

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

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## President's Message

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> I spent a very enjoyable Saturday afternoon at Canada's First Forestry Station Interpretive Centre in St Williams. They opened their Canada 150 exhibit "Sawmills of Yesteryear – A Cut in Time". It was a perfect day to chat with people about how this County progressed from predominately a forestry economy to agriculture. During that time, the County was denuded of most trees and the light sandy soil began to blow away. Canada's First Forestry Station was established to grow tree seedlings for planting to stabilize the soil.

Sawmills of Yesteryear is a great and very interesting exhibit that does an excellent job on the history of the 216 sawmills in Norfolk County at the turn of the last century. After we toured some of the local wineries and wandered about on some of the walking trails ... it was a very enjoyable and educational afternoon.

We held our last meeting before the summer break. At this meeting we laid out plans for some great tours for the fall and continued our efforts to interact with our members via telephone, printed newsletter, email newsletter, website and now especially Facebook.

We would love for you to send us interesting pictures of your woodlot. It could include all kinds of flora and fauna. By posting our woodlot ideas and woodlot pictures on <https://www.facebook.com/norfolkwoodlots/>, we all can share and learn.

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our Facebook, website, newsletter, workshops, tours 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)

John de Witt

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**Sawmills of Yesteryear** - by Anne Wynia

### Opening Event June 3, 2017

On Sat. June 3 how lucky we were to have a beautiful day for the opening of the new exhibit in Canada's First Forestry Station – "Sawmills of Yesteryear – A Cut in Time". Early visitors wandered around and were able to take in the new exhibit prior to the official opening ceremony which included speeches from local dignitaries as well as from Retired Ontario Chief Forester,

Ken Armson who recently received the Order of Canada for his work in forestry and who is the founder and past president of The Forest History Society of Ontario.

Following the ribbon cutting everyone was able to have a guided tour of the exhibit which is thoroughly researched by Norfolk resident Wes Wilson. There were about 120 sawmills in Norfolk between about 1850 and 1870 when the industry peaked. Originally land was cleared for farming and to meet the requirements of the British government starting in the late 1780s. Initially lumber was needed to build houses, barns, stores, churches etc., but the industry grew to selling lumber to the USA and to Britain for their ships and masts. It was a lucrative business while it lasted but eventually too much land was cleared and the humus gone from the soil, creating a desert of blow sand. The Forestry Station was responsible for rehabilitating the land by supplying seedlings to residents to plant and providing education to the locals about how to take care of their forests. Now Norfolk County is “Ontario’s Garden”.

A good time was had by all with good refreshments. Plan to visit the Station at 885 Hwy 24 South. It will be open to visitors from 10:30 until 4:30 every day except Tuesdays until Labour Day weekend. You will be able to see where all the mills were on the maps on display and quite a few of the artifacts that were used.



From left : Paul Smith, Mayor Charlie Luke, past Chief Forester of Ontario Ken Armson, MPP Toby Barrett, Manager Norfolk County Heritage Melissa Colver , Interpretive Centre Student Wes Wilson , Chair Port Rowan/South Walsingham Heritage Society Anne Wynia, Port Rowan CIBC Bank Manager Dana Studiman.

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## Bauman Sawmill Tour – by Dolf Wylia

On April 19, about 22 members of the N.W.O.A. toured the Baumann Sawmill near Wallenstein. The mill uses almost all Southern Ontario species of timber and uses just about everything that you can get out of a log except the noise when it gets sawn.



Especially interesting was the use of large slabs of timber, usually quite defective, being made into executive tables.



We saw the mill operate at full speed with planks moving in all directions towards their destinations. Many of the decisions about the destiny of any of the boards are made by computer but it was good to see that there are still people at the end of the production line. About 25% of the lumber production is used by the company to make everyday wooden objects such as toboggans and wagons in a nearby plant.

Peter Hunt, operations manager of the mill indicated that the company purchases wood in our area whenever an opportunity arises.



After an excellent buffet lunch in Elmira, we toured the Waterloo County recycling facility. The county is serious about recycling and the plant was a hive of activity. Trucks were constantly arriving and lines of workers sorted the “harvest”. The large bales of soft drink cans that they produced were an eye opener to most of us. The most interesting part was the electricity generating plant using the natural gas from the decomposition of buried organic waste. The generated power is enough for several thousand homes. Interesting also was the large flock of wild turkeys that seemed oblivious to all the industrial activity around them in what is now a suburb of the City of Waterloo.



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### **Gypsy Moth Monitoring in Norfolk County**

It has been nearly 10 years since the invasive Gypsy Moth wreaked havoc on local hardwood forests. In 2008, through the participation of area woodlot owners and government organizations we were able to control Gypsy Moth on over 11,000

acres of forested land. This county wide approach to controlling the Gypsy Moth outbreak helped alleviate the damage done to trees during the 2008 growing season and has kept the Gypsy Moth population at bay for all subsequent years. Even with control, Gypsy Moth populations will rebound over time, typically within 10-15 years. Norfolk County forestry staff have been made aware of a few isolated instances where there may be a building population. These areas will be monitored, but Norfolk County and the Norfolk County Woodlot Owners Association are seeking your assistance and participation in a County wide monitoring program.

Gypsy Moth and other forest health threats are a landscape issue. They do not distinguish between property lines, farms or urban lots. It is imperative that all landowners make informed decisions, taking into account that in order for the control of these insects and diseases to be effective, all affected lands need to be part of the solution. This is where your participation is key on an ongoing basis!

Gypsy Moth feed primarily on Oak and Cherry species, so if your woodlot has an Oak or Cherry component, we want to hear from you. Monitoring of the population is important in planning appropriate mitigation measures. Catching a building population early enough will help prevent severe defoliation of our woodlots and allow us to act in an efficient and effective manner.

In this newsletter you will find an Expression of Interest form. If you wish to have your woodlot surveyed for the presence of Gypsy Moth please take the time to complete the form in full and submit to Norfolk County- Forestry Division. We will take your request and follow up with you when we are planning to attend your property. All the information gathered from these inspections will be shared with the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association to assist you in important decision making matters regarding the management of your woodlot.

Expression of Interest forms may be submitted to:

Norfolk County- Forestry Division  
95 Culver St., Simcoe, ON, N3Y 2V5

OR

[adam.biddle@norfolkcounty.ca](mailto:adam.biddle@norfolkcounty.ca)





**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**Gypsy Moth Monitoring Program**

**LANDOWNER INFORMATION**

Landowner Name			
Mailing Address		Town	
Postal Code		E-mail	
Daytime Phone No.	(     )	Business No.	(     )

**WOODLOT LOCATION**

Lot		Former Township	
Concession		Estimated Woodlot Acreage	
Tax Roll Number	3	3	1 0

***AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH TAX ROLL NUMBER.***

I hereby understand by submitting this Expression of Interest I am giving permission to Norfolk County and the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association to access my property in order to assess and monitor the Gypsy Moth population in Norfolk County.

This in NO WAY binds the landowner to committing to an agreement for forest management services nor does it imply that Norfolk County or its partners are committing to the implementation of forest management services.

Upon submission of this form, completed in full, Norfolk County staff or the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association will follow up with you to schedule a date and time to attend your property for the purpose of conducting defoliation surveys (usually completed in late summer) and possibly subsequent egg mass counts if the defoliation surveys indicate a high or building Gypsy Moth population.

**PROPERTY LOCATION MAP**

Please indicate municipal address, access, roads, woodlots, buildings, etc.

Landowners Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## WEBSITE INFORMATION

### WEBSITE UPDATE

We would encourage all our Members to explore the various sections of the website. We welcome any feedback as to what could be added, changed, updated or removed.

For more information, and access to Newsletters, visit our Website - [www.norfolkwoodlosts.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlosts.com)

**No Password Required.**

Current Newsletters are posted in the 'Members Area' of the website.

Once on the website, select **Members Area**, then go to **Current Newsletter** page. Once there, you can select the latest or any newsletter you would like to read.

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### 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 draw.

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