

President's MESSAGE



For several years now I have enjoyed meeting with the members of your executive. I figured that the fun would have to come to an end. Instead, at the last meeting of our Board, I found myself elected President. So here I am writing a "President's Message":

My first task is to thank our recently retired members of our Board: Mark Sommerville and David Sandor. Mark has given much leadership and time as president in a rather challenging time for woodlot owners while David, as secretary staunchly kept us on track through thick and thin. I am pleased that Mike Rothery has taken on the tasks of secretary. I am also pleased to welcome to the Board: Kyle Racz and Martin Perrin.

The strong lobbying that Mark and Steve did with the Food Inspection Agency on our behalf and Norfolk County has paid off and we are able to have more time to prepare for the onslaught by the Emerald Ash Borer. We ask all members for their own protection and that of their neighbours to pay close attention to their ash trees and the transportation controls that are in force. It seems that thanks to the spraying efforts of last spring and the weather conditions soon after, that the Gypsy Moth has been dealt an effective blow for now.

I noted with interest recently that the province of New Brunswick with the Federal Government is investing 6 million dollars in silvicultural work in privately owned woodlots this year. They will now pay up to 90% of the cost of needed silvicultural work on a sliding scale. The scale is dependent on the total amount of wood cut on private woodlots during the previous year. This tells me they know the importance of the private woodlots and keep tab on the industry; something we lost in Ontario years ago.

Dolf Wynia – NWOA President

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- Forest Funnies
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- The Old Oak Tree
- Carbon Cap and Trade

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Emerald Ash Borer Woodlot Tour & Information Session

sponsored by the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association and the Haldimand and Area Woodlot Owners Association

September 12th, 2009 ~ 10:00 am

Norfolk County Woodlot C9 near Turkey Pt.

Amanda Dooney ~ Norfolk Forest Health Technician
will be giving an update on EAB in Southern Ontario.

Forest Conservation Staff will escort attendees on a tour of a nearby Conservation Authority where EAB remains in isolated pockets, and point out some of the signs and symptoms of an EAB infestation.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Directions:

Follow Hwy 24 south, and then east until you reach Turkey Point Road. At Turkey Point Road turn left and head south. Turn right on Charlotteville Rd 2. Drive 800 m and arrive at Norfolk County Woodlot C9.



Forest Management Tour Before the Harvest



October 3rd, 2009 – 10:00 am

Norfolk County Woodlot C5

Review the steps leading up to harvesting a hardwood forest. Woodlot has been marked for a good forestry harvest.

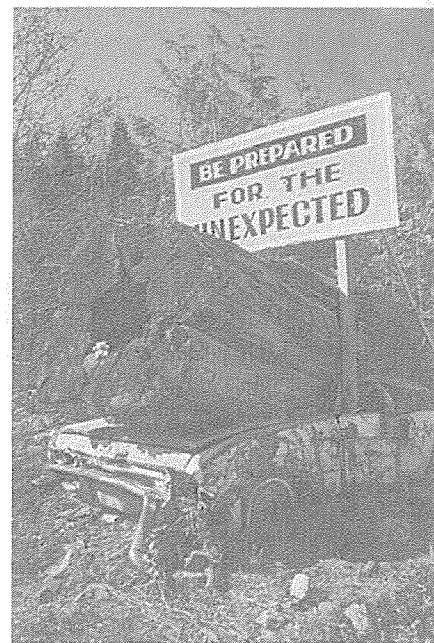
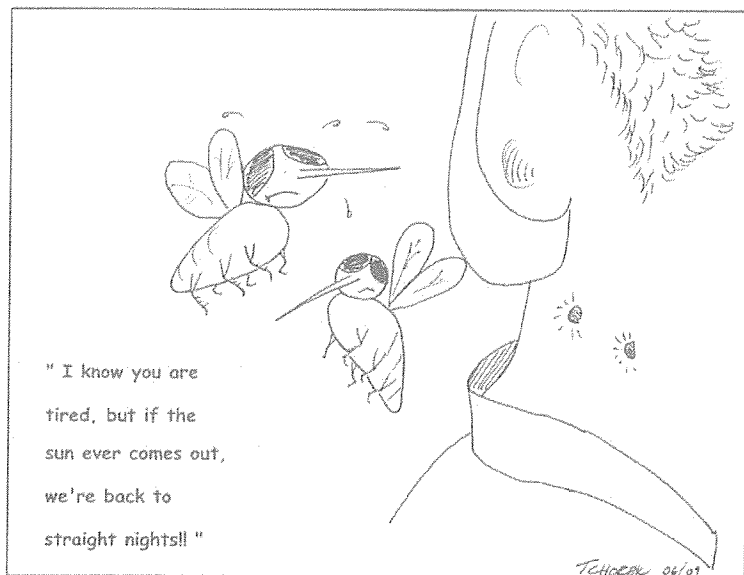
Will review woodlot after harvest in mid-winter.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Directions:

North of Pinegrove on the 10th concession.
Travel north of Cty Rd 1 or the "9th" on Pinegrove Road – turn left (west) onto Char Rd 10 (10th concession) – woodlot on north side.
Travel south from Delhi on Hwy #3, turn at Vandenbussche Irrigation onto Cty Rd 46 which turns into Pinegrove Rd. Turn right (west) onto Char Rd 10 (10th concession) – woodlot on north side.

FOREST FUNNIES *By Ron Tchorek*



Funny Short Story

One day Mother Nature was strolling around Earth's natural wonders and saw all of the destruction and neglect that had occurred. She decided to send a woodland fairy out to survey mankind and how they treated nature.

So she called one of her best fairy's and sent her out into the woods and wildlands of earth.

When the fairy returned she told Mother Nature, yes it is bad, 95% of the humans have no regard for nature but 5% appreciated such. Well, Mother Nature thought for a moment and said "Maybe I had better send out a second fairy, to get another point of view."

So Mother Nature called another fairy and sent her out into the woods and wildlands of earth.

When the fairy returned she went to Mother Nature and told her yes, it is bad on Earth, 95% of the humans have no regard for nature but 5% appreciated such.

So she decided to E-mail the 5% that appreciated and respected nature. She wanted to encourage them.....give them a little something to help them keep going.



Do you know what that E-mail said?

No?

I didn't get one either.

Don't Move Firewood

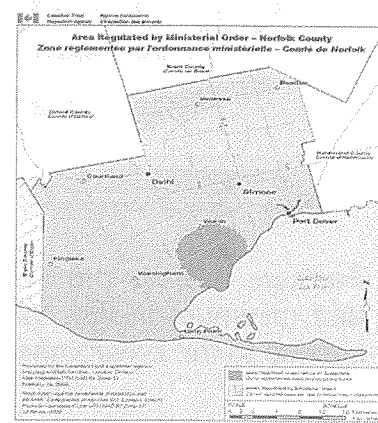
Throwing a few pieces of firewood into the trunk of the car before a camping trip might seem like a good way to plan ahead, but those logs could destroy a forest.

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

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

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

Buy Local!



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

Answers to questions from members....



Q1. What is ALUS...

A. The Norfolk County Alternative Land Use Services Pilot Project (ALUS) is a farmer led initiative that recognizes the value of conserving and restoring Canada's natural capital while respecting and rewarding the important role that farmers play in environmental management. Since ALUS has entered the landscape in Norfolk County, approximately 400 acres of marginal farm land has been returned to native habitat in partnership with the agricultural community. Projects include afforestation, Tallgrass Prairie re-establishment, pollinator habitat, riparian buffers, and wetlands.

Alternative Land Use Services is a group of farmers using their lands for environmental service in a wide variety of purposes:

- carbon sequestration
- wildlife habitat
- water cleansing

What's different is that annual incentive payments are used to convert the land use from food and fibre production to environmental service production that, in the case of carbon for instance, can be measured and valued.





Alternative Land Use Services

Growing a healthier environment

Farmers already provide some carbon sequestration services by maintaining pastures and minimum tillage. We will also place some of the selected farmland into dedicated service to the environment.

This approach fits under the newly proposed cap and trade system, not only by providing direct offsets, but for several other reasons:

1. ALUS provides incentive payments to plant native vegetative cover with no continued farm use. This cover can include trees, oak savannah, Tallgrass Prairie and pollinator habitat, all of which will sequester carbon.
2. ALUS helps farmers use their land for more than just food production if their usage also provides environmental benefits. For example, a farmer may use the top growth of the Tallgrass Prairie after it has reached its mature growth and provided carbon sequestration service. This can be fed to cattle, replacing high fossil fuel consuming feeds such as corn. This in turn reduces methane produced by the cattle because of the natural food source. Alternatively, the biomass may be pelletized and burned for fuel or used for cellulosic ethanol.
3. ALUS encourages solutions that work for the farm community. This spring a pollinator hedgerow was established in Norfolk where woody flowering species are used in creation of a hedgerow to provide food and habitat for native bees adjacent to farmer's fields.
4. ALUS reconnects farmers to the natural world and leads them to consider more natural solutions on the farm. This reduces energy, chemical and water usage.
5. ALUS fosters a culture of conservation on the farm where good stewards are recognized and rewarded. Some incentives will come from ALUS, but with the growth of the local food movement farmers may also reap a marketplace reward for fostering sustainability.
6. ALUS is helping to lead the adoption of methods to fight climate change. With the vast majority of land in Ontario owned by farmers, this is an important resource for sequestering carbon and fighting climate change. They have the necessary skills and equipment to plant native cover that will provide environmental relief for the people of Canada.



Alternative Land Use Services
Growing a healthier environment

ALUS Twilight Tour: End of Season Showcase

When: Wednesday, September. 16th 2009 @ 6:00 pm – 8:30/9:00 pm

Where: Meet at the:

Langton Arena
30 Albert Street
Langton, Ontario

We will meet at the Langton Arena and then carpool to the sites.
Please arrive early because the tour will leave at **6:00 pm sharp!**

Site #1: Travel to the Penner Farm to view 14 acres of restored, marginal farmland. The Penner Farm was reforested using native hardwood and coniferous tree species this spring in a row planting style. Four wetlands were created along the edge of the planting site to add to habitat diversity and aesthetics.

Site #2: Tour the Ferris Farm afforestation site. This site was planted in the pre-pilot stage of the ALUS Project with a mix of native hardwoods, white pines, and under seeded in Tallgrass Prairie.

Site #3: Tour the Leitear Farm to view a first year prairie site; discuss management options for weeds, and learn to identify the three primary grass species.

Who: Participating & Interested ALUS Farmers ~ General Public

What: If you have any questions or to R.S.V.P please contact Kristen Thompson– ALUS Project Coordinator @ 519-426-5999 ext. 2220 or kristen.thompson@norfolkcounty.ca

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



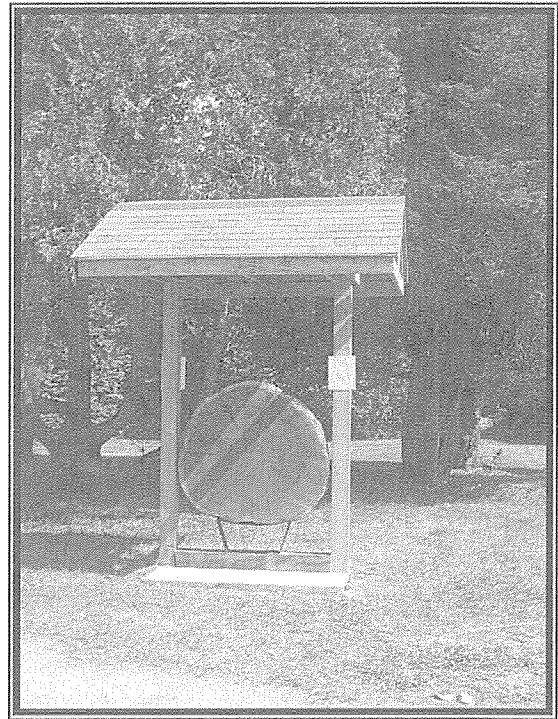
Alternative Land Use Services
Growing a healthier environment

www.norfolkalus.com

The Old Oak Tree

A few years ago, one of the original oak trees in Lynnwood Park in Simcoe needed to be cut down due to its age and condition. An attack by the two lined chestnut borer was the last straw in its fight for survival. Steve Scheers supervised the felling and disposal of the wood. Two slices were taken off the butt of the tree and they were eventually stored at the Forest Interpretive Centre at Forest Care. Parts of the trunk were sawn up and they were made into plaques as prizes for the "Great Tree Hunt" which we had in Norfolk County last year as part of the Forest Capital Celebrations.

One of the trunk slices, which is 51 inches in diameter, has now been mounted at the entrance to Forest Care at the old St. Williams Forest Station by volunteers of the Port Rowan /South Walsingham Heritage Association beside the Interpretive Centre. A preliminary count suggests the tree was 290 years old when it died. Thus it grew along the Lynn River before there were any white settlers there. If you are really interested in trees and or heritage of the county, you will enjoy the visit.



The rest of the Story.....

275 Year Old White Oak

This white oak tree lived its life in what is now called Lynnwood Park. It was about 275 years old and started growing along the Lynn River in Simcoe about 1735. This was a time when no white settlers had ever set foot in the area. Farmers began to arrive about 1800 and they started clearing the land. Small villages formed around the water driven sawmills and gristmills such as our nearby John Backhouse Mill.

By looking closely at the annual growth rings, one can see that the tree grew very slowly during the first 70 years of its life but then something happened that gave the tree more room and it grew much faster for the next two hundred years, while the park was being developed around it.

Legend has it that Governor Simcoe who gave the town of Simcoe its name camped in the shelter of this tree or one very much like it during his visit in 1795.

During the last 25 years, the tree started to decline due to age, a gypsy moth outbreak, drought and eventually an attack by two-lined chestnut borers and sapwood rot.

The dark blue stains in the cross section are evidence of metal embedded in the tree. This could be fence staples or bullets. We will never know what the tree may be hiding.

Dolf Wynia



Monroe Landon Woods Property Dedication

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Alex and Doris Landon cordially invite you to the dedication of Monroe Landon Woods on **Sunday, October 4th, 2:00-4:00 pm**. Please join us for this special event and for an interpretive walk through the fall colours.

In 1937 Monroe Landon (1887-1980) bought a tract of land southwest of Simcoe to preserve a forest ecosystem notable for its diverse terrain, habitats, and species of plants and animals. This parcel of land has remained in the Landon family for 72 years.

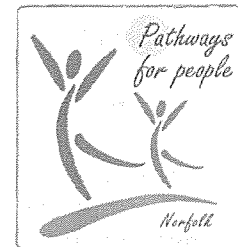
Today, Monroe Landon Woods is one of NCC's newest protected areas. This 132-acre (53-hectare) mature woodlot includes dry dune ridges, moist forest, several ephemeral wetlands, one of the finest stands of Tuliptrees in Norfolk County, and an extraordinary diversity of native bird species.

This project was made possible with the generous support of the Government of Canada through the Natural Areas Conservation Program, of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources-NCC Greenlands partnership, and of Alex and Doris Landon.

Please RSVP by September 21st if you plan to attend by calling Shreve LaFrumenta at 1-800-465-0029, ext.218 or by emailing shreve.lafrumenta@natureconservancy.ca.
Directions to the event will be provided at the time of RSVP.

"Discover Norfolk" Walking Club

What a great way to get active, meet new friends and discover Norfolk County! This friendly, informal, recreational group meets each Thursday at 5 pm and walk local trails and points of interest throughout Norfolk County.



The group walks rain or shine. Please wear appropriate footwear, bring water and bug lotion.

September 17	St. Williams Cons. Area	Meet on Turkey Pt. Road at the playground
September 24	Lynn Valley Trail	Meet at Blue Line parking lot
October 8	Hay Creek	Meet at main parking lot at pavilion
October 15	Charles Sauriol Forest	Meet at East ¼ line Rd. Off #24
October 22	St. Williams Forest Stn	Meet at Park Interpretive Centre on #24

For more information please call: Al Ladd at 519-426-8504

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

Answers to questions from members....



Q1. What is carbon cap and trade...

A. Cap and Trade? (source: Ontario Government – MOE)

Cap and Trade is a market-based system for managing and reducing industrial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In a cap-and-trade system, government gives corporations “allowances” which limit the amount of greenhouse gases they can emit. Companies that reduce their emissions below their limit have “surplus” allowances they can sell or bank for future use.

A. An Ontario Producer Perspective (source: NORFOLK ALUS Pilot)

It has recently become apparent to our Norfolk County ALUS team that a great deal of environmental policy going forward in Ontario has been defined in the 'Ontario Action Plan On Climate Change'. What is interesting about this document is the broad scope that it encompasses and (though not specifically stated) it allows for the concept of "stacking " of environmental benefits.

To quote the document, "Ontario will work with its' ag partners in developing carbon offset initiatives. This work will provide important co-benefits such as increasing conservation lands, improving habitat, preserving wetlands, reducing waste and improving water quality".

The development of a cap and trade system for carbon now means that government will define a value for this environmental service (sequestration) and have opened the door to stacking the value of the co-benefits created. This is a very good opportunity for us to grow the ALUS concept, but more importantly, the Ontario government could now invest in ALUS and score a very big environmental win.

The fact of the matter is, there is precious little going on in Ontario to create new carbon storage systems, except for our very successful "official" first year, where carbon was sequestered in several tall-grass prairie and oak savannah projects under ALUS.

Community involvement at its best, developing farm-based solutions for the world's biggest environmental challenge.

When the people of Ontario wanted more renewable energy, the community was engaged through the incentives offered in Ontario's Standard Offer Program and this undertaking has been a huge success.

Similarly, if the people of Ontario want more carbon sequestered, more biodiversity, fewer species at risk and wildlife habitat, it makes sense to enlist farmers and their lands to provide these services.

With the vast majority of land in southern Ontario owned by farmers, farmland is a critical resource for sequestering carbon and fighting climate change. Farmers have the necessary skills and equipment to plant native cover that provides direct offsets by sequestering carbon and a host of additional environmental benefits.