

President's Message Winter 2014

We have started a New Year. I hope you are all in good spirit and good health. The New Year brings opportunities to think about new endeavours. We can make resolutions to improve where we consider useful. The board of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association will be continuing the work on Forest Certification, Endangered Species and organizing tours through woodlots to learn from other woodlot owners. If you as a member have questions or want to learn something that can also be useful to other woodlot owners we encourage you to share your thoughts.

Winter started early this year. First snow by November 22 brought the winter on our doorstep. December 20 brought an ice storm. During that night we had to go outside to start the generator. The noise of breaking branches is a special winter experience. In the morning it is a sight that gives mixed feelings. The ice is shiny and the view breathe taking. This is a great opportunity for winter photographs. This weather is instrumental for bringing down dead wood. It can also damage power lines and inconveniences for hydro customers. But when we the temperature goes up all scares are soon forgotten until the next winter storm comes by. We can be grateful for all people who keep working diligently to keep our roads safe to travel.

The Annual General Meeting is planned for March 5 in the Delhi German Hall. Preparations have started and we are getting excited once again to meet the members. I am looking forward to hear the key note speaker on badgers. These animals are on the endangered species list. There is still a lot to learn about these nocturnal animals. I am even more interested since we saw badger diggings two summers ago in the ditch along our road. The animal was radio tagged and had moved on before anybody had even seen it.

With this newsletter the membership renewal forms will be send out. When you send the form in you are still on time for the early renewal draw. If you know of a friend or neighbour who may be interested to become a member please pass on this information. We accept woodlot owners as members as well as associate members and all other people with a keen interest in our Norfolk County Woodlots.

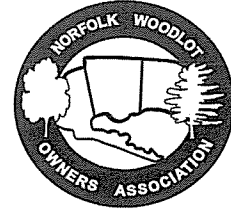
If you have any suggestions or interests that you would like to learn about you can let me know by phone (519-428-1421) or by email (vankleef@kwic.com)

Angelle van Kleef

TIME TO RENEW... as you all have heard Canada Post is proposing an increase in stamps to \$1, last year the membership approved a slight increase of the membership fee -2014 it is \$25 but we are hopeful we can maintain this fee for another 17 years especially if members opt to view the newsletters online. More to follow on the website and its capabilities at the AGM!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association



Wednesday March 5th, 2014 7:00 PM
Delhi German Home - Delhi

Forestry Information Forum & Information Displays – open 5 pm

Over 36 Information Displays!

With membership access a chance at \$ 1000 in Door Prizes! A chance to win a chainsaw!

**SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN TODAY!
& WIN A CHANCE AT A SPECIAL DRAW FOR A CHAINSAW!**

**DEADLINE – APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED AT
NORFOLK FORESTRY 95 CULVER ST. BY February 28th, 2014 NOON**

A little more information about the Annual General Meeting Topics to be Discussed;

Special Guest Speaker will speak about one of our local Species at Risk – The American Badger

Please report your sightings

Every sighting adds to our understanding of badgers, and **reports of burrows**, road-kills or mounted badgers are particularly useful. Recent reports are most important, but we would like to hear from you regardless of how long ago your sightings was.

Ontario Badger Hotline
1-877-715-9299
(toll-free)

info@ontariobadgers.org

Local Woodlot Owners with Badgers found on their property will also discuss how such - has impacted or not impacted - how they manage their lands.



A female badger with two kits near Simcoe, Ontario



WOODN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW.....

Q. I am thinking of pruning my trees what should I know?

A. What to Prune

As a rule-of-thumb, no more than 25% of the crown should be removed at a time. Furthermore, the ratio of tree crown height to total tree height should be two-thirds (Fig. 1). To achieve the desired form while following the rules-of-thumb, there are seven branching defects for tree pruning to correct (Fig. 2):

1. Epicormic
2. Vertical
3. Crossing
4. Co-dominant
5. Downward-growing
6. Poorly-attached
7. Dead or broken

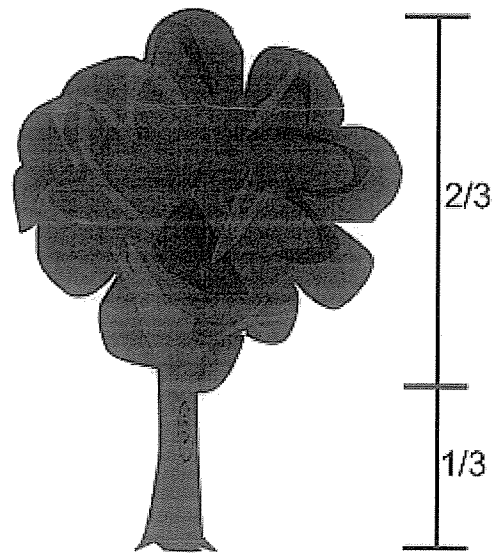


Figure 1. When pruning lower branches, ensure that the crown height to total tree height ratio does not drop below two-thirds.

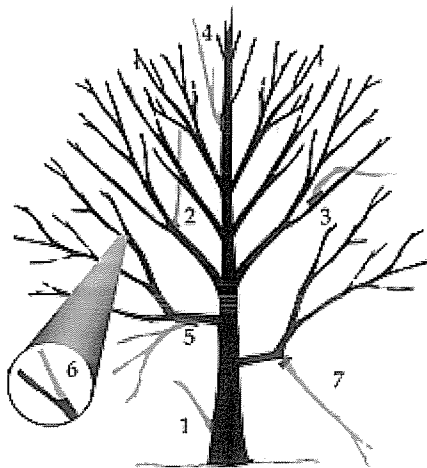


Figure 2. The green branches represent the seven types of branches that require pruning.

When to Prune

When the tree is at a young age, as early as two years following planting, pruning should begin. Pruning can continue on an annual basis until the tree has been in the ground for approximately ten years, after which pruning should occur on a five- to seven-year cycle. Though this schedule seems intensive, pruning need only occur if problem branches exist.

The optimal time of year to prune deciduous trees is during their dormant period, which in London is typically November until March (see Fig. 3). Pruning should never be carried out during spring or early summer when buds and leaves are still growing.



Figure 3. Monthly calendar showing optimal pruning times.

How to Prune

Before the proper pruning technique is described, it is crucial to understand basic branch anatomy (Fig. 4). It is important to cut in the correct location when removing a branch, otherwise unnecessary damage results. The following step-by-step approach will help to determine the appropriate location for cutting.

1. Locate the branch that is to be removed.
2. Find its point of attachment (branch collar) to the next largest branch.
3. At the point of attachment, on the upper portion of the branch, locate the **branch bark ridge**.
4. The cut will occur as close to, but with special care to remain outside the branch bark ridge and branch collar.

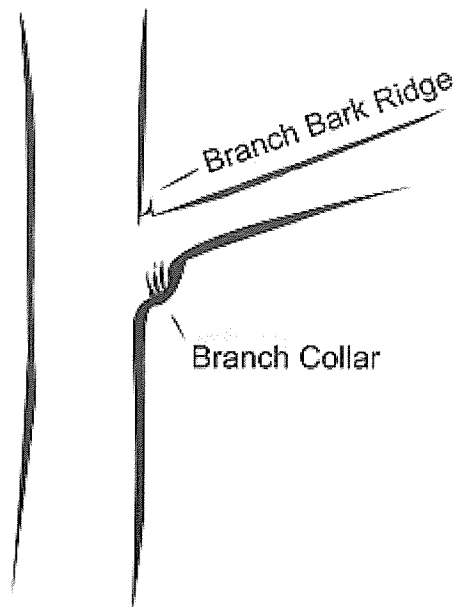
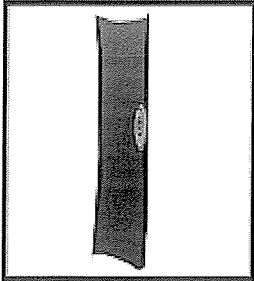
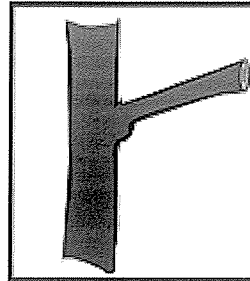


Figure 4. Basic Branch Anatomy.

By cutting at this position, two common mistakes are avoided: the stub cut and the flush cut (see Fig. 5), both of which require more time to heal, thus predisposing the tree to insect and pathogen infection.



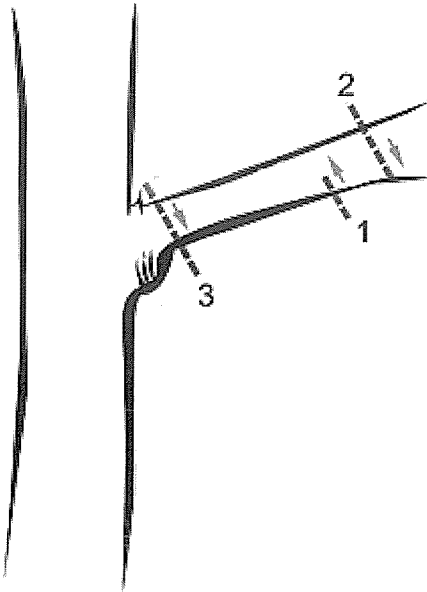
Flush Cut



Stub Cut

Figure 5. Two common pruning mistakes. At left, the flush cut removes the branch collar and branch bark ridge. At right, the stub cut does not remove enough of the branch to be pruned.

One of two techniques is used depending on the size of the branch to be removed. A pair of sharp, clean pruning or lopping shears is effective for small branches (< 5cm) which can easily be supported with one hand. A pruning saw may be required for larger branches (> 5cm). In the latter case, the three-step pruning cut should be employed to avoid bark ripping (Fig. 6).



1. Use the pruning saw to make a cut one-third of the way through the underside of the branch at least 30cm from the location of the final cut (as determined using the technique above).
2. Outside the first cut, saw downwards all the way through the branch to be removed. Following this cut, a short stub of approximately 30cm will remain.
3. The final cut will be made at a location just outside the branch collar and branch bark ridge.

Figure 6. The three-step pruning cut for use on large branches (> 5cm).

PRUNING 101

What Tools Will Be Necessary?

First and foremost, safety is emphasized; pruning can be dangerous and can even result in death. For this reason, the most important pruning tools are a hard hat, protective eye wear and leather gloves. In addition, pruning tools include: hand shears, lopping shears, pruning saw(s), a pole pruner (with shear or saw head attachment), chain saws, and pruning paint. There are different models of all these tools, so personal preference will come into play.

Regardless of the choice of tool, two rules must be adhered to. First, the tool must be sharp. This helps to guarantee a clean cut and prevent tearing and crushing plant tissue. Secondly, tools must be clean. Clean tools reduce the chance that pathogens will be spread from contaminated trees to healthy trees. Tools should be sanitized following every cut by dipping the tool in one part bleach diluted with nine parts water. A final cleaning with soap and water ensures that tools will not be corroded by bleach.

Finally, with the exception of oak and elm trees which are susceptible to the highly transmissible pathogens oak wilt and Dutch elm disease, wound dressing paint is unnecessary and can be harmful. Wound dressings can delay wound closure by hindering the natural protection offered by resins and gums.

By using this guide as a reference, tree pruning techniques can be ameliorated such that the three goals of pruning: safety, tree health, and aesthetics are maximized.

Pruning large trees, large branches, branches that cannot be reached from ground level, or trees near hydro wires can be difficult, dangerous, or even deadly. This work should only be attempted by professionals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

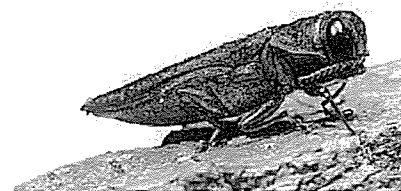
EMERALD ASH BORER LANDOWNER WORKSHOP

Monday February 10th, 2014 ~ 7 PM

Upstairs Meeting Room Delhi Arena

Open to Public

- Emerald Ash Borer: Facts and Tactics for Woodlot Owners and Forest Managers
– Video Presentation
- Identification, Options for Landowners with Urban / Yard



Trees



NEWS FROM THE WOODS

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Dollar's drop shores up Northwestern Ontario lumber *By: The Chronicle-Journal*

Unlike the last five years in Northwestern Ontario, 2014 is shaping up to be a great time to be in the lumber business, with new mills and the restarting of existing plants in the works. Industry watchers say that while the falling loonie is a bonus for Canadian lumber exporters, the main factor in the sector's turnaround continues to be the rebound in the American housing market.

"The most important thing is (product) demand, and in the past we've had more capacity than demand," Forest Products Association of Canada president David Lindsay said Wednesday. Lindsay said U.S. housing starts are expected to bump up against a healthy one-million mark this year. Compare that, he said, to the start of the prolonged recession in 2008, when starts were below 600,000.

With the loonie hovering at 92 cents US this week, some believe the stage may be set for a return of the heady days of the lumber business of nearly 20 years ago, when the Canadian dollar traded below 90 cents and housing starts south of the border were in the range of 1.5 million. Foreign purchasers pay less for Canadian-made lumber when their own currency is stronger than the loonie.

When the U.S. market tanked in 2008, many Canadian mills that were inefficient shuttered and those that managed to stay afloat, mainly in Western Canada, sought other markets in Asia.

Lindsay, a former Ontario Northern Development and Mines deputy minister, said the Chinese markets that were established during the recession haven't disappeared. The building demand for lumber in the U.S. may well be met by eastern Canadian mills, including those in Northwestern Ontario, that could be restarted or expanded.

B.C. region still looking to set up community forest

A first of its kind community forest in Prince George is still looking to be set up in the area. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is exploring the idea of creating a forest that combines agricultural items with forestry. General Manager of Development Services Terry McEachen says the forest would look to harvest trees.

"Especially the dead pine," says McEachen, "in order to raise funds for putting those lands into production for agricultural use."

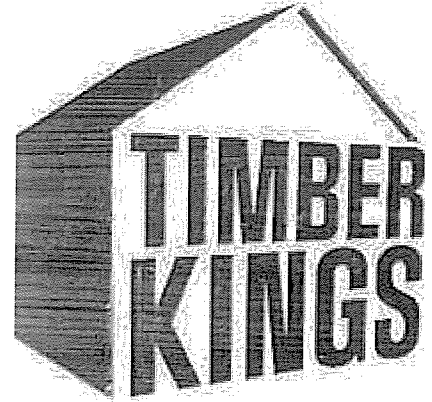
McEachen says the regional district is looking to partner with the Prince George Cattlemen to set up the community forest. He says a submission to the Ministry of Forests has been made for a go ahead to start with the planning.

NWOA MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

Williams Lake – Caribou Region – who was the predecessor of the Forest Capital of Canada after Norfolk's title and is north about 2 hours from Prince George. When Mark Sommerville and Steve Scheers visited this area there was talk in BC to establish and further engage landowners – specifically farmers and ranchers – to help manage the forest in light of Pine Mountain Beetle. It seems at least one community is looking at this option and it is an option NWOA will be looking at closely as if we can tie the benefits of an Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) model with a Community Forestry Initiative that supports local Forest Certification it could be a win for woodlot owners seeking to maintain access to markets for harvested timber and for local mills seeking to sustain and expand into the global marketplace.

Remember to watch TIMBER KINGS

The most unique log homes on earth are custom built by master log-smiths in the small town of **Williams Lake, British Columbia**. Each one is handcrafted on site, then taken apart, shipped around the world, and reconstructed wherever the client wants. No one else can do it like the boys at Pioneer Log Homes. They are "Timber Kings."



SUNDAYS AT 10 PM ON HGTV

FACTS ABOUT

- Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia is the largest builder of handcrafted log homes in the world. Based in Williams Lake, BC, the company is 40 years old and has 120 employees working at three construction yards and one office. Pioneer is a family business with three generations spread across every level of the company.
- Each log home is prebuilt in Williams Lake, then disassembled and shipped around the world to its final destination. The reconstruction is called a "log set," and for a small cabin the log set can be finished in less than a day. Log sets for larger, more complex structures can take anywhere from several days to several weeks.
- The primary wood used by Pioneer is Western Red Cedar (WRC), which only grows on the West Coast of North America. Its natural oils and resins repel insects and prevent decay, making it the perfect building material. WRC trees grow very tall, have a straight wood grain, contain less moisture when green and dry faster than any other wood, allowing for unequaled stability in a log wall. WRC's cellular structure also shrinks very little as it dries, making it an excellent insulator. Western Red Cedar is an excellent insulator, but all exterior log walls are also partially hollowed with a lateral groove and fitted with insulation.
- The average Pioneer log home is 2,500 square feet. It takes two to three months to design, three to four months to build, and utilizes 100-125 logs. The home will last for 300+ years.
- A single tree—worth approximately \$2,000—can produce one or two house logs, depending on the size of the house and tree.
- Each log needs to dry for an entire year before it can be used in a home, to allow the moisture content to fall from 25% to 15%.
- A "Family Tree" is a centerpiece or character log that supports a home's roof system. A Family Tree has a root base measuring six to fourteen feet across.
- There are no nails in a Pioneer log home. Everything is custom carved to fit together perfectly with notches and special timber joinery. There are also giant wood screws and long threaded rods to help secure all log work to the foundation. The notches and joinery provide a structural wall that has movement and flexibility in case of extreme weather, or even earthquakes.
- Pioneer has taken centuries-old European wood joinery techniques and adapted a unique kind of notch, called the "Norwegian Wedge Notch," to lock together their building logs. This special notch repels moisture more efficiently than any other method.
- For each tree they harvest, Pioneer plants seven more. To date, they have planted over 1.5 million trees.
- Pioneer produces 60 truckloads of bark, chips and sawdust per year and incinerates the waste to produce electricity.