

**CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY
SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECTION
NEWSLETTER**

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FORESTS IN SETTLED LANDSCAPES:
WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT AND
ENHANCE: THE 2007 CIF ANNUAL
MEETING. AUGUST 19 TO 23.

U OF T FACULTY OF FORESTRY
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF FORESTRY
EDUCATION.

The 2007 CIF AGM is to be hosted jointly by the U of T Faculty of Forestry and by our own CIF Section. It is being held as part of the Faculty's Centennial celebration.

As indicated, the 2007 CIF Annual Meeting is part of the U of T Faculty of Forestry's 100th Anniversary celebration. It is hoped that the Anniversary will attract many alumni and friends to come and share. Those of you who are U of T Forestry Alumni will already have heard of these events; all are encouraged to enjoy as many events as possible. They include the following, and for more details, check with www.forestry.utoronto.ca, (and click on centennial):

It's time to mark this event in our calendars. As preparations proceed, you can follow it on the CIF's web site: www.cif-ifc.org; go to conferences then to the 2007 AGM. The event will also be widely publicized in the Forestry Chronicle and elsewhere.

March 28 (Wednesday) is the actual anniversary date of the Faculty. There will be a special event with U of T President Dr. David Naylor present.

The conference also has its own web site www.event-horizons.com/fsl (fsl presumably stands for Forests in Settled Landscapes).

There will be a series of three Distinguished Speaker Lectures, the first is on Thursday April 5, with Margaret Atwood speaking about the Canadian connection with its forests, and the influence of forests and forestry on Canadian culture and society. (I graduated in 1950; Margaret's father, Dr. Carl Atwood, was our professor in zoology in first year and forest entomology in fourth year).

As mentioned before, the conference will feature keynote speakers for the three themes, a tree planting ceremony at the U of T., a social event at the University, a fun evening. More details on the web site.

On May 23 (Wednesday) Monte Hummel, MScF, co-founder of Pollution Probe, and President Emeritus, World Wildlife Fund Canada, Officer of the Order of Canada will be the distinguished speaker.

The Conference is designed to attract CIF members and others with the broadest possible interest in forestry on settled landscapes.

In September (possibly Tuesday, 4th) the third distinguished speaker will hopefully be artist environmentalist naturalist Robert Bateman.

A postcard enclosed with this issue, promoting the conference, reads: From our downtown cores to the edge of the settled landscapes, landowners, foresters, and allied professionals, scientists, policy-makers, concerned citizens and others are addressing many rapidly evolving challenges and opportunities facing forests in these settled landscapes. As part of its Centennial celebrations the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto, together with the Canadian Institute of Forestry Southern Ontario Section, invite you to (come to the conference and) explore some of those challenges and opportunities.

On May 31-June 3 (Thu-Sun) will be the U of T's Spring Reunion; Graduating Classes in years ending with 7 and 2 up to 1982 will be honoured.

On August 18-19, the Faculty will have a weekend of reunion/homecoming events, including a dinner, unveiling a Centennial Wall,

releasing a new Graduate Directory, and launching a history of the Faculty.

On August 19-23. (Sun-Thur), the Faculty will co-host the CIF's Annual General Meeting.

On September 30-October 3. (Sun-Wed) the Faculty will host an International Congress on the U of T Campus.

The Faculty's web site encourages donations in support of the Centennial, and has instructions for those wishing to do so.

YOUR SECTION

Mike Clarke represented our Section at the 2007 Ring Ceremony at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay on Saturday, March 10. At a dinner Mike spoke to the graduating students about the CIF, and of the 49 students who received the ring this year he presented the rings on behalf of the CIF to those present.

The CIF was well represented; CIF Executive Director John Pineau attended, also his son Michael. John presented the Gold Medal, also on behalf of the CIF, to the best rounded student.

Another annual event involves the Section. March is Maple Syrup season, with lots of festivals across the region. Again our Section is taking part in the festival, at the Kortright Centre for Conservation.

FORESTRY IMPORTANT TO THE WORLD?

From the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), 1992: The subject of forests is related to the entire range of environmental and developmental issues and opportunities.

At the same time, in the period running up to UNCED, forestry was so low on the priority of many, that there was a possibility forests and forestry would not make it onto the UNCED agenda.

FORESTRY IMPORTANT TO TORONTO?

In the Toronto Star, December 30, 2006, environmental columnist Cameron Smith wrote

about a conversation with Toronto's director of forestry, Richard Ubbens. It is noted that the forest of the future will need to be much different from what is seen in the city today. Toronto has coined the phrase the city within a park.

Future needs will be in part a response to climate change, and recognition that Toronto, like any large urban area, is a heat island. Climate change is likely to bring an increase in extreme weather events, like droughts, flooding, destructive storms, new stresses and new pests.

The new forest will help moderate temperatures, by shading and by the cooling effect of transpiration. It will help intercept rainfall, important for places like Toronto with dominantly clay soils. They will help keep the clay from drying out to the point of cracking. They will help keep rainwater on the site.

The city will encourage people to plant more trees on private property, and is looking at the new City of Toronto Act to help with the protection of growing spaces for trees.

The city will be paying increased attention to the genetic origins of its planting stock. Anticipating the need to adapt to warming climate, it will consider planting stock with more southerly origins, including species like hickories, sassafras, sweet gum, yellowwood, and oaks, and maybe sycamore.

So that the city is as hospitable as possible to trees, efforts of a number of city departments will be progressively better coordinated, such as water, engineering, transportation, urban design, planning and of course forestry.

The vision is A City Within a Park, existing parks will be increasingly linked through neighbourhoods filled with trees. The idea will be to greatly increase, perhaps double, the city's tree cover. It will happen progressively over a few decades.

It reminds me of the Big Picture map published a few years ago by Carolinian Canada Coalition. One of several information boxes on the map asks: "How is the Big Picture to be Achieved?" Answer: Gradually. Voluntarily. Over Generations. With Community Support.

In the Toronto Star on March 12 is an article by Keth Stewart, of World Wildlife Fund Canada,

about climate change. Since some change has happened or is inevitable, a number of suggestions for living with it or offsetting it include:

Increase the energy efficiency (and reduce the heat island effect) of our built-up areas, among other things with more trees and other plant material.

Protect the carbon sinks we now have in our soils and our forests, through good stewardship.

Since forests will be impacted, keep them as healthy as possible, to withstand the stresses climate change is bound to have on them. In our region at least, I would think there is almost unlimited opportunity for improvement.

FOREST IN MARKHAM

Found on the internet Jan 2, 2007

Mayor Frank Scarpitti, of Markham promised to increase tree-planting activity in Markham. He also noted the need to weed out invasive species and weed trees, citing as examples Norway maples, Manitoba maples, Russian olives, Chinese elms, English horse chestnuts, etc., and not let them out-compete our native species.

On another occasion the Mayor set out four priorities for his four-year term. One is environment, including pathways, environmentally friendly buildings, and protected green space. It will include a substantial increase in tree-planting activity which will make his town a greener town in which to live and work.

THE URBAN FOREST NETWORK

From the Fall 2006 issue of Ontario Urban Forest Network (OUFN) comes the following information about LEAF, a Toronto group who does a lot to promote tree planting and retention.

LEAF (Local Enhancement And Awareness of Trees) is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of Toronto's urban forest. They offer several programs and services for Toronto residents.

Their Backyard Tree Planting Program offers native trees and shrubs to property owners at a subsidized cost. Staff assist residents in making educated decisions about the type of tree that suits their property and where it should be planted. Since 1996, over 9000 native trees and shrubs have been planted in Toronto backyards.

Their Tree Tenders Program offers educational resources and training to citizens on a wide range of urban forest issues. Presentations, workshops and volunteer training sessions can be customized to meet a group's needs. They also conduct events and training sessions that are open to the public.

They organize Tree Parties in partnership with neighbourhood and community groups. These family-oriented events offer a fun-filled way to learn about and celebrate our local urban forests. Music, food, story-tellers and local artists are often part of these events.

They offer Tree Tours, guided walks through neighbourhoods for groups of 15 to 25 people. Walks can incorporate tree identification, tree health, local history and interesting tree stories.

Their new Urban Forest Community Action Kit, a series of 10 factsheets is available free in electronic format.

If you are interested in any of these programs, LEAF is at www.leafontario.org or 416 413 9244. Or info@leafontario.org.

LEAF, on behalf of itself, Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC), and others, operates the (Ontario) Urban Forest Network (UFN or OUFN). UFN links individuals and communities working on or interested in urban forest issues across Ontario. Through information exchange, inspirational stories and events listings, the network serves as a means for exchange and allows individuals to "plug-into" the urban forest movement. You can see on LEAF's web site an archive of UFN newsletters going back to 2004.

By joining UFN, you will find out what's happening in communities working on urban forestry issues and will be informed of upcoming events and workshops. UFN hopes that readers will share experiences, resources and concerns with the rest of the Network. UFN welcomes submissions to its monthly electronic newsletter.

A footnote: an internet search for OUFN also turns up the Eastern Ontario Urban Forest Network, a networking group within the Eastern Ontario Model Forest and with a website containing a lot of interesting information—www.eoufn.eomf.on.ca .

The February issue of UFN News tells of a presentation by Paul O'Hara, an ecologist based in Hamilton who has done much work on landscape design and native plant gardening. The presentation is about white pine, and to make it he has borrowed a lot of techniques from Hollywood to come up with a very compelling story. He teaches, writes widely on plant identification, natural history and native plant gardening. He is at www.blueoak.ca

The same issue tells of the National Tree Seed Centre, operated by Natural Resources Canada in Fredericton. It collects, processes, tests and stores seed; its goal is to store representative samples of all Canadian tree and shrub species.

ST. WILLIAMS NURSERY ANNIVERSARY

Dolf Wynia has sent me a note telling of plans to celebrate the centennial of St. Williams Nursery. I'm sure we'll hear much more about this celebration of a most important event in our forest history.

My recollection is that Ontario's first tree nursery was established around 1905 on a site that is now within the Arboretum of the University of Guelph, by one of Ontario's first foresters, E.J.Zavitz. It would seem that the need for tree planting stock grew so that the space at Guelph was outgrown, hence St. Williams opened in 1908.

WOODLOT OWNERS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Andrew Fedora, Executive Director, Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners, in Stewiacke, NS, has an article in *Atlantic Forestry Review*, January 2007, about stumbling blocks for woodland owner—whom he defines this as any individual or non-government entity owning between 15 and 5,000 acres of woodland.

He finds that what it is to be an owner is complex, given the mix in philosophies,

backgrounds and financial situations. Someone who sees the woodlot occasionally will see it differently from a resident owner of property that has been in the family for generations. The owner interested in commercial value and another interested only in the ecological values may see it quite differently, and the difference may obscure common challenges that could be best met by joint action. These differences in owner backgrounds, connectedness to their properties, distance from the property, and what values they see in their woodland, tend to act against owners taking joint action on important issues.

There is a tendency for owners to pay little attention to the property or to woodlot stewardship issues unless something comes up, and then it may be too late. Or whatever comes up may be overwhelming, and the owner simply has no means of coping effectively.

In September 2003 Hurricane Juan devastated a large area in central NS and seriously damaged several thousands of hectares of forest. The resulting mess increased fire hazards, created prime breeding habitat for insect pests, and severely damaged the commercial value of many woodlands. The full extent of the economic and ecological damage is still not fully known.

Woodlot owners in NS feel that they did not receive sufficient or realistic assistance to cope with the after effects. The province offered modest assistance to owners interested in a salvage harvest; others received nothing at all. This, Fedora argues, is very different from the assistance offered people like farmers and fishermen. A probable partial reason for this is that woodlot owners do not have the cohesion of groups like farmers or fishermen and thus have reduced potential for creating effective lobby groups that could have made a more convincing case for assistance.

(With my own property it has long struck me that in addition to the kinds of things described by Fedora, a woodlot owner may not have the same access to large or small equipment for dealing with problems on one's own. On a farm, the chances are that if a tree comes down across a laneway, the farmer has the means to deal at once with the problem. This may not be the case with the woodlot owner, especially one not living close to the property.

From time to time Atlantic Forestry Review runs articles about people honoured as Woodlot Owner of the Year in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Three New Brunswick owners and one in Western Nova Scotia are featured in the January issue, these and more others have been lifelong or long term owners/managers.

PIKANGIKUM

On January 8 the Toronto Star published a 2-page article "Hope returning to Pikangikum." A day or so later the following letter to the editor appeared, signed by Alex Peters, President, Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation, Pikangikum, Ont.

Readers ---- will be interested to know that Pikangikum First Nation does have a long-term economic renewal plan providing us with hope for our future. Our Whitefeather Forest Initiative has been built on the best resource we have—our elders.

They have been constant in their desire and vision to provide new livelihood opportunities for our youth. They are guiding our work in ways that will ensure we are able to sustain the land and all living things, in keeping with Ojibway traditions. Our land use strategy was approved by Pikangikum and (OMNR) in June, 2006.

Our land use strategy is the result of a strong collaboration between Pikangikum First Nation and OMNR.

We have also enjoyed support from other agencies, including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, FedNor and the Provincial Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

Our next steps include acquiring environmental assessment coverage for forestry, and growing our enterprises that will provide jobs and revenues to Pikangikum. The social and infrastructure problems we are now enduring only make us more determined than ever to keep moving forward.

For more on this see www.whitefeatherforest.com

CHARCOAL IN KENYA

On the TV news was a short item about a Canadian, whose name I missed, who operates Chardust, a firm in Kenya that collects waste from used charcoal, and recycles it into new charcoal briquettes.

This has a twofold effect. Charcoal is a widely used fuel for household cooking in many parts of Africa, and the waste from it is quite considerable, and is often just dumped outside the house. To collect it for recycling reduces it as a nuisance or environmental problem.

It also extracts more cooking energy from the product, thus lessening the pressure on the forest resource of the region. As it is, charcoal use is causing unsustainable levels of wood harvesting from an already scarce resource.

For more, see www.chardust.com

A SIMPLE CULVERT RAISES LOTS OF ISSUES

In his Toronto Star column January 13, environmental journalist Cameron Smith discusses some of the thinking of an American futurist Jeremy Rifkin about human impacts on nature, in relation to a beaver dam near his Eastern Ontario rural property.

First, it seems that worldwide in 2007 we will pass a milestone; there will now be more people living in cities and towns than in the countryside. Of course that means more food flowing into the city, more roads, more food, water, fuel, gravel, etc.

It means that people must increasingly understand how nature works and how man's most damaging impacts can be minimized. That will not be easy, as more of us are isolated from nature and increasingly inattentive to it.

HISTORIC MATERIAL (from the fall 1991 issue of this newsletter)

The (1991) CIF Annual Meeting registration kit contained a booklet on selected CSFE (now CIF) meetings, 1921-39, mostly in Toronto. Some of this material is from ForChron., some from SOS records, and some from an unedited manuscript by

A.H.D.Ross "Short History of Canadian Society of Forest Engineers (now the CIF) 1908-44".

1. Dec/21 CSFE Meeting (From Ross) On Dec. 27-28, 1921, in the U of T Forestry Building, then on Queen's Park Cres., CSFE met jointly with the Soc. of American Foresters. Present were 34 CSFE and 39 SAF members, and 27 others--one of the largest meetings of foresters to date in North America.

Both CSFE and SAF members felt that no North American forestry meeting was complete without Dr. B.E. Fernow, then in retirement in the USA, and whom they regarded warmly as the father of North American forestry. They sent him a telegram to this effect, and received a gracious reply. (Note: Fernow was first Forestry Dean at U of T, 1907-19, and first CSFE President, 1908-15; capping a life of gigantic service to forestry in Canada and the USA).

2. For.Chron., Vol.1 #2, Dec/25 ran an announcement, likely written by Editor AHRichardson, of the 1926 Annual Meeting. Here's some of it, somewhat edited.

Toronto--long a place of meeting! Before the white man cleared his fields, forest dwellers brought their spoils down nature's winding highways to where the city now stands beside the smiling waters of L Ontario. Then it was Ft. Rouille, later York, called Muddy York by some. Then the name for which it was long known was regiven--Toronto, the Place of Meeting.

The spirit of those early voyageurs who named the city beckons with hearty welcome (to the 1926 CSFE Meeting). The U of T, under whose fostering care the meetings will be held, bids you come! The professors of the country's parent forestry school, in their beautiful new building, wait to welcome you with friendly hand.

(Highlights of this "forestry week" included: Dedication of the then-new forestry building at 41 (later 45) St. George, (home of Forestry at U of T 1926-89); the Ann. Mtg. of the Cdn For Assn, open to the public, also at U of T; a banquet one evening & dance the next, held jointly by CSFE and the U of T Foresters Club.)

All that's needed to assure this meeting a full measure of snap and flavour, to make it an event that will linger in Canadian foresters' hearts, to assure the fun and frolic that will quicken the

pulse, weld the profession and deepen friendship is -- Y-O-U!

Hotels. Several within a short walk of the meeting site were named, and room rates were shown; they ranged from \$2 to 4 per person per night.

Ross' notes show attendance: 72 CSFE members, 14 visitors, and over 40 students. There were over 100 at each session.

Technical highlights included papers on silviculture, hardwood utilization, and forest protection; on Cruising Methods by J.A.Brodie; and Construction of Yield Tables by T.W.Dwight.

Richardson continued as ForChron Editor, with an editorial board of 7 members to help him. (He was CSFE Secretary for 8 years and first For.Chron editor for 12). It was decided to publish a list of CSFE members in For. Chron. The Executive decided by formal motion that \$25 honoraria be paid the Secretary and Treasurer, that the Secretary's typist be given \$10 and a box of chocolates.

3. Dean CDHowe, dedicated the new Forestry Building on St. George Street;

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ABROAD.

From a letter from CUSO is a passage that describes their promotion of community forestry as one way of environmental protection.

CUSO and its partners protect the environment by improving the capacity of local communities to plan for better protection of their natural resources. Together, we work to develop alternative models such as ecotourism, community-based sustainable forest management, and indigenous land-use practices.

For example, the success of the Araucania Model Forest in Chile, which emphasizes community-based planning for natural resource management, is now being rolled out in countries across South America. CUSO and its partners also help build community-based rural tourism potential. Our support to the Nuevo Horizonte community in Northern Guatemala is one CUSO initiative which has demonstrated real success.

Donor support makes it possible for CUSO to create such beneficial partnerships between the people of the North and South. We're truly listening to these struggling communities and learning so much in return. Each volunteer cooperant is dedicated to contributing to the challenge of reducing poverty and creating a world that is fair for all of its citizens.

CUSO is at www.cuso.org

FORESTRY SECTOR FIGHTS FOR LIFE

All levels of government must help, study says
January 23, 2007 Business section To Star.
Dennis Bueckert

OTTAWA—Canada's \$80 billion forest industry is facing the worst crisis in its history and needs federal help to survive, unions representing forestry workers said yesterday.

"Thousands of jobs have been lost as mills have closed across Canada," David Coles, president of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union, said at a symposium on Parliament Hill.

"The survival of dozens of communities, especially small, northern communities, is threatened, and yet we have had very little response from the federal government."

A spokesman for forest companies had a different view on what's happening, saying it is not a crisis but a structural shift in the industry.

"In a globalized world, people who've never had a chance to earn a living are earning a living and beating the pants off us," said Avrim Lazar, president of the Forest Products Association of Canada. He said Canada faces new competition from China, India, Korea, Brazil and Russia.

Lazar said high Canadian taxes on the forest industry are driving investment away, while the rising dollar has reduced the profitability of our exports.

And a report released by the Conference Board of Canada yesterday said the forestry industry needs to close uncompetitive mills and invest in research and development, new products and more modern facilities to compete globally.

The report, part of a three-year research program by the board, said a multilevel government effort will be needed to support the forestry sector.

"Scale matters in this industry, and to compete, Canadian companies must be able to build larger mills," said Gilles Rheaume, the Conference Board's vice-president of public policy. "This is especially the case in pulp and paper, where older, smaller mills are losing ground to newer, larger global rivals."

At the symposium, mayors from a number of communities complained about the policies of timber companies, saying good mills are being withheld from sale to other companies that might reopen them.

Steven Brunet, mayor of Bathurst, N.B., said the mill there was profitable up to the date when it was closed, and there is still supply in the area.

"The company told us they wouldn't sell it to anyone who would compete with them," he said. "So here's an American company that came in, bought our mill and shut it down. But they're still in the woods cutting. They're cutting on the land that came with the mill when they bought that property."

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is increasingly on the night news, and in our minds given the weather of this winter and the warm dry summers we've had of late. Books like Tim Flannery's *The Weather Makers* and Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* (along with his movie and his lecture tour) seem to remove lingering doubt that it's for real.

It's important to us all as citizens, heads of families, and more. It's important to our trees and forests because of the effects of changed climate, and the probable need to adapt our forests to changing condition. It's important because of the potential of trees and forests to reduce or stabilize the effects or even reverse them.

So I was interested to hear (though I confess it barely snuck into my awareness in the evening news) that within the past two years the UK government assigned its chief advisor on climate change, Sir Nicholas Stern, to examine the economic challenges posed by climate change

and how they might be met in the UK and worldwide.

From the Wikipedia web site: The Stern Review was released (last fall), and gained global media attention for Stern's conclusions on the potential impact of climate change, including the statement that "our actions over the coming few decades could create risks of major disruption to economic and social activity, later in this century and in the next, on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th century. In the review, Stern puts much faith in market-based systems such as Europe's fledgling system of carbon trading, and in the introduction of new low-carbon technologies.

At best climate change will affect the basics of life for many: access to water, food, health, coastal flooding. In terms of GDP failure to act now could cause a 5% loss in GDP forever.. And this is simply the monetary loss, without regard to the changes in quality of life, which could be massive, and most likely to affect worst those communities already hard pressed to survive, mostly in developing countries. Acting now with 1% of global GDP could offset most of this.

What we do in the next decade or two could profoundly affect climate for the next century and more. If we believe tree cover can help slow down or halt or even reverse this, then it gives our reforestation, tree protection and other forest stewardship measures increased urgency and priority.

UN CAMPAIGN TO PLANT BILLION TREES IN 2007 TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

I stumbled over this on the internet. It is dated January 20, 2007. In an effort to help mitigate global warming, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) today made a new appeal to the international community to plant a billion trees around the world this year as part of a project to save the planet.

Under the Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign, individuals, children, youth and community groups, schools, non-governmental organizations, business and industry, farmers, local authorities, and national governments are urged to plant trees as a small but practical step to combat what UNEP says is probably the key

challenge of the 21st century. So far over 157 million tree planting pledges have been received.

Today's appeal, issued in Paris where several French partners pledged support, was the second since the campaign was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in November. "Action does not need to be confined to the corridors of the negotiation halls," UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said at the time.

The campaign, inspired by Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Green Belt Movement activist Wangari Maathai and backed by Prince Albert II of Monaco and the World Agroforestry Centre-ICRAF, is being coordinated by UNEP.

Rehabilitating tens of millions of hectares of degraded land and reforesting the Earth is necessary to restore the productivity of soil and water resources, and expanding tree cover will mitigate the build-up of atmospheric carbon dioxide, a global warming greenhouse gas.

To make up for the loss of trees in the past decade, 130 million hectares, or 1.3 million square kilometres, an area as large as Peru, would have to be reforested, amounting to planting some 14 billion trees every year for 10 consecutive years, UNEP says.

"The Billion Tree Campaign is but an acorn, but it can also be practically and symbolically a significant expression of our common determination to make a difference in developing and developed countries alike," Mr. Steiner noted. "We have but a short time to avert serious climate change. We need action."

The campaign identifies four key areas for planting: degraded natural forests and wilderness areas; farms and rural landscapes; sustainably managed plantations; and urban environments, but it can also begin with a single tree in a back garden. Advice on tree planting will be made available via the website.

CAROLINIAN CANADA

A recent letter to supporters from Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC) has the following quote from 1837 in the Chatham area: So thick was the overhanging foliage that it not only shut out the sunshine, but almost the daylight, and we

travelled on through a perpetual gloom of vaulted boughs and intermingled shade. The timber was all hard timber, walnut, beech and basswood, and oak and maple of the most luxuriant growth.

It seems that Canadians place environment as the #2 urgent issue behind health care, but that this is not reflected in the level of public investment in environment. So CCC, over the past 20 years, has brought together thousands of people to help protect and restore the unique nature of Southwestern Ontario. Fragmentation in the Carolinian life zone makes it one of Canada's most stressed areas. CCC, with its Big Picture, has focused on action to protect and connect priority habitats, which along with its newly incorporated status provides a strong base for rescuing the area from its precarious state.

CCC is seeking financial support and personal involvement to accelerate a number of initiatives, including, in specific areas: Protecting species at risk through communities and through their new Woodland Recovery Strategy; assisting municipalities to integrate ecosystem protection into local plans and strategies; linking landowners to conservation partners in their Caring for Nature program; raising nature to a top priority through a strong voice for conservation; targeting research on urgent conservation issues through a student research program; sustain healthy landscapes, mitigate climate change, protect water quality and restore ecosystem functions through a coordinated conservation policy.

OPEN FIELD

An article in the fall issue of Our Forest, (OFA's newsletter) notes that what you do with an unused open field depends on where you are. If it has rare animal or plant species in or near it, it should perhaps be kept as an open field. If it is in an area of alvars, savannas or prairies, likewise.

But if it is in an area that is low in forest cover, then it could be converted to forest. This could be done by natural seeding-in, or by planting, depending on where you are, and whether there is a suitable source of tree seed.

GARLIC MUSTARD

I've never (touch wood) seen garlic mustard on my place, and I'm not even sure I'd know it if I saw it, though there are some helpful illustrations and descriptions on the internet.

I've been in touch with family members who say it is been present in my area for some time and has as yet never become a serious problem.

An article in Eastern Ontario Model Forest's newsletter describes some research by John Klironomos of University of Guelph, Kristina Stinson of Harvard University, and others, describes one of its effects. Besides being very aggressive and very prolific, it produces a chemical in the soil that is poisonous to the soil-inhabiting fungi that native trees, including sugar maple, need, and with which they have a symbiotic relationship. The tree root depends on the fungal strands that extend through the soil for moisture and nutrient uptake; the fungi draw their energy from the tree.

The effect of this can be a lessening of growth and health in trees.

Items in the internet suggest that if caught before they become numerous in a forest, hand weeding is effective, making sure the entire root system is removed. When they become numerous, and have had a chance to produce their abundant seed, the seed can remain viable for several years and other measures are needed.

INTENSIVE PLANTATION MANAGEMENT

In an article in the Jan-Feb ForChron, Willard Carmean, Professor Emeritus of Forestry at Lakehead, examines experience with intensively managed plantations in various provinces, U S states and abroad. He argues that this technique will help Northwestern Ontario to meet an ever-growing demand for timber from a forest land base that at the same time continues to shrink due to the need for parks, wildlife, wilderness areas, water conservation and more.

He notes the ongoing shift from timber only to a mix of uses, from liquidating of natural forest areas toward extensive management of second growth forests.

He suggests a zoning, which would recognize good sites for intensive forest management of forests that would be increasingly planted; extensive multiple use for other productive sites, and no-cut reserves for parks, conservation, wildlife, watershed protection, and more. He looks at it in terms of being able to choose desired species (and varieties?) for specific products, and intensive silviculture.

I recall, from the early 1980's, some serious discussion of prime sites, not just good sites but ones that are as close to a mill (and, one would think, the work force) as possible. The cost of setting these up, and the intensive management to be done on them would be more than offset by their proximity to the mill (and work force).

I have heard increasingly of late of increasing distances in the north between the wood source and the wood-using industry, the increasing network of roads for transporting timber, too often in locations where we might prefer not to have roads, and the devastating effect of those long hauls over those roads on the expensive trucks used for hauling. (I think I've heard much less about what that kind of life must do to family life for people working in that industry).

I recall a Silviculture Conference back in 1993 in Toronto, where delegates from BC outnumbered all others—BC, where the notion of community forestry had long since taken hold. I recall one industry veteran saying that “because they allowed us to experiment with improvement of young stands, we now know that we can grow twice as much wood from half as much land, so we can set aside as much land as is needed for multiple uses and for other uses.”

In 2004 I watched the plantations being thinned, some for the fourth time, on my property north of Barrie. I marvelled at the number of hydro poles, pieces destined for someone's log house, and other quality material, from trees planted within my own adult lifetime. I marvelled at what I have been hearing in recent years about the Simcoe County Forest, some of which is near my place, and the size of the revenues coming to the county, just from the thinning of the plantations, none of which existed before 1922. And much the same, I suspect, goes for the smaller Dufferin County Forest.

I marvelled that the same harvesting equipment and trucks were used that would be used in the

north. But they did not have the long haul distances; public roads are already in place, many of them paved. The buyer's mill was within 25 km. And the two loggers that worked on my place for several months lived within an easy commute.

And with my property, these periodic harvests have helped make it affordable to keep the property so that all those non-timber values can be enjoyed, and as I age, can be passed on to family members. And I am delighted that how each harvest enhanced those values.

And I have wondered: If Will Carmean makes such sense with those plantations in the northwest, why does it not make just as much sense here in the south? Our forest is more productive, much of it would likely qualify as prime site anywhere else in Ontario. Long distance hauls are not needed; public roads are there, and more often than not are paved. There is a sizable and diverse industry in place; my guess is it would be far larger and more diverse and be a much bigger contributor to the economy if there was enough wood of the right kinds. And those plantations, no doubt about it, grow a lot of wood quickly on a given acre.

There is another aspect. In the fall issue I wrote about global climate change, and noted that generally speaking, silvicultural procedures that increase the supply of wood also help offset emissions from human sources by capturing more carbon. I also noted my own thought that there could be a huge potential in the Southern Ontario forest to upgrade forest management and in doing so greatly increase the carbon stored in that forest.

True, there are large challenges to meet. The land base is fragmented among a host of other land uses, and is also further fragmented into well over 100,000 privately owned parcels. I hear that many properties with plantations that we know could urgently use thinning are too small to be viable. Yet they form an increasing proportion of our wood-producing land base; surely some ways can be found to affordably manage and harvest timber from these, if just as a means of keeping the attractive site the owner started out with or thinks he can achieve. That might even apply to keeping attractive the fragments of forest often found in housing subdivisions.

Often timber production is not the prime objective for these properties; rather cutting keeps the stands in good shape and helps the owner pay the bills for other uses. And a way must be found to appeal to a diverse population of owners with small forested acreages, many of whom have not an idea in the world of the value of those acres or how they may benefit from proper care. And last but not least, and I know you've heard this from me before, in an increasingly populated region we'll be looking at uses we've never imagined before, e.g. like agroforestry, permaculture and forest gardening.

Somehow society (MNR, the Conservation Authorities, the municipalities—ANYONE???) must take a long hard look at what is gained from those over 100,000 forested lots, and develop a meaningful relationship with their owners. Will's ideas could transform the economy of the northwest. Who knows, in the south they could transform both the economy and the landscape.

Will sees the status quo as extensive forestry. He sees intensive management as expensive forestry, and justifies this as a wise investment in forests that will benefit future Ontarians.

Found on the internet: a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.

STEWARDSHIP FORUM

The 8th Stewardship Forum, held jointly by the City of Toronto and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, was held Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Kortright Centre for Conservation.

I went, thinking I'd learn something of use to those interested or engaged in stewardship of Southern Ontario's forests, that I could share with you.

Richard Ubbens, Director of Urban Forestry for the City of Toronto, opened the forum, by observing that it arose and grew in response to the large numbers of people wanting to volunteer for tree planting and other conservation efforts, and the need to provide these people with needed technical and other guidance, to help them gain recognition for their efforts, to build on their

enthusiasm, and hopefully to attract more volunteers.

Over the years the forum has been held in various places, mainly Metro Hall (I recall being at ones where the priorities were waste management and water conservation), as well as at Black Creek Pioneer Village, and several times at the Kortright Centre. The theatre and the outdoors at Kortright lent themselves very well to the subjects being discussed this year: winter tree ID, adopt-a-pond, winter bird walk, animal tracking walk, and healthy yards for healthy rivers.

But before that part of the program began, there was a keynote speaker. Kevin McLaughlin was a co-founder of Evergreen Foundation in 1991, worked with them in Toronto and Vancouver. Evergreen's mission was to bring community and nature together to the benefit of both. It has worked to help people create healthy outdoor space, in school grounds, in public open space, and in home landscapes.

Evergreen has recently taken on a major project of developing an outdoor environmental education centre at the site of the former Don Valley Brickyard.

Around 1991 Kevin had another dream, that of car-sharing, which would enable city people with modest driving needs to meet them without actually owning a vehicle. Thus arose Auto Share, which has several hundred cars situated at various Toronto locations such as subway stations, available to members on a self-serve basis at moderate rates. It has given several thousand people car access without ownership, with significant reduction in numbers of cars on city streets, and reduced costs of owning, maintaining and insuring. Since 1998 the number of shared cars has grown to 200 in Toronto and 400 in Montreal. For people with a given set of driving needs, driving a shared car is ideal.

Kevin had some ideas that might be helpful to anyone who has a good idea and wants to see it succeed. The key factor is to have a passionate interest or engagement in the idea; Autoshare and Evergreen both suited him well, with their potential for environmental gain. That passion must be used to promote the idea. You need to research your idea—you should know the area thoroughly. You need a business plan, that sets out things like budget, market, technology,

sources of funding, and you need to know how to get help and feedback with your project. You need access to lots of capital—it's always more than you expect. You need to stay focused, you need to get your product out there on the market. You need to convince yourself and others that what you are doing is having the desired effect, e.g. on the environment. You need to be able to inspire others of like mind to consider engaging in similar efforts. You need to develop an effective team, and consider how you, or any team member, can grow within the organization, and when it's time to move on, do so smoothly and amicably. You need to develop a data base, you need to know as much as you can about your product, your market, your clientele, etc.

Kevin suggested pursuing things you are good at and interested in, inspiring (rather than competing with) one another. There is no end of ideas that might be up one's alley to make the world a better place.

One of the breakout sessions was on Healthy Yards—healthy Rivers, and it dealt with the question of what is an ideal natural landscape for a residential property, what are some of the barriers to homeowners developing natural back yards, and how to deal with them, what does a homeowner want in a healthy yard. Things like low maintenance (people with busy lives may have little time for back yard maintenance), tranquillity (those same people may need a bit of peace and quiet). Is it something a home owner can easily be shown how to do.

WHAT URBAN FORESTS DO FOR THE CITY

Address given by Dr. David Nowak of USFS at Syracuse, NY, on Wed. Mar 7, 2007, at Toronto's Metro Hall. Hosted by LEAF and by Geography Department of Ryerson University.

I had planned to attend, but could not. I heard though that it was an outstanding talk, to a capacity audience. Here is something I found on the internet about Dr. Nowak's talk.

Our urban forests provide a multitude of benefits that both improve the environment and save money. Dr. David Nowak, an esteemed scientist with the United States Forest Service has done the research to prove it. His work has included the development of the Urban Forest Effects

(UFORE) computer model which calculates the structure, environmental effects and values of urban forests. Over the past decade Dr. Nowak has measured the benefits of trees on urban climate, air quality, water quality, energy use and ultraviolet radiation throughout North America. His results are staggering. Trees remove hundreds of tonnes of pollution from the air each year and save cities millions of dollars by reducing demand for energy and decreasing the need for new infrastructure. Yet when it comes to actively promoting and caring for our urban forests, Canada lags far behind the United States. Significant government funding to support urban forestry exists at federal and state levels in the US. In Canada, responsibility for urban forests lies with cash-strapped municipalities. A modest investment today in urban forest planning, tree planting, and tree care will result in healthier cities and significant cost savings for decades to come. Dr Nowak will review the findings of his research and suggest ways to get urban forestry on the agenda at both the provincial and federal levels. He will also introduce practical tools which communities can use to quantify the structure, condition and effects of their urban forest.

ECOLOGICAL GOODS AND SERVICES.

The Jan 2007 issue of Atlantic Forestry Review has an ad from the Model Forest Network, on a workshop in Amherst, NS, in February, on the valuation of ecological goods and services from (Atlantic) woodlots and farms.

The ad notes that in Costa Rica oxygen, water quality and biodiversity are valued in the same way as coffee, oil and real estate. It's called payment for ecological goods and services and has been part of the country's financial framework since 1995.

FORESTRY IN P E I

In the January issue of Atlantic Forestry Review is an article about a forest policy developed for PEI. The situation there in some ways reads like a miniature of Southern Ontario. PEI has a land area of 568,360 ha (Ontario is roughly 1,077,000 sq. km), it was once 98% forested, there is now about 256,780 ha (45% of the land mass), 9,000 ha. of old growth forest "scattered about", 86% of this is privately owned.

Near Orwell, in the eastern part of PEI is an area of about 800 ha. called the Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project, including some old growth Acadian Forest, where the focus will be ecologically sound restoration forest management, and restoration of the range of ecological benefits arising from healthy forests. More on this area can be seen on www.macphailwoods.org . The site has many links, one to PEI's State of the Forest Report for 2002—a report required every 10 years by law. The forest area is down about 6% from a decade earlier, up from the 1/3 cover around 1900.

Privately owned forest is in about 40,000 parcels, 24,000 of them over 0.5 ha, these averaging in size 14.3 ha.

The forest policy adopted by the province embraces both publicly and privately owned forest land. It acknowledges that the forest is largely in private ownership, and that private owners therefore have the forest destiny in their hands. The policy will reaffirm provincial support to woodland owners, and at the same time ensuring that public funds lead to public benefits.

In the policy PEI is seen as a place with healthy Acadian forest that provides a range of economic, social and environmental values to Islanders. The policy recognizes the strong role of landowners in the forest's future, as well as the complexity of the island's woodlands. The policy has six main goals:

Increased forest restoration.

Increased management for a diversity of forest species, ages, products and values.

Increased public and community awareness of, involvement in, and support for, public lands.

Increased participation by private landowners in sustainable forest management.

Increased capacity within the private sector to deliver a range of forest management options.

Increased contribution by and for the value-added sector. Support for the value-added sector will start by encouraging healthy, diverse forests.

Development of the policy arose from public meetings held across the province, where a surprising number of citizens came forward to say that protection of the province was important to them.

In the 2002 State of the (PEI) Forest report is a page on non-timber values of woodlots to Islanders. It has the usual list: purify air, carbon sink, nesting & roosting sites, site of learning for owners, kids and others, cool trout habitat, shading of recreation areas; and also places of death and rebirth that promote diversity of life; diversify the landscape, creating attractive patterns.

And also: Spiritual values are important but difficult to describe: the sense of peace and wellbeing from the sound of a stream, singing bird or leaves rustling in the wind, the sight of fall colour, a patch of wild flowers, nesting bird; the smells of the forest; the warm spring sun, the sense of awe when in a healthy forest; a place to escape our hectic lives; just knowing that such places exist and that all's well with the world.

The page concludes: Regardless of whether we consciously recognize the many benefits provided, forests impact the quality of life of every Islander. We are stakeholders whether or not we own a woodlot. Our interest may not be financial, but we do benefit, and to benefit means there is value. The state of Island forests should be of concern and importance to everyone.

Some gems found on www.macphailwoods.org :

Mark Twain: I sometimes wonder if the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on, or by imbeciles who really mean it.

Aldo Leopold: We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

Gandhi: Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.

Leopold: We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive.

Kurt Vonnegut: We could have saved the world, but we were too darned cheap.

IT'S NOT EASY BEIN' GREEN

Yet another item in *Atlantic Forestry Review*—how I've enjoyed that magazine since I first saw it in 1995 while at a CIF AGM in Halifax!

In this guest editorial the writer attributes the words to the author of *Sesame Street*, referring to Kermit the Frog.

The article refers to the ongoing discussion in that magazine about whether biomass harvesting is a valid part of our green energy needs or just another environmental threat. My own answer, quite uneducated, might have been "It depends."

Is it green? It is initially assumed that if it is renewable and C (carbon) neutral, renewable, and does not degrade the environment, it is.

Is it renewable? If slash is left to ensure that soil nutrient levels are maintained, and if wildlife and other ecological concerns are met, it is.

Is it C-neutral? It seems to say "It depends."

What is C? The 4th most abundant element in the universe after hydrogen, helium, oxygen. It anchors all organic substances.

Where is the C? The great bulk is in the deep ocean, as bicarbonate in the corpses of countless phytoplankton. 38,000 gigatonnes (gt) on the ocean floor and 1,000gt on the surface.

In fossil fuels, 5,000gt,, 4,000 in coal and the rest in oil and natural gas.

Terrestrial carbon, 1,580gt in the soils, 610gt in the forests, and 765gt in the atmosphere.

Doesn't mention limestone.

What is the role of forest in storing C? While a tree or other green plant lives and grows, it stores C. As it dies and decomposes, it releases that C. In short-lived plants there is little long-term storage. Trees provide a C sink as long as they live; as they die they begin to return that C to the atmosphere. C may be stored in wood products like lumber and paper. If the wood is burned the C returns to the atmosphere.

If harvested trees are quickly replaced with a fast-growing healthy young stand, the forest continues as a C sink. Management leading to rapid growth leads to optimal C storage.

If slash is left shaded so it stays moist, most of the C from decomposition returns to the soil. If large amounts of slash dry out in the sun, the C may return to the air so the site is a C chimney.

From a C viewpoint it is likely best to gather up the slash as an energy source. From a nutrient capital viewpoint the slash should be left.

How much C can a woodlot capture? About half the forest's dry weight is C. An intensively managed forest might grow wood and therefore store C about twice as fast as an unmanaged one.

Carbon credit: Is something that offsets C release. Markets and marketing mechanisms are just emerging. a vigorously growing 100-acre woodlot could be earning \$250/year just by being there and growing.

The Big Picture: The global C cycle. Before the industrial age, things tended to balance out. Photosynthesis captured 100-120B tonnes/year. Respiration and residue decay returned 100-120B tonnes/year. We upset that balance when we started burning all that fossil fuel, adding about 5B tonnes/year. Then widespread forest clearing continues to contribute 20-25% of human-induced emissions.

So is biomass harvesting clean and green? Again, it depends.

If it is harvested with no thought of forest sustainability, trucked long distances, then used in inefficient power plants, the answer may be NO.

If biomass is harvested with care, soil nutrient capital carefully conserved, other ecological needs of the site met, transport distances minimized, and highly efficient power plants use the material, the answer can be YES.

Seen in a Church bulletin: Experience is being able to say you don't know in such a way that people don't know you don't know.