is in slight decline, Beech bark disease affects the trunks, it is a fungus, it may kill the tree or cause the trunk to become gnarly. It attacks mainly older trees. It is found mainly in older stands where the beech component is high, and there are trees with decay or wounds, or after a very hard winter. It

may be controlled by reducing the beech component, removing larger trees with rough bark, and removing dead or dying trees. It is mainly found in an arc about 30 miles deep around L. Ontario.

2. An ash problem (ash yellows?) is causing decline. Seems to be serious in & around Toronto. 50% of trees are in poor health. One sign of problem is clumps of twigs and leaves on the side of a big trunk.

3. There is some decline of white pine across Ontario. One problem is the white pine blister rust. White pine weevil & pine false webworm are other problems.

4. In red pine, fomes root rot is more of a problem farther south, but as climate change continues, it could come there. European pine shoot beetle is common in Scots pine, from where it could spread to nearby red and white pine. Scleroderis can kill young red pine.

5. Pests of sugar maple include sugar maple borer (which can girdle the tree), & maple canker. Tent caterpillar will not usually kill but can set the tree back through defoliation. There is a variety of decays in mature stands. Woodlots can be managed to minimize risk, e.g. avoid logging wounds. Drought damage, which can cause dead edges in leaves, will not kill but will stress the tree.

6. Oak wilt is a serious threat that can kill oaks.

7. Butternut canker, a stem canker, occurs across the tree's S. Ont. range. It does not affect butternut's close relative, black walnut.

8. A more virulent Dutch Elm Disease strain is now attacking many of the elms that survived the early wave of the disease.

9. The chestnut blight continues to attack sweet chestnut.

HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION (HWOA) IS HONOURED

Lynn McIntyre, National Stewardship Manager for Wildlife Habitat Canada came from Ottawa to present the Forest Stewardship Recognition (FSR) Award to the Association. The recognition program was developed by Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Forest Products Association of Canada, the Canadian Forest Service & the Ont. Ministry of Natural Resources. It is a program to recognize outstanding forest stewardship, and since its beginning in 1998 has far made 100 awards. It is one of 16 awards made across Canada this year.

In making the award, Lynn traced HWOA's achievement back to its founding in 1971, when four landowners & three Lands & Forests staff members (W.J. Lovering, SiDae Kim & John Caston) met to discuss forming an association, and after consulting with over 100 interested landowners HWOA was formed September 15, 1971.

From the start landowners shared an interest in long term forest health including wildlife habitat, forest recreation and wood products. HWOA's objective was, & remains, to promote proper land management including forestry & conservation practices.

HWOA has contributed to developing the Simcoe County Tree Bylaw & have worked with many organizations including: Huronia Loggers' Association, Simcoe & District Maple Syrup Producers Association, Land Stewardship Network Serving Dufferin and South Simcoe, North Simcoe Private Land Stewardship Network, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture, Simcoe County Forestry Department, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, and OMNR.

The woodland owners have established many pine plantations in Simcoe and Dufferin under the Woodlands Improvement Act and have managed several hundred acres of hardwood forest. Owners have properties with old growth

forest, demonstrations of 15-year-old wildlife plantings, and plantings of sweet chestnut, commercial and hobby maple syrup operations, hardwood plantations, the first release site for wild turkeys in Simcoe County, some of the best road and trail systems found anywhere on forest properties, & more. A wealth of knowledge & experience is readily shared among members.

After 30 years of field days, bus tours, annual meetings, forest health seminars, fall meetings, White Pine Awards, the members continue to practice and share good forestry and conservation practices.

As a HWOA member since about 1985, and a forest owner in North Simcoe, I consider myself fortunate to have contact in that area & that I enjoy membership. I found this award made for a very heartwarming evening. My only wish is that I could attend more of their events and contribute more effectively.

Oh yes, the award? It's a framed copy of a print of a painting "New Morning" by B.C. artist Don Li-Leger, of a forest scene, who is quoted "Hopefully this program, like the painting, represents new thinking in our relationship with, and appreciation of, nature. There is also a certificate of appreciation from the Governor-General, the program's Patron.

MORE FOR HWOA.

It was the North Simcoe Private Land Stewardship Network that nominated HWOA for the FSR award. Peter Gill, Network Chair, presented a second award of appreciation to HWOA. It was noted that in 1971 John Caston, Randy Crawford & others saw a need, & HWOA was formed. It has since expanded & reached out, helping fill a huge gap left as OMNR service disappeared, helping make owners aware of available services, good stewardship, and more. For some years it has held five events a year, events that are enjoyable and informative.

Glen Price, MNR's District Manager, added his words of congratulation, and recalled how HWOA began in 1971 with 7 people, 4 landowners and 3 MNR staff, saw a role in land stewardship, conservation, education and leadership, and have been making a difference ever since.

He ended his comment with a note: If you stand beneath a 200-year-old maple you feel the power of Nature. If you stand beneath a 30-year old maple you planted yourself you feel the power of one.

U OF T FACULTY OF FORESTRY ALUMNI MEETING

On May 4, as part of U of T's 175 year celebration, Dean Rorke Bryan & a number of U of T Forestry Graduates, Staff & friends gathered at Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve. I could not go but heard it was an enjoyable event; host Peter Schleifenbaum related the reserve's transformation over the past 35 years or so from rundown forest to healthy hardwood forest with an emphasis on cottaging, fishing, and ecotourism which takes advantage of numerous lakes in the Reserve. The elevated wooden footpath through the treetops is featured this year in Ontario Tourism literature.

COUCHICHING CONSERVANCY AND THE CARDEN PLAIN

Couchiching Conservancy (CC) reports that it has an opportunity & seeks support to bring a large part of the Carden Plain, a large alvar east of Orillia, under a conservation reserve. It is a limestone area, exposed to very thinly covered with soil, about 3,000 acres, mix of wetland, ranch land & forest, a setting for a rich and special mix of vegetation and wildlife, including some birds at risk. It is also in an area of strong demand for rock quarrying. Alvars are globally endangered, and this one has some exceptional vegetation, of the kind adapted to the harsh conditions of exposed bedrock.

TREE PLANTING IN HAITI

In World Vision's magazine "Childview" is an article on tree planting in a Haitian community. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere (per capita income \$411--with too many far below that average), and the world's third hungriest, after Afghanistan and Somalia. In the past 20 years most of Haiti's forest has been lost mainly to poor farmers who use the wood to make charcoal, the country's main fuel source. Deforestation is leading to massive soil erosion. Yet Columbus is said to have been very impressed with the forest he found there in 1492.

In one project, school children are being taught to plant & tend agricultural crops & trees, and to resist the pressure to sacrifice more trees to meet their day to day needs.

MICE, VOLES, SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS.

Brother & sister-in-law Dan & June sent an item from the magazine "Natural History." In the Northeastern U.S. many farm fields cleared during early settlement were later abandoned & reverted to forest cover. There were exceptions, where restocking did not occur for decades, although ground conditions & natural seed supply were likely suitable. In time some research pointed the finger at the meadow vole. Seems that they, unlike field mice, nip off the young seedlings of most of the tree species. The mice prefer seeds, &, it seems, have less impact on tree regeneration due to the relative abundance of seeds over seedlings.

Research that turned up this knowledge also looked at how fields seed in from nearby trees. "Most trees that invade old fields have fairly large seeds that fall close to the parent plant. Even maple & ash seeds with their wings may carry only a short distance. Larger seeds, like acorns, bechnuts & hickory nuts, drop like stones. Tiny winged aspen & birch seeds may

float thousands of yards, and cherry and red cedar seeds may be swallowed by birds and released some distance away. This dispersal mechanism means that old fields are invaded gradually from the edges of adjacent forest.

The article explored some possible applications of this knowledge. Voles could play a role in keeping attractive vistas & helping maintain open habitats favoured by certain wildlife. The voles, by excluding field mice (by being bigger & very aggressive) could help reduce risk of things like Lyme disease, which is carried by ticks that feed off, & are infected by, the mice. Could they be used along power transmission lines as a means of controlling natural tree invasion.

WOODLOT INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER

Hurononia Woodland Owners Ass'n newsletter "Through the Knothole" has this about woodlot transfer to the next generation:

The Dec. 10, 2001 federal budget had some good news for woodlot owners. Big income tax bills will no longer encumber inter-generation transfers of woodlots--IF they can show that the woodlot has been, & will continue to be, managed through a prescribed forest management plan.

Transfers of woodlots have saddled many families with significant income tax bills, often leading new owners to liquidate the wood on the property to pay the tax bill, running counter to the stewardship ethics and threatening the productive woodlot they may have spent a lifetime to develop.

HWOA plans to get someone to tell us more at a future meeting. Meanwhile, those needing to know can ask an accountant or Canada Customs & Revenue Agency.

FOREST RESOURCE SURVEY

Hurononia Woodland Owners' Association surveyed members on forest resources, & got 36 responses (one not be used because of very large land area). Some findings:

Average holding of respondents: 91 acres.

Number of years the property has been in the family: 1 to 153 years (average 35).

Have you conifer plantations: 63% had, average 22 acres.

Do you produce maple syrup: 34%.

Has saw timber been cut & sold since 1990: 11% harvested themselves, 26% with contract logger.

Cut & sold firewood since 1990: 43%.

Used services of forestry consultant: 54%.

Main woodlot management goal: Timber 40%, maple syrup 17%; recreation 22%; wildlife habitat 91%; education 11%; Christmas trees 3%; Nut-growing 3%; other 9%.

Is your woodlot involved in managed forest tax incentive program: 46%.

Is your land involved in conservation land designation: ANSI or area of natural & scientific importance 6%; wetland 29%; habitat of endangered species 3%.

Suggested topics for future meetings or articles varied; most were interested in managing for wildlife, marking & thinning; taxes; how best to comply with MFTIP; forestry history of the area.

THE GUELPH CHOWDER CLUB (GCC)

The Chowder Club, an informal group, meets from time to time to discuss ideas & experiences for improving resource management. The Guelph offshoot includes many senior civil servants, professors, forestry association directors, long term practitioners, highly regarded in their profession.

In a draft statement GCC supports starting a major forestry program at Univ of Guelph. It notes that U of G is a leader in teaching the science & practice of land management, in areas like: agriculture, horticulture & silviculture. There is a need for persons knowledgeable in the sciences of forestry &

skilled in its practices. The U of G, it says, is well placed to meet that need.

U of G has become a major centre of excellence, well staffed for teaching & research. It is in a populated area, where a learning centre for forest management is needed. U of G's strong programs in agriculture, environment & social sciences could be used to help develop a strong forestry program. Practitioners are needed as part of land management in the forest regions of Southern Ontario, also to manage many urban & rural parks and recreation areas in the region.

Neither of Ontario's Universities now teaching forestry address the Southern Ontario forest. Lakehead tends to concentrate on the Boreal Forest the forest industry. Toronto confines itself to graduate programs, much of them research-oriented. Forestry schools elsewhere in Canada tend to focus on traditional industrial forestry, none of them on land management in urban and settled areas. None is focused on the importance of the forest as a component of various S. Ontario landscapes, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine.

So members of GCC endorse, encourage & support establishment & development of a major forestry program at U of Guelph.

CAROLINIAN CANADA (CC)

From CC's newsletter, summary of a report on greening CC by Ron Reid, the 36-p. text is on www.carolinian.org. CC, with 1/4% of Canada's land mass, has 1/4 of Canada's population. It is largely farmed, with spreading urban development. So there has been severe decline in extent & integrity of natural landscapes, with less forest, wetland & other vegetation, & Canada's largest concentration of endangered species. Less than 15% of the land is in forest, with under 5% in many rural & urban areas.

Some of the best remaining natural areas have

been retained through public ownership, public policy, or private stewardship, but this is under 5% of the landscape. In the past 20 years, CC's program did landowner contact & land acquisition in 38 significant natural areas.

However, habitats & species are being lost to increased fragmentation & isolation of remnant habitats, causing loss of species that need large areas, with 14 animal & 25 plant species extirpated from the region, and others on the brink.

CC's Big Picture project gives a framework of relatively large core habitats linked by natural corridors, forming a net better able to support viable wildlife populations & maybe restore some missing species. New approaches, incentives and resources will be needed to achieve the Big Picture vision. The report examines quite a number of approaches, none of which has yet any official sanction.

These approaches are described in 5 main categories:

A. Sharing the (Big Picture) vision. B. Strengthen incentives for conservation. C. Inform and Educate for Conservation & Restoration. D. Funding land securement and restoration. E. Role of Land Use Planning & Management.

Several short-term steps are suggested at each of the national, provincial and local levels. A regional conservation strategy is suggested for the CC ecoregion.

FOUR BOOKS

Forests of Hope. Good News for a Change. The Future of Life. Permaculture. Each of these books has a wealth of forward thinking ideas. Out of them one could imagine a tantalizing picture of what the future forest of S. Ont. might be like if one purposely sought out a best fit between the regional landscape in all its natural and man-made elements, a growing humanity with its myriad of interactions with the landscape, and the forest. And if the design,

planning and care of the forest could be used to bring communities increasingly together in common cause. One might see a forest far more intensively managed for a greater range of products and "services" than most of us might ever have imagined, yet with significant areas set aside. And if one were to make a concerted effort to be innovative and proactive, & examine the countless ways for forestry and the rest of land care and stewardship to make a good fit.

DOUG SKEATES WRITES: THE GREEN GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

A Globe & Mail article by Peter Kennedy in Vancouver quoted Raymond Chan, consultant for Council of Forest Industries, who related the softwood lumber fiasco to potential markets in Asia. The American lumber interest's action is a well-known sore spot for Canadian producers. Mr. Chan was addressing the difficulties facing China in meeting the growing needs of its growing economy. He saw this as a great opportunity for market development in the world's most populated nation.

An even more interesting story in Christian Kuchli's "Forests of Hope" recounts the desperate ecological situation in China after 2,000 years of abusive land use and deforestation. The Chinese government is taking most ambitious rehabilitation steps, primarily to stop the encroachment of the Gobi Desert, and to minimize the dust storms from eroding "forest" lands & regularly blacking out Beijing, the capital. Among other actions, harvesting trees through most of China has been banned; government realizes that for economic & environmental reasons the country is better served by standing trees than by log decks at a sawmill. The value of trees has been recognized for ground water recharge and flood control. Logging companies have become reforestation companies.

The magnitude of their efforts and plans is staggering. The "Green Great Wall of China" will be developed over the next 50 years. The

forest will be 7,000 km. long (about as wide as Canada!) and 400-1700 km. wide. About 33 million hectares is proposed, with planting of about 1 billion trees per year. To achieve this every citizen is required to plant 3-5 trees per year. Arbor Day is March 12. I cannot imagine the planting of 1 billion trees, let alone in one day!

I had the opportunity of taking a CESO (Canadian Executive Services Organization) assignment in Liaoning Province in NE China in April. I visited one of several state nurseries, which produces 60 million trees a year. I saw vast areas of barren sand and rock which were being reforested, largely with poplar and willow plantations. Rock mountain slopes were being planted with pines and junipers.

China faces problems familiar to Ontario foresters of yesteryear. Sandy areas across Southern Ontario, like the Ganaraska watershed, in the 1930's, where clearing of forest lands for agriculture in the sandy moraines led to desert conditions, sheet and gully erosion, flooding in Port Hope and elsewhere, rivers drying up in summer months, crop failures due to drought, dust bowl conditions. The Ganaraska watershed of the 1930's is a microcosm of what I saw in China, only it is a million times larger.

I doubt China is facing the same dilemma as Canada relative to signing the Kyoto Convention. Industrial pollutants are just as severe, or more so. However efforts to solve their environmental problems will bear fruit which will contribute greatly to global climate issues as well as national ecological matters.

It will be many years before these efforts pay back in forest products. Meanwhile, as "Forests of Hope" notes, there is a drastic shortage of timber for industrial & municipal development around the Pacific Rim. I would strongly support Raymond Chan's recommendation for market development around the Pacific Rim. I would further recommend that Canadians support major tourism expansion that would help China achieve the necessary foreign exchange to pay

for our lumber. The Great Wall of China is inspiring. The Ming Tombs and the Forbidden City in Beijing make a fascinating start to an incredible experience in an ancient land. For foresters in particular, the "Great Green Wall" would be an even greater attraction.

Our experience in Ganaraska and elsewhere in Southern Ontario is a model relevant to the Chinese challenge. The "Great Green Wall of China" will in turn be a model the world will do well to watch.

COMMENT

Should the disruption of Canadian lumber exports to one market be seen as an occasion to develop trading arrangements with China & maybe Cuba and others.

I personally recall the blowing dust in the Oro Hills when I was a child, and how it ceased as planted red pine got tall enough to break the wind. Exposed sand on my own property became stabilized as the plantations grew (wasn't loose sand to get the car stuck in any more). But I could not imagine the scale of the Gobi Desert. And, it seems, the desert is growing by about 2,400 sq. km./yr. The Chinese have planted billions of trees a year since 1949 in an effort to cope with such problems.

A clipping from "Report on Business" that Doug also sent notes that sandstorms have been a constant threat in Beijing over the past 40 years, on top of smog and traffic. A single two-day storm can leave 30,000 tonnes of sand in the city's streets.

The sand does not stop in Beijing. The sand, along with by pesticides, aerosols, & heavy metals, can go a long way in the wind, having on occasion caused the shutdown of Korean airports, & crossed the ocean to affect western Canadian & U.S. cities.

The recent book "The Future of Life" which I mentioned above, notes about China: Its

population is 1.2 billion, having grown by 700 million since 1950. The bulk of this increase is in the basins of the Yangtze & Yellow rivers, and being hemmed in on all sides, their agricultural population has grown on land farmed for millennia. China relies heavily on irrigation with water taken from aquifers and great rivers. But the bulk of agriculture is in the north and the water in the south. The great rivers run dry for growing numbers of days each year, and ground water levels are dropping--under Beijing 37 metres between 1965 and 1885. Of China's 617 cities, 300 already face serious shortages.

URBAN FOREST NETWORK NEWSLETTER.

I've received this newsletter for over a year; it's full of ideas, info on events, etc. Also news and other items to pass on to you.

Something about Ottawa's Forests Advisory Committee, but first a quote from Druid Tree Lore, Ovate Grade lecture: Approaching a tree we approach a sacred being who can teach us about love and about endless giving. She is one of millions of beings who provide our air, our homes, our fuel, our books. Working with the spirit of the tree can bring us renewed energy, powerful inspiration, deep communication.

OTTAWA FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OFAC): INPUT TO OFFICIAL PLAN.

OFAC advises City Council on forests & trees within the city. It has recently made comments as part of the public consultation leading to an Official Plan. Some thoughts from that input follow:

That input went into the costs of not including trees and natural areas in a plan, in terms of loss of nature in the city, in terms of costs of things like flooding, storm water management and more, and the benefits of having trees

Some first steps were suggested, like a

detailed inventory of trees and treed areas in the city. Then targets for what is wanted. It notes that tree cover in Ottawa now is 27%, less than the 40% recommended by American Forestry Association (Mack's comment: cities might take pride that for many, forest cover is greater than those for nearby rural areas) Models are available to help understand what levels of tree cover are desired. Red Deer, Alberta, as well as Guelph & St. Catharines, were mentioned for good features in their green planning. (Another comment: urban municipalities might find it helpful to examine things being done by Toronto's Urban Forestry Service.

HEAT ISLANDS AND SMOG

In early May, Toronto held the First North American Heat Island Summit, to ask questions like: is it real? is it a problem? what is known about it? what are its effects? what practical things can we do to adapt to or mitigate the effect? These questions were addressed by scientists, administrators & others from across North America & beyond. Human health is affected, one panel was led by Toronto's Medical Officer of Health. There are 40 deaths a year related to heat; many more in US cities with warmer climates. Toronto has put in place a system to issue heat advisories, alerts & warnings, and has action plans to reach those most vulnerable, and is looking for ways to lessen the effect.

Yes, it is real, and will likely worsen, barring offsetting actions. Areas are significantly warmer when built up than if they were still in a natural state. They likely make some contribution to global warming, & will intensify as global warming continues. And increased temperatures increase the chemical reactions that contribute to smog formation.

What to do about it? Dark surfaces on roads, parking lots, flat roofs and walls that are exposed to the hot sun, would heat up less if they were light coloured and reflective. Many things can be done to buildings, streets, & other places. And there is major potential for

trees and other plant material to cool, by shading & transpiration.

We are on a landscape that 200 years ago was largely vegetated, whose plant life provided shade as well as cooling through evapotranspiration. On that same landscape we have less vegetation, many unshaded surfaces (pavement, and roofs and walls of buildings) which tend to heat up in the summer sun and heat the air around them.

In June, Toronto held a series of smog fora; citizen input was invited & compiled for presentation at the Third Annual Smog Summit June 21. This was a much different event, which emphasized citizen input, and featured representatives from most of the GTA municipalities & regions, and the provincial and federal governments. Each indicated what their jurisdiction has done so far, and what new actions will be taken, to deal with smog. A Citizens' Declaration on Clean Air had been circulated and concerned people invited to sign.

The Smog Summit took place on the morning of June 21, the summer solstice, in the CN Tower. It was the 3rd day of a smog advisory for all Southern Ontario. Smog covered the Toronto Islands & the lake. As medical experts in the room noted, some of us should not have come outdoors to be there that day.

It is a problem. It is a major killer, with 1,000 deaths in Toronto alone, thousands of emergency room visits, thousands of asthma cases, many, many more unwell people, serious loss of activity & quality of life for many more. Other GTA municipalities report similar experience. In Europe it is destroying historic structures. It also pollutes the water & ground, and can make our forests sick. It can make kids sick who play in the park or schoolyard & make contact with pollutants from smog that have fallen to the ground. And we pay scant attention to what it must be doing to other plant & animal life.

What to do about it? The usual things like

cleaner fuel, less use of fuel, cleaner car & other engines, & more. I noted that many of the municipalities included in what to do the planting, expansion, and care of trees, parks, trails, waterfront, and other vegetated areas. In this context I see in trails a chance for citizens to see trees up close, enjoy their benefits and perhaps learn a bit about them.

Both smog & heat island effects are likely to intensify as global climatic warming continues, with increased temperatures increasing the chemical reactions that produce smog. Unless we do something to adapt &/or mitigate. We have vehicles and buildings that use fuel that pollutes and whose pollutants tend to combine in the summer heat to form smog.

Mitigation can take several forms. Among them, trees, vines, shrubs & other vegetation that: provide a more natural surface; protect buildings from wind chill and heating energy demand; shade surfaces like roofs, south and west facing walls, & pavement, thus reducing the heating of those surfaces; cooling through evapotranspiration; acting as a filter for some of those pollutants. (At a workshop on ecology and spirituality I heard trees described in a sacrificial sense; they absorb all those pollutants at the expense of their own health to help keep us well).

URBAN FORESTRY PLANNING WORKSHOP.

On June 5 the Ontario Urban Forestry Council (OUFC) held a workshop described as a run-up toward the 5th Urban Forestry Conference in Markham Oct. 7-9. A number of City of Toronto staff gave presentations, followed by a bus tour to see some of the things discussed.

Toronto's area is 634 sq. km.; with 2.5 million people--North America's 5th largest city. Of that area 11% is a major parkland system, with 1,300 named parks totalling 7,200 hectares. Toronto Parks vision is that Toronto be seen as "a city within a Park."

(Also within the city are significant areas of natural or park land under other jurisdictions, like Downsview Park and Rouge Valley Park.)

About 80% of Canada's population in cities that take up 2-3% of its land area. So establishing, tending and maintaining adequate forest cover is a growing challenge. They are somewhat (though not entirely) outside the scope of more traditional forestry, but are of vital importance to most of Canada's people.

Toronto parks contain excellent opportunities to protect and enhance natural heritage, and a city-wide naturalization program has operated since 1990. Its goal is to protect & naturalize specific areas. Toronto's parks have growing numbers of naturalized areas, with a variety of plant material from wildflowers to trees.

In 2000 the Tree Advocacy Planting program began with a city councillor designated as tree Advocate, to ensure funding for tree planting, for continued maintenance of urban forest health, & for new plantings.

One naturalization technique is to plant trees in "medallion areas", round patches about 50 feet across, in vegetated valley lands. After intense site preparation trees including laying a sheet of material to inhibit competing vegetation growth until trees are well established, a mix of native hardwoods are planted 1 to 1.5 metres apart on the patches. In five years' time these patches look quite impressive.

Toronto owns 3 million trees; 1/2 million of them are residential street trees. There are millions more trees on private property. Tree cover is 22% of the city area, ranging between 0 and 50%. The city would like to expand this coverage significantly.

While there is growing need to plant more trees, e.g. to convert brown space to green. There is also a need to plant new trees in new development areas, and to protect existing trees from the effect of development. The urban forest tends to be fragmented into small isolated pieces, and while efforts are made to connect these, isolated pieces are far better than none at all.

Trees on city property are protected by city by-laws, and managed by staff of Toronto's Urban Forest Service. Trees on private property in some of the pre-amalgamation cities are protected by Tree By-Laws.

There are provisions for protecting existing trees during any construction or excavation. Open-grown trees have large crowns; they will also have root systems extending far beyond the crown. Without protection roots can be cut, torn or exposed during excavation, or the ground used heavily by construction machinery so compacted as to damage roots. Or surface disturbance may happen or material dumped that impairs or damages the shallowly-located feeding roots. Or trunks or branches may be

damaged by equipment.

A tree protection zone is set up for each tree in a construction site. The larger the tree diameter, the larger the protection zone. Protective barriers or hoardings are needed. No trenching or excavation is allowed within the zone.

Where something like a cable or pipe must be laid within the protection zone, a minimum depth is specified to place it below the roots, and a type of tunneling is done to make the installation. So damage to lateral roots is hopefully minimized.

Where a temporary roadway is to be used for construction equipment, provision is made to protect the soil in the tree protection zone from compaction.

Increasingly the need is recognized for planning that considers up front the needs of trees and other plant material, to ensure that trees' space needs are met, and to ensure a minimum of conflict and best harmony between the trees and the development.

WOODLANDS EXPO 2002

The 2001 Woodlands Expo was a real success, with several hundred visitors over a two-day period, despite the threat from the weather.

While details were not quite complete at time of writing, Woodland Expo 2002 will be Friday & Saturday September 20 & 21 at Oro Fairgrounds, off Hy. 11 between Barrie & Orillia. It is a joint effort of Ont. Forestry Assn. and stewardship networks for North Simcoe and Dufferin South Simcoe, with a number of other partners.

There will be audiovisual presentations on tree pruning, selling standing timber, trail planning for recreation, and enhancing wildlife habitat. There will be exhibits featuring woodland consultants, conservation authorities, wildlife and woodland education, associations for woodland owners, wood buyers, mill operators

and equipment suppliers.

There will be demo's and displays including log splitters, portable sawmills, fuelwood processors, log identification, forestry machines and equipment. And a choice of bus tours will be offered.

Plan to be there Sept. 20 and/or 21, and for more info, call Ontario Forestry Association at 1-800-387-0790 or www.oforest.on.ca

YOUR SECTION'S PROGRAM FOR 2002-03

At our annual meeting were copies of the Section's program of events for the coming year. Quite remarkable to have it laid out so completely this far ahead, and a real tribute to Jim Coats' program coordination work! In each case, only the exact dates and places have yet to be worked out.

In September at Trenton we will hear about forestry and private forest lands. Our section is unlike most others in its concentration of privately owned forest. In November in Toronto it is career opportunities in forestry. In February at Guelph we examine Agroforestry and Forestry Developments. At our annual meeting in May we will hear about County Forests and Forest History.