



### President's Message FALL 2014

Slowly we are moving into fall. The summer this year has been fairly mild, with rains regularly spread throughout the summer. The lawn has been green all summer, except for a little dry period in June. Nature has responded accordingly. Everything that was not thriving came back to life. I was told about an Eastern Flowering Dogwood trees that was planted last year. It had not seemed alive this spring. Still this tree started to turn green in July, due to these moist conditions. Also some forbs along the roads seem to be thriving better showing more abundant flowers this year than in drier years.

As participants in the ALUS projects we attended the ALUS tour in August. We visited 4 projects that mostly focussed on wetland restoration. It is great to see the change in maturity of the wetlands when visiting sites in the first, second, third and older stage after initiation. In most places LPRCA has also provided for trees. It makes for interesting combinations of habitat.

The website committee has been working with a new company to work on the improvement of the website. The new website is now available again at [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com). We will now be posting information more regularly to provide all members with up to date information. We will make the newsletters available in the member section for you to view. Also tours and workshops will be posted on the website, as well as in the newsletter.

If you have any thoughts or ideas for the newsletter you want to share that with us. And if you have time to assist in hosting an event or volunteering for an activity feel free to let us know. You can always reach me by phone (519-428-1421) or email at [vankleef@kwic.com](mailto:vankleef@kwic.com).

Angelle van Kleef

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### THE WEBSITE IS ALIVE!!!

NWOA website – [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com)

.....is now working and newsletters will be posted and available online for members in good standing.

In hopes to distribute more information than can be compressed in published newsletters we will be posting additional information for both the public and NWOA members.

As a test of such we have asked the POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTION their views on forestry and the challenges that face woodlot management, marketing of harvested timber, and pending impacts that threaten our woodlots and rural/urban trees.

Their responses will be posted as they are received in the public area tab “News & Events” – Municipal CandidatesViews

VISIT [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com)

## Why?

- Members will have exclusive access to the electronic version of the NWOA Forestry Manual
- A Members Forum will allow members to learn about trending issues, and submit questions which will be answered to the best of our abilities by accessing the appropriate experts
- Exclusive “Members Only” access to workshops, seminars, and training opportunities.
- Up to Date access to market trends.

If you have not registered yet to gain access – it’s really easy

– just select the “JOIN US” tab on the home page – it will provide you the steps to take to gain access.

What are the current topics posted on the Members Forum;

- Emerald Ash Borer Impact – have a question ask away!
- Will small woodlot owners have to be “certified” to sell their timber to a sawmill – trending issue with introduction to come in the next few weeks

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Please pass this message on to interested staff, partners, and clients.*

You are cordially invited to attend the

### **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s 38th Annual Forest Health Review**

to be held Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at Geneva Park near Orillia. A full agenda will follow shortly.

In order to accommodate increasing attendance, this is the second year for the event to be held at the Geneva Park YMCA facilities. Geneva Park is located just east of Orillia at 6604 Rama Rd, L3V 6H6, (705) 325-2253 on the picturesque shores of Lake Couchiching.

For those needing accommodations, rooms are available at Geneva Park itself, at Casino Rama (705) 329-3325, or at the Days Inn (705) 326-8288, all of which are close by.

This annual meeting presents the latest information on forest health conditions in Ontario, forest invasive species, pest management programs, and research results. Highlights include federal expansion of the quarantine for emerald ash borer, the eradication program for Asian long-horned beetle, and an update on hemlock woolly adelgid (a new invasive species under eradication in Ontario) including a presentation from Dr. Mark Whitmore of Cornell University. There will also be results of recent research projects in forest health, reports on the major insect, disease, and extreme weather events in Ontario forests, and a presentation from Dr. Bob Heyd on forest health issues in Michigan.

This meeting provides information for policy developers, resource managers, foresters, ecologists, conservation authorities, forest industry, pest management companies, academics, students, land owners, municipalities, and others interested in forest health in Ontario.

The meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. There is no registration fee, but to assist with planning [please register](#) by e-mail to Laurie Anne Ryan [laurianne.ryan@ontario.ca](mailto:laurianne.ryan@ontario.ca) (705) 945-5876.

# NEWS FROM THE WOODS

Reprinted from OrilliaPacket – Articles by Dave Dawson



**Editor's Note:** All over Simcoe County, on tracts of private land big and small, trees are facing an uncertain future. Many worry the landscape will change forever. In this three-part series the OrilliaPacket Dave Dawson, explores the issue, examines the history and heritage of this beloved natural resource and takes a peek at what the future might hold.

Simcoe County is very similar to Norfolk County in sandy soils and extensive reforestation – Simcoe County has partnered on a number of initiatives with the NWOA and Norfolk County Forestry Division. These articles put some troubling trends into perspective.

## PART 1: FORESTRY IN JEOPARDY

Driving around winding county roads in his weary pickup, a disappointed Doug Drysdale pulls to the side of the road and earnestly points at a slowly decaying stand of white pine.

“Look at that. What a mess,” he says, his voice heavy with regret. “Nobody has touched that tract of land for years.”

It's a story that plays itself out time and time again as many of the once-majestic forests that have defined the Simcoe County landscape become tangled havens for tall and spindly trees, victims of decades of neglect by private landowners who, as the old adage goes, cannot see the forest for the trees.

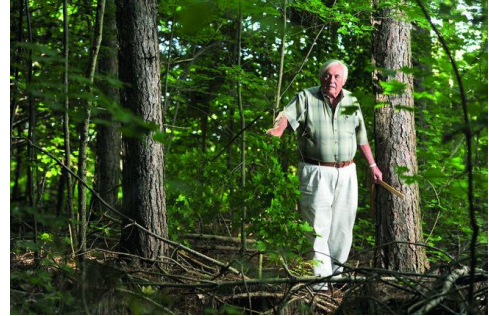
The trees, on patches of private land from Severn Township, in the north end of Simcoe County, to New Tecumseth, in the south, are suffering from overcrowding and, in Drysdale's learned opinion, will “inevitably be devastated by the next ice storm or ... snapped off by the next heavy snowfall. Such weak and seriously stressed trees are also more susceptible to ... insect and disease attack.”

For Drysdale, a retired professional forester, a pioneer in the once-proud profession and owner of Drysdale's Tree Farm, the situation is dire and will have a far-reaching impact on both the region and its residents for generations to come. Worst of all? It's entirely preventable, he says.

“I am disappointed in my generation that we have ended up in this situation,” said Drysdale, who worked with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests from 1957 to 1972 and worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources from 1972 to 1989. For Drysdale and his ilk, history should have proven a better educator.

In the late 1800s, the indiscriminate axe of the lumberjack slashed through the region's forests, uprooting trees with nary a thought of tomorrow. What was left was set afire and left to burn until all that remained was a scarred, barren plain.

The blood-red fires from those careless days were the clarion call to action for many — including E.C. Drury, a longtime Simcoe County farmer and politician.



With calipers in hand, Doug Drysdale of Drysdale Tree Farm, works a small forest of red pines. Some of the trees will be removed to make way for younger, stronger trees. Drysdale has always understood the importance of proper forest management and worries an important resource could be lost.

## **PART 1: FORESTRY IN JEOPARDY (continued)**

“I can remember the night skies red with such fires — at Midhurst and Anten Mills and Orr Lake,” Drury once recalled.

It was that memory, seared into his consciousness, that sparked a new vision for Drury, who would become Ontario’s eighth premier in 1919.

With one eye on the past and one eye on the future, he used his new position to help establish the ‘Agreement Forest’ program. Under this unique concept, local governments could purchase lands and turn them over to the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests for protection and development.

Simcoe County was the first to take advantage of this program and on May 8, 1922, the first trees were planted in the new Hendrie tract in Vespra Township. The Simcoe County Forest was born.

Over the next five years, more than 1.3 million trees were planted there. Today, it remains a lasting tribute to the foresight of those early pioneers in forestry. (More on that in Part 2 Friday.)

Hand in hand with that groundbreaking program that saw more than 10 million trees planted in Simcoe County forests by the mid-1950s, the provincial nursery in Midhurst handed out tens of thousands of seedlings that children, predominantly, took home and planted on family farms and in residential neighbourhoods all over the region.

Today, generations later, many of those lands have changed hands, having been passed from one owner to another. Over time, the importance of those trees has largely faded; most have been forgotten, left to age on their own like a once-loved car, abandoned, rusting and rotting on the side of the road.

“These trees were grown in plantations which were carefully and properly established back in the 1920s, ’30s and ’40s on privately owned land and lovingly protected and tended by their original owners,” said Drysdale. “Unfortunately, they have received little or no care or attention since that time.”

At his own sprawling tree farm, Drysdale points out healthy, soaring 100-foot-high red pine trees that are about 80 years old. Some are marked for thinning — a process that happens about every eight years to ensure the trees have room to grow.

He likens it to weeding a garden; if you don’t tend to a garden regularly, it quickly becomes an overgrown mess, he says, noting the same is true of a forest.

“If you ignore them, over time, they’ll collapse,” said Drysdale, 81. “There will be no revenue and a natural resource will be wasted. It shouldn’t happen.”

Just as regrettably, Drysdale laments, nobody seems to care. Who is going to step up and dare to change a destiny that seems set in stone? And why should you care?

# NEWS FROM THE WOODS

Reprinted from OrilliaPacket – Articles by Dave Dawson



**Editor's Note:** All over Simcoe County, on tracts of private land big and small, trees are facing an uncertain future. Today, in Part 2 of a three-part series, we explore the issue and find out how we got to the precipice of a tragedy.

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## **PART 2: FORESTRY IS IN TROUBLE AT EVERY LEVEL**

One of our region's greatest resources — its forests — is facing an uncertain future. Its potential as an important source of fuel and furniture, as an important habitat for wildlife, as a key anchor of our landscape that is critical to farmers and to those who love recreation, could soon be lost if the trees on privately owned land continue to be ignored.

"Millions of pine trees in Simcoe County are dying and it's totally avoidable," said retired professional forester Doug Drysdale. Sadly, he said, the problem is not unique to our region.

"Forestry is in trouble at every level," Drysdale said. "The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is but a shell of its former self ... and the faculty of forestry (at the University of Toronto) is alive, but barely. All in all, it's a tragedy."



Graeme Davis, a forester with the County of Simcoe, uses a GPS, an important tool for forest management. MARK WANZEL/BARRIE EXAMINER/QMI

Former chief provincial forester Ken Armson, chair of the Forest History Society of Ontario, agrees. He says the province has "abdicated" its role in forestry management, leaving private landowners without adequate resources.

"Back in 1982, this issue was starting to emerge and we created a document called Private land forests: a public resource," explained Armson. "We started to look at the way countries in Europe and the U.K. dealt with private land forests. They saw it as a public resource and felt the government had an obligation to provide support for landowners .... the basic premise was that forests are a positive resource."

Sadly, nothing became of that initiative, Armson laments. Fast forward a few years and the provincial government decided to eliminate provincially-run nurseries such as the one at Midhurst. The woodlot improvement program, in which the MNR would plant trees if the owner agreed to tend the property for at least 15 years, was abandoned.

"Closing the nurseries was a real setback," said Armson. "The quality of trees is so important and the provincially run nurseries developed a way of collecting seeds from superior stands with attention to geography ... Now it's left to the private sector, which doesn't always have a long-term view."

## **PART 2: FORESTRY IS IN TROUBLE AT EVERY LEVEL (continued)**

“The reality is forestry management was abandoned by the provincial government,” Armson said. That has led to the slow decline, generally, of forests on private lands, he said.

“If you’re a landowner, who do you go to for advice, help or support?” he asks. “We’ve lost the ability to co-ordinate forest management on private lands in southern Ontario. There is a big gap that remains unfilled. It’s not the job of the county ... We need a way of dealing with this problem now,” Armson said.

He says a model championed in New England, where a non-profit organization, the New England Forestry Foundation, was created to provide that service — in exchange for a percentage of revenue generated from the forests — is something to look at in Ontario. (For more on that innovative program, visit [newenglandforestry.org](http://newenglandforestry.org).)

“Over the years, a lot of people have bequeathed land to that organization and it’s become a model ... that could be adopted here,” Armson said.

He envisions such an agency working with Trees Ontario and conservation authorities to help private landowners realize the potential of trees currently withering and wasting away. Drysdale, who believes the county could play a larger role, said the difference between some private lands and county forests is like night and day.

“The situation on privately owned plantations is even more tragic since nearby there are thousands of acres of publicly owned forests administered by the County of Simcoe, which are superbly managed and generating a good economic return,” he said.

“I feel perhaps the county’s bylaw officer ... could have a more positive role by finding out who the owners are — at least in the land in close proximity to county forests — and talk to them about forestry management,” said Drysdale.

But Simcoe County forester Graeme Davis, whose four-member department, which includes one part-time contract position, oversees the 32,000-acre Simcoe County Forest, said his staff is already stretched to the limit. He said it’s a challenge to keep up with the millions of trees throughout the sprawling county that is geographically the size of Prince Edward Island.

“As a department, we have a huge mandate and we do have a role to play,” said Davis. “Some would like us to play more of a role ... Right now, the resources aren’t there, but we do provide an example for private landowners of how you can manage forests with a long-term view and realize a profit from those endeavours.”

The Simcoe County Forest is Ontario’s largest and has turned a steady profit through timber sales in recent years, raking in more than \$1 million some years.

In addition, Davis said, the forest is growing, with almost 3,000 acres acquired in various land purchases over the past several years. “It’s a huge source of pride for the county,” Davis told *The Packet & Times*.

“There is no question that county council recognizes what we have, recognizes that we are a model that is unique in Canada and understands how important it is to look after this resource,” he said.

Davis, like Armson and Drysdale, believes the secret to reversing the tide of neglect on private property is education.

# NEWS FROM THE WOODS

Reprinted from OrilliaPacket – Articles by Dave Dawson



**Editor's Note:** All over Simcoe County, on tracts of private land big and small, trees are facing an uncertain future, their value all but lost. In the final segment of this three-part series, we look to the future.

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## PART 3: EDUCATION AT ROOT OF SOLUTION

On pockets of privately owned land all over our region, tall trees stand sentry, a testament to a time when people remembered enough of the past to plan for the future.

Today, many people see the trees that dominate the landscape and think all is well. However, if you look closer, you might notice the crowns of those once-majestic pines, now tall and spindly, are not healthy. You might see the tangled mess many of these forests have become; the trees are slowly dying.



A Simcoe County Forest is shown from the ground up. MARK WANZEL FILE PHOTO

“I don’t think these landowners are letting these trees die on purpose,” said retired professional forester Doug Drysdale. “But many don’t understand forest management. They don’t understand the importance of thinning. Or, they may know what to do, but it’s one of those things that is easily postponed ... and then you get to where we are today. It’s a mess.”

The answer, experts say, is education.

“When it comes to private land, it’s all about education,” University of Toronto dean of forestry, Mohini Sain said. “My thinking is you have to make the public aware of forestry, why it’s important and what are the implications of neglect and how that can affect daily life.”

om the University of Toronto program in 1951 and went on to become the province’s chief forester, agrees.

“It’s an education issue,” said Armson. “It starts with the government and politicians. Do they understand the importance of forestry? The public, at large, which is primarily in urban centres, know trees are important, but don’t know much about forestry management.”

But those same people love to visit county forests and enjoy the recreation amenities, he noted.

“Many people who use the Simcoe County Forests are from the GTA,” said Armson. “Our real problem now is urbanization. Many of the trees on privately owned lands are being cut down to make way for growth. That’s a worrisome trend.”

Sain said it’s also, in part, a cultural issue.

### **PART 3: EDUCATION AT ROOT OF SOLUTION (continued)**

“I’m afraid the building block is not there” in the education system, he said. “Nature should be introduced into the curriculum and directed toward the younger generation. There needs to be a change in the way we think. That also has to come from policy makers.”

And while many might think forestry is old-school — its importance negated by new-generation plastic products — Sain heartily disagrees.

“Today’s forests are not like they were 80 years ago,” he said. “Today’s forests are even more meaningful when you have a broader and deeper understanding of their potential. Really, there is a whole new scale of possibility.”

Sain, who oversees the Centre for Biocomposites and Biomaterials Processing at the U of T, is heading up groundbreaking research around designing sustainable engineered products using, essentially, trees and tree byproducts.

“We are looking into long-term use of bio-based composites in advanced applications such as in building construction, automotive interior and exterior parts, architectural arts and many performance consumer and sports goods,” said Sain.

He used televisions as an example. The glass screen is typically made of polymers and metals that cannot be recycled in an environmentally friendly way, he explained.

“You can make a screen using biomass (branches, leaves, pulp waste) and converting it into a very strong nano-cellulose to make a screen that is durable and recyclable. You can see how this will impact life, the environment, our health. You can also see why protecting our forests is important. We need them.”

Drysdale agrees.

“I really think this is the future,” he said of the type of work Sain is spearheading.

“There is phenomenal potential. From what I understand, these materials made from biomass can be twice as strong as steel and weigh only half as much. We have the opportunity to not only have healthier trees, but to get wallets vibrating,” he said.

“There is an opportunity for wood that we’re not exploiting,” said Armson. “Right now, however, forestry and realizing its new potential just doesn’t seem to be on the horizon. People have trouble seeing the potential.”

Sain agrees and concedes this revolution of sorts won’t happen overnight. He said there needs to be a seismic shift in the way the general public sees trees.

“It will require a co-ordinated effort with academia, industry, the government ... with policy makers at the table and using media to get the message out ... The potential? It’s tremendous,” Sain said.

“We must learn to respect our forests.”



# From “**The Working Forest**”

***Ash borer moving quickly in Hamilton, ON  
October 10, 2014***

***By: The Hamilton Spectator***

Emerald ash borer infestation is spreading rapidly in Hamilton and the city is stepping up its removal project to deal with the escalating devastation that is expected to eventually destroy 23,000 ash trees on municipal property.

The department is in the midst of a **\$26.2-million, 10-year plan to cut down 2,300 ash trees a year**. But Steve Barnhart, manager of forestry and horticulture for the city, says he feels that plan will have to be fast-tracked because of the fierce pace of destruction caused by the insect.

"The research predicted it would start off slow and then spread rapidly. We are seeing that," he said.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive green beetle native to Asia and Eastern Russia that is causing widespread devastation to ash trees in North American cities. The devastation has been particularly noticeable in Stoney Creek, that has 19 per cent, (or 1,600) of the city's ash trees.

"This year's damage from the infestation has been really significant," said Coun. Brad Clark, who represents the area. "Our tree canopy in Stoney Creek is predominately ash so we are going to have a significant loss of canopy."

He said he wants the newly-elected council to explore increasing the use of pesticide injections to try to slow the devastation so newly planted trees can be given a chance to grow and replace the lost canopy.

But Barnhart says the city's experience is that injected pesticides have not been effective. The city's forestry and horticulture department has been having trouble keeping up with its ash tree removal timetable. Late in the second year of the project, 2,466 ashes have been removed and it is very unlikely the department will reach its 4,600 goal by the end of the year.

"We started in 2013 (with the ash removal program), then we had the July storm and the December ice storm that essentially put everything on hold. We had to put all our resources into the storm damage," said Barnhart. More than 630 trees were removed because of storm damage, along with countless broken branches cut from trees left standing.

After the ice storm, Barnhart said his office received more than 22,000 calls about damaged trees and it took about six months to get to them all. "I don't recall a storm event like that doing so much damage," said Barnhart.

## ***Ash borer moving quickly in Hamilton, ON (continued)***

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Since June, with the storm damage behind it, the department has been refocusing its efforts on the ash borer crisis.

Scott Peck, director of watershed planning and engineering with the Hamilton Conservation Authority, said "the pest is certainly here and we are losing trees because of that."

He said the authority does not know how many ash trees it has on its property or how widespread the damage has been so far.

"We're just going to let nature take its course unless the tree becomes a hazard."

One part of the city that recently had an ash tree cull is King's Forest Golf Course.

A city-hired contractor removed 40 trees this year and another 30 are infested, said Rob Gatto, who is in charge of the municipally-owned King's Forest and Chedoke golf courses. At Chedoke, he said, there are 15 to 20 ash trees that will have to be removed at some point.

Gatto said trees that are being removed will be replaced. And "the trees that we are losing are in areas that will not hurt the design of the course."

Barnhart said it's been a tough one and a half years for trees in Hamilton: as well as the growing presence of the emerald ash borer and tree-damaging storms, last winter's extreme cold was hard on newly-planted trees and the dry summer of 2013 caused stress as well.

Numerous city-planted young trees didn't survive and they had to be replaced.

The city is on schedule to plant more than 6,000 trees this year, he said.

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### **QUESTION: ARE WE READY IN NORFOLK?**

**More to come in the next newsletter.**

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### **INTERESTING WEBSITE.....**

[www.oakville.ca/residents/emerald-ash-borer.html](http://www.oakville.ca/residents/emerald-ash-borer.html)



**A HUGE tax base funding a program which should be consistent across Ontario and lead by the Province – as trees are a Provincial Resource. Take note of the monies allocated and programs initiated in a jurisdiction with less than 3% forest cover, but extensive urban forest and tree lined streets.**