

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



Volume 1 Edition 29

January 2017

## President's Message

Winter has tried a couple of times to make its presence felt ... but so far, not too much snow shovelling, touch wood!

The NWOA Board is, full steam ahead, planning for the **NWOA Annual General Meeting at the German hall in Delhi, March 1, 2017. The doors open at 5pm and the meeting starts at 7pm, ending at 9pm.** You should plan to attend and mark it on your calendar because it looks to be a great one! Bring a friend or neighbour because we will have many vendor and group booths with lots of information that pertains to your woodlot and the creatures that may make it their home. We have two dynamic speakers. Terry Schwan, with a very interesting talk on a study that shows the income derived from managed woodlots; lots of eye opening facts. Also, Ron Casier, President of the Canadian Chestnut Council, will speak about efforts to re-establish the chestnut tree in our woodlots. To top it off, there is coffee and Timbits while you catch up with other members and friends and don't forget the prizes!

Of course everyone's favourite prize is our early bird membership renewal lottery with the winner receiving a chainsaw donated by Sthil, Premier and Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association. For your name to be included in this lottery all you need to do is renew your membership and have it in the Treasurers hands before February 24, 2017. A renewal form is at the end of this newsletter.

Many hands make the work load light! We have a very talented and complementary group of people on our Board. I have a lot of fun working with them. We met 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 would help get your creative juices flowing. We are just starting to set up our Facebook and would love some help tending it. Our Workshop/Tour Committee would welcome some new ideas on woodlot management for specific purposes that would be of interest to the membership. 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 welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and Annual Meeting. You can post them on our website [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) or call me at 519-428-2615 or email me at [johndewitt@kwic.com](mailto:johndewitt@kwic.com)

All the best to you in 2017!

**John de Witt**

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**Foresters Seek Common Ground on Endangered Species Management**

The Ontario forest industry is hoping to find a middle ground as their exemption from Ontario's Endangered Species Act nears expiration in mid-2018.

Planning forester Scott McPherson said even though the industry is exempt from ESA, the sector adheres to unique regulations for managing and caring for species at risk. At Nipissing Forest Resource Management (NFRM) and the Vermilion Forest Management Company (VFM), for whom McPherson works, employees regularly work to ensure the safety of Blanding's Turtles in their Sudbury Forest operations. They provide training to staff and have production restrictions in certain areas at certain times. The companies undertake these initiatives under the Crown Forestry Sustainability Act (CFSA), under which Ontario foresters operate.

Other industries don't have comparable endangered species regulation. In June 2018, the forestry industry's exemption from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will expire, and foresters like McPherson are hoping for a resolution of the requirements of the ESA and the CFSA before then. Ontario foresters have been managing forests under the CFSA since 1994, and when the ESA was introduced in 2007, the industry struggled to fulfill the requirements of both acts. They were granted a five-year exemption in 2013 and the Ontario government committed to a harmonization of the two acts by 2018. That process is still underway. Forest policy director Ian Dunn from the Ontario Forestry Industry Association, added that there are misconceptions about the exemption, and the forestry industry's responsibilities. "It gives people the wrong impression, that we have a blanket exemption for managing species at risk, because we don't, and have managed species at risk for a long time and continue to do so." However, two environmental groups, Ontario Nature and Wildlands League, recently applied to appeal a 2013 Ontario Court of Appeal decision upholding exemptions to the act, including the forestry industry's.

The groups say the exemption fails to protect the 167 endangered or threatened species in the province against being killed or habitat destruction. The disagreement highlights what Dunn said is the discrepancy in the mandates of the two acts. Dunn described the CFSA as "a landmark piece of legislation." Before, forests were managed primarily for timber, the CFSA took a more balanced approach integrating economic and cultural values like tourism and fishing.

In contrast, the ESA "presented a significant challenge, which is managing for single values across a landscape," that single value being endangered species. Foresters like McPherson are hoping for a solution similar to the exemption and are worried about the demands created by operating under two different acts. If the exemption expired before harmonization and they had to operate under both acts again, he said it "would essentially create an additional layer of bureaucracy that would duplicate or even double the amount of work we have to do with the planning front."

Christine Leduc, the director of public affairs at EACOM Timber Corporation, echoed Dunn and McPherson's sentiments. "The CFSA emulates natural disturbances, the ESA triggers listings for individual listings for species..." said Leduc, which is hard "if you're trying to manage like a natural forest." Leduc said that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is taking the lead on the transition to a more feasible endangered species management solution, and has included industry representatives from companies like EACOM. She said there is worry in the industry since there are potential implications for the wood supply and access to wood fiber if the decision isn't reached in time for the industry to adapt their management plans. "We want to make sure that any harmonization is pragmatic," said Leduc. Dunn said that while 2018 may seem a long way off, it's important to figure out the issue as soon as possible. "That sounds like it's kind of down the road, but this is a factor that manages up to 120 years into the future. (2018) is just around the corner, companies are writing forest management plans and need to know these answers soon."

## Letter to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

10 January 2017  
Bree Walpole  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Species Conservation Policy Branch  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
300 Water Street  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9J 8M5

RE: Accommodating Safe Harbour Under the Endangered Species Act 2007

Dear Ms. Walpole

As a group with common interests, the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) operates from Norfolk County. With 23% forested cover and the Long Point Biosphere World Biosphere Reserve as a southern boundary it is an important segment of the Carolinian Canada Ecozone. It has become a base for many organizations entrenched in studying and conserving the natural world. We ourselves have 189 members with whom we communicate regularly through a newsletter.

Our Mission Statement clearly states that we promote the creation and preservation of wildlife habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species. In addition we strive “to support the best interests of the members with respect to legislation and regulations as they affect private forest properties.” Although from diverse backgrounds, we all pursue these ends with varying degrees of passion and zeal.

We are writing in response to the request for input regarding the “Safe Harbour” proposal relative to the Ontario Endangered Species Act (ESA). We recognize the need for firm laws containing serious consequences for the willfully destructive and those carrying out persistent environmentally harmful activities. We find however that despite being around for ten years (passed 2007) the ESA has not had its desired effect. In fact it may be working in reverse. Its sweeping scope and onerous and punitive tone act as a disincentive to landowners. To promote the presence of an endangered species can result in curtailed operations, land removed from production and restrictions placed on neighbours. These actions result in seriously negative economic effects on families and neighbourhoods. Sadly, many landowners are not even aware of this legislation.

As a group we have reviewed the ESA and the proposed Safe Harbour legislation. The following are our recommendations:

1. That an explanatory version of the ESA legislation and Safe Harbour regulations be produced in concise and plain language so that we might all understand its content.
2. That the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) should provide the Norfolk woodlot owners with a summary list of species at risk that may be found in Norfolk County woodlots.
3. That consultation with affected groups is important when legislation is being introduced or changed. The NWOA would welcome an informational presentation by the MNRF regarding the ESA

and proposed Safe Harbour Regulations at one of our annual general meetings (next AGM is Wednesday, March 1/17 at Delhi).

4. That recommendations 2&3 would assist NWOA members in recognizing these species and if sightings were reported to the MNRF that face to face consultation would help to develop a working relationship.

5. That woodlot owners entering into Safe Harbour agreements have concrete safeguards against punitive actions.

6. That realistic compensation be given if woodlot operations are altered resulting in economic loss due to presence of species at risk.

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors  
Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association



#### A CALL-OUT TO WOODLOT OWNERS TO HELP LOCAL KIDS CONNECT WITH NATURE

*Do you love enjoying time in nature? Do you agree that the outdoors is good for mind, body and soul? Do you believe today's children should spend more time exploring our natural environment? Have you ever considered providing such an opportunity for local kids?*

**Nature's Calling Environmental Education (NCEE), an active local charitable organization, is in search of a good location to deliver its engaging nature outreach programs to children and families throughout our community and beyond.**

Specifically, we are looking for a property that has a diversity of habitats, including wooded trails and some form of shelter. Having an accessible pond and open areas, and enough driveway for school buses to park are also qualities in a property we are looking for. The property should be ideally located between Highways #24 and #59, and no more than 10 to 15 km either north or south of Highway #3. NCEE would be interested in renting such a property or providing a charitable receipt for its use.

NCEE has been around since 2009, was incorporated in 2012, and received charitable status in 2014. We carry liability insurance, have a great Board of Directors and an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer base. Our Educators are highly qualified and knowledgeable individuals that love working with children. We are well-known by local families, teachers, campers and others for delivering some of the most captivating educational and fun nature and outdoor programming in Norfolk, Brant, & Halimand Counties, and surrounding areas.

With a **mission** to “connect youth and families with nature and the outdoors, to raise awareness and appreciation for our natural world, and to foster a strong environmental ethic through community-based education and engagement”, NCEE's appeal is broad. Innovative and



educational programming that stimulates passion for the outdoors in all ages has made the organization an important cornerstone in our region of southern Ontario.

NCEE's Nature in the Classroom and Lessons in a Backpack programs have garnered enthusiastic praise from local teachers. The first brings nature and the environment into the classroom. The latter sees teachers bring students into outdoor classrooms, such as local woodlots and local farms. All programming is inquiry-based and follows the Ontario curriculum guidelines. Additionally, NCEE contracts with local provincial parks and private campgrounds to deliver interpretive programming during the summer months, as well as organizing local shoreline cleanups, bird box building bees, family hikes and more.

We also deliver an annual nature festival, outdoor theatre and summer long eco-camps where kids spend their days in the forest and participate in games, hikes, nature study and story-telling.

If your property has the qualities described above and you are interested in helping NCEE provide outdoor education opportunities for local youth, or simply want to learn more about us, please contact Bernie Solymár, Executive Director at 519-427-9969 or [info@naturecalling.ca](mailto:info@naturecalling.ca), or check out our website at [www.naturecalling.ca](http://www.naturecalling.ca).

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Book Review by Dolf Wynia

### **The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben**

It is not very often that a forester writes a bestselling book. Peter Wohlleben has managed to do it with the publication of "The Hidden Life of Trees" in the English language. For anyone who enjoys spending time among trees, the book presents a wide range of interesting science and sentiments. His revelations centre on the community forest near Hummel in Germany, for which he has the responsibility of management. He is familiar with current forest science and he puts himself in the position of being a family friend of the trees that he is responsible for. His closest "friend" is the European Beech tree, a mainstay of his forest.

Wohlleben points out the dangers of not using natural processes for letting trees grow and the multitude of freeloaders and supporters that accompany the development and decline of healthy natural forests. His explanations of many of the life processes in forests are well organized in chapters that can be referred to by a reader who may be puzzled by things he observes in his woodlot. Anyone with a curious mind will enjoy reading his explanations of the life processes in a forest.

The fact that Dr. Susanne Simard, one of Canada's leading forest researchers wrote a concluding note and Australian Tim Flannery the foreword is an indication of the validity of Wohlleben's opinions. Even though our species are different, any woodlot owner who reads the book will enjoy reading it but will also get a great deal more enjoyment out of his property by understanding more of what goes on in his or her forest.

Published by The David Suzuki Institute, Greystone Books, \$29.95 Can.



### **Tough Love For Coyote Population**

By [Daniel R. Pearce](#), Simcoe Reformer



Wendy Brown, a licensed wild life custodian, was part of a presentation on coyotes at the Simcoe research station on Thursday night. People need to learn how to live with the animals, the meeting was told. (DANIEL R. PEARCE Simcoe Reformer)

You don't kill coyotes. You chase them away. That was the advice of the founder of a wildlife advocacy group that helps individuals and communities cope with the increasing number of the animal. "If you destroy coyotes that come onto your property, Mother Nature will do its work and simply replace them", said Lesley Sampson, founding executive director of Coyote Watch Canada. Instead, you need to set boundaries with the animals and teach them to stay away, Sampson told a crowd of more than 100 people gathered at the research stations east of Simcoe on Thursday night.

Sampson showed a brief video of herself doing her job after a couple in the Niagara area with a problem coyote called her. A coyote is seen strolling through a backyard. Sampson runs off a back deck towards the animal aggressively, yelling and waving her arms, and eventually throwing wood from a woodpile at the retreating animal. "The coyote isn't running the community. You are," she said. "It doesn't take long for them to understand their behaviour is unacceptable. They learn it's not worth it to come into the community go get the food."

Sampson was brought in by the Norfolk Field Naturalists to address the issue of the rising number of complaints from Norfolk County resident about coyotes. There have been reports of the animal coming into residential areas on the edge of Port Dover and attacking family pets. Most of the province has the same problem, said Sampson. One way to keep them off your property is to make sure you are not inadvertently providing them with a food source, she said. Even a bird feeder can be a problem. The feed that falls on the ground attracts the rodents the coyote likes to feed on, she noted. Deadstock from farming operations will also attract them.

Sampson's organization advises on how to live with the animals. She said coyotes are not to be feared – she has had several close encounters with them and has not been attacked – and they serve a purpose, cleaning up dead animal carcasses and keep the rodent population under control. "They help keep our environment healthy," said Sampson.

The meeting room at the research station was filled with a variety of people; farmers, hunters, conservationists and urban resident who have had coyotes on their property. Tempers flared during the question and answer section of the night as farmers recounted tales of killed livestock and suggested the coyote does not belong in Norfolk County. One man insisted the animals were "introduced" to the area while another said "our animals are hostages in their homes" because of the threat the coyote presents to them. "My dad was born in 1900, he hunted here, and there was never a coyote," said one man. Sampson suggested the coyote migrated to the area.

Coyote Watch Canada is available to help communities come up with a strategy to deal with the coyote problem. Sampson recommends having a hotline people can call to report a sighting and for those reports to be put onto a map. For more information, go to [www.coyotewatchcanada.com](http://www.coyotewatchcanada.com)

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**RENEW TODAY! .....3 WAYS TO RENEW & WIN!!**

1. **ON-LINE,** Go to [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) go to 'Members Tab' select Membership Renewal, and pay by PayPal or a Credit Card.
2. **Mail Membership Application with payment to:**  
NWOA c/o of Norfolk Forestry 95 Culver St. Simcoe, ON N3Y 2V5
3. **During business hours, drop off Membership Application at**  
Norfolk County Community Services Department 95 Culver St. Simcoe

**RENEW BEFORE FRIDAY Noon FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup> and YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED INTO THE EARLY BIRD DRAW FOR A CHAINSAW!**

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association**  
**Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> , 2017 7:00 PM**  
**Delhi German Home – Delhi**

Forestry Information Vendors & Information Displays – open at 5 pm  
Over 36 Information Displays!

**DOOR PRIZES**

Members can enter their name for a chance to win over \$ 1000 in Door Prizes!

**SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN TODAY!**  
**& WIN A CHANCE AT A SPECIAL DRAW FOR A CHAINSAW!**

**DEADLINE – APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED AT**  
**NORFOLK FORESTRY 95 CULVER ST. Simcoe ( or On-Line )**

**BY Noon February 24<sup>th</sup> , 2017**

# 2017 NWOA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

- The approved membership fee for 2017 is \$25 - in order to maintain this fee we need as many members as possible to subscribe to receive their newsletter electronically. Even if you prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter we would like your email address (or any changes to it) to maintain our membership file and keep you posted with any last minute notices, updates etc.
- Please complete this form, mail or drop off with payment to the address below .. or .. Existing members can also renew online, go to [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com), under the 'Members Area' tab, select 'Member Renewal' .

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 , Delhi German Hall**

Doors open at 5:00 pm to view Displays and meet vendors    General Meeting: 7:00 pm

**EARLY BIRD DRAW:** All membership Renewals received with payment by **Friday noon February 24<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**Will be entered into a draw for a Chainsaw.**

	Renewing Member	New Member
<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>		<b>Town</b>
<b>Postal Code</b>		<b>Phone:</b>
<b>E-Mail:</b>		

Please make any corrections to the above - we need your full 911 address

<i>Preferred NEWSLETTER DELIVERY</i>	REGULAR MAIL		EMAIL
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<b>Do You Own a Woodlot?</b>	NO		ASSOCIATE MEMBER		
	YES		FULL MEMBER		
<b>IF YES - IS IT A FARM WOODLOT?</b>	YES		NO		Verified Office Use Only
<b>WOODLOT LOCATION</b>	Former Township		Lot	Conc.	Size (acres)

<b>TAX ROLL NUMBER</b>	3	3	1	0												
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For additional properties please add to back of form

**Please send payment to:    NWOA**  
**c/o Norfolk Forestry 95 Culver St. Simcoe, ON N3Y 2V5**  
 Membership Fee – 2016 - **\$25.00** (Cheques payable to NWOA)

**Receipt**

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association                      MEMBERSHIP FEE \$ 25.00    Cash    Cheque # \_\_\_\_\_  
 DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Rec'd by: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!