

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

February 2018



President's Message

Our foray into Facebook is meeting with some success. It helps our Newsletter, website and email to disseminate information about things the Board is working on. We continue to work on issues that involve invasive species, woodlot management and habitat creation.

The NWOA Board is full steam ahead, planning for the **NWOA Annual General Meeting at the German Hall in Delhi, Wednesday February 28, 2018. 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. Audrey Heagy, coordinator of St Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council with a very interesting talk on activities in the Conservation Reserve (Reserve) such as the experiments with new forestry practises to create habitat for the species at risk in the Reserve. Also, Adam Biddle, Norfolk County Superintendent of Forestry will give an update on forest activity in the County plus a 'heads up' on some of the invasive species that are establishing in the County.

To top it off, there is coffee and Timbits while you catch up with other members and friends and plenty of door 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 by Friday February 23, 2018.

Many hands give many ideas! We have a very talented and complementary group of people on our Board. I have a lot of fun working with them. We meet 9 times a year, with July, August and December off. We would love to welcome new members to help us to help fellow woodlot owners to learn what is going on in Norfolk County woodlots or learn to better manage their 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 have a Facebook and would love to post pictures or news about your woodlot. 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 or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at [johndewitt@kwic.com](mailto: johndewitt@kwic.com) Send us your woodlot ideas and woodlot pictures so we can post them on our Facebook so we all can share and learn on <https://www.facebook.com/norfolkwoodlots/> .

John de Witt

Oak Wilt Disease

More than 100 oaks have succumbed to the disease on Belle Isle



Oak leaves on a healthy tree. (Shutterstock)

Windsor's majestic oak trees could be at risk of a spreading fungus that has already killed dozens across the border.

Oak wilt appeared on Belle Isle in Detroit two years ago, and has killed more than 100 trees there already.

Windsor's manager of forestry and natural areas, Paul Giroux, has been to the Michigan state park to check out the damage.

"It was a little bit overwhelming, especially when you look over your shoulder and you see Windsor only a stone's throw away," he said. "There's nothing better than actually going into the woodlot and to see the trees in decline yourself to really gain an appreciation for what a vascular wilt disease can do to giant, majestic trees."

Oak wilt has been present in Michigan for decades, said Giroux, adding that nobody is surprised to see it's getting closer to Windsor.

What to look for

It might not always be easy to spot, explained Giroux, but people should look for any sort of oak decline — like rapid leaf wilting, colour change or bark discolouration.

"Chances are if you did see something on your oak tree it's likely not oak wilt, but it's a great chance to bring out a certified arborist so that person can have a look," said Giroux.

Early detection is important so the tree can be contained before contaminating others, said Giroux.



Oak wilt disease was discovered in Belle Isle in 2016. It's estimated to have killed as many as 112 trees so far. (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

How it spreads

The fungus can spread from tree to tree through underground root connections, or grafts. Spores can also be spread by beetles attracted to the fungus' smell.

"The bigger threat and the more likely threat is the picnic beetle," said Giroux. "If that beetle found an oak tree that was already wounded and that beetle rummaged around in that wound, he could be spreading the spores."

Protecting trees

Giroux said there are three simple steps to protect the region's oak trees.

1. Avoid pruning oak trees in the growing season, as it increases the likelihood a picnic beetle carrying the fungal spores will be attracted to them. If a tree does need to be pruned, treat the cut area with a latex paint to mask the scent of the tree from the beetles.
2. Do not move firewood from one area to another. Firewood can harbour disease and fungi.
3. Be on the lookout for unusual changes. Oak trees should have their leaves in July, and if leaves are on the ground in July that's a very common sign of Oak wilt.



The 700 year-old white oak tree in south London served as a stop during the mid-1800s for thousands of asylum seekers to congregate for safety via the Underground Railroad

The City of Windsor will step up efforts this year to alert the public to the fungal disease by doing more training of its forestry staff, as well as people who work for utilities and tree service companies.

The public is also asked to report any sick-looking oak trees to the city, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

CBC • Posted: Jan 03, 2018 9:25 AM ET

THE SAWMILLS OF YESTERYEAR A CUT IN TIME

This is the first 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 **St. Williams Interpretive Centre**.

1780's to 1812

The first settlers in the Long Point Region were United Empire Loyalists. These individuals were fleeing the American Colonies following the War of Independence. Most travelled to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia prior to making their way to Upper Canada, present day Ontario, in the late 18th century. They had known life in well established communities, like New York and Boston, before coming into the forested wilderness awaiting them.

Having arrived in a land covered with forest, tree cutting was an immediate task. This was due to the requirement set forth by the crown that a set amount of the land had to be cleared to maintain ownership of the land.

Although much of the wood was wasted by simply being burned in massive piles, small saw mills quickly began appearing across Norfolk County. The forest provided them with all of the resources needed to create the houses, barns, fences, tools, and furniture they needed to get through their first few crucial year.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association
Wednesday February 28, 2018 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 23, 2018**



NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Invites you

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
February 28 • 5 - 9 pm
Delhi German Home



Starting at 5 pm

Tour information booths to learn about woodlots and the creatures that make it their home. Meet & greet vendors.

7 pm Annual General Meeting with Guest Speakers

Current issues effecting our local woodlots.
 Speakers: Audrey Heagy, St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council and Adam Biddle, Norfolk County Superintendent of Forestry

Join us & keep current on our local woodlots

Norfolk County has more than 25% of its landscape in forest cover - much of it Carolinian forest. The NWOA objective is to promote good woodlot stewardship, management and technical advice to help maintain our woodlots. norfolkwoodlots.com

Become a NWOA member!
EARLY BIRD DRAW
GRAND PRIZE
STIHL CHAINSAW!

Qualify by paying your membership by Feb 23rd

Many Door Prizes!

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.

Be an early bird



Renew your membership before the annual meeting

And have a chance to win a chainsaw at the meeting