NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
www.norfolkwoodlots.com
Volume 8 Edition 12 November 2008

President's MESSAGE

We have an interesting history in Norfolk and how our lands became what we see today. This history was on display this year for the "Forest Capital of Canada" designation.

The picnic at St Williams and a tour through the interpretive centre gave one an interesting visual history of Norfolk's past and what has shaped it to be what it is today.

The word 'forest' derives from the Latin ' foris' which means 'outside'. The medieval Royal forests of England were protected and the animals within its borders carefully husbanded. The forest lands were barred from common man, and even someone living close to the Kings land was not allowed to even cut a branch from a tree, and so even the scrub land around the forest edge grew in ,and so the meaning of forest became what it means today a wooded area. Berries and mushrooms provided foods, and there were medicinal plants and poisons, as well as bee products such as honey and candle wax, oil came from walnuts and beech nuts. Forage such as salt rich leaves were used as forage for farm and draught animals, mast such as acorns or beech nuts for pigs, wood resin for torches, pitch and glue, also beech leaves or "wood feathers" were used for mattress stuffing, bark for tiles and shingles, boats and baskets, wood ash for fertilizer and lye for soap. Animals were used for their fur and leather and their horns for drinking vessels. We have as a race , been connected to the forest for as long as recorded time and maybe that is why we feel as special connection when we walk into forested land today.

Mark Sommerville ~ President

WHAT's INSIDE?

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday, November 22nd, 2008
Woodlot Harvest & Sawmill Tour

- ✓ **Review completed harvested woodlot**
- ✓ **Discuss harvesting with operator on site**
- ✓ **Tour sawmill**

Time: 10 AM

Meet at Langton Arena
– Car pool to location.

- o Dress for weather

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Saturday December 13th
Time: 10 AM

Evens & Lambert Christmas Tree Farm

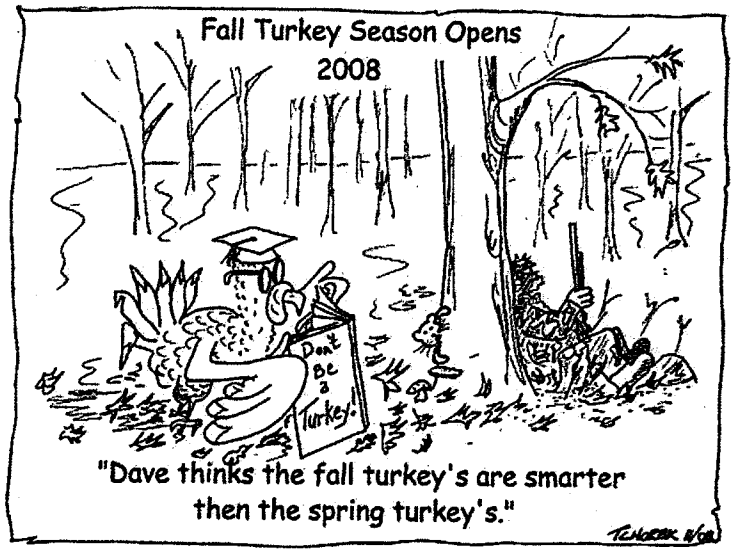
Meet at Pinegrove Cemetery
– Car pool to location

- o Dress for weather

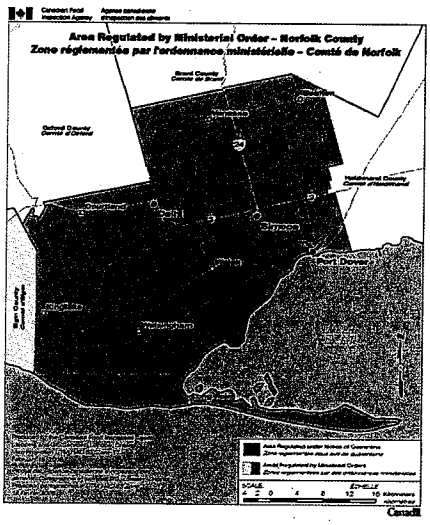
OPEN TO PUBLIC

Events Sponsored in part by the NWOA – for further information visit www.norfolkwoodlots.com

FOREST FUNNIES



By Ron Tchorek – our resident artist



Don't Move Firewood

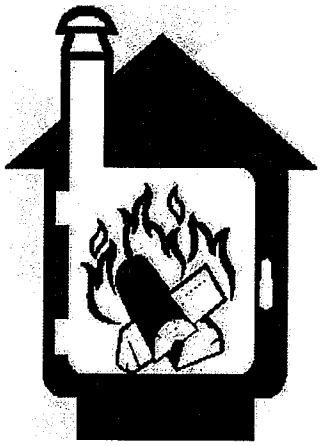
Throwing a few pieces of firewood into the truck of the car before a camping trip might seem like a good way to plan ahead, but those logs could destroy a forest.

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 had 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!



FIREWOOD FACTS – The Burning Truth!

Firewood is another major component in the wood burning process. To have an efficient fire with low wood smoke emissions you need to burn only dry clean wood, either hard or soft,

The way firewood burns depends on:

- Moisture Content
- Log Size
- Wood Condition
- Tree Species

Moisture Content

Firewood needs to be dry. Obtain your firewood in early spring and allow it to dry over the summer months. Stack it outside, covered and off the ground with room for air to circulate freely between the pieces. Dry firewood has checks or cracks in the ends of the logs. It is darker at the ends and weighs less than freshly cut wood. If you bang two pieces together you should hear a loud, hollow crack. If you tap the wood with a key or coin dry wood should make a sharp resonant sound, wet wood makes a dull sound.
Signs that your firewood is not dry enough:

- The wood is hard to ignite.
- The wood hisses and sizzles in the firebox.
- The fire produces more smoke than heat.

Log Size

Use small, finely split pieces of firewood. Small pieces have more surface exposed to the flame and will burn cleaner. They produce short, hot fires. Larger pieces can be used to maintain extended firing cycles.

Wood Condition

Firewood should not look nor feel rotten.
Wood that has been cut for more than three years or that has been lying around in a swampy area will be difficult to burn.

Tree Species

Burn a mixture of hardwood and softwood; it maintains the forest's natural diversity. Make sure the wood is harvested from sustainable forests. Hardwood is the preferred firewood since it produces longer lasting burn, but any type of dry wood will burn. Softwood needs to be used in larger quantities but is also the most common wood on Canada's coasts and northern areas.

Wood is a renewable energy resource.

And because trees recycle carbon dioxide, wood burning doesn't contribute to the problem of climate change. As well, advanced combustion technologies mean more heat and less smoke from the wood you burn.

Common legal units of measurement used in the sale of firewood	
cord	stacked cubic metre
fractions of a cord	fractions of a stacked metre
cubic feet	

WOOD HEATING FACTS

- In Canada, residential wood heating is responsible for 29% of the fine particle emissions associated with human activities. This makes it the third most important source overall.
- Wood smoke contains over 100 pollutants. These pollutants not only negatively impact the environment but are also linked to a wide range of health problems.
- Residential wood combustion is a major contributor to winter smog.
- Burning wood in a conventional wood stove for 9 hours emits as many particulates into the atmosphere as a certified stove does in 60 hours or as car traveling 18000 km.
- Spending money on the insulation of your home rather than on fuel is better for the environment and your health.
- Certified wood stoves produce less emission and are more energy efficient. They consume up to a third less wood!
- The combustion of treated and salvaged wood causes the formation of dioxins, furans and other extremely toxic substances.
- If you're using clean, dry wood and there's still a lot of wood smoke, your appliance is not functioning properly or you are not using it correctly.
- When you buy logs from commercial dealers you may need to split some of the wood again. The pieces sold commercially are often larger than needed for advanced stoves.
- Storing wood inside your home can cause mould and mildew to develop. Only bring in enough wood for your immediate (day's worth) use.
- Insulating basement and attic walls can reduce your energy bill by as much as 30%.

Summary
A cord is equal to 128 cubic feet of firewood.
Legal units of measurement for firewood are the cord, fractions of a cord, cubic feet, the stacked cubic metre and fractions of a stacked cubic metre.
Beware of units of measurement that are not recognized in Canada (illegal), You are likely to receive less firewood for your money.
Verify that the quantity of firewood received is the same as the quantity paid for.

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

Answers to questions from members....

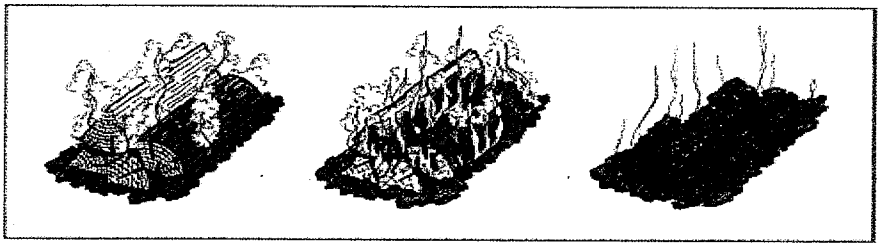
Q1. What Happens When Wood Burns ?

A1. As firewood burns, it goes through three phases.

Boiling off the water – Up to half the weight of a freshly cut log is water. After proper seasoning, the water content is reduced to about 20 percent. As the wood is heated in the firebox, this water boils off, consuming heat energy in the process. The wetter the wood, the more heat energy is used to boil the water. That is why wet firewood hisses and sizzles and is hard to burn, while seasoned wood ignites and burns easily.

The emission of smoke – As the wood heats up and passes the boiling point of water, it starts to smoke. The smoke is the visible result of the solid wood decomposing as it vaporizes into a cloud of combustible gases and tars. If the temperature is high enough and oxygen is present, the smoke will burn. When it does, it produces the bright flames that are characteristic of wood combustion. If the smoke doesn't burn in the firebox, it exits the appliance into the flue pipe and chimney. Here it either condenses – forming creosote deposits – or is expelled as air pollution. Unburned smoke also represents a less efficient appliance because smoke contains much of the wood's total energy. Advanced combustion systems are designed to burn the smoke before it leaves the stove, which is one reason they are more efficient than older models.

The charcoal phase – After the water has boiled off and most of the gases and tars have vaporized out of the wood, charcoal remains. Charcoal is almost 100-percent carbon. It burns with a red glow and some flame or smoke when enough oxygen is present. Charcoal is a good fuel that burns easily. However, burning charcoal often produces carbon monoxide, a serious indoor air pollutant.



Phase 1
Evaporation of water

Phase 2
Emission of smoke

Phase 3
Charcoal

In practice, all three phases of wood combustion usually occur at the same time. The wood gases can flame and the edges of the pieces can glow red as charcoal burns, while water in the core of the piece is still evaporating. The challenge in burning wood effectively is to boil off the water in the wood quickly, while making sure the smoke burns with bright flames before it leaves the firebox.

With the new, advanced combustion designs, two flame zones are often visible: the primary flame that rises from the wood and the transparent secondary flame that swirls above the wood. Once a good fire is established and you turn down the air control, you can see the primary flames slow down and become smaller. To get a clean, efficient burn, make sure that there is always a secondary flame. A welcome feature of these advanced wood-burning designs is that the better the combustion and the cleaner the burn, the more interesting the flame looks.

Buying Firewood? Don't Get Burned!

How Is It Sold?

In Canada, most firewood is sold by the *cord*. A cord is a legal unit of measurement defined by the Weights and Measures Regulations as "128 cubic feet of stacked roundwood (whole or split, with or without bark) containing wood and airspace with all bolts of similar length piled in a regular manner with their longitudinal axes approximately parallel."

How Is It Measured?

Follow these steps to ensure that you have received the correct quantity:

- ✓ Stack the wood neatly in a line or row, ensuring that individual pieces are touching and parallel to each other with as few gaps as possible.
- ✓ Measure the length, width and height of the stack in feet (for example, 4 feet X 8 feet X 4 feet).
- ✓ Multiply these measurements to calculate the volume in cubic feet.
- ✓ If your result is equal to 128 cubic feet, you have a cord.

Which Units of Measurement Are Legal?

Some firewood dealers have been known to use various units of measurement to sell firewood. Some of these units of measurement are legal in Canada and some are not. Beware of terms that are not recognized as legal units of measurement, as they will often mean less than a cord.

How to Protect Yourself

Adhering to the following precautions when purchasing firewood will help ensure that you get what you pay for.

When ordering firewood:

Ask for it to be delivered stacked in the truck so that you can measure it before it is unloaded. If this is not possible, immediately following delivery:

- stack the firewood;
- measure the length, width and height of the stack; and
- calculate the quantity that you received.

When receiving the firewood:

Be present at the time of delivery. Do not rely on a neighbour to accept delivery on your behalf.

Ask for a receipt and verify that it indicates:

- the quantity and type of firewood purchased;
- the seller's name, address and telephone number; and
- the price paid.

Write down the licence plate number of the delivery vehicle.

Before using any firewood:

Verify that the quantity received is the same as the quantity paid for. If there is a discrepancy, contact the seller before using any of the firewood.

How can *you* help to reduce wood smoke pollution?

Do's

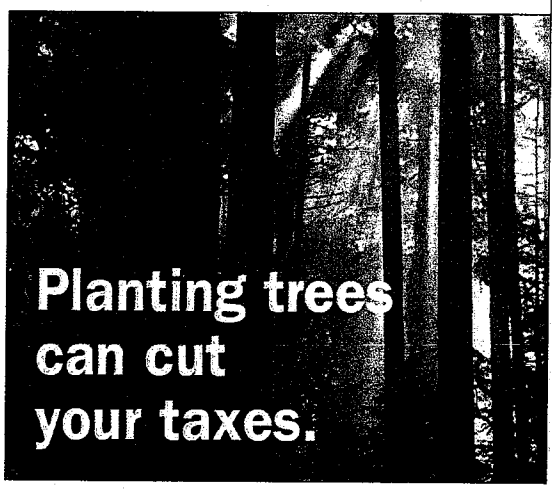
- Burn only small pieces of, clean dry wood.
- Use a mix of different hardwoods and softwoods where possible.
- Cut, split and stack your wood in the spring, cover it and let it dry over the summer for at least six months.
- Make a small fire of crisscross pieces of wood in your firebox allowing maximum contact with the combustion air.
- Burn the fire hot and refuel more often with smaller loads. Keep the flame lively and bright.
- Keep your chimney clean. Frequently remove the ashes from your appliance. Dispose of them in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.
- Stay informed about winter air quality forecast in your area.
- Keep your home well insulated to prevent heat loss and to increase energy efficiency.
- Consider replacing old inefficient wood burning appliances that don't comply with pollution standards. Buy heating appliances for your home that are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Don'ts

- Don't burn garbage, plastics or glossy magazines.
- Don't burn painted, treated, green or wet wood.
- Don't store your wood where there is water or moisture.
- Don't fill a stove to more than half of its capacity.
- Don't let a fire smoulder overnight and don't dampen down your fire.
- If possible, avoid using wood combustion as your main source of home heating.
- Don't allow creosote to build up in your chimney.
- Don't use a classic fireplace to heat your home.
- Don't use your burning appliance when a Smog Warning is in effect in your area.

For more interesting photos visit: http://www.alastairheseltine.com/

TREES ONTARIO
Planting tomorrow's forests



TREE PLANTING WORKSHOP

A free workshop on planting trees will be held on the evening of November 11 from 7 to 9 pm at the Best Western Little River Inn, 203 Queensway West in Simcoe.

The workshop, sponsored by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and Trees Ontario, will be of most interest to rural landowners who would like to plant large numbers of trees.

While there is no cost to attend, space is limited and pre-registration is strongly recommended. To register, call Trees Ontario toll free at 1-877-646-1193.

The workshop is focused on incentive programs for planting trees, tree planting techniques and the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) that can reduce property taxes by up to 75 per cent.

Attendees will learn more about the Ministry of Natural Resources' incentive program called the 50 Million Tree Program. As part of its commitment to reduce the effects of climate change, the Ontario government has joined the United Nations Billion Tree Program and plans to plant 50 million trees by 2020.

Attend the November 11th workshop and:

- Learn how you can get financial assistance to plant trees on your property.
- Find out how your four hectares or more of existing forest can reduce property taxes by up to 75%.
- Obtain information on how to prepare for spring tree planting.
- Meet your LPRCA planting partner contacts

For more information and to register for the November 11th workshop call Trees Ontario at 1-877-646-1193 or email info@treesontario.on.ca.

ONTARIO FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Simcoe Reformer

SUN MEDIA

Ontario

Paid for, in part, by the Government of Ontario.

Niagara Woodlot Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER

Gordon Miller

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's Annual Report

Saturday, November 15, 2008

1 to 4 p.m. · Niagara College, Glendale Campus

135 Taylor Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Niagara Woodlot Association & Niagara College's Niagara Environmental Corps & Ecosystem Restoration Program students invite our conservation friends and outdoor enthusiasts to hear our featured guest speaker, Mr. Gordon Miller, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO). As an independent officer of the Legislative Assemble, Mr. Miller monitors and reports on compliance by provincial ministries with the Province's Environmental Bill of Rights. The 2007/2008 ECO Annual Report has just been published and there's much to talk about!

Our conservation friends are asked to join the NWA's AGM at 2:00 pm following the business portion of the meeting (1:00 to 2:00 pm). There will be a short social (2:00 pm to 2:30 pm) where members of the local conservation & natural clubs, students and interested friends can meet each other and discuss the environmental issues of the day. Mr. Miller will speak and take questions from 2:30 pm to 3:50 pm. Everyone is welcomed!!

From Welland travel north on Hwy 406 to St. David's Road exit, east through the Thorold Tunnel where it becomes Thorold Stone Road. Turn left at Taylor Road North (formerly Beechwood Road) and follow down the hill to the College.

From the QEW exit at Glendale Avenue, turn left on Glendale to Taylor Road at the lights, then left on Taylor to the College.

Tel: (905) 892-2566 (John Potter) or (905) 934-7053 (Vince Goldsworthy)

Carbon Trading:
A Primer for Forest Landowners

What is Carbon Trading?

Carbon trading, sometimes called emissions trading, enables someone who emits greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions (be it a person or a company) to pay someone who does something that reduces or removes emissions (energy efficiency, growing trees that store carbon, etc.). Carbon trading markets develop bringing buyers and sellers of carbon credits together with standardized rules of trade.

Carbon trading complements provincial and/or national regulations that establish reduction targets aimed at reducing atmospheric GHGs to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change. A 'cap and trade' system is a type of carbon trading that is used in the majority of regulated markets . This tool sets a clear, mandatory, enforceable limit (or cap) on emissions for facilities and sectors that are responsible for the majority of emissions.

What are Offsets?

All carbon credits are quantified in units of tonnes of CO_2 equivalent (CO_2e). An offset is a type of carbon credit created through the sequestration of carbon or reductions in emissions of a project that is reviewed and verified.

Sectors not covered by the cap can participate in the system by generating offset credits through projects they are engaged in that reduce or remove emissions. Any entity, typically a business, that emits CO_2 to the atmosphere may have an interest or may be required by law to balance their emissions. These businesses may include power generating facilities or many kinds of manufacturers. There is also growing buyer demand for emission reductions not required by legislation. Personal offsets (e.g. for air travel) and corporate offsets (e.g. to achieve voluntary carbon neutrality) are both burgeoning markets.

What does this mean for forests?

There are significant opportunities for accumulating (i.e., sequestering) carbon as well as limiting additional emissions to the atmosphere from forest land conversion. In the simplest case, landowners can accumulate carbon by planting trees where no trees currently exist (i.e., afforestation). The carbon accumulating in trees can potentially be sold as carbon credits. In the future, agreeing to conserve forest rather than converting forest land to other uses may also serve to generate tradable carbon credits. Enhancing the growth of your forest to accumulate carbon more quickly (i.e., fertilization) may also generate tradable carbon credits as can the accumulation of carbon in forest soils.

How does carbon trading fit into climate change efforts in Ontario, Canada and internationally?

The prospect of carbon trading has been an intense topic of discussion in Ontario and Canada since the signing of the Kyoto Protocol, the international framework which addresses GHG emissions, yet trading in Canada is still in its infancy and the small number of transactions that have actually taken place have done so in the absence of clear rules and regulations. Significant trading will likely only take place once a number of mechanisms are implemented at the provincial and/or national level , including the development of industrial targets, and a domestic offset system. The Canadian government is currently developing these systems. Several provinces, including Ontario, are also setting caps and designing trading rules in a way that they can converge with a national system in the future. In the mean time, Ontario has also developed a partnership with Quebec to develop a regional emissions trading system and has joined the Western Climate Initiative that may provide linkages to a broader regional trading system in North America.