

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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



**September 2022**

## **President's Message**

We have been discussing NWOA becoming a Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) since summer 2021. All NWOA members are currently enjoying OWA membership benefits for free under a trial arrangement which will end on December 31, 2022.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, members of NWOA will vote to decide whether NWOA will become a Chapter of OWA. If the membership votes for NWOA to become a Chapter of OWA, there will be no interruption. If the vote is to not become a Chapter of OWA, then the membership will be required to make decisions on how NWOA is to continue.

The NWOA Board thought it best to have a mail-in ballot as this allows 100% of the membership to vote on this important decision; not just those who might be able to attend an in-person meeting. We had a very good participation with the previous mail in ballot.

NWOA yearend is Dec 31 which is the same as OWA yearend but there is a major difference in the membership renewal timing. OWA starts the renewal of membership reminders in October while NWOA waits until the following March. A decision must be made now before the trial testing out NWOA being a Chapter of OWA ends on Dec 31, 2022.

The October 12, 2022 vote date (filled in ballots must be **received** by then to be counted) was selected to best coincide with the OWA membership renewal notice reminder timeline.

There are many pros to NWOA becoming a Chapter of OWA and only one main con, that being higher membership fees.

The quarterly magazine published by OWA, The Ontario Woodlander, is a pro. I for one, find it fun to read, with many pearls of information useful for managing many different types of woodlots. And it's showy enough to serve as 'coffee-table literature'.

Becoming a Chapter of OWA will not curtail NWOA independence. We would continue to operate with our current Board members (we would welcome the addition of new Board Members!), continue to publish the NWOA Newsletter, continue with NWOA AGM event and tours. We would be covered by OWA insurance for our tours, directors, AGM and other such events. Insurance is expensive and it would be a large cost saving for NWOA to become a Chapter of OWA.

Members will be able to attend both NWOA and OWA events including annual meetings and tours held in different locations across the province and see what other woodlot owners and Chapters are doing.

A NWOA Board member has one seat on the OWA General Board which meets quarterly, so we will be able to influence OWA and consequently have NWOA concerns more effectively brought to the attention of provincial and federal legislators.

I must re-iterate that the urban legend floating around Norfolk that OWA is a government organization IS NOT TRUE! OWA is made up of people like you and me to improve access to information about things that affect our woodlots. OWA is comprised of more than 20 other woodlot owner associations across the province. This enables them to be more effective in finding pertinent information and voicing concerns such as landowner rights. And, like NWOA, OWA applies for government funding to do special projects. For example, the NWOA was instrumental in setting up Norfolk Environmental Steward Team a program that provides local youth pursuing environmental careers with entry level experience to help build their resumes. This was done with the help of government funding. So, let's put that urban legend to bed.

Besides obtaining a larger voice, for situations where we feel there is unfair legislation being contemplated regarding woodlot ownership, another reason for the Board investigating becoming a Chapter of OWA was cost. The \$25 annual NWOA membership fee is not keeping up with the increasing costs of insurance and mailing of paper copies of the NWOA Newsletter. To cover those costs, the NWOA Board was considering having a vote at the 2023 AGM on raising the annual NWOA membership fee to \$40 for members who wish to receive mailed newsletter copies and \$32 for those who opt for electronic newsletters. If NWOA becomes a chapter of OWA, then a NWOA membership fee increase will not be necessary as all NWOA members would pay the OWA membership fee only and there will be no separate NWOA membership fee. OWA will share \$17 of the \$56.50 (with HST) membership fee it collects with the NWOA Chapter.

Now that you have been receiving OWA membership materials and services for a trial period, we hope you can weigh the pros and cons for yourself. To help answer any further questions you might have, we have put together two tables that summarize the benefits received as NWOA members and the additional benefits if NWOA becomes a Chapter of OWA, and details as to how this change would impact membership fees and collection are also included.

The current NWOA Board agrees that it is in NWOA members' best interest for NWOA to become a Chapter of OWA.

John de Witt – President

Dr. Bob Dukelow - Vice President

Dr. John Morrissey – Secretary

Eric Ferguson - Acting Treasurer /Website Membership

Tracey Boerkamp - Annual General Meeting Chairman

Mike Penner - Director

Dolf Wynia - Director

Mark Bacro – Director

Audrey Heagy – Director

Kristen Bernard – Director

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

If you have any questions regarding the vote, please feel free to contact any Board member. Contact Information:

Mail: Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA), P.O. Box 1146,  
Waterford, Ontario NOE IYO

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

NWOA email: [membership@norfolkwoodlots.com](mailto:membership@norfolkwoodlots.com)

Call John at 519-426-2782

email me at [johndewitt@kwic.com](mailto: johndewitt@kwic.com)

**Please note:** The voting ballot will be mailed to you on September 26, 2022. With voting information and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please mail your completed ballot shortly after you receive your voting package. Your voting package should arrive via Canada Post by the beginning of October. All ballots received by Oct. 12, 2022 will be counted. Ballots received after Oct. 12 cannot be included in the vote.

The results of the October 12, 2022 vote will be reported in the October NWOA newsletter.

Thanks

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

President

John de Witt

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## NWOA / OWA Voting Information

Benefits	NWOA membership only (NWOA is not a chapter of OWA)	OWA and NWOA combined membership (NWOA is a chapter of OWA)	Notes
NWOA Board of Directors oversee NWOA operations	Yes	Yes	
NWOA Annual General Meeting in March	Yes	Yes	
NWOA newsletter 6 times/year	Yes	Yes	*NWOA costs associated with mailing newsletters require a membership fee increase this year (If NWOA does not become a chapter of OWA)
NWOA field outings for members	Yes	Yes	
Liability insurance for events and outings	Yes	Yes	*NWOA insurance costs will require membership fee increase this year (If NWOA does not become a chapter of OWA)
Directors and Officers Insurance	Yes	Yes	
Receive Woodlander magazine 4 times/year	No	Yes	
Receive monthly OWA e-news	No	Yes	
Invitation to attend OWA Annual Conference	No	Yes	
Invitation to monthly virtual woodlot tour	No	Yes	
Part of a 150-member organization that can present the interests of private woodlot owners to the local municipal government	Yes	Yes	
Part of a 2,641-member organization that can present the interests of private woodlot owners to the provincial and federal government	No	Yes	

<b>Differences in Membership Fees</b>	<b>NWOA membership only (NWOA is not a chapter of OWA)</b>	<b>OWA and NWOA combined membership (NWOA is a chapter of OWA)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Membership year	January – December	September – September	Fiscal year for both organizations is January to December
Membership Fee	Was \$25/year but to cover mailing and insurance costs, will need to increase to \$40/year for mailed newsletter or \$32/year for electronic newsletter only.	\$56.50/year (\$50 plus HST for paper copy of the Woodlander \$45.20/year (\$40 plus HST) for electronic only option \$10 (8.85 + HST) for up to 2 additional household members	HST tax is payable on OWA membership fees.
Membership paid to	NWOA	OWA with a portion returned to the local chapters	
\$ available for NWOA AGM, newsletter and other activities	Membership fee minus \$15/member for insurance costs with balance available for NWOA activities (newsletter, AGM, other expenses)	\$17 per member is returned to the local chapter to support local activities (and NWOA doesn't have to pay for liability insurance)	

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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.