

President's message

Summer this year is long and warm, and continues to be warm for a while. The only sign that the end is approaching are the later sun rise and the cooler nights. The drought this summer has been remarkable. I have been told it has not been this dry since 1934, 78 year ago. On our farm we had insignificant rain in May and no rain in June and July. We were pleased when we got some good showers the second week of August, although those were local.

In the spring we had planted several trees on our property; Two Eastern Flowering Dogwoods, that suffered dramatically from the drought although we watered these several times a week; ten shagbark Hickories in the prairie of which only one survived; 3 Hill's Oak that we did not plant due to heat and that ended up in pots in the side of the pond just to stay alive till planting in the fall.

Another sign that the end of summer is approaching is the quiet in the morning. No more Robins to wake me up and no more Kiln Deer to fly up noisy. The Barn Swallows have left, but the Eastern King Birds are still very present as well as the Eastern Blue Bird and the Cedar Wax Wing.

On August 9 we took part in the Norfolk Land Stewardship Council annual tour. We visited a site of Nature Conservancy Canada. Their aim is to connect forest properties by buying farmland and seeding forbs and trees to re-establish new forests with better habitat for wild life. Nature Conservancy Canada has established an extensive trail system that is open to the public. Signs and maps are currently being made. We also visited the site of the Port Rowan Sewage Lagoon Naturalization Project. The lagoon is converted in a wetland area to create yet another type of habitat. Two other projects that were visited were St. Williams Conservation Reserve-Turkey Point Tract where mechanical harvest equipment was used and Sartor wetland creation. In all projects NLSC has been involved.

On August 12 we visited Forest Fest in St Williams. It was a nice gathering for forest minded people as well as a celebration of the War of 1812. There were demonstrations of wood measuring (board foot from a harvested tree) wool spinning, wood turning, wood carving, deer management, children's activities and education and more. To celebrate the War of 1812 there was a presentation of General Brock, a strategic British army officer, who did not hesitate to strike the first blow to the United States. The later were unprepared and defeated.

On August 22 we attended the ALUS Tour. 3 Buses moved farmers, researchers and government people from all over Ontario to the various sites. These sites were Gunther Csoff farm for Tall Grass Prairie restoration, Penner Farm for wetland restoration and reforestation, Showalter Farm for pollinator research and weed management and Hukezalie Farm for wetland creation.

Every time that we visit restoration projects I am always impressed by the enthusiasm with which this is all done. Norfolk County's forests and wild life habitats are really a gem for all of us to be proud of. In September new activities of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association are planned. Please read on for dates and places.

If you have any suggestions or interests that you would like to learn about you can let me know by phone (519-428-1421) or by email (vankleef@kwic.com)

Angelle van Kleef

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday September 15th, 2012 10:00 AM

**Carbon Sequestration Tower and St. Williams Conservation Reserve
White Pine Harvest Tour**

Location: Meet at Turkey Point Park.
Attendees will then collectively drive over to the parking lot on 1st Conc.
Dress appropriately for weather and walking through long grass/forest.

Monday September 17th, 2012 6:30 PM

**Turkey Point Bluff Walk ~ St. Williams Conservation Reserve
Twilight Tour**

Location: Meet at Turkey Point Park.
Attendees will then collectively drive over to the entrance.
Dress appropriately for weather and walking through long grass/forest.

Remember to bring your camera! Views and colours will be hopefully breath taking!

Monday September 24th, 2012 6:30 PM

Fall Prairie Walkabout Twilight Tour

Location: Meet at St Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre.
Attendees will then collectively drive over to locations.
Dress appropriately for weather and walking through long grass/forest.

Remember to bring your camera! Views and colours will be hopefully breath taking!

Thursday September 20th, 2012 6:00 PM

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Twilight Restoration Tour

Location: Meet at Delhi Arena - 144 Western Ave. Delhi
Attendees will Car pool to various restoration sites managed by participating farmers.
Dress appropriately for weather and walking through long grass.

Norfolk Field Naturalists Community Outing

Saturday, October 21st ~ 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Mushroom Identification Hike – Inga Hinnerichsen

Join the Norfolk Field Naturalists on a Fall hike in Backus Woods to look for and identify mushrooms and other fungi of all shapes and sizes.

Location: Meet at the 3rd Concession parking lot at 1 P.M. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Bring a camera as you can't harvest mushrooms in this NCC property.
Dress appropriately for weather and walking through long grass/forest.

NWOA Directors – 2012

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

Name	Position	Term *	Phone	E-mail
Dolf Wynia	Past President		875-3350	wynia@kwic.com
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Clen van Kleef	Vice President	2013 (1)	428-1421	vankleef@kwic.com
Eric Ferguson	Treasurer	2014 (2)	443-7928	emferguson@silomail.com
Martin Perrin	Secretary Website Ctte	2015 (2)	875-2481	mkperrin@kwic.com
Mike Rothery	Director	2014 (2)	586-9535	wmrothery@hotmail.com
Vic Janulis	Director	2013 (1)	443-5828	vici@kwic.com
Joe Stechly	Director	2013 (1)	428-0374	
Tom Bradstreet	Director	2013 (1)	426-3405	tom.bradstreet@natureconservancy.ca
Ron Tchorek	Director	2013 (2)	426-5708	tchorek@kwic.com
Brett Schuyler	Director	2014 (1)	427-9696	brett@schuylerfarms.ca
Paul DeCloet	Director-at-large	2014 (1)	688-0309	p.decloet@bell.net
John Morrissey	Director-at-large	2014 (1)		drjohn@xplornet.com
Garret Reid	Director-at-large	2014 (2)	429-9288	garretreid42@hotmail.com
Gunther Csoff	Director-at-large	2014 (1)		gandhcsoff@execulink.com
David Reid	Director-at-large	2015 (1)		dave.reid@eastlink.ca
Mark Sommerville	St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council	Advisory	426-3762	markruth@flarenet.com
Tracey Boerkamp	Annual General Meeting Chairman	Advisory	443-8754	springview@simcom.on.ca
Eric Cleland	Norfolk Land Stewardship Council	Advisor	426-4259	eric.cleland@ontario.ca
Steve Scheers Superintendent	Norfolk County Forestry Conservation Service	Advisor	426-5999	steven.scheers@norfolkcounty.ca



National Tree Day?

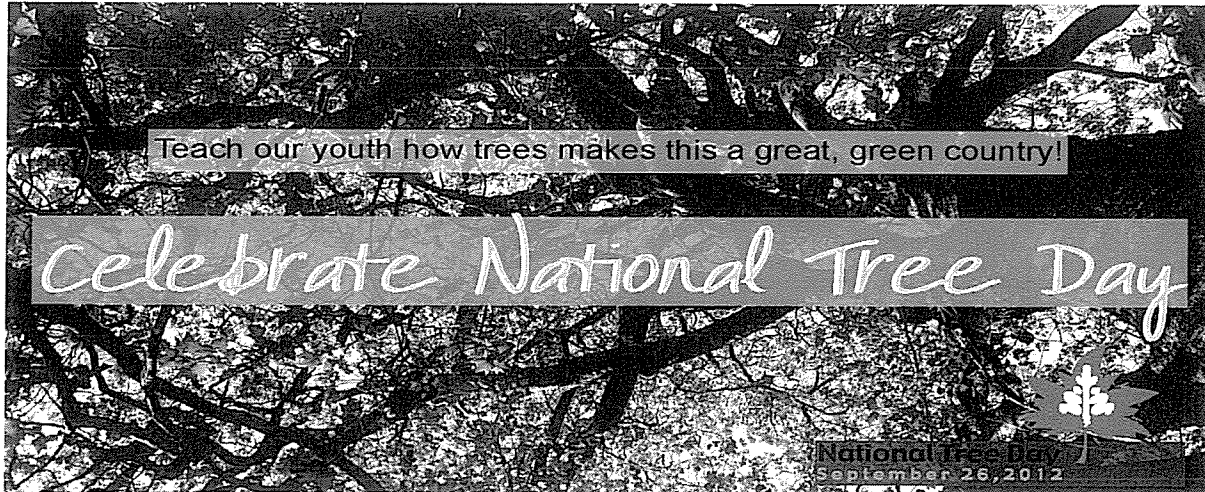
Wednesday, September 26, 2012 is National Tree Day.

On March 2, 2011 a private members motion to declare the Wednesday of National Forest Week, National Tree Day, received consent from the House of Commons. The motion was presented by Royal Galipeau, M.P., at the urging of Tree Canada.



What is National Tree Day?

National Tree Day will serve as a celebration for all Canadians to appreciate the great benefits that trees provide us - clean air, wildlife habitat, reducing energy demand and connecting with nature.



National Tree Day is important for Canadians

- Over 80% of Canadians live in urban areas
- Trees reduce residential heating costs by 10-15% (through windbreak)
- Each healthy tree can reduce air borne dust particles by as much as 7,000 particles per litre of air, thus a healthy tree is a free standing air conditioner and purifier
- The Canadian forest products industry is an environmental steward, responsible for more than 600,000 jobs with annual revenues representing roughly 2 percent of our GDP.

FOREST HEALTH FAST FACT



The Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) is a shade or specimen tree native to Europe has either green or reddish/purple leaves – what some people call “red” maple is actually a Crimson King Norway Maple – it has naturalized in North America from its extensive use in landscapes. Growing to different heights depending upon the cultivar, Norway maple is susceptible to a fungal disease known as tar spot. While this ailment is typically not serious in regard to the maple’s overall health, it can spoil the tree’s appearance. You can control Norway maple tar spot by being diligent in your yard work.

The most effective manner of controlling Norway maple tar spot is to rake up any leaves that fall beneath the tree and get rid of them. Since the fungus survives the winter in these dead leaves, by removing them, you make it impossible for them to infect the next year’s leaves. Bag the leaves or burn them, if legal in your area. Do not mulch them with a mower or toss them into compost piles, since the spores will survive and possibly infect the trees. In neighborhoods where many homes feature Norway and other types of maples, unless everyone rakes and disposes of their leaves, the tar spot may remain to infect trees.

Ontario Stewardship

Together we're making the difference

Source: http://www.ontariostewardship.org/index.php/about_us

Who We Are ... With mounting pressure to develop healthy lakes, wetlands, forests and productive farmland we need to understand our human impact to the world we live in. Ontario Stewardship's purpose is to inform landowners about the value of an ecologically friendly approach.

Stewardship Councils are supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and are comprised of dedicated volunteers and stakeholders who share a concern for the environment. There are 45 Stewardship Councils located across the province.

Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds and bring different perspectives to the table. Councils consist of cottagers, teachers and outdoor educators, forestry experts, landowners, farmers, trail representatives, naturalists, outdoorsmen, and First Nations representatives. With such an assorted mix, you'd think that even the smallest agreements would be hard-earned, but these differences are a strength of the Councils. Members listen to other viewpoints, and collectively arrive at practical, workable solutions that all stakeholders can support.

Each Stewardship Council has a proven track record in their respective communities or regions. Programs are designed by the Council to specifically address the needs of landowners and local community issues concerning forestry, wetlands, water, wildlife, agriculture, and related issues. One main goal of the program is to influence public perception through education, which in turn influences healthier shifts in development and land use practices.

Stewardship Councils have a variety of community, business and agency partners, and log thousands of hours of volunteer effort. Local groups, like Fish & Game Clubs, Naturalist Clubs, Woodlot Associations, and Wildlife Chapters, frequently team up with Stewardship Councils to provide volunteers, perspectives and a hands-on expertise. These partnerships allow the councils to tap into the cultural fabric of the communities they serve. This is key to community support and cooperation.

NORFOLK LAND STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Working Hand in Hand with Our Land



The Norfolk Land Stewardship Council (NLSC) is one of 46 community level councils. Of the 46 councils, 40 are located in southern Ontario while six new councils are situated across northern Ontario. These councils operate under the umbrella of Ontario Stewardship, which was developed in response to a shift in the way that governments do business. In the past, governments approached resource management by developing policy, implementing programs and monitoring them through legislation. Now, it is recognized that a stewardship approach, in which all stakeholders have a say in what happens to their land and resources, can be more effective and better for communities.

The Ontario Stewardship program recognizes that individual communities are unique, and that the best stewardship solutions are often achieved when they are designed and delivered by community stakeholders and local agencies. Therefore, the role of the NLSC is to provide a broad representation of Norfolk County, including landowners, land interest groups, agencies and associations. Together, these stakeholders identify and act on the needs of the community. The NLSC provides landowners with access to programs and funding sources to support their stewardship efforts, and thereby helps these funding agencies to fulfil their mandates more effectively.

Changes to Stewardship Councils in Ontario,

including the Norfolk Land Stewardship Council (NLSC)

After Dave Reid's retirement as the NLSC Stewardship Coordinator at the end of 2011, Eric Cleland accepted the acting assignment as Stewardship Coordinator – this assignment ends on September 28th, 2012 – he has not been granted an extension and will be returning to his original MNR position as Southwestern Ontario's Forest Health Specialist. The NLSC is hopeful that the position will at minimum be filled temporarily, but such remains unclear as we all await this announcement regarding the MNRs "new direction".

The NWOA encourages all members to express their concerns to the Minister of Natural Resources that supporting an MNR presence within the community is important to the success of community-based projects lead by volunteers.

Below is a response to correspondence sent back in May of 2012 regarding these pending changes.

Thank you for your letter regarding Stewardship Councils and your concerns about their future. I am pleased to respond.

Over the last 16 years since the Ontario Stewardship program was created, there has been significant growth in both the number of organizations engaged in stewardship and their capacity to deliver resource management activities. As indicated in the 2012 Ontario Budget, the ministry is developing a new model to support stewardship across the province, but I want to assure you that we remain committed to environmental stewardship in Ontario. Moving to a new stewardship model is part of a broader plan to transform the Ministry of Natural Resources. Our three-year Transformation Plan will get the ministry on a sustainable fiscal path and contribute to balancing the provincial budget by 2017-18.

The new stewardship model will allow us to engage in more strategic relationships with partners; reduce our involvement where other stewardship organizations are already active; engage a wider range of partners across broader geographic landscapes; reorient assistance away from direct staff support; and provide stewardship incentives and grants focused on achieving ministry and government priorities. The ministry expects to announce changes to the Ontario Stewardship Program in the near future.

We are proud of the successful relationships we have had with our partners to date and we remain committed to securing and supporting partnership opportunities across Ontario in the future.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Minister

Michael Gravelle
Minister of Natural Resources

KIDS CORNERS ~ Fall Activities

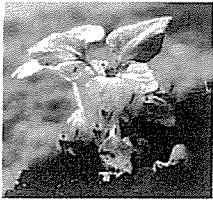


WHAT IS A TREE?

Trees are an important part of our daily lives. They also absorb carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) and give us oxygen to breathe. Trees make our environment beautiful with their different colours,

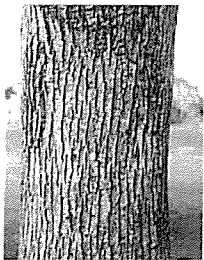
flowers and shapes and they provide us with shade and relief from the sun's heat and harmful rays. Trees help absorb the rain and help stabilize the weather. Trees are very important to us!

What are the Parts of a Tree?



Seedling Seed ~ Like many plants, a tree begins from a seed. Inside each tree seed is a tree waiting to be born! A seed must have food, water and sunlight to grow. Once the seed sprouts, it grows into a seedling that grows into a sapling and eventually saplings grow into trees that produce their own seeds.

Tree bark Roots ~ All trees have roots, which extend into the soil and have two important jobs to do: they anchor the tree to the ground so that it can stand upright, and they absorb water, minerals and nutrients from the soil.



Trunk ~ The trunk of a tree supports the branches and transports water and minerals from the soil to the rest of the tree. The trunk supports the tree as it grows taller in order to reach the sunlight it needs to continue growing. The trunk is covered with a tough outer covering of bark that protects the tree. The layer under the bark is called sapwood and the centre of the trunk is called heartwood. Heartwood is formed as the tree grows and the inner layers of sapwood die and harden. The hardness of heartwood helps support the tree.

In order to find out the age of a tree, count the tree layers or rings on the trunk of a dead tree. The rings are thicker or thinner depending on the temperature and weather that year, as well as other environmental conditions.



Branches, Leaves and Twigs ~ Branches grow out from the trunk and have twigs at the tips. These twigs are the growing ends of the trees. They also transport water and minerals from the trunk to the leaves and needles.

Leaf Leaves and Needles ~ Leaves and needles are arranged on the twigs to capture maximum sunlight. Using sunlight the leaves and needles produce food for the whole tree. Leaves use energy from the sun to take the carbon dioxide in the air and use the water from the soil to convert into sugars to feed the tree. This process is known as photosynthesis. As a by-product, trees release oxygen into the air. This is very important, as all animals and humans need oxygen to survive.

"If you want to learn about the health of a population, look at the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the places where they live."

– Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, in the Fifth Century B.C.

