Head Forester for Duchy of Cornwall visits The Petawawa Research Forest

Just as black fly season was getting into full swing in late May, the CIF/IFC, with the help of several volunteers, hosted Geraint Richards, Head Forester for the Duchy of Cornwall, England at the Petawawa Research Forest (PRF). He was given a first-hand look at the PRF, which makes a solid contribution to the science of forest management. The PRF was established in 1918 and is located in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence forest region. It is the oldest, continuously operated research forest in Canada.

The volunteers who shared their knowledge for the tour included Peter Arbour, Operations Manager, PRF; Al Stinson, Forest Science Specialist, PRF; Trevor Jones, Hardwood Ecosystem Research Scientist, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; Jeff Fera, Forest Research Officer, Canadian Wood Fibre Centre; Peter Nosko, Associate Professor, Nipissing University; and John Pineau, CEO of the CIF/IFC. The tour began at the historic PSP-1, the first permanent sample plot established in Canada, and demonstrated a range of specific research sites, including fire ecology, white pine shelterwood, red pine plantations, and a recently implemented biomass study. At each site, members of the group provided commentary on what the work objectives are.

Mr. Richards was impressed with the quality and success of the various studies, and applauded the PRF and its partners for the strong forest science underway. There was an exchange of information between Mr. Richards and the group with respect to the similarities and differences in forestry between Canada and the UK. While at a smaller scale than Canada, his work managing forests for the Duchy of Cornwall often encounters similar challenges and opportunities, both socially and economically, as those experienced at the PRF.

Mr. Richards also visited several forest science studies within the Nipissing Forest Region and North Bay area and was accompanied by Andrée Morneault, Vegetation Management Program Leader, OMNR; Fred Pinto, Executive Director, OPFA; Al Stinson, Peter Nosko, and John Pineau. Several sites were focused on vegetation management, white pine shelterwood management, and red oak reestablishment efforts. The Phelps Red Oak Silvicultural Effectiveness Study was established in 2004 and aims to develop a set of silvicultural rules for red oak managed under group selection and shelterwood systems. This day showcased more of Ontario’s extensive forest research.

His final day in Ontario took him to the North Bay Fur Harvesters Auction. The magnitude of fur trapping and trading in North America and the effective management and regulation of this practice is impressive.

The four-day tour was a huge success and served to solidify the new partnership between the CIF/IFC and the Duchy of Cornwall.

Stephanie Parzei
Forest Science Extension Coordinator
CIF/IFC

Le forestier en chef du Duché de Cornwall visite la Forêt expérimentale de Petawawa

Juste au moment où la saison des mouches noires battait son plein à la fin mai, l’Institut, avec la collaboration de plusieurs bénévoles, a accueilli Geraint Richards, forestier en chef du Duché de Cornwall en Angleterre pour une visite de la Forêt expérimentale de Petawawa (FEP). Il a fait le tour complet des installations et des projets en cours à Petawawa, une forêt qui constitue un apport précieux dans la recherche associée à l’aménagement forestier. La FEP a été créée en 1918 et est située dans la région forestière des Grands Lacs et du St-Laur. Il s’agit du plus ancien centre de recherche forestière en fonction sans interruption au Canada.

Les bénévoles qui ont partagé leurs connaissances au cours de la visite regroupaient Peter Arbour, directeur des opérations, FEP; Al Stinson, spécialiste en sciences forestières, FEP; Trevor Jones, chercheur du ministère des Richesses naturelles de l’Ontario, Écosystèmes feuillus; Jeff Fera, agent de recherches forestières, Centre canadien sur la fibre de bois; Peter Nosko, professeur adjoint, Université de Nipissing; et John Pineau, chef de la direction de l’Institut. Le tour a débuté sur le site historique de la PSP-1, la première parcelle échantillon permanente mise en place au Canada, et s’est poursuivi sur une variété de sites de recherche spécifique portant sur l’écologie des feux de forêts, les coupes progressives dans le pin.