

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

**January 2021**



## President's Message

Seems like a long-time since our 2020 AGM last March. A lot has happened since then that changed how we meet and congregate. After an initial struggle and learning curve the Board now meets via Microsoft Team. We are getting used to the virtual world and we all agree it saves on driving time!

As mentioned in the last NWOA Newsletter the March 3, 2021 AGM will not take place as we were accustomed to in the past at the German Home in Delhi. We hope to return there next year in 2022 but time will tell.

The NWOA is required to conduct an AGM within 6 months of year end. This year, the NWOA must hold the AGM by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The AGM in the past had three components lumped into one event:

- Membership renewal which is tied to Early Bird Draw and Door Prizes.
- Membership voting to accept the previous ASM Minutes and Financial Report and election of Board members.
- Gathering of members to further their woodlot education by speaking with vendors and groups involved with various aspects of woodlot management, listen to guest speakers, and share anecdotal knowledge.

Since we cannot gather as we have in the past, this year's AGM will happen in a Covid Friendly manner, from a distance. The 2021 AGM is more definitively divided into three components.

A January package that includes,

- January NWOA Newsletter you are now reading.
- Membership Application / Renewal Form, which when completed and mailed back prior to March 1, 2021, is eligible for a draw of two early bird prizes (chain saw and office chair).

- If you wish to volunteer to work on the Board, please fill in the application section at the bottom of the Application / Renewal Form.

A February AGM package that includes,

1. A Proxy Vote Form to indicate your acceptance (or not) of the items below. This replaces the in-person Business portion of our normal AGM.
2. Minutes of March 3, 2020 AGM. Please let us know if any changes are required and forward back to us. Otherwise, accept or not on the Proxy vote form.
3. Dec. 31, 2020 NWOA financial statements. Please let us know your proxy vote to accept or not.
4. List of current Board members.
5. List of nominees. Please let us know your proxy vote to accept or not.
6. Please note that each completed and returned Proxy Vote Form is eligible for a draw of one of the door prizes that local merchants and organizations so kindly donate to NWOA AGM.

The third, or the fun part, gathering of members to further their woodlot education with informative guest speakers, vendor and organization displays and conversation, will happen throughout the year in different formats. The Board is planning on ramping up field trips and woodlot tours when we can safely gather again and will offer webinars on forest related topics through the Microsoft Teams platform. These will take place throughout the remainder of the year.

For the next AGM, in March 2022, we plan to return to the former format of guest speaker, vendor and organizations display, in the German Home in Delhi ... Covid permitting. Time will tell.

Please note NWOA **new** mailing address:  
Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA)  
P.O. Box 1146  
Waterford, Ontario NOE 1Y0

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and Annual Meeting. We work hard to make them fun and informative, so your feedback is essential. Thanks. You can post them on our website [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) (Go to the 'About us' Tab then select 'Contact us' to complete the message box) or our direct email is [membership@norfolkwoodlots.com](mailto:membership@norfolkwoodlots.com), or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at [johndewitt@kwic.com](mailto:johndewitt@kwic.com)

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### **NWOA Member Woodlot Tour November 28<sup>th</sup> 2020**

We had perfect fall weather for a woodlot tour on Nov 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Dolf Wynia and Mike Penner for arranging the tour. We had a great turnout of 24 members. Two woodlots were toured, the first being a woodlot owned by Lyle & Laurie LaForge near Walsingham. The woodlot has been marked for harvest which is expected to begin in the near future. It has over 12 species in the marked prescription with a heavy Beech removal, in part due to the Beech Bark Disease. Dan Marina (Norfolk County) provided the lead in showing the affected Beech trees and information on the symptoms, stages, and current status on the spread of the disease. Dan also discussed Gypsy Moth and pointed out various trees with egg masses, and provided information on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – an invasive species that may threaten Hemlock in Ontario. Information sheets that were provided to the group are now available on our website: [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com).

The second woodlot stop was at the Landon Tract, owned by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority. At this woodlot Debbie Thain and Chris Reinhart (LPRCA) led us on a tour of the Landon Group Selection Project. The project was first established in 2001 with the MNR, which was essentially a research project to see how the woodlot reacted to harvesting using Group Selection, where 12 gaps/pods of different sizes were created. These gaps were cleared leaving only desired seed trees. The project had been basically

abandoned after 2008, until 2020 when the LPRCA decided to get it back on track by creating 8 new gaps. The harvesting of the new gaps is currently underway and we were able to tour the work in progress as well as the original control plots. The full briefing provided by Debbie can be found on the website as well. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this tour a success!

Eric Ferguson & Dan Marina



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### **By: The Working Forest Staff**

NAHB — Job gains slowed sharply in November as the COVID-19 surge continued. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 245,000 in November, and the unemployment rate fell to 6.7%.

Total construction industry (both residential and non-residential) employment totaled 7.4 million in November. Residential construction employment rose by 15,400 in November to 2.9 million. In the past seven months, job gains in residential construction offset 96% of the jobs lost in March and April, surpassing the 58% recovery in non-residential construction.

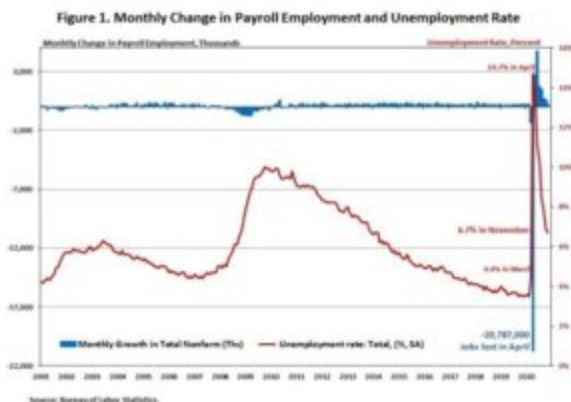
In November, total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 245,000, reported in the Employment Situation [Summary](#). It marks the seventh consecutive month of increases. After four consecutive months above one-million gain, job gains decelerated in the past three months. The November gain was the smallest increase since the labor market started to recover in May. The September increase was revised up by 39,000 from 672,000 to 711,000, and the

October increase was revised down by 28,000 from 638,000 to 610,000.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy lost 22.2 million jobs in March and April. Since May, 12.3 million jobs have been created. In November, total nonfarm employment was 9.8 million lower than its February level.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate edged down to 6.7% in November. This was 8.0 percentage points lower than its recent high of 14.7% in April and 3.2 percentage points higher than the rate in February. The number of unemployed persons declined by 0.3 million to 10.7 million.

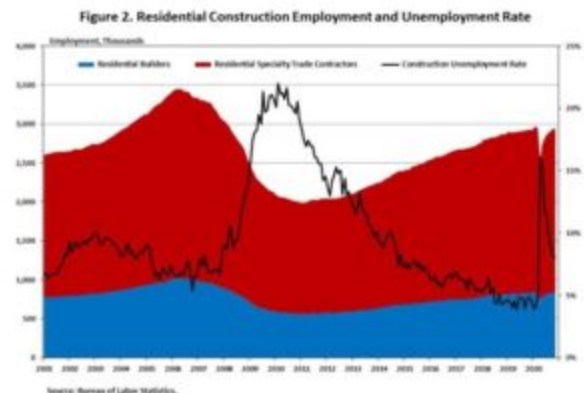
The labor force participation rate, the proportion of the population either looking for a job or already with a job, decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 61.5% in November. It was 1.9 percentage points lower than its February level. In November, the number of persons not in the labor force who currently want a job increased by 448,000 to 7.1 million. It was 2.2 million higher than in February. Notice that these individuals were not counted as unemployed.



Additionally, according to the Household Survey [supplemental](#) data, which come from questions added to the Current Population Survey (CPS) since May 2020, about 3.9 million persons who were not in the labor force in November were prevented from looking for work due to the pandemic. It was up from 3.6 million in October. In November, 21.8% of employed persons teleworked or worked at home in the last 4 weeks specifically because of the coronavirus pandemic, up from 21.2% in October. And, 14.8 million persons reported that they had been unable to work at

some point in the last 4 weeks because their employer closed or lost business due to the coronavirus pandemic. Among those who reported that they were unable to work due to pandemic related closures, 13.7% received at least some pay from their employer for the hours not worked.

Employment in the overall construction sector increased by 27,000 in November, after a revised increase of 72,000 jobs in October. The number of residential construction jobs rose by 15,400 in November, after an increase of 20,600 in October. Job gains in residential construction have slowed since May. In the past seven months, 438,100 residential construction jobs were created, offsetting about 96% of the 456,800 residential construction jobs lost in March and April due to the pandemic.



Residential construction employment now stands at 2.9 million in November, broken down as 835,000 builders and 2.1 million residential specialty trade contractors. The 6-month moving average of job gains for residential construction was 35,133 a month. Over the last 12 months, home builders and remodelers added 26,000 jobs on a net basis. Since the low point following the Great Recession, residential construction has gained 964,900 positions.

In November, the unemployment rate for construction workers dropped to 8.0% on a seasonally adjusted basis, from 8.2% in October. After hit 16.1% in April due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the unemployment rate for construction workers has been trending downward for the past seven months.



**They turned their farm into a forest. Fifteen years later, it's thriving – *From Canadian Geographic***

In 2005, a federal government program aimed to convert underused farmland into forests to capture carbon dioxide. How have these 'Forest 2020' projects fared?

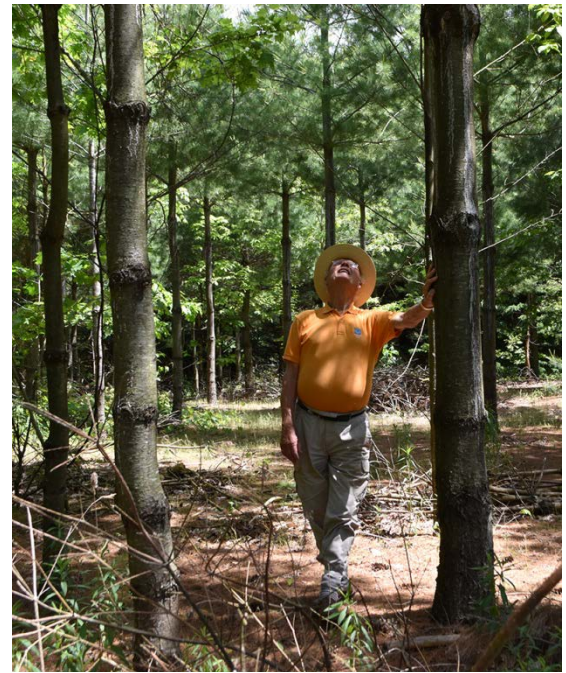


By [Peter Kuitenbrouwer](#)  
June 25, 2020

In the 2019 federal election campaign, Justin Trudeau vowed to plant two billion trees across Canada over 10 years to combat climate change. In fact, Ottawa has tried this before. In 2005, the federal government planted trees on close to 6,000 hectares of underused farm fields across Canada under a program called Forest 2020, an experiment to measure the forests' effectiveness at capturing carbon. The program required landowners to protect the trees for 15 years, hence the name — so how have those trees fared?

In 2005 Dolf and Anne Wynia, landowners in Norfolk County, Ontario, leapt at the chance to convert their 12-hectare farm to forest. They were renting their land to a tobacco farmer, at a time when tobacco fields dominated the north shore of Lake Erie. But Anne felt like a hypocrite: she sat on the local Smoke-Free Places Action Committee.

"Tobacco went out of fashion," she says. Dolf, who spent his career in forestry, wrote his own prescription for the planting. The 8,600 trees filled four quadrants, one each for spruce, white pine, red pine and European larch. In every fourth row went leaf trees, including cherry, hickory, oak, walnut and tulip trees. Ottawa paid up to 75 per cent of the cost.



Top: Anne Koven, then chief executive of the Ontario Forestry Association, poses at the site of trees planted at the Wynia property under the federal Forest 2020 program on June 5, 2005. Above: Dolf Wynia looks up at his now-15-year-old white pines. (Photos: Dolf Wynia and article author Peter Kuitenbrouwer)

Fifteen years seems a short time. Yet today, the Wynias, who had a farm, now inhabit a forest. The trees dwarf their house. Their yard resembles a scene from an old Disney animated movie: on a late spring afternoon, chipmunks dart across the shady patio and giant swallowtail butterflies flit past; the song of orioles fills the air. Anne rocks on a chair Dolf crafted from white oak.

"In the fall we have masses of edible mushrooms," she says. In winter, crews trim the lower branches of the

pinus to make wreaths for Christmas; the pruning improves the trees' value as timber.

Was the investment worthwhile? Dolf notes that, "right now, timber is growing faster in value than bank deposits. We can pass it on to the next generation." The trees also capture carbon; Dolf, who hails from the Netherlands, estimates the couple could make 50 transatlantic round trips and still be carbon neutral.

Researchers with the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre call the Forest 2020 experiment a success; noting that if one plants the right forest for a site, one can sequester carbon at rates much higher than initially anticipated. A *Forestry Chronicle* study found that, right now, landowners earn more money growing crops than trees. But those scientists add that higher future carbon prices will make planting forests more attractive. Opportunities for carbon-capture deals with corporations seeking carbon neutrality, such as airlines, may lure more landowners to make the same choice as the Wynias.

The Wynias, meanwhile, are content to love their forest. Anne has just one complaint. "I would have put the larch by the house, because in the winter larch needles fall and the sun would come in," she says. "Instead they put the white pine here and now it is shading the whole house in winter. I said to Dolf, 'You are a forester. You should have known better.'

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## **Ontario Supporting Forestry Jobs and Worker Safety**

By: The Working Forest Staff

Toronto — The Ontario government is investing \$5.3 million, provided through the federal Forest Sector Safety Measures Fund, to help small and medium sized forest sector businesses offset the cost of COVID-19 safety measures. The funding will be used for initiatives such as setting up sanitizing stations, providing enhanced cleaning, additional worker training, measures to increase physical distancing and to purchase personal protective equipment.

"Our government is committed to the ongoing economic recovery and growth of the forestry industry," said John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural

Resources and Forestry. "This funding will help businesses within this crucial sector overcome the economic challenges they face, ensuring they can continue to keep their doors open, while protecting workers and the communities where they live."

"Protecting workers in our forest sector was one of the federal government's early commitments during the pandemic. We said we would be there for Canadians through COVID-19 and we are delivering," said the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources.

"We know Ontario's small-and-medium-sized forestry businesses are dedicated to keeping their employees safe while remaining operational during these challenging times, and our government is proud to support these efforts. Our forestry industry is a vital contributor to our province's economy, and we are committed to helping it weather this unprecedented storm," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade.

"Small-and medium-sized forestry businesses are making extraordinary sacrifices to keep their employees safe during these tough times. Small businesses are the foundation of our communities and the backbone of our economy. Our government is committed to protecting these businesses that are the source of our livelihoods," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction.

Both levels of government deemed the forestry industry an essential sector due to its vital role in supplying essential forest products for hygiene, medical supplies, food packaging and shipping materials.

Providing a financial investment through the Forest Sector Safety Measures Fund further supports the province's Sustainable Growth: Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy. Ontario's strategy will create jobs and encourage economic growth in the forestry industry, supporting the Indigenous, northern and rural communities that depend on the sector. It will also ensure the province's forests are managed sustainably for generations to come.

For information on program eligibility and timelines, please visit [ontario.ca/forestsafetyfund](http://ontario.ca/forestsafetyfund)

## QUICK FACTS

- On July 10, 2020, the federal government announced the Forest Sector Safety Measures Fund, which is providing up to \$30 million to offset costs of COVID-19 health and safety measures for small and medium businesses in the forest sector.
- Ontario has more than 1,900 small and medium-sized businesses in the forest sector, directly employing close to 35,000 people.
- Earlier this year, the province provided immediate COVID-19 relief measures to the forestry industry, including deferring stumpage revenue collection for six months, making \$3.5 million available to protect tree plant workers, expediting the forestry roads funding program, and revising the forest manuals and independent forest audits to modernize and streamline requirements and provide time savings for businesses.
- The forest sector generates over \$18 billion in revenue and supports approximately 147,000 direct and indirect jobs across Ontario.

Members can renew their membership, online, using the NWOA website [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) and pay online with PayPal.

Go to the website and then to **Members Area**, then to **Member Renewal**.

You may also print the membership application form and renew by mail.

Members who renew early would be eligible for the AGM prize draws.

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