

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

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President's Message

What a gorgeous weekend! I just hope Easter weekend gives us the same balmy weather. And the best part of last weekend is the Maple Leafs made the playoffs!

The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) AGM was a successful and fun meeting. I received many encouraging remarks from members who enjoyed this year's session. Thank you for the many helpful ideas on how to make our AGM more informative and interesting. We are already planning for the next AGM, to be held on Wednesday February 28th 2018.

Again the generous donations by many local businesses, enables NWOA AGM to be an annual success. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Tracey Boerkamp, AGM convenor, the members of NWOA continue to enjoy the information from the increasing number of booths that arm us with information to make better choices looking after our woodlots.

Many hands make the work load light! We require a diversity of opinion on our Board to better enable to serve NWOA membership. We meet 9 times a year, with July, August and December off. We would love to welcome new members to learn what is going on in Norfolk County, wood markets or learn to better manage your woodlot for whatever purpose you see it doing for you. Depending on your talents, perhaps joining our Newsletter Committee/Social Media Group would help get your creative juices flowing. Our Treasurer would love to have someone work with him and learn the ropes while sharing the duties. If you wish to volunteer for your community by becoming a Board Member and you have questions contact me or one of the Board members.

We are working hard to interact with our members via telephone, printed newsletter, email newsletter, website and now we are trying out Facebook. We would love for you to email us interesting pictures of your woodlot. It could include all kinds of flora and fauna. By posting our individual ideas on what we think makes a good woodlot we all can share and learn ... the power of social media ...or so we hope.

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our facebook, website, newsletter, workshops, tours and Annual Meeting. You can post them on our website www.norfolkwoodlots.com or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at johndewitt@kwic.com

John de Witt

NWOA Member Donations

The Board of Directors recognizes members who donate to the organization any amounts greater than the annual membership dues. Thanks to the following members who have done so in 2017:

John Barkovsky
Paul DeCloet
Frank & Natalie Hahn

Michael & Barbara Hourigan
Stephana & Ross Johnston
Louis Keursten

M & P Ridzon
Chris Verhoeve
Robert Wilson

2017 AGM SPONSORS

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Southwest Branch QDMA
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NEAC
MNRF and Conservation Officer
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Species at Risk
Forest Health / Parks
Lands & Forest Consulting
Ruffed Grouse Society
Townsend Lumber
ALUS
Long Point Region Conservation
Long Point Basin Land Trust
Norfolk Field Naturalists
Nature's Calling Environmental Education (NCEE)
St Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council
Bird Studies Canada
Forestry Interpretive Centre
Scotts Fiber Canada
Firearms Licensing & Education
EHP Logging
St Williams Nursery
Long Point Phragmites Action Alliance
Long Point World Biosphere
Canadian Chestnut Council
Superintendent of Forestry
Ontario Provincial Police
Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)

Door Prize Donors
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St. Williams Nursery
Long Point Basin Land Trust
Townsend Lumber
Buttons For You
Norfolk Health - Kyani

Sawmills of Yesteryear

To mark Canada's 150th Anniversary, Canada's First Forestry Station Interpretive Centre will reach back into early times in the County. Someone estimated that at one time there were 200 sawmills in the watershed and that was the spark that set off a search of historic records and reports. The committee did not have to look far from the site for some of the artifacts, since parts of the sawmill owned by Walter McCall are still on the site. As well, several of the Norfolk County museums have loaned artifacts from their collections.

In the settlement of Norfolk County, the British required the clearing of a minimum number of acres and the building of a dwelling before the ownership claim of a 100 acre farm could be made. Since the clearing of the land yielded plenty of timber, settlers often got together and built simple sawmills on convenient nearby spots and helped each other saw the lumber they needed.

The earliest sawmills were "pit saws", where the sawing was done manually with the log to be sawn, elevated on a frame with one sawyer standing above the log and the other in a pit below, sawing planks through the length of the log. To build barns, timbers needed to be hewn straight and square. Builders had no power tools.

The Canada 150 exhibit features many of the tools and objects that date from that time, a map showing the locations of the sawmills, pictures of the people and the story of how they built their lives from the wilderness. The exhibit will officially open on Saturday June 3rd at 1:00 pm with everyone welcome. The Interpretive Centre is open to visitors from Victoria Day Weekend to Labour Day from 10:30 to 4:30 every day except Tuesdays. More information is available by calling Anne or Dolf Wynia at 519 875 3350 or wynia@kwic.com

By Dolf Wynia

Norfolk County - 20 year Forest Management Plan

Norfolk County is currently preparing a 20-year Forest Management Plan to assist with the planning and management of over 2,000 acres of forested land owned by the municipality.

The lands addressed in this plan are referred to throughout this survey as 'County woodlots' or 'woodlots'. There are 29 County woodlots scattered throughout the rural landscape of Norfolk, and 2 woodlots within the urban boundaries of Simcoe.

Many of the properties were acquired between the 1920's and 1950's. They were commonly farm properties on which the sandy soils were degraded and unproductive for agricultural use.

After the County (or at that time Town or Township) had acquired a property, it would often be re-forested.

Today these forests have grown and changed substantially, as have the landscapes surrounding them. These woodlots are now home to countless forms of wildlife and habitat for endangered species. They perform functions of watershed protection, carbon sequestration, erosion control, and provide numerous other environmental benefits.

It is important that the community have a voice when making decisions surrounding matters that may concern them, such as the management of this important municipal asset and natural resource. This survey is one way that we may better understand and interpret the needs of the community and perception of matters pertaining to the management of these woodlots.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GQ7MP3D>

Adam Biddle
Superintendent of Forestry
Norfolk County- Community Services Department
95 Culver St., Simcoe, ON, N3Y 2V5
Phone: 519-426-5999 ext. 2224

Harry B Barrett Memorial

You are invited to
Celebrate the Life of
HARRY B BARRETT
Sunday May 28, 2017, 1:00 to 5:00 pm
Education Centre, Backus Heritage Conservation Area
1267 2nd Concession Road, R. R. # 1
Port Rowan, Ontario

Please share a memory of Harry B
Bring a story or a photo to Backus

or

Send a 30 - 60 second video clip, no later than May 21, 2017
to: ryanpropper@raineymedia.com