

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

June 2018



President's Message

Our foray into Facebook is meeting with increasing 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.

Speaking of invasive species, the gypsy moth has been detected in a few spots in the County last summer. The County, via the NEST crew, will continue to monitor the progression of the gypsy moth this summer. If you suspect gypsy moth presence in your woodlot, you could assist by contacting, Norfolk County Supervisor of Forestry. The NEST crew would love to count gypsy moth egg masses. This information will allow the Norfolk County Forestry staff with the MNR to determine population levels as part of their monitoring program. As yet, the gypsy moth population in the County is insufficient to contemplate a spray program.

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

THE SAWMILLS OF YESTERYEAR A CUT IN TIME

This is the third 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**.

FROM THE FOREST TO THE SAWMILL THE FOREST

The forest was first viewed as the enemy of settlers, however clearing it was necessary due to the British government requiring them to farm the land. When clearing the land, logging bees were organized. Most of the logs were piled and burned until no timber was left. All the stumps were then pulled from the ground and burned with the logs to allow cultivation.

After logs were cut, some were either floated to sawmills or Lake Erie for export. If logs were destined to become lumber, they were marked and piled on the bank of a pond, rolled into the water, and floated to the mill. However, if logs were for export, they would be floated down the stream in spring. This was done through a log boom by holding small groupings of logs together and allowing them to be towed. Once on Lake Erie, the logs were tied closely together in warping cribs. A bag boom, a similar system with rope around loose logs, also allowed them to be loaded onto sailing scows and taken to Buffalo or Tonawanda.

Logging was done in a different manner taking place in winter, supplementing farmers' incomes. Using axes and cross-cut saws, workers chopped, limbed, and cut trees to length. By the 1870's the cross-cut saw was used for both felling and sawing logs. The largest tree cut was by Colin LaFortune in 1836, a pine tree 7 feet in diameter and 90 feet to the first limb.



Photos by Betty Chanyi

Climate Change in Ontario

By Audrey Heagy

Climate change! What will it mean for Ontario's forests? Growth and yield data is helping scientists with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) respond to the climate change challenge. Each year, their growth and yield crews visit scientifically selected plots in managed forests all across Ontario to collect data on how trees grow and change over time. Then scientists feed this data into computer models. The model output helps them predict future forest growth and change, including the effects of climate on tree growth.

One important type of data comes from what's called stem analysis. When MNRF growth and yield staff visit certain plots, they cut down a small number of trees outside the plots so they can collect data all along each stem, including analyzing the tree rings. Tree rings can give a lot of information about the history of a forest weather was like and how happened. Collecting data helps scientists better known as taper. Taper is because a mill will get from a tree that has a lot of diameter varies only a little. staff analyzed 1,248 tree sites.

Keep in mind that Ontario relatively few trees cut are more accurate models for the climate changes. We support our forest industry, keep our forests productive and grandchildren.



Merven Lane, MNRF technician, preparing to cut down a white pine at the Nursery Tract.

stand, including what the often wildfires have from all along the stem also understand tree shape, important to understand different wood products taper than a tree whose Last year, growth and yield discs or *cookies* from 32

has 70 million trees, and the helping to produce much predicting forest growth as need this information to sustain wildlife habitat, and and healthy for our children

This past winter, growth and yield staff paid us a visit! In January 2018, MNRF growth and yield staff collected data from a stand in the Nursery Tract of St. Williams Conservation Reserve north of Turkey Point on Lake Erie. This site is one of 30 from across the province used for the stem analysis research project.

In 1927, this site was an old field with scattered, poor-quality oak and a few small pine, all of which were removed before a mix of white, red and jack pine was planted.

Interestingly, during the January site visit, the growth and yield crew saw no jack pine. The pines they did see were between 31.9 and 33.3 metres tall, with diameters from 48 to 60 centimetres; excellent growth for 90-year-old white pine! The site was thinned at least 30 years ago, with old stumps as evidence.

During this visit, the crew also sampled a white pine plantation on the Turkey Point tract, also managed by the conservation reserve. This former field was planted in 1975, and today the trees are

16.8 m tall and 27-29 centimetres in diameter. Excellent growth for white pine! The stand has not been thinned so some trees are gradually dying from competition, allowing their neighbours to grow better.

The data collected here will help growth and yield models make more accurate predictions about future growth and yield in this and similar forests.

MNRF's growth and yield staff acknowledge the help of Audrey Heagy, Coordinator, St. Williams Conservation Reserve, Adam Biddle, Superintendent of Forestry for Norfolk County and Ron Drabick, IRM specialist for MNRF's Aylmer District.

If you'd like to check out some related technical articles, visit the MNRF publications catalogue at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/catalogue-natural-resource-scientific-and-technical-publications> and search for *growth and yield*.



Cookie stack from one pine removed from a site for analysis.

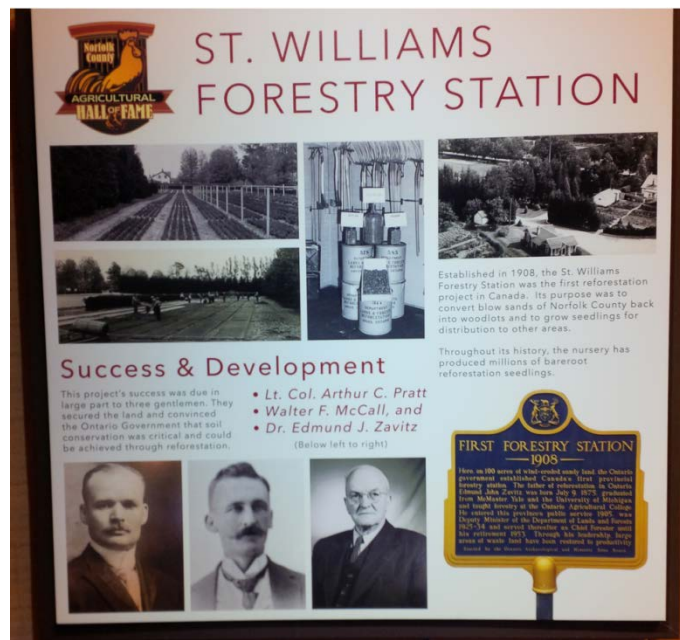
Canada's First Forestry Station Recognized

By Dolf Wynia

On April 29 this year, the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum honoured the founders of Canada's First Forestry Station by their induction into the "Agriculture Hall of Fame": Colonel Arthur Pratt, M.P.P., Professional Forester Dr. Edmund Zavitz and St. Williams Lumberman and Furniture Builder Walter McCall. These three initiators of the Station were recognized for their efforts in reversing the onslaught of sand storms onto neighbouring agricultural fields. Certificates confirming the local and Provincial significance of their initiative were presented to Canada's First Forestry Station Interpretive Centre by The Honorable Diane Finley, M.P., Toby Barrett, M.P.P and Norfolk County Mayor Charlie Luke. About 50 people attended the event which also recognized Bauke Vogelzang, who played a leading role in agricultural and forestry organizations in the County as well as brothers Clarence and Albert Hellyer, early ginseng growers.

Through the Forestry Station, the Province provided free seedling trees to farmers wanting to plant them, which in the end not only protected large parts of the County from becoming a sandy waste land, but it also served as a centre where land owners could learn the advantages, financial as well as environmental of maintaining healthy and productive woodlots. Eventually, seven Provincial Forestry Stations were developed and more than 2 billion trees were produced, many based on the lessons learned at St. Williams. The nurseries are now privatized or closed but the Interpretive Centre in the original office provides a glimpse of the challenges that the pioneers had to overcome and the successes they had.

The Interpretive Centre at 885, Highway 24 South, near St Williams, which is now a heritage building, is open for visitors every day except Tuesday from 10:30 until 4:30 from Victoria Day till Labour Day and guided tours are available. A short trail featuring the first White Pine plantation in Norfolk County is also worth a visit.



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

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.

