

President's Message Winter 2014

On March 5th we are looking forward to seeing you again at our 18th Annual General Meeting. This meeting is taking place in the Delhi German Home. It is always a great pleasure to see many of our members in person, to get a chance to talk to you and inform you with the latest that is going on in Norfolk County concerning wood and woodlots. And it is especially great that your board of directors who is organizing this event is supported by so many businesses and organizations. We value their contribution greatly. Their presence, the door prizes, the information booths and the information provided during the AGM are valuable for all of us.

This year our keynote speaker will be Josh Sayer. He will be talking about badgers. In Norfolk County badgers have been in decline. A program has started to learn more about these animals and Josh will tell us about this. Also we will hear from a local member who has had badgers on his property. We will also get informed about the latest that is happening in Forest Certification and other current topics.

During last year's AGM we encouraged you to plant an Eastern Flowering Dogwood tree on your property. As we later learned not all trees took off. If your tree did not come into leaf please let us know before the AGM. We will replace dead trees. Also we have a similar program to sell more Eastern Flowering Dogwood trees during this AGM. These trees can be picked up and planted later in the spring. We encourage you to support this program.

To keep our organization vital it is important to have new members registering. Our voting members are woodlot owners. We also value membership of associate members, people with a keen interest in wood and woodlots. If you have a friend or neighbour who may be interested in being a member we would like to register that person as a member. Additional registration forms are at the door during the AGM. Their information can also be sent to the NWOA c/o Norfolk Forestry, 95 Culver Street, Simcoe ON, N3Y 2V5.

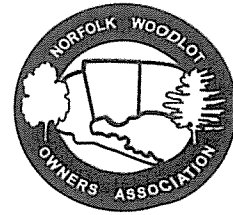
On Wednesday March 5, I hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting. Please don't hesitate to ask any question or bring forward any concerns. It will be our objective to find the right answer. If you have any suggestions or interests that you would like to learn about you can let me know by phone (519-428-1421) or by email (vankleef@kwic.com)
Angelle van Kleef

APOLOGY for CANCELLATION of Emerald Ash Borer Workshop at last minute due to a double booking at the Delhi Arena. Also for the email notice that was sent out where the addresses were not blind copied – sharing everyone's addresses to the membership – this was an oversight due the haste of trying to get the message out regarding the cancellation. It will not happen again as with the launch of the new website it will always blindcopy out messages to the entire membership. The meeting will be rescheduled once hockey playoffs for ALL Delhi teams are complete.

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 for 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 a chance at over \$ 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

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

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



A female badger with two kits near Simcoe, Ontario



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

Q. There is a recent report on the Internet that the cold winter temperatures have a silver lining: they will result in a substantial decrease in emerald ash populations by killing the overwintering larvae. Is this true for Ontario?

A. The cold winter temperatures experienced so far in Ontario in the range of emerald ash borer will have a minimal impact on larval survival. The temperatures are not cold enough to cause significant mortality. We can say this for several reasons:

1. Research led by Brent Sinclair at Western University shows that the insect's supercooling point is about -30C. That's the point at which half the larvae die. The temperatures have not reached that point. And even if they did, half the larvae would still survive.
2. Windchill makes us feel cold, but has no impact on the insect because it is protected under the bark of the tree. Therefore reports of windchill temperatures colder than air temperatures are not relevant, as the windchill does not affect the larvae sheltered under the bark.
3. The air temperature is not the same as the temperature under the bark. The bark insulates the larvae. The temperature under the bark is usually a few degrees warmer than the air temperature. Sun shining on bark helps to warm the trunk of the tree, making it warmer than the ambient air temperature. Also, the bark insulation slows down the rate at which temperatures drop. This gives the insect time during the day to adapt its physiology (see 6 below) to the cold. Therefore report of air temperatures do not necessarily reflect what is happening under the bark of the tree where it is likely to be warmer.
4. Snow insulates the larvae overwintering on the trunk at the base. Any larvae beneath the snowline are protected from the cold.
5. While experiments done to test cold tolerance are helpful in predicting what actually happens in nature, reality outside the lab is a better indicator. We know that the insect has been introduced to the Moscow region of Russia. It is much colder in Moscow than in Ontario. Studies in Russia show the insect is doing well in Moscow and is continuing to spread to surrounding areas. If the insect can thrive in Moscow winters, it can tolerate what it will encounter in most of Ontario. I had the opportunity to confirm this with a Russian colleague at the invasive species meeting we are attending in the US. His advice was this year's cold weather should not be expected to significantly impact EAB.
6. Emerald ash borer is most cold tolerant in January and February. This is because the insect has had several weeks of increasingly cold weather. This progressively cold weather allows the insect to acclimatize to resist the cold by producing its own internal anti-freeze (glycerol and sugars that lower the freezing point of liquid water inside the insect) and proteins that bind with water and interrupt the formation of ice crystals. Had the cold weather we are experiencing in January occurred in October or November, it might cause more mortality because the insect wouldn't have had time to adapt to the cold. But the cold weather is occurring when the insect is most tolerant to the cold.



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

Q2: But there is a report quoting research out of Minnesota that they think the cold will kill off the beetle. Why are you saying something different from what they are saying?

1. The work done in Ontario by the University of Western Ontario and the Canadian Forest Service was conducted with very high rigor. It has been published in peer-reviewed journals that are considered to be premier journals with very high standards. The Ontario work was done in the actual winter, in the cold-tolerant period of January and February. The Minnesota work is based only on lab studies, not field assessments, and it was done during the period from October to December. This is the time when the insect is not as cold tolerant as it is in January and February. It is risky to predict cold tolerance in mid-winter based on data from the mid to late fall. The data from the Ontario studies are much more reliable predictors of cold tolerance. The information from Russia backs this up.
2. The Minnesota report suggests the supercooling point (i.e., the temperature at which half the larvae die) is about -25C, rather than the -30C from the Ontario research. The range at which emerald ash borer exists in Ontario did not get to -25C. Even if windchill makes it feel colder to us, this is not relevant. It's the temperature under the bark that determines exposure and winter survival. And even if it did get to -25C, and even if this was the actual supercooling point rather than the accepted level of -30C, half the larvae would still survive.
3. This subject was discussed today at an invasive species meeting in Annapolis, Maryland. The consensus among the emerald ash borer researchers was that the cold weather is unlikely to significantly impact emerald ash borer winter survival. It would be great if it did. But it would be misleading for us to count on the weather of winter 2013-14 to help us in the battle against emerald ash borer. There may be some impact, but is likely to be minimal. Ontario's forest health monitoring program will continue to track the insect in Ontario and report on the impacts of the insect on the health of our forests. This will allow us to confirm whether the cold temperatures have had any impact on the survival of the emerald ash borer larvae.

WHAT ABOUT GYPSY MOTH?

Climatic factors such as temperature may influence Gypsy moth populations. The severity of cold during the winter can have an impact on the survival of Gypsy moth eggs. A temperature of -20°F is lethal to overwintering eggs. Eggs that are laid higher up on the bark of trees suffer higher mortality than eggs located near the ground. This probably has to do with the amount of soil warmth and snow cover. Snow acts to insulate eggs from cold temperatures.



Norfolk County Forestry staff will be sampling in March exposed egg masses to see what the mortality rate is due to this year's cold spell. Unfortunately until ground surveys can be done they will not be able to estimate the overall impact of cold weather, if any.

If you have had noticeable gypsy moth defoliation in your woodlot last year please contact Norfolk County Forest Division at 519-426-5999 ext 2217 – as they will be undertaking strategic sampling in partnership with LPRCA once all this snow disappears.

NEWS FROM THE WOODS

Articles reprinted with permission from the Orilla Packet and Times



Forests in jeopardy

Written By:

Dave Dawson Thursday, October 3, 2013

Editor's Note: All over Simcoe County, on tracts of private land big and small, trees are facing an uncertain future. Many worry the landscape will change forever. In this three-part series, we explore the issue, examine the history and heritage of this beloved natural resource and take a peek at what the future might hold.

Simcoe County is located in central portion of Southern Ontario, Canada. The County is situated just north of the Greater Toronto Area stretching from the shores of Lake Simcoe in the east to Georgian Bay in the west. Simcoe County forms part of the Greater Golden Horseshoe area, a densely populated and industrialized region centred around the Greater Toronto Area.

Simcoe County landscape is very similar to Norfolk County – they too had a dust bowl scenario with the indiscriminate removal of forest cover followed by widespread reforestation efforts to stabilize the blowing sands.

Driving around winding county roads in his weary pickup, a disappointed Doug Drysdale pulls to the side of the road and earnestly points at a slowly decaying stand of white pine. "Look at that. What a mess," he says, his voice heavy with regret. "Nobody has touched that tract of land for years."

It's a story that plays itself out time and time again as many of the once-majestic forests that have defined the Simcoe County landscape become tangled havens for tall and spindly trees, victims of decades of neglect by private landowners who, as the old adage goes, cannot see the forest for the trees.

The trees, on patches of private land from Severn Township, in the north end of Simcoe County, to New Tecumseth, in the south, are suffering from overcrowding and, in Drysdale's learned opinion, will "inevitably be devastated by the next ice storm or ... snapped off by the next heavy snowfall. Such weak and seriously stressed trees are also more susceptible to ... insect and disease attack."

For Drysdale, a retired professional forester, a pioneer in the once-proud profession and owner of Drysdale's Tree Farm, the situation is dire and will have a far-reaching impact on both the region and its residents for generations to come. Worst of all? It's entirely preventable, he says.

"I am disappointed in my generation that we have ended up in this situation," said Drysdale, who worked with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests from 1957 to 1972 and worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources from 1972 to 1989.

For Drysdale and his ilk, history should have proven a better educator.

In the late 1800s, the indiscriminate axe of the lumberjack slashed through the region's forests, uprooting trees with nary a thought of tomorrow. What was left was set afire and left to burn until all that remained was a scarred, barren plain.

The blood-red fires from those careless days were the clarion call to action for many — including E.C. Drury, a longtime Simcoe County farmer and politician. "I can remember the night skies red with such fires — at Midhurst and Anten Mills and Orr Lake," Drury once recalled.

Forests in jeopardy (continued)

It was that memory, seared into his consciousness, that sparked a new vision for Drury, who would become Ontario's eighth premier in 1919.

With one eye on the past and one eye on the future, he used his new position to help establish the 'Agreement Forest' program. Under this unique concept, local governments could purchase lands and turn them over to the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests for protection and development.

Simcoe County was the first to take advantage of this program and on May 8, 1922, the first trees were planted in the new Hendrie tract in Vespra Township. The Simcoe County Forest was born.

Over the next five years, more than 1.3 million trees were planted there. Today, it remains a lasting tribute to the foresight of those early pioneers in forestry.

Hand in hand with that groundbreaking program that saw more than 10 million trees planted in Simcoe County forests by the mid-1950s, the provincial nursery in Midhurst handed out tens of thousands of seedlings that children, predominantly, took home and planted on family farms and in residential neighbourhoods all over the region.

Today, generations later, many of those lands have changed hands, having been passed from one owner to another. Over time, the importance of those trees has largely faded; most have been forgotten, left to age on their own like a once-loved car, abandoned, rusting and rotting on the side of the road.

"These trees were grown in plantations which were carefully and properly established back in the 1920s, '30s & '40s on privately owned land and lovingly protected and tended by their original owners," said Drysdale. "Unfortunately, they have received little or no care or attention since that time."

At his own sprawling tree farm, Drysdale points out healthy, soaring 100-foot-high red pine trees that are about 80 years old. Some are marked for thinning — a process that happens about every eight years to ensure the trees have room to grow.



He likens it to weeding a garden; if you don't tend to a garden regularly, it quickly becomes an overgrown mess, he says, noting the same is true of a forest.

"If you ignore them, over time, they'll collapse," said Drysdale, 81. "There will be no revenue and a natural resource will be wasted. It shouldn't happen."

Just as regrettably, Drysdale laments, nobody seems to care. Who is going to step up and dare to change a destiny that seems set in stone? And why should you care?

PHOTO: With calipers in hand, Doug Drysdale of Drysdale Tree Farm, works a small forest of red pines. Some of the trees will be removed to make way for younger, stronger trees. Drysdale has always understood the importance of proper forest management and worries an important resource could be lost.



NEWS FROM THE WOODS

Articles reprinted with permission from the Working Forest

REALLY I CAN'T USE THE WOOD?

Over the next decade, the city will chop down thousands of healthy ash trees because of the deadly emerald ash borer. Nick Hamilton Holmes wants to make furniture with some of them, but the city says no.

The Kirkendall neighbourhood furniture maker wants to make the most of a bad situation and not see the wood go to waste. He envisions hearty frames for art and pictures, or solid chairs made with the ash wood.

So far, his attempts have led to bureaucratic roadblocks. While cities across North American are finding creative ways to use the felled trees, Hamilton is not one of them.

Holmes contacted the city last fall to ask for some of the ash wood. The city will spend \$26.2 million over 10 years to chop down nearly every ash tree it owns, resulting in 22,738 trees lost to the invasive species.

First, staff told him the trees are chopped into wood chips, which are then given out to the public. But larger trees would be difficult to chip, Holmes countered. And it would be a waste of good wood. Could he get some and mill it himself?

Needs \$2 million in insurance: City staff told him that he couldn't buy the wood from the city, nor could he enter the lot and pick it up for free without \$2 million in insurance coverage.

It's frustrating, he said. Making beautiful furniture from the wood helps ease the pain of losing the trees. And with an increasing interest in local products, he believes there's a market for it.

"If the wood comes from their city, made by someone in their city, it becomes exciting for people," he said.

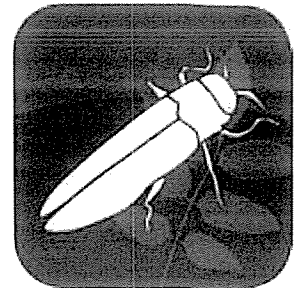
What to do with felled ash borer wood has been an issue for every area touched by the pest. In Illinois and Michigan, state and federal governments spend money to find creative ways to use the lumber.

In Illinois, where the borer hit more than 10 years ago, the Emerald Ash Borer Wood Utilization Team has held furniture shows to showcase ways to use ash. It has also partnered with a college furniture-building program.

Making baseball bats for kid: One small town mayor felled an ash tree and made baseball bats for a Little League team, said Edith Makra, chair of the utilization team. These uses soothe the loss of precious tree canopy, Makra said. "People are upset about losing trees in high numbers, and seeing the trees used for something good takes a little of the sting away."

In Hamilton, Davey Tree Service has a contract for \$12.44 per centimetre to remove the tree and dispose of the wood, said Mike McNamara, the city's director of forestry services.

Davey chips the trees and sends them back to the city yard, where they're distributed for free for mulch.



Inventive Ways to Salvage Value from Ash Trees Destroyed by Emerald Ash Borer

Toronto holds an ash design competition: The city hasn't thought much about what to do with the ash wood, nor has it budgeted for it, McNamara said. And it doesn't have the staff to deal with wood requests. In Toronto, woodworkers access city wood from a depot. The city also contributed trees for a woodshop competition at IDEX Canada in September. Fifteen designers used doomed ash trees to make end tables, coffee tables and other furniture, said Josh Brasse, competition organizer. Some of them are being mass-produced now.

"Part of what we were trying to do is raise awareness of the ash borer infestation and the consequences of it all," he said.

The infestation has resulted in a sudden surplus of ash, Makra said. And there are no easy answers.

The rough life of a city tree: Urban trees have rough lives, she said. "They get hit by cars. They have garage sale signs nailed to them." But recent studies show that at least 40 per cent of urban trees contain salvageable lumber.

And as the trees pile up, chipping only goes so far, she said. In Illinois, "we now have more chips than anyone can get rid of anymore."

"Most municipalities want to see the material reused even if it costs them a little bit extra to get it to sawyers."

Holmes still wants to make furniture from local ash trees. In the meantime, he's focusing on other projects.

"I just wanted to have an open discussion with anyone about it, and I just kind of got 'We don't really do that.'"

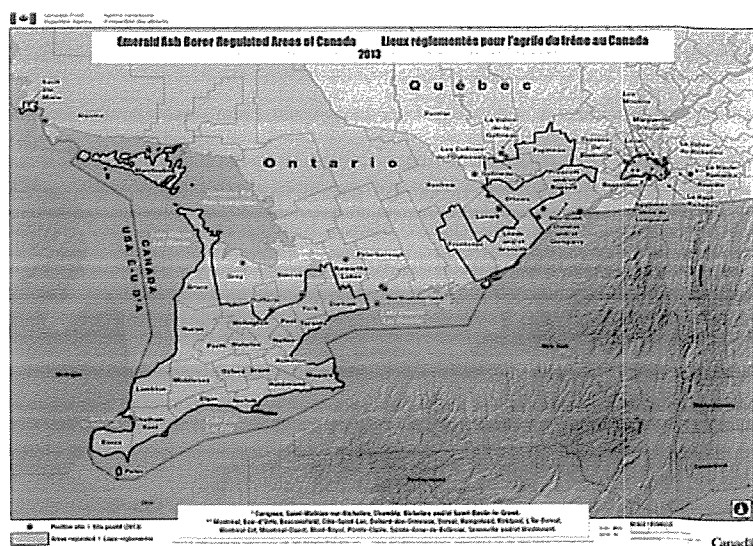


Areas Regulated for the Emerald Ash Borer

**BURN LOCAL WOOD ...
PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
INVASIVES!!**

**EMERALD ASH BORER IS
ONLY ONE FOREST
HEALTH THREAT THAT
CAN HITCH A RIDE WHEN
FOLKS MOVE WOOD
AROUND.**

CAN YOU NAME OTHERS?



Salamanders predict forest health

Salamander population size helps predict health of forest ecosystems and inform forest management decisions, a study finds.

WOODBUSINESS by Jeff Sossamon | Jan 2014



Jan. 22, 2014, Columbia, Mo. – Woodland salamanders are small, lungless amphibians that live in moist, forest habitats throughout the U.S. and the world. Salamanders often serve as vital links in forest food chains; their population size and recovery from major disturbances can help predict the health of forest ecosystems. Now, researchers at the University of Missouri have determined that salamander population size reflects forest habitat quality and can predict how ecosystems recover from forest logging activity. MU researchers believe these findings can be translated to other species within forest ecosystems throughout the world.

"One of our primary interests is in conservation of amphibians and the habitats that they utilize," said Ray Semlitsch, Curators' Professor of biological sciences in the College of Arts and Science at MU. "We are trying to understand how land use, and particularly forest management, affects the survival of amphibians on the landscape. We also determined that salamander recovery—or the amount of time it takes for salamanders to repopulate a cut forest area—can help forest managers determine appropriate logging schedules."

Semlitsch and fellow researcher, Grant Connette, a graduate student in the Division of Biological Sciences, chose to study a forest area in the southern Appalachian Mountains that has the highest diversity of salamanders in the world. Although seldom seen in the daytime, these animals breathe using their wet skin and forage at night. The researchers conducted surveys of terrestrial salamanders, which don't rely on water or streams, to examine patterns of their abundance relative to timber harvest and species movement behaviour. They discovered that forests logged more than 100 years ago may still be affecting salamanders today.

"Most conservation biologists study the pattern of change within a species—for example, how they decline or how they recolonize after a major event," Semlitsch said. "Our lab takes it a step further by seeking to understand the causes of species decline. We're finding that population fluctuations depend on the animal's behaviour, like their ability to disperse, following a major event like logging a forest and can last for many years."

Roughly half of all forest area in the United States is on public land, where modern forest management increasingly uses alternatives to clear-cutting. These techniques include limiting the size of logged areas and maintaining large areas of forest at highly mature stages, which may prove less disruptive to wildlife than clear-cutting. Semlitsch hopes to help find the balance between the economics of using natural resources and conservation and hopes to share this information with forest managers so they can make informed decisions about conservation and biodiversity.

Their research, "Life history as a predictor of salamander recovery rate from timber harvest in southern Appalachian forests, U.S.A." was published in Conservation Biology and graduate student support was funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Semlitsch also wishes to recognize the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service in this study.



NWOA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER!!
YOU & YOUR NEW MEMBER ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL DRAW!!

NWOA MEMBER (SPONSOR)	
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Name:		Status	NEW MEMBER
Address:		Postal Code	
Phone:		Fax:	
E-Mail:			

Please answer all questions fully.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY	REGULAR MAIL	EMAIL	
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Do You Own a Woodlot?	NO	ASSOCIATE MEMBER	
	YES	FULL MEMBER	
IF YES ~ IS IT A FARM WOODLOT?	YES	NO	Verified Office Use Only

WOODLOT LOCATION	Former Township	Lot	Conc.	Size (acres)

Please send payment to: NWOA c/o Norfolk Forestry 95 Culver St. Simcoe, ON N3Y 2V5
Membership Fee – 2014 - **\$25.00** (Cheques payable to NWOA)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY MARCH 5th, 2014
DELHI GERMAN HALL, Delhi ~ Displays: doors open 5:00 pm General Meeting: 7:00 pm

Receipt

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

MEMBERSHIP FEE \$ _____

FULL	Verified Office Use Only
ASSOCIATE	Verified Office Use Only

NEW MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE PROVIDED

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Rec'd by: _____

Thank you for your support!