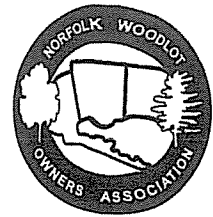


NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



Volume 4 Edition 15

Summer 2011

President's MESSAGE

Summer has arrived after a long and wet spring. Nature has been silently waiting for the higher temperatures. Now that it's here it feels like it has been here all along, but some of us will remember this abundant darkness and wetness for a long time. On our property we were fortunate to have two dry days in May where we were able to burn our field of prairie grasses. We are also working on establishing some acres of Oak Savannah habitat. No logging activities have taken place yet. In Norfolk County we have enjoyed Nature Fest and celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Long Point Biosphere Reserve.

The Species at Risk Act is getting our attention again this month. From one of our members we learned that in May a letter was sent out by Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service. The letter is about the Proposed Recovery Strategy for the Acadian Flycatcher and the Hooded Warbler in Canada. Some members have received such a letter. Their property has been identified in the past to have critical habitat for one or both species. The question that was raised by one member was if he now would not be able to establish some trails through his bush nor to harvest any timber. As far as we have been informed this is still possible. However, you need to be aware that you may have threatened or endangered species breeding on your property. Therefore, it is advised to take action on your property after the species have left for the season. It is also advised that their habitat should not be damaged or destroyed. Through the fall and winter we will be informing you about this topic as it is important for all to learn more. In the mean time if you have any questions don't hesitate to call or email me. I will confidentially try to answer all your questions.

Also in May we have had a meeting with Anne Bell of Ontario Nature. Ontario Nature was one of the initiators of the Endangered Species Act in 2007. Over the past years they have learned that landowners have a hard time working with the Endangered Species Act. A lot of misconception and mistrust has grown that is not in the benefit of species at risk. At Ontario Nature they realize that something needs to be done to improve this situation.

There is a program in the US called Save Harbour Agreements (www.fws.gov/endangered/landowners/safe-harbor-agreements.html). This program gives landowners the opportunity to create habitat for endangered species under the agreement, and gives landowners the opportunity to revert their property to farming at the end of the agreement. It offers opportunities that are favourable to both landowners and species at risk. This program fits in with the ALUS program. Talks have just started and it may be a while before farmer and landowner organisations, MNR and Ontario Nature are on the same page. But it is promising for all involved. You will hear more about this as it may become a pilot program with the ALUS Project.

Angelle van Kleef

President of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

HALDIMAND & AREA WOODLOT OWNERS' WHITE PINE SEED ORCHARD TOUR & BBQ

Saturday August 20th 2011 (rain date Saturday August 27th)
10 am tour with Terry Schwan of MNR with a **BBQ at 12 noon**

Reg. Rd. #20 (10 km west of Dunnville) at the White Pine Seed Orchard

Hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks & more - bring your own lawn chairs and dress for the hike through the seed orchard.

RSVP for the BBQ will be needed by Tuesday August 16th - call Dan at 905 765 9740 or email danromanoski@hawoa.com

Check out our White Pine Seed Orchard web page for info and a map at www.hawoa.com - then come out to see things for yourself in August!

Niagara, Norfolk & Brant Woodlot Owners are welcome to attend!

Certified Seed Collector 2011 Workshops

Presented by Trees Ontario in partnership with the Forest Gene Conservation Association, Ontario Tree Seed Plant, Haldimand Stewardship, Land Care Niagara Stewardship, Niagara Woodlot Association and the Haldimand & Area Woodlot Owners' Association.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please inform us of any dietary restrictions.



Day 1: Indoor Session
Saturday August 27th 2011
9:30am - 4:30pm

Day 2: Collection Field Day
Sunday August 28th 2011
8:30am - 3:00pm

Workshop Location: Cayuga Mutual Insurance Building 23 King Street Cayuga


- *On Indoor Session days bring jack knife or secateurs
- *Field Days bring note pad, camera, binoculars, jack knife or secateurs & field clothes/gloves

For more information or to register contact
Trees Ontario at 1-877-646-1193 or info@treesontario.ca

For costs and all the details visit this Trees Ontario link:
www.treesontario.ca/news/index.php/certified_seed_collector

Call or email Kelly for more info: 905 772 1393 / kelly.tonellato@ontario.ca

BE CAREFUL IN THE WOODS..... SEVERE WEATHER THIS SPRING AND SUMMER HAS RESULTED IN MANY HAZARDS IN OUR WOODLANDS.



After the high winds of April 28th
There are still many hanging branches
in the canopy of our forests.
Take very special care when
walking in the bush whether it's
for work or pleasure

- Don't... walk under leaning or hanging trees
- Don't... rush thru evaluating the cutting challenges
- Don't... cut trees that are outside your level of expertise
- Don't... go into the bush alone to cut trees
- Don't... operate heavy equipment in the bush before you check out the safest route to travel
- Don't... forget your safety gear
- Don't... forget to tell someone where you will be working

"Look up... Look WAY up!"

Don't Move Firewood

Buy Local!

Throwing a few pieces of firewood into the trunk of the car before a camping trip might seem like a good way to plan ahead, but those logs could destroy a forest.

Firewood can carry small but harmful hitchhikers that are often hidden in the bark or wood. The damage caused by invasive species such as the emerald ash borer can expand exponentially when they get rides from families on vacation—even if it is only a few kilometres away. In fact, the emerald ash borer has killed millions of ash trees across Canada.

When forests are destroyed, everyone bears the consequences. Workers who depend on the lumber industry can lose their livelihoods. Animals and birds can lose their habitat. And our environment can lose the cleaning power forests provide for the air we all breathe.

The solution is easy: leave your firewood at home and pick some up locally instead. If everyone takes care of our forests we will be able to enjoy them for years to come.

Normandale Fish Culture Station (NFCS) Tour March 30, 2011

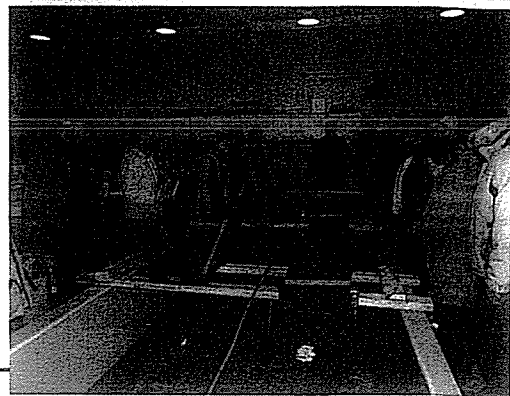
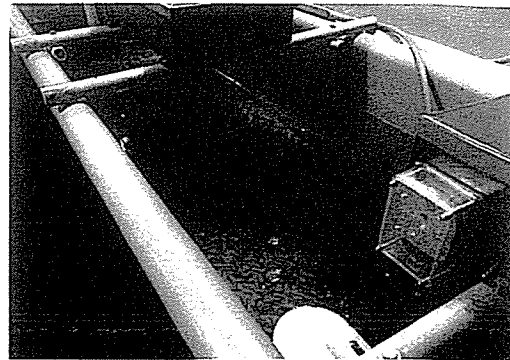
By Dave Reid, stewardship coordinator

Twenty six members and friends of the NWOA gathered at the main station off the Turkey Point Road at 1:30 pm for a tour of the facilities led by hatchery technician Paul Fraser of Simcoe. We all gathered around the existing brood fish building as Paul gave us some initial background. It was obvious to all that he was an enthusiastic MNR employee who obviously loved his job and was very knowledgeable about fish culture and the expensive upgrades being made to both the main station and the sub-station. The latter is situated west of the Turkey Point Road, straddling the Lakeshore Road on the headwaters of Gibson's Creek, a small creek that empties into Lake Erie on Turkey Point beach.



Six million dollars are being spent to upgrade the sub-station to provide gravity flow from a small pond impounded on the north side of the road and to turn it into a brood fish facility for the 4 strains of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) they raise. The brood fish are the parent fish from which eggs will be gathered in future thus eliminating the current need to gather eggs from the wild. They are thus extremely valuable fish to the MNR. The gravity flow guards against loss of fish due to lighting strikes or electricity failures. Construction of the sub-station is underway by a local contractor and needs to be completed by early summer to allow for fish transfers and work to proceed on the new production facilities at the main station. Total reconstruction costs there are expected to be \$10 million. The Atlantic Salmon are all destined for Lake Ontario.

Other fish to be raised at the NFCS include Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*), Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). Throughout the 2 hour tour Paul entertained us with his knowledge and good humour. We heard new terms for many such as caudal peduncle, fry, redd, fingerling, milt and brood fish. We heard how the job of a hatchery technician can be repetitive and at times monotonous with lots of cleaning, sterilizing and counting. But we also learned how a dedicated employee who takes pride in his work can use his innovation to make significant improvements to the fish culture operation. For example Paul showed us what looked like a large frisbee (actually a lid from a five gallon pail) that had holes punched around the perimeter that he invented to help sort injured or deformed fry from healthy fry ... when a net full of fry are placed on what his fellow employees call a "Fraserbee" and a small amount of water is poured on, the healthy fry swim out the holes while the unhealthy fry remain in the centre to be picked and discarded. This has saved them significant time. We also saw how the outflow screens were no longer stuck to the bottom of raceways with silicon making their removal and cleaning difficult ... instead Paul had them pinned down with a 2" x 4" from the top which was clamped to the sides of the raceway and this saved a lot of time when removing and cleaning them.



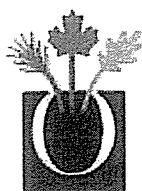
It was a very interesting tour enjoyed by all ... we were inundated with information while being entertained by Paul.

*A Follow Up Tour is proposed this fall for those that could not make the spring tour
please watch the newsletter for future date!*

NWOA Directors – 2011

* year indicates the term the year expires, the (number) indicates the number of terms served

Name	Position	Term *	Phone	E-mail
Dolf Wynia	Past President		875-3350	wynia@kwic.com
Angelle van Kleef	President	2013 (1)	428-1421	vankleef@kwic.com
Clen van Kleef	Vice President	2013 (1)	428-1421	vankleef@kwic.com
Eric Ferguson	Treasurer	2014 (2)	443-7928	emferguson@silomail.com
Mike Rothery	Secretary	2014 (2)	586-9535	wmrothery@hotmail.com
Martin Perrin	Secretary Website Ctte	2012 (1)	875-2481	mkperrin@kwic.com
Paul Beischlag	Director	2012 (2)	426-8591	pbeischlag@hotmail.com
Vic Janulis	Director	2013 (1)	443-5828	vici@kwic.com
Joe Stechly	Director	2013 (1)	428-0374	
Tom Bradstreet	Director	2013 (1)	426-3405	tom.bradstreet@natureconservancy.ca
Ron Tchorek	Director	2013 (2)	426-5708	tchorek@kwic.com
Brett Schuyler	Director	2014 (1)		brett@schuylerfarms.ca
Paul DeCloet	Director-at-large	2014 (1)		p.decloet@bell.net
John Morrissey	Director-at-large	2014 (1)		drjohn@xplornet.com
Garret Reid	Director-at-large	2014 (2)	429-9288	garretreid42@hotmail.com
Gunther Csoff	Director-at-large	2014 (1)		gandhcsoff@execulink.com
Mark Sommerville	St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council	Advisory	426-3762	markruth@flarenet.com
Tracey Boerkamp	Annual General Meeting Chairman	Advisory	443-8754	springview@simcom.on.ca
David Reid Stewardship Co-ordinator	Norfolk Land Stewardship Council	Advisor	426-4259	dave.i.reid@ontario.ca
Steve Scheers Superintendent	Norfolk County Forestry Conservation Service	Advisor	426-5999	steven.scheers@norfolkcounty.ca



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RED PINE PLANTATION MORTALITY

Ontario Forest Research Institute ~ Forest Research Note #69

Attached you will find an extension note regarding Red Pine Plantation Mortality. Norfolk County and the Norfolk Land Stewardship Council partnered on this study with other communities, such as Simcoe County. Collectively we all have a vested interest in maintaining the viability of our local Red Pine Plantations as a source of revenue and as a nurse crop for native hardwoods as the lands succeeds back to a natural hardwood/white pine mix.

Mortality in Southern Ontario Red Pine Plantations: Causes, Consequences, and Management Options

By J.A. McLAUGHLIN¹, T. HSIANG², G. HALICKI HAYDEN¹ AND S. GREIFENHAGEN¹

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² Department of Environmental Biology, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1

The plantations

Red pine is a shade intolerant conifer that is among the most extensively planted tree species in southern Ontario. In the 1920s, reforestation programs were initiated to restore idle marginal and waste land to productive use, prevent soil erosion, and conserve water resources. Red pine was an ideal species for these reforestation programs: it thrives on sites too poor for agriculture, it produces high value timber for example for sawlogs, utility poles, and preservative-treated landscape timbers, it grows well in plantations and can provide economic returns to landowners through occasional thinning treatments, and it is resistant to most pests. Over time, these plantations (Figure 1) have become important for providing timber, and for education and recreation opportunities.



Figure 1. A healthy commercial aged red pine plantation.

The problem

Recently though, unprecedented rates of decline and mortality in maturing, commercial-sized red pine plantations in southern Ontario (Figure 2) are challenging forest managers who adhere to traditional management strategies and silvicultural practices. Decades of investment in thinning and tending are at risk from widespread mortality in these plantations. Managers face the choice of adhering to traditional cutting cycles and losing volume on the stump or liquidating large tracts of timber and inundating the market. Aside from the financial loss, stand liquidation jeopardizes broader forest management objectives, such as natural stand conversion to mixed forest, and recreational uses of these stands.

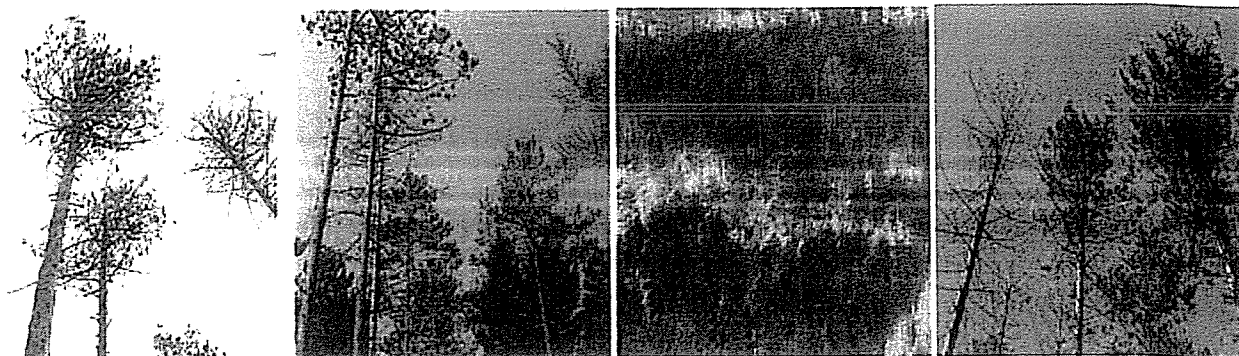


Figure 2. Pockets of declining and dying red pine.

Causes of mortality

To find out why the trees were dying researchers conducted intensive above- and belowground investigations to assess characteristics of the trees and soils of healthy and dying plantations (Figure 3). They also assessed pathogens and insect pests associated with dying trees.

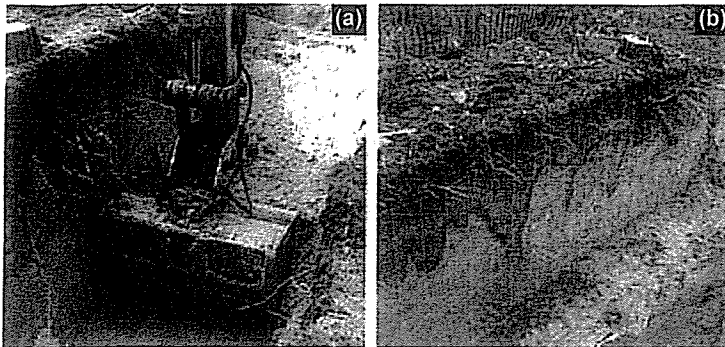


Figure 3. (a) Researchers dug 2-m-deep trenches to investigate belowground characteristics of healthy and diseased red pine plantations; (b) They also measured the depth of soil horizons and rooting and soil physical and chemical characteristics.

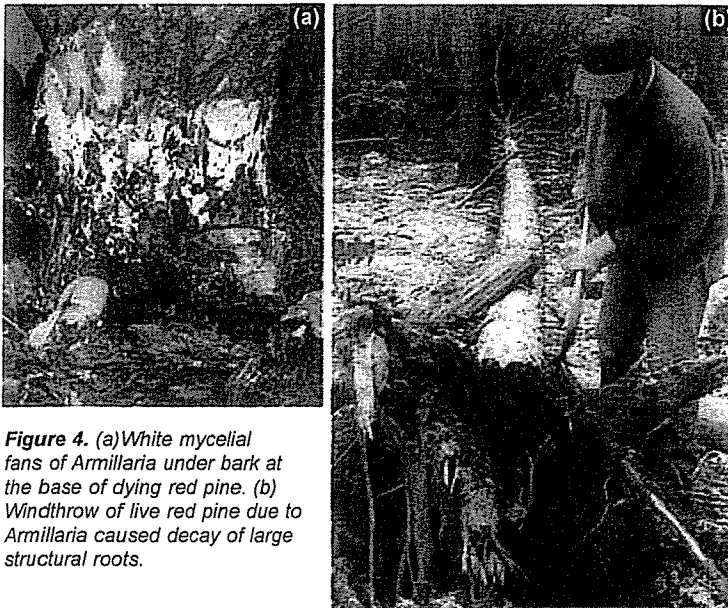


Figure 4. (a) White mycelial fans of *Armillaria* under bark at the base of dying red pine. (b) Windthrow of live red pine due to *Armillaria* caused decay of large structural roots.



Figure 5. White "popcorn" stage of *Annosus* fruiting bodies in duff at base of dead red pine.

Root disease

In southern Ontario red pine plantations, ***Armillaria* root disease** (caused by *Armillaria ostoyae*) and ***Annosus* (a.k.a. Fomes) root rot** (caused by *Heterobasidion annosum*) are the most commonly observed killers of trees.

Armillaria infection is recognized by the white *mycelial fan* that grows under the bark, killing individual roots and eventually the whole tree (Figure 4a). Decay of infected roots can make living trees unstable and prone to windthrow (Figure 4b).

***Annosus* root rot** can infect a tree for many years, restricting growth initially as infected roots die but eventually killing the tree. In the fall, white and brown *Annosus* fruiting bodies may form at the root collar of heavily infected trees. They can be difficult to see/recognize in their young "popcorn" stage (Figure 5).

Nutrient deficiency

Nutrient deficiency, specifically lack of iron, can cause red pine decline and mortality in southern Ontario. This deficiency is sometimes observed in 30- to 40-year-old plantations, with symptoms including chlorosis (yellowing) of the needles (especially the current year's growth), reduced growth, crown thinning, and dieback (Figure 6). These symptoms may be observed throughout the entire plantation or limited to a particular section. Iron deficiency is not necessarily due to low soil iron content; rather, alkaline soil conditions, especially in the upper soil horizons, make the iron insoluble and therefore unavailable to the trees. Drought makes the problem even worse: as soil moisture decreases, the volume of the soil solution decreases, and pH increases.

Insect pests

Trees under stress, for example due to drought, are susceptible to insect pests such as bark beetles and scale insects (Figure 7). Heavy infestations can kill trees already compromised by nutrient deficiency or disease. However, insects do not appear to be the cause of the widespread mortality in southern Ontario.

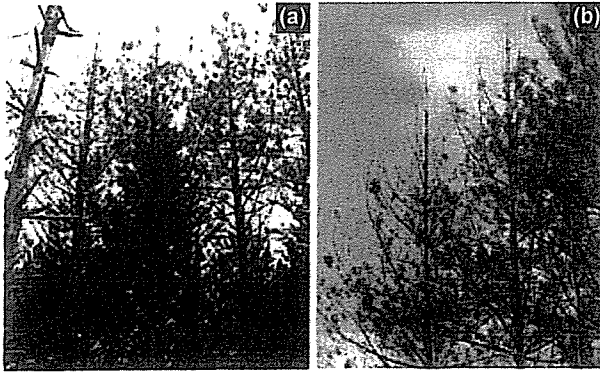


Figure 6. (a) Iron deficiency-induced chlorosis, and (b) thinning and dieback of red pine crowns.

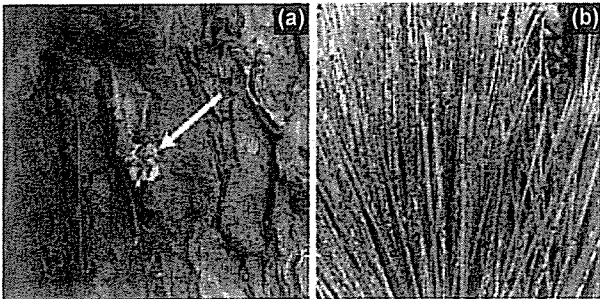


Figure 7. (a) Resin exuded from a bark beetle exit hole near the base of a recently killed red pine. (b) Heavy infestation of black pineleaf scale on current year needles of a dying red pine.

A common predisposing factor

Researchers found that healthy plantations could be distinguished from those with mortality based on the pH of the soil C horizon. Red pine grows best in acidic soils. However, where the pH of the upper soil horizons were primarily acidic, if the C horizon was moderately-to-strongly alkaline red pine were dying. In contrast, trees on sites where the C horizon was slightly acidic-to-neutral were healthy. As well, the rooting depth of trees on sites with an alkaline C horizon was much shallower (by more than 50 cm) than that of trees on sites with an acidic-to-neutral C horizon. On sites with alkaline upper soil horizons, iron deficiency seemed to be the main cause of dieback.

Summary

Plantations established on sites with an alkaline C horizon are at high risk of damage from pathogens and insects, largely due to the typically shallower rooting on such sites. Shallower rooting makes trees more likely to suffer drought stress, which acts as an *inciting factor* for decline by reducing their ability to defend themselves from attacks by root disease pathogens or insects such as bark beetles. Plantations established on sites with alkaline A and B soil horizons will likely suffer early decline (i.e., before the plantation reaches 40 years of age) due to iron deficiency. And iron deficiency will be more pronounced in dry years.

Management Options

For existing plantations

The County of Simcoe (Forestry) has recently released *Modified Management Recommendations to Establish and Manage Red Pine Plantations* (appended) to help resource managers cope with red pine decline in county forests. These recommendations include testing soil pH to classify stands based on their risk of decline, monitoring stand health more often, especially after thinning, as well as implementing new tree marking standards aimed at balancing the objectives of minimizing financial loss, maximizing timber harvest, and gradually converting red pine stands to mixedwood forests dominated by tolerant hardwoods.

For new plantations

When selecting sites on which to establish new plantations, assessing soil pH and depth to the C horizon is critical to predict long-term forest health. Red pine should not be planted where the upper soil horizons are alkaline as it will begin to decline within 35 years. Acceptable sites for red pine are those with acidic-to-neutral C horizon pH and combined A and B soil horizons that are at least one metre deep.

Mortalité dans les plantations de pins rouges du Sud de l'Ontario : causes, conséquences et activités de gestion proposées

Les plantations de pins rouges, que l'on retrouve un peu partout dans le Sud de l'Ontario, montrent des signes de dépérissement et de mortalité accélérés. Les chercheurs ont estimé que les plantations des sites à l'alcalinité d'horizon C sont très vulnérables aux dommages causés par les agents pathogènes et les insectes. Un racinement moins profond sur ces sites rend les arbres plus sensibles au stress de la sécheresse, qui agit comme *facteur incitant* au dépérissement en diminuant leur capacité à se défendre contre les maladies des racines provoquées par des agents pathogènes ou des insectes comme les scolytes. Les plantations établies sur des sites à l'alcalinité d'horizons pédologiques A et B dépériront de façon probablement plus prématurée (avant que la plantation n'atteigne 40 ans) en raison d'une carence en fer, laquelle sera exacerbée par des étés chauds et secs. Des recommandations pour l'établissement et la gestion des plantations de pins rouges dans le Sud de l'Ontario sont fournies dans la présente note.

FREE
Admission



August 13 & 14, 2011

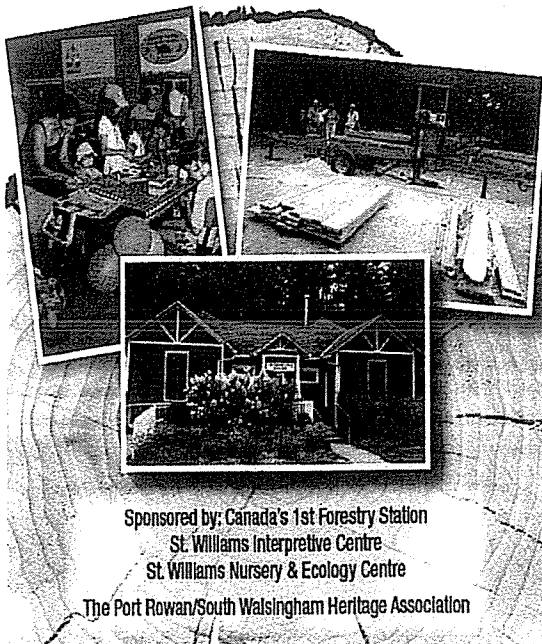
St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre

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- Interpretive Centre Tours



Sponsored by: Canada's 1st Forestry Station
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The Port Rowan/South Walsingham Heritage Association

Woodlot owners will find many exhibits of interest at the 2011 Forest Fest at the former St. Williams Forestry Station this summer. The family friendly event will "celebrate all things wood, featuring wooden boats". Many of the boats will be the traditional kind, that were made in Norfolk County from local woods, especially for use on Long Point Bay. Also there will be many woodcrafts on display and for sale and local forest products. There will be wagon rides, greenhouse tours of the St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre, the retriever dogs will be back; there will be chainsaw carving and a portable bandsaw mill. The A.L.U.S program will have bus tours of some of their projects. Several local produce sellers will show and sell their wares and food and refreshments will be available. There will be some forest trail walks and a demonstration of measuring standing trees. There will be a special children's program organized by "When Nature Calls"

Forest Fest is organized by the members of the Port Rowan / South Walsingham Heritage Association and the St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre. The goal is to help promote good land and forest stewardship and to instil an appreciation of the important role that Norfolk County played in the early days of conservation as displayed in the Forest Interpretive Centre on site.

Two events of far reaching Provincial significance will take place during Forest Fest 2011. The biography of Dr. Zavitz, written by Dr. John Bacher will officially be launched. Dr. Zavitz was the kingpin, who got the St. Williams Forestry Station and the reforestation program in Ontario started in 1908. The book "The Legacy of Dr. Zavitz: Two Billion Trees and Counting" describes some of the tremendous challenges the early conservationists had to overcome to turn the tide in Ontario. The book will be on sale at a special, discounted price of \$ 22.00 per copy, including taxes.

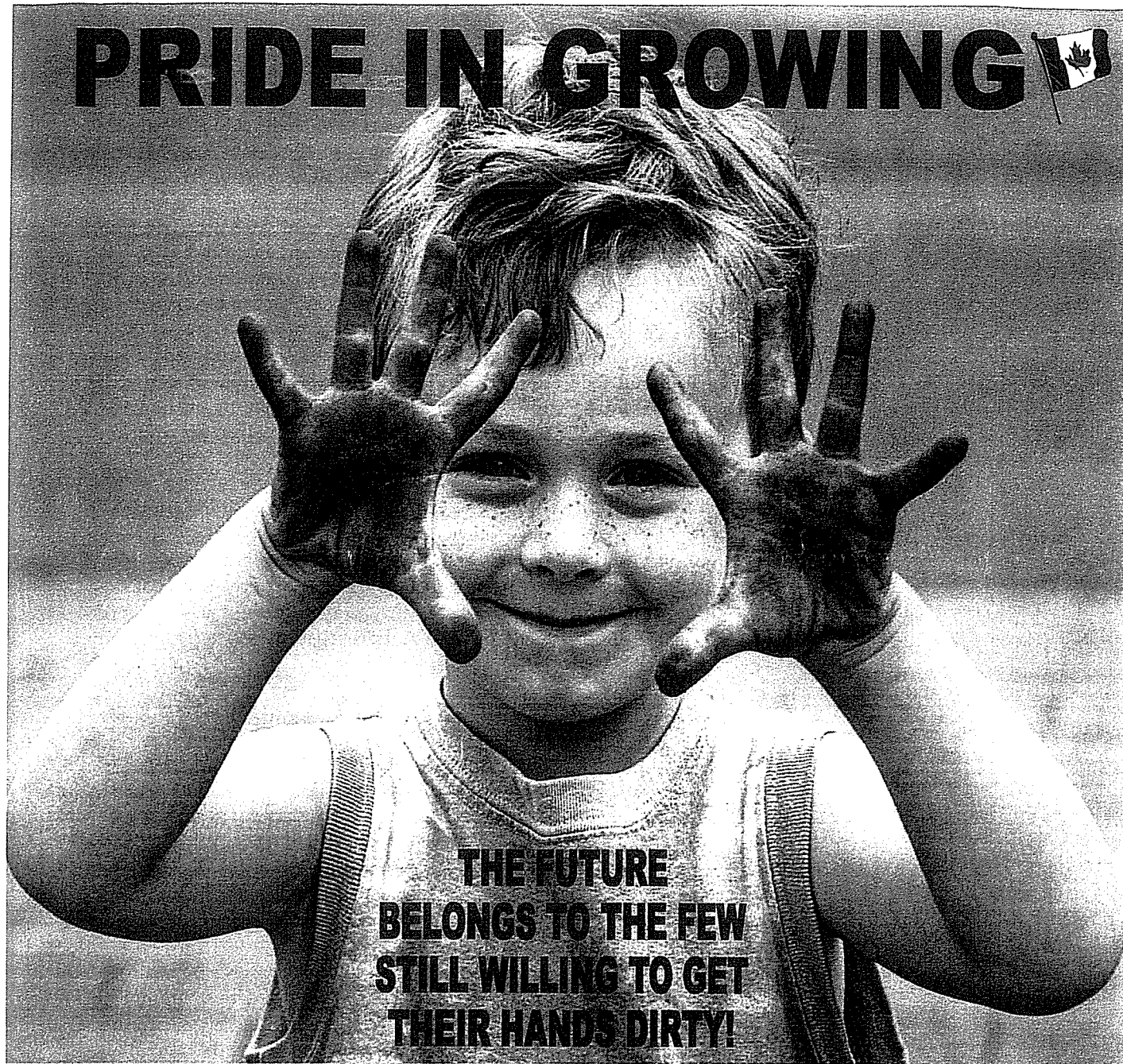
The other main event will be the unveiling of a new memorial to Dr. Zavitz, dedicating the forests of the St. Williams Conservation Reserve, surrounding the nursery to him. This ceremony will take place at 2:30 at the "old picnic grounds". After the ceremony at 3:30, the re-surrected plaque, dedicating the Turkey Point forests of the St. Williams Conservation Reserve to Dr. J.H.White, who although he was less known than Dr. Zavitz was responsible for designing many of the forests in that area, and as well did many years of field research as the first Canadian graduated forester and professor. The White ceremony will be held across the entrance of Turkey Point Park. Many citizens and organisations, including the Norfolk Woodlot Owners have donated to this project.

Woodlot owners who have some products or crafts which they would like to display or sell at Forest Fest 2011 are invited to call Rosemary Ryerse at 519 586 9018. Public admission will be free although a donation would be appreciated by the Heritage Association.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dolf Wynia 519 875 3350 wynia@kwic.com

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