

Train Them when They are Young by Dolf Wynn, President

Many of our members have young plantations of trees. Although we all know that these are not going to make us rich, it is worthwhile to check every once in a while to see how our young trees are growing up so that whomever owns our property many years hence, will have a stand of value, worth paying the taxes on. Once the trees are up and the overhead canopy is closing there is usually not much that we can do to correct them, but when the tops are at eye level we can help them. Now is a good time to take a walk through our plantations with a pair of strong pruners. Our main task is to prevent "double leaders". This is a defect, which will seriously impact the future value of our trees. It is quite surprising how some trees will respond and "straighten up" after the removal of competing leaders.

"Multiple leaders" are particularly problematic in White Pine trees that were attacked by the White Pine Weevil in previous years. That weevil bores into the leading shoot of a young white pine tree and lays its eggs there. The result is that several lateral shoots will take over as leaders and an unpredictable defect is formed on the main stem, usually leading to a valueless tree. You can spot the feeding of the larvae through the resin that exudes from the shoot and later on from the drooping tips of the leading shoot. The female weevils are laying their eggs at this time of the year and you may spot them walking around the tips of the white pine trees. When you know that you have feeding weevil larvae, the best thing is to cut and burn the affected shoot and select a new leader from the whorl of branches that are left. You may be surprised how some trees will straighten up. If you remove the infected shoots before the larvae leave them, you will reduce the chances of having the same problem next year because the weevils do not like flying very far.

The late frost of the spring of 2009 caused a lot of my Red Pine trees to form multiple leaders when their terminal shoots were damaged. We had to do "corrective pruning" on more than 80% of our trees. Our Norway Spruce was also affected and many of our European Larch had to start all over again, but surprisingly they mostly formed good leaders for this year.

Monday June 14th, 2010 TIME: 7:00 PM TWILIGHT TOUR

Plantation Management Workshop if members have insect or disease problems or questions they could bring a sample (well secured, to avoid spreading it) to the meeting and we may be able to identify it.

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!



WOODN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW.....SPECIES @ RISK

In our last newsletter the NWOA indicated the struggle the executive is having in how best to inform our members of the Ontario Species at Risk legislation, how we can engage members to help conserve and protect Species at Risk, and how such new and evolving regulations may impact or compliment private land management.

The executive will be meeting with an independent SAR specialist in the next month and this may provide a greater insight into the legislation and regulations and more importantly, how woodlots owners can leverage the resources in the Act for assistance with conserving SARs on private land.

The plan remains that this would culminate in a Norfolk County Species at Risk information session mid-fall. If you have any specific questions please forward them to one of the Directors – as the goal of this series of articles is to both educate and create discussion.

Q1. What Species at Risk are found in Norfolk County?

Species	MNR Status	Habitat	More Prevalent to Observation in NWOA Woodlands
American Chestnut	Endangered	Woods	X
American Ginseng	Endangered	Woods	X
American Waterwillow	Threatened	Wetlands	
Barn Owl	Endangered	Barns	
American Badger	Endangered	Open Fields	X
Bird's-foot Violet	Endangered	Open Areas	X
Blanding's Turtle	Threatened	Wetlands/Travel Corridors between wetlands	X
Cucumber Tree	Endangered	Woods	X
Eastern Flowering Dogwood	Endangered	Woods/Edges	X
Eastern Foxsnake	Endangered	Drains and other Anthropogenic Features	X
Eastern Musk Turtle	Threatened	Aquatic	
Eastern Pondmussel	Endangered	Aquatic	
Fowler's Toad	Threatened	Lake Erie Edges	
Gray Ratsnake	Endangered	Forests	X
Horsetail Spike-rush	Endangered		
Jefferson Salamander	Threatened	Vernal Pools/Forest	X
King Rail	Endangered	Wetland	
Large Whorled Pogonia	Endangered	Hardwoods	
Least Bittern	Threatened	Wetland	X
Prothonotary Warbler	Endangered	Forests	X
Queensnake	Endangered	Cliffs/Aquatics	
Round-leaved Greenbrier	Threatened	Open hedgerows/sometimes interior	
Small White Lady's Slipper	Endangered		
Snuffbox	Endangered	Aquatic	
Spiny Softshell	Threatened	Shores/Rivers	
Spotted Turtles	Endangered	Wetlands	
Spotted Wintergreen	Endangered	Forests	X
Virginia Goat's Rue	Endangered		
Wavy-rayed Lampmussel	Endangered	Aquatic	

* Note: This list does not include Species of Special Concern or Observations older than 20 years.

NWOA Directors – 2010

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

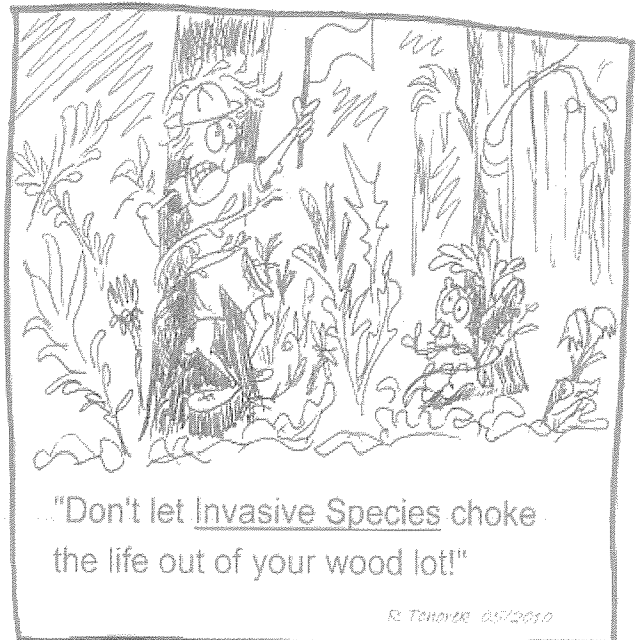
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Joe Stechly	Director	2013 (1)	428-0374	
Tom Bradstreet	Director	2013 (1)	426-3405	tom.bradstreet@natureconservancy.ca
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Tracey Boerkamp	Annual General Meeting Chairman	Advisory	443-8754	springview@simcom.on.ca
David Reid Stewardship Co-ordinator	Norfolk Land Stewardship Council	Advisor	426-4259	dave.j.reid@ontario.ca
Steve Scheers Superintendent	Norfolk County Forestry Conservation Service	Advisor	426-5999	steven.scheers@norfolkcounty.ca

FOREST FUNNIES



As Minister of Natural
Resources I'm warning
you - loggers,
protesters, picnickers....
**KEEP YOUR HANDS
OFF THE DAMN
TREES!**

FOREST GRUMP



INVASIVE PLANT:

An invasive plant is one that has been moved from its native habitat to a new area (possibly for garden/domestic use), and reproduces so aggressively that it displaces species within native plant communities, the result being economic, ecological or social disruption.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Monday June 7th, 2010 TIME: 7:00 PM

TWILIGHT TOUR

Invasive Species - as close to your backyard

Learn more about identifying invasive species and options for landowners.

Directions: 399 Norfolk St S Simcoe (Hwy 24 South) on east side (north of Evergreen Hill Rd)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE WORKSHOPS CONTACT: Dave Reid ~ NWOA Advisor 519-426-4259



Monday June 14th, 2010 TIME: 7:00 PM

TWILIGHT TOUR



Plantation Management Workshop

Hurdles and commitment ~ what you need to do to ensure your plantation achieves your objectives.

Directions: Highway 59, turn west on County Rd 45, turn south on West Quarter Line ~ 1431 West Quarter Line North Walsingham.

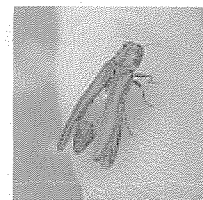
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE WORKSHOPS CONTACT: Dolf Wynia – NWOA President – 519-875-3350

Monday June 28th, 2010 TIME: 7:00 PM

TWILIGHT TOUR

Emerald Ash Borer ~ See the bug in action!

As the bug will be in full flight and exit galleries will be visible – now is the best time to see the bug for yourself and learn how you can assist in monitoring its spread. Management options and the County's response will also be discussed.



Directions: Turkey Point Rd south of Hwy 24. On east side of road Long Point Waterfowl Research Centre 546 Turkey Point Road (County Rd 10)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE WORKSHOPS CONTACT: Amanda Dooney, Norfolk County 519.426-5999 x 2245

Don't Move Firewood

Buy Local!





Garrett Reid's Notes from Eco-Adventures Tour

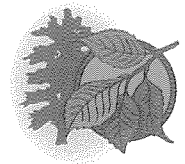
About 25 people showed up on Sunday March 28th for the *tree identification workshop* put on by NWOA and Long Point Eco Adventures (LPEA). The weather was less than inviting as it was raining and we may have got more people if it was fair. The tour started with a brief introduction and explanation of what we would be doing, incorporating some facts and information about LPEA.

We started inside the main building and talked about the observatory, the kayaking, canoeing and how LPEA was opening a new night time zip lining program. On the tour/workshop we walked from tree to tree, identifying different Key I.D. features that help one figure out the variety of species. For example, comparing opposite branching vs. alternate branching, looking at the terminal buds and identifying differences in bark patterns.

Lasting just under a full 2 hours the group was led around the outskirts of the property over looking the Turkey Point marsh and continuing on into the St. Williams crown forest on the maintained walking trails. As we walked along the board walk the group had a chance to see and read some of the plaques that tell about the area and marsh, one of the more interesting ones tells a story of the marsh being used as a bomb range in WWII. Some of trees covered in the tour were ashes and maples, red oaks, white oaks, American Beech, Black Cherry, and Yellow Birch. Some of the more Carolinian trees also covered were Sassafras, and Hackberry. We tried to cover more of the basic trees as there are way too many different species here in Norfolk to wrap your head around in just 2 hours.

At the end of the tour everyone walked back to main building to get out of the rain. There was a draw for a free zip line pass and/or a big creek canoe tour one of the NWOA members won.

All together the tour went fairly well considering the weather and I hope to get the same turn out or bigger for the Summer Tree I.D. workshop in August.



NORFOLKs SPECIES @ RISK Eastern Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Status: Endangered Nationally – Norfolk County's Flower

Features: The Eastern Flowering Dogwood is a shrub or small (5-10m) tree with a layered branching pattern. Like most dogwoods, it has simple, opposite leaves. The inflorescence, which appears in spring, is composed of large showy white floral bracts that surround the tiny yellowish flowers. A tree of the understorey, it prefers borders of woodlands and sunny openings. It is used as an ornamental landscape tree.

Range: Eastern Flowering Dogwood occurs in eastern North America, ranging from Massachusetts to southern Ontario and Michigan, south to eastern Texas and Mexico, and east to Florida, with two disjunct populations in Mexico. The range of Eastern Flowering Dogwood in Ontario is limited to the Carolinian Zone, a narrow band in southwestern Ontario, extending from the south eastern shore of Lake Huron, south eastward to the west end of Lake Ontario.

Threats: The spread of dogwood anthracnose disease (caused by an anthracnose fungus), has caused dramatic declines in the Canadian populations of Eastern Flowering Dogwood. This reflects similar declines throughout the species' range in eastern North America. Western populations of the related species, Pacific Dogwood are also affected by the disease. The origin of the pathogen has not been established, but it is suspected of being introduced from overseas. The presence of the disease in Ontario had been suspected since the mid 1990s, and it was confirmed in 1998. It has caused extensive loss of both wild and ornamental Eastern Flowering Dogwoods.

Protection: A number of jurisdictions are reviewing the status of this species due to its drastic recent decline. In the United States, there are several government programs designed to control the disease.

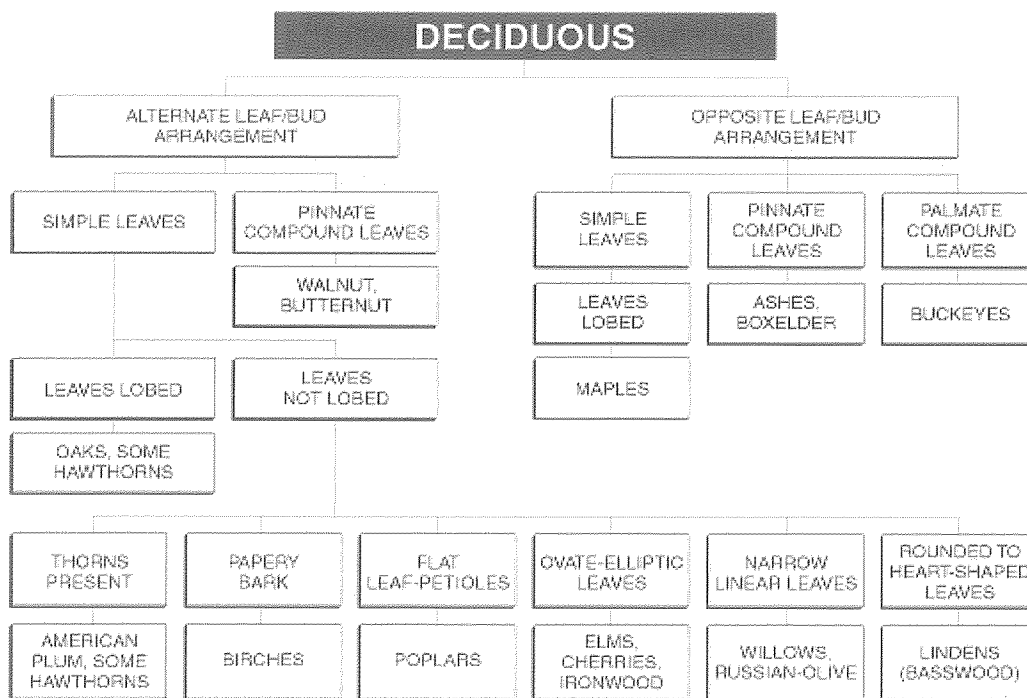
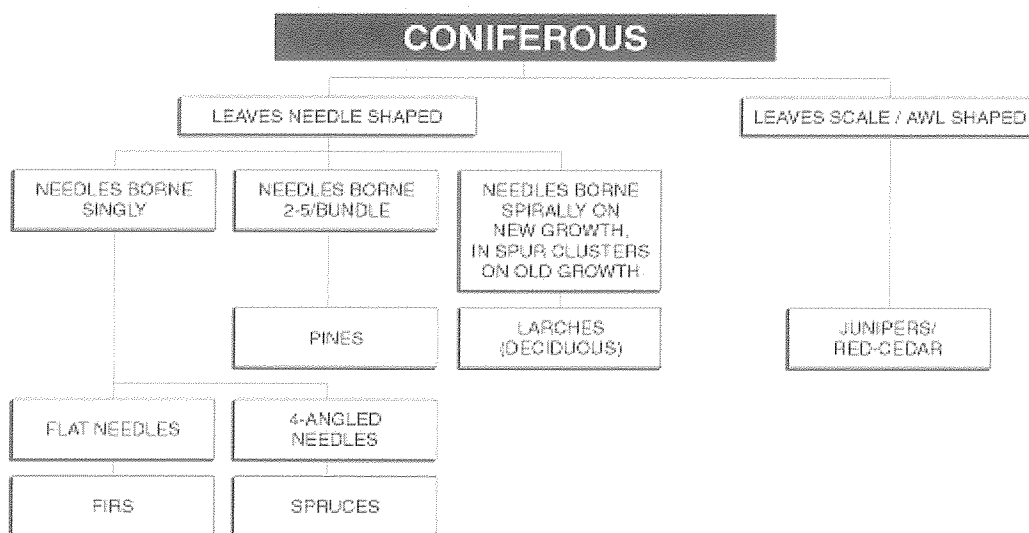


What is a dichotomous key?



A dichotomous key is one tool that can be used to identify trees. This type of key is also used for flowers, animals, rocks, fish, and more! A dichotomous key contains a series of choices that lead the user to the correct name of an item. "Dichotomous" means "divided into two parts." Therefore, a dichotomous key will always give two choices in each step.

Tree Identification Keys



Are you enrolled in the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program?

If yes, did you know changes have been proposed? Unfortunately the closing date for comments was May 31st, 2010, but we encourage members to still write to the local MNR Office or Minister of Natural Resources if you feel the consultation process was inadequate or feel that this "new" direction is a good step forward or a couple backwards.

Unfortunately the MNR did not advise CLTIP participants of this pending policy change nor have they outlined how individuals will opt out & enrol under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program within the deadline window. There is a one year lag time for such, & if properties opt out of the CLTIP they then become classified RESIDENTIAL – thus your assessed value will be multiplied by a higher mill rate – possibly increasing your property taxes.

TAKEN FROM THE EBR WEBSITE

www.ebr.gov.on.ca

INTRODUCTION The Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) replaced the Conservation Land Tax Reduction Program (CLTRP) in 1998. Under the CLTRP property taxes paid by participating landowners were rebated by the province. However, CLTIP exempts eligible lands from the payment of property tax. This voluntary program provides an incentive for landowners to protect conservation lands by offering 100% property tax exemption on eligible portions of their properties for their long term commitment to the stewardship of conservation lands.

GOAL To recognize, encourage and support the long-term stewardship of specific categories of conservation land by offering tax exemption to those landowners who agree to maintain their land in a manner that contributes to the natural heritage and biodiversity objectives for conserving land.

Guiding Principles Many of Ontario's most significant conservation lands are privately owned. It is important to encourage responsible stewardship of these lands and the protection of their outstanding natural heritage features.

- The MNR is committed to identifying and protecting significant natural heritage areas and features through the appropriate means.
- The provision of incentives to private landowners, to protect the natural heritage and biodiversity values on their lands, is an important tool to encourage sound stewardship.
- Non-profit conservation organizations that have natural heritage conservation as a primary objective and conservation authorities are key stakeholders in the stewardship of conservation lands in Ontario.
- The tax exemption is intended as an incentive, not as compensation or for the purposes of net revenue enhancement. The selling, barter or trade of timber or non-timber forest products that would result in the removal of natural features and/or biodiversity from the eligible land is not normally permitted under the CLTIP. In these cases, landowners may be better suited to either the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program or the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program.

WHO CAN I SEND COMMENTS TO?

DISTRICT MANAGER
Aylmer District MNR Office
615 John St. N.
Aylmer, ON N5H 2S8
Fax: 519-354-0313

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
99 Wellesley St. 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

ljeffrey.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) Objectives

The following objectives are the natural heritage and biodiversity objectives for conserving the land, specifically for the purposes of the CLTIP.

- To assist private land owners including charitable conservation organizations and conservation authorities who own conservation lands, in the protection of natural heritage and biodiversity values, for the benefit of the natural environment, local community and the people of Ontario.
- To protect provincially significant conservation lands and regionally significant Community Conservation Lands with representative ecosystems, while promoting natural ecosystem functions, processes and succession.
- To ensure eligible private landowners, eligible charitable conservation organizations with primary objectives for the conservation of natural heritage, and conservation authorities, who own conservation lands, in a manner consistent with O. Reg. 282/98, as amended, and CLTIP program policies, are recognized under the program.
- To prevent incompatible uses which could negatively affect the natural heritage and biodiversity values on conservation lands included under the program.
- To work in concert with other provincial incentive and stewardship programs to collectively enhance the conservation, protection and management of natural heritage features and areas across the province.

The following is a list of land use activities which may be permitted on properties eligible under CLTIP and require the approval of MNR in order to ensure the activity is not inconsistent with the natural heritage and biodiversity objectives for conserving the land. MNR may request additional information in their assessment of the land use activity. If approved, MNR may also specify conditions for approval.

- Culling non-native tree species where non-native species are a minor component of the forest and culling would enhance residual natural heritage values. (Note: Areas dominated by non-native species are not normally eligible under CLTIP)
- Tree removal/felling for health (i.e. infested or infected trees) or safety purposes, when the wood is intended to be sold
- Fuelwood removal, for sustainable personal use only
- Planned trail development or upgrading – with no demonstrated negative impacts on natural heritage or biodiversity values as evaluated and reported during trail development planning

Table A – Ineligible features, land uses and activities (non-exhaustive) ... additional uses listed on EBR

Commercial Timber Harvesting	Harvesting of merchantable wood with the intent or outcome of the sale, barter or trade of forest products
Non-Timber Forest Products	Harvesting for sale, barter or trade
Motorized vehicle use	Off-trail use generally prohibited except for infrequent off-trail use and where biodiversity and natural heritage values are not negatively impacted

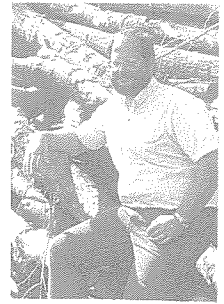
WEBSITE OF THE MONTHwww.ebr.gov.on.ca

Key word: CLTIP

EBR Registry Reference Number: **010-9840**

WILLIAMS & ASSOCIATES ~ Forestry & Environmental Consultants Ltd

Peter A. Williams M.Sc., R.P.F.



Since 1997, I have committed to providing landowners with sound forest management advice and assistance through Williams & Associates and volunteer efforts. I have also worked to improve the quality of forestry practised in southern Ontario through presentations at meetings and through supporting the Stewardship Councils, local Woodlot Associations, the O.P.F.A. Private Land Forestry Network, and other groups.

A large part of my work in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture has specialized in environmental impact assessment, tree valuation, naturalization and site rehabilitation. I have also assisted clients in settling legal disagreements associated with tree by-laws, timber trespass, property damage and loss of use assessments.

Research, teaching and practical experience enables me to fully explain issues to clients, and provide them with pros and cons to a variety of options from which to choose. Having a range of options is important whether managing a small woodlot, preparing development proposals, preparing for litigation, running a sawmill, or working with community groups.

My background helps me to identify with a wide range of urban, rural and industry perspectives including lay persons, academics, community representatives and agency staff, helping them move forward toward their goals. This ability to bring individuals and groups together helps clarify their objectives and find the best path to achieve them.

The opinions provided below are the opinions of the author and have been reprinted with permission.
These opinions do not necessarily reflect the position of the NWOA.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRY

re: Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)

I am a Registered Professional Forester and forestry consultant who works with hundreds of landowners each year. Many of these landowners participate in the CLTIP and/or Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). In general, many landowners do not know that much about their property, a situation which is partly remedied by participation in the MFTIP. Generating income is not the primary management objective of most landowners but many acknowledge that well-planned thinnings and harvests improve forest health and provide some revenue to offset ownership costs. Quite often landowners will reinvest some income from thinnings or harvests into stewardship activities like tree planting or buckthorn control.

Good Forest Management is a win-win situation because it can make positive ecological changes while providing some income to landowners. Landowners are way more likely to invest money in stewardship activities and learn more about their natural areas when they receive some income from the property.

I believe that the arbitrary policy change that does not allow landowners who practice good stewardship practices that result in a positive cash flow is a serious mistake that will result in less participation in the CLTIP and reduced opportunities to educate landowners on the features of their CL and good stewardship practices. General comments are below followed by specific comments on the proposed policy.

I believe that there are three assessment classes of land for property tax purpose: residential, agricultural and commercial. The property tax structure has historically overtaxed forests and other natural areas increasing the cost of ownership to where many landowners feel obligated to harvest their woodlands to generate revenue to recoup the cost of ownership. The CLTRP was a significant step towards reducing this tax inequity and reducing the disincentive to good stewardship. Participation in the program accommodated property uses that maintained the character of the qualifying area (Conservation Land - CL) and the reasons for it being designated as eligible for the program.

In addition to the addressing some inequity in the tax structure, the CLTRP and CLTIP help to inform landowners that their property has important environmental features. This provides a contact point for agencies such as OMNR and Conservation Authorities to reach out to participating landowners and inform them about their property.

Many CL areas have been well-managed for many years and it is likely that many of the significant environmental features are the result of good stewardship, including harvesting trees and generating revenue. It is also likely that many of the important environmental features of such areas are not affected or are improved by considerate forest management.

For five years or so OMNR staff (without any legal justification) have been creating their own policy by telling participating landowners that they could not participate in the CLTIP if they conducted forest harvesting activities on their property. When questioned, OMNR staff have responded that if owners wanted to actively manage their property in ways that don't cost money, they could join the MFTIP program. This opinion which was apparently implemented had no justification in official policy.

The proposed policy is a reflection or formalization of the de facto/ad hoc policy development by staff. I will provide specific comments on the proposed CLTIP policy below, but would like to make some general comments first.

OMNR staff have provided the naive opinion that the slightly higher tax reduction provided by the CLTIP justifies restrictions against any harvesting with the potential for economic gain. This is stupid for several reasons:

1. Property tax is not the only cost of ownership.
2. Good Forest Management and stewardship(encouraged by the OMNR) considers environmental integrity and the values that have resulted in an area being designated as CL.
3. Many CL areas have been well-managed for many years and the good management has likely improved the CL values.
4. It does not recognize that natural succession and forest health problems (e.g., emerald ash borer) often result in the degradation of important CL values.
5. It will result in reduced participation in the CLTIP with lost opportunities to educate landowners and influence stewardship activities.

It is also hypocritical to allow forest/ecosystem management such as burning, tree cutting, mowing, and control of undesirable plants to move the ecosystem to some perceived desirable state - as long as it costs landowners money. Other ecosystem management that may involve selling wood, would be not be allowed because it generated some income rather than simply cost money.

Sticky Points - refer to document @ EBR

http://www.web2.mnr.gov.on.ca/cltip/Conservation_Land_Tax_Incentive_Program_Policy_33_en.pdf

CLTIP Objectives ~ Last 2 points (refer to above summary)

Considering the tone of the policy, the penultimate point seems to suggest that management according to good forestry practices is incompatible with natural heritage and biodiversity values. This is incorrect - natural heritage features and biodiversity can often be maintained or enhanced with active stewardship practices (e.g., good forestry practices), some of which generate income

Land Use

The 5th and 8th bullet point that says that cutting hazardous or unhealthy trees is only allowed if they are not sold doesn't make any sense. Landowners should have the right to reduce their costs, and losses (tree and property value) that may occur because of forest health problems.

The absolute restriction of commercial harvesting is unreasonable and inadvisable. Many landowners choose only activities that enhance or maintain ecological integrity and CL values, some of which provide revenue.

All Lands under the CLTIP

Par. 4 categorically excludes lands that have been commercially harvested within 10 years from entering the program. Many thinnings and harvests maintain or enhance CL values and as long as the harvest didn't compromise those values, it should be allowed into the program.