

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



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February 2016

President's Message

As I write this I'm thankful for natural gas and a healthy furnace! What a toasty and warm combination.

The NWOA Board is, full steam ahead, planning for the **NWOA Annual General Meeting at the German Hall in Delhi, March 2, 2016. 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; Michael Lothrop on survival skills and Garth Pottruff on medicinal-edible trees who are very interesting to listen to. To top it off, there is coffee and Timbits while you catch up with other members and friends and don't forget the prizes!

We are very glad to have the Long Point Phragmites Action Alliance (LPPAA) put up an educational booth at this year's AGM. Invasive phragmites is a large problem in low or wetland areas. Once established, they are extremely difficult or impossible to walk through – and to eradicate. They outgrow and kill off native plants while reducing habitat for creatures that we are used to seeing in marshy areas. Visit the LPPAA booth, at our AGM on March 2, to learn more about this invasive species that could threaten your woodlot.

Many hands make the work load light! We have a very talented and complementary group of people on our Board. We have a lot of fun working together. 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 how 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. 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 welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and Annual Meeting. You can post them on our website www.norfolkwoodlots.com or call me at 519-428-2615 or email me at john.dewitt@holliswealth.com

See you at the AGM on Wednesday, March 2 at 5pm to 9pm at the German Hall in Delhi
All the best to you in 2016!

John de Witt

AGM Presentations

On Feb 28/15, one of the Association's Directors, Dave Reid, attended an Eco Conference organized by the Brant Rod & Gun Club. Two speakers stood out and were subsequently approached by Dave and asked to present at the NWOA AGM on March 2, 2016.

Primitive Skills

1. **Michael Lothrop** did an impromptu hands on presentation about "primitive survival" ... He makes his own long bows, arrows and flint or obsidian spear heads and was quite entertaining - e.g. I did not know that most of the arrow heads I've found in the past in Norfolk County were not arrow heads at all but atlatl spear heads! "



Mike has been learning primitive and survival skills for about 30 years now. He has been flintknapping for 16 years (the art of making stone tools). He has taught these skills to public school, high school, University students, scouts and other groups for about the last 6 years. Most of his teaching is done with Grand River Rafting, operated by Garth Potruff. He demonstrates for close to 1000 or more students per year. He demonstrates knapping, fire by friction (hand + bow drill), cordage (making of string/rope from plants), atlatl throwing and manufacture (spear thrower). He reviews evolution and how these skills enabled us to become what we are today, and often bring up edible/medicinal plants while he does tree identification and uses. He is currently learning to become a primitive bowyer, as well, and hopes to gather enough material and skill to be able to start teaching bow making in a few years.

Mike will provide a demonstration during the break period at the AGM.

2. **Garth Potruff**, a former MNR forester who has turned entrepreneur and is currently a principle in Grand River Rafting Company ... He did a great presentation on "Edible-Medicinal Trees of the Grand River Valley" with lot's of hands on twigs and without PowerPoint. This may be of interest to Association members.

Medicinal-Edible Trees of the Neutral Nation



Garth was raised on a farm in the community of Bethel, with hay fields as a yard... and hay forts as his castle.

After graduating from Lakehead University in 1977, his forestry career led him to Ottawa with the MNR. But in 1980, like a homing pigeon, he returned to a dual life of farming and corporations in the Grand River Valley.

In 2006, his son Chad, encouraged Garth to follow the passion of his heart... teaching about the outdoors! Together they founded the Grand River Rafting Company... an outdoor learning adventure using rafts and trails as classrooms.

Their unique interpretive style has caught the attention of the world. In 2015, over 25,000 people knocked on their door for a Canadian Experience.

Amendment to the NWOA Constitution

Section IV. Board of Directors.

At its meeting of December 7, 2015, the Board approved a motion to amend the current Section IV (4.) and (5.) and replace with Section IV (4.), which allows the existing Board of Directors to renew the term of a Director for additional terms. An amendment to the Constitution requires approval of the Membership. A motion will be made, at the Annual General Meeting, to approve this amendment. The main reason for this amendment is to allow the Board to retain valuable Directors who are still interested in serving beyond the initial three year term of office.

CURRENT SECTION

IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The governing body of this Association shall be known as the Board of Directors and shall include up to 12 members.
2. The Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The Executive members of the Board shall consist of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer and shall be decided at the first board meeting following the annual meeting. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.
4. No person may serve on the Board of Directors for more than two consecutive terms. However, a person may be re-elected to the Board following a one year absence from it.
5. The term of each Director shall be three years.
6. A quorum of the Board of Directors will be a majority of members, but one of either the President or Vice-president must be in attendance to chair the meeting. In case of a tie the chair has a second vote.

REVISED SECTION

IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The governing body of this Association shall be known as the Board of Directors and shall include up to 12 members.
2. The Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The Executive members of the Board shall consist of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer and shall be decided at the first board meeting following the annual meeting. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

4. The term of each Director shall be three years. A Director may be retained, as a Director, for an additional three year term, should a majority of the Directors so vote. The decision of the Board will be confirmed at the following Annual General Meeting.
5. A quorum of the Board of Directors will be a majority of members, but one of either the President or Vice-president must be in attendance to chair the meeting. In case of a tie the chair has a second vote.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS & ADVISORS

Name	Position	Elected	Term End
John de Witt	President	2015	2018
Bob Dukelow	Vice President	2015	2018
John Morrissey	Secretary	2016	2019
Angelle van Kleef	Past president	2013	2016
Eric Ferguson	Web committee/Acting Treasurer	2016	2019
Joe Stechly	Director	2016	2019
Dave Reid	Director	2016	2019
Dolf Wynia	FSC Committee / Past President	2016	2019
Barbara Hourigan	Director	2014	2017
Betty Chanyi	Director	2015	2018
Brad Trembley	Director	2015	2018
Tracey Boerkamp	Director - AGM Convenor	2016	2019
Adam Biddle	Norfolk County Advisor		
Steve Scheers	Norfolk County Advisor		
Ron Tchorek	Chain saw safety Advisor		
Eric Cleland	MNR Advisor		
Brett Norman	Nature Conservancy of Canada Advisor		
George Demaiter	Nomination Advisor		

ARTICLES FROM WORKING FOREST MAGAZINE

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY KIM RUDD MEETS WITH FOREST SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

February 4, 2016

Parliamentary Secretary Kim Rudd, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Carr, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, today met with forest sector stakeholders and highlighted the Government's support for growing and developing markets for Canada's sustainably produced, high-quality forest products. Parliamentary Secretary Rudd's speech discussed five key areas for the transformation of Canada's forest sector, including combatting climate change, promoting innovation and clean technology, supporting science, improving market access and enhancing engagement with Indigenous Peoples. The Parliamentary Secretary also announced that the *2015 State of Canada's Forest Report* will be tabled in Parliament today. The 25th annual report outlines Canada's accountability and transparency in reporting on its forests and highlights that Canada's well-established and rigorous system of forest management is among the most comprehensive and stringent in the world.

"Our government has set some ambitious goals for climate change, market diversification, innovation and economic growth, and I believe the forest sector is uniquely positioned to help us deliver on these goals.

The Government of Canada will continue to support Canada's forest sector as it evolves to meet changing global demand by developing innovative, high-value forest products." Stated Kim Rudd.

Quick Facts

- In 2014, Canada exported nearly \$31 billion in forest products to nearly every nation on the planet, supporting approximately 290,000 direct and indirect jobs in Canada.
- Canada has 161 million hectares of forest land certified as being sustainably managed by one or more of three globally recognized certification systems — more than any country in the world.
- Less than 0.2 percent of Canada's forests are harvested annually. Canada's forest policies and regulations require that all forests harvested on Canada's public land be successfully regenerated.
- The forest sector is the major source of income for almost one in seven communities across the country.
- There are 171 municipalities where more than 20 percent of the local residents rely on forestry for their income.

By: [Government of Canada](#)

WOOD GLUT BLAMED FOR DROP IN NB'S FORESTRY ROYALTY REVENUES

February 8, 2016

The province is blaming an expected drop in forestry royalty revenues in the coming year on an unforeseen glut of wood on the market.

Natural Resources Minister Denis Landry says that means companies will log less in the coming year, which will translate into less revenue for the government. Landry says sawmill yards are full of cut boards they can't sell, and logs they don't want to cut, until there's some movement. "The saw wood material is there, the lumber is there, it's not going out at the pace it was supposed to go, and by that fact, they're not buying anymore and they're going to slow the cut," he said.

The Canadian dollar is low and the U.S. housing market is rebounding, which normally would make New Brunswick wood easier to sell across the border.

But Mike Legere of the industry association Forest NB says a slump in the Chinese market means wood normally sold there from the west coast of the United States is instead flooding the domestic market, meaning less demand for New Brunswick lumber. "It's nothing to be panicked about," he said, because the forecast for construction permits in the U.S. suggests the market will pick up even more in the coming year. "We've got good wood supply here to take advantage of the positive forecast moving forward into 2016-2017," he said. "We're sitting on the fence, waiting to move forward."

Earlier this week, the Progressive Conservative opposition calculated that royalty revenues for the province would drop \$19 million in the coming year.

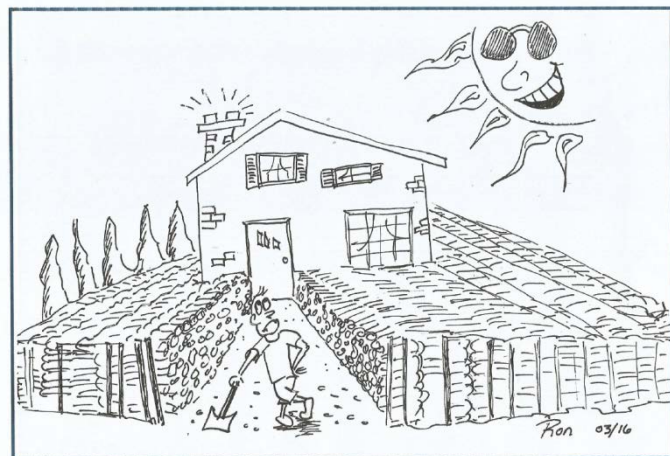
But Legere says that amount is based on last year's initial budget projection, not the final amount. Using the final number, the anticipated drop in the coming year is \$11 million.

Still, the decline is not what was predicted in 2014 when the then-PC government unveiled its forestry plan, which included new logging quotas intended to boost the economy.

Landry says the companies haven't hit their higher quotas because of the slack demand. "At this point in time this number hasn't been reached," he says. "It's going to be far from there. The industry basically pulled out all the stops and went wild," he said. Landry says so far, the glut doesn't seem to have affected any of the mill expansions still to come under the forestry plan, "but you never know in the future what could happen."

Last July, J.D. Irving Ltd. announced it was postponing construction of its new \$15 million sawmill in Doaktown, a project originally scheduled to start last spring. The company said in a press release at the time it would instead construct the new mill this year to "balance our resources for this year and next" and to give time to its engineers to finalize their plans. The company did not respond on Friday to a request for a comment on the glut of wood on the market and an update on the Doaktown mill.

By: [CBC News](#)



Bob is starting to believe there "IS" a difference between "el Nino" and "el Nina"!

Cartoon by Ron Tchorek

Website Information

For more information, and access to Newsletters, visit our Website 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

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.