

NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

MAY 4 - 10, 1975

NEWS FROM THE CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION — A FEDERATION OF PROVINCIAL FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS — OTTAWA, CANADA

National Forest Week — 1975

National Forest Week in 1975 will be observed from May 4-10. This year's theme will be "Trees... The Green Link." The Week is promoted to help remind Canadians of the importance of their basic renewable natural resource — the forest.

This year's theme was selected to highlight the many ways in which trees are the keystone of the Canadian environment. They provide a basic link converting the energy of the sun to a form useful to man and other life; trees provide an essential food and habitat link for wildlife; trees are a primary link in Canada's economy; and to an increasing degree trees represent a fundamental link with the future because of their influence on the atmosphere as well as their perpetual source of raw materials for man's needs.

According to Professor D. V. Love, newly-elected president of the Canadian Forestry Association, trees are so common on the Canadian landscape that we sometimes take them for granted. "Yet," said he "whether Canadians live in the city or in rural areas, trees are a fundamental link for all of us with our future."

Happy Birthday

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Forestry Association. It officially began with its first annual meeting in March 8, 1900 in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons in Ottawa. The founding members came from all walks of life and all parts of Canada.

Through the years, the Association continued to broaden its support. The common interest was proper use and long-range planning in order that forest land resources would be managed in keeping with the principles of renewability and the recognition that forests would always be vital to Canada in providing jobs, recreation and watershed protection.

From an early time, the Canadian Forestry Association built up a nationwide network of regional branches and affiliates. In 1959, the Canadian Forestry Association was reorganized into a national federation of provincial forestry associations with the provincial bodies responsible for their own regional activities, while national liaison, co-operation and special projects were the responsibility of the national federation. Current national programs with which C.F.A. are identified include: the Certified Tree Farm Program to encourage good management of private woodland; Smokey Bear activities to help reduce forest wildfires caused by human carelessness; National Forest Week to focus attention on the importance of forests of Canada; Forest Environment Study Areas to give national status to special places developed for interpretation.

Trees... A Link With the Past

In many ways, trees are living links with our past. Trees planted on special occasions are visible ties with history. Trees which are conspicuous or have some special quality are often identified with important events of years ago. Individual trees or forests can be used to determine patterns of land use or natural disturbances centuries beforehand.

Almost every community in Canada has trees which were planted on special occasions. These are known as commemorative trees. Perhaps one of the best such records over a period of time is that to be found in the grounds of the Governor General's residence in Ottawa — Rideau Hall. The record of visiting monarchs and presidents can be found in the trees planted to mark their visits. Here, for instance, may be found close together a sugar maple planted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth (now Queen Mother) on May 21st, 1939 and a red oak planted by the late King George VI to mark their regal trip to Canada just before the outbreak of World War II. Back of the library of the House of Commons overlooking the Ottawa River, Her Excellency the Vicountess Willingdon planted a maple on July 1st, 1927, "on behalf of the Women of Canada" to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation. In this International Women's Year of 1975 this event is even more significant to recall.

Many legends and folklore refer to trees which are still standing. Very few communities do not boast particular trees from which some early rebel was hung, about which some song was sung or which

marked the sight of an early tavern or historic building. The 450-500 year old Comfort Maple near Niagara Falls witnessed much of the early history in Canada. The Evangeline Oak at St. Martinville, Louisiana marks the place where the Acadians, driven from Nova Scotia, landed in 1758. Many trees in our western Prairie provinces can still be identified as "Indian Trail Trees" which were bent over as small saplings to mark an Indian trail and which today are distinct because of the one or more upright branches stretching vertically from the bent or partially broken main trunk.

Trained foresters or other specialists can also read much into past land use from close inspection of existing forests or trees. All across Canada, extensive areas of jackpine or other light-demanding species can be traced in origin to widespread fires or other natural calamities. Forests which have been harvested for many decades show successions of trees which seeded in naturally after felling took place. Seasonal growth rings and their variation are living testimonials to the times and natural factors affecting the growth of individual trees. And highly trained specialists can get priceless information from old trees on climate pre-dating weather records by relating periodic fluctuations in climate to annual ring width which reflects growth conditions.

The link between past and present provided by trees is an important one. The Canadian Forestry Association reminds people across Canada to search out and record these living memorials so that their significance may be known to the community.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

What we now know as "National Forest Week" was not always so named says H. W. Beall of Ottawa, Chairman of the National Committee for the Week in 1975. The evolution of the name provides an interesting thumbnail sketch of changing emphasis and attitudes in the development of public support for forest conservation by the Canadian Forestry Association which sponsors the event nationally.

Beginning in the 1920's, Forest Fire Prevention Week mainly emphasized prevention of wildfires which were a major concern to those who lived and worked on the fringe of the agriculture areas across the country.

In the '30's, Save the Forest Week still emphasized forest protection but implied that public help was needed for more than forest fire prevention alone.

In the 1950's, National Forest Conservation Week extended the message to include wise use and management of the forests generally. This was the time when massive inventories of the forest land across the country took place and long range plans were set up for forest use and development.

future serve as key links in our environment.

National Forest Week is sponsored nationally across Canada by the Canadian Forestry Association and regionally by its member provincial forestry associations in co-operation with many other individuals and agencies. Its primary objective is to focus attention on the need to manage Canada's forests wisely for present as well as future objectives.

Forest Fires in 1974

In 1974, a total of 7,935 wildfires burned over approximately 3,270 square miles of forest area in Canada.

Although this represents close to the same number of fires and area burned over compared to the average figure of the last 10 years, as usual there was a shift in locations where major outbreaks occurred.

Recreation and settlement fires continued as the major man-caused sources while lightning fires accounted for slightly greater than 1/2 the total number of fires but a much higher proportion of the total area burned.

TREES — An Economic Link

Trees are an important economic link to Canadians. Even though most of us live in cities and towns, the forest is still the basic resource affecting the economy of Canadians says the Canadian Forestry Association.

Wood products valued at more than 3 1/2 billion dollars are harvested from our forests yearly. Most of these are exported and represent almost 20% of the total value of products sold to other countries. In addition it is estimated that the extra purchasing power generated by the forest industry is at least 10 billion dollars annually.

Over 300,000 Canadians work in the logging and wood-using industries. To these can be added those people who are directly affected by this work ranging all the way from the total community as in many of the one industry towns throughout the north to the shareholder, stockbroker and equipment manufacturer who get significant parts of their income from forest product companies.

Every province in Canada has a significant forest area and a well developed forest industry. Even the smallest province of all — Prince Edward Island — has farm woodlots and small sawmills which are important to the local economy. Taxes generated by the forests through the industries, services and individual employment are vital to all levels of government.

Trees represent a basic economic link to Canadians. They become even more significant when financial gains from non-consumptive businesses such as tourism and recreation are added. For all kinds of uses, proper management of the renewable forest resource can provide these benefits for all time.

TREES — Link With the Future

During the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association in Ottawa, retiring C.F.A. President Leo Lepine of Moncton reminded those present that trees are one of the most important links that Canadians have with their future.

He pointed out that their commercial value is basic to the country's economy and that forest products are not only important for lumber, paper and 5,000 other products which they provide, but also are a prime export which permit Canadians to buy goods from other countries which we ourselves do not grow or manufacture.

He also said that forests "provide shelter and food for wildlife... protect watersheds and help regulate the water supply to keep our rivers running clear and deep. They give beauty to our landscape. They bring peace and relief from the cement jungles in which most of us live."

FROM THE PAST

In these days of rapid communication and scientific study, it is sometimes forgotten how recent is general awareness of our Canadian geography and history. It is necessary to go back just a few years for first hand information of pioneer Canada. This is well illustrated in a reprint from the first annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association in 1900 in Ottawa where people came together from across the country to share their knowledge about the country's largely unknown resources.

At the Ottawa meeting, Professor John Macoun, F.L.S., F.R.S.C., Assistant Director and Botanist, Geological Survey of Canada reported on "The Deforestation and Reforestation of the Western Prairies." Said Professor Macoun, "I was on the prairie before the settlers. I had the privilege of exploring in the year 1879 for 2,500 measured miles on the prairie, travelling with carts, and in 1880 between 1,800 and 1,900 miles. At that time the prairie was covered with grass in places and in other places there were many tracts of burnt forest, especially on the edge

of what is the prairie. Last Mountain by Long Lake we call it of the prairie and wood for two weeks to call your attention we noticed. Coming prairie, south of where is now, we saw a bush with a pond did this mean? It was the prairie fire which pond it left a small unburned. This thought and further. After this I went to wood Hills, and found a slightly broken up by ponds. Professor Macoun says that the To "have no existence" of height was created which had escaped because of the nun area.

Early reports published by the Canadian Forestry Association had to hear best information about their vast country.

TREES — AN ENERGY LINK

Trees should not be neglected, according to the Canadian Forestry Association, when considering future energy needs. Society must look at trees in different ways, claims C.F.A., to assess their proper place in our energy future. Trees store the energy of the sun and convert it into an organic form that is directly useful to man or indirectly becomes an essential part of the food chain which supports a large variety of plant and animal life. In addition wood — a major part of trees — can be directly used as fuel. Finally trees can be used as the raw material for synthetic fuels like methanol and ethanol which can serve as substitutes for present fuels. Because trees have a life cycle and are a renewable resource which is widespread throughout the world, their role as an important source of energy could very well increase. Trees are a fundamental link in our energy system.

Trees and other green plants are unique in that they can capture the energy of the sunlight through the magical process called photosynthesis and concentrate the sun's power in the form of organic tissue. Much of this mass is stored or passed through food chains by nature's own complicated life support system. Large amounts of energy, in addition, are stored in the trunks of trees which provide the raw material for many products useful to mankind. Furthermore wood, when compared with steel and aluminum made from non-renewable resources, for example, requires much less additional energy to convert the raw material into a form useful to man. Trees

Just 100 years ago, we used about half the energy for the world. The direct use of trees for energy is of interest because increased prices of energy from fossil fuels have made energy from fossil fuels a definite gain. There is a revival of interest in wood as a fuel for homes, farms and industry. There are a number of furnaces that depend partly on wood. There has always been a number of industries that use wood or paper. The industrial furnaces of wood as fuel in an altered state will be feasible as fossil fuels become scarcer.

The manufacture of fuels from tree products might be used advantageously. They are interesting because the ability of the raw materials, they have of polluting impurities. Finally their manufacture reduce some of the disposal problems coming an expense many cities and towns. Trees in their natural state have always been important between the sun and the things of the landscape. They store the sun's power in a direct form which are raw materials which are raw