Forest History Society of Ontario

Newsletter

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Contents

We want to hear from you!

If you have articles, photographs or images, interesting facts, web links, personal reflections or events that would be suitable for this newsletter, please contact the editor.

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Request for Content

Do you have an interesting story to tell about some aspect of forest history in Ontario? Or are you prepared to write an article for the newsletter on some aspect of forest history? Do you know of interesting photographs, documents, web sites or other items that would be suitable for inclusion in the newsletter? If so, please contact the editor to discuss the possibility of publishing your information in the newsletter.

Please provide your comments to the editor on items or themes you would like to see in the newsletter.

President's Message

As we approach the end of the first year of the Society it is appropriate to review our progress. Your Directors have met twice with an upcoming meeting in early December. Our Newsletter has been launched and as hoped contains contributions from members of the Society. As I have stressed before, the vitality of any organization reflects the efforts of its members, who can contribute in many different ways. Your Directors have a responsibility to provide opportunities for member participation and the newsletter is one of them. Our editor, Sherry Hambly, has persevered and the Society's website is now in place. We welcome comments and contributions through that location especially of items for our forest history catalogue of publications.

We are currently exploring the use of software for the catalogue that will make it an interactive addition to the website. The work on collections is also progressing primarily through the efforts of Dr.Mark Kuhlberg. We have communicated our willingness to facilitate the archiving of collections at Lakehead , Laurentian and Guelph Universities and the Archives of Ontario. Already a small private collection has gone to Laurentian University, and the Chief Archivist of Ontario has expressed an interest in acquiring forest history collections. A number of members probably have important forest history items that could either separately or when combined be suitable for safekeeping in one of the archives mentioned or others. For example, many counties such as Simcoe County have well-established archives for local collections. If any member has a collection or knows of one that should be placed in an archive please let Dr. Kuhlberg know.

The identification and safekeeping of forest history items and collections is of concern not only to us in Ontario but to the other three provincial forest history groups in Alberta, British Columbia and Québec and Canada as a whole. A two-year project is shortly to begin to identify forest history collections across the country. It is being funded by the Forest History Society (U.S.), the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE) and the Canadian Forest Service. We in the FHSO look forward to participating in any way we can support to this project.

In September as a result of the initiative of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Jim Farrell, Canadian Forest Service (CFS), a conference call was held with representatives of the four provincial associations, John Munro from Newfoundland and Labrador, Graeme Wyne (NiCHE) and Dave Lemkay. It was agreed that communication such as this call should be conducted on a regular basis and the CFS said that it would provide a modest financial support to the provincial associations to further their work in record storage and information for the public in forest history. Most recently we have been informed that the funds will be administered through the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

Earlier in this message I mentioned the importance of an active membership. As most members know the Ontario Forestry Association and its staff have provided much support to the FHSO in getting established. As a result OFA members have a reduced FHSO annual membership fee of $30. During this past summer following discussion with the Executive Director of the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) your Directors have extended the same arrangement to OWA members and we look forward to welcoming any who join us.

It was with regret that Rob Keen, the OFA representative and our Secretary-Treasurer, has had to resign owing to his increased responsibilities at Trees Ontario as interim CEO. I want to thank Rob publicly for his great help in this formative period of the Society. We welcome Tom Griffiths R.P.F. as the OFA representative, as well as our "new" Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Kaknevicius, OFA Program Development Manager.

Our Annual meeting is on Thursday afternoon, February 3, 2011, at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston. I look forward to meeting as many of our members as possible there. With best wishes to all for the Holiday Season and the New Year.

Ken Armson R.P.F.

Editor's Message

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who sent positive comments on the first newsletter. Thanks to the authors who made it a success. The newsletter will grow over time, especially if members of the Society support it by submitting material and providing comments on what they would like to see in the newsletter or how it is presented.

The Board of Directors has recommended a themed approach to the newsletters. For this newsletter the theme is Urban Forests and Conservation. I was lucky to have been a student at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, when Eric Jorgensen was a Professor there and Bill Morsink and Lloyd Burridge were students who later became Urban Foresters and helped make urban forestry what it is today in Ontario. A very good friend of mine from university days, Mike Allen, took his master's degree with Dr. Jorgensen and later had a successful career as the Chief Forester for the City of Winnipeg. Even with those associations, I had given little thought to urban forestry over the years. It wasn't until I began this newsletter that I realized how important urban forests and heritage trees are – not only ecologically, but culturally and spiritually. While a formalized approach to urban forests is in its infancy, we humans have a long history of thinking about and caring for our urban forests.

Urban forests do not just exist as tree-lined streets or treed ravines but as large and small blocks of land that contain both natural and man-made forests. In southern Ontario and large northern urban centres, these blocks of land are often managed by Conservation Authorities. As a forestry student I worked for the Conservation Authorities Branch for two summers, and during my resource management career I interacted with various Conservation Authorities. But until creating this newsletter, I was unaware of the Guelph Conference and Arthur Herbert Richardson's contribution to the development of these entities. History is fascinating.

The theme for our next newsletter (spring, 2011) is histories of local forests and forestry. Please consider contributing a story for the newsletter, or giving us ideas for stories or themes. As Editor, I am also looking for old photographs.

This newsletter has a new section called "Personal Recollections" (great story John! – it gave me my laugh for the day) – if you have an interesting story to tell – send it in.

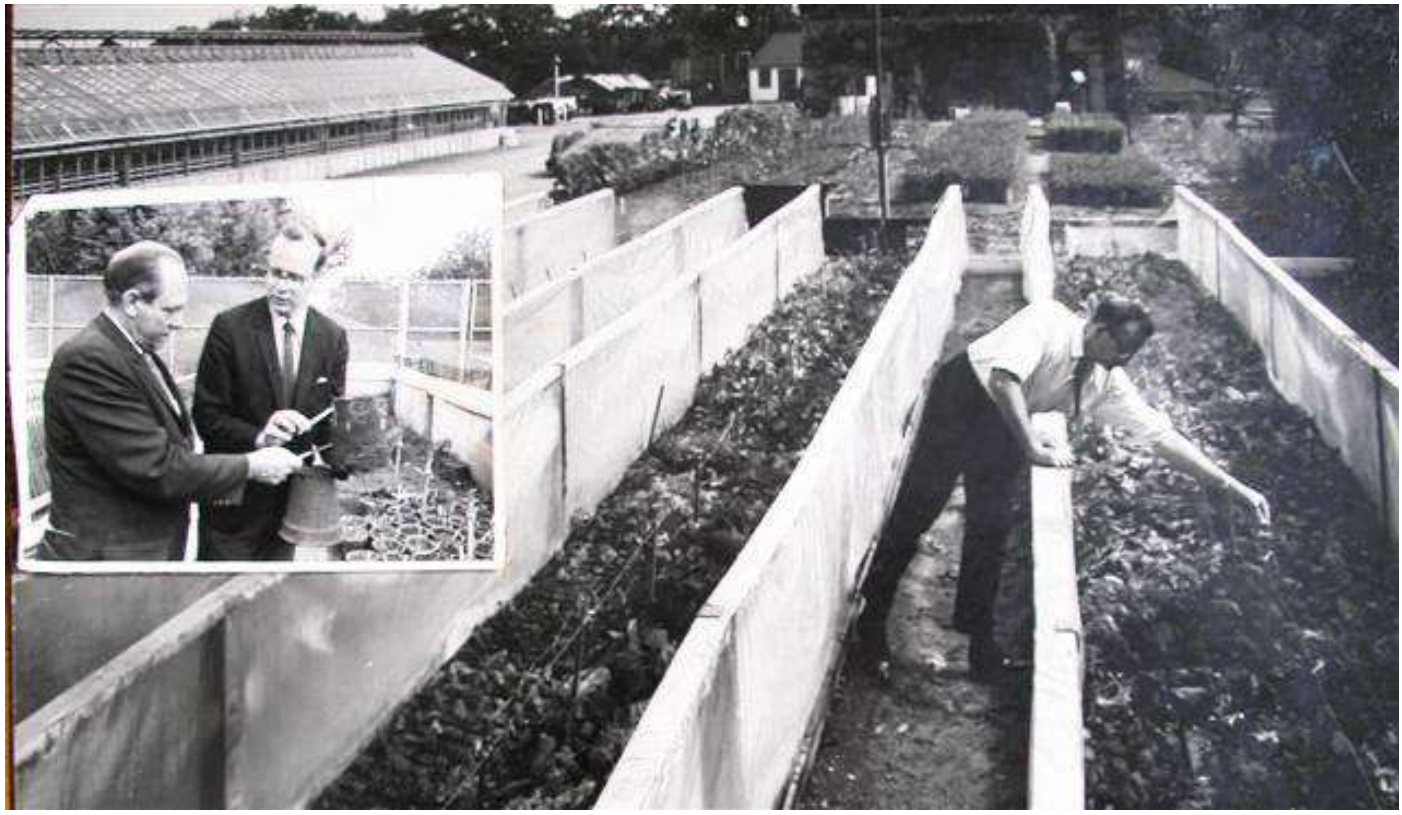
As soon as this newsletter is published, I will be writing to each of you as Society members to ask if you would be interested in assisting with the newsletter and the web and facebook sites in a variety of ways.

Thanks to the authors who contributed material for this newsletter. The Society, and I as newsletter editor, appreciate your contributions of time and effort squeezed from busy lives.

Have a great winter. We will be talking to you soon. And we hope to see you at the Society's Annual General Meeting in February.

Sherry Hambly M.Sc.F.

Ontario's Urban Forest Pioneers



Inset Picture - Eric Jorgensen (left) and Bill Morsink (right); Main Picture - Bill Morsink viewing tree nursery, High Park, Toronto, 1960's
(Photo Credit: With permission from Mike Rosen)

Erik Jorgensen – Canada's First Urban Forester

By Dr. Andy Kenney R.P.F.

Trees and forests or woodlands have undoubtedly been part of human settlement since the first encampments evolved into communities. Ricard (2005) makes the case that the professional origins of what we now call "urban forestry" can be traced back to the late 19th century. However, as a scientific discipline the consideration of trees and forests in settled landscapes has a relatively short history, and Ontario's forestry community has played a significant role.

Erik Jorgensen is recognized internationally as the first person to clearly define the term "urban forestry" as it is known and applied today. Since he first used the term in 1965 while at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, (Jorgensen, 1993) the term has gone from relative obscurity to part of the global urban vernacular. Cities and towns around the world have programs and departments with the term in their titles. Over the past few years international conferences billed as "urban forestry" have taken place from Reykjavik to Buenos Aires and from Edmonton to Kuala Lumpur. With 80% of the developed world now living in cities (and 50% of the global population) perhaps the term,

not long ago considered an oxymoron to those who bothered to consider it, has become a touchstone for many living in urban centres.

Erik came to Canada in 1955 from his native Denmark where he had studied and worked in forestry. He spent his first four years as a forest pathologist working for the Forest Biology Division of the Canada Department of Agriculture based in Maple, Ontario. In 1959 Jorgensen left the federal service and joined the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. At that time the full brunt of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) was being felt in many eastern Canadian cities and towns. It seems that attention to our urban forests is most often driven by crisis. The spread of DED in the '50s and '60s was perhaps one of the earlier examples of this with more recent events being the ice storm of eastern Canada in January of 1998, the Kelowna fires of 2003 and the more recent invasion of the urban forest by Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle.

One of Jorgensen's first tasks at U of T was to start a program to study the control of DED. He recalled in his address to the First Canadian Urban Forest Conference held in Winnipeg in 1993 that "The Ontario forestry authorities got out of the problem [of controlling DED] by the then minister declaring that elm is a weed species not of concern to forestry, but belonging under the 'Weeds Act' administered by the Ministry of Agriculture" (Jorgensen 1993). Urban residents and some municipalities didn't view elms in the same light as those responsible for the forest found beyond urbanized parts of the province. The recognition of the importance of this one genus to many of Ontario's communities was sufficient impetus for Jorgensen and the Faculty of Forestry to establish the Shade Tree Research Laboratory. In 1964 the efforts of the Shade Tree Lab reached out to the community with the establishment of the Ontario Shade Tree Council[1].

In 1965 Bill Morsink, a graduate student at the Faculty of Forestry, approached Erik expressing an interest in studying aspects of the trees in the City of Toronto. As Morsink puts it "Erik Jorgensen had to devise a name for my graduate program other than Forest Pathology; the term had to include Forestry and because my municipal tree studies would be in urban Toronto, Erik devised the catchy term 'Urban Forestry'" (Morsink 2000). In fact, the term was used as early as 1894 (Cook 1894) but this usage shares little with the philosophy embodied in Jorgensen's definition. Cook wrote: "...urban forestry, an art requiring special knowledge, cultivated taste, and a natural sympathy for plant life... Good taste demands the observance of two rules as essential in street tree planting. First, that but one variety of tree shall be planted upon a street, and second, that the trees shall be planted at uniform distances."

Perhaps these two rules of good taste ultimately aided in the spread of DED!

Conversely, Jorgensen (1967) defined urban forestry as: "A specialized branch of forestry that has as its objectives the cultivation and management of trees for their present and potential contribution to the physiological, sociological and economic well-being of urban society. These contributions include the over-all ameliorating effect of trees on their environment, as well as their recreational and general amenity value." Ricard (2009) suggests that Jorgensen probably never saw Cook's use of the term as it was published in an obscure report 73 years earlier.

Erik left the University of Toronto in 1973 to head up a national urban forestry program in Ottawa. Unfortunately, the program never came to fruition because of a change in government objectives. He worked for a number of years as Chief of the urban forestry program housed in the Forest Management Institute in Ottawa. Later, Erik moved to Guelph to become Director of the Arboretum at the University of Guelph where he continued to inspire students until his retirement. It is interesting to note that during his time at the University of Guelph, Erik was instrumental in bringing a program in Agroforestry to the University. Again, while farmers in many parts of the world had incorporated trees into cropping systems for eons, agroforestry as a discipline was embryonic in the early '80s. Perhaps this is another example of Erik Jorgensen's ability to "think outside the box" when it comes to the interaction between trees and humans.

[1] The Ontario Shade Tree Council was renamed the Ontario Urban Forest Council in 2001 to reflect the broadening scope of the organization's activities and the wider recognition of the term "urban forest" among the general population.

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Bill Morsink studied with Eric Jorgensen and became the first Urban Forestry graduate from the University of Toronto. Bill left a 45 year legacy of putting to practice what he learned from Eric Jorgensen.

Bill Morsink – Ontario's Urban Forest Pioneer

By Mike Rosen R.P.F.

If Erik Jorgensen brought the gospel of urban forestry to Canada (and the world) then Bill Morsink was his first and most successful disciple – a true urban forest pioneer. Yet, what is an "urban forest pioneer"? No doubt it is different from the classic forestry images of plaid-shirted men with pipes squaring logs, staring out of bunk beds in a "camboose", or guiding log rafts by wielding cant hooks in a log drive....

Archived CBC footage of Bill from the 1970's provides a glimpse of the "urban forest pioneer". With his City of Windsor pickup truck, crisp white shirt, black tie and repartee on Dutch elm disease (complete with the crashing of infected elms in the background) you begin to see the markings of a very competent and personable...urban forest pioneer.

He was born in 1934 on the Dutch colony of Sumatra where is father was a government official. When the island was taken over in 1942 by the Japanese Imperial army, the entire Morsink family was allegedly interned in a Prisoner-of-War camp until the war's end. Bill (born Willem) kept his slight Dutch accent when he immigrated to Canada in 1958, enrolling at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry.

The significance of his contribution to the profession will be that he was probably the first Canadian M.Sc.F. graduate in urban forestry. A student of Erik Jorgensen, Bill was closely connected with Jorgensen's University of Toronto-based Shade Tree Research Laboratory where he taught dendrology. With Dutch Elm Disease in full swing throughout North America, the Shade Tree Lab under the tutelage of Erik Jorgensen and Bill Morsink became a catalyst of urban forestry work in Canada. When the Shade Tree Lab was being moved to Guelph in 1973, it was clear that Morsink was not going to be able to stay in a teaching function at the University. Lloyd Burridge, the first forester for the City of Windsor and a newly-appointed Deputy Commissioner of Parks, quickly snapped Bill up and hired him as the forester for the City. Amongst other programs, Bill instituted one of Canada's largest root flare injection and beetle control programs for elm protection in Canada. After eleven years, and with his daughter acquiring superior piano playing abilities, the family felt a need to move to Toronto. In 1984, he became the Forester

for the City of Toronto and then in the late 80's, Forester for the City of North York.

Technically excellent, he was known for his great grasp of the scientific aspects of urban forests, and not necessarily the more political nuances of municipal councillors, managers and even those residents who did not share his love for trees.

A prominent member of the Ontario Shade Tree Council (OSTC), which morphed into the Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC) in 2001, Bill took on a second life with the OTSC /OUFC after retiring from North York in the 1990's. There, he found his passion as he delved into the nuances of the organization: organizing symposia, signing up members and working on what was to be his legacy project: the Ontario Urban Forest Scrapbooks I and II.

His career, like those of many who work in urban forestry, was not totally without frustration. He participated on a short-lived Urban Forestry sub-committee of the Ontario Professional Forestry Association and was on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Urban Forest Working Group. The Group published a paper to allegedly give direction to an evolving provincial urban forestry program. Called *Sustainable Forests in Urban Ontario – a Framework for an Ontario Urban Forest Strategy*, the initiative was quickly shelved after 1994 when government priorities shifted. The lack of support within the government and within the profession left him bitter and saw him step down from some organizations.

Instead, he chose to spend his last years volunteering for the Ontario Urban Forest Council and the Rhododendron Society of Toronto (in which he became President) engaging in outdoor activities such as bird-watching and camping, and enjoying his ever extensive family. He passed away in March 2010, at the age of 74. The legacy of this urban forest pioneer remains in not just the acquaintances he made or the initiatives he was part of, but in the technical standards that he insisted upon in this growing part of Ontario forestry.

Resource Material (Provided by the Editor)

Because urban forestry remains virtually unrecognized in Canada, unlike in the US and Europe, there is little in the way of resource material that relates to the history of urban forests and forestry. However, some historical information can be gleaned from these sites and materials.

Ontario Urban Forest Council
This site provides a gateway to urban forestry in Ontario and to several other organizations involved in urban forestry.
http://www.oufc.org/

Tree Canada
This site is trans-Canada in nature but contains interesting information including a short history of urban forestry.
http://www.treecanada.ca/

Eastern Ontario Urban Forest Network
This site provides a gateway to several other organizations in eastern Ontario and beyond.
http://www.eomf.on.ca/en/eoufn/activity-areas/network-involvement/urban-forest-network/eastern-ontario-urban-forest-network

Self Guided Tree Tours of Toronto – Created by LEAF
http://www.treetours.to/self-guided-tree-tours

Royal Ontario Museum
This site has a short article on the history of trees of Queens Park.
http://www.rom.on.ca/collections/trees/urban_forest.php

Canadian Urban Forest Network
http://www.cufn-rcfu.ca

Urban Forestry Canada Site
This site provides a link to municipalities that have an urban forest department.
http://www.canadian-forests.com/urban_civic.htm

Mr. Conservation" – Dr. Arthur Herbert Richardson M.A., S.M. Silv., F.E., P. Eng. (1890-1971)

By Paul Masterson

Arthur Herbert Richardson (Photo Credit: With permission from Paul Masterson)

In retrospect, who would guess that the wailing cry of a new-born infant boy on a cool November day in Toronto in 1890 was the clarion alert to Ontarians that one day this child in manhood would be regarded by many in-the-know as the "Father of Conservation". So, who is he? Dr. Arthur Herbert Richardson! Ever heard of him? Probably not, certainly not the public at large in 2010, even though families, students, teachers and hundreds of thousands of other individuals enjoy each year the fruits of his determination, vision and leadership when they visited one of the many Ontario Conservation Areas. "Parks are for People" was Richardson's banner motif that identified his leadership in establishing the numerous Conservation Areas in Ontario.

In May of 1962 at the Convocation Ceremonies of McGill University, Dean H.G. Dion, in his address conferring the degree of Doctor of Laws on Arthur Herbert Richardson, expounded on his contribution to the Canadian conservation movement. "Mr. Richardson has been responsible, more than any other single man, for the development of conservation and flood-control programs and policies in Canada…. culminating in the establishment of 37 Conservation Authorities in Ontario ... Mr. Richardson's vision and leadership in the field of Conservation earned an international reputation which is the greatest tribute to his success. As a biologist, with imagination, a forester with insight, and engineer with a sense of real values, he is a man with a burning concern for the well-being of his fellow men, young and old".

Richardson – The Scholar, Forester, Communicator

Apparently the wonders of the natural sciences attracted Richardson as he pursued his academic interests. The fruits of his years at McMaster University (then in Toronto), awarded him with a BA (Hon) and, encouraged by the Dean, a Master's Degree in Biology (1920). Richardson's interests grew in the study of life sciences. During the summer months of his student years he hiked, camped and explored the trails and land forms of the Bruce Peninsula.

Besides being an impressive track and field athlete, Richardson was a member of the executive committee of the University's Literary Society. In the years that followed in service with the Ontario government, his creative communication skills matured into the writing and editing of numerous books, pamphlets, periodicals and government legislation.

In September, 1918, Richardson enrolled at Harvard University, having been awarded a scholarship to study Silvicultural Science in the Department of Applied Biology. Richardson was bent on learning more about nature's outdoor resources, particularly the forest. In September, 1920, Richardson, armed with his Masters Degree in Silviculture, headed to Toronto and appeared at the office of the Department of Lands and Forests Provincial Forester, Ed Zavitz. Hired as a "Forester" in the Forestry Branch, Richardson began a career with the Ontario Government that would span 42 years. Years later in 1947, Richardson was certified as a registered member of the Ontario Professional Engineers Association and in the same period awarded a Forestry Engineer degree from University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry.

Under the mentoring and direction of Zavitz, Richardson immersed himself in the reforestation program for the Province. This exemplary educational and reforestation program, developed and fostered under Zavitz's watch, resulted in the Counties Reforestation Act, 1921. The Act was aimed at ending the unchecked exploitation by logging and poor farming techniques that often led to the abandonment of farms. Everywhere there were rapidly developing areas of waste-lands and wind-blown sand dunes. Slash, cut and burn was too often the mode of land

management. In 1924 Richardson authored a 71-page booklet entitled Bulletin No.1 *"Forest Tree Planting"*. Its aim was to motivate and guide municipalities, farmers and private land holders to reforest the lands they owned. Richardson was a skilled communicator when it came to building public awareness of forestry matters. He was a capable writer as attested to by the many publications that bore his name. Booklets with titles such as *"The Woodlot, Windbreaks and Shelter Belts"*, *"Tree Planting Acts of Ontario*", "*Gathering Pine Cones and other Seeds*", "*Farm Ponds*" and "*The Municipal Forest*" were widely distributed.

Forestry Chronicle – CSFE to CIF and RPF

Encouraged by Ed Zavitz, Richardson became involved with the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers (CSFE) where he founded and became editor of the "*Forestry Chronicle*" the national voice of the CSFE. From a bond mimeograph form it became a printed, magazine format publication in 1929. (Eighty years later, on its glossy pages, the Forestry Chronicle features scientific and general articles on research and development in forestry, environmental management plus news happening in Canada and globally). Besides being their editor, the Society made Richardson its secretary. By 1935 the growing work called for the need of a permanent secretary. In an unsolicited testimonial Walter Ab-Yberg, Chairman of the Executive Committee for Quebec, the Maritimes and Newfoundland, lauded Richardson for his *"untiring efforts"* and *"splendid service"*. He concluded his oration with this thought *"I marvel at how much he has done in return for the grand remuneration of $2 per month"*.

At the CSFE's annual meeting in Ottawa the following year, Richardson was elected Vice-President and his work again publicly recognized in a presentation by the Society. It read in part, *"... for his work in reforestation, his bulletins ... lectures and articles on general forestry; … his work as special lecturer for 16 years (twice a week) at the Ontario Agricultural College; … his organization of the reforestation work for the Ontario Forestry Branch; … his establishment of a seed collecting station (Angus) and the improvement of seed extraction techniques; … his organization of county and municipal forests".*

The lack of professional status of forestry in the public mind always bothered Richardson as he wrote in the 1935 February issue of The Forestry Chronicle: *"Technical foresters in Canada are suffering from an exaggerated sense of modesty. We have been too satisfied with our achievement and most of us are perfectly willing to settle into a comfortable job and let someone else instruct the public at large to the purpose of forestry and what a Forester really is."*

Preferring the title "Forest Engineer", Richardson urged the use of MCSFE (Member CSFE) after their names. He encouraged members to write articles for magazines and seek opportunities to give popular or technical addresses on Forestry. In Ontario in 1950 a legislative private members bill was passed that recognized qualified members as Registered Professional Forester (RPF). In the same year, the CSFE changed its name to the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF).

Disaster Can Breed Progress!

It sometimes takes a major public disaster to incite the citizenry to demand a significant course of action by government. For example, the 1911 and 1916 forest fires in Northern Ontario rained death (297 souls) and destruction on the communities of Timmins, South Porcupine, Porquis Junction, Cochrane, Matheson, and Iroquois Falls and charred a forested land area covering 3440 km^2. An aroused society and its government responded by passing the 1917 Forest Fire and Prevention Act. Lands and Forests Minister, George Ferguson, directed Ed Zavitz (Richardson's future boss) to reorganize the service.

Now fast forward to 1954 and Hurricane Hazel! A full-blown tropical storm, Hazel was responsible for 81 deaths and damages of over 100 million dollars. The public demand for action had a similar impact. In his book *"Conservation for the People"*, Dr. Richardson mused that the "Hazel" disaster stirred up more concerns and calls for immediate action than all the watershed surveys that he had done and recommendations made. Two major changes resulted from Hurricane Hazel. The merger of adjoining authorities into one authority, the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA,) and the planning for a coordinated flood-control and water conservation program.

In 1957 an Order-In-Council of the Ontario Government appointed Arthur Herbert Richardson the first Chairman of this new conservation authority.

Boy Scouts and Forest Conservation

In 1922 two events prompted the Ontario Boy Scouts Association to become interested in forestry. The first was the destructive forests fires in the Haileybury region where, during one day in October, 40 lives were lost and 6000 homes left in ashes. The other development was the Government's resumption of replanting sand/waste lands. Meetings were held between Scouts and Government out of which Richardson was given the task to create lectures and hands-on activities on forestry as part of the Scout's leadership program. The concept fitted two of Richardson's interests in forestry and conservation: one, the involvement of youth in conservation; and two, the applied teaching techniques and hands-on activities for the needed programs. A "Boy Scouts Forestry Camp" evolved with the accompanying forester and conservation badges awards.

A.H.Richardon as President of the Ontario Scout Council, 1945-1951 (Photo – with permission of Paul Masterson)

Two awards were testimony to Richardson's leadership in Scouting: the "Medal of Merit" for "outstanding work for the Scout movement" presented in 1937 by Governor General Lord Tweedsmuir; and, in 1958 the "Silver Wolf", the highest Canadian award recognizing Richardson's service to Scouting of the most exceptional character presented by Governor General The Right Honourable Vincent Massey. Dr. Richardson's work on the scouting movement is without parallel: from a basic forest conservation program in 1924 until 1991, it is estimated that Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies in Ontario have planted 60 million trees on 18,000 ha of treeless land.

Planning and Development - The Conservation Branch

Richardson transferred in April, 1944, from Lands and Forests to the Conservation Branch of a new Ministry, Planning and Development, headed by Dana Porter. Richardson was made the Chief Conservation Engineer. He played that role for 17 years. Following the passing of the Conservation Authorities Act (1944), Richardson led the way for the establishment of conservation authorities such as the Ganaraska (the model for others), Ausable and Etobicoke. Within five years there were l5 conservation authorities that included the Upper Thames, Saugeen, Grand and Greenwood. A major merging of several Authorities also happened. The Don Valley, Humber Valley, Etobicoke –Mimico, Rouge River, Duffin Creek, Highland Creek and Petticoat Creek became the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

On Wednesday, February 14th, 1962, A Toronto Telegram headline read **"Mr. Conservation Retires and Leaves … 19,718 Square Miles of Parkland"**. Completing his book "*Conservation by the People*" in November, 1971, Dr. Arthur Herbert Richardson celebrated Christmas, suffered a heart attack and died two days later.

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The Origins of Conservation Authorities

By Russ Powell

Conservation Authorities have embodied three fundamental principles since their enabling legislation was passed by the Ontario legislature in 1946:

- local initiative of the municipalities to contribute financially and become involved in authority resource management projects;
- cost-sharing between the Province and member municipalities for Conservation Authority projects;
- the use of watershed units as the logical basis on which to develop rational, integrated resource management programs.

The first two principles can be traced back 35 years prior, to the Counties Reforestation Act of 1911; the third principle to the 1930s with the establishment of the Grand River Conservation Commission. The Counties Reforestation Act in 1911 became the Reforestation Act in 1921 and culminated in the Forestry Act in 1927. The driving force behind this legislation originated in those rural counties of Ontario where lumbering of the virgin stands of white and red pine, followed by subsequent attempts to farm the light sandy soils, had produced what could only be described as an eroding, drifting wasteland. The most critical areas were the sand plains of Norfolk, Simcoe, Prescott and Russell counties, the lower reaches of the Sauble River in Bruce County and the Great Pine Ridge moraine running west to east from the Caledon Hills to the Trent River. In 1922, the provisions of this legislation were first exercised when the County of Simcoe acquired 1000 acres that became Hendrie Forest.

The Forestry Act was an interesting approach in that it set out to assist landowners, rather than to regulate them. It also became the first large-scale effort by the Province to involve local government in the management of natural resources. And finally there was a personal connection – Arthur Herbert Richardson, who was the dominant force in the first 25 years of Conservation Authorities, had, earlier in his career, been active in the county agreement forest program.

Local appeals for new initiatives in conservation in Ontario continued in the late 1920's and 1930's when the combined results of drought and deforestation led to extensive soil loss and flooding. Throughout the depression years, and those of World War II that followed, organizations such as the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association, which had its roots in the counties, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and individuals writing for The Farmer's Advocate, pressed the case for conservation and wise resource management. Many of these leading conservationists believed that real progress in developing a new approach to natural resource management would not occur until an integrated effort was undertaken using natural watershed boundaries.

In 1931, the Grand River Valley Boards of Trade was established, representing those municipalities that had suffered most from the twin scourges of flooding and droughts. The Boards requested the Ontario government make a survey and report to establish ways and means of controlling floods and improving summer flows. The Grand River Conservation Commission Act was passed in 1932, replaced in 1938, and named the cities of Brantford, Galt and Kitchener, the towns of Paris, Preston and Waterloo and the villages of Elora and Fergus as partners. The specific work that the commission was authorized to do was: "To study and investigate, itself or its engineers or other employees or representatives, the Grand River valley, and to determine a scheme whereby the waters of the said Grand River valley may be conserved to afford a sufficient supply of water for the municipal, domestic and manufacturing purposes of the participating municipalities during periods of water shortages and controlled in times of flood, and to undertake such schemes. To erect works and create reservoirs by the construction of dams or otherwise".

The first major project was the Shand Dam on the main river, two miles upstream of Fergus. It was the first multi-purpose dam built in Canada. The principle of cost sharing amongst the various levels of government was reinforced – Canada (37.5 percent), Ontario (37.5 percent) and 25 percent paid by the municipalities on a pro rated basis according to individual benefit received as decided by the Commission.

Continued concern about the state of the natural resources in southern Ontario precipitated the Guelph Conference held at the Ontario Agricultural College on April 25, 1941, with the following organizations in attendance:

- Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association
- Canadian Society of Forest Engineers
- Federation of Ontario Naturalists
- Royal Canadian Institute
- Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturalists
- Canadian Conservation Association
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Royal Canadian Legion
- Men of the Trees

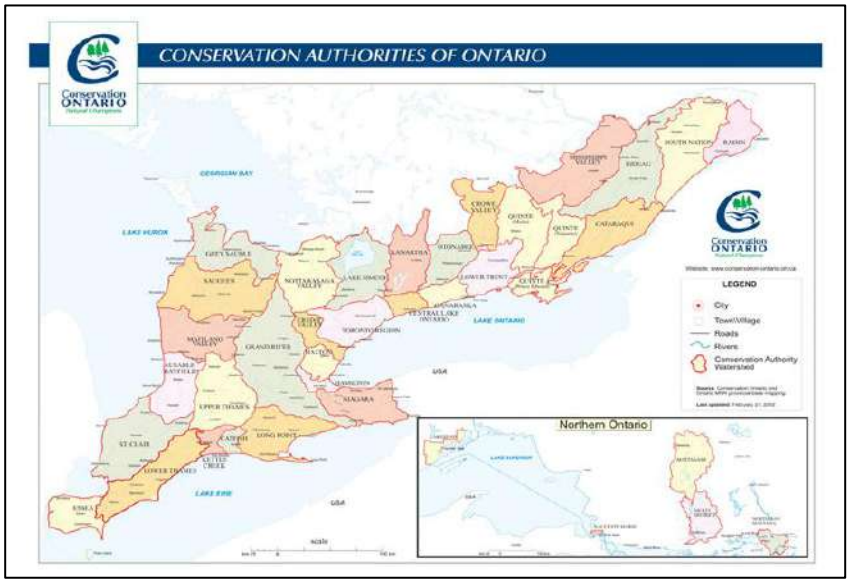
Richardson described those attending as "a roll call of the faithful in conservation." The conference produced a report in 1942 that recommended an integrated resource management planning study of a watershed in Ontario.

On June 15, 1943, the Ganaraska Survey and Report was delivered to the Province of Ontario. It is instructive to note that the impetus came both from concern about the degradation of natural resources in Ontario and using programs for their restoration as a means of re-establishing in civilian life men from the armed forces after World War II, and that the area studied was defined by the watershed, not municipal political boundaries.

Recommendation No. 2 stated that: “Legislation be enacted combining the best features of the Grand River Conservation Commission and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, Ohio, so that municipalities in any part of Ontario may undertake a similar conservation programme”. In short order – at least by today's standards for government action – the Ontario Government established the Conservation Branch in 1944 in the Department of Planning and Development, enacted the Conservation Authorities Act in 1946 and formed the first Conservation Authorities in 1947.

Resource Material (Provided by the Editor)
Many Conservation Authorities have produced historical information on their Authority. The Conservation Ontario website provides a gateway to the websites of individual Authorities.

http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/



Map outlining boundaries of the 36 Conservation Authorities (Photo Credit: Conservation Ontario)

York Regional Forest: A Piece of the Agreement Forest Puzzle

By Pam Fulford

Walking through the York Regional Forest in the Hollidge Tract you would never think that it was once a desert wasteland. The current 2200 hectares of York Regional Forest in 20 different tracts across York Region are open today for the public to hike, ski, run, ride horses, bike or just to breathe the fresh air. The York Regional Forest now receives 500,000 visits a year. But as many readers of this newsletter know, these forests have an interesting history.

The Hollidge Tract today

As documented in the Evergreen Challenge – The Agreement Forest Story (Borczon 1982), "In some parts of Ontario, the trees, the soil and man's livelihood were gone with the wind by the early 1900s. Large tracts of land that once supported thriving farms had turned into empty wastelands".

The desert sands of yesterday

In 1871, Sir John A Macdonald, the Prime Minister of Canada and the father of Confederation, wrote "We are recklessly destroying the timber of Canada, and there is scarcely a possibility of replacing it" (Zavitz 1947). Zavitz also reported "Southern Ontario has been cleared and tilled for less than 150 years – a short time in the life of a nation – and yet we are confronted with many serious problems of soil and water, owing to the lack of forest cover. The woodlands, which are to a great extent composed of farmers' woodlots, are gradually disappearing. Today 135 townships have less than 5%, and Southern Ontario less than 10% of woodland. Much of the remaining woodlands are run out and are by no means in a productive condition". Jenkins indicated in his 2001 article that in southern Ontario, we have lost 94% of original (old growth) woodlands and 80% of forest cover.

Horse logging

In his quiet yet effective manner, Mr. Zavitz advanced the reforestation movement in 1905 by distributing 10,000 trees for planting on private lands. This was the humble beginning of the provincial nursery program that flourished throughout the last century. Mr. Zavitz had amazing foresight. In 1909, he recognized "These areas should be preserved for the people of Ontario as recreation grounds for all time to come. The policy of putting these lands under forest management has many arguments in its favour. It will pay as a financial investment; assist in insuring a wood supply; protect the headwaters of streams; provide breeding ground for wild game; provide object lessons in forestry; and prevent citizens from developing under conditions which can end only in failure" (Borczon 1982).

Early logging

Mr. Zavitz was one of the first to recognize the forest as a recreational amenity and that people would come just to gain solace from the forest. For more information on E.J. Zavitz, refer to the Spring 2010 issue of the Forest History Society of Ontario reprint of his biography from the first edition of Sylva, the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests journal.

In the 1920s, a groundswell of concern from landowners, foresters, municipal councils and associations urged the government to enact legislation. The Reforestation Act of 1921 was passed to enable the Minister of Lands and Forests (now the Minister of Natural Resources) to enter into an agreement with the county governments to reforest and manage lands owned by the counties. In 1924, the York County Forest became the second Agreement Forest (after the Simcoe County Forest in 1922).

York County at that time was little more than a committee. It ran a nursing home, the Reforestation Committee, and a few other organizations (Robinson 2005). The foresters, who were employed by the province, only had contact with the Reforestation Committee through the annual committee meeting and report. These foresters selected, appraised and recommended potential land purchases to the Reforestation Committee. If approved, a grant of 50% of the purchase price was requested from the province. The land was then purchased by York, but managed by the Ministry of Lands and Forests (later, the Ministry of Natural Resources).

Three subsequent forest agreements were signed (1952, 1962, 1978) until the termination of the agreement in 2001. Since the termination of the agreement, the Regional Municipality of York has continued to expand and manage York Regional Forest with the help of a public based forum, the Regional Forest Advisory Team. The property purchases and donations for the York Regional Forest started in 1924 and continue to the present (Table 1).

Table 1: York Regional Forest Property Acquired from 1924 - 2009

Forest Tract	Year Acquired	Property Size Hectares (Ac)	Township	Cost to York Region[1]
Hollidge	1924	83 (205)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$4,138
Eldred King	1924, 30, 39, 46, 53	220 (543)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$17,906
Hall	1924, 2004	109 (269)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$220,800
North	1925, 29, 36, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 50, 53	332 (820)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$18,540
Patterson	1938	49 (120)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$1,300
Brownhill	1940, 2002 (donation)	83 (205)	East Gwillimbury	$2,440
Cronsberry	1944	39 (97)	Georgina	$1,450
Dainty	1945	41 (100)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$1,620
Godfrey	1945, 2008	41 (103)	Georgina	$85,260
Zephyr	1945, 50	87 (215)	East Gwillimbury	$3,386
Porritt	1946	81 (200)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$4,800
Pefferlaw	1946, 59, 61, 63, 64, 68	581 (1436)	Georgina	$76,735
Clarke	1947, 51	63 (156)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$3,190
Bendor & Graves	1947, 48	81 (200)	East Gwillimbury	$3,700
Robinson	1947	43 (105)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$2,000
Scout	1953	49 (120)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$4,000
Mitchell	1955, 50	22 (53)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$1,600
Metro Road	1967, 70	84 (207)	Georgina	$33,401
Hall-Patterson Link	2004	1 (2)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	$8,650
Nobleton	2006	69 (170)	King	$1,000,000
Davis Drive	2008, 2009	149 (368)	Whitchurch-Stouffville & East Gwillimbury	$3,647,500

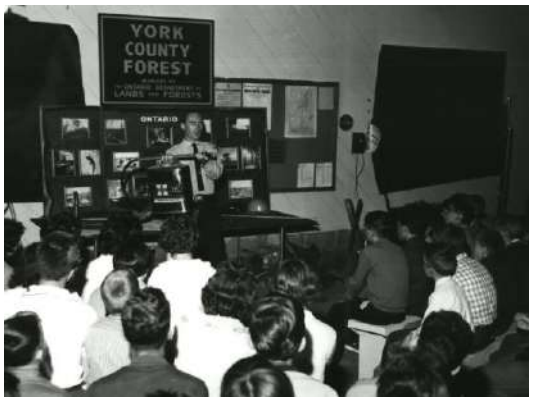
1 This cost may include grants from the Ontario Government in the early purchase years

The York Region Greening Land Securement Program, approved by York Regional Council in 2001, continues to purchase lands and receive donated properties with the objectives of increasing forest cover in York Region and expanding the York Regional Forest. Unfortunately, donations are rare and we cannot keep to the $50 per acre limit set in 1955! (Robinson 2005)

The list of tracts (Table 1) does not include all natural heritage lands purchased with York Region securement funds. York Region also contributes to partner-led purchases for natural heritage purposes. But whether we hold the property title, or our partners do, the combined effort protects forests, wetlands, headwater streams, rivers, valleylands and critical wildlife habitat for future generations.

Our York Official Plan forest cover target is 25% and we still have a long way to go (currently at 22.5%). In 2000, the York Regional Forest was the first public forest to be certified as well-managed and sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council. To maintain certification, the York Regional Forest is audited annually and re-assessed every five years. The legacy that E.J. Zavitz started in the early 1900s continues to flourish today with the continual expansion of the York Regional Forest and other natural heritage areas protected, in the words of E.J. Zavitz, "for all time to come".

Forester John Griffiths hands out seedlings, 1964



Forester John Simpson speaks to students, 1962

Since 2005, the York Region Natural Heritage and Forestry Services, in partnership with the University of Toronto, has been interviewing those involved with the management and expansion of the York Regional Forest with the intention of documenting the history of this incredible Forest.

To date, those interviewed include Al Alsop, Ed Borczon, Bob Burgar, Al Beckwith, Keith Fockler, John Griffiths, Jamie Huntley, Sidae Kim, Leonard Munt, John Osmok, Dave Puttock, Michael Rosen, Cliff Hollidge, Doug Drysdale and Ian Buchanan. We need to hear from others who can contribute to the York Regional Forest story.

Some of the quotations from the men who worked in the forest include:

"In the 1930s, the sand blew so hard there was a huge sand dune on Hwy 48. We made a trail through the bush to walk to school. You couldn't walk on the road with the sand whipping in your face."

"In the 1940s, I had 50 men planting trees at Vivian – they worked 10 hours a day, 6 days a week for 40¢ an hour. I wanted to get them a 5¢ an hour raise. I threatened to write to the Toronto Star. I got them their raise."

"To my recollection the management issues were simply the silvicultural issues, and the normal routine administrative issues. There were no public issues that people have to deal with now."

"Heck, we wanted to keep people out of the forest! We were afraid they would start a fire!"

"We basically ploughed 35' to 40' areas all around the edges of the properties…we'd prune all the branches back along the edges and create a firebreak. That was one thing we took very seriously back then."

"The old model Ts would have to drive backwards up the hill on Hwy 48, the sand would blow so hard and it would block the roads. Some of the land we bought for nothing, it was so bad."

F.C. Hollidge, 1964

Hauling load of red pine, 1956

"Fred Hollidge used to catch speckled trout in the Vivian Creek every Sunday morning. There were unstable banks at the stream and one day a horse sank down in the quicksand. We had to use logs to make a tripod and use block and tackle to get it out."

"We had no budget. We had to barter to get what we needed – we traded wood for a buzz saw."

The story continues. Anyone with a story to tell about the York Regional Forest or photographs to share, please contact Pam Fulford, Natural Heritage and Forestry, Regional Municipality of York, 905-830-4444 Ext 5241 email: pam.fulford@york.ca. If you have any corrections regarding this article or questions on our Land Securement Program, please contact us. The historic photos are from York Region's photograph database.

Foresters of tomorrow planning trees, 2009 (Photo Credit: Trees Ontario)

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Heritage Trees

Honouring Heritage Trees

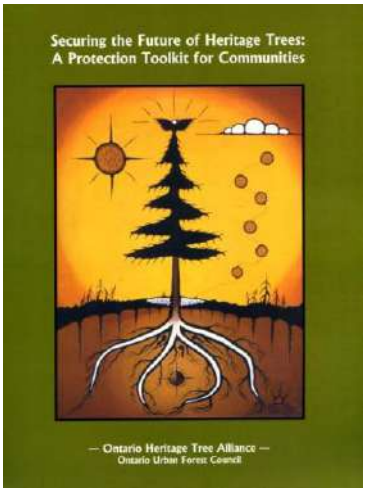
By Barbara Heidenreich

Cameron Smith, author and environmentalist, received overwhelming response to an article he wrote a few years ago about the great white oak of Bell Creek in Belleville that was under threat from a proposed development (Toronto Star, Saturday, 18 November, 2006, "*Old trees - part of our identity*"). He speculated on the chord that he struck as follows… "*I wonder if it's because trees that are centuries old provide inspiration, or at least solace in these troubled times, when every day brings another story of a wounded landscape. They are survivors, having prevailed through generation after generation of human intemperance*."

These survivors, living monuments known as "heritage trees", have been, since the beginning of time, recognized, valued, sometimes worshiped, and now, in a growing number of cases, designated for lifetime protection. What makes a "heritage tree"? Dr. Paul Aird, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, created the following definition of a heritage tree:

- a heritage tree is a notable specimen because of its size, form, shape, beauty, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution or other distinctive features;
- a living relic that displays evidence of cultural modification by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people including strips of bark or knot-free wood removed, test hole cut to determine soundness, furrows cut to collect pitch or sap, or blazes to mark a trail;
- a prominent community landmark;
- a specimen associated with an historic person, place or event or period;
- a representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors that is at risk of disappearing from cultivation;
- a tree associated with local folklore, myths, legends or traditions;
- a specimen identified by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition.

This definition recognizes a heritage tree as more than a tree that is old, large or rare. To these exceptional natural and cultural values should be added the less tangible but absolute certainty by many people, that these living organisms speak to us as a witness of centuries past. This comprehensive definition was adopted by the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance (OHTA) in 2006 in their resource manual *Securing the Future of Heritage Trees: A Protection Toolkit for Communities*[1].



Securing the Future of Heritage Trees: A Protection Toolkit for Communities (Cover)

The OHTA Toolkit cover is the painting "Tree of Peace – the Eastern White Pine" generously provided by permission of the artist. The original painting is by David General, Six Nations of the Grand River.

The OHTA was sponsored by the Ontario Urban Forest Council and Community Heritage Ontario to develop a toolkit on heritage tree recognition and protection. A Ministry of Culture grant covered publication costs and the toolkit was an instant success in local communities, helping to initiate "Great Community Tree Hunts" across the province by providing tools for indentifying, researching and evaluating trees worthy of heritage designation. As the battle lines over saving trees too often begins at the sound of chainsaws, the toolkit provided, as well, different strategies for having them protected under current provincial legislation. Such a toolkit should be seen not just

[1] Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance. 2006. Securing the Future of Heritage Trees: A Protection Toolkit for Communities. Toronto: Ontario Urban Forest Council (http://www.oufc.org/ohtaprotectiontoolkit.htm).

Ashbridge House white willow, protected by the Ontario Heritage Trust (Photo Credit: Barb Heidenreich)

as a tool for heritage recognition and protection, but also as a tool for conflict avoidance. Among the items that appear in the toolkit are nomination and evaluation forms; examples of tree hunts; tree profiles and a list of heritage trees that have been provincially designated; a model heritage tree protection bylaw template; strategies for tree protection under the Planning Act, the Municipal Act and the Ontario Heritage Act.

The range of legislation in Ontario that can impact trees and in some cases also be used to protect heritage trees reflects what makes a heritage tree important. Its natural genetic legacy places it within the interest of environmental policies and laws, while its historical significance requires the expertise and involvement of cultural and heritage groups. Documenting the heritage value of a tree, a grove of trees or an arboreal remnant generally involves a partnership. This partnership will include the expertise of a forester and/or arborist. Criteria for determining cultural heritage value requires expertise that enables a researcher to meet the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act (Part IV) and the regulations enacted under this Act[2]. These latter skills are found in those people with a passion for basic and obscure historical research[3]. Property research requires familiarity with local, regional and provincial museum and archive holdings, library archives, records kept in the local Land Registry Office, collections kept by museums, historical societies, schools, churches, local families and history buffs. It may involve reviewing the Illustrated Historical Atlases of the counties of Ontario issued in the late 1800s, the hand written surveyor's inventories of vegetation noted while undertaking the original surveys in Ontario[4] and old aerial photographs. It may also involve talking to neighbours, former property owners and those who might have diaries and photographs of the property on which the trees are located.

Speyside Royal Oak, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (Photo Credit: Town of Halton Hills)

The challenge of meeting the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act in terms of documenting cultural heritage value is well illustrated by the "statement of cultural heritage value or interest" provided for the designation of the Speyside Royal Oak in the Town of Halton Hill[5]. Prepared by the municipality's heritage committee Chair, John Mark Rowe, the designation report CL-2007-0013 provides a comprehensive rational for the cultural importance of this *Quercus robur* under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act that fully meets the criteria

[2] Ontario Heritage Act: Ontario Regulation 9/06 - Criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest; Ontario Regulation 10/06 -Criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest of Provincial Significance.

[3] For an excellent review of how to undertake real property research see: Elysia DeLaurentis, "Delving Beyond the Date Stone: A Guide to Property Research in Wellington County" in Wellington County History, annual journal of the Wellington County Historical Society (Fergus, Ontario), Vol. 21, 2008, pages 65-81.

[4] Conrad E. Heidenreich, "A Procedure for Mapping the Vegetation of Northern Simcoe County from the Ontario Land Surveys." In: R.L. Gentilcore and K. Donkin. "The Land Surveys of Southern Ontario". Cartographica Monograph No. 8, 1973, pp. 104-13.

[5] The Speyside Royal Oak is located at the northwest corner of the property known as 11445 Highway 25, west half of lot 18 Concession 3 (former Township of Esquesing) Part 1 on Reference Plan of Survey 20R-15522. The Speyside Royal Oak stands adjacent to the south west corner of the gymnasium of the former Speyside Public School built in 1960.

requirements under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act[6].

Some trees by virtue of their location on protected properties are preserved in perpetuity. These include such trees as the ailing but spectacular European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) (at 54 Woodfield, Toronto) and the White Willow (*Salix alba*) at Ashbridge House (at 1444 Queen Street East, Toronto), properties owned by the province's lead heritage organization, the Ontario Heritage Trust. As a result, these trees are not only protected but they also benefit from expert care from a consulting ISA Certified Arborist specializing in heritage trees. Preservation of these living relics links us to our beginnings in this province in addition to improving air quality, providing shade, adding beauty to our lives, and increasing our health and well-being[7]. On a whole though, our living monuments on both public and private property need help from all citizens. The "Heritage Tree Protection Toolkit" written and published by the Ontario Urban Forest Council's Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance (OHTA) is your guide to this process.

For further information contact Barb Heidenreich, Natural Heritage Coordinator, at Ontario Heritage Trust, 10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 202, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5C 1J3 ; Telephone: 416-314-4918; Fax: 416-325-5071; E-mail: barbara.heidenreich@heritagetrust.on.ca ;Websites: www.heritagetrust.on.ca ; www.doorsopenontario.on.ca .

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Web Resources (Provided by the Editor)

Trees Ontario – Heritage Tree Program
http://www.treesontario.ca/programs/index.php/heritage_tree_program

Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance
http://www.oufc.org/ohtahome.htm

[6] Available at: www.haltonhills.ca/calendars/2007/CL-2007-0013.pdf .
[7] http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/plant-your-own-wood/Documents/MTMG%20-%20urban%20trees%20report.pdf .

Heritage Trees Can Tell Us About Our Social History

By Edith George

"Remove not the ancient landmarks" Proverbs, Chapter 23, Verse 10

I live in a very special enclave of the Amalgamated City of Toronto. The neighbourhood's western boundary is the Humber RIver, a Canadian Heritage River. In the location of the southeastern boundary, there stands a house that was named "Rivermede" by the family that built it in the mid 1930s'. The Gardiner family used this property as their summer residence from 1933 to 1950. This house is on our city's proposed heritage properties list.

Nicholas Family red oak heritage tree, Toronto (Photo Credit: Edith George)

We have two other "treasures" in this area and these are red oaks. They were left as markers for the historic Toronto Carrying Place Trail. The trees began their lives well before the original pioneer, Matthew Griffith, settled on this land in 1848. He came from County Cavan, Ireland.

I am writing this story about one of these *Quercus rubra,* that is called the "Nicholas Family's Red Oak".

Neighbours help neighbours and in the autumn of 2005, Ms. Arlene Doane, the owner of the tree asked for my help to have this tree protected as a heritage tree. Her father, (the late) Mr. Michael William Nicholas, was the man who saved the oak.

If this tree could talk, it would tell a story about the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, an aboriginal "highway" that the first Nations of North America used as part of the trade route that connected northern and western Canada with the Gulf of Mexico. With the coming of the Europeans to North America, explorers, missionaries and mapmakers used and recorded this path. Men such as Etienne Brulé; Father Jean Brébeuf and Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe walked passed this tree!

In my five years of research, who owned the tree has become such a wealth of Canadian history in itself, that I made up a presentation called, "Heritage Trees - Preserving Our Natural Roots" which I have shared with several libraries, museums and historical societies in the past year.
The one family that I wish to make mention of is Percy R. and Gertrude Gardiner of Toronto. They put service to the community first and their philanthropic volunteerism lived on in their immediate family. The Gardiners' son, George, their daughter, Helen, and both their children's respective spouses, all received Orders of Canada for their individual contributions to our country. This is a total of four (4) awards.

250+ year old red oak (Photo Credit: Edith George)

The historical and cultural significance of a tree is one category that is part of the process of designating a tree as a heritage tree but some other factors that are examined are its size, form, shape, beauty, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution or other distinct features.

I received a letter dated October 30, 2009 from "Trees Ontario" confirming that this red oak located in a backyard on Coral Gable Drive was officially identified as a "Recognized Heritage Tree" through the Ontario Heritage Tree Program.

An important part of this provincial program is that acorns can be collected for propagating this species.

Personally, it gives me great pleasure to walk past and look at this majestic oak that graces our neighbourhood in all our four seasons of the year.

This ancient remnant is a true tool that teaches us about our natural and historical heritage. This is a heritage that we do not want to disappear but to remain with us for generations to come.

Dam It! So That's How Loggers Drove Those Creeks

By John MacFie

Pine logging came later to Parry Sound – Muskoka than to Ontario's Ottawa River and Lake Ontario watersheds. Most timber was brought out of the bush by floating it down rivers, and the rivers of Parry Sound – Muskoka flowed west toward Georgian Bay, away from the markets of the early 19th century.

By 1860, however, settlement of the U.S. Midwest and depletion of that nation's own timber resources brought attention to bear on the Ontario side of the Upper Great Lakes. Timber limits outlined on the map of Parry Sound – Muskoka were put up for auction and the successful bidders began building sawmills at the mouths of the Muskoka, the Seguin, the Magnetawan and the French Rivers.

The anatomy of a logging dam is exposed in this photo, taken in the early 20th century on Caribou Creek in the Pickerel River watershed. Timber cut nearby and shaped with crosscut saw and broad axe formed the components, and rock-filled cribs hold it all in place (Photo Credit George Knight)

These lumbermen faced certain obstacles not encountered elsewhere. For starters, the quality of the pine growing in this generally thin-soiled region was somewhat inferior to that found to the south and east.

Secondly, the annual log drive faced a head wind, a prevailing westerly wind that worked counter to the westerly flow of the rivers. Wind mattered so much that one noted Parry Sound drive contractor used to step outside on March 21st at the precise moment the Farmer's Almanac told him the sun would cross the Equator and note the wind direction, a sure indicator, he believed, of the coming season's prevailing wind direction. He then factored this into the estimated cost per thousand board feet for taking down the coming season's drive.

Finally, there was the weighty matter of snow. Early-winter winds scoop moisture off the open waters of Georgian Bay and dump it on Parry Sound – Muskoka in the form of frequent heavy snow squalls. Deep snow often hampered operations in the felling and skidding season (October through December), and too much snow interfered with building and maintaining the sleigh roads over which the season's cut was hauled to lake or streamside. I once interviewed an old-time logging contractor who lamented an especially bad winter when "it cost me more money handling snow than handling logs." But snow was a two-edged sword. Come spring, with the start of the log drive, two or three feet of snow pack suddenly became an asset. The extra stored moisture enabled loggers to harness very small creeks to start a winter's cut flowing down to the mill.

Certain legendary river bosses were credited with the ability to float logs "on heavy dew". Actually, they were just good at managing water. Deep in the woods behind my boyhood home, on a farm near Dunchurch, Ontario, runs Steidler Creek that, in our midsummer wilderness rambles, we could step across. Yet, around the turn of the 20th century, logging contractor Albert McCallum drove millions of board feet of pine logs down Steidler Creek as they began their journey down the Shawanaga River to Georgian Bay.

The topmost stop log has been lifted, allowing saved water to start logs on the journey down the sawmill. The creek is atributary to the Pickerel River, in northern Parry Sound District (Photo Credit: George Knight)

This dam, on Four Bears Creek, a tributary of the Magnetawan River, shows how lumbermen harnesse small streams to drive sawlogs. Here, in midsummer, the watercourse is nearly dry (Photo courtesy of Roy Smith)

In the words of George Beagan, one of McCallum's men, "You couldn't whip a dog down Steidler Creek" in its natural state, before it was "improved" for log driving. First, all the alders and fallen trees had to be chopped out of the way. Then, three or four control dams (I remember seeing the remains of two of them) were installed at intervals on the stream. These were primarily "saving dams," meant to store water and dole it out as required to keep the logs moving, but such structures often also served a secondary purpose by submerging a rapids.

In driving creeks, timing was crucial. The crew had to be on the scene ready to catch the first flush (and it was akin to flushing a toilet) of spring breakup, when the precious bounty of snowbelt snow suddenly liquefied. Then it was a matter of opening and closing the gates of dams at the right moments, and keeping the logs moving past difficult spots along the way. But under the control of a river boss who knew how to "handle water," a large volume of saw logs could be rammed down a small stream in short order.

One old lumberjack of my acquaintance ended his fond recollections of the log driving days by remarking that it could not be done today. "Not enough water," he declared. "And do you know where all your water is today? The danged beaver have it all dammed up back in the bush!"

Maybe there's a grain of truth in that.

Several hundred dams were installed in the Parry Sound – Muskoka area during the days of log driving. Many dams still remain.

Resource Material for Logging History of Parry Sound – Muskoka (Provided by the Editor)

Parry Sound public library – has written material and images related to local logging history. This link takes you to the main history page from which you can access logging history images and a written account of local logging history.
http://www.pspl.on.ca/localhistory.htm

Visual Heritage Canada – Chapter 7 "To the Woods" – an oral and photographic history of logging in the Parry Sound – Muskoka area.
http://www.visualheritage.ca/muskoka/

Stanhope Museum in Haliburton Highlands has online photos of log drive chutes.
http://www.stanhopemuseum.on.ca/photographs.php

Personal Recollections

By John Ebbs, B.Sc.F., University of Toronto, 1968

Learning about the Forest History Society and its work reminded me of two projects during my summer job after my first year at U. of T. in 1963.

Bill Foster, I think it was, hired me to be an assistant ranger at Kirkwood Forest helping out with anything that needed doing from making coffee to fighting forest fires. The Lands and Forests Research Branch sent up two research projects that summer.

The black flies from the Ranger School had an easier time finding Thessalon than I did. Their season was in full bloom when the rangers at Kirkwood Forest were ordered to test a dozen or so insect repellents. They were sent to us in small vials identified by numbers. We were supposed to apply each of them and rank their effectiveness. As you can appreciate, the older rangers were sceptical about changing from their favourite repellents, which ranged from not bathing to spraying themselves with insecticides such as "Raid".

Having spent the previous eight months at the Faculty of Forestry learning the value of sound scientific research, I was alone in following the protocol, for the first several days. The test samples had odours closer to perfume and aftershave than anything that might deter black flies.

The Ranger whom I was assisting with his field work and I devised an alternate test. When we retreated to the pickup truck for coffee or lunch the black flies went in with us and they congregated, as they do, on the inside of the windshield in the hundreds.

We opened and lined up the vials of test sample repellents in order on the dashboard and used a ruler to measure how far the black flies stayed from them. Flies went into several of the vials. Those we ranked as having low effectiveness, even if the black flies seemed to enjoy swimming in the vials. The most highly effective samples kept the flies four inches away, as I recall.

The second project was an attempt to eradicate a bark beetle infestation in one of the young white pine plantations. The insects were boring around the cambium and damaging the trees. A researcher at Maple decided the solution was to use fire fighting hoses to blast them out. Our four man crew had a truck with an 800 gallon tank which towed a trailer and Bombardier mounted with a 250 gallon tank and Wajax pump. We were assigned to the research after it had been raining for several days so it was unlikely that we would need the equipment for fire fighting.

The white pine plantation was about 20 years old and had not been thinned or pruned. Manhandling the hose around the trees, blasting away the bark of each one, was a time consuming and very wet job. Over three days we perfected our technique so that we were averaging 10 trees per load of 1050 gallons, in about an hour. It was a 20 minute drive to the nearest stream. It took 30 minutes to fill the tanks on the truck and Bombardier, and then 20 minutes back to the plantation. At two hours for ten trees it was going to require many years to treat the area of infestation. We were able to convince the newly arrived forester (Bill Fullerton maybe?) that it was not a productive technique, at 30 to 40 trees per day at best, and we were allowed to stop. I don't know if it was effective for those trees we did blast.

As my introduction to forestry research, I felt at the time that these projects were of great significance. However I suspect that after almost 50 years since, their results may have been lost and will not make it in to the Forest History Society archives.

Books / Articles / Web Sites or Other Resources

"Renewing Nature's Wealth"

(Lambert, Richard S. and Paul Pross. 1967. The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. Toronto). The book cover describes this book as "the exciting story of Ontario's natural resources, *and+ John Robarts, in his Foreward to the book as 'much more than a history of one of the Departments of the Government of the Province of Ontario; it is a vital component of the history of Ontario', reaching back nearly 200 years to the days of the first surveyor General of Upper Canada in 1794. The book describes the impact made by a civilized people upon the primitive forest that originally covered the land, and the development of its natural resources under public administration from an early state of confusion and waste down to the modern era of conservation and scientific management." We will provide a précis of one chapter of this book in each future edition of the newsletter.

Chapter 2 (The Settlement of the Land): Britain encouraged immigration to Ontario in response to the War of Independence to the south. As well, Empire Loyalists came to Canada in response to this same war. Early land settlement was focused along Lakes Erie, Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The first treaty for land was with the Mississauga's who ceded a strip of land along the Niagara River. Almost all lands in southwestern Ontario were under treaty by 1841.

The process of settlement was through free land grants, which were subject to favouritism resulting from the "Family Compact" form of government. In 1827 the office of Commissioner of Crown Lands was created to impose order and change to the system. Peter Robinson was the first Commissioner and held the post jointly as Surveyor General of Woods and Forests. Robinson was unable to bring about reform due partly because he was a member of the Family Compact and because of his double workload.

Dissatisfaction with the system of land grants was one of the chief complaints leading to the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837. The aftermath of the rebellion was the Durham Report delivered to the British Government in 1839. Change in the land grant system came even before the Durham Report, through the enactment of the Public Lands Act in 1837.

The Durham Report provided a scathing indictment of the land grant system and administration and recommended that these duties should be removed to a "Colonial Commission" in London. This Commission would also regulate the disposal of Crown timber. This Commission was never realized because it was determined that the sale of public lands was legally the prevue of the provincial government authority and could not be assumed by the British Crown. Regardless, the main recommendations of the Durham Report (uniting Upper and Lower Canada into one province, responsible government, a local parliamentary system) were eventually, but slowly, implemented. These very significant changes meant that local citizens could direct their own affairs in a more orderly and democratic fashion.

Books Recommended by Ken Armson

Angus, James T. *Mills and Mill Villages of Severn Township*. Barrie: Severn Publications Ltd., 1998.

Armson, Kenneth A. and Marjorie McLeod. *The Legacy of John Waldie and Sons: A History of the Victoria Harbour Lumber Company*. Toronto: Dundurn Press. 2007.

Boyer, Barbaranne and Mike Boyer. *Victoria Harbour: A Mill Town*. Erin: Boston Mills Press. 1989.

Kaufmann, Carl. *Logging Days in Blind River*. Sault Ste Marie: Sault Star Commercial Printer. 1970.

Macfie, John. Parry Sound Logging Days. Erin: Boston Mills Press. 1987.

Whitton, Charlotte. *A Hundred Years A-Fellin'.* Ottawa: The Runge Press. 1943.

Events and News

60 Years of Silviculture on the Hearst Forest

By Rob Galloway

On September 30, 2010, two busloads of folks stopped just north of Constance Lake on Rogers Road at the 1963 Planted White Spruce Plantation. This plantation will now be called the George Blight Plantation. George spent many years working on the Hearst Forest for Lands & Forests, Hearst Forest Industry, and finally becoming the first "Chief Forester of Hearst Forest Management Inc". This plantation is where many of the earliest applications of modern silviculture occurred, and today is the oldest, most complete suite of applied treatments on the forest. This plantation's history includes the first thinning for commercial products on the Forest. George was a leader of these early days and we honoured him on that day.

Denis Cheff and Dave Scott unveiling the commemoration plaque (Photo Credit: Rob Galloway)

Dave Scott, MNR District Manager of Hearst for almost 20 years, was instrumental in clearing significant policy barriers to enable the commercial thinning of this site. Dave also has a long history on the Hearst Forest. Permanent sample plots measuring the forest's growth were established here and will be named to commemorate Dave's long term contribution to this site and the Hearst Forest. George was unable to join us, but Dave was present and much surprised as Denis Cheff, General Manager Hearst Forest Management Inc., announced the commemoration and unveiled the plaque.

It was a pleasure to be there to share in this event along with many past and present Silviculture & Forestry staff of MNR, Hearst Forest Industry, Hearst Forest Management Inc., Constance Lake First Nation members and local Hearst community members. Many proud people sharing this day with George and Dave and walking in this 47 year old very successful white spruce plantation was a very good day indeed.

225 Million Trees Planted!

By Rob Galloway

Hearst District Silviculture Reunion – 1957 to 2010, September 29th and 30th, 2010

Harold Frost, long term Silviculture Tech on the Hearst and Nagagami Forest, had a brain wave about two years ago that dragged a busload of people to Hearst in the cool, wet, fall season of this year. Frosty's idea was that everyone he could contact or remember who had ever worked in or had influence on Silviculture in the Hearst forests should go look at the thousands of hectares of very excellent plantations that we all had a part of creating or looking after. He succeeded big time! We had people from British Columbia, Southern Ontario and other parts of Northern Ontario who took part. Also joining the group were past and current local Ministry of Natural Resources and Industry staff who reside in and around Hearst or Hornepayne and still work in, and or, recreate in these plantations.

Harold Frost giving the silviculture history of a white spruce plantation (Photo Credit: Rob Galloway)

For two days we dragged a luxury coach through the bush and looked at wonderful examples of spruce silviculture created over 50 years. We saw snow-cached stock, Ontario tubelings, bareroot stock, container stock, hand tending, aerial sprayings from 40 years ago and many other very successful treatments. This was like seeing the evolution of silviculture in the Hearst area. A fine tourist attraction for the town of Hearst as well.

We thank Frosty for the wonderful trip he organized. His still unbelievable commitment to the forests of Hearst and the commitment he had as we worked with him show up very well in this historical tour of Hearst silviculture. The time and effort he put into making this a wonderful tour is appreciated by all who attended.

Oh yeah! We did have a beer (or two) at the Hearst Legion to continue another old tradition of Hearst silviculture.

Best wishes to all who attended and shared the days with folks from the past and the present who know these two forests. The tour made for two fine days of learning and enjoyment out in the bush. Thanks to all and especially to Harold Frost (Frosty), Silviculturist par excellence.

Commemorating Two Forest Pioneers in Ontario

By Dolf Wynia

Norfolk County is living testimony to two of the first Canadian foresters who practiced all the aspects of their profession, beginning more than a hundred years ago. Dr. Edmund J. Zavitz initiated the St. Williams Forestry Station in 1908 and Dr. James H. White, the first forestry graduate of a Canadian University, initiated extensive tree planting trials near Turkey Point at about the same time. The work of these men guided reforestation in southern Ontario for generations and the results are evident in every County of the Province. Provincially, as Chief Provincial Forester, Dr. Zavitz initiated greatly improved forest fire control and Dr.White led many original provincial forest resources surveys.

Few of today's practicing foresters would have met these men. The Canadian Institute of Forestry honoured Dr. White for his work in 1946 through a commemorative plaque and cairn in the Turkey Point Forest, which was named the J.H. White Forest. Dr. Zavitz has often been called "The Father of Reforestation in Ontario" but a forest was never named after him.

At the 100th anniversary celebration of the St. Williams Nursery, keynote speaker Ken Armson noted the fact that the plaque for Dr. White had become oblivious through the development of a provincial park at the original location and also that there was no memorial for Dr. Zavitz. Members of the local Port Rowan/South Walsingham Heritage Association and the Southern Ontario Section of the C.I.F. accepted Ken's challenge and a small committee was formed to pursue the project.

A new, much more visible site in Turkey Point has now been selected for Dr. White's plaque, where his original one will be re-installed. Also, a site has been selected on the "Picnic Grounds" of the former St. Williams Forestry Station where a new publicly accessible memorial will be installed for Dr. Zavitz, naming the current "Nursery Tract" of the St.Williams Conservation Reserve "The Dr. Edmund J. Zavitz Forest". It will be close to the grave of Colonel Arthur Pratt, M.P.P., one of the other instigators of the Station.

The cost of the project is estimated to be in the range of $10,000.00. To date, a total of $1000.00 has been donated by members of the Southern Ontario Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and another $1000.00 by the National FACT fund. A private donation of $ 1000.00 has also been made.

Nationally, members of the Canadian forestry community, forest related businesses and the general public are invited to participate by making donations to the "Memorial Fund" c/o Port Rowan/South Walsingham Heritage Association, PO Box 193, Port Rowan, ON, N0E 1M0. Charitable receipts will be issued.

If all goes as planned, the official unveiling of the memorials will be on August 14, 2011, during the "Forest Fest" to be held at the former Forestry Station, now named "The St.Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre". Dolf Wynia, chair of the fundraising committee, (519-875-3350 or wynia@kwic.com) will be pleased to provide more details anytime, if desired. Time is of the essence as, unfortunately, almost every week, there are fewer foresters and forest owners who will remember these pioneers. A list of contributors will be displayed in the Forest Interpretive Centre at the Nursery, which some will remember as the "Museum", and is now operated by the Heritage Association.

125th Anniversary – Fire Rangers of Ontario

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Ontario Fire Rangers who have a proud history of fighting fires and responding to other disasters in Ontario and beyond. Learn more about the Fire Rangers, who work in very difficult, demanding and hazardous situations, by visiting these sites:

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – 125 Years of Dedicated Service by Ontario Fire Rangers

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@newsroom/documents/document/stdprod_069149.pdf

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/AFFM/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_068137.html

Legislative Assembly of Ontario: Forest Fire Management in Ontario – The History

http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/mon/3000/10300376.pdf

Canadian Bushplane Heritage Museum

http://www.bushplane.com/fire-rangers-canadian-bushplane-heritage

The Aubrey White Memorial

http://www.waymarking.com/gallery/image.aspx?f=1&guid=2e3742dc-27fc-4293-af8f-f883f07acd26&gid=3

Forest History Society of Ontario – Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Forest History Society of Ontario will be held on **Thursday afternoon, February 3, 2011**, at the Nottawasga Inn, Alliston. The Society's meeting takes place just prior to the annual general meeting of the Ontario Forestry Association. More details will be posted in December on the Society's web and facebook sites.

Contest – Update

Name the Newsletter!

Thanks to all who submitted names for the newsletter. The Board of Directors has decided to refer the decision to the Annual Meeting in February. So you still have time to submit a name! Remember, if your name is chosen, you will receive a free two-year subscription to the Society.

Next Newsletter

The theme of the next newsletter is local forest history. We are looking for:

- Stories you can write on local forest history including items abaout the ecology, conservation, use, interesting personalities
- Stories that others in your community may be able to write
- Interesting persons who could be interviewed.

Let us know by contacting the editor of the newsletter. Submissions are required by April 1, 2011. Instructions for writing items will be posted on the website shortly.

About the Authors

Mike Rosen is President, Tree Canada.

Dr. Andy Kenney is Senior Lecturer, Urban Forestry, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto.

Paul Masterson is retired from Abitibi-Price and Kortright Conservation Centre, and is author of a book on A.H. Richardson.

Russ Powell is Chief Administrative Officer, Lake Ontario Conservation Authority.

Pam Fulford is a Stewardship Specialist with the Regional Municipality of York.

Barbara Heidenreich is Natural Heritage Coordinator, Ontario Heritage Trust.

Edith George Is a community volunteer in Toronto and gives lectures on heritage trees.

John MacFie is retired from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and has written twelve history books.

Sylva Recap

The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests published for many years a journal called “Sylva”. The purpose of this journal was to highlight changes in policy, individuals and the comings and goings of staff. This journal contains nuggets of forest history that will be selected for each edition of the newsletter. In the second issue of Sylva two Rangers were highlighted. We reprint one of those articles here.

Colin McInnis – Ranger Extraordinary (Sylva Vol. 1 (2):25-28)

Colin McInnes.

McInnis, one of the oldest and ablest of Ontario’s forest rangers is a far cry from the tobacco-spitting, hard-drinking, loud, cussing ranger of our more imaginative novelist and script writers, who have never seen a jack pine. Not once in the 70 years of his existence has Colin smoked tobacco or "touched, tasted or handled" liquor. Not that Colin McInnis isn’t a true example of the rough-and-ready older rangers who opened up our northern limits; for there are few men with the vigor and stamina which still sustain this popular Parry Sound character in his work. Small in stature, slim, blue-eyed, Colin McInnis covers his territory through the winter and summer, good weather and bad, with rarely an exception. His record is one almost without equal in the history of our Department.

Born in Beaverton, on Lake Simcoe, in 1876, Colin’s childhood was spent on a small farm. During the daytime he romped the neighborhood farms or accompanied his father, who was a shoemaker as well as a farmer, on his repairing expeditions throughout the neighbouring vicinity. Colin was not very strong and when at the age of "6 or 7" his family moved to Uxbridge he was, to his childish delight, relieved of the doubtful pleasure of school-going in order that his weak lungs might have the maximum of fresh air. The years from 6 to 11, Colin believes today, were among the happiest he ever spent. He hung about the local tannery, ran small errands for the neighbours and, when they returned from school, played baseball or football with some of his eleven brothers and sisters. Being the youngest he was, he says, "spoiled by everyone."

At the age of 11 Colin and the McInnis family moved to Gravenhurst, where he attended the local school until he was old enough to work at the local sawmill in the summer and do "bush cooking" during the winter. He picked up the latter talent from his older brother William, and improved it until, to this day, he is considered one of the best "bush cooks" in the north country. His main pleasures during his later adolescence came from swimming, canoeing, and "hunting skunks or porcupines with rocks underneath Gravenhurst’s larger buildings."

The fact that Colin wasn’t paid for his work half of the time seemingly did not unduly disturb him. He was too preoccupied with "getting religion" for that. At the age of 18, against his mother’s protests, he became a passionate convert to the Salvation Army in Parry Sound. He says to this day that going into the Salvation Army changed his life and was his first introduction to the world of Sunday schools. Although his father was a teetotaller and his mother, who lived until she was 84, was a "good woman," Colin’s preoccupation with religion to the point where he did not do his work seemed a trifle extreme. So, to cure their errant son of what they thought was a temporary "maladjustment" they sent him packing to New York City. Unfortunately, the gay New York of the 1890’s, which moved to the tune of "Ta-ra-ra-bump-te-ah" and whose model gentleman was the railroader "Diamond Jim Brady", only set Colin more firmly in his "path of righteousness." With missionary zeal, this strange young man would go into the Bowery at eight at night and stay there until four in the morning, preaching the word of God to unwilling listeners who were even less steady on the "path" than they were on their feet. Night after night Colin would make the rounds of the Bowery bars and urge the errant customers to adopt the good way of life. The crowning achievement of his preaching at sailors’ missions, bars,

and houses of doubtful purpose, came when he was invited to deliver a sermon at a large New York Presbyterian church, where people stood in line to hear "the young Canadian missionary."

Early in the 1900's, Colin returned to Canada to carry on his missionary work. Settling in Toronto when the city's north end was at Bloor Street he spent his time in what he likes to call "slum clearing." "Why," says Colin, "Toronto was full of old girls so drunk that I used to spend my evenings taking them home. They would come up to me and say, 'Mister, take me home or the cops will get me.' So," continued Colin, "I took them home."

Unchanged, Colin returned to Gravenhurst in 1902 and went back to work at the local sawmill. There he did everything except the actual sawing. Working a minimum of ten hours a day, he would sometimes "mark" a quarter of a million board feet in that time. This continued until Colin married a local girl named Edna Rosy Parker, after which his life took a somewhat different turn. Within one year after his marriage he had left Gravenhurst to spend the next four years at Cache Bay, where he continued working in a mill during the summer and did cooking during the winter for the local lumber camps. From Cache Bay, Colin and his wife moved to Brennon Harbor at North Bay, where he spent a further five years working for the Milne Brothers. Here, Mrs. Mclnnis ran a boarding house to lodge Colin's fellow employees, and she did the same thing when they both moved on to work near Sudbury for the same company. Boarding houses have played a large part in the lives of the Mclnnises since those early dates and, at times, Edna Rosy Mclnnis found herself cooking and keeping house for as many as 150 lumberjacks.

Colin finally left the employ of the Milnes, in 1920, when he first started working with the Department in the Sudbury district. There he did cut inspection and was an assistant sealer. During the winter of 1920-1921 he went timber cruising with Peter McEwen, for whose party he served as cook. In the spring of 1922, he went with McEwen to the Parry Sound district as a Deputy Chief Ranger and has been there ever since. However, although he has been a Chief Ranger since 1923, it was not until 1927 that Colin was appointed to the permanent staff of the Department, a position which he still holds.

Looking back over nearly half a century of labouring in Ontario's forests, Colin spoke of these as the highlights of his life, (and not surprisingly, they mostly concern religion, which still, for all his love of forestry, takes first place in his affections): joining the Salvation Army as a boy; taking the "pledge" to abstain toward the end of the last century; preaching to that overflowing congregation in the New York church on the corner of 142nd Street and Eighth Avenue; and the little church which he built singlehanded in South Porcupine in 1911 – laying its foundations, cutting the trees, dressing the lumber – Such are the incidents which live most vividly in the memory of Colin Mclnnis today.

But in the memories of many other persons Colin Mclnnis lives as more than a pursuer of good purposes. To numberless colleagues and travellers he is an almost unparalleled cook and baker, to dozens of Parry Sound children he has been guide and adviser on natural history, and, to almost all who have ever known him, despite his persistent missionary preoccupations, he is a very human and shrewd northern guide. For Colin Mclnnis never imposes his parables where they are not invited, and far from being a grim "good-doer" he tolerates and enjoys more things in life than most of us.

80 to 90% of the urban forest in a typical eastern North American city is on private property.

The city of Toronto has an estimated 10.2 million trees, represented by 116 species and with a value of over 7 billion dollars (Every Tree Counts, City of Toronto, ND).

On average, Canadian communities have one street tree for every 4 to 6 residents.

Forest History Society of Ontario

Membership Form

Thank You For Your Support!

The mission of the Society is :

"To further the knowledge, understanding and preservation of Ontario's forest history" and accomplish this with the following objectives:

1. To preserve forest and forest conservation history;
2. To encourage and further the development and recognition of forest history;
3. To support research and studies of forest history;
4. To support the archival preservation of records and materials relating to forest history, and
5. To promote the better understanding of forest history through public education.

Forest History Society of Ontario

One of the first projects, involving members' participation ,will be the preparation of a catalogue of existing publications dealing with various aspects of Ontario's forest history. It is anticipated that a Newsletter will be provided to members at least twice a year.

A second project involving the identification of collections and materials relating to Ontario's forest history has also begun.

Please fill out the membership form below.

Thank you for your support!

.....

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