

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

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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 such as the experiments with new forestry practices 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

Gypsy Moth Defoliation Surveys- Summer 2017

Submitted by: Adam Biddle Date: November 22, 2017

It has been nearly 10 years since the invasive gypsy moth last wreaked havoc on local hardwood forests. In 2008, through the participation of area woodlot owners and government organizations over 11,000 acres of forested land was treated to prevent defoliation by gypsy moth on host trees. The population of gypsy moth collapsed following 2008.

Late this past summer the Norfolk Environmental Stewardship Team, through sponsorship from the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association, was able to cover approximately 1,000 acres of land to survey for damage caused by gypsy moth. Specifically, they sought out host species across the properties and assessed the trees for defoliation damage. Defoliation surveys are generally used to assess the level of damage caused by defoliating insects or disease, but in this case they are being used to help predict where there may be building gypsy moth populations. While they do not necessarily give a prediction of the next year's population, they may provide an indication as to where to expect defoliation the following year. Egg mass counts are a more accurate way of predicting next year's population, but performing such surveys is a much larger undertaking requiring more resources and time. Egg mass surveys are generally only warranted when some level of control is being planned or the efficacy of a control program is being evaluated.



Figure 1. Member of the Norfolk Environmental Stewardship Team surveying host trees for gypsy moth defoliation

The results demonstrate that there was little feeding overall on host species by gypsy moth this summer. Some level of defoliation was, however, noted on all properties surveyed. It was common on many properties for most oak trees to be +/- 5% defoliated with some trees nearing 10% and occasional isolated instances of a host tree being close to 20% defoliated. Host species experiencing some level of defoliation included Red Oak, Black Oak, White Oak, and Shagbark Hickory. In Norfolk County, there were several properties in close proximity to each other, located west of Lynedoch, on which host trees experienced slightly higher levels of defoliation compared to the rest of the county. In this area, host trees experienced 6-25% defoliation. One woodlot near Nixon and another north of Walsingham also experienced host tree defoliation in the 6-25% range. (See Figure 3.)



Figure 2. Fourth instar gypsy moth, succumb to LdMNPV. Hanging in typical "v" shape, overall soft, "goeey" condition.

One woodlot surveyed near the Grand River north of Cayuga experienced +/-25% defoliation on most host trees (See Figure 4.) Some trees were reported near +/-50% defoliation. There were also a high number of adult moths noted on this property including many egg laying female moths. It is expected that this area in Haldimand County will experience increasing levels of defoliation in the coming years over an extended geographically range compared to this year. Documented on all properties was the presence of adult moths, including egg laying female moths. This is an indication that more gypsy moth larvae are making it to adulthood and successfully reproducing. The presence of adult moths and the apparent abundance of such on some of the sites could be a sign that populations will be continuing to rise in coming years.

Survey crews on the west end of the county documented dead gypsy moth larvae in their third or fourth instar hanging from the bark of a host tree. Given that the few dead larvae were reportedly hanging from the tree in a “v” shape (see Figure 2.) it is speculated that they had succumb to a nuclear polyhedrosis virus (specifically, *Lymantria dispar multicapsid nuclear polyhedrosis virus* or LdMNPV for short). It is this naturally occurring virus that spreads through dense populations of gypsy moth causing the population to collapse. The virus may persist in the environment for subsequent years but does not generally provide effective natural control for low or building populations.

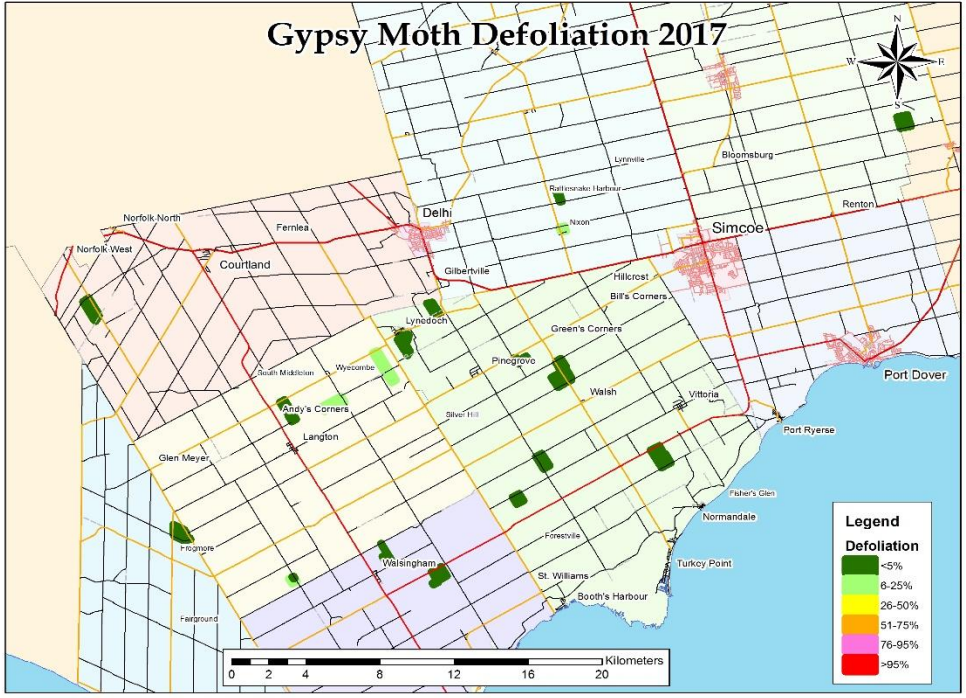


Figure 3. Gypsy moth defoliation across Norfolk County. Host trees west of Lynedoch experiencing 6-25% defoliation. Host trees near Nixon and west of Walsingham experiencing 6-25% defoliation.

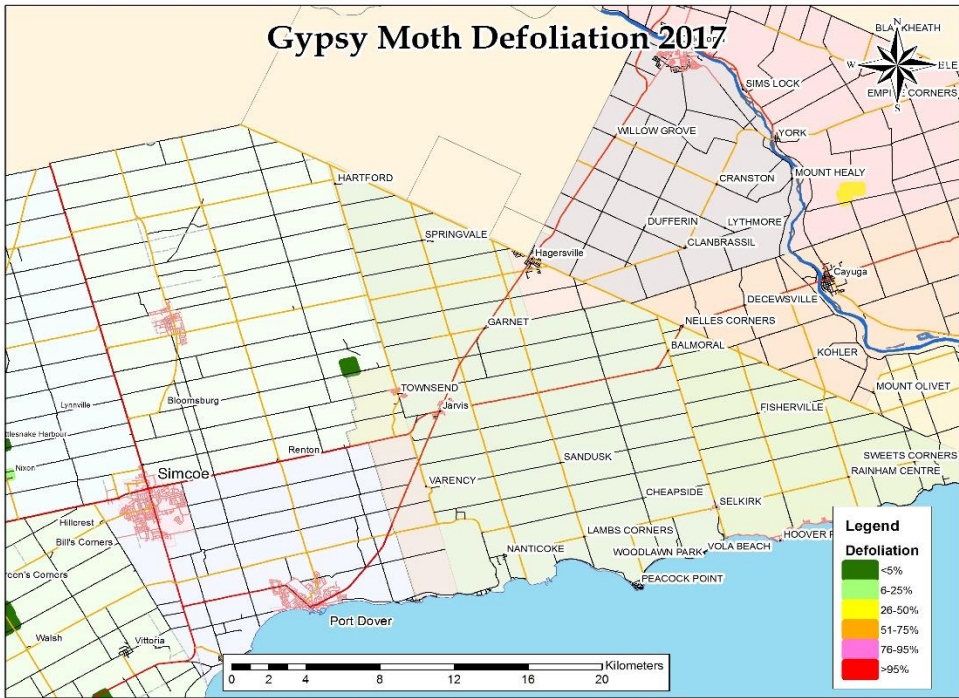


Figure 4. Gypsy moth defoliation across Norfolk County and into Haldimand County. One woodlot north of Cayuga experienced 26-50% defoliation on host trees.

In summary, defoliation caused by gypsy moth across Norfolk County was very low, which is positive. There are, however, several indications that the population may be on the rise. Historically, there are certain locations within the county that tend to experience higher levels of defoliation due to gypsy moth in advance of the gypsy moth population peaking. Forests in the northwestern portion of the county (Middleton/North Walsingham Townships) tend to experience defoliation from these building populations first. Norfolk County, in partnership with the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association, will continue to monitor the looming threat and keep woodlot owners up-to-date and informed on the current status of gypsy moth in Norfolk County.

For any questions or concerns regarding this article or the threat of gypsy moth in Norfolk County, please contact Norfolk County- Forestry at 519-426-5999. Ext. 2224, or adam.biddle@norfolkcounty.ca



Article released by the Forest Gene Conservation Association

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Confused by Ontario government plan to risk our forests' future by closing tree seed facility

Nov 9th, 2017 12:02 PM

Barb Boysen is [General Manager of the Forest Gene Conservation Association](#) based in Kemptville and Melissa Spearing is the FGCA's Seed Program Coordinator.

Tree seeds are of course critical to future forests. Management of high quality seed of known origin is crucial if our future forests are to withstand the impacts of climate change. Despite this, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) has decided to close the Ontario Tree Seed Plant (OTSP) in less than a year.

Located in Angus (west of Barrie) since 1923, it is a unique facility that is home to expert processing and storage of billions of tree seed. The OTSP is the seed bank for future forests in southern and northern Ontario, managed by 6 expert staff with an annual budget less than \$2 million. The shutdown decision came as a surprise - no analysis of other delivery or cost cutting options, and no consultation with clients, stakeholders and the community.

Historically, MNR Seed Program staff managed seed for government programs that annually planted over 100 million trees on Crown Land in Northern Ontario, and up to 20 million on private land in Southern Ontario. Those trees became the forests that surround us today.

In the mid-90's, cutbacks saw the MNR reforestation program dismantled. Tree nurseries, established by pioneering foresters Drury and Zavitz in the 1920's, were closed and sold, and plans made to privatize the Seed Plant. The Forest Gene Conservation Association (FGCA), working with stakeholders, helped MNR management

understand that tree seed expertise was an irreplaceable ecological and social benefit. Even private nurseries advocated for keeping the Seed Plant in public hands.

In 1999, MNR leadership reconsidered, and recognized the value of the OTSP's critically important role in providing genetically adapted native seeds for planting programs. Tree nurseries were able to increase the propagation of locally adapted trees for our cities and countryside. OTSP seed was the foundation for the 50 Million Tree Program in 2007, without it the program could not have been built.

The OTSP closure is a game changer - with the potential to be a game ender. The FGCA and Forest Ontario's grower and planting partners are very concerned. Where will the millions of stored seeds go? Where will next year's seed crops be processed? Who will monitor seed quality and track seed source? Who will invest in the expertise needed to establish and maintain a long-term seed bank - a critical weapon to fight the impacts of climate change?

Dianne Saxe, the Environmental Commissioner recently reported that Ontario's forests are under increasing stress from climate change. Climate models show that southern Ontario's trees, adapted to a warmer climate, will be the best source of seed for Northern Ontario before the 22nd century. But many southern forests have been lost to agriculture and development. The remainder face introduced exotic plants, insects and diseases that challenge native trees from regenerating. Given these serious threats, seed management and banking capacity needs to be increased, not stopped.

Premier Wynne has shown leadership on climate change - a tremendously complex challenge. And the FGCA knows the best way to manage complex challenges like forest restoration is to make it easier for people to do the right thing. But this short-sighted decision by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, to abandon seed management and banking, will make it very difficult to ensure the resilience of Ontario's forest under climate change.

There is no future without forests, and no forests without seed. The plan to close the OTSP must be reconsidered.

The FGCA invite you to ask questions and get involved. Join this mission to ensure our Government shows the leadership critical to our future.

Authors: Barb Boysen FGCA General Manager, fgcaontario@gmail.com and Melissa Spearing, Seed Program Coordinator melissa@fgca.net

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
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.

Be an early bird



**Renew your membership before the annual meeting
And have a chance to win a chainsaw at the meeting**

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.
