

President's MESSAGE

While we wait for the return of the Tundra Swans, we are still hosting birds from the Northern Boreal Forest. The Pine Siskens, Redpoles and White Wing Crossbills have been gorging themselves on the nyger seed at feeders. They leave the north when there is a poor cone crop on the trees there. The birds movement tell us about the state of the forests in other parts of the Country. In our area I hear of sightings of Piliated Woodpeckers becoming common. This would suggest a good food source for the woodpeckers in Norfolk woodlots.



The Redheaded Woodpecker is on the decline and experts suggest a lack of snags or dead trees to nest in. What is your woodlot like? It is a good idea to leave some snags and dead trees for wildlife. The warblers that migrate in May will nest in the understory trees in the woods, so if your woodlot looks like a park and the site is too clean, you will not see these colourful jewels. I pick up lots of branches from my lawn after the winter and I have an area to pile them at the edge of my woodlot. This is where I see the Indigo Buntings nesting every year.

Some people like a woodlot to be very clean and organized, but the birds are telling us something else. Lets manage for wildlife and there will be even more to enjoy as we hike this year in the woods.

Mark Sommerville ~ President

WHAT's INSIDE?

- Annual General Meeting
- Forest Funnies
- EMERALD ASH BORER
- Woodn't You Like To Know: EAB vs CFIA
- Maple Word Search
- Sacred Woods and Lore
- Ash – More than a hockey stick

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday March 21st, 2009

Maple Syrup Tour Maple Ridge Syrup & Pancake House ~ 10 am



Tour of Maple Syrup bush and Sugar Shack followed by Pancake Brunch.

- cost of meal is the responsibility of those attending
- dress for the weather

This is a family event, open to the public and as such all children must be supervised

Directions:

Meet at Pancake House Hwy 24 North - turn right
 116 Concession 11 Townsend

ANNUAL FOREST HEALTH REVIEW WEDNESDAY APRIL 1st, 2009 ~ 7 PM DELHI HUNGARIAN HALL, Delhi ~ Hwy #3

Guest Speakers

- **Eric Cleland**
 Forest Health Technical Specialist
 Aylmer & Guelph Districts
 Ministry of Natural Resources -
 Forest Health and Silviculture Section
- **Steve Scheers**
 Norfolk County
 - Gypsy Moth 2008 Summary Review
 - Emerald Ash Borer Update
 - Community Forest Health Network

Events Sponsored by the NWOA – for further information visit

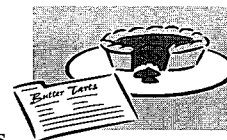
www.norfolkwoodlots.com

FOREST FUNNIES



Maple Syrup Recipe

Maple Butter Tarts



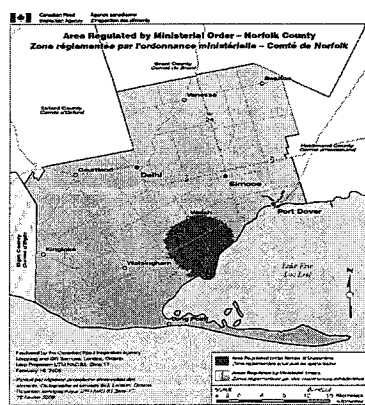
Servings: 10 to 12 tarts

Ingredients:

Baking Time: 15 to 20 minutes
 1/4 cup (50 mL) butter, softened
 1/4 cup (50 mL) firmly-packed brown sugar
 1 egg
 1/2 tsp (2 mL) vanilla
 1/2 cup (125 mL) Ontario Maple Syrup
 10 to 12 unbaked tart shells

Preparation:

Cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Blend in syrup. Pour into tart shells. Bake at 375 F (190 C) for 15 to 20 minutes, or until golden brown.



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.

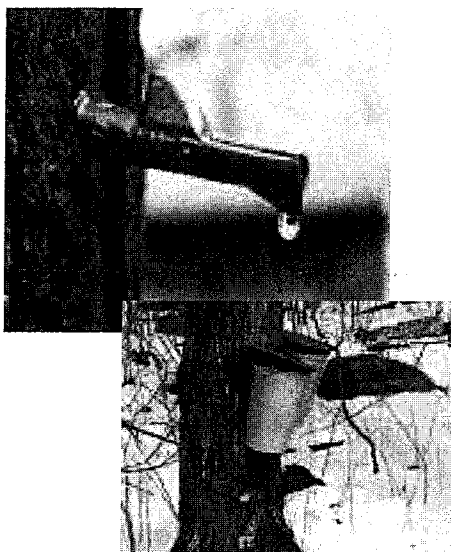
When forests are destroyed, everyone bears the consequences. Workers who depend on the lumber industry can lose their livelihoods. Animals and birds can lose their habitat. And our environment can lose the

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!

Maple Syrup

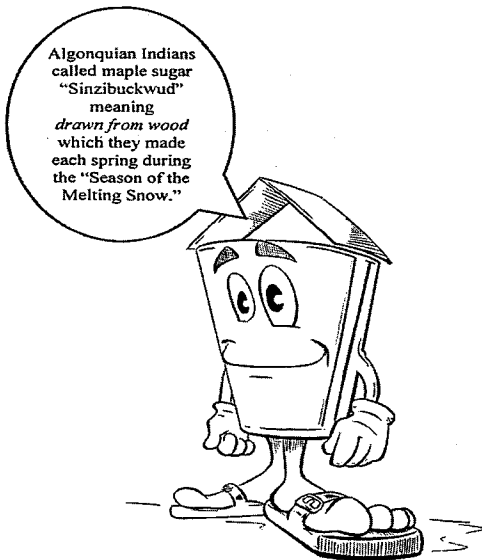
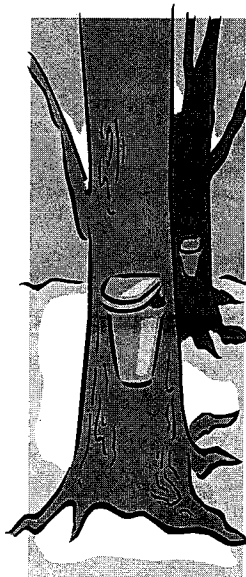
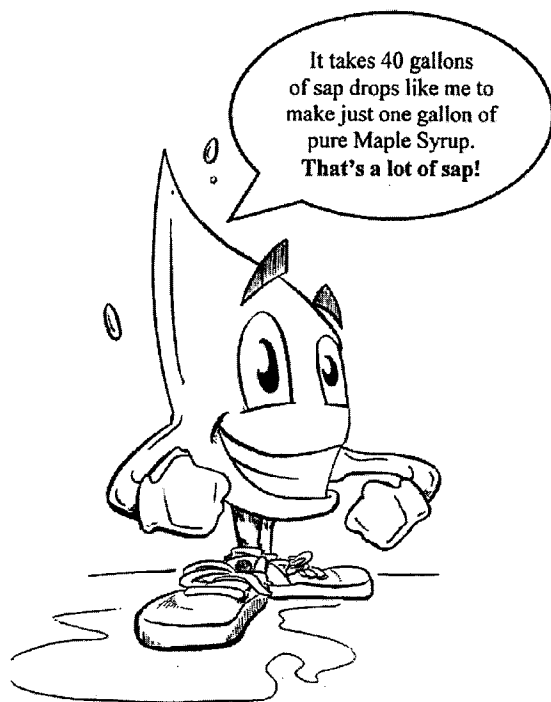


Find these Maple Syruping Words:

SPRING
SAP
BUCKET
BOIL
FILTER
SYRUP

SUGARBUSH
SPILES
TUBING
SWEET
MAPLE
CREAM

SINZIBUCKWUD
EVAPORATOR
HYDROMETER
REFRACTOMETER
DELICIOUS
CANDY



Sacred Woods and the Lore of Trees

MAPLE (*Acer spp.*)

A very hard, pale, fine-grained wood. Although the sugar maple has the highest sugar content in its sap, all maple species can be tapped to make syrup and sugar, making them a vital resource to early North American settlers. In north-eastern North America, the annual 'sugaring-off' usually coincides with the vernal equinox, making it one of the first signs of spring. Maple can bring success and abundance.



BIRCH (*Betula spp.*)

A lovely pale, fine-grained wood. Long associated with fertility and healing magic, birch twigs were used to bestow fertility on cattle and newlyweds, and children's cradles were made from its wood. Birch is one of the first trees to grow on bare soil and thus it births the entire forest. Criminals were at one time birched to drive out evil influences on them, to renew them for the new year. Birch was associated with Thor, probably in recognition of his role as an agricultural and fertility deity. Birch is an incredibly useful tree - nearly every part of it is edible, and its sap was an important source of sugar to Native Americans and early settlers. The inner bark provides a pain reliever and the leaves are used to treat arthritis. Its bark was used for everything from paper to canoe hulls, and axe handles were also made from Birch. Birch is most useful for fertility and healing spells.



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Maple Ridge Syrup & Pancake House  **Waterford**
116 Concession 11 Townsend, R. R. #3 Waterford, ON N0E 1Y0
Phone: 519-426-5516 or 519-426-5295 Fax: 519-426-7754
E-mail: mapleridgesyrup@gmail.com
Website: www.mapleridgesyrup.com
Maple Syrup for sale year-round. Pancake House Opens in March
for Six Consecutive Weekends. Group bookings (min 15) avail-
able. Buses Welcome.



Chambers Pure Maple Products & Pancake House  **Waterford**
R.R. 3, 235 Villa Nova Road South Waterford, ON N0E 1Y0
Phone: 519-443-8561 Fax: 519-443-5794
E-mail: chambersmaple@execulink.com
Syrup sales year-round. Pancake House opens 1st weekend of
March for 8 consecutive weekends. Daily tours and weekday group
appointments available. Eat Hearty! Walk It Off!

Buy Local!

TREE LORE

Since humans began using wood for practical purposes such as feeding fires, making tools, construction, and art, trees have held a special significance in our lives, both for practical and spiritual purposes. Since ancient times certain trees have been considered sacred by different cultures- trees varied between geographical areas and different trees were sacred to different people. But, most sacred trees held some things in common- their unusual size, appearance, beauty, materials they provided, or simply their spirit. Even today, certain trees are seen as "special" or more significant- the magnificent oaks, redwoods, sequoias, and the evergreen trees that we bring into our homes each winter for Yule or Christmas- all remind us of the power and beauty of trees.

Wood is a living thing and contains the essence of a tree's energy. There are many trees that were sacred to the northern Europeans- including the Celts- the Native Americans, and other cultures.

ASH MORE THAN A HOCKEY STICK

- the ash generally has a straight grain and was used by different cultures to make spear and arrow heads because of its springiness and straight grain- it was strong and durable. According to some, the first man was named Ash and was created from an ash tree log.

Ash wood can aid in strength and focus, meditation, and can be used when we attempt to contact someone in the spirit realm.

Other Lore and Legends.....

- It is an old belief that tools with handles made of ash enable more work to be done than by tools with handles made of other kinds of wood.
- "Ash courts the flash." Ash trees were believed to attract lightning. Irish emigrants to America carried pieces of ash with them because its wood was a charm against drowning.
- A Yule log of ash is said to ensure the future prosperity of the family.
- A mature Ash tree will develop an incredibly large and widespread root system, which makes high demands on the available water and nutrients and will operate to the detriment of other vegetation in its immediate vegetation, hence the folklore that crops will fail beneath the shade of an Ash tree.

Other uses

A Hurley >>>>

The other main use of ash wood is when both strength and a little flexibility are needed. In sports, ash is commonly used for hockey sticks, oars, snooker cues and for the hurleys used in the Irish sport of hurling. 'The clash of the ash' is a familiar phrase to Irish sports journalists trying to convey the excitement of a hurling match. Ash wood is also popular for tool handles. Its shock-absorbing quality makes it useful for the chassis-frames of the classic Morgan motor cars. It was also widely used for making longbows.





7th Annual
March Break

WILDLIFE

Festival & Adventure Show

"Where the great outdoors moves indoors for 2 days"

March 14 & 15, 2009

Saturday: 9am-7pm • Sunday: 10am-5pm

Norfolk County Fairgrounds, Simcoe at THE AUD

Admission: \$6 • Kids 4 and under FREE!

Discounted rate available for groups of 10 or more. Must be prearranged.

**3 NEW
SHOWS**



Canadian Canine College



Primordial Percussion



Sciensational
Ssnakes!!

Listen to Gerry & Kate in the Morning **98.9** for
your chance to win free passes

Saturday Shows

Sunday Shows

9am	Doors Open	
10am	Birds of Prey Show	Doors Open
11am	Jungle Cat World	Jungle Cat World
12pm	Reptile Show	Birds of Prey Show
1pm	Canadian Canine College	Reptile Show
2pm	Drumming Circle	Jungle Cat World
3pm	Reptile Show	Birds of Prey Show
4pm	Birds of Prey Show	Reptile Show
5pm	Jungle Cat World	Close
6pm	Reptile Show	
7pm	Close	

24' CLIMBING WALL

FREE Climbs sponsored by **Scotiabank**

Student Art Competition

sponsored by **Norfolk ArtsCo**
visit www.norfolkcountyfair.com for details

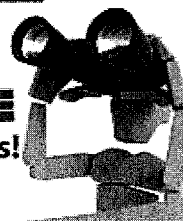
NEW

FOSSIL DIG

BROWSE Take Home a
25+ FREE Fossil

EXHIBITS

CAMP-STYLE
Food & Refreshments!



Win a "FREE" Weekend Getaway!

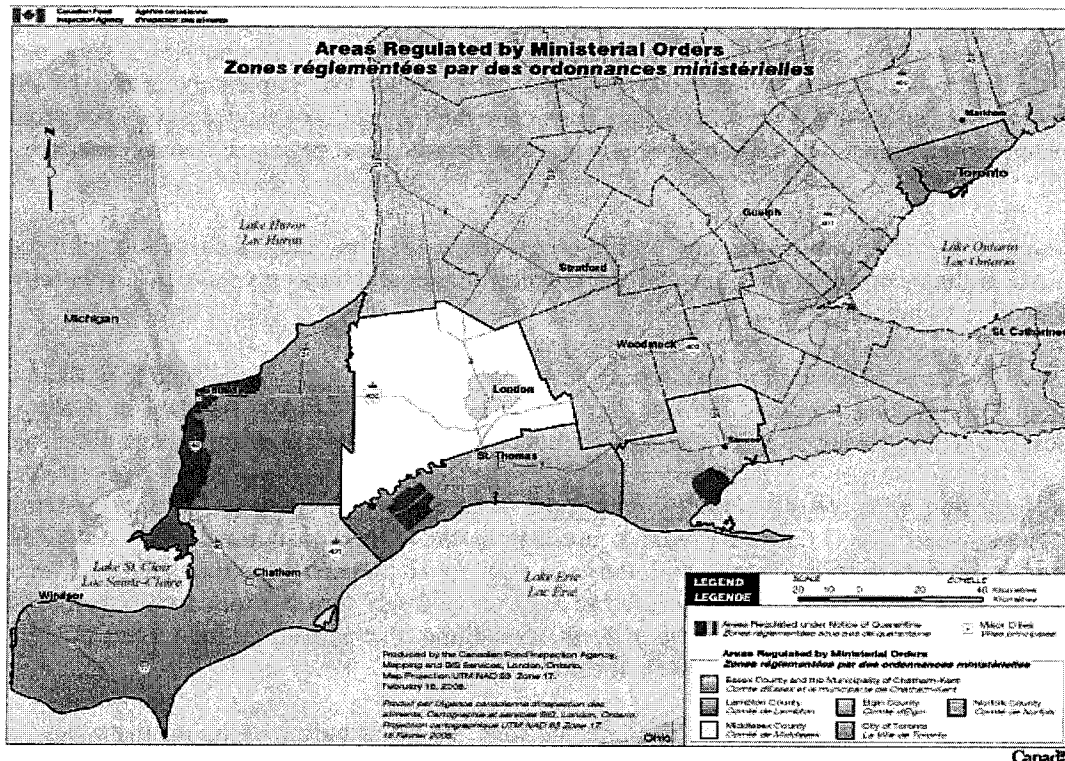
WOODN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW.....

Answers to questions from members....



Q1. How will the proposal to amalgamate the Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine impact my woodlot in Norfolk?

A. Since the confirmation of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Norfolk County and the establishment of the Ministerial Order on February 15, 2008 regulating and quarantining the County, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has become overburdened and focused on the emergence of multiple urban finds of Emerald Ash Borer.



This resulted in committed support for Norfolk being re-allocated to expand surveying across Ontario and into Quebec. Despite such, during this time, Norfolk County, in partnership with the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association, has been working on the establishment of a Community Forest Health Network. This network would put staff into place to assist in strategically managing the impact of EAB and developing opportunities for woodlot owners to market salvaged ash materials that would otherwise succumb to the ravages of EAB.

Norfolk County is unique in that our community is heavily forested, and due to the efforts of woodlot owners, is diversified in species composition, not a monoculture of high graded woodlots with a high stocking of ash in the Essex and Chatham-Kent jurisdictions. *Thus ground zero in Turkey Point remains an isolated pocket ~ no outward EAB confirmations beyond the 500 metre survey radius.*

WOODN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW..... (continued)



This provided for a unique opportunity to secure funding for 2 staff to begin working with landowners – with the program launch date being April 1st, 2009 at the Annual Forest Health Review.

The CFIA proposal of amalgamating the existing individual regulated and quarantine areas will undermine these efforts. Public and private dollars, including \$45,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation could be put at risk.

Norfolk County and the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association are cognizant that EAB will spread throughout Norfolk. There are benefits to maintaining the regulation in the short-term.... We can slow the spread and therefore buy time to work with woodlot owners to lessen the impact and implement efforts to salvage threatened ash. Also we can slow the spread and start to manage the thousands of ash trees along our roads, in parks and cemeteries – all which will have to be removed – and removed at a huge cost to every taxpayer.

If you do not believe there is an urgency to fight this proposal – go for a drive down a County Concession road – count every ash tree on either side and multiple by \$500... adds up quick. Ash fails quickly once it succumbs to EAB, millions of dollars has been already spent in Essex and they only have 3% forest cover. It may bankrupt small rural municipalities.

All we have asked the CFIA is for at minimum a year, ideally 2 years – to buy us some time to work outward from the original find. Buying time and slowing the spread remains the CFIA's mandate in dealing with invasive species – so we are asking your help to send the attached letter or draft your own demanding support.

The CFIA is gambling with your woodlot investment – do not let this happen! If the quarantine is amalgamated guess where the 3 largest sawmills are within the larger quarantine area – NORFOLK! Townsend Lumber is right beside Oxford and Porter's next to Haldimand – why would we relax the regulations that industry has adopted to allow infected logs move freely into Norfolk from Chatham-Kent, Essex or Lambton – not only increasing the risk of expediting the spread through Norfolk but into neighbouring jurisdictions where no EAB has been located.

Our local industry will still need to process the infected logs the same before shipping them outside the regulated area but will not have to dispose of the infected waste material.

The CFIA is not helping slow the spread – they are abandoning rural Ontario – the heart of the Carolinian Forest – so more resources can be given to urban areas for surveying and detection.

Déjà vu ! We have a fight on our hands again with another bug! Unfortunately EAB will cost more to manage and there is no help in sight from those provincial and federal agencies responsible for the conservation of our natural resources.

It is our responsibility to remind those decision makers that our woodlands provide clean air, clean water, diversity and infinite economic and environmental benefits beyond the municipal boundaries of Norfolk – so putting them at risk impacts not only the owners but society.

Please review the attached generic letter and if you feel passionate about standing up against this decision please copy and send to the following individuals and agencies listed on the labels inserted with your newsletter. A copy of this generic letter will be posted on the website www.norfolkwoodlots.com with the appropriate electronic and snail mail address.

To:



From:

Re: Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

Date:

It has come to my attention as a woodlot owner in Norfolk County that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is proposing to amalgamate the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine areas in southwestern Ontario.

As a woodlot owner in Norfolk County I cannot support this proposal.

The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA), in partnership with Norfolk County, has gone to great lengths to fund and support a program to assist myself and other woodlot owners to implement a community based program to address emerging forest health threats, including Emerald Ash Borer.

It is of great concern that no public consultation was undertaken by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency with the woodlot owners of Norfolk County. Since 2006, immediately following the first find of EAB, the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association provided your staff access to our 300+ members to educate them on preparing for the possibility of EAB. We started the process, meeting with our counterparts in the USA, discussing options with industry, and searching out rural economic funding sources to help myself and other woodlot owners, if someday, EAB was found.

Within 1 month of the EAB regulation being put in place for Norfolk County, 384,000 trees from ash saplings to mature trees, within a 500 meter radius of the EAB find, were removed in partnership with the NWOA, Norfolk County Roads, Parks and Forestry Divisions, Hydro One and the Conservation Authority. The wood was salvaged and we in turn educated our partners on what to look for.

Now, a year after it arrived, and with no new confirmed EAB finds in Norfolk, no chance is being provided by CFIA to allow the community to continue their efforts to slow the spread.

This proposal is unacceptable. Looking at the larger picture, the CFIA must recognize that this will expedite the spread of EAB throughout Norfolk County and our neighbouring jurisdictions. Within the proposed amalgamated quarantine, Norfolk is home to three of the largest hardwood sawmills, two of which neighbour two uninfected jurisdictions.

As a rural municipality we cannot afford the associated loss of opportunity if EAB is left unabated, and further we will not be able to absorb the costs associated with rampant spread of EAB into our rural roadways, urban parks, cemeteries or along our trail systems.

My woodlot provides to society clean air, abundant access to clean water, species diversity second to none anywhere else in Canada, infinite environmental benefits and a diversity of economic opportunities; however this proposal puts such at risk.

I would ask that the CFIA immediately begin discussions with the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association and Norfolk County to review our unique opportunity to take advantage of a community dedicated to conservation.

Norfolk County is the Forest Capital of Canada two years running because of our dedication to conserving our resources; do not take that away from us.

I would request a written response at the earliest possible opportunity so I can be assured the federal government has not lost focus on the strength of a community to conserve our nation's most precious natural resource.

Sincerely,

