

Event News

The Canadian Outdoor Summit
Gatineau, Québec
September 29-October 2, 2020

The Outdoor & Adventure Travel Show
Ottawa, Ontario
Spring 2020 - Date TBA



Mike Holmes Jr. on Canadian Forest Products
What's special about Canadian wood and why sustainable woodworking matters. Read more on [page 3](#).

Full campaign on innovatingcanada.ca

Celebrating Canada's Forests

We Are a Forest Nation: Exploring Canada's Interdependent Connection to Healthy Forests

EXPERT PANEL

As the national voice of forest practitioners, the Canadian Institute of Forestry / Institut forestier du Canada fosters public awareness, promotes competency among forestry professionals, and pursues partnerships, such as with the Centre for Social Intelligence, to proudly champion the Gender Equity in Canada's Forest Sector National Action Plan.

What role do our forests have in mitigating climate change?

Trees harvested in Canada are replanted/regenerated. Growing forests sequester atmospheric carbon. In addition to providing clean air, clean water, and healthy habitats, wood products harvested from sustainably-managed forests also lock up carbon and offer green alternatives to mitigate climate change.

What's the biggest misconception or knowledge gap held by Canadians about the value of our forests?

That harvesting trees is bad. Nothing could be further from the truth. Canada is a leader in sustainable forest management with some of the strictest laws for harvesting forests. Forest management in Canada uses sound science to consider biodiversity, wildlife habitat supply, ecosystem processes, and natural disturbance emulation. Canadians should be proud of our forests and their essential products! 🌱

To learn more, visit cif-ifc.org

This article was produced in partnership with the **Canadian Institute of Forestry / Institut forestier du Canada**.



Mark Pearson
Executive Director,
Canadian Institute of Forestry

This article was produced in partnership with the **Outdoor Council of Canada**.



The Outdoor Council of Canada, a national non-profit organization promoting and enabling outdoor education and activity, highlights the need to rebuild our connection with our forests.

Truly, the path to health and happiness is paved with positive connections to ourselves, our community, and our environment. The urban and wilderness paths that wander through forests naturally nurture those connections.

In the green embrace of the forest, the clutter of daily life falls away and our inner life finds the space for us to connect to ourselves. The absence of technological distraction and the inherently

collaborative nature of outdoor recreation create the most fertile soil for connecting with friends. By being in the forest we connect to the forest.

Connection is a two-way path. We must commit ourselves to respect and nurture the other, but the other must have the capacity to do the same. In this, the forest excels.

Alas, as we've urbanized, our connections to the forest have weakened, and both us and the forest have suffered greatly. 🌱

To see how we're working to rebuild that connection, visit outdoorcouncil.ca



Albi Sole
Executive Director,
Outdoor Council of Canada

This article was produced in partnership with **Tree Canada**.



Danielle St-Aubin
CEO,
Tree Canada

Tree Canada, the only national non-profit organization dedicated to planting and nurturing trees in rural and urban environments, addresses the importance of our urban forests and their health benefits.

Our day-to-day lives are intricately connected to the trees that surround us. In Canadian cities, forest cover has been declining for more than two decades. With over 82 percent of the population now living in urban centres, it's increasingly important to recognize the benefits that urban forests provide us.

Forests in urban centres reduce our exposure to ultraviolet radiation through their shade, improve air and water quality through their filtration, silence noise through their damping, and cool our

environment through their transpiration and shade.

The presence of, and access to, urban forests promote active lifestyles and regular exercise, reducing the risks posed by certain diseases. They have a positive effect on our psychological well-being, reducing stress and improving mental health, and they contribute indirectly to our health by producing fresh and nutritious food.

As spring approaches, there's no better time than now to green your community. You'll feel better for it! 🌱

Plant now with treecanada.ca

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Interested in a Career in Forestry? Why the Sault May Be the Place for You

Sault College's perfect geographic juxtaposition and unmatched experiential learning offer prospective students something truly unique, Professor Adam Hodgson explains.

Adam Hodgson



Adam Hodgson
Professor of
Natural Environment,
Sault College

Managing Canada's forests isn't only about growing and managing trees. It's about sustaining the values and benefits that a biologically-diverse, naturally-functioning forested ecosystem provides today and for future generations. Sault College offers a unique opportunity for students to develop the skills necessary for pursuing their passion for maintaining and enhancing Canada's vast forested landscape. Within the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe people, in the heart of the Great Lakes, and in the transition of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence and Boreal forest regions, Sault Ste. Marie is a natural fit for hands-on, in-the-field, experiential learning. Whichever of the five School of Natural Environment diploma programs students are

enrolled in, they'll leave Sault College with a unique set of job-ready skills needed to support the sustainable management of Canada's forests. Using new and emerging technologies, we commit a significant portion of the students' time to being in the field. Whether in the forests, lakes, or wetlands, our students learn to accurately and precisely collect field attributes relevant to their course of study.

Sault Ste. Marie is home to the Ontario Forest Research Institute, the Canadian Forest Service — Great Lakes Forestry Centre, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's headquarters. Our students tour these organizations and often gain leads for future employment. Unique to Sault College, and enclosed in regular tuition fees, we offer our Forestry Technician students certification



Sault Ste. Marie is a natural fit for hands-on, in the field, experiential learning.

as Type 1 Initial Attack forest firefighters through Ontario's SP100 training program.

Our faculty functions as a team, embracing integration and collaboration, while providing a supportive and positive learning environment. Students will become more comfortable to step outside their comfort zones, challenging themselves to find solutions, and developing team leadership skills in preparation for real-life employment situations. 🍀

This article was produced in partnership with Sault College.



Find the real you at saultcollege.ca

This article was produced in partnership with Fleming College.

Fleming College

Careers in Canadian Forests Have Evolved — so Has Fleming College

Careers in Canadian forests are no longer limited to the traditional forest sector. Professor Katrina Van Osch-Saxon explains how Fleming College is preparing a diverse student population for a diverse range of career paths.

Katrina Van Osch-Saxon



Katrina Van Osch-Saxon
Coordinator of
the Arboriculture
Co-op Program &
Professor of
Urban Forestry,
Fleming College

Fleming College's School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences in Lindsay, ON hosts a unique cluster of forestry programs that prepare students for careers across the industry.

"There are careers managing trees in the traditional forestry sector, but we're also starting to include managing trees in the urban and peri-urban forests. The increased awareness around climate change, as well as the myriad of other benefits trees provide, have led to this," says Katrina Van Osch-Saxon, Coordinator of Fleming's

Arboriculture Co-op Program and a professor in the Urban Forestry and Forestry Technician programs.

Fleming offers a Forestry Technician program (the largest in Canada), as well as Arboriculture Co-op, Urban Forestry, and Urban Forestry Technician Co-op programs.

"Our programs are designed to meet the interests of all types of learners. Whether their career aspirations are to work in traditional forestry, or as an arborist, or urban forester, we have a program to suit their needs," says Van Osch-Saxon.

One area of focus for Van Osch-Saxon has

been encouraging more women to enter forestry careers. She has hosted three successful Women in Trees events at Fleming, where young women can come and try activities and develop skills related to careers in the forestry industry — everything from tree climbing to chainsaw maintenance. The events have been so popular that they've now expanded to include other careers in the natural resource sciences sector.

"The diversity of our student population is changing — it's an exciting time," says Van Osch-Saxon. 🍀

Learn more about Fleming College's Forestry programs by visiting

flemingcollege.ca

This article was produced in partnership with Canada Wildfire.



7,000
fires burn an area
half the size of
Nova Scotia every
year in Canada.

PHOTO: DENNIS QUINTILIO

Behind the Flames: Teaming Up to Address Canada's Forest Fires

Dr. Mike Flannigan

Canada is facing growing challenges from forest fires. On average, 7,000 fires burn an area half the size of Nova Scotia every year in Canada. High-profile fires such as the ones in Fort McMurray, AB (2016), British Columbia (2017 and 2018), and Parry Sound, ON (2018) have emphasized the need to better understand forest fires and the science behind them.

How do fires affect us?

Forest fires have countless impacts on our environment, economy, and communities. No matter where you live in Canada, wildfire has affected your life. Wildfire is a threat in various ways. Possible impacts to:

- 🍀 Health and safety
- 🍀 Communities, property, and infrastructure
- 🍀 Valuable timber
- 🍀 Plants and animals
- 🍀 Clean air and water
- 🍀 Cultural heritage

These risks will continue to grow as more people live, recreate, and work within our forests.

How do fires affect the forests?

Forest fires in Canada have an important ecological role in our forests. Many plants and animals have developed different approaches to survive and grow after a forest fire, and some forests rely on fire as a chance to renew.

How is Canada Wildfire helping?

Managing the forest involves reducing the impact of forest fires while still allowing for their natural benefits. Canada Wildfire (the Canadian Partnership for Wildland Fire Science) is a partnership that investigates the various positive and negative effects of forest fires. We help fire managers make informed decisions when faced with fires that threaten our forests and communities. Our goal is to provide excellence in forest fire research, technology, education, and training. 🍀



Dr. Mike Flannigan
Professor of
Wildland Fire,
University of Alberta
& Director,
Canada Wildfire



PHOTO: THE HOLMES GROUP

Q&A

Sustainability and Carpentry Go Hand in Hand: Just Ask Mike Holmes Jr.

To television host, professional contractor, and carpenter Mike Holmes Jr., working with Canadian wood is second nature. In his line of work, sustainability is an increasingly important consideration.

What other advice do you have for Canadians who are looking to build or renovate sustainably?

Canadians who are looking to renovate sustainably can keep a few things in mind. First, think about longevity. Make sure you renovate from the outside in. Consider using a steel shingle, which has a shelf life of 50+ years; insulating from the outside of your home by using, for example, a rigid insulation like the one made by Amvic; and using an uncoupling membrane like the one from Schluter/Ditra underneath your tile to make sure it's not bonded directly to your wooden sheathing, which will help give your tiles a longer lifeline. Second, a coat of paint can go a long way and is a great way to transform a piece or a space to keep up with changing styles and trends. Using a non-toxic paint such as the one from my wife's collection, the Lisa Marie Holmes Signature Collection, is a great and affordable



It's a privilege to work with many different woods that are ethically-sourced so that future generations of carpenters can carry on the art and tradition of woodworking.

option as it releases zero VOCs and is healthier for you, your family, and the environment. My last suggestion is to choose quality. Whether you're taking on a big build or looking to do minor upgrades, in this industry, you'll get what you pay for. Choose products that are functional, efficient, and durable. By doing so, you'll create a home that can be confidently enjoyed by future generations.

As a building material, what makes wood special compared to alternatives?

One of the things that makes wood so special is that it's a natural resource. Mother Nature designs it best and it's a product that can be used for a variety of purposes and functions that are natural, non-toxic, and very transformable. As opposed to synthetic and man-made products, wood is breathable, malleable, and sustainable when harvested appropriately.

Why is sustainability important to you as a carpenter and renovator?

As a carpenter and general contractor, sustainability is extremely important to me. It's a privilege to work with many different woods that are ethically-sourced so that future generations of carpenters can carry on the art and tradition of woodworking. For this to happen, we have to support companies that practise renewable forestry, not deforestation. Furthermore, when we build sustainably, there's less waste in the landfill and more access to resources for the builds required by our growing population. There are no excuses — we have the knowledge and technology to build homes that should last much longer than just one generation.

What would you say are the biggest misconceptions Canadians hold about forestry and carpentry in Canada?

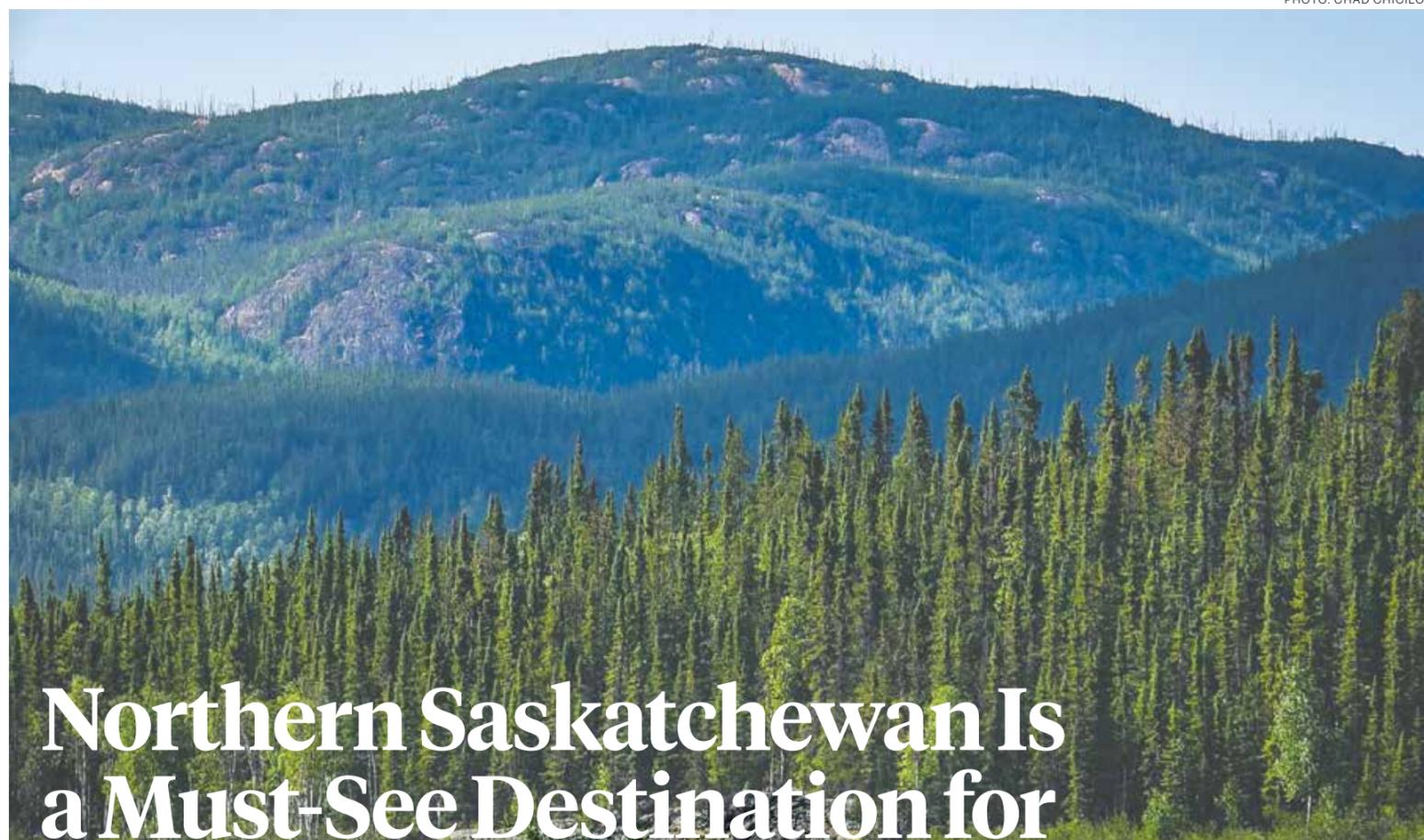
I think one of the biggest misconceptions Canadians hold about carpentry is assuming that a general contractor and a carpenter are one in the same. Although contractors and carpenters may occasionally do similar jobs, a carpenter requires specialized education in the craft and skilled trades (framing, structural framing, form work, cabinetry, and so on), whereas a contractor oversees the general scope of work on a job site, renovation, or new build. 📌

Which Canadian woods or wood products would you most recommend to Canadians who want to build or renovate sustainably?

Wood is used for both structure and aesthetic purposes, and is a wonderful building material. However, it's important to renovate with consciousness and sustainability in mind, especially now that the impact we have on the environment is undeniable. My first suggestion when using SPF (spruce-pine-fir) to frame a home is to ensure that the wood you're buying has an FSC certification. This stamp signifies that the wood has come from a responsibly-managed forest with environmental, social, and economic well-being in mind. Another suggestion is to "URR" — upcycle, reuse, or recycle. Getting creative with previously-used wood products is another way to build or renovate sustainably and can make your space very unique.

DESTINATION

PHOTO: CHAD CHICILLO



Northern Saskatchewan Is a Must-See Destination for Wilderness Explorers

Saskatchewan is much more than its prairies. Here's one adventurer on why wilderness enthusiasts should put this province on their radar.

Veronica Stephenson

For those who only see the part of Saskatchewan accessible via the Trans-Canada Highway, the province looks like a prairie landscape — and a beautiful, panoramic one at that. But if you think Saskatchewan is all flat plains, just ask adventurer and photographer Chad Chicilo.

The north of the province couldn't be more distinct from the south — covered in verdant coniferous forests and flowing rivers, it's bound to satisfy any nature enthusiast. The massive northern Boreal forest shelters 100,000 pristine lakes and rivers, not to mention an abundance of fish and wildlife. "We have the Canadian shield, massive bodies of water, and forest everywhere in between,"

says Chicilo. "We have beautiful waterfalls, and insane white water rapids. And it's warm water, unlike glacial water in other parts of the country."

Bucket list destination

Avid paddlers would be especially wise to look into Northern Saskatchewan as a bucket list destination. Much of the north is uncharted territory, which Chicilo says he's still discovering after 15 years of exploration. "The highlight for me is that every year I can discover new rivers and waterfalls — I've been doing this for half my life now and I'm still finding new waterfalls," he says. "There's something about taking the time to

get to these remote places that escalates your appreciation of the beauty of what you're experiencing."

Find true solitude in the north of Saskatchewan, with only untapped wilderness and your fellow paddlers to keep you company. CanoeSki and Churchill River Outfitters have scheduled guided trips or will help you plan your Northern Saskatchewan adventure. 📌



To plan your Northern Saskatchewan adventure, visit

canoeski.com & churchillrivercanoe.com



Chad Chicilo
Adventurer,
Photographer,
& Guide