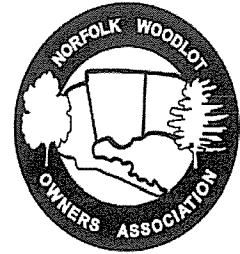


NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
www.norfolkwoodlots.com



Volume 8 Edition 14

October 2010

**PRESIDENT's MESSAGE by Angelle van Kleef**

October always seems to be a month with many exiting activities. The Norfolk County Fair sends out an invitation one cannot resist. To go out & experience everything good Norfolk County has to offer is realizing that we live in the land of plenty. & when the weather is cooperating the joy exponentially grows. As in years before NWOA was represented in the booth of Norfolk County, together with the ALUS project, Species at Risk, Norfolk Trails project, St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council & St Williams Nursery & Ecological Centre. Members of the NWOA as well as people from other organizations took turns in manning the booth & answering questions. I learned a few new things during my volunteer hours about Birds on the Farm & the importance of protecting & restoring habitat. That is something we all know is important. What I learned is how important it is to grow native plants in our gardens & flowerbeds to give insects & birds places to live & breed. Even to cut the grass a little higher helps. Those birds in turn eat so many insects that less chemicals need to be used in our environment. It is a critical balance we can all help to maintain.

The next exciting event is Thanksgiving Weekend. This is not only a time for giving thanks for all we may receive, but especially for the free country we may call our home. The bounty of our lands we use in our festive meals, with turkey mostly used. Many turkeys roam through our fields throughout the year & we don't easily think of those as we buy a bird fresh or frozen in the supermarket. But the reintroduction in Norfolk County of the turkeys in 1984 is a great example of restoring habitat & protecting wildlife. Our dish for Thanksgiving was deer, hunted in our own back yard by an avid bow hunter. He was very generous to share some of his game. A side dish on our table was slow baked puff ball mushroom presented by our neighbour across the road. We all enjoyed this treat sliced & baked in butter & garlic. When we enjoy some of this we understand it's value even better.

We can maintain a healthy forest by creating a Stewardship Plan for Natural Areas. This will give us tools to learn more about our forest & our objectives as landowner. Do we just appreciate nature? Do we want recreation opportunities? Do we want to give opportunity for wildlife to roam? Do we want to protect our environment? Do we want to harvest forest products? Do we want to invest in property? All these objectives are valid & everybody has different interests. In the coming year we are setting up a stewardship plan for our own forest. If you are interested more information is available in a publication called A Guide to Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas. This publication is available in the county office or during the AGM in February. You can also find it online at [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/Publication/MNR\\_E000231P.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/Publication/MNR_E000231P.html)

From time to time I will try to share our experience in setting up this plan. I hope it will inspire you to enjoy your natural resource even more.

## PROJECT 1:1

If each member of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association convinces ONE family member, friend or neighbour to join the NWOA we will reach our goal of representation of 80% of Norfolk's private forest lands!

**Working together we can benefit from what we learn from one another!**

# NORFOLK COUNTY ELECTION

~ Candidate's in their own Words!

Sent to all candidates on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) is a local group, representing 48% of the private woodlands in Norfolk County. With over 325 members the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association is an active advocate in partnership with a variety of local, provincial & federal agencies across Canada.

Our mandate is driven by our membership – & activities in any given year depend on the interest of the membership or the impending challenges woodlot owners face. From exploring the opportunities a woodlot owner has in managing their woodland for timber, fuelwood, biofuel or other agroforestry opportunities to advocating action by our various partners to protect & conserve all Norfolk's woodlands from a pending forest health threat – our role is as diverse as our membership.

The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association monthly circulates a newsletter to our members – & this newsletter is our main form of communication with our membership.

With the challenges & emerging opportunities we have & continue to face, ie: gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, biofuel, economic decline in our forest industry... the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association is offering to all those seeking election to local municipal office an opportunity to share with the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association membership your brief thoughts on the importance of our local woodland resources.

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**Question:**                      **Could you please discuss your position  
on the importance of conserving our woodlands?**

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Order of statements/comments is in order of Ward Numbers.

The NWOA made every attempt to contact all 24 candidates, including those that were acclaimed. It is important for all taxpayers to make informed decisions & participate in the election process! We hope this provides a small glimpse into the candidates & their views on conservation. Remember to vote!

**ELECTION DAY:**                      **Monday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

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**Dennis Travale                      Mayoral Candidate                      519-426-0112 / dmt@travale.com**

I extend thanks to the NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION for this opportunity to express my views as to why woodlots are an essential part of our ecosystem & heritage.

It is undeniable that woodlots provide a sanctuary for species (flora & fauna) of importance while, when managed appropriately, also provide revenue to supplement a farm income, & sustain the forest for future generations. Woodlots are an integral part of both private & public holdings to preserve certain species of tree, vegetation, animals, soils & water features (e.g. wetlands). Well managed woodlots also provide the logs for timber needed in industry - they are an important part of our larger economy, creating & sustaining employment.

Norfolk would not have been declared "Canada's Forest Capital" for two years running if it were not for privately managed woodlots.

**Clarence Wheaton**

**Mayoral Candidate**

**519-429-3210 / rcwheaton@eastlink.ca**

I must confess, I knew that there was a woodlot owners association as Steve Scheers has often spoke of the organization with me. I have viewed the website & to say the least am very impressed with the volume of information contained.

The Mission Statement is inspiring & gives me a sense of pride to know of the multitude of individuals & organizations involved, well done. Residents of Norfolk should be very proud of the work of your members as they oversee one of our greatest resources. To say the least, I am most impressed with what I have gleaned from your website & wish all your members & related organizations continued success & healthy trees for years to come.

I plan to visit your site in days to come to be informed of educational seminars & other events planned for the future. Everything that I have read is most encouraging to know that the future of our trees & woodlots of Norfolk are in good hands. The programs & services provided are most relevant & should be ongoing to future generations.

We are Norfolk are blessed abundantly by natures gifts & to have committed individuals to care for them. It is my understanding that Norfolk was named the forest capital of Canada recently, Congratulations Forest Guardians.

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**Betty Chanyi**

**WARD 1**

**519-586-7175 / bchanyi@live.ca**

I am a member of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners & I have attended the Annual General Meeting last year. I am chair of Canada's First Forestry Station - St. Williams Interpretive Centre, a past president of the Norfolk Field Naturalists, a director of the Long Point Basin Land Trust & a community member of the St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council which works with the Ministry of Natural Resources to manage the forests of the St. Williams & Turkey Point Tracts. I have helped to work on some restoration sites such as the Konrad property to help school children plant tree nuts, seeds & plugs. The Arthur Langford Reserve was the next restoration site I helped to plant.

I understand the importance of conserving our woodlands because of the balance it brings to life on earth. Woodlands provide the world with the oxygen we breathe, shelter for wildlife, food, fuel, lumber for our homes & so many other important elements of our lives. They are vitally important because they help to conserve water, hold soil in place which otherwise could erode from various natural phenomena & provide the natural beauty that so many people seek in Norfolk County.

Because Norfolk County is one of the rare gems that still maintains a significant forest cover & is a Carolinian life zone, many species-at-risk find homes in these woodlands. Some of those rarities are the blue spotted salamander, Louisiana water thrush, badger, hooded warbler, red-headed woodpecker, woodland katydid & bald eagles.

We must protect & manage our woodlands from threats by insects like the emerald ash borer, disease & invasives that impinge on the health of this Carolinian zone. Otherwise, we will end up losing our oaks, flowering dogwoods & white pines along with a host of others. Careful management practices & partnerships with Norfolk Woodlot Owners & County personnel like Steve Scheers are vital to maintain the health & well-being of our woodlands. When elected, I will be the voice of proper regard for woodlands, defend the rights of future generations that cannot, at present, defend their own interests to a healthy ecosystem & continue to work with the Norfolk Woodlot Owners.

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Some say we need to save the earth?

But is what we are all striving for is to save ourselves?

Without us the earth will still exist, albeit devoid of what man has destroyed?

Each of us has a role in conservation not only for our own sake but so our children can enjoy a better life than us - we are all very lucky our planet is so forgiving.

Evan Engell

WARD 1

519-586-8509 / [evan@nbcl.ca](mailto:evan@nbcl.ca)

I think conserving our woodlots is very important. They are assets & ought to be treated as such. I like the fact owners can choose how they want to manage their woodlots & they can expect professional assistance, through your organization & your partner organizations, to help them accomplish their objectives.

I was raised on the first farm south of the reforestry farm on Regional Road 16. I understand the importance of woodlots & how they impact wildlife, how they require on-going management & care, & how exposed they are to threats.

I see organizations like yours as a vital link between the actual woodlot management & Council.

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Stephana Johnston

WARD 1

519-586-9437 / [stephanajohnston@hotmail.ca](mailto:stephanajohnston@hotmail.ca)

As a member of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners' Association since I purchased ~ 65 acres of bush in 2005, I have attended every mtg of the association to learn how to use **best practices** in woodlot management from all the experts whom you have invited to speak. The few times I could not attend were those when I did not receive notice of the event before it took place. I know it is very challenging to get out a newsletter in a timely fashion with volunteers. So, thank you all for your commitment & dedication.

Since 2005, with the help of Steve Scheers & Paul Gagnon, I have planted ~ 4000 seedling trees which have grown to a healthy size & are helping to restore a connection for wildlife among the woodlots in the south part of Ward 2 where I own land in addition to my home property in Ward 1 where I am the proud owner of Norfolk's GREATEST Red Mulberry.

When elected to Norfolk County Council, I will continue to advocate on behalf of best practices in woodlot management & will consult with your Board of Directors regularly. Our combined efforts may result in a decadal designation of Norfolk as Forest Capital of Canada in 2018.

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Doug Moore

WARD 1

519-586-8374 / [doug.moore30@yahoo.com](mailto:doug.moore30@yahoo.com)

As a local ratepayer, I am fully aware of the importance of NWOA & the support they offer our local watershed. As a concerned citizen, all that we can hope for is that all woodlot owners follow proper forest management procedures. Managed properly, a woodlot can be harvested every ten years. The removal of mature trees promotes new growth & prevents wolf trees from developing, which inhibit any growth for generations to come. Inhibiting the growth of vines & other invasive species enhances the quantity & quality of any forest. Proper management has a reducing effect on erosion, improves wildlife habitat & the overall affect being totally beneficial to our environment.

With everyone's cooperation, the gypsy moth can be brought to a controllable level. The emerald ash borer must be made extinct by removing all ash trees & starting over with healthy stock that is available.

Everyone I know that sells firewood always runs out. If they have 100 face cord, they could have sold 200; & with \$10/cord being cheap, the additional income seems guaranteed. Because of the vast array of hard & soft woods in Norfolk, timber is an obvious source of revenue, some of this timber is very special & might be marked to specialty woodworkers & carvers. The best ways to handle a decline is to diversity.

The Endangered Species Act carries vast implications for all flora & fauna, but especially for the species that area endangered from the magnolia cucumber & butternut to red headed woodpecker & barn owl. Knowledge of this Act is vital & violations can carry heavy penalties.

The interdependency that exists between plants & animals is vast, fragile & for the most part, misunderstood. The best way for any landowner to help nature is to properly manage their forests & meadows. The areas are important to the local tourism & economy. Just as important as our conservation areas, heritage sites & provincial parks. Responsible landowners are the environments' best hope to improve & maintain the quality of our air, water & land.

**Roger Geysens**  
**ACCLAIMED**

**WARD 2**

**519-582-2439 / roger77@kwic.com**

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**Mike Columbus**  
**ACCLAIMED**

**WARD 3**

**519-582-2327 / michaelcolumbus@sympatico.ca**

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As with any organization like yours or that of any special interest group my policy after 25 years of serving as a municipal councillor is to: listen to all sides of the issue; consider all the alternatives; & then decide on the position to take.

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**Bill Culver**

**WARD 4**

**519-426-8174 / bnbculver@hotmail.com**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my views on the importance of our local Woodland Resource. First let me say Thank you to Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association & its current executive. The work the organization & it's volunteers do is both important & vital to the ongoing preservation of this natural resource.

I believe conserving & managing our woodlots is essential for many reasons some of which are: natural beauty; economic benefits – firewood & timber; environmental benefits- air quality, water quality; provides areas for our wildlife.

Properly managed woodland will provide not only a source of revenue but for many years to come will provide the future with ongoing renewable resource. This resource helps to ensure good air quality, water quality & provide habitat for wildlife & a natural cover to flourish.

I do believe, one item that is key to this is to develop a plan of forest management. As an individual you can enlist the services of a qualified technician to prepare a plan that will serve for several years.

We are lucky in our area to have several such individuals i.e.: Dave Holmes, Rick Lambert. I have personally used both these gentlemen & value their expertise & opinions. The plan also provides an overview of timber quantity & value. This assists the landowner if he so chooses to market the timber & fuel wood & receives fair market value.

As a natural resource a conserved woodlot provides a place for nature to flourish. Nothing is more enjoyable than a spring, fall, or winter walk through the woods. Summer would be great except for the Norfolk air force.

These woodlots being preserved by the conscious efforts of thee Norfolk Woodlot Association, Norfolk County, Long Point Conservation Authority & Ministry of Natural Resources provide our County with approximately 25% forest cover. This forest cover provides our residents & visitors an opportunity to enjoy an incredible natural resource & also provides income benefits.

I believe that through your organization & other agencies these woodlands can be & should be preserved & managed to allow this resource to live on for future generations.

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*Unfortunately the NWOA was not able to secure any submissions from the following candidate. We would encourage members to personally contact these candidates if they wish to discuss their positions.*

<b>WARD 1</b>	Ted Whitworth	519-586-3313	twhitworth@live.ca
<b>WARD 5</b>	Charles Jambor	519-426-7648	yardmarx@nornet.on.ca
	Brian Decker	519-718-3337	deckerforcouncil@live.ca
	Brendlee Engelhardt	519-428-0053	bengel@amtelecom.net
	Sharon Dove	519-428-1461	sharondove2010@yahoo.com
<b>WARD 7</b>	Mark Littlewood	519-443-8408	info@marklittlewood.ca
	Harold Sonnenberg	519-443-5616	
	Frank Nightingale	519-909-0722	megerty@kwic.com

**Jim Oliver**

**WARD 4**

**519-428-1297 / jimoliver@sympatico.ca**

Norfolk County is blessed with the greatest variety of flora & fauna of any region in southern Ontario . We are of course located in the heart of the Carolinian zone of Canada, & that is no accident. Our climate & soil conditions lend themselves to the growth of many tree species & associated forest plants. These habitats subsequently provide ideal homes for a diversity of mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, insect & other species. With a percentage of forest cover on the landscape of over 25%, Norfolk possesses a number of large woodlots that are big enough to provide the critical 'interior' habitat that is vital to many species of both animals & plants. Many of these same woodlots are the largest remaining examples of Carolinian forest habitat anywhere in Canada ! Thus our woodlots are important as genetic pools for a variety of species unique to our part of Ontario & Canada .

The number & significance of our publically-owned woodlots (LPRCA, MNR, Norfolk County & Nature Conservancy of Canada (not actually public, but still accessible to the public)) helps to make Norfolk County a destination for eco-tourists, which is important to our local tourism industry & economy. Norfolk residents as well value these locations for hiking, birding, hunting or simply revitalizing our spirits, when we have the time to enjoy them.

All of our woodlot areas, both large & small, play an important role in protecting & purifying our groundwater supplies, acting as natural filters for rainwater & runoff water entering the ground. This in turn is important for ensuring an adequate quantity & good quality of water supply for human & animal consumption & crop irrigation.

Many of our woodlots provide direct revenue sources for the owners, as species such as oaks, maples, ash & white pine are still sought after by both our local Norfolk County mills & others. There may even be potential for wood biomass to be part of the alternative fuel source solution for a refueled Nanticoke Generating Station after 2014, along with purpose-grown agricultural biomass (grass species).

It is vitally important for us to protect & conserve our woodlots for all of the above reasons, & no doubt more. They play an important part role in our economy, ecology & personal health & well-being. We in Norfolk County are the stewards of perhaps the most important forest resources in S-W Ontario . Norfolk County as a corporation, & the people of Norfolk themselves must continue to support those private landowners who own the forest tracts, we must recognize value the ecological goods & services that those woodlots provide to all of us, & we must respect the private property rights to which those landowners are entitled.

Our forest areas are increasing in number, size & significance & that is a good thing. Their continued management & conservation are important to all of us in many ways.

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**Peter Black**

**WARD 5**

**519-426-5036 / PeterBlack@kwic.com**

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts & feelings regarding Norfolk Woodlots. I worked at the St. Williams Tree Nursery in 1977 caring for trees used by the Province along provincial highways.

As a Norfolk County Councillor I worked with Steve Scheers the County Tree superintendent in protecting & managing the County woodlots for pest control, economic fibre & biodiversity. Also worked with Steve to ensure urban areas are not forgotten when planting trees in the Downtowns of Norfolk. I have been a member of the NWOA as a Councillor, Member of the St. Williams Crown Forest Steering Committee representing Norfolk County. Member of & former Vice Chair of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority that owns & manages some 9,000 acres of Carolinian Forest. Our forests are managed for many public benefits; wood fibre as revenue for the CA budget, hunting & fishing, wet land control, recreational trails, biodiversity, carbon sequestration & oxygen supply. We are lucky in Norfolk to have such a large percentage of forest coverage. An executive member of the Norfolk Field Naturalists. Currently President of the Long Point Region World Biosphere Reserve Foundation that originally secured funding from Ontario Power Generation to plant thousands of trees in Norfolk. Most recently we secured a three year contract for funding. We work with the Conservation Authority to provide these funds to them for the purchase & planting of trees.

Have planted hundreds of trees on my own rural property.

**Rick Kowalsky**

**WARD 5**

**519-426-0383 / rickkowalsky@bell.net**

I have always felt that the Woodlots of Norfolk County have added to beauty of the Counties Landscape, as well as provide a natural habitat for wildlife & plant vegetation. It is very significant that these woodlots should be maintained/managed so they will continue to provide ecological, economic, &/or recreational opportunities. Protecting & enhancing these woodlots is necessary for future generations to enjoy the way we can today.

The role of Municipal Government should be to assist private woodlot owners to achieve the goals I have just mentioned. As with so many "Natural Resources" today there are too many - to quick to overlook the significant beauty & benefit of those resources. We must be ever vigilant that one these resources are destroyed they are very difficult, if not impossible to replace.

It is gratifying to see Organizations such as yours & Provincial Organizations that continue to assist Woodlot Owners with the ongoing problems of disease & other challenges that face proper management of this most precious part of nature. We can hope that more & more people come to respect the benefit & beauty of the Landscape we are provided with in Norfolk County. Education is the key to success in accomplishing this, & must be a never ending, ongoing process to protect our resources for our children, & their children.

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**Charlie Luke**

**WARD 5**

**519-428-1385**

I believe that the preservation and conservation of woodlots in Norfolk is extremely important. Anyone taking a tour around the County can see that this County is blessed with prime agriculture land and beautiful woodlots. I supported and fought for County involvement in the spraying program of the Gypsy Moth as well as supported the by-law to not allow the transfer of firewood. I have attended several of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association's annual meetings and find them very informative. Good luck in the future, and if re-elected I will continue to recognize the importance of woodlot management in this County.

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**Chris Van Paassen**

**WARD 6**

**519-428-0448 / chrisvp@live.ca**

I thank you for the opportunity to explain my position on the importance of maintaining healthy forests in Norfolk. I would suggest that my long history of involvement & cooperation with the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association through LPRCA, the ALUS Program & Norfolk County's Agricultural Advisory Board speaks for itself. Please feel free to have your members contact me personally if they would like to discuss issues further. Thank you.

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**John Wells**

**WARD 6**

**519-583-2205 / jwells43@kwic.com**

This is my favorite time of the year. What a pleasure to drive around our county & be treated with such a thrilling array of colours. The reason for this treat is due to our past & present woodlot owners. Many thanks for sharing your assets with us, Our woodlots are in good hands. May future generations continue to share the fruits of your careful management of these resources.

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**Carol Dureault**

**WARD 7**

**519-428-9297 / cdureault@yahoo.ca**

As property owners, the woodlot owners have a great responsibility. I remember planting trees as a child when they came from Mount Forest. I remember dad complaining how we would buy 5-10 thousand trees a year at 2-5 cents each, to feed the mice. Now I look at the beautiful forest & remember our time together. We planted the trees for the future. He never personally profited, but the world did.

The public needs to realize that the forest is looked after by landowners. It is theirs. Your group is great, in that it helps protect the owners from businesses that may take advantage of the forests. A well managed forest can be harvested every 10-15 years. Habitat is preserved for all kinds of creatures. Eco-tourism ventures should be made easily attainable for those wishing to do so. Not unlike the farmer, the woodlot owner looks after their forest, or they wouldn't have one for long.

I am not sure of a solution for emerald ash borer. Gypsy moth is a continuing problem. Spraying seems to keep them at bay seasonally. I do see some problems as to how the spraying program has been carried out in the past. I would respectfully ask for your input on how the county could help. As you know, we have the highest percentage of forested area in Southern Ontario. No doubt it is because of efforts, of people like yourselves, & those before you. We are all richer for the resource you manage.

Kim Huffman

WARD 7

519-443-0174 / kah@rogers.blackberry.net

As a citizen of Norfolk I am very aware of the value & importance of our natural resources. As in any community private citizens, local, provincial & federal governments all need to work together to protect & preserve our valued resources.

There have been many challenges to woodlot owners in the past number of years. Some of these challenges are the gypsy moths & the emerald ash. Due to these issues there has been an impact economically to Norfolk woodlot owners. I feel that Norfolk County in conjunction with the ministries of Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources should continue to support the vision & mission of woodlot owners. The role that woodlands play in our environment is vital. The woodlands are an important part of our ecosystem. I think that it is important for woodlot owners to have access to scientific resources, financial resources & adhere to current by-laws. Changes to the guidelines to the protection of our bio-diversity & wildlife have meant stricter guidelines to private woodlot owners. It is crucial that owners adhere to sustainable forestry practices. It is also important that owners continue to increase their knowledge of new wood burning technologies. These new practices will aid our environment with cleaner air. However, the issue of bio-fuel can also be seen by some as a threat to our woodlands.

Woodlots support our local economy & they also provide opportunities for recreation. Woodlots need opportunities to safe & ecofriendly regeneration. It is beneficial to all citizens that there continues to be a framework in place for monitoring woodlots. I feel that the woodlots in Norfolk County are not only necessary but they are a part of our tradition & landscape.

As an elected councillor I will support local woodlot owners & assist them in gaining access to available funding. The enhancements that have been made to the Managed forest Tax Incentive Program have provided necessary benefits & I would continue to support this program.

In closing I feel that these natural resources are priceless & education to our community needs to be ongoing to protect their future.

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**NWOA Directors – 2010** \* year indicates the term the year expires at the AGM, the (number) indicates the number of terms served

Name	Position	Term *	Phone	E-mail
Dolf Wynia	Past President	2013 (2)	875-3350	<a href="mailto:wynia@kwic.com">wynia@kwic.com</a>
Angelle van Kleef	President	2013 (1)	428-1421	<a href="mailto:vankleef@kwic.com">vankleef@kwic.com</a>
Clen van Kleef	Vice President	2013 (1)	428-1421	<a href="mailto:vankleef@kwic.com">vankleef@kwic.com</a>
Eric Ferguson	Treasurer	2011 (1)	443-7928	<a href="mailto:emferguson@silomail.com">emferguson@silomail.com</a>
Martin Perrin	Secretary Website Ctte	2012 (1)	875-2481	<a href="mailto:mkperrin@kwic.com">mkperrin@kwic.com</a>
Mike Rothery	Secretary	2011 (1)	586-9535	<a href="mailto:wmrothery@hotmail.com">wmrothery@hotmail.com</a>
Garrett Reid	Director	2011 (1)	429-9288	<a href="mailto:garrettreid42@hotmail.com">garrettreid42@hotmail.com</a>
Vic Janulis	Director	2013 (1)	443-5828	<a href="mailto:vicj@kwic.com">vicj@kwic.com</a>
Joe Stechly	Director	2013 (1)	428-0374	
Tom Bradstreet	Director	2013 (1)	426-3405	<a href="mailto:tom.bradstreet@natureconservancy.ca">tom.bradstreet@natureconservancy.ca</a>
Kyle Racz	Director	2012 (1)	427-6010	<a href="mailto:friendlylumberjack@yahoo.ca">friendlylumberjack@yahoo.ca</a>
Paul Beischlag	Director	2012 (2)	426-8591	<a href="mailto:pbeischlag@hotmail.com">pbeischlag@hotmail.com</a>
Ron Tchorek	Director	2013 (2)	426-5708	<a href="mailto:tchorek@kwic.com">tchorek@kwic.com</a>
Mark Sommerville	St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council	Advisory	426-3762	<a href="mailto:markruth@flarenet.com">markruth@flarenet.com</a>
Tracey Boerkamp	Annual General Meeting Chairman	Advisory	443-8754	<a href="mailto:springview@simcom.on.ca">springview@simcom.on.ca</a>
David Reid Stewardship Co-ordinator	Norfolk Land Stewardship Council	Advisor	426-4259	<a href="mailto:dave.j.reid@ontario.ca">dave.j.reid@ontario.ca</a>
Steve Scheers Superintendent	Norfolk County Forestry Conservation Service	Advisor	426-5999	<a href="mailto:steven.scheers@norfolkcounty.ca">steven.scheers@norfolkcounty.ca</a>





# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

[www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com)

The Honourable Ms. Linda Jeffery  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Whitney Block, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 6630  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1W3

RR # 2, Langton ON, N0E 1G0  
March 10, 2010

Dear Minister Jeffery,

As President of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association I should like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources. Our organisation represents about 330 landowners owning approximately half of the private forest land in our County, which is often called "the Heart of Carolinian Canada". Our County is home to a large number of species at risk, as well as a wide range of important wood using industries.

Although traditionally the bulk of the work of your new ministry is in the northern part of the province, the contributions, which the private woodlands make to the provincial economy and the environment, are very important to all our citizens. In recent years involvement of your professional forestry staff with private land forestry practices has been drastically reduced, we believe to the detriment of all.

Many of our members are becoming increasingly concerned about the conflict between "Good Forestry Practices" and the minutiae of the regulations developing out of the "Species at Risk" legislation. Our board of directors, all of whom are committed to the objectives of the SAR legislation is worried that many of the regulations and especially the enforcement of them will have negative effects on the species of concern and also on the relations between the remaining OMNR staff and private land owners.

Unless trained, experienced staff is available for informal and short notice consultation on issues of concern to landowners and managers, many will become frustrated and negative towards the new SAR initiatives and resolve the issues on their own terms to their best advantage. Our reading of the SAR legislation leaves questionable room for compromise in the interest of all parties and we see no accessible authority to make relevant decisions in the field. The publication of draft regulations on an obscure website simply is not adequate.

At this point in time we see the resolution of the looming conflicts between private landowner interests and government environmental protection measures including the SAR legislation and the recent legislation controlling application of pesticides on non-farm land as your main challenges with respect to private land. The issue of the Emerald Ash Borer is also of great concern to us. Although our county staff has been pro-active in controlling the spread of the plague, we are all aware that this is only temporary under the present circumstances. We urge you to commit as many provincial resources as possible to initiatives protecting our ash resource as deemed feasible by your professional staff as in our county's case, ash constitutes an estimated 20% of our forest resource.

The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association will be glad to assist you in developing policies related to privately owned forests in Southern Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

Dolf Wynia, President Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

Cc Dennis Travale, Mayor, Norfolk County  
Cc The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario  
Cc Wade Knight, R.P.F. , Executive Director, Ontario Woodlot Owners Association

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association  
c/o Norfolk Forestry 95 Culver St. Simcoe, Ontario CANADA N3Y 2V5

**Ministry of Natural  
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Ontario

MNR4046MC-2010-481

**MAY 25 2010**

Dear Mr. Wynia:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter and your kind congratulations on my appointment. I have noted the Association's concerns about the impact of Ontario's Endangered Species Act (ESA) on private woodlot owners, and I am pleased to respond.

I am impressed by the Association's willingness to help find the best balance of achieving these important goals: protecting endangered species; encouraging sustainable forestry; and making a beneficial impact on local economies. I have advised Aylmer District Office staff to ensure that you and your Association are invited to any policy development session about matters related to privately-owned forests in southern Ontario.

Some municipalities, as well as individuals and companies involved in the forest industry, have questions regarding operations in areas protected by habitat regulations. Activities that do not damage or destroy protected habitat can continue, and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is working to develop guidance to help the industry with the certainty it requires for its planning needs.

There are staff at our Aylmer District Office who are available to provide advice and guidance to woodlot owners on species at risk and the ESA. I encourage you to contact District Manager Mitch Wilson at (519) 773-9241 or [mitch.wilson@ontario.ca](mailto:mitch.wilson@ontario.ca) regarding your concerns and the objectives of the legislation.

With regard to the emerald ash borer, my Ministry is working very closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which has the lead responsibility for this invasive species, as well as the Canadian Forest Service, municipalities, and many others who are dealing with this insect. To date, the MNR's efforts have included: scientific advice to the CFIA; ensuring federal regulations and surveys meet Ontario's needs; conducting surveys at high risk sites; assessing impacts; developing detection tools; registering an insecticide to inject into trees; developing long-term bio-control using parasites or diseases; and providing management advice, public information and education.

My Ministry is also leading the development of a federal-provincial Invasive Species Centre, now under construction in Sault Ste. Marie. The Centre will support research, operations and prevention programs for invasive species affecting forests and aquatic systems.

Mr. Wynia, thank you again for writing. I appreciate that you took the time to outline your concerns and indicate the Association's desire to help. If I can be of further assistance to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Jeffrey".

Linda Jeffrey  
Minister of Natural Resources

c: Premier Dalton McGuinty  
His Worship Dennis Travale, Mayor of Norfolk County  
Mitch Wilson, District Manager, Aylmer District Office