

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



Volume 1 Edition 21

September 2015

## President's Message

We most certainly caught up on the heat units on Labour Day weekend! It was a great way to 'end' the summer and get back to school, work and begin our Association's fall activities. The NWOA Directors met at the end of August to fine tune the many tours/workshops being held this fall. One interesting discussion at our meeting concerned the sale of wood from our woodlots. Some of you may find it advantageous to sell trees that need to be removed in order to maintain the health of the woodlot.

We've noticed that most of the Norfolk softwood plantations, red pine and white pine, are in dire need of thinning. The growing trees have now reached a point where they are crowding one another. Eventually, the whole stand will suffer because lack of sunlight contributes to anaemic growth, which in turn paves the way for disease and insect damage. The trees require thinning in order to allow space for sunlight to effectively reach the remaining trees. This promotes healthy growth and the remaining trees are consequently better able to withstand disease and insect attacks.

Although the first thinning trees could be mainly sold as chips, oddly, there isn't a market for Norfolk chips. Apparently, timber and chips from outside Norfolk County are cheaper to import, taking away the market for Norfolk chips. This turns the thinning operation, for the sake of continued growth and health of the trees, into an expense.

There are many different opinions with no easy solutions on effectively managing softwood plantations. If managing softwood plantations in Southern Ontario is of interest to you, I find that the Working Forest publication [www.workingforest.com](http://www.workingforest.com) to be a great resource. We are not sure why purchasers of chips find other sources more cost effective than Norfolk chips. It is an area of concern to the Board of NWOA. We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and Annual Meeting. You can post them on our website or call me at 519-428-2615 or email me at [john.dewitt@holliswealth.com](mailto:john.dewitt@holliswealth.com)

**John de Witt**

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## ARE WE MISSING THE BOAT BY NOT PROPERLY MANAGING OUR SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS?

The lack of a market for chips is endangering many softwood plantations in Norfolk County. Plantations require thinning and are not being done. This endangers their health. Without a market for Norfolk chips to defray the cost, thinning becomes an expense.

While talking with people about this issue, a couple of ways to deal with the thinning requirement became apparent.

One, for the cost of some refreshments and help from a few friends; girdle the third row of every plantation. The girdled trees are left in the plantation and may become a host for fungus and insects putting the remaining trees at risk. In particular, if a red pine plantation is being thinned, it would be wise to spray the open wound of the girdled tree with RotStop a bio-spray that helps prevent *Fomes annosus* (Root Rot) from infecting the remaining trees. Girdling may not be the most ideal way to thin a plantation but still far better than not thinning and have the entire plantation die.

Another way is to determine why there is no market for Norfolk chips and what can be done about it. Chips from elsewhere are being imported. Is it because Norfolk producers are less efficient or is there another reason that needs to be proven and addressed? Is there anyone concerned enough about the loss of softwood plantations and loss of future income to Norfolk woodlot owners, to help NWOA undertake this investigation so that our deteriorating softwood plantations are saved?

John de Witt

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## Website Information

For more information, and access to Newsletters, visit our Website [norfolkwoodlots.com](http://norfolkwoodlots.com)

Current Newsletters are posted in the 'Members Area' of the website.

To access this section you need to login with your Username and Password

Select the "**Member Area Login**" and login. (*hint. Your user name is your full email address and password as was sent to you*) You should be able to reset your password if needed, or if problems send an email to [membership@norfolkwoodlots.com](mailto:membership@norfolkwoodlots.com)

Once logged-in, select "**Members Area**" go to "**Current Newsletter**" page , once there you can select the latest or any newsletter you would like to read.

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## Memorial to Gunther Csoff (Sept. 22, 1954 – June 14, 2015)

The Board of Directors of the NWOA are saddened to report on the passing of Gunther Csoff, a leader in the agricultural community, a conservation hero and a Director for the woodlot owners association since first being elected at the Annual General Meeting on Feb. 3, 2011. Gunther regularly attended Board meetings for over 4 years and participated actively, contributing his knowledge and leadership. Memorial quotes from friends and colleagues as well as a recent video of brothers Gunther and Joe talking about ALUS, can be found here.

<http://www.alus.ca/memorial-to-gunther-csoff/>

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## Norfolk County Timber Harvest Permitting Summary 2015

Board Foot Measure and Acreages are approximations based on the information provided on the Timber Harvest Application. Board Foot Measure is not always provided for Circumference Limit Harvests

**\*\*data as of August 18, 2015**

Good Forestry Practices			Circumference Limit Harvest		
Applications	Area (acres)	BFM	Permit Applications	Area (acres)	BFM
36	1,037	2,158,285	56	1,259	1,692,338

\*\*\* 5 Permit Applications denied by Norfolk County By-law

21 different logging contractors operating in Norfolk County in 2015

## Norfolk County Timber Harvest Permitting Summary 2014

### *Year-end Summary*

Good Forestry Practices			Circumference Limit Harvest		
Applications	Area (acres)	BFM	Permit Applications	Area (acres)	BFM
46	1,026	2,006,580	63	1,727	2,410,687

\*\*\* 1 Permit Application denied by Norfolk County By-law  
Applications denied by Norfolk County By-law

\*\*\* 3 Permit

27 different logging contractors operating in Norfolk County in 2014

## Ongoing Site Visits and Workshops

### Townsend Lumber Tour – Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The host is Mike Penner, Operations Manager of Townsend Lumber in Tillsonburg. Mike will start us off at his woodlot which is being harvested and discuss the methods being used and details to help woodlot owners make good choices about harvesting. Mike is a wealth of information and his enthusiasm is contagious. This is one tour you do not want to miss. It is one of the local businesses that supports the local economy and employs local people.

**Townsend Lumber will be handing out a coupon to all the people who attend the tour on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. The coupon will be \$125 off any regular priced flooring order of 400 square feet or more and will be good until Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. (If they don't need a floor, they are welcome to pass it on to a friend.)**

**8:30 - 9:30** a.m. - Meet at Mike Penner's Woodlot on Bell Mill Road, north of the Bostwick Side Road and south of Talbot Road; the map is shown below.

**10:00 - 10:45** a.m. - Tour log yard at the Lumber Yard

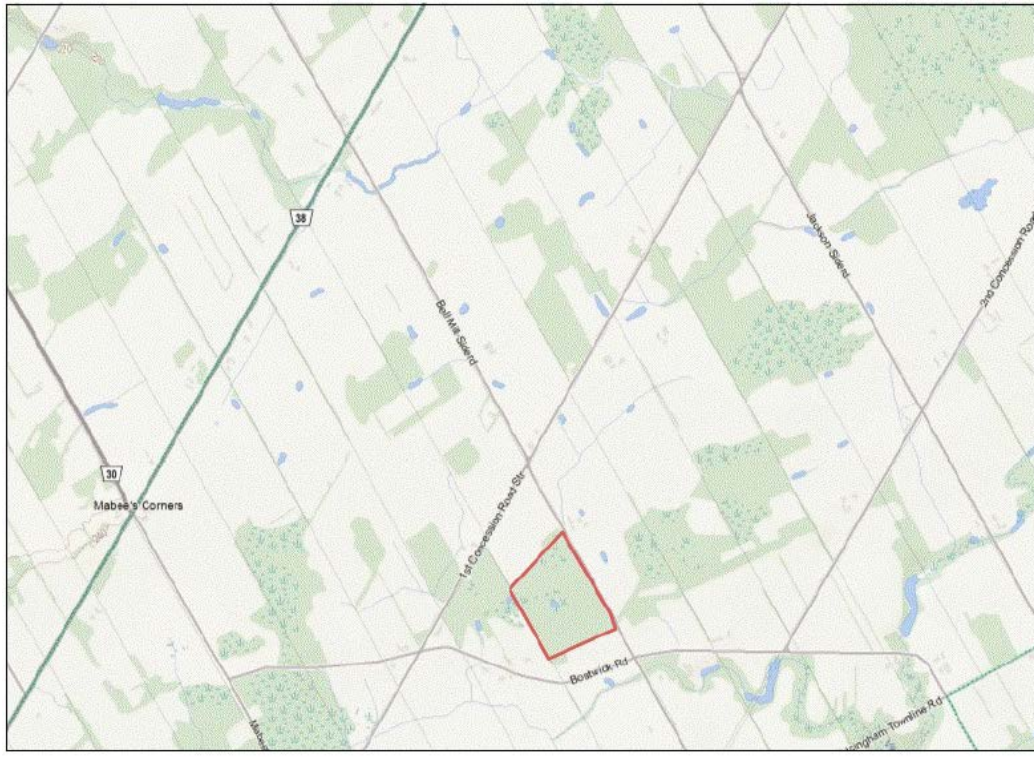
**10:45 - 11:45** a.m. - Tour the saw mill where we will see the pallet factory and the head saw area

**11:45 - 12:30** p.m. - Tour the flooring plant and Breezewood Showroom

**12:30** p.m. - Lunch is served in the Showroom

If there are still parts of the facility you wish to tour, Mike will be happy to take you on a further tour or answer any questions you might have.

Please contact Betty Chanyi, 519-586-7175 OR [bchanyi@live.ca](mailto:bchanyi@live.ca) to reserve your spot on this tour, **no later than October 14**. WE NEED TO KNOW THE NUMBERS ATTENDING FOR THE LUNCH. THANK YOU.



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### **Beech Bark Disease Workshop – Wednesday, October 28, 2015**

A Beech Bark disease workshop will be lead by Dr Richard Wilson on Wed Oct 28 2pm-4pm plus an hour tour of infected woods. The workshop will be held at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs auditorium, 1283 Blueline Road (near Hwy#3). The tour will be conducted a short drive away from the OMAFRA location.

Dr Wilson has provided a link on beech bark disease from his laboratory that some members might find useful. <https://dr6j45jk9xcmk.cloudfront.net/documents/2851/stdprod-096009.pdf>

If interested in the workshop and site visit, please contact David Reid before Friday Oct. 23/15 at [dave.reid@eastlink.ca](mailto:dave.reid@eastlink.ca) or **519-426-8856**

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### **Barn Swallow / Forest Birds Workshop**

#### **Workshop #2 - May 26, 2016**

Thursday, May 26, 2016, 7:00PM to 9:00PM, location and agenda TBD

#### **Interpretative Walk - May 28, 2016**

Saturday, May 28, 2016 8:00 AM, with BSC staff, Location TBD