

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

November 2021



President's Message

The NWOA Board has spent many hours going over the Draft Tree by law and has submitted their opinion to Norfolk County on April 28, 2021. We are still waiting for the updated draft from Norfolk County which will likely generate more discussion. Stay tuned.

We continue to support the emergency registration of Andermatt Biocontrol AG Group BoVir biological pesticide to control specifically the gypsy moth a very destructive invasive species. They attack many broadleaved trees but especially likes to munch on white oak leaves. Being defoliated during the summer will seriously degrade the health of the tree to the point of death.

We are excited to give you a heads up on a tour of Element5: 137,000 sqf cross laminated timber and beam plant facility in St. Thomas where structural components for wood buildings are manufactured. This tour will likely take place sometime in January 2022. We will share Element5 tour protocol details (the tour is limited to two groups of ten people with strict safety protocols) as we receive them. This looks like a very, interesting tour showcasing leading edge wood technology.

Our expenses are creeping higher while the membership fee of \$25.00 and has not changed for many years. Cost of mailing the paper version of NWOA Newsletter, hosting the AGM and insurance coverage are increasing with regularity. The Board is proposing increasing the NWOA membership fee from \$25/yr to \$30/yr for six electronic versions of NWOA Newsletter and to \$40/yr for six paper versions. We would welcome your thoughts. This proposal will be voted upon at the NWOA 2022 Annual General Meeting.

We have the Delhi German Home booked for the March 2, 2022 NWOA Annual General Meeting (AGM). We missed last year due to Covid19 and there is no way to predict which way Covid infections will progress and how health care and government will react. We require an estimate of the number of attendees in order for us to plan for seating, coffee, donuts, guest speakers and also for the businesses and groups that put up displays that we enjoy and learn from every year. Let us know your attendance plans, with the assumption that Covid19 will gradually fade away, by responding with a yes or no to the below contact options. Thanks

Please note NWOA **new** mailing address:

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA)

P.O. Box 1146

Waterford, Ontario NOE 1Y0

Or you can post your attendance plans on our website www.norfolkwoodlots.com (Go to the 'About us' Tab then select 'Contact us' to complete the message box) or email membership@norfolkwoodlots.com or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at johndewitt@kwic.com

Over the summer the Board started the process of investigating the pros and cons of joining with the Ontario Woodlot Owners Association (OWA) as per suggestions by some of the NWOA membership. Many things have changed since the last time NWOA membership voted on this. The Board is gathering relevant information for presentation and discussion with NWOA membership.

As Part of the information gathering, OWA will accept NWOA members to join as OWA members for one year trial, starting January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. It will not cost NWOA members for the OWA one year trial other than their annual \$25.00 NWOA membership renewal fee. After the one year OWA trial is complete, NWOA members can decide, by vote, at the NWOA AGM on March 1, 2023 whether or not to join with OWA..

Joining OWA would not curtail NWOA independence. NWOA (we) would continue to operate with our current Board members, continue to publish our own Newsletter, continue with our AGM event and tours. We would be covered by OWA insurance for our tours, directors, AGM and other such events. We will be able to attend OWA events including their annual meetings and tours held in different locations across the province. Plus, a NWOA Board member has one seat on the OWA Board which meets quarterly.

Enclosed is a copy of OWA quarterly magazine, The Ontario Woodlander, which members of OWA receive. As well, the OWA emails regular updates on items of interest. Several chapters are currently negotiating setting up marketing contracts for chapter members, particularly to enable small young plantations to get thinned and the timber marketed for participating members.

The cost of an OWA membership is \$57.50, including HST. This would include receiving a quarterly hard copy of the Ontario Woodlander and includes the NWOA membership fee. Or, a cost of \$46.00 if an electronic version of the Ontario Woodlander is opted for instead of a hard copy and includes the NWOA membership fee.

To learn more about OWA please check out <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/about-owa>

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association
President
John de Witt

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and AGM. 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 (Go to the 'About us' Tab then select 'Contact us " to complete the message box), direct email at membership@norfolkwoodlots.com , or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at johndewitt@kwic.com

Tree planting is forestry and good for the environment and economy. It is not seedling abuse.

Peter Kuitenbrouwer
Special to The Globe and Mail
Published August 14, 2021 Updated August 14, 2021

Journalist Peter Kuitenbrouwer, who holds a Master of Forest Conservation from the University of Toronto, is a Registered Professional Forester in training.

Forestry textbooks often use German words, such as *forsteinrichtung* (forest planning) and *plenterwald* (selection cutting). Forestry has its roots, so to speak, in Germany. Centuries ago, Germans cut down most of their trees. They then realized they had a problem. So they invented the field of forestry, and in turn the profession of forester.

As Canada's settlers laid waste to forests at will (since the bounty once seemed inexhaustible), Europeans mastered forest husbandry. North America's first forester, the German-born Bernhard Eduard Fernow, who in 1907 was appointed as dean of the newly created Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto, was a graduate of the Prussian Forest Academy in Hannoversch Munden.

Fear for the planet's future has stoked unprecedented affection for forests in the 21st century. Leading the tree huggers is another German forester, Peter Wohlleben. He says Germans are not role models, however, but rather have destroyed their own forests, replacing them with "dreary plantations" of non-native pine and spruce. These biological deserts struggle, lacking tree families with members in every age group, and are bereft of the beetles, bugs, fungi and micro-organisms that make true forests so healthy.

Mr. Wohlleben's book *The Hidden Life of Trees* has sold millions of copies in 40 countries. He is hotter than a K-pop star, with a new book, *The Heartbeat of Trees*, and a film version of *The Hidden Life of Trees* both released this summer. The documentary opened last month in Quebec and will hit screens soon in Vancouver and Toronto, and throughout the fall in other cities. Mr. Wohlleben also has his own TV show and a magazine, *Wohllebens Welt* (or "Wohlleben's World").

The film, directed by acclaimed German filmmaker Jorg Adolph and nature documentarian Jan Haft, is at once beautiful, with sped-up sequences of seedlings sprouting after snow melt – a celebration of forests' frail splendour – and frightening, such as when ominous horror-movie music plays as a harvester, a logging leviathan straight out of *Avatar*, lays waste to the forest.

In one grim sequence, we watch closeups of spades slicing the earth around a sapling in a nursery. We hear the amplified "click" as pruners cut the young tree's roots. Orange ratchet ties affix the lone tree, bound like an inmate, in the bed of a truck. The hapless sapling's trip to a new home, on a bleak expanse of road in a new suburb, resembles a prisoner transfer.

"Unfortunately," a narrator says in the voice-over, "when the roots are pruned, the brain-like structures are cut off, along with the sensitive tips. Ouch. After that, it's as if this interference makes the trees lose their sense of direction underground."

Mr. Wohlleben is correct that selective tree harvesting is preferable for forest health to a clearcut. But his "tree-planting horror story" goes a bit far. Mr. Wohlleben believes trees, like us, are sentient beings. So why can't trees adapt, as humans do?

Tree planting is forestry. A century ago in Southern Ontario, overzealous clearing of forests on shallow land left desert-like conditions. Foresters prescribed pine plantations. These pine forests have evolved – over decades, loggers thinned the pines; decayed pine needles on the forest floor, plus partial light from removal of some trees, encouraged native maples, oaks and other species to grow. These thriving mixed forests include the Ganaraska Forest, Northumberland County Forest and Simcoe County Forest.

The Oka Crisis in Quebec ignited in 1990 when locals sought to cut pines to expand a golf course. Local Mohawk groups protested to save the pines they had planted a century earlier in order to stop a sand dune from burying the town.

The Trudeau government has pledged to plant two billion trees over a decade to fight climate change, on land that does not have trees. The myriad benefits of this effort outweigh any discomfort to transplanted seedlings.

Mr. Wohlleben's book *The Hidden Life of Trees* fills us with awe at the capacity of trees to work together in communities. But the film adaptation at times feels bitter, including one scene in which Mr. Wohlleben shares a B.C. stage with veteran environmentalist David Suzuki. Mr. Suzuki tells the film's only joke: "When Trudeau says this is good for the environment and good for the economy, it's kind of like a guy saying, 'You sleep with me and I'll protect your virginity.'" The crowd in the theatre erupts; Mr. Wohlleben just chuckles. He is a forester, after all, and perhaps does not want to be lured too far down the path of attacks on the logging industry.

All foresters want forests to thrive, which is why they choose forestry in the first place. The film shows Mr. Wohlleben at dawn, greeting draft horses. We later see the horses haul logs in the forest. Mr. Wohlleben concedes in his new book, "I am still not a protector of the forest, but a producer of wood." But can one not be both?

Horse-logging, as my stepfather practised it in Quebec, is more gentle on the forest, but may be an unrealistic method to harvest the copious timber needed to produce paper for, say, Mr. Wohlleben's bestsellers and magazines. In Canada, Winnipeg company Friesens prints his books on "ancient-forest-friendly paper" – some of which perhaps comes from the forest plantations that Mr. Wohlleben so roundly condemns.

Paul DeCloet Forest Tour

By Mike Penner of Townsend Lumber



On Saturday, October 23, 2021 the Norfolk Woodlot Owners' members had the opportunity to have a tour through the Paul DeCloet Forest. The Paul DeCloet Forest is a 120 acre forest that was recently donated to Norfolk County by Paul DeCloet. It is now accessible to all the public to enjoy. The Norfolk Woodlot Owner's Association had an excellent turnout of over 20 members at this tour. Paul spoke to the group with a brief information session quickly capturing the attention of all attendees with the passion and enthusiasm Paul has in particular for this beautiful sugar maple and hemlock forest that Paul has managed since 1980. The tour took us through a few of the many winding trails with Paul stopping to narrate and provide information on many specific spots and trees throughout the tour. It is highly recommended that anyone who has the chance, to take the time to visit the Paul DeCloet Forest, as you will be quickly impressed with the diversity of the tree species and rolling landscape. Access and parking is located at 340 6th Concession Road, ENR Clear Creek. We highly recommend that all nature enthusiasts take the opportunity to visit this generous gift from Paul DeCloet.

The woodlot is comprised of several different forest types, including sugar bush, sugar maple-hemlock mixed forest, silver maple deciduous swamp, and dogwood thicket. There are 26 different species of trees within the parcel, including several unique to the Carolinian zone of southern Ontario. Examples include tulip tree, sassafras, black gum, shagbark hickory, and bitternut hickory.

The Paul DeCloet Forest teams with wildlife. It is regarded as important habitat for forest nesting birds and is an important stop-over for migratory birds flying north or south depending on the season. The DeCloet Forest is also important to the quality of water that drains from Clear Creek into Lake Erie. The two main branches of Clear Creek converge in the middle of the woodlot.

Mr. DeCloet is a member of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association.

IS LUMBER GOING UP? HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW

By: The Working Forest Staff

[By Kristi Waterworth](#)

MOTLEY FOOL — As if construction projects haven't been plagued with enough problems this year, it seems that [lumber prices are headed skyward](#) yet again. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index (PPI) report, softwood lumber prices have increased 9.1% in October alone, representing the first monthly increase since May.

According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), climbing lumber prices are responsible for an approximately \$30,000 gain in the average price of a new home, further compounding the [dramatic increase in home prices](#) this year.

Key Points

- Softwood lumber prices increased 9.1% in October alone — the first price jump since May 2021.
- According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), rising lumber costs are to blame for an approximately \$30,000 increase in the cost of new homes.
- The NAHB is pushing to reduce tariffs on Canadian lumber, which may provide more supply to a market that desperately needs it.

Something has to give — the market is showing signs of being unwilling or unable to bear much more in the form of construction slow-downs and 152,000 single-family homes that have been permitted but not started (a 43.4% increase year over year).

“The rising count of homes permitted but that have not yet started construction is a stark reminder to policymakers to fix the supply chain so that builders can access a steady source of lumber and other building materials to keep projects moving forward,” explained Chuck Fowke, NAHB Chairman.

The influence of Canadian lumber on pricing

Although many of the problems with lumber pricing come from huge demand and inconsistent supply due to the supply chain's ongoing shenanigans, another large part of the lumber-pricing puzzle is Canadian softwood lumber. Because American builders get a significant portion of their lumber (more than a quarter) from Canadian sources, anything that increases the price of Canadian lumber increases the price of lumber to construction sites.

In 2017, the Trump administration added a significant tariff to Canadian softwood lumber of 20% across the board and up to 24% to specific lumber companies. Although other factors were certainly at play, lumber prices climbed from about \$400 per thousand board feet in early 2017 to \$600 per thousand board feet by the summer of 2018.

Even when tariffs were reduced to 9% in December 2020, Canadian lumber prices remained high. It didn't help anything that several sawmills either shut down entirely or cut production shortly thereafter, anticipating a decrease in demand during the pandemic. So, between the already high Canadian tariffs and a supply crunch, lumber prices were practically destined to be pushed upward.

Potential downward pricing pressures on lumber

Although it all sounds pretty doomy and gloomy, there is hope for a little relief on the lumber front in the near future. The NAHB is pressuring the Biden administration to lift lumber tariffs from both Canadian and Chinese lumber sources to help lower prices by increasing supply.

“On the trade front, until a long-term solution can be reached, Congress and the administration should temporarily suspend duties on a wide array of imported building materials and goods, from Canadian softwood lumber to Chinese steel and aluminum,” Fowke said in testimony to the House Small Business Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations on Oct. 20. “In addition, policymakers must continue to aggressively explore solutions to ease building material supply chain disruptions that are causing project delays and putting upward pressure on home prices.”

Along with reducing the raw cost of materials, the demand for said materials may soon ease, as the Federal Reserve announced it would be winding down a bond-buying program meant to provide pandemic relief to the wider economy. When the Fed buys fewer bonds, longer-term interest rates naturally rise, which should, in a normal housing market, cause a reduction in demand for housing due to rising costs to buyers.

Less demand for housing, including new housing, should help reduce supply chain bottlenecks, allowing lumber to flow more freely to the projects that remain. Less demand for lumber should mean that prices will drop, but there are a lot of assumptions in this paragraph. For example, we’re assuming that, somehow, the shortage of housing units will spontaneously resolve. We have no way to know whether that will happen, especially given how hopelessly limited inventories have been for some time.

Other signs point to sustained high prices. For example, lumber futures are continuing to rise, leading some to believe that lumber prices will continue to increase through the first quarter of 2022. But if the pandemic and subsequent supply chain debacle have taught us nothing else, it’s that there’s absolutely no way to know what’s coming next while the global economy is trying to right itself.

Members can renew their membership, online, using the NWOA website 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.