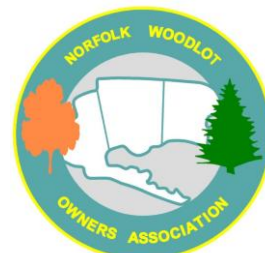


NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

June 2025



President's Message

We are into summer but without the frying heat ... yet. So far, we have avoided the fires that our neighbours, in the Western provinces, are experiencing. But Norfolk has all the ingredients for a grass fire to get out of hand and do some serious damage to farm buildings, homes and endanger lives. It's a big enough concern to prompt Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) to determine what is required to prevent a small grass fire from getting out of hand. Some of the things an individual landowner could consider is to maintain clear access for fire crews and equipment to critical areas on their property and access to sufficient water to mitigate any serious damage to property or lives. We are working with Norfolk County Fire to gather and summarize the brush and grass fire prevention/mitigation information for NWOA members. We'll give updates as we progress through this process.

The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association Chapter (NWOA) 2025 AGM was a tremendous success, thanks to AGM Convener Tracey Boerkamp and our generous sponsors. Adam Biddle, Norfolk County Forestry Superintendent, gave an update on the latest information associated with invasive species. Of particular concern to Norfolk is Oak Wilt (Do not trim or cut oak trees during March to November) and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

A few weeks ago, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was positively identified in the western part of Norfolk County. Prevention is the most cost-effective solution for managing invasive species and is much less expensive than management once a population is established. There are several actions that can be taken to lower the chances of HWA arriving in a stand and, if it does, mitigating the impacts of its spread. HWA can be moved on branches from infested sites to new, healthy stands. The transport of nursery stock is a major human-mediated pathway since hemlocks are commonly cultivated for use in landscapes (e.g., as hedges). Small infestations on nursery stock can go unnoticed because HWA are usually too small to see without the presence of white ovisacs. To reduce the risk of introducing HWA, avoid transporting infested hemlock seedlings, limbs, or firewood. Reducing environmental stress on hemlocks may be one way to increase the tolerance of these trees to HWA. Some stress-relieving actions can include watering during dry periods, mulching around trees, and targeting specific trees for removal. There is more information about what can be done to mitigate damage to your hemlock trees presented by the Invasive Species Centre in the below link; <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-insects/hemlock-woolly-adelgid/>

Preventing the spread of Oak Wilt is the best way to protect oak trees. There are a few different strategies that aid in the prevention of oak wilt:

- Monitor oak and chestnut trees regularly for any signs or symptoms of the disease.
- **Don't move firewood**, as it may contain live fungal spores
- **Don't prune or damage oak trees between April and November**, as this is the most vulnerable time for overland spore spread. If pruning must occur, paint a thin layer of wound paint or shellac on the wound immediately. Wounds caused by storms or other events should also be painted immediately
- Learn how to identify the signs of oak wilt
- Communicate with others about the potential threat
- Report summer leaf fall and sudden die-off of oaks. There is more information on Oak Wilt from the Invasive Species Centre in the below link:

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/protect-oak-trees-no-pruning-until-november/>

You may be wondering why there is a NWOA membership application included in this newsletter. Over the past few months the two top questions Board members are asked, “How do I renew my NWOA membership?” and “My friend/neighbor wishes to join NWOA how can they do that?” So, if you have a new neighbor or someone that wishes to join NWOA please forward them this newsletter. (Actually, it would be great if you could share this membership application with everyone you know!) Bear in mind that woodlot ownership is not necessary to become a member and there is no minimum acreage. Joanne is a very kind and helpful person who you can contact at 613-713-1525 (Kemptville) if you prefer to join NWOA over the phone. Otherwise fill in the application form being sure to indicate that Norfolk is the Chapter you want to join and mail it with payment as indicated.

Here is a link to an article, by Sue Graci, published in the Port Dover Maple Leaf about who is managing Norfolks’ forests. Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) is mentioned in the article so it might be of interest to NWOA members.

<https://www.portdovermapleleaf.com/whos-looking-after-our-norfolk-forests/>

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our NWOA newsletter, workshops and AGM. We want them to be fun and informative and require your feedback to know what is of interest. Thanks. You can post your input them on our website www.norfolkwoodlots.com (Go to the ‘About us’ Tab then select ‘Contact us “ to complete the message box), or direct email at membership@norfolkwoodlots.com .

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us using any of these methods.

Mail: **Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association**
c/o Norfolk County – Forestry Department
50 Colborne Avenue,
Simcoe, ON N3Y 4H2

NWOA website: www.norfolkwoodlots.com

NWOA email: membership@norfolkwoodlots.com

Thanks, John de Witt, President

Have you renewed your membership?

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

Go to: <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/SysLogin>

If you have never logged into your profile, enter the e-mail address that is on your account and select “**Forgot Password**”. The system will send a temporary password where you will be asked to create your own password. Once you are into your profile, there will be an option to renew your membership.

Forest Fire Prevention

NWOA Board member Dr. Bob Dukelow has been investigating the practices woodlot owners can put into place that would reduce the risk of forest fires on their properties. He had a discussion with Cory Armstrong-Smith, Fire Prevention Officer in Norfolk County, who provided a number of suggestions that would support fire prevention in woodlots.

He observed that forest fires are a significant risk in Canada. A quick scroll through the news will show how devastating and challenging it has been to suppress fires in western Canada as well as Northern Ontario and Quebec. In common conditions millions of acres of woodlot can be lost to a singular ignition event. It probably doesn't come as a surprise to learn that human behaviors are ten times more likely than lightning to be the cause of a forest fire, so woodlot fire prevention begins with woodlot owners. Help keep your lot safe from fire with **these tips**:

Complacency is the enemy! "I don't understand, I've done it this way a thousand times" is a common phrase we hear when conducting fire investigations. Think about your practices on your woodlots. Are you taking shortcuts? Is there a less risky way to do the job?

Maintain your equipment: ATVs, chainsaws, and other power equipment produce heat and sparks while doing their job. Ensure that the equipment is running properly to minimize the chance of errant sparks. Keep your equipment clean so excessive heat does not build up in vents and if a spark is created it can't ignite anything. Does your machine have a fire extinguisher on it? Maybe it should.

Conduct burning like you have something to lose: Never leave any burn unattended – a smoldering fire is still a fire. Do not start a fire unless you have a means to extinguish it completely. Follow your burn permit and the clearances within it. Observe moisture content, wind conditions and weather forecasts before you start your fire. Create fire breaks if possible, clean and pre-wet the area around the burn.

Avoid unsafe behaviors: Dropping a cell phone or a rechargeable tool on a rock can damage the lithium ion battery and start a fire. Be aware of where your exhaust is when parking vehicles and equipment in high grass areas. We haven't even mentioned smoking yet!

Prepare for the worst! Wood lots are vast, and most don't have easily defined addresses. Download the What3Words app to your phone and learn how it can be used to pinpoint a specific area on your property. If you ever need to call 911 you can relay the What3Words address to emergency services to get them right where they are needed quickly.

Contact Fire Prevention! If you have questions you can email norfolk.fire@norfolkcounty.ca or call 519-426-5870 x2402.

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association a Chapter of Ontario Woodlot Association

2025 Membership Application

NOTE: THERE IS ALSO AN OPTION TO JOIN ON-LINE AT <https://ontariowoodlot.com/join>

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Chapter: _____ Norfolk _____

Annual Membership Fee: \$56.50 (Includes \$6.50 HST)

Annual Electronic (paperless) Membership Fee: \$45.20 (Includes \$5.20 HST)

Family Membership Fee: \$66.50 (Includes \$7.65 HST)

Student Membership Fee: \$17.70 (Includes \$2.30 HST)

Memberships extend from September 15th to Sept 14th of the following calendar year.

Members joining mid year will receive the latest issue of The Ontario Woodlander.

Please pay by including a cheque or by providing your credit card information:

Credit card type: Visa ____ MasterCard ____ Credit Card Number _____

Name (as it appears on the Card): _____

Expiry Date: _____ mm/yy CVV Code (3-digit/back of card): _____

Mail this completed application to:

Ontario Woodlot Association

10 Campus Dr., Unit 4

Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

or

Scan this completed page and email

to: info@ontariowoodlot.com

JOIN Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association A CHAPTER OF THE ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION!

NWOA memberships are paid directly to the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA). If you select the Norfolk Chapter when you join OWA, a portion of the OWA fee comes back to the NWOA chapter and you will also be a NWOA member (no extra cost).

To join the NWOA Chapter of OWA go to:

www.ontariowoodlot.com/join

Regular Membership - \$56.50 including HST

Family Membership - \$66.50 including HST

Student Membership - \$20.00 including HST

Electronic Membership - \$45.20 including HST

Select one of the above membership options and make your payment, using Visa or MasterCard. To pay over the phone call OWA at 613-713-1525.

To renew by mail, send cheque to:

Ontario Woodlot Association, 10 Campus Dr., Unit 4, Kemptville, Ontario, K0G 1J0.

Include your name, mailing address, email, phone number, membership and indicate that you want to be a member of the Norfolk chapter.

The OWA membership year runs from Sept 15 to Sept 14 of the following year. The OWA will send out renewal notices in mid-August, with a due date of Sept 15.

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association c/o Norfolk County Forestry Dept.

50 Colborne South

Simcoe, ON N3Y 4H3

membership@norfolkwoodlots.com

Web: www.norfolkwoodlots.com

FB: Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

ABOUT NWOA:

Founded in 1996, the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) strives to represent woodlot owners and connect them with resources related to woodlot management in Norfolk County. In 2023, NWOA became a chapter of the province-wide Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) to enable access to additional resources and support.

NWOA is a proud supporter of the Norfolk Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST) youth internship program.

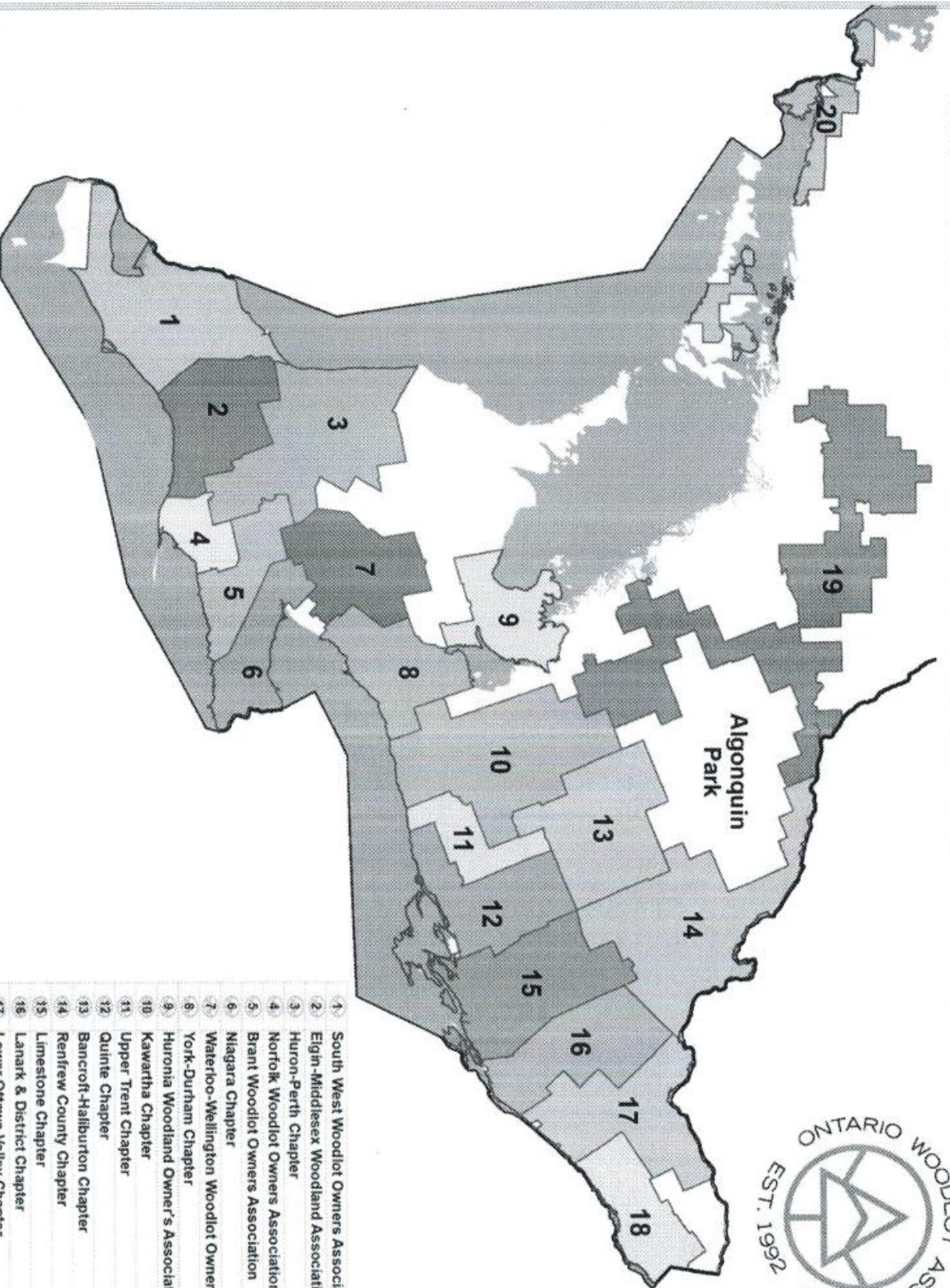
MEMBERSHIP VALUE

- The Ontario Woodlander (quarterly magazine)
- E-newsletter (monthly news)
- Woodland Walk and Talk (video series with Q&A)
- Chapter Events and Activities (over 100 annual events across 21 OWA Chapters)
- Provincial Conference and AGM
- Woodlands Store (members receive discounts)
- OWA First Aid Kits (member discounts)
- Forest Owners Forum (a place for Q&A)
- 10% of Marks Work Warehouse Electronic Discount Card

In addition, Norfolk Chapter members receive

- Attend NWOA AGM – display booths of local bush lot services business, local non-profits (such as St. Williams Conservation Reserve, Field Naturalists, Chestnut Council etc,) guest speakers, coffee&donuts and many door prizes (chainsaw).
 - Local tours of woodlot interest
 - Raise awareness of Norfolk County Forest issues (invasive species, tree-by-law amendments, landowner rights, etc)
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ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION CHAPTER MAP



- 1 South West Woodlot Owners Association
- 2 Elgin-Middlesex Woodland Association
- 3 Huron-Perth Chapter
- 4 Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association
- 5 Brant Woodlot Owners Association
- 6 Niagara Chapter
- 7 Waterloo-Wellington Woodlot Owners Association
- 8 York-Durham Chapter
- 9 Huronia Woodland Owner's Association
- 10 Kawartha Chapter
- 11 Upper Trent Chapter
- 12 Quinte Chapter
- 13 Bancroft-Halliburton Chapter
- 14 Renfrew County Chapter
- 15 Limestone Chapter
- 16 Lanark & District Chapter
- 17 Lower Ottawa Valley Chapter
- 18 Stormont Dundas & Glengarry Chapter
- 19 Near North Chapter
- 20 Algoma Chapter
- 21 Provincial (members not affiliated with any OWA Chapter)

Note: Chapter Boundaries are based on Member mail addresses, not woodlot locations
 Map Produced: February 19, 2024