

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



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President's Message

The summer heat is still going strong at the beginning of September, with talk of rain to come but that pretty much sums up our rainfall pattern this summer ... all talk and no water. In spite of little rain, I see many of the fruit bearing trees are producing good crops this year. Some are a bit small but very tasty.

There are a few changes in the Forestry department that may be of interest to NWOA members. Steve Scheers, who was instrumental in helping establish the NWOA, thankfully remains as an Advisor to NWOA in a private capacity. We have a couple of new Norfolk County Advisors around our NWOA table. I welcome Adam Biddle, Superintendent of Forestry, a long-time member of Norfolk forestry department. Please note his list of core duties includes being an advisor for various community groups which specifically includes woodlot owners. Dan Marina moved to Norfolk to accept the position of Resource Management Technician By-law Enforcement Officer. His duties include helping woodlot owners with woodlot management. Dan will be the one we will be in most contact with. Both are very knowledgeable about forest management and are very easy to work with. Let's welcome them to their new positions and work with them to improve our Norfolk tree cover by implementing sustainable forest practises on our individual woodlots. It is possible to achieve many overlapping objectives for your woodlot. For example, one can manage a woodlot for habitat for many different species while still deriving a sustainable income from the sale of wood as part of the overall management plan. These guys can help us achieve our woodlot management goals.

Thanks to Dolf and Anne Wynia, who lead an excellent tour of their woodlot this summer. We find that the best tours are conducted at a local woodlot. We would love to be able to conduct tours/workshops at member woodlots. This allows members to compare notes on issues that they may have in common with the hosting woodlot owner. If any of you are interested in sharing something about your woodlot with fellow woodlot owners, please give us a call or email. Perhaps we could arrange a tour. The true value of the NWOA membership is the sharing of all the bits of knowledge that we own individually. All of us are unique and each of us has something valuable to contribute to the organization.

If you are really impassioned on a given woodlot topic the best way to learn more is to contact us and we can work together to organize a tour and/or workshop on the idea.

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 519-428-2615 or email me at john.dewitt@holliswealth.com

John de Witt

AGM Prize Winner

David Okines of St. Williams was the lucky winner and, as you can see from the photo, he is making good use of the chainsaw.

Photo by Betty Chanyi



SUNSET TOUR OF "WOODWINDS"

(Woodlot of Anne and Dolf Wynia)



Photos by Barbara Hourigan

On July 18, Anne and Dolf hosted about 20 members of the NWOA. The Wynia's had taken advantage of the "Climate Change Program for Canada" of the Federal Government in 2005 and had about 15 acres of new mixed conifer/hardwood plantations planted by the L.P.R.C.A and Trees Ontario. Four species of conifers were planted, (White Pine, European Larch, Red Pine and Norway Spruce) all in a pattern of 3 rows of conifers and one row of mixed hardwoods, mostly red oak. Only the European Larch is quite irregular in performance, mostly due to blight. The white pine has been pruned for Christmas bows, which has given access into the plantation to do some chemical control over the white pine weevil, the most destructive pest of that tree species in Norfolk. Also, Dolf has done some corrective pruning to straighten damaged trees. Height growth has not been affected and the trees are tall for their age. Performance of the hardwood trees has been irregular, as expected, with the red oak and bitternut hickory the best performers. Likely the main function of the other hardwood species will be to be seed suppliers for the next generation of trees.

It was interesting to note that almost all of the trees were planted in rows at an acute angle to the main road so that at harvest time, the tree lengths being pulled out will not rub up against remaining trees. There are also some small plantations that are about 25 years old now and the crop trees in the larch and white pine there have been crop trees pruned to about 17 feet. One 25 year old white pine was large enough that Dolf had it sawn for special lumber for his woodworking shop.

Apart from the plantation, the Wynia's have an attractive valley with a cold water stream, some very large trees and a small pond. Last winter they cut several large trees due to the ash borer invasion but the regeneration already is

prolific. We also saw that "Woodwinds" will have a substantial harvest on their two acres of Chinese Chestnuts this year as many trees were hanging low with ripening burrs. The chestnuts have found a good market at several city farmers' markets.

As the sun set behind the trees, we lingered for a while on their patio, enjoying the company and some light refreshments. It was a beautiful way to spend a summer evening and learn about trees and growing them.



THE PHRAGMITES INVASION



Photo courtesy of Janice Gilbert, MNR.

Introduction to Phragmites

Phragmites australis subsp. *australis* (Common reed) is an invasive perennial grass that was transported from Eurasia and is causing severe damage to coastal wetlands and beaches in North America. In 2005, Agriculture and Agrifood Canada identified it as the nation's "worst" invasive plant species. Invasive Phragmites was first introduced along the eastern seaboard but have since been identified and located farther west and north of the original point of introduction.

In Ontario, invasive Phragmites has been identified across the southern part of the province, with scattered occurrences as far north as Georgian Bay and Lake Superior. Invasive Phragmites is currently sold through the horticultural trade as an ornamental plant and spreads through various methods, including by wind and water. Stands of invasive Phragmites decrease biodiversity and destroys habitat for other species, including Species at Risk. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources works with several partners towards controlling and managing invasive *Phragmites australis*.

The name Phragmites is derived from the Greek term phragma, meaning fence, hedge, or screen. Invasive Phragmites is a subspecies known as Phragmites australis subsp. australis, and is closely related to the native subspecies americanus. Much of the biomass of invasive Phragmites is found underground, in an intricate system of roots and rhizomes. This aggressive plant grows and spreads easily, quickly out-competing native species for water and nutrients. Invasive Phragmites releases toxins from its roots into the surrounding soil which impedes the growth of and even kills off neighbouring plants. It thrives in disturbed habitats and is often among the first species to colonize a new area. This plant prefers areas of standing water but the roots can grow to extreme lengths allowing the plant to survive in low water areas. Invasive Phragmites is sensitive to high levels of salinity, low oxygen conditions, and drought, all of which can limit the viability of seeds or rhizome fragments.

Next NWOA newsletter will talk about the Phragmites life cycle.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry.

Member Site Visit

The NWOA is planning a field trip to Paul DeCloet's property in Houghton Township. We will meet at 9:00 am on Saturday October 15, 2016 at the corner of the 6th concession road and Graves Sideroad, south of Cultus. This woodlot has been intensively managed for many years with the result of abundant regeneration of tulip trees, Paul's favourite tree species. There also is a very productive stand of sugar maple.

Norfolk Field Naturalists Event

Fascinating Fungi - Mushroom Identification Hike

Sunday, October 2, 2016 - 1:00 pm. to 3:00 pm

Join the **Norfolk Field Naturalists** on a fall hike in Backus Woods to look for and identify mushrooms and other fungi of all shapes and sizes. Bring a camera, as we are not allowed to harvest mushrooms in this NCC property. Meet at the 3rd Concession Rd. entrance to Backus Woods (by the Turkey Release sign). Dress appropriately for the weather.

The event will go on, rain or shine. Extreme weather, like high winds, may cause cancellations. If you need any further information, contact **Inga Hinnerichsen**, President, NFN. Phone: 519-875-5601

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

Chainsaw Safety Certification Course

- When: October 28 & 29, 2016 (Evening on the 28th)
- Location: Simcoe,
- Must have safety equipment
- Bring your own lunch and drinks
- Cost: \$240.00
(Details to follow)

Who Needs Certification?

- Anyone who does chainsaw work for pay
- Farm and Landscape workers
- Woodlot owners who sell wood products
- Anyone who wants a safer wood cutting experience

Contact: Ron Tchorek at 519-426-5708

e-mail : tchorek@kwic.com

Get Certified!

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 norfolkwoodlots.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.

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.

FORESTRY DIVISION STRUCTURE OF NORFOLK COUNTY

The Forestry Division of Norfolk County is involved in many aspects of Forest and Urban Forest management. The Superintendent of Forestry is responsible for overseeing the delivery of all Forestry Division operations. On staff are also a Resource Management Technician/By-law Enforcement Officer, an Arborist, and a Forestry Technician.

Resource Management Technician/By-law Enforcement Officer:

This position is responsible for the enforcement of Norfolk County's Forest Conservation By-law. They review harvest permit applications, inspect tree marking, and inspect timber operations. They are there to ensure that all aspects of forest operations that are regulated under the by-law are being adhered to. In instances of unauthorized logging operations, clear-cutting, and issues regarding damaging forest practices the By-law Officer is the one to investigate the issue, determine if the issues are in contravention of the by-law, and follow up with any remedial actions.

Along with enforcement of the by-law, this position also assists in the management of the County's forested lands. The County owns approximately 2,000 acres of woodland which requires management including stand improvement harvests, trail monitoring, encroachment monitoring, and forest health monitoring. The County also runs a pheasant release program to provide for hunting opportunities for which some of the birds are released on county lands. The Resource Technician/By-law Enforcement Officer oversees the successful release of these game birds on county lands.

Another important role in this position is public outreach. The person in this position is available to the public for general inquiries regarding forest management. They are often able to accommodate site meetings to discuss issues you may be having with the management of your forested lands. They can connect you with the appropriate forest industry personnel to assist you in receiving the services required for the proper management of your forest. They can also provide information regarding tree planting programs that may be available to private landowners and incentive programs for woodlot owners. The County is able to assist with development of plans required for the purpose of applying for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

County Arborist:

This position is responsible for overseeing the proper management of all community trees. Community trees include trees located in county owned cemeteries, parks, trails, and within county road allowances. The Arborist responds to

concerns from the public regarding community trees by following up with an inspection of the tree and assigning appropriate remedial action. The Arborist works closely with Norfolk County Roads Division as the Roads Division is responsible for scheduling the required maintenance to roadside trees. The Arborist schedules maintenance for community trees located in county owned cemeteries, parks, trails, and other large scale county-wide tree removal programs such as we are experiencing now with our Ash Tree Removal program.

An important part of urban forest management is ensuring that we are not only managing our existing trees responsibly, but also that we are planting for the future. The Arborist works to ensure the County is making an effort to maintain and enhance our urban canopy through implementation of appropriate tree planting. Usually when the county removes a tree to accommodate a road reconstruction, or a tree is removed due to its declining health, or to accommodate a development, it is a requirement that that tree be replaced. The Arborist selects suitable planting locations, assigns appropriate species for the site, and oversees the planting of those replacement trees. The County also implements an annual tree planting program which is based on voluntary participation of private landowners. The Arborist conducts site visits with these landowners and if appropriate planting locations exist adjacent to their land on public property, the County tries to accommodate tree planting in those locations. Where the county has undertaken the planting of new community trees, the Arborist works towards successful establishment of these trees. Often summer student help is available for the watering of the trees during hot dry seasons, and early pruning required for training young trees is overseen by the Arborist. This position also provides recommendations on tree planting in new developments.

The Arborist has undertaken an inventory for which all community trees are inventoried in the major urban areas in Norfolk County. This has been an on-going project and is set to be completed by the end of 2017. Upon completion of this project, a very useful and important inventory will be available to the County to assist in planning decisions, park planning, and future tree planting requirements. It will also be very useful for budgeting tree maintenance costs. It is hopeful basic information of this inventory will be made available to the public so public trees can be located and identified through interactive programming. The County Arborist is available to the public requesting information on best management practices for their trees or with a concern about a community tree.

Forestry Technician:

This position is involved with both urban forestry and forest management in the County. They provide support to both the Resource Management Technician/By-law Enforcement Officer and the County Arborist. They assist in data collection pertaining to Harvest Inspections and by-law infractions, processing harvest permits, mapping requirements for the Forestry Division, community tree inventory, and small tree removal or cleanup of fallen branches on trails. They are also available to the public for information regarding forest management or best management practices for their trees.

<p>Superintendent of Forestry: Adam Biddle adam.biddle@norfolkcounty.ca 519-426-5999 ext. 2224</p>	<p>Resource Management Technician/By-law Enforcement Officer: Dan Marina dan.marina@norfolkcounty.ca 519-426-5999 ext 2220</p>
<p>County Arborist: Adam Chamberlin adam.chamberlin@norfolkcounty.ca 519-426-5999 ext. 2245</p>	<p>Forestry Technician: currently vacant</p>