

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

Volume 3 Edition 12

February Special Edition
WINTER 2008



MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

For those that braved the roads to attend the Annual General Meeting – Thank You. For those that could not make the Annual General Meeting – this special edition of the newsletter is being mailed to you to inform you of two very important issues that arose at our meeting.

If you have not renewed also please note the special insert enclosed....

As you are aware the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association has been working very hard at pressing all levels of government to take immediate action to address the pending gypsy moth and emerald ash borer crisis's which threaten our woods.

Please find enclosed the resolutions endorsed by the membership – and for those that could not attend – 3 letters with envelopes – which we would encourage all members to sign and send immediately to the identified levels of government. **Timing is critical!** Our County has asked for this assistance so they can make decisions and help us co-ordinate an action and response plan.

As for the gypsy moth – the County in partnership with the NWOA will be hosting an information session to discuss management options, including spraying of the biological insecticide *Btk*, strategically on hotspots identified from 2007 aerial mapping and ground surveys. The impacts of Gypsy Moth will affect all residents of Norfolk – this is not just a woodlot issue – so encourage our urban neighbours to attend!

Those that participated in the Gypsy Moth inventory program this winter – your results are being mailed February 8th – and unfortunately, for those that thought they had a problem – you do. Those areas with gypsy moth have high populations and you need to know your options – as your commitment if you are considering spraying and taking part in a spray program – your support is needed now!

Please plan on attending this session – if you cannot please call any Director for further information.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Monday February 11th, 2008



CHAINSAW SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE NIGHT

Springview Farm Golf Course
657 Culver Rd – Waterford

Refreshments – Pizza & Pop – 6:00 pm
Questions/Chainsaw Mtce.

Review – 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Pre-registration required. Call Tracey at 443-8754 to help with ordering of the food and info.

Wednesday February 13th, 2008



GYPSY MOTH INFORMATION SESSION 7 PM

Courtland Community Centre
Hwy #3 Courtland

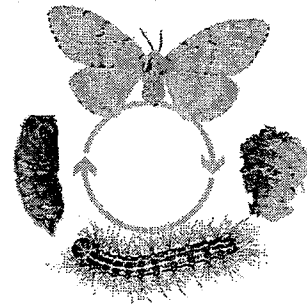
Please complete the following survey to assist with processing your interest in participating in any potential strategic spray program.

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

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY MEETING GYPSY MOTH - INFORMATION SESSION Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

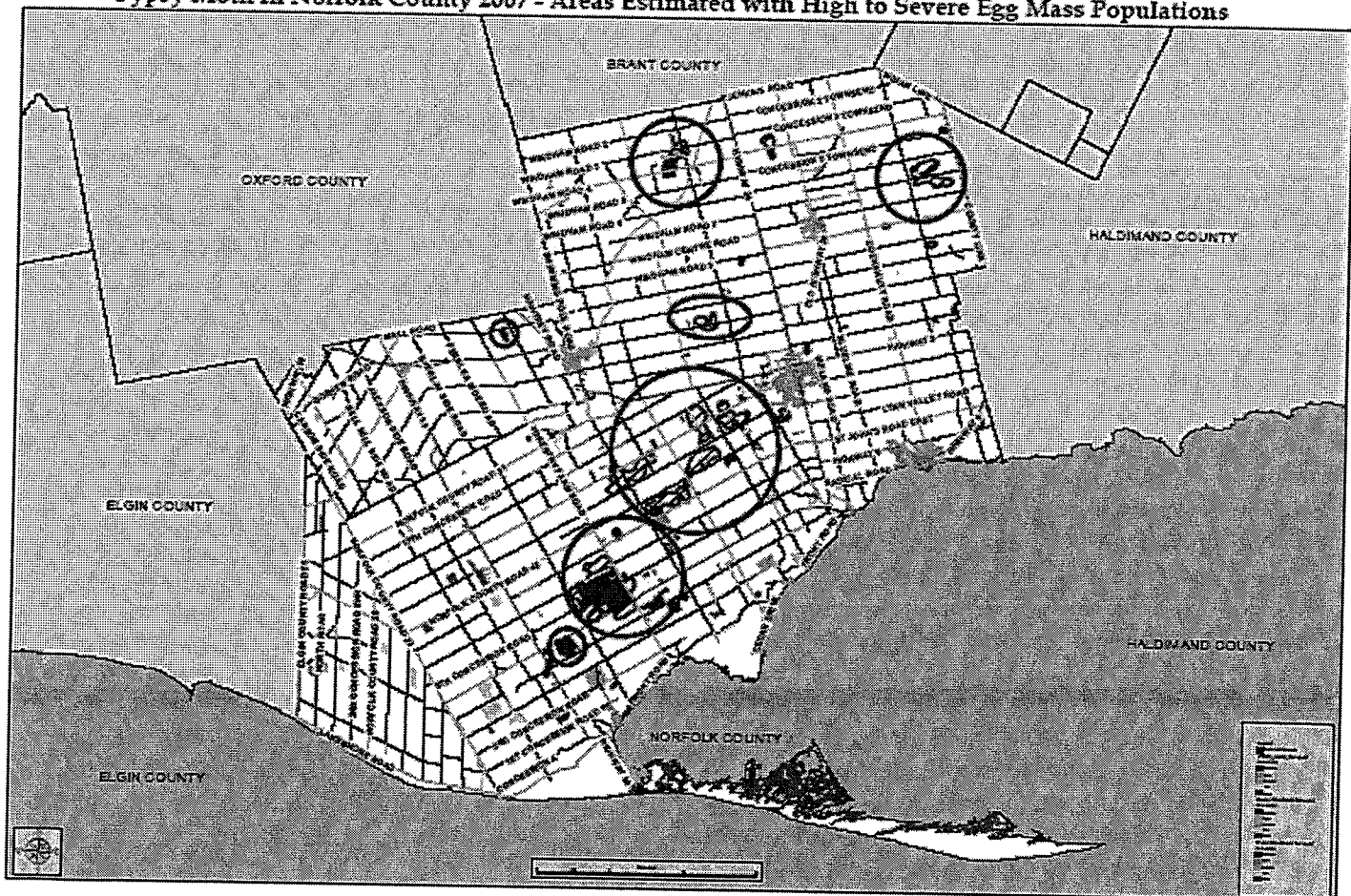
Wednesday February 13th, 2008 7:00 PM
Courtland Community Centre
Courtland - Hwy #3

For more information call Mark Sommerville 519-426-3762



MEETING STARTS AT 7 PM

Gypsy Moth in Norfolk County 2007 - Areas Estimated with High to Severe Egg Mass Populations





Don't Move Firewood ~ It BUGS me! BUY LOCAL FIREWOOD!

Subject: Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Norfolk County

STATUS: Quarantine Defined
5 KM QUARANTINE within and around the TURKEY POINT AREA

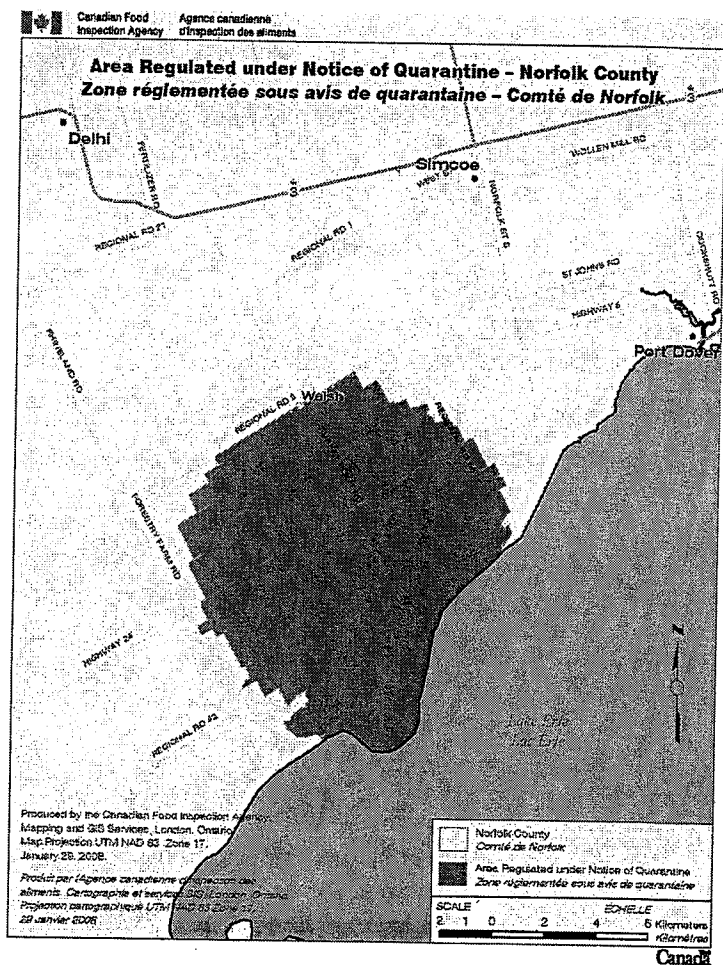
Norfolk County has organized a private meeting between the landowners issued Quarantine Notices and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The NWOA will continue to work with Norfolk County on identifying the next steps and how the infestation will be managed.

PLEASE REMEMBER ...

UNINTENTIONAL SPREAD through the sale of firewood or harvesting can have disastrous results. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Norfolk County have assured the NWOA, that we will be working together to ensure we implement the best practices to protect and conserve our woodlots! Stay Tuned!

DO NOT FALL for false promises of unscrupulous loggers who wish to take advantage of distorting the issue. Call the Forest Conservation Services BEFORE you sign any contract – ask specifically if the logger has ever been charged with violations to the Forest Conservation By-law – check their past jobs – if they will not give them to you than walk away. If they are not proud of their work, than why have them cut your trees!



Norfolk County staff will be available to assist woodlot owners once the quarantine boundaries have been defined and urge landowners to visit the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca for more information on Emerald Ash Borer.

**6th
Annual
MARCH BREAK!**

WILDLIFE

Festival & Adventure Show

"WHERE THE GREAT OUTDOORS MOVES INDOORS FOR 2 DAYS!"
Sat., March 8th 9 am - 7 pm • Sun., March 9th 10 am - 5 pm
Norfolk County Fairgrounds, Simcoe at THE AUD

ONTARIO WILDLIFE SHOW

Muskoka Wildlife Centre



Show Schedule
Sat **Sun**
 10 am 11 am
 1 pm 2 pm
 4 pm

BIRDS OF PREY SHOW

Canadian Raptor Conservancy



Show Schedule
Sat **Sun**
 11 am 12 pm
 2 pm 3 pm
 5 pm

REPTILE SHOW

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo



Show Schedule
Sat **Sun**
 12 pm 1 pm
 3 pm 4 pm
 6 pm

LOTS TO SEE & DO...

**24'
CLIMBING WALL**

FREE climbs
sponsored by
Scotiabank

**AWESOME
DOOR
PRIZES!**

**STUDENT
ART
COMPETITION!**

CASH prizes

**BROWSE
OVER
25
EXHIBITS!**



COME FOR LUNCH!

Camp-style food & refreshments available!

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

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

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



Simcoe Reformer



Norfolk
COUNTY FAIR
and more shows

FIN & FEATHER



Paulmac's Pet Food
lowhewmediasolutions.com

OVER
THE
MIDON



Win a "FREE" Weekend Getaway! Visit our website for details.

www.norfolkcountyfair.com/wildlife.php • 519-426-7280 ext. 222

NWOA Directors – 2008 *(pending internal elections of office)*

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

Name	Position	Term *	Phone	E-mail
Mark Sommerville	President	2008 (1)	426-3762	markruth@flarenet.com
David Sandor	Secretary	2009 (2)	875-4689	d.sandor@tvdsb.on.ca
Paul Beischlag	Director	2008 (1)	426-8591	pbeischlag@hotmail.com
Eric Ferguson	Director	2011(1)	443-7928	
Mike Rothery	Director	2011(1)		
Garrett Reid	Director	2011 (1)	426-4259	
Ron Tchorek	Director	2010 (1)	426-5708	tchorek@kwic.com
Dolf Wynia	Director	2010 (1)	875-3350	wynia@kwic.com
George Demaiter	Director	2010 (1)	426-8956	gdemaiter@kwic.com
Tracey Boerkamp	Norfolk Federation Agriculture Liaison	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.on.ca



4-H Norfolk Forestry Club

The 4-H Program

The Ontario 4-H Program is about opportunities, personal development, making friends, and having fun. 4-H helps young people (10-21 years of age) learn self-confidence and new skills. Members also learn communication and leadership skills, problem solving, and goal setting. 4-H Ontario Members can choose to be involved in any of over 60 different projects, ranging from drama to woodworking, life skills to livestock, and square dancing to conservation.

4-H IS 4U

Who can belong to a 4-H club?

Youth aged 10 to 21 before January 1st. of this year, are eligible to be a member.

What activities will the 4-H Norfolk Forestry Club be doing during the Forest Capital of Canada year?



- Tree ID / Forest Health
- Learning about the history of forestry in Norfolk
- Touring a working sawmill
- Learning about tree planting
- Selecting a Christmas Tree for the Governor General of Canada

For more information please contact – Charlotte Mudge – 519-842-3969

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED PLEASE DO – ALL MEMBERS WHO RENEW BY FEBRUARY 29th, 2008 WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY FOREST CAPITAL OF CANADA PEWTER PIN.

ADDITIONAL INFO AND PRODUCTS GAVE AWAY AT THE AGM CAN BE ARRANGED FOR PICK-UP FROM YOUR CLOSEST DIRECTOR.

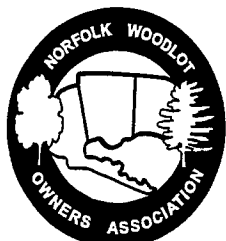
RENEWED? IF YES ~ SIGN UP A FRIEND!



Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association Membership Application

Name:			
Address:		Postal Code	
Phone:		Fax:	
E-Mail:			

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY	REGULAR MAIL		EMAIL	
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Do you own a woodlot?

Yes		Full Member
No		Associate Member

Former Township	Lot	Conc.	Size (acres)

Is this a farm woodlot? Yes _____ No _____.

Would you be interested in assisting on NWOA Committees? Yes _____ No _____.

Please send payment to: NWOA c/o Norfolk Forestry
95 Culver St. Simcoe, ON N3Y 2V5

NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE

Membership Fee – 2008 - \$20.00



Who Who Am I?

My new motto.....

"Lend a Hand - Care for the Land!" encourages everyone to make a positive difference in their world.

Was replaced by my old motto of

"Give a hoot. Don't pollute."

PLEASE BRING THIS FORM COMPLETED IN FULL TO THE

GYPSY MOTH INFORMATION SESSION

February 13th, 2008 7pm Courtland Community Centre

OR MAIL TO:

NORFOLK COUNTY 95 Culver St. Simcoe, ON N3Y 2V5

Phone: 519-426-5999 ext 0

Fax: 519-426-0059

DEADLINE: February 20th, 2008

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – Gypsy Moth Spray Program

Surname											Given Name										
Tax Roll No.	3	3	1	0																	
Mailing Address													Town								
Postal Code					E-mail																
Daytime Phone No.	()				Business No.	()															
WOODLOT																					
Lot											Estimated Woodlot Acreage										
Concession											Former Township										

WOODLOT DESCRIPTION

General Species Composition	IE: 50% Oak, 25% Hard Maple, 25% Hickory

DID YOU OBSERVE GYSPY MOTH DEFOLIATION IN 2007? Estimated Leaf Loss:

<10%		10 - 25%		25 - 50%		50 - 100%	
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AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH TAX ROLL NUMBER.

I hereby understand by submitting this Expression of Interest I am giving permission to Norfolk County and the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association to access my property to assess the potential for biological spraying to control high to severe gypsy moth populations.

This in NO WAY binds the landowner to committing to a spray program and represents only an expression of interest should a program be co-ordinated.

A formal contract will be required should such a program be offered. At that time full cost disclosure will be provided.

This request in no way implies, that Norfolk County or its' partners are committing to the implementation of control measures. However, your expression of interest is required to move forward with the organization of the possibility of any potential program.

WOODLOT LOCATION

Please indicate municipal address, access, roads, woodlots, buildings, etc.

NORTH

Landowners Signature: _____

Date: _____

**NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2008

1. President's Greeting and Messages

Mark Sommerville welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting with an enthusiastic and booming "Welcome to the Forest Capital of Canada". He expressed great pride for Norfolk because since this designation has been bestowed upon us various local government and civic groups have banded together to plan events throughout 2008. He encouraged the members to pickup the brochure which outlines the events for the year. Mark noted the presence of Norfolk County Councillors Columbus, Luke, Oliver and Wells. Mark then introduced the Dennis Travale, mayor of Norfolk County.

Dennis Travale passed on greetings from County Council. He stated that he and his fellow council members are fully aware of the two main forest pests that will affect Norfolk County wooded areas in the very near future. He asked the membership, in rhetorical fashion, who is responsible for forest management?

Dennis Travale then outlined the content of the correspondence he has sent to the Prime Minister, the Premier and the local federal and provincial representatives from Norfolk County. The bottom line is that the federal and provincial governments need to work with Norfolk County to eradicate and/or minimize the effects of the emerald ash borer and the gypsy moth by providing funding so on the ground activity could begin. In the return correspondence from the parties noted above Dennis Travale noted that the greater amount of support is coming from the offices of Dianne Finley and Toby Barrett - both of whom promised to be working on these issues.

Mr. Travale noted that it would be a shame that in the same year Norfolk was designated as the Forest Capital of Canada the county would lose a massive number of trees due to the pests noted above. He was even prepared to have the designation reassigned to another community if proper measures could not be taken to prevent the loss of forested land in Norfolk County. He encouraged members to begin letter writing campaigns to local federal and provincial representatives to let them know how our members stand on these issues.

Mark Sommerville thanked Dennis for his words and outlined that he and Tracey Boerkamp had spoken before council members to make them aware of the damage that these pests will create on the county's wooded areas. He noted that doing nothing is not a solution therefore Norfolk County has to work with the provincial and federal government to minimize the impact of these forest pests. He, too, highly encouraged letter writing campaigns to lobby the politicians.

2. Steve Scheers' Update on EAB and Gypsy Moth

Steve outlined what has been done to this point to gather information about the EAB and gypsy moth - surveys, setting quarantined areas, outlining solutions to the problems - so that all levels of government have concrete data about how to deal with the problem. Steve also stressed that action is needed now from the levels of government.

Steve also noted that the forest pests will affect Norfolk County considerably more than Chatham-Kent as they only have 3 % forest cover in the county whereas Norfolk has 25 %. A workshop will be set up in the very near future so people can actually see an EAB infested area.

There will be a public meeting on **Wednesday February 13 at the Courtland Community Center at 7:00** to further educate the public about **gypsy moth** and their management options.

3. NWOA Executive Proposed Resolutions

Mark Sommerville then asked the membership to vote on the following resolutions that were developed by the NWOA Executive to show the elected officials what our stance is on these issues.

For the resolution;

“That NWOA encourages all levels of government to support via technical advice and dollars strategic spraying for gypsy moth control with the biological control - *Btk* - of woodlots with evidence of 4 000 egg masses per hectare.”

the members were in unanimous support (there were approximately 150 members present).

For the resolution;

“That NWOA encourages all levels of government to work together to expedite the elimination of ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer where identified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and following standard processing/disposal protocol to slow the spread of the pest to the remainder of Norfolk County.”

the members were in unanimous support (there were approximately 150 members present).

When Mark asked if the membership would support a generalized spray program on private lands the members were unanimous in their support. When asked if they would support a spray program if woodlot owners were asked to pay for the cost of spraying their woodlot approximately sixty-six percent of the members were in support of this proposal.

4. Recognition of Retiring Board Members

Mark Sommerville presented engraved wooden plaques to three retiring NWOA Board members and thanked each one personally for his contributions to the organization over the years. Bauke Vogelzang, Tony Boerkamp and John Ryan were given a warm round of applause from the membership for their tireless efforts.

5. Treasurer's Report

John Ryan presented his last Treasurer's Report (he has been the Treasurer since 1998). There was increase of three members between 2006 and 2007. There was a balance of \$ 7 797 as of Dec. 31/07 but \$4 000 is dedicated to funding the NEST program, to which we received external funding for. Tony Boerkamp motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and after it was seconded by David Sandor the membership passed the motion unanimously.

6. Elections

George Demaiter noted that three Board members were retiring so three new replacements needed to be nominated and he opened the floor for nominations.

- Bauke Vogelzang nominated ***Eric Ferguson*** and it was seconded by David Sandor.
- Mark Sommerville nominated ***Mike Rothery*** and it was seconded by Andy Vandehyde.
- Ron Tchorek nominated ***Garrett Reid*** and it was seconded by Dolf Wynia.

All nominees agreed to stand and all were accepted as Board Executive members.

7. **Glen Blouin - Guest Speaker**

Mark Sommerville introduced Glen Blouin by listing his many professional accomplishments and his involvement in the communities where he has resided. Most notably was his ten year involvement in selecting cities to be designated as the Forest Capital of Canada (FCC).

Glen was happy to see so many NWOA members attending the AGM despite the treacherous weather and he congratulated Norfolk County for being designated as a Forest Capital of Canada. His stories about the Edmonton/Matapedia presentations to be considered as an FCC and where the Christmas tree that graced Rideau Hall came from when the Grand Forks, Newfoundland FCC designate did not deliver a majestic tree showed his experience and his penchant for being a natural story teller.

Glen stated that we should be proud to live in a "gem" like Norfolk County due to the large percentage of forest cover in the county and the presence of a Carolinian forest. The benefits of being designated as a FCC will be both short and long term for Norfolk residents.

Our guest speaker from Ottawa, who is the author of "An Eclectic Guide to Trees East of the Rockies" focussed on how woodlot owners could be effective managers of their forests. He provided five ways to accomplish this: education, management plan, restoration, role of the government and regulation.

Education

- learn about your woodlot by formal (education through books and/or professionals) and informal (being observant while walking through your woodlot to notice the changes) means. Glen highly recommended Gerry Waldron's book "Trees of the Carolinian Forest" and the Forest Shop Mail Order House as worthwhile and reputable sources of information. He also suggested for members to read woodlot owners magazines as a resource. Talking with neighbours about what is happening in adjoining or nearby woodlots can also be a way to gain knowledge. And finally, he encouraged members to attend NWOA outings as these usually have an educational component to them.

- he also encouraged members to get fully involved in managing a woodlot and when making changes proceed slowly in small increments so as to minimize errors (he stated that he is still learning and still makes mistakes when it comes to forestry management).

Management Plan

- woodlot owners have to ask themselves the following questions:

- * What are my objectives?
- * What do I want to manage?
- * Why do I want to manage my woodlot?
- * What are my values?
- * What do I want to accomplish?
- * What are my priorities?
- * How can I get all of my family involved?

Glen quoted Aldo Leopold

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." to make the point of trying to maintain the natural aesthetic beauty of woodlot rather than altering the woodlot to the extent of over harvesting of trees or trying to keep it neat and tidy.

- he stated that woodlot owners need to be aware of any endangered species in woodlots and then take the necessary measures to ensure their behaviour and actions do not jeopardize their existence

- people need to develop a blueprint for the land so the objectives can be clearly defined and outlined and this could be done by:

- * obtaining an aerial photo of the woodlot
- * making well blazed boundary lines
- * developing effective roads and trails systems through the woodlot
- * distinguishing between the different types of wood stands within a woodlot (life expectancy, sun requirements, rate of rot)
- * developing a researcher's approach to forest management - for a 10 acre plot keep one to two acres where absolutely nothing is done to it and then compare the portion that was managed to see if there are any differences in the outcome after a period of time
- * leaving two to three dead trees per acre so that they serve as a food source and/or home for animals

Another Leopold quote **"To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering"** was cited to show that one's actions may have an impact on the woodlot that was not expected and/or anticipated therefore people need to proceed slowly when making changes to a wooded area.

Restoration

Glen stated that we should give a hand to nature now and then by returning the land to what it was like or what we think it was like

- this could be done by planting native species, planting mixed species of trees rather than one or two species, creating pits and mounds in old fields to duplicate old forest conditions

Role of government

- members could investigate tax rebate programs for managed woodlot programs
- members could embark on letter writing campaigns to lobby federal, provincial and municipal leaders to bring about the changes required

Regulation

Glen suggested that woodlot owners would not want to be told by the government how to manage their woodlots so he encouraged members to be proactive rather than reactive.

After Glen's speech Mark Sommerville mentioned the log carving that was presented to Norfolk County during the FCC recognition night at Council chambers. The membership had a break to look at the displays, converse with other members and have some light refreshments. After the break Mark publicly thanked Glen Blouin for his inspirational message and gave him a Norfolk FCC pin, a carved wooden bowl and a cheque.

7. James Cowan's Raptors

Mark then introduced the second guest speaker of the evening James Cowan.

James is the owner/operator of the Canadian Raptor Conservancy and he operates out of Port Rowan. His organization has a multitude of functions:

- educational programs - four show teams across Canada put on 1572 shows last year
- natural pest control programs - his birds of prey are used to rid areas of rodents or other unwanted desirables
- providing birds of prey for commercials and movies
- rehabilitate injured birds so they can return to the wild but he noted that none of the show/movie/commercial birds are from the wild - only the ones bred in captivity are used for show purposes
- James stated that birds of prey are considered true carnivores and that they kill prey with their feet and this distinguishes them from other meat eating organisms.
- James presented five birds and he outlined the diet, weight, habitat and unique features of each bird as well as some unique trivia (I have listed some of these below so you can fascinate people at festive gatherings).
- the Harris hawk (Woody) was the only bird in the show not originally found in Canada as it is normally found in the SW US and Mexico and it is the only bird of prey to cooperate with its own kind when hunting for food - why? - because bigger prey can be caught when the group works together
- the Great Horned Owl (Tobah) uses mostly hearing, rather than sight, to catch prey and they have such great grasping strength with its feet. Tobah loves skunks and has is able to lift his 1 248 g body into the air using its one metre wing span (James noted that he would need a 15 m wingspan to enable him to fly).
- Diego (the Red Tailed Hawk) is found in all areas of Canada and James would like it to be considered Canada's national bird (presently there is not an officially designated bird of Canada). Look for Diego in an upcoming VISA commercial.
- the American Kestrel (Andre) is a farmer's best friend as family of seven can consume 14 mice a day
- the Bald Eagle (Rocko) is an endangered species in Southern Ontario but not Northern Ontario and it has the largest nest size of any bird - 3m tall by 4m wide and it weighs about two tons (of sticks). This is where James mentioned that there 250 000 lakes in Ontario and that Canada has 1/4 of the world's standing fresh water and 1/8 of that is in Ontario.

David Sandor thanked James for his unique and factual presentation and presented him with a Norfolk FCC pin, a handsome pen and a cheque.

8. Concluding Remarks

Mark Sommerville thanked the business people who rented tables and displayed their wares and he encouraged the members to patronize these establishments.

Steve Scheers displayed the door prize winners on the large screen

Mark thanked the Culligan people for supplying the water.

Tracey Boerkamp presented the two main door prizes - chain saws - to the recipients.