The Forest History Society of Ontario

Ken Armson R.P. F
Chair

Founded 2009

Our mission:

To further the knowledge, understanding and preservation of Ontario’s forest history

Member: The Ontario Historical Society
The Forest History Society of Ontario

Our objectives:

1. To preserve forest and forest conservation history

2. To encourage and further the development and recognition of forest history

3. To support research and studies of forest history

4. To support the archival preservation of records and materials relating to forest history

5. To promote a better understanding of forest history through public education
What do we do?

1. We publish a newsletter *Forestory* twice a year (Spring & Fall)

2. We have a website: [www.ontarioforesthistory.ca](http://www.ontarioforesthistory.ca)
   a) catalogue of forest history publications
   b) listing of forest history collections
      both in early stages of development
   c) all copies of *Forestory*
   d) upcoming events

3. We work with other provincial historical and heritage groups
Recent activities:

1. Collections - facilitated the move of the Ontario forest industry associations’ (OFIA & OLMA) to Archives Ontario
2. Supported the naming and installation of a plaque for the E.J. Zavitz Forest at St. Williams, Ontario (with Port Rowan & South Walsingham Heritage)
3. Developed a display on the history of forest inventory in Ontario with and at the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre in Sault Ste. Marie
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Englehart Management Unit Area
Forest History 1912 to 2000

Rob Galloway Unit Forester 1980-86
Great Grandfather – Ross Pollock
Log Harvester 1912

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Aerial Sketching
1945

North End

SW Corner
Burned & Barrens
Some Cutover

2 memory joggers
My Unit Area
1980-1986
Great Grandfather
Worked here in
1912
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The Englehart River Catchment Area
Located around the Englehart River, District of Temiskaming, Ontario
West of the Town of Englehart
Original Access by the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railroad
Ontario’s Railroad to New Ontario in early 1900’s
Opened for Development with Land Grants for Agriculture
Mining Exploration – Cobalt Silver, Kirkland Lake Gold Camp
Porcupine Gold Camp Timmins
Sawmills Opened in Response to Need for lumber
Wm. Pollock & Sons Lumber Opened up in the Area

Area being Slowly accessed

Conversations with Great Grandfather
1912 railroad only went to Tomstown
Bridge across Englehart River was immense
Worked for his Uncle Wm. Pollock cutting
Wood on Long Lake in Spring Summer of 1912
All horses and manual, some large Pine and Spruce
Water barged and Horse hauled to Mill
Harvesting began 1912.  
1922 Hailebury Fire 300,000 acres

1945 Aerial Sketch
Red area Bottom right is burned and harvest

Yellow area – Map Harvested in 70’s And 80’s

1980 – 86 1 million Trees annual plant

Teaching Unit
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2011 to 2021 Harvest Plan – Pink is this period
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1912 Oral History of Harvesting
1922 Fire
1945 Aerial Inventory Sketch
1956 EMU is One of Ontario’s First “Forest Management Units”
Named Plonski Unit after Walter Plonski (yield Curves)
A Field based teaching Forest Unit for U of T Forestry,
Algonquin College Forest Technician, MNR Internal Tech,
And the Forester in Training MNR Field Course

1980-86 Oral History and written Management Plans

2011 Inventory and Planned Operations Map
Temiskaming Forest Sustainable Forest License
Still important to the area for Wildlife, Recreation, Forest Industry, Matachewan First Nation Cultural Areas and Traditional Use

So why Tell this Story?

NE Ontario Regional Director of FHSO (Ken talked me in to it)

Forests have been and still are our Heritage in this Country

Ensure the past is remembered

Work with Communities and Museums to ensure we Remember

Preserve archival records of our Work, Town and Life

Use History for Learning required today
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Goal for NE is a network of Museums and Communities that share their Forest History

Promote History as a potential Part of our local Economy

Make it Personal for People as it has became for me

Share with Generations

Ken Told me to do it

It is Enjoyable