

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECTION NEWSLETTER

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CHAIRMAN BRUCE: FORESTRY AS A CAREER CHOICE

A century of negative image of forestry and the forest industry, changing public expectations and values, and poor efforts by the forestry community (in government, industry, associations, or as individuals) at making forestry better understood by citizens, and more, have led to serious decline in numbers of young people entering forestry schools then choosing forestry as a life-long calling. The image does not appeal to today's young people. So the ranks of forestry practitioners, whether professional, technical or other are becoming dangerously depleted, here in S. Ont. and everywhere else.

On March 9, at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay, your Section began to examine this, by hosting a workshop on education for forestry practitioners. Ten eminent speakers from colleges, universities and forestry associations exchanged ideas on why this is happening and what one might do about it.

Why do young people not choose forestry? Many ideas came forth, among them: i. forestry too often seen only as a harvesting profession, with limited knowledge needs; ii. long history of bad press; iii. too little publicity of what good forestry is all about; iv. too little sound info provided to or by school guidance counsellors; v. population increasingly urban & of increasingly diverse background, with too many of us disconnected from the reality of the forest and the rest of nature; vi. failure of forestry to attract young women.

This is serious, here and worldwide. It does not apply just to forestry. Engineering, for one, is in a similar situation, as young people tend to be attracted to non-scientific social education programs. Teaching and the health care professions are others.

How can this decline be reversed? How can forestry gain, regain or renew its appeal to our best young people as a sound, scientific, knowledge-based, honourable calling, that draws on a range of natural science and other disciplines? Some see a need to rethink totally our forestry

education programs and develop strategies to broaden the appeal of forestry to good young people. Today's students are decreasingly "job-driven" and their post-secondary education must be seen to meet their needs, their expectations and be rewarding, satisfying and challenging. A tall order indeed!

One important small step is production of a brochure jointly by OPFA and CIF, illustrating forestry for what it is. Our Section will continue to seek closer collaboration with other like-minded associations and schools to develop an action plan of workable strategies. Our Section will submit a resolution at this year's CIF Annual Meeting in North Bay, calling on CIF and its sections to collaborate with others in heightening awareness of this matter, and seeking effective ways to make Canadians aware that Canadian forests are best cared for by competent, professionally trained forestry practitioners who have graduated from well-funded, state of the art forestry schools.

In other Section news, on March 9 your Chairman presided over the first ever CIF Silver Ring ceremony at Sir Sandford Fleming College, with 55 technical graduates receiving their leaf-engraved silver rings. Many friends and family members of graduating students were there. Melissa MacPhail, one of the graduates and organizer of the event, was presented with the CIF Gold Medal for her outstanding all-round achievements as a student.

Our Section was present at the OPFA Annual Meeting in Toronto on April 10-11. Topics discussed between OPFA and CIF included continued strengthening of liaison between the two, joint membership to be offered this fall, and the need for province-wide collaboration on delivering a quality Continuing Forestry Education program to meet the mandatory requirements of the Forestry Profession's new legislation.

Finally, our program organizers have planned what promises to be another great field day and AGM for the section on May 30. So I hope we will see (or will have seen, if we don't manage to get this to you before May 30) many of you for this interesting and informative event.

MACK COMMENTS

Bruce allowed me full editorial liberty above. A few times I had to bite my tongue (or typing fingers?) to keep from adding too many thoughts & detracting from his wonderfully timely letter. Some of those thoughts:

1. Lack of enthusiasm for a forestry career happens anywhere & is worthy of remedial action. That it happens here, and may even be at its worst, in this part of Canada, the world's forest nation, would surely amaze a visitor from outer space.

2. For over 70 years Canadian Geographic has campaigned "to make Canada better known to Canadians & others." Our mission might be to make the forest component of S. Ont., Canada or the world better known to those who live there, & to convince our young people, that work as foresters, technicians, or other is a life work worthy of the best of them.

3. Bruce has noted that the problem is not limited to forestry. Daily we hear about shortages of teachers, teaching assistants, doctors, nurses, and others. Churches and other religious institutions face the same problem: too few people interested in religious careers.

4. With some callings, we hear that working conditions are part of the problem, both for practitioners & their families. If this is a problem in forestry, how it might be addressed?

5. That all these callings face the same kinds of problems may mean an opportunity or challenge to seek collaboratively some solutions that work. This might be more productive than the prospect of all the professions competing for increasingly scarce interested young people.

6. Bruce noted our increasing ethnic diversity as part of the problem. I see this diversity daily in a grade 1-3 Toronto classroom. I suspect many of the kids come from places that have, or once had, sound forestry tradition. They settle here, mostly in the big city, where there is not much contact with trees or other living things. They may have had little contact back home. They often struggle just just to get established in a life here. Their kids come to our schools and hear next to nothing about trees or other green things, beyond the few things dedicated teachers can inject into the system, & in Toronto, a few visits to an outdoor education centre. So it may be useful to reach out to them; there is a small group working to reach them with environmental awareness, involve them in community, & to help them reconnect with nature. Who knows, such an

approach might bring us precious insights, as happens now in community gardens in Toronto. An apparent problem might become an asset.

My own wild dream of every schoolyard in S. Ont. (likely about 5,000 of them) having a school forest which would become a viable part of the S. Ont. forest would, I'd think, do wonders to help kids & community members everywhere connect with the forest.

7. Writers like Toronto Star's David Crane repeatedly stress the need for our society to be innovative & well educated to hold its own in an increasingly complex world. Anyone entering this (or any other) calling must surely be allowed, or required, to use & build on his/her talents to the full. And we may need to be innovative, not just to practice forestry but also to portray ourselves properly to society.

8. To what extent have we a vision of what we want the forest of S. Ont. (or of anywhere else) to be. Not just at the end of the next 20-year term of a management plan. But of the forest of a century hence, in the context of what the human population & the natural landscape is likely to be like. How much forest, what kinds, where located, and how cared for, for a best fit for society and for the landscape, for a start. Aboriginal people & E. Ont. Model Forest think of a forest for 7 generations. Carolinian Canada, FON, & maybe EOMF, are developing the Big (or Bigger) Picture concept. People like the authors of "Forests of Hope", "Permaculture" & "Good News for a Change" describe some forests developed to a remarkable degree without losing their naturalness, including some highly sophisticated agroforestry. We have seen S. Ont.'s own reforestation efforts a century later, and the individual exciting efforts of significant numbers of enlightened landowners. Such a vision of where we are going might help explain how we think we're going to get there, and what is needed, for a forest all S. Ontarians can relate to.

What would it take to turn vision to reality? Surely lots of time & work, and lots of appropriate talent. Can we somehow find a way to reach young people with our vision, to show them that if they choose forestry they could have a magnificent effort to build on their inherent talent.

9. Bruce referred to the 10 eminent March 9 speakers. In case you're like me & forget who they were, they were listed in the notice that went out in February: Bruce, as CIF SOS Chair; ii. Gerald Guenkel, Forestry Program Coordinator, Sir Sandford Fleming College; iii. Dr. Rorke Bryan, Dean, Forestry, U. of T.; iv. Dr. Reino Pulkki, Dean, Forestry & Forest Environment, Lakehead; v. Frank Knaapen, Algonquin College; vi. Rick Monzon, OPFA; vii. Greg Cutter, Professional Forest Workers' Training

Registry; viii. An MNR person; ix. Erik Turk, Ont. For. Ass'n; x. Anne Koven, President, OFA.

10. As if the above is not enough: what about climate change, the likely need to adapt forest & forestry practices to that reality, & the potential of trees, forests, & other green areas to modify the rate of change. Society may need some good people for that.

Finally, I wrote the bulk of this newsletter before seeing Bruce's letter. So I beg your patience with the various things that might be repetitious or even contradictory of one another or with the points above, even though I think much of it gives a good setting for Bruce's message.

YOUR SECTION COUNCIL MET FEBRUARY 16 & APRIL 27.

Your Council met Feb. 16 & Apr. 27, both times at the Kortright Centre, Saturday meetings running from 10 to 3, with almost full attendance. Big plus: nice setting, fairly convenient for all of us. Both times we considered work on updated by-laws, for which we will seek member approval at our AGM. Jim Cayford & Jim Coats have done great work on this task, their interest will benefit us all. On Feb. 16 we finalized arrangements for the March 9 meeting, and on Apr. 27 for the May 30 AGM. We also looked ahead to a tentative program for 2002-03. Jim Coats has done superb work on arranging our events, the like of which I don't recall in my 53 years as an SOS member.

We discussed our input to Section News of For. Chron., Tony Molnar has done a great job in keeping us in the For. Chron. pages.

We discussed the move toward electronic distribution of the newsletter to those readers suitably equipped and disposed to receive it that way. Should reach them faster & save us some printing & mailing costs.

SOS Secretary Caroline continues to do a great job with minutes & notices & keeping Council members informed.

A FORESTRY DISPLAY FOR KORTRIGHT.

Could you imagine a more fitting place for a forestry display? We have dreamed for some years of doing this. Council has a small committee: Tony Molnar, Mike Clarke, Harvey Anderson; also Peter Attfield of the Centre. We have set aside \$500 to help fund some of the initial stages.

Harvey A. came to Council's Apr. 27 meeting with some ideas for our display. It would explain CIF's mission as well

as basics of sustainable forestry. Its target audience would be families. It would be in a window corner of the centre with a panoramic view of the forest, where specific features outdoors might be described in the display. The display would be sturdy to withstand fairly heavy visitor traffic, and movable (on wheels?) as the centre sometimes a clear area for its events.

Display elements might include things like samples (disks, rot, bird damage, etc.), photomicrographs of wood, tree ID, photos, tables, graphs, air photo stereo pairs, instruments, handout material, using the view of the forest.

The display would be permanent, but material in it would ideally rotate, e.g. with season, or theme, such as: science of forestry, cycles in forest life, tree & other ID, role of forest fire, tree structure & function, forest fungi, forest ecosystems, sustainable forest management. At times it could feature our own contribution at the centre, like fall colours & maple syrup.

MACK HIBERNATES

As your editor, I hope new computer skills & equipment will soon let me take this Newsletter to new heights. As editor I regret missing many recent events: Ont. For. Ass'n AGM; our own March 9 meeting at Sir Sandford Fleming College, both great, I heard; annual Maple Syrup Event at Kortright Centre, which I usually visit to see once again how those same faithful few section members & friends hold high the forestry flag to the Centre & its visitors. Huronia Woodland Owners' Ass'n AGM in late February, the Ont. Woodlot Ass'n's AGM on March 2, the OPFA conference in April, and various woodland owners' conferences across the region.

September 11 is fading; I keep hoping the world has learned from it & can move toward a state of true peace. What potential have trees, forests, & forestry for quality of life in that state? How do we realize that potential? To me that day did not push urgent matters onto the rear burner, rather turned up front burner heat under them.

In January in Toronto, Dr. Ursula Franklin, retired professor & well-known peace & social justice activist, was honoured by the U.N. Ass'n in Canada for a distinguished lifetime. She noted that peace is not a thing, but a state of being. Not absence of conflict or weapons but presence of justice. Without justice to all, including the "least among us", she sees no peace.

That justice includes a livable environment, which for most of us will include forests, trees, & other living things, &

maybe the Tree of Life legend from ancient times. Not just there physically, not just a resource to be managed, conserved, exploited, whatever, but an intimate part of our spiritual, intellectual, communal, & other being--a place to be ourselves, enjoy music or art, smell the pine needles, watch the moon rise, or otherwise connect our human nature to nature.

Project Ploughshares, whose purpose is peace-building worldwide, recently distributed a statement signed by >100 Nobel prize recipients, people like Toronto's own John Polanyi, Jody Williams (who campaigned against use of land mines), Archbishop Tutu, Mikhail Gorbachev, the Dalai Lama. In that statement:

The big danger to world peace is not irrational acts of states or individuals, but (too-long-unmet) legitimate demands of the dispossessed (worldwide & here at home). For many living a marginal existence in the tropics, global warming not of their doing will affect their fragile ecology most; their situation will be desperate & unjust.

Will they await others' generosity indefinitely? (Would any of us?) If not, & if modern weaponry is available to an inflamed humanity, the result could consume us all, rich & poor. What may save us is concerted global democratic action, NOW. Not with higher & tighter security walls, but united effort to counter both global warming & a weaponized world. These twin goals will enable us to move toward a wider social justice that alone offers hope of peace.

A few international agreements (& many NGO's) are in place to address arms race & climate change. Concerned citizens & states must emerge & commit to actions toward replacing war by law & justice. In the world we have created, we must think in new ways. The future of each depends on the good of all. That means our children & grandchildren, & everyone else in the human community now & in the future.

I attended a gathering recently, where the passage of time was traced from "the Big Bang" to our present technological age, dared to dream & hope that we will soon move from the Cenozoic & the "Technozoic" to the "Ecozoic," where humanity will develop the wisdom to correct & learn from mistakes & injustices now & back through time & live sustainably in the global environment. Where we'll have our city trees (some on flat roofs!), boreal, temperate, deciduous & tropical forests, our rain forests & dry forests, our agroforests, our "permacultures" or forest gardens, our "forests of hope", our "Big Picture" & more as a part of & support for that sustainable living. Where the "Tree of Life" a symbol of life through the ages,

will have a true meaning & a true place. Where vision becomes reality.

STATE OF THE WORLD

Doug Skeates sent me his reflections from "State of the World 2002", reviewing events since the UN's Rio Conference in 1992, & leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg this September. Problems like climate change, loss of species, loss of forest, water scarcity and more, have generally worsened. Half the world lives on under \$2US a day, while many of us are life-threateningly obese.

Increasingly people lack access to safe drinking water & sanitation. Tens of thousands, mostly small kids, continue to die daily from water-related disease. (I see countless stories, TV features, videos of NGOs working abroad into which any of us can read how trees and forests would help greatly in attacking this matter, and in some places has done).

Habitat loss begets biodiversity loss. Countless species of vascular plants, birds, reptiles, mammals, amphibians, fish & others face extinction. Loss of forest ecosystems is dangerous, especially to aboriginal societies in nations with low forest cover, who depend on forests for food, income, cultural & spiritual wealth.

Coral reefs suffer multiple threats. In Doug's own observation, loss of forest cover in highlands leads to severe soil erosion leading to siltation of streams & rivers, and disastrous siltation of coral reefs. In my own far more limited travels, I've seen torrents of muddy rainwater in deepening gullies (which began as donkey paths) on the hillsides, the mud-filled ditches along highways, & the coffee-colour silt plumes reaching far out to sea after a tropical downpour. I've heard of the same mud silting up costly hydro-electric dams, rendering them useless. Guess what happens any coral reef that happens to be out under that plume. And I've heard of all this ceasing wherever the soil is allowed to revegetate.

Climate change is with us; deforestation seems a major contributing factor. Reforestation might help counter it, as it helped with environmental problems in S. Ont. a century ago, & is said to be making some headway against massive dust storms in Northern China, storms recently in the news with dust perhaps reaching N. America, as it did in parts of S. Ont. over the past century. In our cities we can help offset climate change if we learn how to vegetate our flat roofs, our sun-exposed walls (vines), and those huge black-topped parking lots.

Among other suggested remedies are education, tax reform, micro-credit, encouraging environmentally sound industries, so that consumption of energy & materials & production of waste is minimized. That includes placing communities & their resource base in close proximity. (I see this point made repeatedly in a number of places). And an increasingly holistic approach to things, and the idea that an ounce of prevention beats a pound of cure. And, for us, the part of forests and forestry practitioners in all this.

In this book a foreword by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan recalls the 15 years since the historic report "Our Common Future" and the 1992 Earth Summit where governments committed to a global effort to free the world's people from the threat that our ecosystems would no longer support us. He notes that the "political & conceptual breakthroughs (of 1992) have not been decisive enough to break with business as usual," and looks to this year's conference for a renewed recognition of the need to act and the responsibility to do so.

(Doug has since visited Northern China, where a billion trees a year will be planted to help reclaim the desert region whose dust storms often blanket Beijing. China's Great Wall is nearby; the book "Forests of Hope" refer to this reforestation as "China's Great Green Wall.")

WATER KEEPERS

By 1966 in New York State & elsewhere, river pollution was affecting both rivers & communities along them. Bad enough for water to change colour with the change of paints being used in an upstream factory, or to catch fire. Seemed nothing was being done about it. Then commercial & recreational fishermen in a Hudson River town got together, in desperation considered several illegal actions. Then someone found an old law making it illegal to pollute any U.S. waterway, & offering rewards for reporting offenders. So they became law enforcers, using money received to build their cause, in time they had a boat & a full-time river keeper, a bit like river neighbourhood watch or coast guard. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. became involved as a prosecuting lawyer, & has become a champion of the river keeper movement.

This movement is spreading, to a number of rivers & lakes in the US & Canada. In early December Robert Kennedy included Toronto in a visit to Hamilton, to commission a water watch program & boat for Hamilton Harbour. It is hoped there will be other such programs for places such as the 42 areas of concern on the Great Lakes.

I listened to a panel led by Robert Kennedy, wondering what lessons this story might hold for us in S. Ont. forestry. Is there room for similar groups of interested citizens, on the lookout not just for wrong-doing, but for opportunities to do things better, & to make forestry a better-understood part of our heritage, and to be the eyes & ears of the community, also to draw attention to things & let the community know that someone who knows cares. Not to duplicate or usurp but rather support & reinforce lawful local authority

WALKERTON

In an Eastern Ont. Model Forest (EOMF) newsletter: EOMF addressed the Walkerton Inquiry last fall, on safety of drinking water. As a forest-oriented body, EOMF noted that ecosystem care is a science-based, interconnected function with woodland & wetland being key to water protection. It notes the emergence of human health, water, ecosystem health & climate change issues as (interrelated) concerns for communities.

Five recommendations addressed:

- a. need for a federal-provincial council of ministers for a policy accord on managing surface & ground water;
- b. reform of environmental protection in Ontario, integrating it with comprehensive legislation based on best practices;
- c. comprehensive data base where geospatial scientific info is in plain language usable for policy decisions;
- d. recognition of the power of good municipal official plans with integrated land use policies & strategies for the future;
- e. municipalities & various ministries to be able to work with other interested parties toward regional strategies for water protection through woodland, wetland, soils, air & land use.

In a box on the page: "If visions are unclear; public policy fragmented & incomplete; base line data outdated; science not shared; if what we do on the landscape is not linked to water, then we--flounder in a sea of ambiguity."

GROVES OF NUT TREES

In another EOMF newsletter, the E. Chapter of Society of Ont. Nut Growers (ECSONG) is active in the EOMF area, offering assistance & consultation on nut tree growing, public field days & tours, a library, listing of of nut tree locations, a newsletter, a nut cookbook & a manual for growers. Phone 613 231 4224; e-mail ecsong@ecsong.ca. <http://ecsong.ca>. The article describes 6 public nut groves in the area;

One has >100 specimens of 30 nut species & varieties, in a property of the Rideau Conservation Authority. A 385-ha. site near Mer Bleu e. of Ottawa has several small nut agroforestry plantations of various species, & a children's program with a nearby school. It was a Federal research site & is now owned by National Capital Commission.

The third, a 5-hectare grove showing interplanting, nursery & orchard techniques using a number of species. It hosts a resistant butternut archive, with cooperation with Forest Gene Conservation Ass'n. It is in the South Nation Conservation Authority. The fourth was founded in 1888 at the Central Experimental Farm, with several hundred specimens of various nut species, varieties, etc. ECSONG works with Friends of the Farm and the federal government.

A memorial nut grove of black walnut, first of its kind in Canada, was begun 2001 on the National Research Council campus in Ottawa. Finally, ECSONG is working to protect shagbark hickory trees in Lavant township, as they are the northernmost known self-maintaining population.

THE EASTERN ONT MODEL FOREST

EOMF, in yet another newsletter looks into its future, the third 5-year phase of the model forest, one of several MF's begun after the 1992 U.N. Earth Summit. This look builds on its 10 years of what seems a formidable mass of knowledge, ideas and wisdom.

Its vision of forests for 7 generations is "a mosaic of healthy forest ecosystems within a landscape of rural & urban areas throughout E Ont, providing long term economic, social & spiritual benefits, while ensuring a healthy environment that is valued by all."

It will pursue 5 main objectives that seek to maintain, increase or expand, in the EOMF: i. quality & health of forest ecosystems; ii. forest cover in areas that contribute to improving forest sustainability & diversity across the landscape; iii. to expand the body of people that is informed & supportive of sustainable forest management & knowledgeable about the value of forests to the human community; iv. the transfer of principles & practices beyond E. Ont.; v. strengthen forest management efforts.

Sixteen implementation strategies are mentioned, including: continued work with forest owners & forest workers; sustainable forestry certification; timber & non-timber values; sustainable forestry in municipal plans & strategies; perspectives on future forest; state of the forest reporting; comprehensive communication & outreach; engaging

communities (First Nations especially mentioned, also outside the EOMF); maintaining strong partnership with the Mohawk Community of Akwesasne.

NATIONAL FOREST WEEK (NFW) May 5-11.

An EOMF newsletter says of NFW: We have much to celebrate about our forests including things big & small, from the largest maple to the tiniest soil microbe. On May 8 there will be: a lecture in Ottawa's Central Museum of Nature; demo by a member of the Mohawk community in Eastern Ont. of black ash log pounding & basket making; a children's program; tour of the National Arboretum held by Friends of the (Central Experimental) Farm; community tree planting events; conifer plantation management workshops; guided forestry & wildlife hikes.

GANANOQUE FORESTREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GFAC)

Also from EOMF's newsletter: GFAC is a volunteer group dedicated to maintaining & developing the public protection, conservation & planting of the town's trees. For several years they have had a tree nursery; it now has several hundred native trees ready for planting in the town & surrounding Township of Leeds & the 1000 Islands, to service clubs, schools, conservation & community groups. Seed for these trees was collected locally. GFAC provides guidance on care & planting of the trees. It welcomes donations to help further its work.

ONTARIO FORESTRY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, FEB. 8.

As noted earlier I missed OFA's annual event. I heard it was great, with Hon. Bob Rae as luncheon speaker. From the program notes, the conference looked at how a landowner might get tree seedlings for planting, now that MNR no longer provides them. Thom McDonough of MNR and spokespersons from 5 nurseries dealt with this.

Anyone who knows red pine plantations that are 50 years or older and have been properly thinned will know how sugar maple and other regeneration can form a dense understory that in time should take over the site. Ken Elliott, MNR's Carolinian forestry specialist in London, discussed how this can be assisted & less abundant species encouraged by thinning, underplanting, creating gaps.

Al Corlett, MNR's Great Lakes Forestry specialist, reviewed how various silvicultural systems are used to influence regeneration species, etc., in hardwood stands. Jon McCracken, Program Manager for Bird Studies Canada,

spoke of the interaction between conditions in the managed forest and abundance, species makeup and other features of the bird population.

Scott Davis, of Eastern Ont. Model Forest, described EOMF's effort on behalf of 56 landowners with 15,000 acres of E. Ont. forest to seek Forest Stewardship Council certification.

Alec Denys of MNR described the efforts to secure community-based management for the 1,100-ha. St. Williams Crown Forest. Peter Schleifenbaum of Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve described how this forest, acquired by his family in 1962, is being restored by logging practices that help rehabilitate run-down areas.

ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION--AGM, MARCH 2.

I missed this event too, but have some of the pre-registration items I received. Several interesting program items:

1. John FitzGibbons, U. of Guelph, on tree conservation by-laws at county, regional, township & city levels. Based on interviews with bylaw enforcement staff, municipal councilors & interested members of the public, to assess motivation for the bylaws, their effectiveness & the impacts on protecting forests & improving forestry practice. Influence of the bylaws in supporting stewardship by landowners.

2. Len Munt of Regional Municipality of York on the urban/rural perspective of tree conservation bylaws.

3. Erica Nol of Trent University on large woodlot conservation: the role of large woodlands & wetlands in the S. Ont. landscape, in conserving populations of trees & many other species. The forming of a "Large Woodlands Conservation Cooperative" to educate owners or part owners of woodland on the value of those large areas. Results of work done over the years by Dr. Dawn Burke & others at Trent University on the effect of woodlot size on health of creatures living there. (See article below).

4. Andy Kenney on progress of the S. Ont. woodlands project of the FON. A project arising from FON's 1999 conference at Trent University and funded by the Richard Ivey Foundation. Its objectives include:

- a. Developing a network for exchange of info on woodlot conservation & restoration;
- b. Identification of gaps in knowledge, & action plans to fill those gaps;
- c. Developing & implementing mechanisms to identify high

priority woodlots;

d. Promotion of "big picture" approach to woodlot conservation & restoration;

e. Review of mechanisms now available to recognize significant woodlots in S. Ont.

5. Gary Connolly, Chartered Accountant, on business, financial & tax-related issues of owning & managing a woodlot. Questions like:

- a. Managing a woodlot in most tax-effective manner;
- b. What is full potential of woodlot as a commercial operation;
- c. Woodlot as an effective tax shelter;
- d. Maximizing tax value of woodlot operation.

LARGE WOODLAND CONSERVATION CO-OP (LWWC)

From an earlier S&W Report: LWWC has been formed to provide extension to landowners & help conserve large woodlots in Peterborough, Northumberland, Durham & City of Kawartha Lakes. Forests of any size help maintain water quality, stabilize soil, counter global warming, and provide habitat for many plant & animal species. But large forest areas unbroken by farming, roads, or urbanization, do this in ways that scattered forest patches surrounded by non-forest cannot. Ongoing forest reduction & fragmentation are especially hard on species that need significant areas of interior forest or intact forest. Protecting and restoring large woodland with forest interior are among the most important things S. Ont. owners can do for wildlife.

LWWC was founded by scientists, landowners, naturalists & conservation & government agency reps who share a concern for future of large forest areas, to help encourage conservation of large woodlands. Owners in these counties are encouraged to contact LWWC c/o Julie Casimirri, c/o Trent University, Peterborough, K9J 7B8. Ph. 705 748 1011 ext 1640. e-mail: lwcc@trentu.ca>.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED COMMUNITY FOREST PLANNING

Herb Hammond of Silva Forest Foundation is forest ecologist, citizen activist & author living in Southeast B.C., well known there & across Canada as a champion of forestry he feels will sustain both natural & human communities. Herb & Susan Hammond, & forester Rami Rothkop of Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society, near Kootenay Lake, gave a workshop in Toronto on March 4 on an ecosystem-based planning system that closely involves the local community, especially indigenous people. Of several areas Herb has worked in B.C. & elsewhere,

one is Harrop-Procter Watershed. Here are some thoughts from hearing this presentation, & from printed material they brought.

The Harrop-Procter watershed is mountainous, largely forested, with a narrow belt of less forested more gently sloping terrain bordering on Kootenay Lake. It includes various other terrain elements like wetlands intricately woven across the area.

First, for info, case histories, publications, etc., contact Herb or Susan at Silva Forest Foundation, P.O. Box 9, Slocan Park, B.C., V0G 2E0. Ph 250 226 7222, Fax 250 226 7446, e-mail: silvafor@netidea.com; or www.silvafor.org. Rami can be reached at Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society, P.O. Box 5, Procter, BC, V0G 1V0. Ph 250 229 2221, e-mail rami@uniserve.com

Stable human communities depend on healthy ecosystems & biological diversity, i.e. on natural capital. For long term stability they must act in ways that protect, maintain, & if needed restore ecosystem health & biodiversity & continue to support a full range of life.

Ecosystem-based planning may be effectively applied in a wide range of situations, at a hierarchy of levels, as a basis for ecologically responsible human activity. It emphasizes a degree of oneness among ecosystems, cultures & economies. The healthier the ecosystem, the better it will support a healthy community. As has been noted elsewhere, humanity is part of, not apart from, the web of life.

It aims to maintain, enhance or restore a healthy, functioning system, with all its complexity & changability, & with biological diversity & natural species composition. Human activity-including what you harvest from a forest, take from a wildlife population, or wear & tear on a beach or trail-must be within the limits that imposes, if it is to be sustainable.

Between the steep slopes & the lake is a belt of more gently sloping land, likely with deep fertile soils. Much of this is privately owned, the hinterland largely Crown land. The planning system works regardless of ownership. Use of private land can be secured in several ways, among them conservation easements, so it should work in areas like S. Ont. that are largely urban, urbanizing, or suburbanizing. Considerable effort has been made i. to enlist community members in an organization that supports the effort; ii. to enlist forest owners & wood-using businesses into cooperative effort. What is happening is a different way of doing things from more familiar ways. Often a big problem with community forestry is access to

the needed land base. Also that it may take years, even 20 years, of lobbying, educating, etc. before a project of this kind comes into being.

Prudence is exercised in any area of uncertainty, erring on the side of protecting a natural system & its functions. We rarely if ever "know it all" & need to build into decisions the leeway implied in that admission. (If precious things are already lost from your landscape, restoration may be done, or you use the same thinking to make the best of an altered or diminished landscape. Or, as in S. Ont., you may try harder to save what is not yet lost, and if possible to restore things that have been damaged or lost).

Also acknowledging that "no one knows it all", they try to utilize the best knowledge & wisdom available, looking holistically, reaching into other disciplines, into the body of scientific knowledge built up over centuries, & that of aboriginal wisdom passed from person to person for millennia, & the capacity of community members, especially those who earn their living as woods workers, or have otherwise direct contact with, or commitment to, the woods, to observe what is around them, especially if they are interested, have a say in what is done, & a stake in the results, good or bad. They try to understand the full range of potential benefits to community life, & to seek optimum ecological, community & societal health. And their management is adaptive--sounds like being always on the lookout for better ways to do things.

Focusing on optimum long term health of natural & human community is likely to mean smaller timber harvest volume; many trees are left. Cuts are conducted that leave the stand very much in a natural condition, even right after logging. The result is also a more diverse product line, enhanced opportunity for value-added. I'd guess the result is a good long term flow of high quality products. Also, in such rugged terrain, this approach would protect against the threat of major erosion and resulting siltation. It would also protect from the visual effects of sizable clear-cuts on mountainous slopes.

Many of the trees that are left, up to 10% of the stand, will stay permanently, to be seed trees & to become mature then overmature trees, & to provide some old growth forest characteristics. Thus the entire forest remains in a minimally disturbed natural state, with a good chance of retaining old growth features throughout. A bit like some of our better managed woodlots & plantations here.

A related effect is that the community will promote as much local value-added manufacturing as possible; like custom sawmilling, cedar siding and lumber, flooring. First nations are interested in birch & cedar bark for baskets & mats, &

cedar boughs for oil. A variety of forest plants can be harvested, many can be grown on agricultural land near the forest, for herbalist and medicinal uses. A variety of teas, honey and other products is available. A range of products can be marketed in attractive boxes made of local wood. Ecotourism, featuring a trail network, is an important component. One effect of this is that many community members may have many kinds of interest & involvement in the forest.

A leaflet available at this event is from Harrop-Procter Forest Products, a member company of the HP Community Co-Operative (HPCC). It manages 11,000 hectares of Community Forest, & takes pride in logging that leaves a fully functioning forest. Its product list includes rough-sawn lumber of various dimensions, panelling, flooring, decking, siding, and timbers of various sizes. It uses "a Kootenay Mix" of species: Douglas fir, larch, lodgepole & white pine, western red cedar, hemlock, birch, balsam, spruce, and aspen; all second-growth timber selectively logged from the community forest.

A hierarchy of planning scales is used. Looking at first at the broad level, landscape elements are identified that need protection from various kinds of human activity, logging and other. Areas for the habitat needs of animals with a wide range. Or recognizing that some areas may be a complex mix of, say, wetland, stream courses & upland, where significant logging in the forest area may have significant impact on the whole system.

Starting at the broadest possible level (e.g. national, hemispheric, global) enables protection somewhere of precious things, & provides a context for regional & local levels.

While this approach was demonstrated for a rugged watershed, it is said to apply as well to the urban, urbanizing or suburbanizing S. Ont. landscape, or to maintain a forest presence in an agricultural &/or urban landscape. Here the approach may be to maintain, restore, and expand on what is present, & how it relates to the whole landscape.

Years ago I heard the idea of "prime sites" in a management unit; areas of high quality close to the community, the work force, & wood processing plants. The idea, I think, was for intensive management in these areas to produce lots of product (assuming these are fertile sites, as they likely are), thus lessening the need for access to the hinterland. It seemed to me that the cleared, settled land between the rugged slopes & the lake fitted this notion very well. I suspect that much of the S. Ont. forest, located on good sites & on a good road system, & potentially close to work

force, wood-using plants, and markets, would fit this prime sites notion.

To carry this another step, I have mentioned before some worldwide examples of forestry carried to a high degree of intensity, in itself or overlapping into agricultural &/or urban land uses. Places where hundreds of thousands of trees are planted to restore an urban forest & help restore the city's livability. The kinds of stories found in the book "Forests of Hope" & in the "Permaculture" idea in Australian literature, of forest gardens managed with a high level of intensity, into which important species are skillfully introduced, so dozens of species may be found an area as big as a soccer field, by those who understand both how the various species interact, & the value of each species to the community.

Harrop-Procter is boreal forest. Some things were noted that I for one had thought little about. A whole system of fungi is adapted to boreal conditions & likely indispensable to a healthy forest. If so, what does it take to keep it functioning & safe from harm. How do they respond, say, to a heavy logging. Biological activity in the boreal forest tends to be concentrated in the top few centimetres of the soil. There is usually a lot of water. The soil & water are cold. Cold water is more viscous than if warmer, & may not be as readily usable by plants.

It is noted that a managed forest that is grown to maturity then logged then restocked has a short life cycle. The natural life span where old growth forest develops has a cycle several times longer. Trees in long-lived forests may go through several stages: shrubs & seedling, second growth, then a long period as mature then old growth. Many trees may then stand dead, some for far longer than they stood as live trees, & may disintegrate or fall more or less intact, with the fallen tree staying in place for decades or longer. The larger the tree, the longer it is likely to stay. Trees to be left are chosen with quality of offspring in mind.

Depending on how heavily a stand is logged, & how high the level of utilization, it is this over-aged material, with all its ecological benefits, to the soil organisms, to other forest flora & fauna, that is left in a carefully logged stand. Thus in the approach being used, many trees distributed through the forest are designated to be left, to become old growth trees, to become wildlife trees, to be seed trees, and to retain the ecosystem's natural capacity to maintain good health. This is a significant short-run sacrifice in volume harvest leading to very substantial long-term gain, likely in all of: quantity, quality, and value.

CLIPPINGS FROM ATLANTIC FORESTRY REVIEW.

A citizen coalition made up of municipalities, woods workers, conservationists, woodlot owners, & others met in Miramichi to form a "Coalition for the Fair Application of the Crown Lands & Forests Act." It noted some concerns voiced by the provincial Auditor General regarding application of the Act, & noted a need to protect the interests of communities & of workers on Crown land, give water quality, tourism and other matters due weight relative to large company timber interests. The coalition adopted some principles:

1. harvest wood in ecologically responsible manner;
2. sustainable wood supply to mills;
3. fair return to public treasury for products from Crown land;
4. fair community access to jobs on Crown land;
5. public involvement in development of management & operating plans.
6. multiple use on public land.
7. community-based labour intensive industry with reasonable access to wood or other products from public land.
8. strategies for providing stability in jobs, etc., to nearby communities.
9. in timber harvesting, consideration of effect on neighbouring properties.

North Nova Forest Owners Co-Op. A glowing story of the work of this co-op in its 25 years, how it has a host (no numbers are shown) of contented member woodlot owners in Colchester & Cumberland Counties, the range and quality of the service it has performed, the rewards to members, the good public relations it has fostered, and the millions of dollars it has contributed to the local economy.

Pruning for Profit: An owner in Maine near the N.B. border has found it highly profitable to do hardwood crop tree pruning. He uses a pole saw, then a ladder, striving for at least two good logs. He then does careful thinning to ensure that the pruned trees have optimum growing space. He has kept detailed records of what he has done. He is sufficiently convinced of the value added due to clear stems and improved diameter increment that he is starting to apply this kind of treatment in young stands.

Extension in New Brunswick: Glen Blouin, who used to be Exec. Dir., Cdn For Ass'n, writes about the disbanding of N.B.'s forest extension service, & suggests some long term implications of that. He noted that N.B. had had the best such program in Canada, one of North America's best. It began in the 1940's, a joint effort of the UNB, agriculture & forestry departments, & the Cdn. For. Assn. of N.B. It did enough educational work to know that most owners, if well educated, will do the right thing. They did courses &

demo's, wrote management plans, & offered technical advice. They helped advance the Christmas tree & maple syrup industries in N.B.

In 1976 the province took over the service. Many extension staff were assigned to other forestry work; private land forestry lost priority in relation to that on Crown land. In 2000 the service was disbanded & a wealth of specialized talent, dedication & experience was largely scattered to the winds. The Federation of Woodlot Owners took up some of this, but only a tiny fraction of the program that existed earlier.

The result, Glen feels, will be owners less knowledgeable in a whole host of subjects. Including business planning, taxation, dealing with contractors, and more. Economically it will mean less income for the owners, lower wood supply and quality for the mills, and reduced wood supply. Environmentally it will mean uninformed harvesting with all the related site damage. Socially the important element of a private land forest management ethic developed through encouragement and learning, and passed from one generation to the next.

A PATCH OF OUR WILD

In the Toronto Star, Mar. 16 & 23, Cameron Smith, environmental journalist, tells of the Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve, 25,000 hectares acquired in the 1960's by a German family from the sawmill company that had owned it since 1862. It is being restored toward the kind of forest that existed previous to logging. Having a number and variety of lakes, it has a strong ecotourism emphasis and is becoming a rich and diverse wildlife area.

The forest part is quite typical of the forest situation across a large section of the S. Ont. Precambrian Shield. It is an area where there seems to be strong reason to believe the forest can be effectively restored toward its full ecological, social and economic potential.

The ecotourism emphasis has led to protection of a variety of lake trout found only in a certain lake in the Reserve; to the collection & evaluation of an impressive amount of ecologically important info.

To my knowledge, the restoration described here is not all that different from that being done in many parts of the Crown forest of South-Central Ontario.

WHO WILL DO IT IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO?

The Ont. For. Ass'n's Conference included many great things. Among them, two woodlot owners, Roger Short from Grey County & Chris Lincoln from Peterborough Co., & President, Ont. Woodlot Assn., described their woodlot experiences. From reading about this in OFA's "re:view" newsletter, I offer the following thoughts.

Roger Short and his family have seen their 50 acres change from marginal farm to 7 forested compartments. They have focused on restoring or enhancing natural features, like wetland & natural water flow. They have built bridges & culverts. Wildlife management was not a prime objective but an important side-effect of their work. Animals use their improved forest and their access road network. Looks like a fairly significant financial investment.

Chris Lincoln wonders if "good stewardship is financially feasible." His family property of 55 acres requires rehabilitation of high-graded forest & reforestation of open areas. They had to buy tree-planting stock at going prices, then lost most of their planting to a prolonged drought. There are ongoing costs that could be too much for a person or family & could well prevent the long-term stewardship efforts that are needed.

I have had my place since 1946, when land prices & property taxes were both low. I did most of my initial planting before 1955; in those days nursery stock was free & Midhurst Nursery a 20-minute drive away. Provincial staff in those days were available for extension work; this often extended to close involvement in actual tree planting. In those days there was a market for Christmas trees grown with minimal tending. While Christmas trees were not my main interest, modest sales were enough to cover most of the first 15 years' costs of buying the land and establishing the forest.

In 1978 my plantations, & my natural hardwood, were first thinned; provincial staff again helped with marking & marketing, as an extension service. Under the Woodland Improvement Act they replaced what was becoming a Scots pine jungle with a new plantation which is now just over 20 years old. Today, people who walk my trails (a side-trip from the Ganaraska Trail loops around my trails) enthuse about the therapeutic effect of this quiet corner in a frantically developing S. Ont. A retired teacher marvels at how great a place it would be to bring a class to learn about music, art & drama. I'd like to show them a few of the complexities of the web of life, the role of such forests in providing many products we use daily, or some features of forest management that have been designed for such places. I'd like them to watch the rising full moon through the treetops.

Would I have done this under today's economic conditions, including the cost of buying & planting trees, property values, taxes, & the level of availability of qualified help (& what they need to charge to earn a reasonable living)? Not likely--even if I were still 25 years old. Would anyone else do it? With what motivation from society & from within?

It seems very much in society's interest to have a viable forest across the region, in the manner suggested by "The Big Picture" of FON and Carolinian Canada. Significant investment is being made in remedial action in places like Severn Sound Watershed. My place is on the upper fringe of that watershed; I cannot believe my trees do not have positive influence on it. Or: when we decide to come to grips with managing climate change, surely the more healthy forest we have the better. Or: that landscape is free from dust storms nowadays, unlike when I first knew it 70 years ago, before widespread reforestation took place.

But if the dollar is in fact the most important thing, then what? I heard, during my 1995 logging, that for every dollar of revenue to the landowner, at least \$10 went to "the economy": wages to loggers & skidder operator; to the truck drivers who took the logs away; money invested in owning & operating & maintaining all that equipment & all those chain saws; whatever benefit came to the sawmills, pulp mills, & eventually the lumber yard. And somewhere along the line, the research scientists & others who have evolved the silvicultural systems that show us how to work sustainably with these stands.

That being so, I continue to wonder why leave the load so heavily on the individual owner; why the resistance to more meaningful partnership between society, who benefits in all those ways, & the owner, who foots the bill & runs all the long term risks of owning the land & the forest. If we are to keep moving from the kind of forest we have now to the kinds of forest we must have if this region is to remain a good place for the future, then maybe a whole new meaningful partnership must be worked out. Maybe society must ask: what will it take to enlist the land owners needed to create the forest we want. How do we make it worthwhile to the owners we would wish to have in such a system, to become effective partners, and once we get them on board, what will it take to keep them there.

As someone (I think Chris Lincoln) said, the property tax break is great (though I do wonder if the municipal level alone should be carrying that cost), but owners do have other costs. My own costs have been minimal, though a lot of work is not being done that could be done, say, if I were younger & lived nearby. Work like releasing promising young trees that could do so much to ensure future

species diversity. Or, a few years ago, pruning more promising red & white pine trees. Or making the best of a number of standing and fallen dead trees as wildlife habitat and soil enrichment. In the Roger Short & Chris Lincoln cases, they had significant costs, in developing wetland, bridges & culverts, planting to rehabilitate upland forest, & more. I have heard others talk of costs of building trails; mine have so far cost nothing. My entire net of 4 km. of trails is drivable by car.

The "re:view" article ended with "participants in this session were left with some weighty issues to ponder & things to take to their own land". I hope the pondering comes from more than a dedicated few owners. After a lifetime I still keep hoping we will move toward a more meaningful relationship between society & its forested landowners, so that more than the few will give such issues the time of day, & we won't revert to the dismal level of forest conservation present just before 1900. That society won't take for granted the good citizen spirit & generosity of the Short, Lincoln & thousands of other families. That it will build on their efforts and draw others into similar activity, to play a key part in achieving The Big Picture).

"Good News for a Change," a new book co-authored by David Suzuki, contains the story of a 137-acre woodlot on Vancouver Island. Owner Merve Wilkinson, now 88, has lived & logged in it & otherwise enjoyed & maintained it since 1945. He has provided full or part-time employment for 26 people. He has maintained diversity throughout, and has numerous products like mushrooms, berries and medicinal plants, and, it seems, a very rich wildlife population that feels very at much at home with his presence among them.

Allowing that productivity in S. Ont. woods may not be nearly as high, at least in the present state of most of the forest, I read this and wonder how many S. Ont. owners have any idea of the potential of their woods, as they are now, and as they could be under a lifetime of tender loving care. How many understand how to give that care. What would it take to interest them.

Besides all that, I've always wondered why all the good private land forestry efforts we've seen in Ontario since the 1940's have never managed to attract more than 10-15% of landowners. What will happen to a reasonable vision of 21st Century S. Ont. forestry if we cannot do better? What would it take to bring substantially more owners on board?

PRIVATE LAND FORESTRY IN QUEBEC

In a recent S&W Report (newsletter) Mike Rosen, Stewardship Coordinator for Ottawa-Carleton, & who lives in Quebec near Hull, compared provincially-run private land forestry programs in Ontario & Quebec. Quebec has a system of registration for owners of over 4 hectares, done by a non-profit regional agency funded by the province & by local wood-using mills. There is a generous program of incentives for work like site preparation, seedling planting, plantation tending, road construction, pre-commercial thinning & selection cutting with tree marking, management planning. There is also a property tax refund system and a credit program to help finance equipment purchase.

Wood sales go through the Federation of Wood Producers (Federation des producteurs de bois), which has 14 chapters across the Province. It negotiates prices for owners & also markets products to mills in Quebec & elsewhere. Landowner members get a newsletter & info on wood prices. The Federation is funded from negotiating wood sales, fees, memberships, & "passes" needed for pulpwood (& some saw logs) entering mills. There is also a network of silvicultural organizations, forestry consulting firms, etc. A list is updated yearly of these people for owners.

Apparently due to all of this, there is much more wood entering mills from private lands in Quebec than in Ont., a far more ambitious silvicultural activity. Provincial funding of private land forestry is \$3 million in Ontario, \$33 million in Quebec.

Mike notes that like everything else, this system is not perfect. There are complaints about too much bureaucracy and related things. And the differences noted may not be entirely due to the system, but partly to a more traditional love of woodlots by more Quebecers.

Back in Ontario, Mike wonders about FON's WoodsTalk 2001 conference: Where were woodlot owners & their associations? Or advocates for sustainably managed woodlots or woodlot owner incentives? Or a voice of a strong wood-based economy in rural Ont.? Also, he noted that despite the flood of info. products for owners in recent years, there is a lack of help for, say, the aging owner with a 30-year old red pine in need of thinning, who with no market will have to do the work himself or pay to have it done.

(And, I keep wondering: how many among us have the combination of: time, inclination, equipment, knowledge, skills, & 30-year-old red pine plantations (or any other young forest) to undertake such a do-it-yourself operation?)

SMART GROWTH

I was recently introduced to the Province's "Smart Growth" initiative. (So my understanding is crude at best). Where partnerships are being formed to manage growth in ways that are sustainable & which optimize quality of life & protection of environment. Principles like sustainable development, comprehensive integrated planning, and healthy cities are mentioned as part of the basis for this.

I still have only vague understanding of this, but see it as an attempt at comprehensive planning of the landscape, and would hope that notions like the "Big (or Bigger) Picture" being developed for forest & related systems for Southern Ontario will be a strong element in whatever the Smart Growth Panels come up with.

THE MIGHTY OAK.

Item from the Urban Forest Network (UFN) newsletter about a year ago: Folklore & tradition worldwide is full of tree symbolism & mythology. Over time trees have represented fertility, masculinity, femininity, wisdom, strength, power. Trees have sometimes personified Gods & Goddesses. To many, trees are the greatest symbol of life, nature, the cycles of life, death, birth, rebirth. Among these, the oak is known to many as King of the Forest. (To Christians, there is a strong link between the Cross & the Tree of Life, between the tree & the universality of creation).

The list of oaks is as great as human reverence for them. Its folk names include Duir, Juglans, Father, Protector, the Druid. It is often linked with masculinity. Its Latin name, Quercus, comes from Celtic and means "the tree above all others." (In 1947 some of my classmates called it "Queer Cuss.")

Oak has been considered sacred by many cultures, especially the Norse & Celts. It may have been around a large oak that the Celts danced the Maypole dance. It may be the oak's susceptibility to lightning strikes that led people to associate it with sun & fire, with sudden illumination from above, strength, solidarity, endurance. Druids often taught under oaks (would this be the original outdoor classroom?) & often held their grandest meetings in oak groves.

Still earlier, Zeus' voice was often heard in the oak's rustling leaves. To some, oak still has power and magic. Some feel that acorns placed in windows may protect a house from lightning and harm. Catching a falling oak leaf may bring a winter's immunity from colds. Some think

carrying acorns may prevent illness & pain and promote longevity, fertility and sexual powers.

To which I'd add that in "The Man Who Planted Trees" story, it was the shepherd who planted 100 acorns each day out with his sheep who is said to have reforested & revived a desolate countryside.

HERBAL TREES

A recent UFN newsletter has an item on herbal trees: There are trees that offer medicinal benefits. Sap, bark, leaves, blossoms, berries & nuts can be used to create helpful infusions, teas & tonics, if you know which trees. (A caution is issued about seeking expert advice).

Hawthorn: ripe fruits have been used as tonic for heart & circulatory system.

Linden: tea from the blossoms can be used for nervous tension.

Maidenhair Tree: roasted or pan-fried seeds are pleasant to eat & are said to cure hangovers. In China the seeds & leaves are used for coughs & asthma.

Birch: tea from the leaves was once recommended for rheumatism & gout.

Witch Hazel: distilled extract from young flower-bearing twigs (available commercially as witch hazel) may be used externally for sprains, bruises, varicose veins, hemorrhoids & insect bites.

FROM THE GRAND RIVER WATERSHED

The current "Grand Actions" newsletter of Grand River Cons. Auth. has a number of interesting items.

1. A man who, as road superintendent for 15 years of a rural municipality, decided to have trees planted on available locations along roads. During his tenure, ending in 1993, 24,200 trees were planted, mainly native bar-root deciduous trees. Those trees, along with surviving older trees, are already making that township a pleasanter place to be.

How often does it happen that when such good things like this happen, it is because one person steps forth & makes it happen? Here it is a key township person, doing this as an add-on to his regular work. In other situations it could as easily be a forester, engineer, a school teacher, principal,

trustee, a local clergyman or church or service club member. Or like the shepherd in "The Man who Planted Trees," noted above. Or you. Or me.

2. What happens as a good idea catches on: Many farmers in the Grand Watershed (& elsewhere, I'd think) are fencing corridors to keep grazing livestock away from streams. The corridors are becoming tall vegetation (grass, etc.) with many planted shrubs & trees. Water flow & quality is being restored, as is the fish population. The streams are protected from runoff from nearby fields.

Also a significant & diverse population of wildlife (e.g. meadowlarks, bobolinks, savanna sparrows, mallards & other ground nesting birds, others that nest in trees, tree cavities, etc., in or near the buffer. More will come if the trees, shrubs & other plant life increasingly provide food, shelter, nesting sites.

3. In another case of "big can be good" Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is funding major tree planting to consolidate, expand, & enhance the Luther Marsh, a large & rich wildlife area, & among the shrinking number of large areas across the region.

It is noted that OPG has begun a "Carbon Sequestration & Biodiversity Management" program to plant trees strategically in S. Ont., with 4 main objectives:

- i. habitat for species that are threatened by forest fragmentation & loss;
- ii. expand key forest areas & connect woodland patches;
- iii. improve water quality in riparian zones;
- iv. offset carbon dioxide emissions by removing C from the air.

They focus on an increasingly rare item: big habitat.

Bits of wisdom:

From memory: Appreciate every moment (day, hour). Take from it (& put into it) all you can. For you (will) never experience that moment again.

Aboriginal wisdom: When we walk upon Mother Earth we always plant our feet carefully, because we know the faces of our future generations are looking up at us from beneath the ground. We never forget them.

On failing: a Japanese proverb: Fall down seven times. Stand up eight times. Or as someone once told me: The only time you don't want to fail is the last time you try.

FROM U.N. ENVIRONMENTAL SABBATH PROGRAM

We have forgotten who we are.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security

We have exploited simply for our own ends

We have distorted our knowledge

We have abused our power

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren

And the waters are poisoned

And the air is polluted

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying

And the creatures are disappearing

And humans are despairing

We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness

We ask for the gift of remembering

We ask for the strength to change.

We have forgotten who we are.