

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

[www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com)



**January 2020**  
**Happy New Year!**

## President's Message

The NWOA Board is planning for the **Annual General Meeting at the German Home, Delhi, March 4, 2020. The doors open at 5pm. The meeting starts at 7pm and ends at 9pm.** You should plan to attend and mark it on your calendar because it'll 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 such as the latest on woodlot management for income and/or habitat for songbirds or monarch butterflies. 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 Stihl, 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, 2020. There is a renewal form enclosed.

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. Our foray into social media via Facebook could always use more local pictures' perhaps you could share some from 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](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at [johndewitt@kwic.com](mailto:johndewitt@kwic.com).

**PS** We just discovered that the current Forest Conservation By-law amendment has been postponed by the County Council. It will be reviewed by the County during 2020. The history of previous by laws, which the current by law reflects, resulted in stabilizing Norfolk's light sandy soils. Our understanding is that input from NWOA and other stakeholders will be requested. More information is in the enclosed letter to the Mayor and councillors and the response from the County Clerk.

**John de Witt**

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November 25, 2019

To the Mayor and Councillors of Norfolk County, and whomever else this may concern,

I am writing to you today with respect to a presentation to Council on November 19, 2019 regarding Norfolk County's Forest Conservation By-law. I write to you on behalf of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners' Association Board of Directors, and on behalf of our 173 members. Unfortunately, given the seemingly short amount of time provided to allow for public consultation and input on the Draft Forest By-law that was presented last Tuesday, my comments in this letter will have to be kept rather high-level as our Board will not have had time to adequately meet and consult with our entire membership before the December 17<sup>th</sup> requirement to provide input to Council.

Our organization has been in existence since 1996. We were established largely because of the local interest in sustainable forest management, at a time shortly after the Ministry of Natural Resources had withdrawn its services in respect to assisting private landowners with management of their forest resource. Norfolk County was ahead of many other municipalities in respect to its forest by-law of the time and remains the envy of other southwestern Ontario municipalities. The withdrawal of services and support by the Province left many private landowners, who owned forests, with little access to resources in order to educate themselves about proper forest stewardship. As a result, woodlots were severely degraded through over-harvesting and poor logging practices. Many landowners were also unaware of the actual value of what was being removed from their property and this was being taken advantage of by 'quick profit' logging operators looking for short-term gain. As market prices for local hardwoods peaked, so too did the destruction to area woodlots.

The coming together of local resource owners, the Norfolk Federation of Agriculture, the Norfolk Land Stewardship Council, and the Tree Commission (known today as the Norfolk County Forest Conservation Service) resulted in the formation of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners' Association. Our organization has provided an important network and foundation for landowners looking to learn about forest management techniques, keep current on local forest health issues, and generally how to properly manage Norfolk forests. NWOA efforts has helped inform countless members over the years in these regards and have also acted as a large and important voice for local forest resource owners when it comes to policy development, both at the provincial and local municipal level.

Taking into consideration of our known presence in the community and our goal to "promote wise use and stewardship of Norfolk's Woodlots", it is concerning to our Board that no effort was taken to contact us regarding the proposal of a new Forest By-law. This proposed change in policy has a direct impact on our entire membership, which represent a significant portion of Norfolk County's forest resource owners. Our organization has played an important role in transmitting information to our membership regarding policy that impacts the management of their forests, and as a result, have played an equally important role in providing valuable input on the development of our local forest by-law.

Norfolk County has had a forest by-law in existence since 1947. The by-law has developed and transformed significantly over the years to better promote sustainable forest management and protect private landowners. As a result, Norfolk County boasts a commendable amount of forest cover which supports a strong forest industry keen on the continued sustainable use management of our forests. The most current by-law has been in place since 2006 and is the result of a very long and thorough review process involving forest industry, agricultural industry, local conservation organizations, the general public, and local woodlot owners, including those represented by our membership. This was by no means a one sided approach to by-law development and was very much the result of a grass-roots effort involving all stakeholders. Although the by-law was passed 13 years ago, it is still to this day highly regarded by other surrounding areas as being a very progressive forest by-law. The idea of having this by-law replaced entirely by a different by-law does not seem like a logical approach to change, given the history of the development of our current by-law.

It is the intent of our Board to respectfully request that the Council of Norfolk County defer the matter of approving this proposed Forest By-law to a much later date, one which would allow our Board to communicate with our membership these proposed changes. We would also request that if the current Forest Conservation By-law is to be under review for any proposed changes, that it goes through a much more thorough consultation than what has seemingly transpired to-date. To have this Draft By-law presented to Council on November 19<sup>th</sup>, and the indication that the Draft By-law could be passed on December 17<sup>th</sup>, does not seem remotely close to allowing adequate time for consultation with all relevant stakeholders. Lastly, we would strongly recommend that should our current by-law be reviewed for changes, that the review would begin with our existing by-law as a starting point, rather than disregarding 72 years of history that has gotten us to where we are now.

I expect that this letter will be received for your consideration, and we look forward to working with Norfolk County towards a positive resolution on this matter.

Regards,

John de Witt, President of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association



Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
Council Services Department  
50 Colborne Street, S.  
Simcoe Ontario N3Y 4H3  
519-426-5870  
Fax: 519-426-8573  
norfolkcounty.ca

sent via email

December 23, 2019

**Re: Council Correspondence - Norfolk County's Forest Conservation By-law**

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of Norfolk County, we wish to thank you for your correspondence made to Council regarding the above-noted at the meeting of December 17, 2019.

Please be advised that Council received your correspondence as information and the following resolutions were passed regarding this matter:

**7. (Van Paassen/Masschaele)**

THAT the Forest Conservation By-Law be referred to Community Services staff for appropriate consultation, review and a report back in Q1 2020.

Councillor Huffman requested a recorded vote.

The Motion CARRIED on the following recorded vote:

Yeas: Geysens, Rabbitts, Columbus, Martin, Van Paassen, Huffman,  
Masschaele, Taylor, Chopp

Total: 9

Nays:

Total: 0

**8. (Rabbitts/Columbus)**

THAT the correspondence from Cindy Presant, Greg W Greer, Kristen Bernard, John De Witt, and Tom Bradstreet regarding Norfolk County's Forest Conservation By-law be received as information.

Carried.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AG", written over a horizontal line.

Andy Grozelle  
County Clerk  
519-426-5870 ext 1228  
[andy.grozelle@norfolkcounty.ca](mailto:andy.grozelle@norfolkcounty.ca)

AG\*kd

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## **Obituary – Bob Blake – Long time member of NWOA**

Bob passed away Oct. 2, 2019. In addition to farming, he was known for his farm implement shop. Most days, over 57 years, he could be found in his "shop" or on a tractor. Bob and his wife, Sandy, routinely utilized conservation practices in protecting and caring for their woodlot. In the winter months, when farming was slow, Bob would cut countless cords of firewood to feed the woodstove or wood furnace.

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## **Obituary - Dr. Alan George GORDON**

(July 1, 1929 – Nov 27, 2019)

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at Extencicare Maple View at the age of 90 as a result of end stage Alzheimer's. Husband of Linda (Savory) and the late Jeanne (MacLean). Predeceased by his parents William and Sarah Gordon and sister Margaret. Will be missed by children Andrew (Shelley) of Haliburton, Robert (Katie) of Oakville, Valerie (Dan), spirit son John Laford and long-time friends the Bateman family, Gord Burke and Dave Morris; grandchildren Robyn, Sam, Sophie, Ross, and Lillian. Will also be missed by many brothers and sisters-in-law, as well as many nieces, nephews and Scottish family (Gordon, McRae).

Alan graduated from Forest Hill Collegiate, Toronto in 1949, and the University of New Brunswick in 1954 (B.Sc.F. [Forestry]). He then completed his Ph.D. in Forest Ecology at the University of London, England in 1958. He had a lifelong career with the Ministry of Natural Resources (Ontario Department of Lands and Forests) as a research scientist focusing on forest genetics, soil chemistry and ecosystem productivity. Along with Eville Gorham, Alan was one of the first people globally to document the effects of acid rain on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. For his contributions in this area, he was awarded the 1967 Centennial Medal from the Government of Canada. He 'discovered' and recorded the first occurrence of red spruce in Ontario in 1950, and two decades later, was able to confirm its' existence as a separate species, and not a hybrid of black and white spruce, which had been the thinking at that time. Alan established experimental plantations of spruce species throughout Ontario and around the world, many of which are still generating scientific information today.

In addition to the 1967 medal aforementioned, and many other accolades, Alan received the 1992 Director's Award from the Friends of Algonquin Park for his Research in Algonquin and the 2010 Canadian Forestry Achievement Award from the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

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## **2019 Global Timber & Sawmill Cost Benchmarking Report Released**

January 7, 2020

By: The Working Forest Staff

FEA NEWS RELEASE — The FEA report, *Global Timber / Sawmill / Lumber Cost Benchmarking Report* was released in mid-December to subscribers. The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of this report provides a detailed analysis and comparisons between 29 countries or regions on delivered log and sawmill costs, revenues and margins for both "typical" and "best" mills.

The results show some dramatic changes in the cost structures of some regions, where some have moved much higher in the last few years while others have seen major cost reductions. For example, the emergence of low-cost timber supply in Central Europe from the spruce bark beetle salvage program as well as ongoing windstorms have moved Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic from some of the highest-cost producers to the lowest ones. In contrast, British Columbia has moved from a normally competitive region to one of the highest cost regions as a result of U.S. import duties as

well as over-priced government timber. Many other countries have seen shifts in their competitive positions as a result of various factors, including currency changes, timber costs or inflation factors. Similarly, the sawmill earnings across 2018 and up to 2019Q2 show significant changes, ranging from some very robust margins to a few regions with losses.

The report highlights that gaining competitiveness in volatile markets remains a key theme, where low-cost suppliers set the market and high-cost producers can get curtailed quickly. It is evident from the detail cost analysis that the competitiveness of the major producing regions is changing where delivered log costs, in particular, can make or break a region.

The lowest delivered log costs occurred in South America, Central Canada and Russia, providing some competitive advantages to these regions. The highest log costs continue to be found in Europe – in Finland and the Baltic States (but not Central Europe). While there continue to be variances in sawmill costs between regions, the differences continue to get smaller as top-quartile mills adopt best technologies.

The highest sawmill margins were achieved in some of the Southern Hemisphere countries and the lowest in European countries. More importantly, the delivered lumber costs to markets like the U.S. South have changed drastically since early-2018: European and South American mills now have the lowest delivered lumber costs – not North America mills!

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By: The Working Forest Staff



### **Forests Ontario Annual Conference: We The Forest**

February 14, 2020

Our forests are our future. They provide us with food, shelter and warmth. They support the ecosystem services we depend on and they fight climate change. But who speaks for the forests? In a complex economic and political climate full of competing interests and priorities, how do we ensure that our forests remain at the forefront of our collective consciousness? How do we plan for their future when short-sightedness impacts their very existence?

Join us as we discuss the ways we can collaborate to ensure our forests' future. Bring your passion; bring your voice.

Location: Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, Ontario

Links: [www.forestsontario.ca](http://www.forestsontario.ca) Email: [info@forestsontario.ca](mailto:info@forestsontario.ca) Phone: 416-646-1193

**Registration is open!**

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NWOA 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 below and renew by mail.

Members who renew early would be eligible for the Early Bird Draw! A chainsaw donated by Premier and NWOA.

Plus other AGM prize draws.

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Reminder - get your personalized renewal form (last newsletter) sent in to qualify for the early bird draw, or use this blank form if you have misplaced it. ( or, use this one to sign up a new member)

