

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

December 2018



## President's Message

Winter has tried a couple of times to make its presence felt ... but so far the rain doesn't involve too much shovelling!

The NWOA Board is planning for the **NWOA Annual General Meeting at the German hall in Delhi, March 6, 2019. 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. Our guest speaker, Dr. Christian (Chris) MacQuarrie is a researcher with the Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service based in Sault Ste. Marie. He has been a member of the Pest Ecology and Management team since 2010. His research interests include integrated pest management of native and introduced forest insects, biological control, insect population dynamics and insect ecology and behaviour. Presently his focus is on the population dynamics of emerald ash borer, developing science-based advice for phytosanitary certification, and optimizing trapping of budworm moths.

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 March 1, 2019.

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 love 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 519-426-2782 or email me at [johndewitt@kwic.com](mailto:johndewitt@kwic.com)

All the best to you in 2019!

**John de Witt**

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## **THE SAWMILLS OF YESTERYEAR A CUT IN TIME**

This is the fifth in a series of articles describing the development of the sawmill industry in Norfolk County from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s. The information has been provided by the **Forestry Station Interpretive Centre**.

### **THE SAWMILL INDUSTRY HEIGHT 1850's to 1870's**

By 1851, Norfolk County had 112 sawmills, three times that of any other county in Ontario. During this time, over 600 men were employed, making lumbering the largest industry in Norfolk County. In 1851 these mills produced 48,250,000 board feet of lumber in the western townships alone. Walsingham Township was noted to be a lumberman's paradise, proven true in 1851 by producing 18,510,000 board feet of lumber.

In 1857, shipments of lumber, logs and staves totalled 39,000,000 board feet and many communities were prospering from the industry. Most notably was Port Dover, considered by 1864 to be the principle lumber market. By 1865, lumber exports from Port Dover were valued at 246 000 British pounds. This is equivalent to \$50,000,000 today. In 1869, logging was booming and forest products generated more than half of Ontario's exports.

High quality sawn logs were required by the lumbermen before 1877, making cutting very selective. What would now be considered as remarkable logs were rejected as too small or not likely to produce clean lumber. After 1880, a change in the demand for lumber and the use of portable steam sawmills brought in the practice of clear cutting and a demand for smaller timber and shingles.

### **INDUSTRY LEADERS**

A. and E. McCall began business in 1865, upon purchasing a steam sawmill. The mill stood on Lot 11, Concession 6 of Charlottesville and operated until 1874 when it burned down. The next year the sawmill was rebuilt and a large tract of pine was purchased, producing over 25,000,000 board feet. Soon a second steam mill was built giving a total of 4,000,000 board feet of lumber per year between the mills. The mill made staves, spars, square timber, and manufactured furniture. They also owned a schooner named the "Bay Trader" and had their own siding at the Canada Air Line Railway Station in Simcoe.

### **QUANCE MILL**

In 1830, Jacob Sovereign built a sawmill in Fredericksburg, present day Delhi. At the height of operation there were planing, sawing, carding, flour, and buckwheat mills, all powered by water. Later the power source was switch to steam due to a water shortage. In 1874, the Quance family purchased the mill, owning it until its closure in 1973. In 1913, the sawmill caught fire but was promptly rebuilt to resume business. The mill made everything from silo boards to dumb waiters and even dealt in all types of timber, while most mills dealt with only pine.

### **FARMER AND DEBLAQUIERRE SAWMILL**

Farmer and DeBlaquierre came to Norfolk County in 1847 and purchased 20,000 acres of dense forest land in Walsingham. A year later they built a steam sawmill on Lot 7, Concession 1 in South Walsingham. The mill was massive for the time, sawing 6,000,000 board feet annually. The Laylock Railway, as it was known, was exclusively for the mill to haul logs and ran from Rowan Mills to Cultus. The mill operated for 9 years until being sold to Arnold Burrowe. Today there is no evidence of where the mill once stood.

## MAPS OF SAWMILLS OF NORFOLK COUNTY

In the Interpretive Centre at Canada's First Forestry Station, there are 3 maps depicting 1846 to 1856 and 1856 to 1859, illustrating the story of the saw milling industry in Norfolk County. Through the 1846 to 1856 map it is seen how the number of mills drastically increased, most notably in Walsingham Township which became known as "a lumberman's paradise".

On the George C. Tremaine map of 1856, there are red stickers that indicate the presence of sawmills, showing the scale of the lumber industry in Norfolk County in that time. The lack of mills in Windham Township is quite noticeable compared to mills in other townships. This is partly due to deficiencies of streams and rivers within the township and the lack of suitable lumber for harvest.

It should be noted, on the bottom left of the 1856 George C. Tremaine map in Walsingham Township, there is a small railway track exclusively for the Farmer and DeBlaquierre sawmill, located at the end of the track near Port Royal.



Photos by Betty Chanyi

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## Vancouver hosts global conference of city greening experts

By Levon Sevunts, Radio Canada International  
Monday 1 October, 2018

More than 700 urban greening experts from around the world have gathered in Vancouver for what's being billed by organizers as the world's largest international conference on protecting and preserving urban green spaces.

The three-day [International Urban Forestry Congress \(IUGC 2018\)](#) began Monday under the title '*The Urban Forest – Diverse in Nature*' and will look into the challenges of preserving urban green spaces as more and more people move to urban areas.

It is estimated that 54 per cent of the world's population now lives in cities and that proportion is expected to grow to 66 per cent by 2050.

However, most cities are still losing trees and green spaces due to climate change, invasive pests, development, and densification.

### *Focus on diversity*



People are caught in rays of sunlight as they run and walk along the Stanley Park seawall near Siwash Rock in Vancouver, B.C., on Sunday August 25, 2013. (Darryl Dyck/THE CANADIAN PRESS)

The conference in Vancouver will focus on the importance of diversity in terms of using a wider range of trees and other species to make cities more 'climate proof,' organizers said.

The event will include a variety of keynote speaking sessions, workshops, field trips and even a tree climbing competition.

"We have succeeded in bringing together many of the world's leading thinkers in green city thinking and implementation," said in a statement program chair Cecil Konijnendijk, professor of urban forestry at University of British Columbia's (UBC) Faculty of Forestry.

"Cities urgently need to address greening in the face of increasing climate and other challenges."

### *Prominent speakers*

Canadian keynote speakers include Liberal MP Joyce Murray, and UBC professor Suzanne Simard, whose work on the underground communication of trees inspired the recent bestseller 'The Secret Life of Trees' and resulted in a TED Talk seen by millions.

International speakers include professor Chris Baines, one of the United Kingdom's leading independent environmentalists and an award-winning writer and broadcaster, Dr. John Gathright, Founder of Tree Climbing Japan, and Jeremy Barrell, director of Barrell Tree Consultancy.

Canadian-born John Gathright will introduce his work with what he calls 'therapeutic tree climbing' in Japan, which has grown into a national organization with 4,000 certified tree climbers who have helped over 250,000 people of all abilities to climb trees in urban forests and green spaces.

The congress is a partnership between Tree Canada's Canadian Urban Forest Conference (CUFC), the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture's (PNW-ISA) Annual Training Conference and the Urban Tree Diversity Conference (UTD).

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*The Working Forest* is the national newspaper for those who work in Canada's forests. For 2018, the paper has been re-designed and re-focused with an emphasis on analysis, commentary and in-depth coverage of the issues that affect the future of the forest products industry.

With eight print editions and a bi-weekly newsletter, *The Working Forest* provides up-to-date and comprehensive coverage of the news and trends that matter to readers in the forest products sector.

Members are invited to visit the site of *The Working Forest* at [www.workingforest.com](http://www.workingforest.com)

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### **NWOA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Members can renew their membership, online, using the NWOA website and pay online with PayPal. Go to the website and then to **Members Area**, then to **Member Renewal**. You may also print the membership application form and renew by mail. Members who renew early would be eligible for the AGM prize draws.

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**Be an early bird**



**Renew your membership before the annual meeting  
And have a chance to win a chainsaw at the meeting**

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