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Forestory

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Loggers in Ontario, 1899

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Chair's Message – Hope Springs Eternal

Now that the Toronto Blue Jays have ended their remarkable run this fall, and life has returned to a semblance of order (the Toronto Maple Leafs are enduring a few challenges on the ice these days!), we can take the time to reflect upon the year that was in 2015. For those of us who are deeply interested in the history of our province's forests, there is plenty upon which to comment in terms of the last twelve months.

While a few subjects spring instantly to mind, one thread that weaves its way through all of them is the degree to which history keeps repeating itself; ironically, I commented upon all these issues in this very column roughly one year ago! Controversy still surrounds the practice of forestry in Algonquin Park even though many would argue it has represented the exemplary template for responsible stewardship (by the way, the Forest History Society of Ontario officially congratulated the Algonquin Forestry Authority, which oversees forest management in the park, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary). Nevertheless, the Park is still the site of disagreements between those who favour diminishing the area available to tree harvesting on one side and those whose very livelihoods – and the prosperity of their communities – rest upon the extraction of this renewable resource on the other. Likewise, Ontarians continue to recognize the important contribution trees make to the health of their urban landscapes and are taking steps to increase the canopy in these settings, but they confront numerous hurdles to doing so. These include insect pests, particularly invasive ones, diseases and funding constraints. And whereas the Ontario government launched a pilot spring bear hunting project this year, one that was at least partially intended to decrease the controversy surrounding its management of this animal, the initiative seems to have done little to mitigate the problem. In Sudbury, where I live, anecdotal evidence suggests encounters with bears were more frequent this season than they had been in eons, a situation that created a string of headaches for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the local police force and municipal officials.

Remarkably, at the root of nearly all these contemporary issues involving our forests and the creatures that dwell within them are perceptions, more accurately *mis*perceptions, and it is here where the Forest History Society of Ontario (FHSO) can play a crucial role in improving the situation. By discovering past stories about our trees and forest fauna and re-telling these tales in interesting ways, we help enlighten our citizens and strengthen their ability to engage in public debates in a logical and meaningful way. Similarly, by helping to preserve our forest history heritage, we sustain the empirical basis – contained in things such as old reports and correspondence – upon which present and future generations can create their own stories. By performing these functions, ultimately the FHSO is helping to improve our collective understanding of our province's wondrous woodlands and move us closer to treating them in a rational manner.

Mark Kuhlberg PhD
Chair, Forest History Society of Ontario

Editor's Message

When I accepted Mark's offer to become the new editor of *Forestory* back in September, I had no idea the amount of work that went into preparing a single edition of the journal. It did not take me long to realize the extent of this task, and I soon felt overwhelmed by it all. Fortunately, Sherry Hambly, who has served as editor for the past five years, provided me with the necessary resources, connections, and guidance to get this issue finalized. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Sherry, as well as Mark, for their help throughout this process.

But now onto the journal itself. Thanks to the efforts of numerous authors this edition of *Forestory* contains fascinating content on a wide range of subjects that relate to Ontario's forests. It is hoped that these articles will encourage readers, both new and old, to further their understanding of how the province's woodlands have shaped and have been shaped by people throughout history. From people to trees; from logging to restoration; from bugs to bears; from art to science; *Forestory* continues to offer a variety of perspectives on Ontario's forests in a way that goes beyond a simple recounting of the past.

The job of editor is by no means a one-man operation. Thank you to all of those who made a contribution to this edition of *Forestory*, and to our readers for your support and continued interest in the Forest History Society of Ontario. This would not have been possible without you.

Scott Miller

The History of Federal Forestry Research in Sault Ste. Marie

By Steve Dominy and Fiona Ortiz

The year 2015 marks 70 years of federal forest research in Sault Ste. Marie, led by what is today known as the Canadian Forest Service (CFS), part of Natural Resources Canada. It was in 1945 that a forest insect laboratory was opened in the downtown area, just north of the Ontario Provincial Air Service Hangars (*See* Forestory Volume 4, Issue 2, Fall 2013 for more information about Carl Atwood, first Officer-in-Charge). This article recounts the evolution of the federal research presence in the city, introduces some of the key figures and their achievements since then and shows how many of the current research programs got started.

The evolution of the facilities

In 1950, a second building was constructed at the site of what is now the Great Lakes Forestry Centre (GLFC) at 1219 Queen St. East. It was known as the national Laboratory for Insect Pathology and was renamed the Insect Pathology Research Institute in 1959. Biologist J.J. deGryse, then chief of Forest Insect Investigations, had the idea to establish a research institute with the goal of studying possible biological control methods as an alternative to the chemical agents being used at the time. His inspiration for this idea came from observations on the collapse of a European spruce sawfly infestation within two years as a result of a naturally observed insect virus. The laboratory was the first of its kind in Canada and the building had a specialized design that allowed early work in the development of biocontrol agents to be safely carried out.

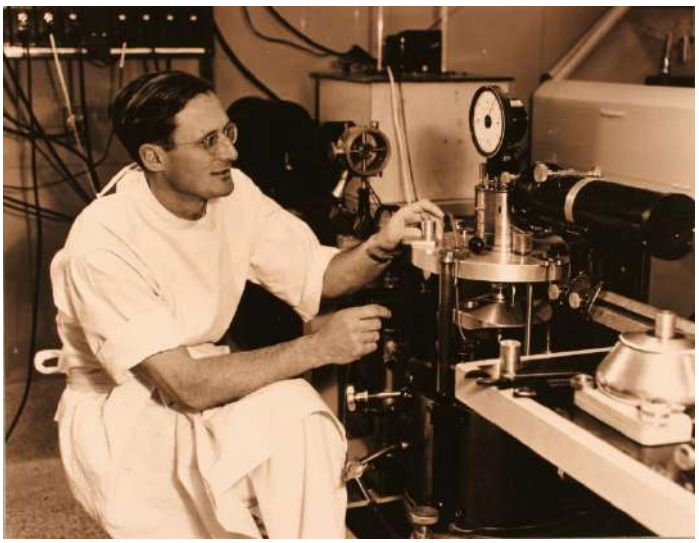
The national Laboratory for Insect Pathology (above) was built in 1950. Today, it is the site of the Great Lakes Forest Centre (below).

Various expansions took place over the years as amalgamations occurred or newer facilities were required. In 1965, despite protests from scientists and their local town councils, The Forest Research Laboratory was formed by the amalgamation of the silviculture laboratory at Richmond Hill, the Pathology Laboratory at Maple, and the Insect Laboratory at Sault Ste. Marie.[1] In the end, only six people made the move: in 1966, Richmond Hill scientists Roy Sutton and Fred von Althen, forestry officer Fred Haavisto and technicians Fred Curtis and Reinhart Brettschneider all joined the staff, with forest pathologist Jack Basham moving from Maple one year later.

In 1971, the name was changed to the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre (GLFRC) and then changed to the Great Lakes Forestry Centre (GLFC) in 1985. A large new facility was constructed in 1975 at a cost of $8.7 million, equipped to be one of the best laboratories of its type in Canada. In 1977, the Chemical Control Research Institute from Ottawa merged with Insect Pathology Research Institute to become the Forest Pest Management Institute (FPMI). A new $17.3 million wing was added to the building in 1986 to accommodate the FPMI researchers. By 1995 the two institutes (FPMI and GLFC) had joined; the name GLFC remains, although it is often referred to locally as the "bug lab", which reflects its origins. The most recent expansion was in 2012, when new Insect Production and Quarantine Laboratories were built so that research into exotic invasive species could be carried out without the risk of insect escape.

Pioneering scientists

In the early years, scientists from around the world were brought in to the lab to start research in the developing area of insect biocontrol. Dr. Gernot Bergold, considered the best virologist in the world, was recruited in 1950 from Tübingen University in Germany. This was considered a great feat at the time as the Second World War had recently ended and many other research facilities were competing for his skills. The advanced equipment at the Laboratory of Insect Pathology, such as an early-generation electron microscope and a centrifuge (see pictures below), allowed him to do innovative research on viruses that was ahead of its time.



[1] "Protest Shifting Of Labs To Sault" (The Telegram, Toronto, Thurs. Mar. 4, 1965); "Council To Protest Lab Removal" (The Liberal, Richmond Hill, Thursday, March 4, 1965); "MP Deplores Shift Of Labs To Sault" (The Telegram, Toronto, Mon. Mar. 8, 1965; "Forestry Move Illogical" (The Liberal, Richmond Hill, Thursday, March 18, 1965).

The Canadian scientist Dr. Ted Bird was also recruited in 1950 and was considered a pioneer in the field of insect pathology. He was one of the scientists who identified a virus as the factor of the collapse of a sawfly outbreak. He was able to obtain the virus from Europe and it was used successfully against the spruce sawfly in Canada - the first use of a virus to control an insect pest in forestry.

Gerard Wyatt came to work at the lab from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom in 1952. His observations on base pairing in DNA from the research he did with insect viruses provided a critical piece of evidence to support the renowned double helix DNA structure proposed by Watson and Crick. Dr. Wyatt is retired and now living in the United States.

Two former scientists, Drs. George Harvey and Lloyd Sippell, started their careers as students in 1945 at the Forest Insect Laboratory, and are the oldest known living staff who were there from the beginning. Mr. Lyall MacLeod began in 1946 as a forest insect and disease ranger. All three still reside in Sault Ste. Marie.

The history of forest insect viruses

In 1983, the first virus product was registered in Canada as a biological control agent, largely due to all of the background work that was conducted at the Sault laboratory by Dr. John Cunningham and his team. The product, Lecontvirus®, was shown to be highly effective against redheaded pine sawfly and to be both safe and economical. Other successful virus products were later developed to control Douglas-fir tussock moth, gypsy moth and balsam fir sawfly. Since the 1990s, work with insect viruses at GLFC has investigated the use of biotechnological techniques to make naturally occurring insect viruses more toxic and selective in their attack on insects, led by scientists Drs. Basil Arif (Scientist emeritus), Arthur Retnakaran and Sardar Sohi.

The history of Bt

In addition to research on insect viruses, pioneering work on the development of the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) as a biopesticide was carried out in the early years at these laboratories. Scientists (Drs. Art Heimpel and Tom Angus) developed an understanding of the fundamentals of infection and mode of action of Bt. This research led to the first experimental aerial applications of Bt against spruce budworm in 1960. A few years later it was discovered that the *kurstaki* variety of Bt was more toxic to Lepidoptera and it was adopted for commercial production by the early 1970s. Currently Bt is the most widely used biological insecticide in the world and its success in forestry and its environmental safety led to worldwide use in agricultural and other markets.

FIDS rangers

An important aspect of pest control is the reconnaissance and identification of pests of concern. What began as surveys to assess the impact of a 1936 European spruce sawfly outbreak in eastern Canada expanded to include other forest insects and diseases and became the Forest Insect and Disease Survey (FIDS) Unit in 1962. Like other regions of the country, Sault Ste. Marie was home to an active contingent of FIDS rangers who typically spent their field season working in the forest and living in bush camps and then preparing detailed reports on pest conditions in their district. Their reports were distributed to Ontario provincial and industrial officials, who used the information to help plan their pest management activities for the coming season. The FIDS served the federal government until their mandate was formally transferred to the provincial government in 1995.

Silvicultural research

Silvicultural research began in 1965, and a strong silviculture research program was developed with Sault Ste. Marie and former Richmond Hill staff. Projects included testing seeding and containerized tree seedling techniques for reforestation of cutover areas in northern Ontario (Drs. Jim Fraser, John Jeglum and John Scarratt), white spruce plantation establishment and management methods (Dr. Roy Sutton) and establishment of hardwood plantations on former agricultural lands in southern Ontario (Dr. Fred von Althen, see picture below), amongst others. This research led to a number of recommendations for plantation establishment and tree seedling production that are still followed. Today, silviculture research is carried out under a CFS entity known as the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre, a 'virtual' centre formed in 2006 that brought together researchers from across the country to address problems of national concern.

Silviculturalist Dr. Fred von Althen

Fire research

Beginning in 1968, a fire research group was established under the leadership of Brian Stocks. GLFC fire scientists were instrumental in the development of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System, a national system for rating the risk of forest fires that is used by forest fire management agencies in Canada and has been transferred to many other countries. This system is continuously being refined and improved, based on ongoing research. Much work has been carried out to better understand fire ecology, behaviour, management and climate change implications, along with advanced technologies for fire detection and evaluation such as satellite monitoring.

The Turkey Lakes Watershed

The Turkey Lakes Watershed, a research area 60 km north of Sault Ste. Marie, was established in 1979 under the leadership of Drs. Ian Morrison, Neil Foster and John Nicholson, to evaluate the impact of acid rain on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems as part of a national monitoring program. Since then, a wealth of climate, soil, water quality, stream flow and forest growth data have continuously been collected there, helping evaluate influences of human activity on the watershed and surrounding forest and measure the effects of climate change.

Forest ecosystem research

Starting in the 1970s, the Environmental Impact project of FPMI studied the effects of pesticides on forest ecosystems. Over the years, areas of research expanded to include assessments of the potential impacts of various forest management practices on the structure and function of forest ecosystems and wildlife habitat. The holistic approach to assessing forest ecological integrity and consideration of biodiversity has contributed to a major shift from sustained yield forest management to forest ecosystem management that will ensure the long-term ecological integrity of our forests.

Invasive pests

Over the years, entomologists have examined forest insects of emerging concern. Most recently this has included invasive exotic insects such as emerald ash borer (EAB). TreeAzin®, a botanical pesticide based on extracts from the neem tree, was developed at GLFC to minimize damage to high-value trees and was registered for commercial use against EAB in 2012.

GLFC today

What began as collaboration with the province of Ontario continues today and has expanded to include forest industry, First Nations, academic institutions, international agencies and others. The facility also houses many staff of the virtual Canadian Wood Fibre Centre. GLFC continues to attract scientists from around the globe to address problems facing forests today.

For more detailed information and to obtain copies of the following publications, contact: publicat@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca.

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Photos (permission and credit to Government of Canada):

1. The Laboratory for Insect Pathology built in 1950
2. GLFC today
3. Dr. Bergold (1950) at an electron microscope purchased in 1947
4. Dr. Bergold (1950) on CFS's first centrifuge
5. Silviculturalist Fred von Althen

Northwestern Ontario's Post-war Forest Company Towns: A history of boom-and-bust along Lake Superior's north shore

By David Alphonse Blanchard

Northwestern Ontario's seemingly endless wealth of resources first attracted serious attention from developers during the late-nineteenth century. By the early part of the next century, several communities had been established in the area to exploit its natural bounty, and many more were to follow. Several notable new ones were established after the Second World War, namely the towns of Terrace Bay and Dubreuilville, both of which are located near Lake Superior's north shore.

The purpose of this article is to compare these two post-war forest-based communities in Northwestern Ontario. Both towns experienced major development near the end of the 1940s and subsequently endured similar phases of boom and bust throughout the remainder of the century.[2] Accordingly, this article uses the examples of Terrace Bay and Dubreuilville to argue that company-owned towns—established during the post-war era in Northwestern Ontario—experienced similar stages of boom and bust along very similar timelines.[3]

Early Post-war Community Development:

At first glance, the relationship between Terrace Bay and Dubreuilville seems like an apples-to-oranges comparison. First, a multi-national corporation, Kimberly-Clark, founded and developed Terrace Bay to accommodate the influx of pulp and paper mill workers. On the other hand, Dubreuilville, founded by Québec-based entrepreneurs, grew adjacent to a sawmill. Despite these differences, Terrace Bay and Dubreuilville share a striking connection. Both communities were established and built as company-towns and experienced similar stages of development synchronously.

Kimberly-Clark was one of the first multi-national corporations to invest in northern Ontario. During the mid-1920s, Kimberly-Clark became the major partner in establishing a relatively large pulp and paper operation in Kapuskasing.[4] During the 1930s, while many mills in Ontario were enduring a severe economic downturn, the plant in Kapuskasing enjoyed relatively prosperous times. "KC", as it was known, also searched for locations for new facilities. In fact, during the mid-1930s the company's scouts decided on a location for a new mill located near a new pulpwood concession that the firm had recently obtained from the Ontario government. The site was on the shores of Lake Superior, and it would soon be renamed Terrace Bay.[5]

Construction on the new mill and adjacent Terrace Bay town site began during the mid-1940s. By the

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[2] Brian Domitrovic, "The Modern Cycle of Economic Boom and Bust," *Forbes*, last modified 2012, accessed 19 May 2015, http://www.forbes. com/sites/briandomitrovic/2012/10/02/the-modern-cycle-of-economic-boom-and-bust/. *Forbes* magazine defines a boom-and-bust cycle as a period of expansion and opportunity followed by an inevitable economic depression. Boom-and-busts also occur in cyclical patterns. For instance, after the end of the Second World War, economic booms and subsequent recessions became more rapid and more extreme.

[3] Oliver J. Dinius and Angela Vergara, "Company Towns in the Americas," in *Company Towns in the Americas: Landscape, power, and working-class communities*, edited by Oliver J. Dinius and Angela Vergara (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2011), 1-2.

[4] Mark Kuhlberg, *In the Power of Government: The rise and fall of newsprint in Ontario, 1894-1932* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015), 238; Richard S. Lambert and Paul Pross, *Renewing Nature's Wealth: A centennial history of the public management of lands, forests, and wildlife in Ontario, 1763-1967* (Toronto: Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, 1967), 340; and, Robert Spector, *Shared Values: A history of Kimberly-Clark* (Connecticut, United States: Greenwich Publishing Group Incorporated, 1997), 79.

[5] Kimberly-Clark Forest Product Inc., *50 Years of Commitment Equals Success*. (Terrace Bay: Kimberly-Clark Forest Product Inc., 1998), timeline; and, Daphne Monks, *Terrace Bay: The first 50 years* (Terrace Bay: The Print Shop, 1997), 11.

winter of 1946, Terrace Bay retained sixty families in company housing.[6] The town's early development benefited from favourable industry and media attention, which praised the mill's state-of-the-art technology, its potential output and employment opportunities, and its strategic location on a natural harbour.[7] Furthermore, according to historians Richard Lambert and Paul Pross, Terrace Bay benefited from its proximity not only to Lake Superior but also to a transnational railway.[8]

The construction of Terrace Bay's pulp and paper mill came during a golden era in northwestern Ontario's forest sector. Prior to its opening, there were only eight major pulp and paper mills in operation in the northwest, five in the northeast, and one in southern Ontario.[9] As one of the new pulp mills built during the post-war era, the Terrace Bay mill quickly began outperforming similar facilities across northern Ontario and won several international awards for its productivity and safety during the early-1950s.[10]

Similar to Terrace Bay's phase of early development, Dubreuilville's origins began following scouting expeditions during the 1940s.[11] The Dubreuil brothers of Taschereau (Québec) founded the community after capitalizing on a salvaging contract after the disastrous Mississagi fire of 1948.[12] Following completion of their salvaging contract with the provincial government, the Dubreuil brothers signed an eleven-year agreement with the Algoma Central Railway (ACR). This contract allowed the Dubreuil brothers the opportunity to access extensive timber limits along the rail line, build a suitable sawmill, and establish a permanent industry.[13] During this time, the Dubreuil brothers founded the town to accommodate thirty workers originally from remote regions of Québec.[14]

Once the community established a stable population base, the Dubreuilville sawmill expanded its operations to handle its original contract with the ACR and supply pulpwood to the pulp and paper mill in Sault Ste. Marie.[15] In addition, thanks to the company's business relationship with the ACR, lumber and raw materials from Dubreuilville were transported to several manufacturing and processing plants across Ontario and into northern Michigan.[16]

The Economic Boom:

As company towns, both Terrace Bay and Dubreuilville owe their development to company interests in local forest resources. Both communities were settled and developed to accommodate workers and their families. Following this initial settlement phase, both Terrace Bay and Dubreuilville experienced an economic boom that lasted from the 1950s well into the 1980s.

The 1950s represented a highpoint in Terrace Bay's history. First, the expansion of the Kimberly-Clark mill increased the strain on the local power supply. As a result, the company constructed and opened a new hydroelectric dam at the nearby Hays Lake.[17] Second, the Kimberly-Clark pulp mill

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[6] "New Town is Named Terrace Bay," *The Daily Times Journal*, 9 October 1946; "Pulp and Paper Town is Named," *The Winnipeg Tribune*, 16 March 1946; and, "The Newest Town: Mill being built in Terrace, Ontario," *The Baldur Gazette*, 25 April 1946.

[7] Monks, 16; and, "The Newest Town," *The Baldur Gazette*.

[8] Ibid., 18.

[9] Lambert and Pross, 276.

[10] Monks, 17-18.

[11] Sheila McLeod Arnopoulos, *Voices from French Ontario* (Montréal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's UP, 1983): 46-47.

[12] Mike Commito, "From Salvagers to Innovators: The early years of Dubreil Brothers Limited," *The Forestry Chronicle*, 90 (3) (May/June, 2014): 302; and, Mike Commito, "From Timber to Town: The emergence of Dubreuilville," *Forestory*, 2(1) (Spring 2011): 12.

[13] Commito, "From Salvagers to Innovators," 302.

[14] Commito, "From Timber to Town," 12; and, McLeod Arnopolous, *Voices from French Ontario*, 126.

[15] Commito, "From Salvagers to Innovators," 302; and, Commito, "From Timber to Town," 12-13.

[16] Arnopoulos, 126.

[17] Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, *Report of the Department of Lands and Forests for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 1950* (Toronto: Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, 1950).

continued to build its reputation for efficiency, productivity and safety, winning several international safety and operations awards during the 1950s and 1960s.[18]

Thanks to its continued success, Kimberly-Clark expanded its Terrace Bay town site. The town's original residential neighborhood, which housed approximately 230 dwellings, was no longer adequate.[19] Construction on a new subdivision began during the early-1950s and provided 100 new fully-serviced homes. As the company built its new neighborhood, it also financed the construction of a post office, churches, retail stores, a hospital, and a community recreational centre.[20] Continual expansion during the 1960s and 1970s allowed the town to become a fully-serviced community with a peak population of 2,299 by 1977.[21]

As Terrace Bay flourished, Dubreuilville also entered into a phase of expansion. During the 1950s and 1960s, the Dubreuil enterprise gained recognition for its innovative and forward thinking. For example, by the end of the 1950s, the sawmill had mechanized its processes and was the first facility in Canada to switch from short-wood logging to full tree-length. The Dubreuil brothers also invented a machine that could bring tree-length logs into the mill using a crane. As a result of the Dubreuil brothers' contributions to forest practices, Dubreuilville became a popular annual field trip location for the University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry during the 1960s.[22]

Dubreuilville thrived alongside its prosperous sawmill. The town's expansion during this period included thirty company-built houses for permanent residents. The Dubreuil brothers also invested significantly in providing workers and residents with all necessary social services. The brothers personally funded several construction projects, including a schoolhouse, a cookhouse, a church, and a park. By 1977, the same year Terrace Bay reached a new peak population, Dubreuilville was incorporated as a municipality.[23]

The Economic Bust:

Terrace Bay's success appeared to continue into the early-1980s. Productivity increased after extensive renovations and several construction projects, including a municipal airport and infrastructural improvements.[24] However, despite local optimism, the Terrace Bay mill's success did not last. For example, the mill became faced with increasing operational costs. Scheduled maintenance and shut-downs became more frequent to maintain aging equipment during the latter half of the 1980s.

As a direct result of the mill's struggles, Terrace Bay's population rapidly declined, beginning during the late 1980s. High unemployment caused Terrace Bay to lose over 30% of its population between 1986 and 2001, which was higher than other community in the region.[25] By the end of the twentieth century, Terrace Bay's economic problems worsened as Kimberly-Clark sold the mill to Neenah Paper Incorporated, which operated for only a few years and closed indefinitely in 2005.[26]

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[18] Kimberly-Clark Forest Product Inc., *50 Years of Commitment Equals Success*, timeline; and, Monks, *Terrace Bay*, 21-22.
[19] Monks, 17.
[20] Ibid., 19.
[21] Chris Southcott, *Population Change in Northwestern Ontario: An analysis of the 2001 census data* (Thunder Bay: North Superior Training Board and the Northwestern Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, 2002), 6; and, "Terrace Bay—History," *The Township of Schreiber & Township of Terrace Bay*, accessed 25 January 2015, http://www.schreiberterracebay.ca/?paid=37.
[22] Commito, "From Salvagers to Innovators," 303.
[23] Commito, "From Timber to Town," 13.
[24] Monks, 24-25.
[25] Southcott, 6.
[26] North of Superior Training Board, *Impact of Closures and Layoffs in the District of Thunder Bay* (Thunder Bay: North of Superior Training Board, June 2006), 7.

The failure of its pulp mill wreaked havoc in Terrace Bay. After accruing significant debt within its first few years in operation, Neenah Paper's representatives announced that the mill would be permanently shut down. The mill's permanent closure caused workers to relocate elsewhere. By March 2005, approximately 12% of total households were vacant or for sale in Terrace Bay. Accordingly, 100 families left Terrace Bay forever, resettling elsewhere and leaving their homes behind.[27]

Dubreuilville also experienced a severe economic downturn during this period. The Dubreuil sawmill endured a near complete shutdown in operations during the 1980s and 1990s. For instance, without significant upgrades it became out-of-date in comparison to newer, more competitive facilities. In an attempt to mitigate this problem, the Dubreuil brothers purchased new technology and regularly introduced new equipment. However, their efforts were futile as their operational and maintenance costs drastically reduced profitability.[28]

As the sawmill struggled, so did the town of Dubreuilville. Even though the Dubreuil brothers personally funded many construction projects during the 1950s and 1960s, residents criticized the brothers for not investing in more than the most basic social services.[29] High rates of social dissatisfaction and lay-offs caused Dubreuilville's population to decrease significantly. The town's population shrank by nearly 22% between 1996 and 2006.[30] Furthermore, nearly one-quarter of all dwellings were left vacant as residents relocated elsewhere to find new employment.[31]

Conclusion:

There are countless communities across Northwestern Ontario that endured the highs and lows of boom-and-bust cycles during the twentieth century. The towns of Terrace Bay and Dubreuilville are excellent examples. Both towns, developed by their respective founding companies, enjoyed success during the post-war era. Terrace Bay became one of the region's largest forest centers during the economic boom of the 1950s through 1980s, while Dubreuilville thrived thanks to its reputation of innovation and mechanization during the 1950s and 1960s.

Following their initial prosperity, both communities endured severe downfalls. From the 1980s onwards, struggles at the local facilities caused a spike in unemployment and perpetuated economic uncertainty. Accordingly, this article aimed to reveal how company-towns founded in the post-war era experienced similar highs and lows—as dictated by traditional boom-and-bust cycles—on a synchronous timeline. The 1950s through 1970s brought growth and prosperity to mill towns such as Terrace Bay and Dubreuilville. The next few decades began an economic downturn from which northwestern Ontario has yet to fully recover.

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[27] Ibid., 8.
[28] Arnopoulos, *Voices from French Ontario*, 134.
[29] Arnopoulos, *Voices from French Ontario*, 134.
[30] "Dubreuilville, ON (Code 3557079) [table]," *Statistics Canada Catalogue no.92-591-XWE,* Last updated March 2007, accessed 25 January 2015. http://www 12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E.
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"Infinitely More Valuable": Promoting Alternative Pest Control Methods in Eastern Canada's Forests, ca. 1920-1945

By Scott Miller

Combatting destructive insect pests has long attracted the attention of those charged with ensuring the prosperity and sustainability of Canada's forests and fields. From the early 1920s to the end of the 1940s, two pests in particular posed a significant threat to the nation's forests: the European spruce sawfly and the spruce budworm. The former was the subject of a meeting held on 29 October 1937 between the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association and the Entomological Branch of the Department of Agriculture at the iconic Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal. An invasive species, the European spruce sawfly had been ravaging eastern Canada's forests since the start of the decade. About twenty-five men, consisting of entomologists, foresters and representatives from various companies in the forest industry, came together to discuss the infestation and how best to control it. One of these men was J.V. Perrin of the Brown Corporation and St. Maurice Forest Protective Association in Quebec. He warned his colleagues that "it would be a serious mistake to give too much publicity to" the sawfly situation "or to indicate to the public that the spruce in the Gaspé or elsewhere is doomed."[32]

As dramatic as it may seem, Perrin's statement captured the seriousness with which so many parties viewed the threat posed by this particular insect, as well as the budworm and other forest pests. Canada's forest industry had been a staple of its economy since the nineteenth century, particularly in the east, and the damage caused by pests was not purely aesthetic. Moreover, nearly a century of aggressive cutting had significantly diminished the country's supply of mature pine for its lumber industry, and its pulp and paper makers feared forces that could potentially decrease the amount of spruce and balsam fir available to them.[33] As a result, eradicating insects that feasted on the latter trees was considered a matter of national interest, and one that required an effective solution. However, while the significance of this problem was clear, the choice as to which control methods should be implemented was often less evident.

Despite all the attention that historians have given to the use of chemical pesticides to combat North America's forest insects both during and immediately after the Second World War, many of Canada's pioneering entomologists did not deem using them to be the best method for controlling these pests prior to 1945. Instead, they recommended two alternative approaches to combat the spruce budworm and the European spruce sawfly during this time, namely implementing progressive forest management strategies and employing parasitic insects. However, Canada's forest industry was reluctant to adopt the former control method against the budworm due to the rising costs it would incur in doing so. On the other hand, it strongly supported using parasites to control the sawfly.

From the 1920s until the late 1940s, numerous Canadian entomologists promoted forest management techniques as a means of controlling the spruce budworm outbreaks that periodically ravaged the pulpwood forests of eastern Canada. A misnamed species, the budworm's preferred food source is actually balsam fir, and it only feeds on white, black and red spruce as alternatives.[34]

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[32] "Minutes of Meeting to Consider the European Spruce Sawfly Situation Called Under the Auspices of the Woodlands Section Canadian Pulp and Paper Association and the Entomological Branch Dominion Department of Agriculture", October 29, 1937, RG17-2, Vol. 3047, Part 1, Destructive Insect and Pest Act, Spruce Sawfly and Budworm. [1936 Insect Survey Report]. 1920-1938. Library and Archives Canada (hereafter referred to as LAC).

[33] A.R.M Lower, *The North American Assault on the Canadian Forest* (Toronto: Ryerson University Press, 1938): 161-2.

[34] Mark Kuhlberg, "'Perfect co-operation': Taking the campaign against the spruce budworm in Ontario to new heights, 1927-29," *The Forestry Chronicle*, 2014, 90: 297, 10.5558/tfc2014-058.

During these outbreaks, the budworm is said to have left the forest "in appalling condition, with dead standing and broken trees in every direction, and the ground littered with fallen tree trunks over many hundreds of square miles." By the mid-1920s, various budworm outbreaks had amounted to the destruction of an estimated 100 to 200 million cords of timber.[35] At the time and during the 1930s, Canadian entomologists produced various reports that deemed the issue "purely a question of forest management," arguing that certain cutting techniques would foster unfavorable conditions for the budworm and thereby prevent its rapid reproduction.[36] Dr. J.M. Swaine, the Associate Dominion Entomologist with the Department of Agriculture, was perhaps the most vocal proponent of this position. He wrote numerous reports throughout the interwar years which largely emphasized that cutting over-mature balsam stands as rapidly as possible would leave Canada's forest less susceptible to budworm outbreaks, a strategy he felt was "infinitely more valuable" in comparison to other potential methods.[37]

Canada's forest industry was not very keen on the idea of adopting these particular silvicultural measures, however, because it feared that doing so would be uneconomical. For example, in 1927 a representative from the Quebec-based newsprint company Price Brothers & Co., Ltd, expressed a sense of hesitance toward implementing any new forest management approaches too swiftly. As he put it, the companies "must have some assurance that conditions in the industry and in the forest will be sufficiently stable to warrant the foundation of some policy of management that can be adhered to and will form a solid rock on which to build and maintain a permanent industry."[38] Despite the government's continued efforts to study and promote these forest management techniques as a means of combatting the budworm, the forest industry generally maintained its reluctant stance on the issue for the next two decades.

Canadian entomologists' efforts to combat the European spruce sawfly proceeded quite differently than it had with the budworm. An invasive species, the sawfly was first discovered in North America in 1930, and the following year it was found in the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec.[39] By 1936, it was estimated that the dead and dying spruce in the Gaspè amounted to over 10,000,000 cords.[40] In terms of combatting this menace, from the outset there was tremendous faith that introducing parasites from Europe was the best way to proceed. As a result, Canadian entomologists sought and received valuable information and "material" relating to the spruce sawfly from various European countries.[41] Moreover, the establishment of the Dominion Parasite Laboratory in Belleville, Ontario, in 1937 made it possible to breed larger number of parasites than ever before. In fact, a report indicated that the laboratory in Belleville produced twice the number of "microplectron" (a parasite of the sawfly) in 1937 than in the year before, (the total was 47,000,000), as well as about 570,000 other

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[35] "The Present Status of Spruce Budworm Outbreaks in Eastern Canada," by Dr. J.M. Swaine, Associate Dominion Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, Canada, *The Forestry Chronicle*, 1926, 2 (3): 34, 10.5558/tfc2034-3.
[36] "Studies on the Spruce Budworm," Dominion of Canada: Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, December, 1924: 81-2, h http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/128478#page/87/mode/1up (accessed 30 September 2015).
[37] "The Forest Insect Situation in the Province of Quebec," Dr. J.M. Swaine, *The Forestry Chronicle*, 1933, 9 (2): 49-59, 10.5558/tfc9049-2.
[38] W.G. Wright, "Some Aspects of Forest Management," *The Forestry Chronicle*, 1927, 3 (1): 8, 10.5558/tfc3008-1.
[39] "Biological Control of the Spruce Sawfly in Canada," Farnham House Laboratory, 20 February 1935, RG 17-2, Vol. 3047, Part 1, Destructive Insect and Pest Act, Spruce Sawfly and Budworm. [1936 Insect Survey Report]. 1920-1938. LAC.
[40] "The Spruce Sawfly Outbreak in 1936," R.E. Balch, Entomologist, Dominion Department of Agriculture, RG 17-2, Vol. 3047, Part 1, Destructive Insect and Pest Act, Spruce Sawfly and Budworm. [1936 Insect Survey Report]. 1920-1938. LAC.
[41] "Minutes of Meeting to Consider the European Spruce Sawfly Situation Under the Auspices of the Woodlands Section Canadian Pulp and Paper Association and the Entomological Branch Dominion Department of Agriculture," 29 October 1937, RG 17-2, Vol. 3047, Part 1, Destructive Insect and Pest Act, Spruce Sawfly and Budworm. [1936 Insect Survey Report]. 1920-1938. LAC.

parasites, all of which were released throughout Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and parts of the United States.[42]

The industry was not ignorant of the severity of the European spruce sawfly situation, and also firmly believed in the use of parasites as a means of controlling it. In 1937, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association urged the federal government to treat the sawfly issue as one of the highest importance through the provision of additional financial support to the Entomological Branch. Moreover, it recognized the breeding and distribution of parasites as "the most effective, economical control measure which can be evoked by human agency."[43]

While the use of parasites against the sawfly continued to go relatively smoothly throughout the 1930s, the turn of the decade presented new challenges. The Second World War made it difficult for those involved to obtain European materials for parasite propagation, and also led a considerable number of entomologists to enlist overseas. This made it nearly impossible to implement this costly, time-consuming control method any longer.[44]

While the existing literature in the field of forest entomology in North America has rightfully pointed to the fact that chemical insecticides were in many ways a popular means of combatting insect pests during and especially after the Second World War, the case of the spruce budworm and the European spruce sawfly illustrates how other methods were deemed preferable by Canada's entomologists. Undeniably, by the mid-1940s, chemicals became increasingly sought after by entomologists and the industry alike, largely due to the rise of DDT. This phenomenon appears to have led many historians to assume that chemical control was the preferred method of dealing with forest pests for most of the twentieth century, an understanding that was clearly not the case.

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[42] "Memo re: European Spruce Sawfly by A. Koroleff, To the Executive Council, C.P. & P.A. – Meeting October 15 1937 – Woodlands Section Canadian Pulp and Paper Association," 14 October 1937, RG 17-2, Vol. 3047, Part 1, Destructive Insect and Pest Act, Spruce Sawfly and Spruce Budworm. [1936 Insect Survey Report]. 1920-1938.
[43] "Memorandum from the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association to the Hon. Jas. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, with reference to the Spruce Sawfly infestation of Spruce forests of Eastern Canada," 2 February 1937, RG 17-2, Vol. 3047, Part 1, Destructive Insect and Pest Act, Spruce Sawfly and Budworm. [1936 Insect Survey Report]. 1920-1938. LAC.
[44] "Memorandum Resulting from Conference with Mr. Baird, May 15, 1941," RG 17-2, Vol. 3047, Part 2, Destructive Insect and Pest Act, Spruce Sawfly and Budworm. 1938-1951. LAC; J.M. Swaine, Letter to A.M. Koroleff, 28 March 1944. RG 17-2, Vol. 3047, Part 2, Destructive Insect and Pest Act, Spruce Sawfly and Budworm. 1938-1951. LAC.

Kettle Creek: A Story of Ecological Restoration

By John Bacher

One of Ontario's smallest conservation authorities in terms of area, Kettle Creek, located in Elgin County around the city of St. Thomas, tells a vivid story of a landscape that has gone from being ruined to being recovered over roughly the last century. While many sites in southern Ontario witnessed this type of transformation during this period, Kettle Creek's story is unique in terms of the dramatic changes it experienced in undergoing this transition.

The very name of the stream whose watershed is the basis for the city of St. Thomas, the principal urban centre in Elgin County, reflects the ecological damage that much of southern Ontario suffered as the nineteenth century progressed. Kettle Creek's name is taken from the large kettle pots in which wood was turned into ashes for soap making. This was one of the strongest driving forces behind deforestation in southern Ontario, where farmers would use the quick cash they could generate from selling the ashes from incinerated forests to pay for their initial costs. The burning of the forest to make soap ashes was commented upon by Harold Zavitz, a relative of the long-serving Provincial Forester of Ontario, Edmund Zavitz. Harold's branch of the family had moved to southwestern Ontario, specifically around the community of Coldspring which is close to St. Thomas, in the early 1800s. Harold Zavitz observed that the burning of 60 giant maple trees for a single bag of potash amounted to a horrific "burnt offering to agriculture."[45]

Photo taken in 1899 of a 19th century Ontario logging bee. Events like this, witnessed and recorded with dismay by the Zavitz family, led to the catastrophic deforestation of the Kettle Creek watershed. Published with permission of Ed Borczon.

[45] Harold Zavitz, *A History of the Lake Forest District*, Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, p.8. Unless otherwise noted, the information used in this paper is drawn from this source and Ontario Department of Energy and Resources, *Kettle Creek Conservation Authority Survey*" (Toronto, 1967).

Forest cover in southern Ontario had plunged to around five per cent by the end of the First World War, and the consequences of this wanton deforestation emerged in many forms, including massive flooding. As with much of southwestern Ontario, the wakeup call for the area around St. Thomas was the great flood of 1883, sparked by heavy rains in a deforested landscape, which also brought death and destruction to the nearby city of London, Ontario. In St. Thomas a number of bridges along Kettle Creek were swept away in the 1883 disaster, and a wash out took place on a train track four miles north of Port Stanley. Lives were saved by the heroism of a farmer who used a red flag to stop a train headed from London. Without his timely intervention, the train would have been doomed to fall into Kettle Creek because of a destroyed bridge.

As with other communities in deforested regions of Ontario, flooding had become worse in the Kettle Creek watershed as forest cover was removed. In 1890 a deluge caused culverts and bridges to be "washed away in all directions." In 1909 another calamity hit St. Thomas when a flood surrounded "almost every dwelling in the flats". According to a contemporary source, the raging waters carried "off wagons and other movable objects."[46]

Forest cover in the Kettle Creek reached its low point in 1919, then it slowly began to increase as a result of the policies of the recently elected provincial government headed by Premier E.C. Drury. It was during Drury's reign in office that public programs aimed at promoting tree planting began to have a positive impact on southern Ontario's landscape. They included projects which saw farmers begin to re-establish forests on part of their lands. In the area of Kettle Creek, such tree planting efforts initially occurred on a total of 29 properties comprising roughly 260 acres; the seedling stock came from government tree nurseries, such as the one in nearby St. Williams. In 1928 a reforestation project was undertaken to protect the St. Thomas waterworks, which eventually formed the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority's Dalewood Conservation Area.[47]

After 1933, Edmund Zavitz's career focused more directly on reforestation in southern Ontario. Responsibility for the area in most dire need of attention, namely southwestern Ontario, was assigned to his distant cousin, Harold Zavitz. Ultimately, Harold's most notable achievement in the Kettle Creek watershed was the creation of the McKay Tract of the Elgin County Forest.[48]

Harold Zavitz's initial efforts to restore forest cover through co-operative programs with farmers and the county government had limited results in the Kettle Creek area. His experience was similar to the glacial pace at which progress was made in other watersheds in southwestern Ontario before the passage of Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act in 1946.[49] In the Kettle Creek watershed there was considerable resistance to the establishment of a conservation authority since it was two decades before the legislation had an impact here. What proved critical in bringing about a change in attitudes were two severe floods. The first took place in 1947 when many families in a valley west of

[46] Ontario Department of Energy and Resources, "Kettle Creek Conservation Authority Survey, Water" (Toronto, 1967), p. 7.

[47] Ibid., 8.

[48] Ontario Department of Energy and Resources, "Kettle Creek Conservation Authority Survey, Land, Forest, Habitat," (Toronto, 1968), 21.

[49] Ibid., 34.

St. Thomas had to be evacuated, and hundreds of basements were flooded in the process. Six years later another flood sent water pouring into lower levels of the newly built St. Thomas hospital.[50]

One of Harold Zavitz's main tasks in the 1950s, as with other foresters employed by the Department of Lands and Forests in southern Ontario, was to try to get the cattle out of the woods. However, the farming community proved to be one obstacle in this endeavour. When the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority was established in 1966, observers noted the lack of success that had been heretofore achieved in this regard. Some 351 acres were found in its survey to be "wooded pasture", so degraded as to "no longer be classed as a woodlot." Cattle grazing was also devastating the forest around the municipal water supply. This created 110 serious gully erosion cuts in the forest.[51]

While deforestation was also contributing to pollution by sediment, there were numerous other sources of pollution in Kettle Creek that were turning it into a dead zone. The e-coli membrane filter count was on a scale comparable to the Walkerton disaster of 170,000 per one million caused by livestock. Problems were also caused by the poorly operated sewage treatment plant in St. Thomas, which discharged massive amounts of carbon into Kettle Creek. The bed of the creek below the treatment plant was covered by life destroying black mud that killed all fish life from St. Thomas to Lake Erie. The creek was also fouled by a refuse dump, which when it rained poured leachate directly into the stream. During heavy rains refuse frequently floated down the river.[52]

The creation of the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority in the mid-1960s was crucial to achieving success in addressing all these problems. This process has been aided by the passage of other legislation, including tree protection by-laws. Since 1966 local forest cover has increased from 10.8% to 15% with the biggest improvement coming in the lower part of the watershed. In contrast to much of southwestern Ontario, however, the forest cover in the Authority's other two sub-watersheds is improving. In addition, livestock grazing in forests has faded into history. Most importantly, the lower third of the watershed has the best riparian cover (48.5%, or roughly double the rest of the watershed), and also the best overall forest cover (19.6 %). This is crucial to addressing the serious problem of phosphorous discharges into Lake Erie, which degrades it by contributing to the creation of massive algae blooms.[53]

What is most remarkable has been the resurrection of Kettle Creek in the several miles downstream from St. Thomas to Lake Erie. As predicted in the 1966 founding survey, the cleaning up of pollution did result in trout entering it from Lake Erie. Moreover, the creek is recovering the characteristics of a healthy warm water stream, with game fish such as panfish, large, rock and small mouth bass, and catfish returning. On one tributary, Mill Creek, a mottled sculpin was recently identified as a sign that the tributary is recovering to cold water conditions.[54]

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[50] Ontario Department of Energy and Resources, op. cit. "Water", p 8.

[51] Ontario Department of Energy and Resources, op .cit. "Land, Forest, Habitat," 33-34.
[52] Ibid., 6-8.
[53] Kettle Creek Conservation Authority website, accessed October 12, 2015, Watershed Report Card.

[54] Kettle Creek Conservation Authority website, accessed October 12, 2015, Habitat.

More recently, the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority has undertaken an aggressive co-operative tree planting program with private owners, with a million trees at 25 cents being distributed in the past decade. The biggest afforestation achievement has been the planting of 500 acres around the Lake Whittaker Conservation Area, which protects the headwaters of Kettle Creek.[55]

The importance of Kettle's Creek's rehabilitation is part of the broader effort at ecological recovery from deforestation in southern Ontario south of the Canadian Shield. What highlights its significance is the consequences of the absence of an effort of a similar magnitude on the watersheds in the United States that flow into Lake Erie. Although roughly comparable in terms of their contribution to lake flows, uncorrected problems of deforestation have made the United States, particularly the Maumee watershed, the major source of phosphorous loadings in Lake Erie.[56]

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[55]Kettle Creek Conservation Authority website, accessed October 12. 2015, Lake Whitaker Conservation Area.
[56] International Joint Commission, *A Balanced Diet For Lake Erie: Reducing Phosphorous Loading and Harmful Algal Blooms*. 2014.

Forestry Research at the Central Experimental Farm

By Peter Anderson

The grove of deciduous trees that lines the north-western edge of Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm is all that remains of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century forestry research plantations. First planted in 1888, at its height the research belts extended nearly 3 kilometres along the entire western and northern flanks of the Farm's original 465 acres.[57] Here scientists under the direction of William Macoun, son of the Geological Survey of Canada's John Macoun, studied the growth of timber trees under a variety of circumstances. The ultimate goal of the research was two fold: first, to determine which varieties grew straightest, broadest, and quickest; and, second, to establish the hardiness of trees destined for shelter belts on the prairies and reforesting depleted woodlots in eastern Canada.[58]

View of the forest plantation at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa

Established in the wake of the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the military defeat of the Northwest Resistance in 1885, the Central Experimental Farm was the first of a growing series of agricultural research stations whose role was to create and support agricultural economies across Canada. As part of this mission, section 8(f) of the 1886 *Act respecting Experimental Farm Stations* mandated the new farms to "conduct experiments in the planting of trees for timber and for shelter."[59]

In a speech to the Royal Society of Canada, William Saunders, the first director of the experimental farm system and scientific polymath, linked tree planting to the establishment of favourable climates. Far from being the enemies many settlers saw them as, trees were thought to exert a moderating influence on climate and capture moisture in the soil.[60] Saunders took special interest in the forestry

[57] William Saunders, "Report of the Director" in *Experimental Farms Reports for 1888*. (Ottawa: Brown Chamberlain, 1889): 15-16.
[58] Saunders, "Report of the Director" in *Experimental Farms Reports for 1893*. (Ottawa: S.E. Dawson, 1894): 51.
[59] An Act Respecting Experimental Farm Stations, R.S.C., ch. 57 (1887).
[60] Saunders, "On the Importance of Economizing and Preserving our Forests" in *Royal Society of Canada: Inaugural Meeting*. (Ottawa: Royal Society of Canada, 1882): 35-37.

planation, though he increasingly delegated the work to Macoun in his roles as Foreman of Forestry (1893-1898), Chief Horticulturist (1898-1910) and Dominion Horticulturist (1910-1933). While the process of colonization in the established provinces required the aggressive removal of trees, it was hoped that the treeless prairies could be made agriculturally productive with the aid of intelligently planted shelterbelts. Not only would trees protect wheat and other crops from harsh prairie winds, they would also provide colonists with a valuable local source of fuel and building materials.[61]

Trees from across Canada and around the world were planted in the forest belts. Macoun and his scientists were less concerned about where a tree originated than how well it grew. Even more, the belts were planted as mixed woodlots with alternating rows of different species rather than monocultures. Taking a cue from agricultural research on the neighbouring fields, the goal was to determine the best rotations to keep a woodlot in constant production once the first trees reached maturity.[62]

Once trees were identified in Ottawa, they were distributed to branch experimental farms at Brandon, Manitoba, and Indian Head, Saskatchewan, for further study and localization. In additional thousands of saplings were given to settlers for free upon request as well as to CPR test gardens, North-West Mounted Police outposts, and Indian Agents across the prairies.[63] In one notable example, Saunders led a failed expedition to plant trees on Sable Island south-east of Nova Scotia.[64]

As an added benefit, the forestry reserve was home to many avian visitors. In his role as associate editor of ornithology for the *Ottawa Naturalist*, Macoun provided regular reports of bird observations at the Farm. He connected the increase in species to the shelter provided by both the forestry belts and the Dominion Arboretum, which covered the Farm's eastern sixty-five acres, as relative havens for trees and birds in the regions around Ottawa.[65]

The forest plantation's research capacity fell victim to Ottawa's growing transportation network in the early twentieth century. The Ottawa Electric Railway's extension to the Farm in 1908 ran through the northern belt while the Federal District Commission (today's National Capital Commission) Parkway drove through the western belt in the 1920s. Although the stand along the Farm's western edge remains to this day, it no longer holds its original research functions.

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[61] Saunders, "Results of Experiments in Tree-planting on the Northwest Plains." *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*. 22.4 (1894): 143-144

[62] William Macoun, "Report of the Dominion Horticulturist" in *Experimental Farm Reports for the year ending 31 March 1911*. (Ottawa: C.H. Parmelee, 1911): 133.

[63] Saunders, "Results of Experiments in Tree-planting on the Northwest Plains."

[64] Saunders, "Report of the Director" in *Annual Report of the Experimental Farms for 1901*. (Ottawa: S.E. Dawson, 1902): 62-77.

[65] See, for example: Macoun, "Prevention of Cruelty to Birds, Animals and Fish." *The Ottawa Naturalist*. 11.4 (July 1897): 94.

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Art in the Park

Boreal Visions on Birch Bark

By Mac Squires, R. P. F. (Ret.) – All images and texts are copyrighted in the author's name.

For as long as I can remember I have been doodling or painting elements of the boreal forest. Workshops given by locally known artists and college extension courses in Newfoundland and Ontario have expanded my knowledge and enhanced my style and ability.

Drawing on birch bark caught my attention in 1980 shortly after I arrived in Thunder Bay. I observed a Minnesota artist, Lloyd Scherer, painting with acrylic and drawing with pens on the inside surface of birch bark. I was fascinated with the rough beauty that he created with a few simple strokes of brush and pen.

For a couple of years I worked with his technique and gradually developed a style of my own. I began seeing objects and scenes in the bark texture and incorporating them into the picture. One winter evening, as I was examining a piece of firewood my wife, Muriel, suggested that I should try drawing on the exterior surface of the bark. Instantly I saw the increased potential but it took considerable trial and error to discover how to select usable bark. Each tree's bark is different; some easily tears under pen pressure while other types may absorb and blot ink, and yet on others the ink will run. Any of these issues can ruin an almost completed picture. The finished picture is protected with archival permanent matte finish.

Each drawing is developed around the features of the natural medium. I am fascinated by the effects that I can achieve by combining black and white ink with the texture and color variations of the bark. Rough plated sections become rocks or logs and attached lichens and moss become shrubs or trees.

I sometime start a picture with a streak of white in that becomes the trunk of a birch or aspen tree, or a weather snag. The natural-colour variations of the bark provide the sky, clouds and water reflections. Branch and wound scars become rocks, stumps and logs, while attached lichens and moss become shrubs and trees.

"Running for Cover"

Much of each picture is already in the bark waiting for me to discover and coax it out for others to see. Each piece stimulates a memory of some location that resembles what I see in the bark and from there the picture gradually evolves as I draw.

As a retired forester I use each of my pictures to tell a forest story. I invite my viewers to communicate with me about the stories. The majority of my scenes represent tree stands at various stages of development following a variety of natural and human disturbances.

"October Giant"

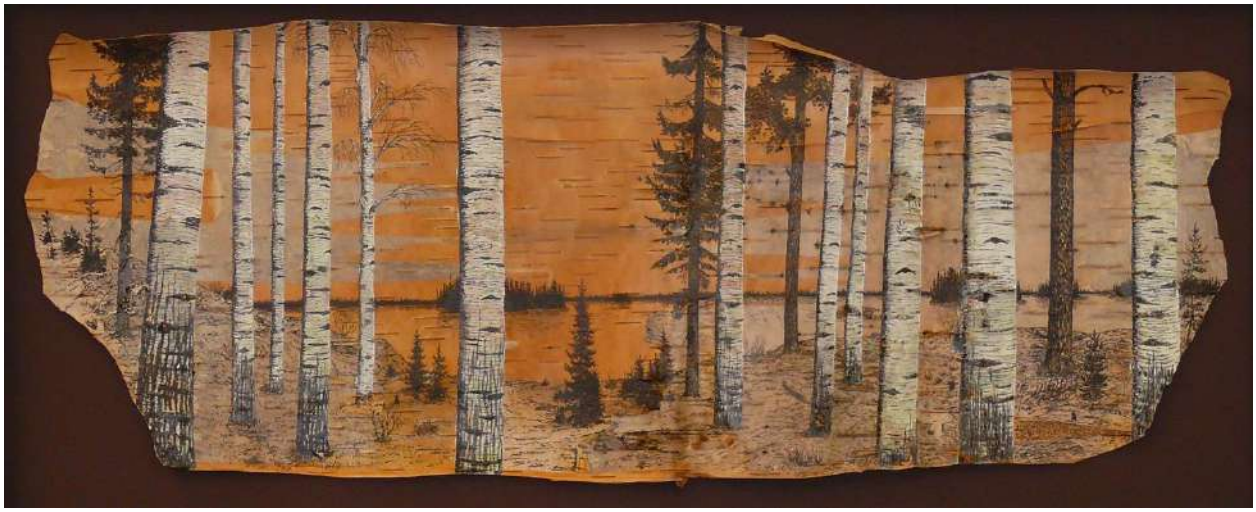
My pictures have been exhibited at:

- 2007 - Johnson Heritage Gallery in Grand Marais, Minnesota with Lloyd Scherer's as part of North House Folk School's 10th Anniversary, Celebrating Birch Exhibition.
- 2012 – Thunder Bay Museum as part of a guest exhibition by Artisan's Northwest.
- 2013 – Thunder Bay Art Gallery as part of Lakehead Visual Artists 60th Anniversary Celebration.
- 2014 - Thunder Bay Art Gallery as part *of The North Now* 2014 Northern Ontario Juried Exhibition – sponsored by the Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council of the Arts - all three of my submissions were selected.
- Other galleries and shows in Newfoundland, Ontario, British Columbia, Minnesota and Arizona.

I am a proud member of Artisans Northwest, the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Ontario Forest History Society.

My drawings on birch bark have been acquired by people from all backgrounds and can be found in homes and offices around the world. I am most pleased when I see them appealing to natural resource professionals, naturalists and First Nation individuals as they volunteer constructive criticism based on their personal knowledge and memories.

“ICE OUT…ALMOST”



Spring has been slow coming but the ice is finally disappearing from our lake. What ice is left has drifted into the northeast end of the bay on which our camp is located. A brisk southwest wind is needed to pack and melt remaining ice before the approaching May long weekend.

Even returning ducks are confused. While waiting for more northern lakes to open the ducks welcomed our bit of open water and gathered along remaining ice edges. The ice rafted about the lake all of this morning but in late afternoon a light breeze collected the rafts and drove them into the bay pushing the ducks against the land. Now they appear to be flying back south. They will probably circle and come to spend the night on the ice edge in front of our camp.

The foreground scene from my imagination is very unlikely to occur in the natural environment without human intervention. I don’t recall ever seeing a natural mature trembling aspen stand like I have pictured here on the eastern shore of a large lake. Why might that be? Yes, trembling aspen is a shade intolerant species and here it is getting full afternoon and evening sunlight. A fully-natural aspen stand like this is probably a single clone that developed from connected underground roots that were stimulated by a spring wildfire. Wildfires usually burn to lakeshores so it could have happened. The improbability here is the relative absence of dense hardwood shrub and, or, coniferous trees growing up beneath the aspens and a fringe of maturing coniferous trees near the water.

In a stand of aspen undisturbed by human activity away from a lake the dense shade from the aspen canopy inhibits coniferous tree establishment and growth. That same shade encourages dense hardwood shrub growth, especially on rich soils. At the eastern shores of lakes, however, afternoon and evening sunlight can penetrate beneath the stand providing favourable conditions for coniferous tree establishment and growth. At this location they would have become established not long after the aspen and today would be screening our view of the lake. Obviously we wanted a clear view of the lake and over the years removed any trees that blocked that view as we relaxed on our verandah.

Other things to notice in the picture:

- The third aspen from the right has the distinctive claw marks of a bear. Bears climb aspens during spring to access developed female catkins which contain essential nutrients otherwise not yet available. I have seen mothers and cubs at the extreme tops of mature aspens far out on brittle branches sweeping branch tips toward them as they wrapped the twigs with their long tongues and stripped off the catkins.

- Since there is only one set of marks at approximately seven to eight feet up the tree this was probably caused by a male declaring his superiority as a potential mate. Any good sized male though would reach higher than that. See an example below that by my estimate was over nine feet high.

The mature jack pines and spruces exposed to the lake and sunlight top to bottom display the characteristics of trees that matured in a closed stand where sunlight is more restricted. I would expect trees at lakeshore to have living branches top to bottom. The only way they could be branch free in this scene is that humans have long ago pruned off the lower branches and intentionally shaped the trees to their liking.

"RAVEN'S ROOST"

When I started drawing on birch bark in 1980, I used the inside, or wood facing, surface as I would with paper. Its appeal came from it being a natural unprocessed raw material which I dried and flattened by pressing between newsprint and under weights. Many other artists have done the same but most eventually moved onto other bases for their art.

The more I worked with the bark, however, the more I felt challenged. I credit my artistic wife, Muriel (a well-known quilter), with helping me to see the opportunity offered by drawing on the outside

surface. There were a host of difficulties that had to be overcome if I were to successfully draw on that surface. The unlimited ideas that the bark texture and colour variations offered appealed to my creative instinct. I began seeing whole boreal forest scenes hiding in the texture and colour patterns.

Initially, the still flattened and trimmed finished drawings were framed under mats in standard frames and I focused on that for years. One day Lucio Coppola of the Picture Store, who offers numerous ideas on how to increase the appeal of my drawings, suggested we try putting one in a shadow box. The rough texture of the finished drawing made it too thick and uneven for standard framing. He mounted the trimmed picture on backing and left the edges exposed in the opening of the mats within the shadow box. It was an instant hit with viewers and we created many more.

About 10 years ago, while on one of my frequent bush wanders, a moss-covered piece of bark on the forest floor caught my attention. I picked it up and instantly a picture revealed itself but it involved the uneven lichen covered edges. For a moment that created a problem as, still in my past mold, I was trying to determine how to trim without destroying the picture. Then the light bulb flashed. Stupid me: use the uneven edges, they are part of the appeal. Since then I have created and sold well over a hundred such pictures in shadow boxes.

This one is possibly the most uneven and unbalanced one that I have ever done. To me it illustrates the rugged, dynamic, and, yes, unbalanced, boreal forest that I love.

The forest is never balanced. It is constantly changing never returning exactly to its former condition. Earth's history demonstrates that all nature is constantly changing. We modern humans have created the myth of natural balance to provide us mental comfort. Accepting natural imbalance creates numerous unknowns and generates fear, but trying to preserve a fictitious balance is fraught with danger.

We are doing potentially disastrous damage to our world with our careless use of fossil fuels and earth's natural environment. Before we can take effective corrective action there is a question we need to answer: by trying to preserve the "natural balance" of everything, are our actions counterproductive to sustaining our natural environment? In other words, are we fiddling while Rome burns?

I am convinced that we are being lobbied and coerced along too many useless and counterproductive directions that are alienating competent people. Competent people who want to be part of the solution are stymied by unnecessary, wasteful and counterproductive actions demanded by well-meaning individuals and groups. We are wasting the very sources of knowhow, drive, money and natural resources that we must depend on to efficiently and effectively get us out of the mess we are continuing to intensify. We are wasting time that we can't afford to waste.

People

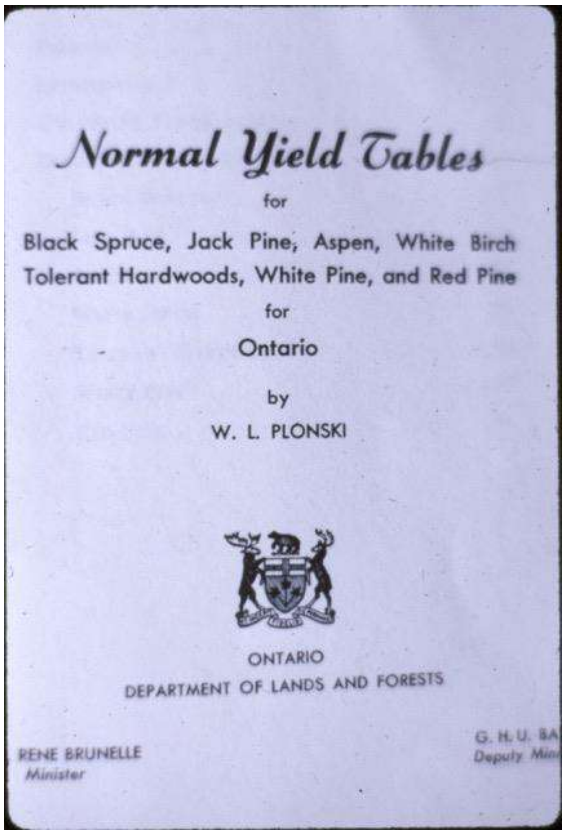
A Tribute to Dr. Walter Plonski (1901-1987)

By Andre Skibniewski & Ken Armson

Walter Plonski was born in Lviv (spelled Lwow at the time, it would soon become part of Poland) on 30 April 1901. After the First World War, Plonski completed Officers Artillery School in Torun, Poland, and from 1920 until 1924 he studied forestry at the Department of Agriculture and Forests of the Lviv Polytechnic. Plonski earned his PhD in 1929 and was hired six years later in the position of docent at Lviv Polytechnic. By 1932, he was working at the Experimental Department of State Forests in Warsaw, where he organized and managed the newly established Department of Forest Management. In 1938, officials at the Lviv Polytechnic applied to the Ministry for Plonski to be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and offered him the Chair of the Forest Management Department. The outbreak of the Second World War on 1 September 1939 abruptly ended his career in Poland.

During and immediately after the Second World War, Plonski worked at the Supreme Commander's Headquarters of the Polish Armed Forces in London.[66] His wife and daughter escaped from communist Poland in dramatic fashion, going first to Germany and then joining him in London in 1947. At the beginning of the next year, the Plonski family applied for permission to immigrate to Canada.

When Dr. Plonski arrived in Ontario in 1948, the province's Department of Lands and Forests was embarking on a major undertaking, namely conducting Ontario's first comprehensive forest resources inventory (FRI). Dr. Plonski's experience in forestry as a mensurationist applied to forest management. One of the necessary components in preparing a forest inventory is the calculation of the volumes of the forest units by species, ages and sizes. Providing such basic information requires the detailed measurement of representative forest stands which is encapsulated in 'yield tables', which can then provide the basis for the computation of the data comprising the forest inventory. It was in the development of such yield tables that Dr. Plonski made his first major contribution to the production of Ontario's FRI.



[66] Also se A. Skibniewski. *Rubinowa broszka. Lwowska historia w listach opisana* (in Polish). Poligraf 2012, ISBN: 978-83-7856-048-7.

While the “Plonski Yield Tables” are perhaps the best known products identified with him, there was another aspect of his professional contribution known only to those fellow foresters who worked with him in the Department. This was his in-depth knowledge and understanding of the requirements involved in implementing forest management, especially in Ontario’s boreal forest. In the mid-1940s the Department decided to create four forest management units, each of which represented one of the major forest conditions in the province: the Petawawa Management Unit (PMU) for white and red pine; the Englehart Management Unit (EMU) for boreal jack pine and spruce; the Kirkwood Unit representative of central mixed-species forest; and the Severn Unit for Southern Ontario conditions.

This last unit never functioned and it was only the PMU and the EMU that received sustained attention and support. The silvicultural system for the PMU pines was a shelterwood, while that for the EMU was basically a clear-cut system with artificial regeneration primarily by planting. The EMU was Walter’s “baby” and he visited it regularly; I (Ken Armson) was fortunate to be at the unit on several occasions when Walter was there and have him explain why he favoured planting. As he said to me, “My dear boy, the problem with the fire origin stands, particularly of jack pine and black spruce is their spacing – they are so often too dense. By planting we regulate the spacing and therefore increase growth.” Walter combined his professional forestry abilities with a gentle manner and was the mentor to many neophyte foresters in their initiation to forest management planning.

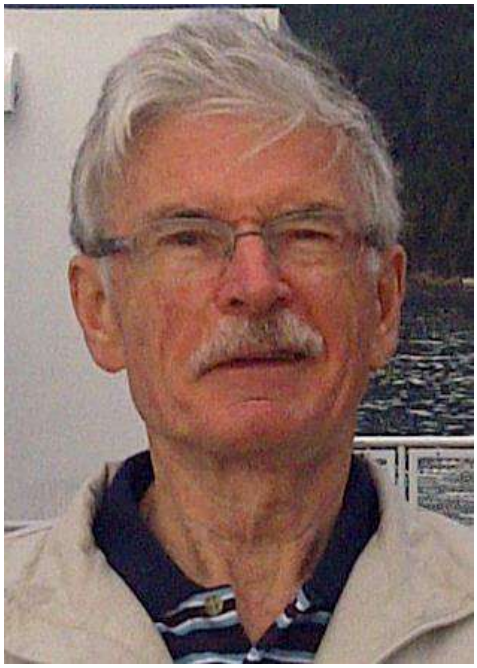
The Englehart Management Unit straddled Highway 66 between Swastika and Matachewan in northeastern Ontario and was also the location of one of the Department’s largest forest seedling nurseries. One of the features of Forest Management Agreement (FMAs) in the 1980s was the formal naming of the agreement-holder’s forest area. Although Walter had retired by then it was felt by senior staff at the Ministry of Natural Resources (successor to the Department of Lands and Forests in 1972) that the EMU should be named in his honour. Consequently, Minister Vince Kerrio accompanied Walter to the unit on 2 May 1986 where it was formally named the “Walter L. Plonski Forest.”

Dr. Plonski in front of the signage of the “Walter L. Plonski Forest” in 1986.

By the year 2000 the Ministry had closed the nursery in Swastika and the management of the local forest was now undertaken by the Temiskaming Forest Alliance as a part of a greater forest area held as by licensee. Currently all traces of the forest name have been lost but what has remained are the many thousands of hectares of productive forests created as a result of Walter's tutelage. Surely it is now even more appropriate to have his name reconstituted for this forest!

Dr. Plonski with Minister Vince Kerrio (1986).

Remembering Martin Sugden



Martin Sugden passed away on January 27, 2015 at the age of 81.

Martin Sudgen studied Forestry at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1958. Forestry jobs were scarce at the time so Martin went into education and publishing. Martin's life story can be found here:

http://www.simcoe.com/community-story/5448393-lifelong-learner-had-passion-for-environment/

Here is a link to Martin's obituary:

http://www.rodabramsfuneralhome.com/martin-sugden/

Dr. Stephen Bocking and Environmental History at Trent University

By Sherry Hambly

Note: This article is based on an interview with Dr. Bocking conducted by the author at Trent University in the fall of 2015, as well as on information posted on the Trent University website. All quotes are from the Trent University website.

Trent University

For the past few years I have been interested in learning more about forest history and the concepts that we need to think about when exploring this topic. More recently my interest has turned to the broader subject of environmental history, of which forest history is a component. In Ontario, Trent University stands out an educational centre for the study of environmental history.

The Environmental and Resource Studies Program at Trent began in 1974 when it was one of the first universities in Canada to offer a comprehensive program in environmental studies. "When the Environmental and Resource Studies/Science (ERS) Program originated at Trent University in 1974 it was one of the first Canadian university environmental programs. The ERS Program was born from a realization that complex environmental problems could not be studied and solved effectively within conventional academic departments. Instead, an interdisciplinary approach was needed. To this day it remains unique because of its interdisciplinary mixture of science and policy courses". This program provides the "biophysical and social foundations that enable the study of environmental issues, emphasizing the scientific, political, social, economic, and historical dimensions of environmental issues."

This approach has recently been strengthened with the creation of the Trent School of the Environment, whereby all (approximately 65) faculty involved in the teaching of courses related to environmental sciences and studies will be under one umbrella.

The new school will offer over 100 courses covering ecological, biological and geographic material, history, policy, sociology, economics, ethics, law, resource management, risk, communications, law, indigenous peoples and international issues. Over 550 students are enrolled in these programs, and the university offers graduate master and PhD programs as well.

Dr. Stephen Bocking

Dr. Stephen Bocking is the Chair of the ERS program. Born and raised in western Canada, Bocking enrolled at the University of Toronto to study biology. A fourth year course in the history of biology so intrigued and interested him that he changed his program focus to history, eventually obtaining a PhD in the history of science. Dr. Bocking arrived at Trent University in 1994 and has been intimately involved in developing the environmental history program at Trent.

Dr. Bocking's research examines how the environment and its use changes, as well as how science changes over time. He also examines the role that science does or does not play in the changes to the environment. He is attaching more importance to how the environment changes over time. It is not a static entity and this must be considered in examining its history.

Dr. Bocking has authored over 180 publications in his field of interest (his list of publications can be found on his Trent webpage), and has played a significant role in editing various materials. Some of his key research projects, of special interests to forest historians include:

- The Southern Ontario Project
    - The intent of this project is to establish an environmental history of the area around Peterborough based on aerial photographs and historical topographic maps digitized by Trent's Bata library and now online. All known historical environmental information such as the location of historic mills will be included on the maps.
- The Environmental History of the City of Toronto
    - This project was a collaboration with other authors to produce a book on the environmental history of the City of Toronto. He has also been interested in how science has played a role in the development of the city (examples include water quality and urban planning).
- Historical Development of Protected Areas
    - An ongoing project, Dr. Bocking is interested in the complexity of the different kinds of protected areas, how areas have been selected, how the ideas of protected areas and the selection criteria changed over time; the different approaches taken by private/public organizations; and finally trying to determine what a protected area is or should be.
- Science and Politics as it Relates to Salmon Farming
    - In this project Dr. Bocking is examining the role of science in supporting both sides of the debate on salmon farming. He has found that while science is an important factor in making decisions regarding this industry, the values associated with this scientific activity must also be considered.
- Fourth Year Environmental History Course
    - In this course students spend a lot of time in the local outdoors examining the environment and meshing that information with data they glean from other sources to determine the past history of the area.
- Environmental History Blog
    - Dr. Bocking maintains a blog that presents his thoughts on topics that relate to the environment, history and science.

Dr. Bocking says that environmental history has become more active over the past 10 years, and that there is an increased student interest in this topic of study. He notes that Ontario is developing a strong base of environmental history education across a number of universities.

Personal Recollections

My Centennial Summer as a Junior Ranger

By Garry Paget

On Sunday July 2, 1967, I climbed aboard a Canadian National Railway train in Brockville, Ontario and headed for Ottawa, our nation's capital. The scheduled connection with Canadian Pacific Railway's "The Canadian" would take me west to Chapleau, Ontario where my summer adventure would begin. Celebrations surrounding the Canadian Centennial were in full swing and a recent school trip to Expo '67 in Montreal was still vivid and fresh in my mind.

I learned about the Junior Forest Ranger Program from a story I read in the *Ottawa Journal* newspaper and I applied. Notification was received in early June that my application had been successful. During the month prior to my departure, I had been following the progress of a forest fire that was burning its way towards Chapleau. I was concerned that Mother Nature was revising my summer plans without consulting me.

Photos of the author (top left) during his experience as a Junior Forest Ranger in the summer of 1967.

On Friday 2 June 1967, Fire 69-8 (69 represents the District and 8 stands for the 8th fire that year) broke out twelve miles southwest of Chapleau. Because of a good rainfall, by June 5 it began to die out, but by that time 90% of Chapleau's residents evacuated and 5800 acres of surrounding bush had been consumed. The fire had burned to within a mile of the town.

My journey had taken most of the day.
As we pulled into Chapleau in the late afternoon, I remember seeing the charred hills southwest of town. It was a very stark picture and somewhat disconcerting to this young man of 17.
"Would I be fighting forest fires this summer?" I asked myself.

A large group of somewhat eager but tentative Junior Rangers exited the train and were loaded into two stake trucks for the short drive to the Department of Lands and Forests headquarters, known as "the Point". Ours had been the last train and we joined the rest who were awaiting our arrival. The lot was lined with school buses, each with a sign posted in the window. We had not been advised of which camps we were headed for, and waited for our names to be called out and to be assigned a bus. One by one the buses loaded and departed ahead of us, the queue a busload shorter. Another list of names climbed onboard the second last bus and headed for Racine Lake and Five Mile Lake. As I looked about, one bus and some 41 less than eager JRs remained. It had been a long day. The sign said "Wrong Lake" and "Barclay Bay". As it turned out, my group was "end of the line"…all the way!

Dusk was settling on the horizon as we left "the Point" and headed out along the logging road that leads northwest into the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve. Before long we were enclosed on all sides by bush. A dust trail followed our bus as it picked up speed and rattled its way along, deeper

and deeper into the setting sun. It was not long before it was pitch black with only the headlights cutting into the night and leading the way.

After what seemed like a short eternity (about 40 miles' worth of driving) lights appeared in the distance. The bus turned off the main road and Wrong Lake Camp slowly filled the windscreen. We rolled to a stop in a pocket of light. Another roll call determined who would be disembarking. That left 21 of us "at the back of the bus." The "Barclay Bay Boys" had finally been outed and identified! Again, the bus driver, Robert, cranked the engine over and we watched as the generator-assisted lighting slowly disappeared in the rear view. The silence, save for the rattle, was now palatable.

"The Barclay Bay Boys." The author can be seen in the very back row, second from the left.

Seven miles later we pulled onto a hard packed section of sand and before us, in the headlights, spread a huge beach. Deeper into the night the headlights reflected gentle whitecaps as they rolled to shore in a warm wind. I had moved to the front of the bus prior to our departure from Wrong Lake and could now see my new world out the front window. I was enjoying the solitude. Robert shut the engine off and there was dead silence. After his short instructions, the door squeaked open and I was the first off the bus. Save for the shuffling of feet behind me, it was deadly quiet. I stepped through the doors onto the sand and into the inky silence. From across the moonlit Missinaibi, the call of a loon said "Hello."

We hoisted our kit from the emergency exit of the bus, walked down the sloping beach past the fish cleaning table and into the shadows. As a dock appeared so did the sound of an outboard motor off in the distance. The noise increased in volume until, out of the inkiness, a long boat crept into view. We would later learn we had just seen our first “pointer boat,” a mainstay of logging river drives and other bush operations. The pointer eased into the dock and our camp foreman, Rick Wilson, introduced himself. When someone asked him where the camp was he turned and pointed into the night.

Loaded up, Rick eased the pointer away from the dock, having said “Thanks” and with our waves goodbye to Robert the bus driver. We would later come to know Robert much better. The air was cooler now as we were away from the beach. There was a light chop on the lake. I had considered opening my duffle to get my red-hoodie but decided not to. As the pointer cut across the small waves it was enough to launch a light spray across its passengers. I was still in the T-shirt and shorts I was wearing when I responded to the “All aboard!” in Brockville, some twelve hours earlier. We were getting damp now and we hadn’t had supper yet. I wasn’t the only one who was ready for this to end.

From the time we moved away from shore and had set a straight course, a dim light was visible “on the point” (bow) about a mile away. As we got closer the light got brighter and then began to split into individual points of light. The Barclay Bay fire camp came into full view as we approached “on the plane”. As Rick eased off the throttle the pointer settled back into the water and slowed. Two figures were standing on the dock and fielded the ropes thrown to them, securing the boat to cleats. Wearily, we climbed onto the dock, having passed our duffle bags to those onshore. We walked up hill and as directed, selected a cabin and once inside, a cot. My selection had placed me under a window. I plopped down on the bed and opened my kit. Off came the damp clothes and out came the sweats and sneakers. As I was changing a man appeared, and introduced himself as Conrad. He indicated that once settled we were to meet in the building across from our cabin. Walking in through the door we were greeted by a spread fit for a logger. Supper was served!

To Be Continued…

John Macfie – Painter, Photographer, Writer

By Sherry Hambly

Author's note: *This article is based on an interview with John Macfie conducted by the author in October, 2015. An audio excerpt of the interview is posted on the Society's website. The full interview can be obtained upon request to the Society.*

John Macfie with his snowshoes, mukluks and mitts that he bought and used during his time in Sioux Lookout.

John Macfie was one of seven children raised on a farm near Dunchurch, Ontario, 40 kms northeast of Parry Sound. His ancestors settled there, in the 1870s, under the Free Grant and Homestead Act of 1870. It was part of the Great North Road settlement activity. John and his siblings were raised in the '30s during the depression. The farm was not very productive and the family learned to do without. John's father worked in the bush during the winters. John and his siblings helped, and John learned early how to handle a crosscut saw and an axe. Even today, at age 90, he still uses an eight pound axe to split his firewood.

John was raised to work hard whatever the weather. Searching the woods for cows and chasing them home for nightly milking, pitching hay, sawing stove wood, and making maple syrup are among his memories of growing up on a farm. He and his brothers trapped muskrat for two springs, earning two dollars for each fur. This amount was welcome pocket money in those days. For recreation he and his siblings hiked three miles twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays, to hang out at the local stores in Dunchurch. Here he heard stories from old timers of their glory days on the river drives and in the lumber camps.

When the war came along, John saw enlisting in the armed forces as a way to get off the farm. At age 18, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and learned to fly on Cornell primary training aircraft at Windsor, Ontario. He then entered the fighter-pilot training stream, with a posting to #2 Service Flying School at Uplands, Ontario. Training there was on the Harvard, a contrary aircraft for a novice to handle. A badly botched landing led to his being "washed out" as a pilot, and being retrained as a bomb aimer. The summer of 1945 found John out west preparing to join a Lancaster squadron bound for the Pacific war, but then President Harry Truman dropped his atom bombs and everyone was sent home.

After the war the forces had a very good program for counselling members on future opportunities. Even though John's formal schooling in Dunchurch had ended at grade 10, he was always a good student, doing well in all his courses in the armed forces. His counsellor recommended that John attend university and suggested he tour the school of forestry at the University of Toronto. John did make his way to the campus, but was too intimidated to enter the faculty. John was also counselled to approach the forest industry to try to land a job in the north, but he decided that path was not for him and he reenlisted in the air force. Always interested in geology, prospecting and weather, John elected to be trained as a meteorological technician. But after two years of working in this field, John was bored and resolved to get outdoors where it really mattered whether it rained or snowed.

His brother was prospecting for uranium in Saskatchewan during the summers and was head sawyer in a sawmill on False Creek, in Vancouver, during the winters. So John bought a car and motored to British Columbia where he got a job tailing the head saw, two circular saws, one above the other, handling great big Douglas fir, cedar and the occasional Sitka spruce. The spruce was known as "airplane spruce". It was sawn into eight-inch-thick slabs, or "bents," and shipped to Britain. The wood had to be flawless; not even a picaroon could be used in moving the bents through the mill.

But when hunting season came along, John, an avid hunter, just couldn't resist the pull of home. So he quit his job, sold his car and took the bus back home to the family farm in Dunchurch. The late fall of 1948 found John again at loose ends, like many of his compatriots after the war. John's father had obtained a permit to cut timber, mainly yellow birch and hemlock, on Crown land behind the farm, so John ended up helping his father saw logs over the winter. Yellow birch plywood was in demand during the war as a substitute for scarce aluminum in building such aircraft as the fast Mosquito bomber/intruder, and a multitude of post war uses were found for the product.

Roy Macfie (left, John's father) and his son Donald cutting yellow birch logs near Dunchurch, Ontario, in 1937. Painted by John Macfie.

That winter was a most basic introduction to forestry for John. He and his father felled logs with a cross cut saw, then skidded them up with a team of horses and a decking line. The logs were hauled into a field to be scaled in the spring. The work was hard, done in all kinds of weather and sandwiched between milking and feeding cows morning and night. The biggest yellow birch they cut was about 24 inches on the stump, taking up to 30 minutes to fell one tree. To avoid wasting time and effort on a cull tree, John remembers, the trunk was first sounded by striking it hard with the back of an axe. A musical "plink" signaled a perfectly sound tree, while "thump" meant hollow. But most mature birches had at least some "stump rot," and interpreting the in-between gradations of sound called for a finely tuned ear.

John and his father cut between 700 and 800 logs that winter. In the spring the scaler and his assistant from Lands and Forests came to scale the logs. The scalers finished measuring the skidways of logs in a couple of hours, then joined John and his dad around the dinner fire. John knew the assistant and asked him how he got his job. This fellow told John to go down to the Lands and Forests office in the spring to see if there was work manning forest towers. And that is what John did. The first person he saw at the district office was a pretty young woman named Joan, who ushered him into the office of the district forester, Reginald "Rex" Snow. John landed a job as an EF (extra firefighter) that year. Being a wet year he did a lot of odd jobs, including painting forest fire prevention messages on wooden signs destined for posting along roadsides.

It was the spring of 1949, and the Parry Sound District had just added a biologist, Frank Walden, to the staff. Heavily involved with pulling together years of fish stocking records and, at the moment, gathering scientific data on, and attaching identifying tags to, pickerel netted by spawn-collecting crews at the Moon and Shawanaga rivers, Walden regularly requisitioned John's help.

When a head office circular advertising a position as trapline management officer in the vast Patricia District of northern Ontario landed on his desk, Walden urged John to enter the competition. He won, and in July 1950 arrived in his new home base of Sioux Lookout. He remembers that day vividly. One

of the region's periodic gold rushes was under way, and floatplanes from near and far swarmed on the waterfront. One machine cut its engine a few yards offshore and a man stepped onto a pontoon and shouted to John, "Where is the gold strike?" Of course John hadn't a clue, but he already felt himself a certified northerner.

John's job involved promoting conservation among the hunters and trappers of numerous native communities scattered over a region extending from Sioux Lookout east to beyond Nakina, and north to Hudson Bay. Over-harvesting and disease had depleted the beaver population across large areas, and some species of furbearers, notably lynx, marten and fisher, seemed on the verge of extinction. Implementation of a registered trapline system, which would encourage conservation as opposed to exploitation, was believed to be the answer.

John Macfie (left) with Elijah Baxter, in the winter camp of the Baxter family of Ogoki, on the Albany River, December, 1951.

In the winter the native peoples left their traditional summer lodgings to live and work on their traplines, living mainly off snowshoe hares, grouse, fish, beaver flesh, and occasionally bigger game. The people's sole commercial activity, aside from rare commercial fishing operations, was trapping fur-bearing animals. Hudson's Bay Company trading posts were found in most communities, and many "free traders" were active as well. John worked from these extended-family winter camps, accompanying trappers (by snowshoe and dog team, for this was before the advent of the personal snowmobile) on the rounds of their traps.

Most summers found John a member of one or another scientific expedition, botanical or biological, on rivers flowing into Hudson Bay and along the coast of the Bay itself. On these trips, and in winter as well, he often enjoyed the hospitality of the Hudson's Bay Company. In the post managers' homes he became an avid reader of the Company's magazine, The Beaver (now re-titled Canada's History). This, plus an annual crop of ancient fur trade artifacts that tumbled out of the ice-scoured riverbank in front of the 250-year-old trading post site at Fort Severn, led to a keen interest in northern history. Over the years, John collected many surface finds of ancient artifacts and donated them to the Royal Ontario Museum.

John began painting while in Sioux Lookout to fill the lonely hours when he wasn't working. Initially his paintings were reminiscences of his early home life but eventually he included subjects related to his work in the north. He carried two cameras on his field trips, one loaded with black & white film, the other Kodachrome, amassing a large collection of photographs. After retiring he published a book (Hudson Bay Watershed) based on the collection. Over 1,300 of his negatives

Cree trapper setting a snare to catch a beaver, Washi Lake, Albany River, December 1951. Painted by John Macfie.

and colour slides are now lodged in the Archives of Ontario.

During this time John began writing short articles for the Lands and Forests journal *Sylva*. These articles caught the eye of Clifford Wilson, the editor of The Beaver, who wrote to John saying he liked his style of writing and invited him to do a story for his magazine. John did so, and contributed several more in following years.

In 1954, John attended an in-house training program at the Forest Ranger School at Dorset, Ontario. The year-long, three-semester course gave resource technicians a solid grounding in the sciences of forestry and biology, knowledge that John says he put to good use daily throughout the remainder of his career. This return to the South also lent impetus to John's relationship with Joan Ramsay, the office girl who several years earlier introduced him to District Forester Rex Snow, not to mention a career. In August 1954, John and Joan married, and by year's end were settled in Sioux Lookout.

After two more years in Sioux Lookout, John accepted a position as Fish and Wildlife Supervisor in Gogama where he stayed for four years. It was here that John became involved in the experimentation that was being done to develop a moose aerial census protocol. It was the beginning of 25 consecutive winters of flying as an observer in a Beaver aircraft searching the woods for moose. In 1959, the Macfies, by now the parents of two children, moved to Geraldton, where John assumed the position of Fish and Wildlife Supervisor. The following year, Keith Acheson, Regional Director at Sudbury, called offering John the position of Senior Conservation Officer at Parry Sound. After years of shuffling about the north, John (and Joan) readily accepted the opportunity to return home, as it were.

As it happened, the year 1960 marked the launch by the Department of a venture into active deer range management. Severe winters had drastically reduced deer numbers throughout central Ontario, and promoting browse growth in deer wintering areas was thought to be one avenue to righting things. At Parry Sound, John was handed the task of implementing a deer range improvement program that henceforth rivalled his duties of overseeing game and fish law enforcement in the district.

History was always an interest of John's from an early age and after he moved to Parry Sound he became interested in chronicling the history of the glory days of logging in the area. When the portable tape recorder was developed John saw it as a great opportunity to document the stories of the old timers, which led to the publication of his book – *Parry Sound Logging Days*. John also amassed a large collection of historical photographs taken by local people that he has donated to the Parry Sound museum. One of the sets of photographs was by George Knight who started out as a logger in his youth, eventually working his way up and moving on to become the Parry Sound district accountant in 1949. Unusual for the first half of the century, George carried a camera with him and documented the life of the lumber camps while he worked in them.

John declined several opportunities for further advancement in the Department, choosing instead to remain in Parry Sound until his retirement from the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1981. At this point he began authoring a local history-oriented column in the local newspaper, The Parry Sound North Star, and continues to do so today. In addition he has published 13 books, all of them history-themed, and several of which underwent extra print runs.

Ninety-year-old John Macfie often wonders how he might have spent his long retirement if the little in-house magazine, *Sylva,* hadn't opened the door to the world of writing, over 60 years ago.

Notes:

Photographs of several of John Macfie's paintings can be found on the Society's facebook page.

A description of John Macfie's time in the Air Force was recently published in the *Parry Sound North Star* (http://www.parrysound.com/community-story/5937668-john-macfie-remembers-flying-days-in-rcaf/) accessed October 26, 2015.

John Macfie Fonds, Archives of Ontario – A Description (http://www.archeion.ca/john-macfie-fonds) accessed October 26, 2015.

Descriptions of John Macfie's time working with the natives in the north can be found on the Wataway Times website (http://www.wawataynews.ca/taxonomy/term/486) accessed October 26, 2015.

Books by John Macfie:

Now and Then, Volume 1 (1983
Now and Then, Volume 2 (1985)
Parry Sound Logging Days (1987)
Letters Home (1990)
Now and Then, Volume 3 (1990)
Hudson Bay Watershed (1991)
Parry Sound Old Times (1996)
Tales from Another Time (2000)
Sons of the Pioneers (2001)
Up the Great North Road (2004)
Lots More Parry Sound Stories (2005)
That's History (2009)
Still More Parry Sound Stories (2014)

Species

The American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

By Mike Commito

The American black bear is a member of the Ursiade family, as its Latin name suggests, a genus that originated as part of the Canidae family, approximately twenty-five million years ago.[67] During the Ice Age, black bears roamed the forests of the contemporary southern United States and Mexico because the rest of the continent was buried beneath vast swaths of ice and snow. As the ice receded and habitable areas in the interior opened up, black bears pushed farther into central North America and modern-day Canada.[68] As human populations expanded and grew, the range of the bear receded. Nevertheless, in Canada today, the black bear *still* occupies about 85% percent of its historical range. Here in Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry currently estimates that the province is home to upwards of 105,000 black bears.[69]

In the wilderness, a typical adult male black bear weighs between 120 to 280 kilograms (265-617 pounds), ranging in length from 130 to 190 centimetres (51-75 inches) from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail. Adult females generally are about one-third smaller, weighing between 45 to 182 kilograms (100-400 pounds) and measuring between 110 to 170 centimetres in length. Black bears can live up to twenty years in the wild but some individuals in unhunted areas have been known to live for more than thirty.[70] Although their colour can vary across the continent, in Ontario black bears are usually black, except for a brownish muzzle, and a distinctive white V-shape across the throat or chest. They also range in colour depending on location. East of the Mississippi River and towards the Rocky Mountains black bears can have coats that are brown, cinnamon, or even blonde.[71] A unique

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[67] George B. Kolenosky and Stewart M. Strathearn, "Black Bear" in *Wild Furbearer Management and Conservation in North America* (Toronto: Queen's Printer, 1999), 443.
[68] Dave Taylor, *Black Bears: A Natural History* (Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2006), 1-7.
[69] Ontario, "Ontario Proposing to Expand Black Bear Hunting Pilot," October, 30 2015 http://news.ontario.ca/mnr/en/2015/10/ontario-proposing-to-expand-black-bear-hunting-pilot.html (accessed November 1, 2015).
[70] Kevin Van Tighem, *Bears: Without Fear* (Victoria, BC: Rocky Mountain Books, 2013), 122.
[71] Kolenosky and Strathearn, 443.

variant, the Kermode or spirit bear has a beautiful white coat. It is indigenous to the coastal rainforests on Princess Royal Island and a few other locations in British Columbia.[72]

A year in the life of an American black bear revolves around denning and cub production in the winter months and feeding between the spring and fall seasons. Even today, scientists are still fascinated by denning, which is regarded by some as a physiological marvel. During hibernation, bears do not eat or drink, and eliminative bodily functions temporarily cease. Unlike other hibernating animals, bears are able to recycle their production of urea into carbon dioxide, water, and ammonia.[73] Most cubs are born between late December and early February, while the mother bear is still hibernating. The mother bear generally begins giving birth sometimes between her third and fifth year, delivering one to four cubs every two or more years.[74] Scientists previously believed that bears had one of the lowest reproduction cycles of any land mammal in North America, but new research by biologists challenges this view, since they found that black bears can continue to reproduce successfully into their mid-twenties.[75]

Feeding takes up the most significant proportion of time in the lifecycle of black bears. While black bears are omnivores, the overwhelming majority of their diet consists of plant matter.[76] During the summer months, they eat soft mast crops such as blueberries and raspberries, high-energy food sources that allow them to gain weight for hibernation. When insect populations erupt, bears will gorge themselves; Dave Taylor has shown, in one study, that some black bears ate 25,000 caterpillars a day.[77] As fall nears, black bears turn their attention towards hard-mast crops such as nuts and acorns. It is sometimes easy to forget that black bears are also predators; in the spring following hibernation when other food sources are meagre, black bears hunt and kill other animals, particularly moose calves and deer fawns.[78]

History of Management in Ontario

Ontario's management of its black bear population has been complicated. Even in the early part of the twentieth century, very few regulations governed the relationship between humans and black bears in the province. The animal did not generate much hunting interest and therefore did not require the same type of oversight that was extended to the province's big-game animals, such as moose and deer.

While bears were officially designated as furbearers because their pelts held commercial value, many persons, particularly those in the agricultural industry, opted to view them as vermin.[79] By the 1930s, there was a strong lobby in Ontario to introduce either a more rigorous hunting system or a bounty

[72] Van Tighem, 126-127.
[73] Kolenosky and Strathearn, 444.
[74] Van Tighem, 122.
[75] Kolensoky and Stratheran, 446 and Hank Hristienko and John E. McDonald Jr, "Going into the 21st Century: A Perspective on Trends and Controversies in the Management of the American Black Bear," *Ursus*, vol. 18, 1 (2007), 78.
[76] Taylor, 68; Stephen Herrero et al., "Fatal Attacks by American Black Bear on People: 1900-2009," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75, 3 (April 2011), 596.
[77] Taylor, 72.
[78] Stephen Herrero et al., "Fatal Attacks by American Black Bear on People: 1900-2009," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75, 3 (April 2011), 596-603.
[79] Michael Commito, 'Our society lacks consistently defined attitudes towards the black bear': The History of Black Bear Hunting and Management in Ontario, 1912-1987 (PhD diss., McMaster University, 2015)

program. Beginning in 1942, the provincial government addressed these concerns by introducing a bounty system for black bears. Under this program, which persisted for nineteen years, black bears were legally considered vermin and residents were compensated for dispatching bruins during this period. When the bounty was finally rescinded, Ontario had shelled out $149,660 for the destruction of nearly 16,000 bears.[80]

1961 was a monumental year for black bear hunting and management in Ontario. The growing realization that the bounty was ineffective and expensive led to its cancellation. Instead, black bears were elevated to big-game status and were afforded greater protection with the introduction of more stringent hunting regulations.[81] Black bears could now be pursued in the spring and fall by licensed hunters, but were off limits to sportsmen in between these seasons. While many residents were slow to embrace the black bear as an important game animal, this was a significant milestone towards putting the animal on the same footing as the province's moose and deer.

By the 1980s, black bear hunting had become exceptionally popular amongst non-resident hunters and was slowly being adopted by Ontarian hunters. As a result, the Ministry of Natural Resources ushered in a number of changes that further enhanced the prestige of the black bear as a game animal and better regulate the growing tourist outfitter industry. By the latter part of the decade, more comprehensive management regulations were introduced as part of series of legislative changes.

While the province's management system for black bears remained unchanged heading into the twenty-first century, criticism about the spring bear hunt was growing louder and various groups in the Ontario began campaigning in the 1990s to get the hunt repealed.[82] After years of protest, the provincial government abruptly cancelled the spring bear hunt in January 1999. In the wake of the moratorium, controversy ensued as some in the province suggested that politics had trumped science, with management suffering as a result. For almost sixteen years, many pointed to the lost tourist dollars associated with the spring hunt and some connected its absence to an increase in human-bear conflicts in northern Ontario. In 2013 the Liberal government reintroduced a limited two-year spring bear hunt pilot project, much to the delight of some and to the chagrin of others.[83] As we

[80] Compiled from the Ontario Department of Game and Fisheries annual reports, 1943-1946 and the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests annual reports (Fish and Wildlife Division), 1946-1962.
[81] According to Minister of Lands and Forests, Joseph Spooner, in the magazine's first editorial, the *Ontario Fish and Wildlife Review* would be published four times a year and distributed to "fish and game organizations and other agencies who are concerned with informing the public about the management programs which are designed to perpetuate the fish and wildlife resources of Ontario," 1.
[82] Mike Commito, "The spring bear hunt is back, but does it need to be?" *Northern Life*, May 1, 2015 http://www.northernlife.ca/news/localNews/2015/04/30-bear-hunt-timeline-sudbury.aspx (accessed October 29, 2015).
[83] Mike Commito, "The spring bear hunt comes full circle," *Ontario Out of Doors*, 46, 3 (April 2014), 49.

head into 2016, it appears that the province will have its first full scale spring hunt since 1998, as the MNRF has recently proposed an expanded spring hunt pilot program. We will have to wait to see if the spring hunt becomes a permanent part of the province's management strategy, but until then, historians and policymakers eagerly watch from the sidelines as Ontario's black bear management program takes another interesting turn.

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The Archives/Museums Corner

The Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre
By Cody Cacciotti

Located in the heart of downtown Capreol, Ontario, the Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre (NORMHC) is sure to offer something of interest to all of its visitors. The museum's main site, housed in the former home of the Canadian National Railway's superintendent, pays tribute to the region's industrial heritage with a focus on the mining, lumber and railroading trades. The adjoining yard, known as Prescott Park, is home to a wonderful collection of rolling stock including two historic steam locomotives, Temiskaming and Northern Ontario #219 and Canadian National Railways #6077, built in 1907 and 1944 respectively. The Heritage Centre, located in the town's former municipal building, sheds light on Capreol's social history.

NORMHC's functioning model train display of a typical lumbering operation.

Although the majority of NORMHC's collection focuses on the railway, the museum does boast a small yet impressive exhibit honouring the region's lumber industry and the two mills that operated nearby. The Warren Lumber Company operated in the neighbouring town of Sellwood. The town's main export was iron ore but the mill employed several men and helped Sellwood grow during the early 1900s. Despite the town's early prosperity, the entire community was eventually abandoned during the early 1920s as a result of declining iron ore prices.

The Marshay Lumber Company operated out of the town of Milnet, approximately seven miles north of Capreol. The company possessed its own yard engine and the lumber was loaded into CNR boxcars that were then transferred onto the mainline for shipment by freight train. The mill mysteriously burnt down in 1933 after the company was hit hard by the Great Depression.

On display at the museum are a number of historical artefacts and tools utilized by the aforementioned companies. The exhibit also includes a functioning model train display of a typical lumber mill operation.

On display at NORHMC are a number of historical artefacts and tools utilized in past lumbering operations in the area. In the center is the museum's main site.

The museum provides guided tours between the months of May and August and welcomes more than 10,000 visitors annually. Its research library is home to a collection of books, photographs and primary source documents totalling more than 25,000 items and is open to members of the public year round by appointment. For more information on the museum and the history of Capreol, visit the museum's website at www.normhc.ca.

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Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre
26 Bloor St. Capreol, ON P0M 1H0
Phone: (705) 858 - 5050 Fax: (705) 858 - 4539

www.northernontariorailroadmuseum.ca

Sylva Recap

The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests published for many years a journal known as "Sylva." The purpose of this journal was to highlight changes in policy, individuals and the comings and goings of staff. Sylva contains nuggets for forest history that will be selected for each edition of the journal. The following highlights the establishment of the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve.

The Chapleau Crown Game Preserve (Sylva 1947 Volume 3(1) 33-42).
By V. Crichton

By an Order-in-Council dated May 27, 1925, all that territory situate and bounded by the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, from the township of Chapleau to the village of Franz; thence northerly along the Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway to the village of Oba; thence easterly along the Canadian National Railways to the village of Agate near Elsas; thence in a southerly direction along the west shore of Kapuskasing Lake and along the Chapleau River, including all land and connecting waters, west of the main channel of the Chapleau River, to the place of commencement at Chapleau, shall be known as the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve.

This area is a vast wilderness, mothering countless cool deep lakes ranging in the size to nearly 30 miles in length, the largest of which is Big Missanabie Lake lying in the townships of Lang, Brackin, Leeson, Baltic, Calais, and Kildare, where there are lake trout, pike-perch, black bass and northern pike that are in a fighting mood all the time.

Many cool, clear rivers have their origin in this Preserve, where beautiful speckled trout weighing up to five and six pounds abound. This vast area is composed of hilly country, more so in the southern and central section, where the hills are miniature mountains. There are comparatively few swampy areas.

The country is still virgin as far as fishing is concerned, also hunting, and quite a few miles of virgin forest remain. It was mainly through the efforts of G.B. Nicholson, M.P., and William McLeod, both of Chapeau, that this Preserve came into being. Representatives were made to the Provincial Government through the proper authorities and on May 27, 1925, the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve became a reality.

The thought occurring most in the sponsors' minds was the depletion of fur-bearing animals throughout Northern Ontario. At its inception, the beaver season had been closed for some years, as they had been practically wiped out in Northern Ontario and were not making the comeback, as anticipated. Fisher and marten are very scarce, many trappers having not seen signs of either of these two fine fur bearers on their trapping lines for many years.

Little did these two old pioneers of Chapleau realize, at the time, the great benefit to Northern Ontario that this preserve would become; little did they realize that in a few short years it would be overflowing with wildlife, which would migrate to the surrounding territory, and keep on spreading; little did they realize that it would be the largest natural Game Preserve in the world.

The Chapleau Game Preserve will stand as a great tribute to those two pioneers who worked and planned for its inception.

In 1926, two officers of the former Department of Game and Fisheries, started an extensive search for beaver signs in the area and after a two-week hunt, a live beaver house was found in the Woodsengodin and Marten House areas. It was another week before another live beaver house was

found, this time in the Hay Creek area. Everywhere that these officers went, they saw nothing but a trail of havoc, and destruction to our wildlife; areas outside of the Game Preserve were the same. Very few signs of mink, marten, fisher and otter, and less signs of the most important fur bearer, the beaver. A great deal of preliminary work had to be done. First, the Brunswick House Indians had a reserve on Big Missanabie Lake near Brunswick House. This land had to be bought and the Indians moved out. Then came the hiring of competent officers, six to start with, to be augmented to twelve at a later date. Cabins had to be built and trails had to be cut. The first cabin to be built was at the south end of Big Missanabie Lake, now called Lodge Eleven, so named because, on the morning during construction of this cabin, when the boys woke up, eleven of the logs had drifted away and no trace of them could be found. Next came two cabins at Brunswick House, where two officers were permanently stationed until 1934. Suitable headquarters had to be built at Franz, Oba, Peterbell, and Elsas, for the boys working into the Preserve from the outside. Patrol work on the Chapleau Game Preserve usually started about the first of September and continued until the end of May, and sometimes the middle of June. Many a poacher has been brought out in the early part of September with beaver pelts caught around the first of the month, and many a poacher has been brought out in early June, with spring beaver. Many were the long trips taken by the officers of from 12 to 21 day's duration, when, with little to eat, they chased a poacher until he was finally caught. Patrols did not start from a certain hour and end at a certain hour, but were from long before daylight until long after sundown, and many an all-day-and-night patrol was made. Very few patrols in those days were not productive of some poacher slipping into the clutches of the law, and finally the populace decided that the Department of Game and Fisheries meant business. For a few years up until 1939, poaching was not carried on in large-scale activities.

During those years, beaver became very plentiful; for instance, in 1939 thirty-nine live beaver houses were counted on Crooked Lake. All through the Preserve beavers had houses on every little lake, and on one lake, where poplar, willow and birch were not available for food, they had laid in a winter's supply of jack pine. Marten and fisher became so plentiful that to-day they can be seen (especially the marten) in great numbers, and very often make a nuisance of themselves around a camp.

Trappers who are fortunate enough to have their trapping lines close to the Preserve are literally in a trapper's heaven. Marten and fisher are caught in great numbers, especially marten, while evidence of the overflow from the Preserve is now seen many miles north, south, east and west of Chapleau, where marten and fisher are being caught; places where they were never caught before. Beaver from the Preserve have helped populate the surrounding country to such an extent that we can now count as high as 50 or more live beaver houses on one particular township outside of the Preserve. Poaching started on a large and organized scale in 1938-39. The three officers stationed on the Preserve, with many miles of other country to look after, could not cope with the situation at all, the results being that the Chapleau Game Preserve was greatly depleted of beaver. Where there were once fifty live beaver houses only five or six could be seen after the depredations of the poachers.

Marten and fisher did not suffer the way the beaver did and under the new arrangement, with more officers for patrol work, the Chapleau Game Preserve should be back to normal and overflowing again, with beaver in a few years. A find of outstanding interest was found in the shape of stone beaver dam, in the fall of 1939, at the junction of the gooseberry and Addison Lake waters, near Bolkow Lake. This beaver dam was made entirely of round stones, averaging in size from four to eight inches in diameter, the dam being about 25 to 30 feet long and three feet high or more. The silt from the water filled in the cracks between the rocks, making the dam absolutely water tight. This dam was not just thrown up, but built with all the engineering skill of the beaver. Each stone was placed in the hollow or cup created by the stones below, and it is still in existence to-day and being used. The finding of this stone dam was reported to the Department of Game and Fisheries who were very sceptical about the whole affair and wondered what poacher had made it, but the officers

finally convinced them that beaver had made it. Ongoing into the early history of this country, one of the great explorers reported in his writings that when traveling on rivers many obstructions were encountered. By far the greater majority of these obstructions, which were found later to be beaver dams, were made of sticks and mud, while a few of the smaller ones were made entirely of stone, especially in a gravel creek or stream. At the time they did not know the beaver were responsible for these dams or obstructions. Very few stone dams are in existence to-day, and the dam at Gooseberry and Addison Lake waters is possibly the only one in Northern Ontario to-day of any size, this being made by the beaver in 1938.

The Chapleau Game Preserve is a portal to oblivion; one can travel for weeks in it without seeing another human, without being in contact with highways and railroads, exploring new country and fishing in virgin lakes and streams. It was, in years gone by, a portal to oblivion for poachers and army deserters in wartime. Strangers have been caught trapping in the Game Preserve, who have been deserters from the army for up to eighteen months.

The Chapleau Game Preserve has a very historical background. It was through the centre of which ran the old prehistoric Hudson Bay Trail, from the Great Lakes to the Hudson and James Bays, used for centuries by Indians, explorers, fur traders and missionaries, and possibly the Vikings, who through an unfortunate set of circumstances, were captured on one of the Lower Great Lakes, and eventually adopted by the Indian tribes of that area.

The Hudson Bay Trail starts at Michipicoten, coming upstream into Whitefish and Manitowick Lakes. The portage from Manitowick Lake to Dog Lake is called Stone Portage, and the rocks are worn from the centuries of incessant marching feet. From Dog Lake the route takes one into the Preserve at the Missanabie Lake. From there one takes the Missanabie River which eventually empties into the Moose River and James Bay. This was the summer route. The winter route was overland, with the exception of small bridges across creeks and a few streams. The old winter trail can still be seen west of Missanabie, and is plainly seen on Apisabago Lake, situated off the west side of Baltic Bay on Big Missanabie Lake on the router to the Greenhill River.

The historical background in the area comprising the Chapleau Game Preserve is immense. When fur was king, men fought and died; their lust for the fur of our north country was not even surpassed by man's lust for gold in later years.

This might sound fantastic but nevertheless true, and a large portion of this happened years ago within the area now known as the Chapleau Game Preserve. Then fur companies and private fur traders were responsible for a reign of terror is which murder, piracy and private wars, lulled men's minds into a state of insanity. Insanity from jealousy and greed, created from the rich fur catch of the Indians.

To combat the inroads being made by private fur traders and other fur companies into this rich fur country, the Hudson Bay Company, in 1776, built Brunswick House at the north end of Big Missanabie Lake. This was the second oldest inland Hudson Bay Post to be built, the first being built on the Saskatchewan River in 1774 and known as Cumberland House. Brunswick House was a thriving Post until early in the 20th century, when a new post was built further down the Missanabie River at Brunswick Lake and known as New Brunswick House.

Leaving Lodge Eleven, one must cross the lake at Fairy Point. It is a steep, rocky peninsula, separating Baltic Bay from the north-east arm of the lake, and is about 20 miles long. On the face of this peninsula is Fairy Point; old Indian hieroglyphics painted with a red substance, depicting some Indian event, are still plainly seen to-day. They have stood the ravages of time, while many others have disappeared by the falling of rock from the face of the cliff. Fairy Point is an old Indian battle-

ground where different tribes would war on each other, the victors taking the spoils, which would be loads of fur.

Journeying on up the north-east arm, past beautiful Wiasatchiaw Falls, where the little Missanabie empties into the Big Missanabie, through a deep, red granite gorge, one eventually arrives at Brunswick House.

Buildings and old stone fireplaces still stand as mute sentinels to the once-thriving community. York boats, the small schooners used on the lakes, are pulled up on the shore, only the skeletons remaining. Parts of old flintlock rifles can still be found in and around the old buildings and on the beach. An old cemetery dating back hundreds of years reposes in silent solitude among the pines, while wooden crosses still mark the graves of the departed.

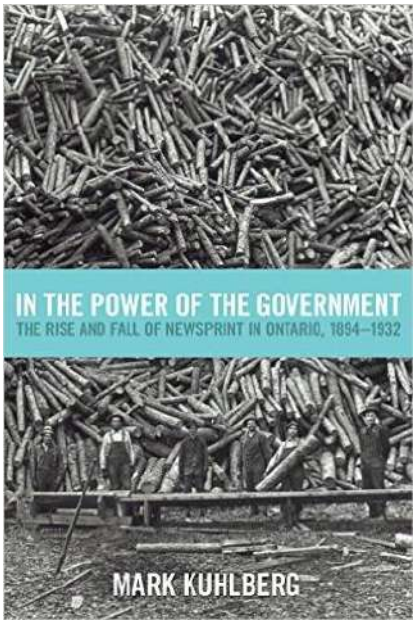
The aroma of history and romance prevails in the Preserve. Nature has built the monuments, and none of man's fancy piles of stone mark the interesting spots. There is solitude here, and the quiet of the night is only broken by the call a moose, the laugh of a loon, the barking of foxes, the warning slap of a beaver's tail, the splash of a fish, the lonely cry of a wolf, or the sound of gentle waves on the shore. There are clear lakes and gushing rivers unsullied by pollution, and refreshing unspoiled air that reaches to the innermost depth of your lungs.

The Chapleau Game Preserve has done more for the fur bearers and trappers of Northern Ontario than any other individual set of circumstances. It is truly the pride of Ontario.

Books / Articles / Web Sites or Other Resources

Book Review: **Mark Kuhlberg, *In the Power of Government: The rise and fall of newsprint in Ontario, 1894-1932* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015).**

By Scott Miller



For nearly half a century, a general consensus has existed amongst historians who study the pattern of resource development in Ontario during the early twentieth-century. Indeed, when examining the provincial government's role in fostering the development of its timberlands, minerals and water power during this period, numerous scholars have time and time again reiterated the argument that the decisions of politicians reduced Ontario "to a client of the business community."[84]

Published earlier this year, Mark Kuhlberg's *In the Power of the Government: The rise and fall of newsprint in Ontario, 1894-1932* offers a dramatically different perspective on this subject. The author traces the establishment, growth and decline of the pulp and paper industry in northern Ontario, and ultimately concludes that between 1894 and 1932 the provincial government actually did comparatively very little to assist the industry in establishing and expanding its operations. In fact, he asserts that the government was more concerned with establishing agricultural settlements in the north and with meeting the demands of the lumber industry, and thus viewed the paper makers as a low priority. For this reason Kuhlberg describes the government of Ontario's treatment of the pulp and paper industry as lukewarm at best.

Twenty years of research has culminated into a highly readable book that challenges our understanding of how Ontario's forests have been managed and exploited. Kuhlberg's work will be of interest to anyone who is interested in the province's economic, political and environmental history.

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[84] H.V. Nelles, *The Politics of Development: Forests, mines and hydro-electric power in Ontario, 1849-1941* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000), 495.

"Renewing Nature's Wealth"

(Lambert, Richard S. and Paul Pross. Toronto: The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. 1967). The book cover describes this book as "the exciting story of Ontario's natural resources, and John Robarts, in his Foreword 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 edition of the journal.

Chapter 11: Protecting the Forest from Fire and Disease (pages 202 – 233)

Fire Protection

The first known major forest fire in Ontario occurred in 1851 in Big Pine Country – the Ottawa Valley. Over the next one hundred years there were more and bigger fires that destroyed huge swaths of forest wealth and killed many people. Fire protection was formally introduced with An Act to Preserve the Forests from Destruction by Fire 1878. After a slow start, a workforce of 37 Rangers was distributed across parts of northern Ontario in 1885. Their primary duties were to travel around their district and educate people about the act, make and maintain trails and put out small fires. Costs were shared between the Crown and licensees. The 1896 Royal Commission on Forestry Protection in Ontario (published 1899) resulted in an amendment in 1900 to the Act to allocate Rangers to all Crown lands across the province. About this time there was a beginning realization that fire may have benefits for the forest.

The Act was amended again in 1906 and 1913 to increase penalties under the Act and to ensure fire records were maintained. Railways were a key cause of forest fires. To reduce this cause the province entered into a fire protection agreement with the Temiskaming and Northern Railway in 1903.

The extremely destructive Matheson fire of 1916 resulted in an overhaul of legislation and the enactment of the Forest Fires Prevention Act (FFPA) of 1917. This Act was responsible for the creation of a separate branch for forest protection, the building of fire towers, maintenance of trails, more equipment and the hiring of professional staff. The 1920s saw the introduction of aircraft, radios and the use of meteorological information. The FFPA was amended in 1930 to implement permitting and strengthen penalties. During the depression years, people deliberately set fires to create employment opportunities. Slash left behind after logging was a perennial cause of forest fires, but few solutions were forthcoming.

Deputy Minister F.A. MacDougall initiated the reorganization of the fire protection services in 1941 to align field and head office responsibilities, to professionalize the service through hiring and training practices, to standardize processes and procedures and to pool resources across the province during significant events. New approaches were tried including the use of cloud seeding and the employment of prisoners for ground work. The FFPA was amended again in 1959 to expand parties and territory covered under the Act.

Insect Control

Forest diseases were not an issue until after 1900 because of the abundance of timber resources and the fact that there were no known means of control. Canada hired its first entomologist in 1909. He worked closely with Ontario to ensure inspection of all nursery stock entering the province from Europe. In 1910 the Federal Government enacted the Destructive Insect and Pests Act, which divided functions for pest control between the two governments. The federal government was responsible for inspection, quarantine and research, while Ontario was responsible for forest pest management.

In the 1920s Ontario tried to control white pine weevil through mechanical means of clipping and burning. Aircraft dusting was tried in 1928 to control hemlock looper with poor results. Aircraft began to play an important role in the 1920s in the reconnaissance, detection and mapping of epidemics.

Spruce budworm was a major cause of concern in the 1940s. The spruce budworm conference of 1943 recommended improved surveillance and control, the creation of a chair in entomology at the University of Toronto, the building of an insect research lab and an increase in research funding. The province and federal governments signed an agreement in 1945 to build a lab in Sault Ste. Marie, which became operational in 1946. Besides research, the federal government provided rangers to detect and map insect activity.

During the 1940s and 1950s, the province conducted significant research on the use and effects of DDT and biological agents to control forest pests.

Disease Control

Tree diseases were officially added to the Insect Ranger duties in 1951. Key diseases affecting forest trees included damping off (nursery seedlings), white pine blister rust, dutch elm disease and fomes. All of these diseases, except damping off, were imported, mostly through nursery stock from Europe. Considerable trials and efforts were undertaken to control white pine blister rust. Ontario signed an agreement with the federal government in 1949 covering research into forest diseases. Consequently, the Insect Pathology Research Institute was established in Sault Ste. Marie by the federal government to investigate forest pathology problems across Canada. And a new Laboratory of Forest Pathology was built in Maple and occupied by the federal government in 1953. The creation of the Department of Forestry in Ottawa led to the development of a new agreement between the parties in 1960.

This chapter ends with a comment on the approach to research and use of chemical pesticides by Ontario and states that the province has taken a very cautious approach to the use of these treatments.

Events – Past

Chairman's Report on the Annual General Meeting, February 2015
By Mark Kuhlberg

It is with great pleasure that I can report that the Forest History Society of Ontario conducted another very successful Annual General Meeting. It was held on 19 February 2015 at the Nottawasaga Inn near Alliston, Ontario. As usual, the meeting was held the day before Forests Ontario hosted its annual conference and general meeting.

We were fortunate to have a very strong turnout – 25 members were present! – at the meeting, and the event was both informative and enjoyable. During the proceedings, I explained that the long-time, volunteer editor of *Forestory*, Sherry Hambly, was no longer able to continue in this position. On behalf of all the FHSO's members, I read a letter of appreciation to Sherry and showed all in attendance the gift the Society would be presenting to her as a way of thanking her for all her tireless efforts on our behalf, particularly in terms of having turned *Forestory* into a first class forest history journal. For that remarkable achievement we are all truly grateful! Sherry has agreed to continue helping out with administering the FHSO's website and offering sage advice as we work towards continuing to publish *Forestory*. As an interim measure, I explained that I would oversee the production of one issue of our journal in 2015 with the help of a Master's in History student from Laurentian University, where I am a professor. In this regard, we recently secured the services of a gifted student, Scott Miller, who edited the production of this edition of *Forestory*. At the same time, our AGM also brought to an end the tenure of Jessica Kaknevicius, the Society's long-time Secretary. We have been very lucky to have had Jessica's help since our organization was founded a half-dozen years ago, and to express our gratitude I also presented her with a gift on behalf of the FHSO.

At the AGM our members also received updates on many of the FHSO's activities. These include working to preserve the archival documents from two recently closed paper mills, namely in Iroquois Falls and Fort Frances. In addition, the Frank A. MacDougall Fund was discussed. We established it several years ago to fund forest history projects in Ontario, the first of which involves creating a plaque to commemorate MacDougall's extraordinary career with the province's Department of Lands and Forests. In this effort we are cooperating with the Bushplane Museum in Sault Ste. Marie, where it is intended to display the plaque alongside an exhibit dedicated to MacDougall. The FHSO was also pleased to welcome a new board member, Michael Commito, from Sudbury. He recently earned his Ph.D. in History from McMaster University, and his dissertation examined the history of the management of black bears in Ontario; he currently works as a policy analyst with the Northern Policy Institute. Welcome aboard Mike!

The highlight of the meeting was the excellent presentation delivered by Rob Leverty, the Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS). He did a wonderful job of highlighting a few of the OHS's efforts to help small groups – such as our own! – carry out their mandates in terms of preserving and promoting their special historical interests. Rob's lecture was well received, and we were delighted to have had him as our special guest on this occasion.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the AGM in 2015 such a success. Here's to an equally great event next year!

Andre Skibniewski Visits Ontario

Andre Skibniewski of Poland approached the Ontario Forest History Society last winter to determine if he could find information on his great uncle Dr. Walter Plonski, who worked for the Department of Lands and Forests for many years (see article on page 28). Andre journeyed to Toronto in the spring, and was taken out to lunch by Society members Ken Armson, Tom Tworzianski and Sherry Hambly, where Walter's career was discussed. Later, Andre was shown the Whitney Block where Walter worked. The next day Andre flew to Sault Ste. Marie to meet with staff from the Forest Inventory Unit where Murray Radford organized a meet the staff and field for him.

From left to right: Ken Armson, Andre Skibniewski, Sherry Hambly, & Tom Tworzianski.

Events – Upcoming

Forest History Society of Ontario

7th Annual General Meeting
Forest History Society of Ontario
2:00 p.m. at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston
February 4, 2016
Guest Speaker - Dr. Anne Koven

About the Authors

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David Alphonse Blanchard: PhD Candidate of Forest Science with Lakehead University's Faculty of Natural Resources Management. His doctoral research focuses on the impact of emerging forestry markets on single-industry towns in remote regions of Canada.
Scott Miller: Master's in History student at Laurentian University and editor of *Forestory*. His research explores the legal and political implications of mining pollution in Sudbury during the early twentieth century.
John Bacher: Historian and environmentalist from St. Catharines, Ontario; author of *Two Billion Trees and Counting: The Legacy of Edmund Zavitz*.
Peter Anderson: PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning at Queen's University. His research explores the historical and cultural geographies of the Central Experimental Farm.
Cody Cacciotti: M.A. (History), B.Ed. Operations Manager at the Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Center in Capreol, Ontario.
Mac Squires: Retired Register Professional Forester. Over the years his artwork has been exhibited across North America.
Andre Skibniewski: Polish author and scientist. He travelled to Ontario earlier this year to learn more about his great uncle Dr. Walter Plonski.
Ken Armson: Past Chair, FHSO; Professor of Forestry, University of Toronto; Chief Forester, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; Forestry Consultant; Author.
Garry Paget: A retired Air Traffic Controller who currently works as a Safety Instructor for a major Ontario training company and member of the FHSO. He was both a Junior and Senior Forest Ranger with the then Department of Lands & Forests. Garry is currently doing genealogy research and discovering some interesting history of his Paget family's connection to forestry and lumbering in Ontario.
Sherry Hambly: After a rewarding career in various capacities in resource management in British Columbia and Ontario, Sherry is enjoying researching Ontario's forest history and helping to make it available for others to enjoy.
Mike Commito: Policy analyst at Northern Policy Institute in Sudbury, Ontario. He recently earned his PhD in History from McMaster University and is currently working with the University of British Columbia Press to publish a book about the history of black bear hunting and management in Ontario.
Mark Kuhlberg: Chair of the FHSO and Professor of History at Laurentian University.

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 to 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.

The Society has two ongoing projects, both available on our website:

www.ontarioforesthistory.ca

The first is a catalogue of publications dealing with all aspects of Ontario's forest history. Members can submit contributions on our website.

The second is the identification and listing of collections and materials relating to Ontario's forest history. The Society works with established archives such as the Archives of Ontario and several university archives to facilitate the preservation of significant collections.

The Society publishes a newsletter, ***Forestory***, twice a year – Spring and Fall - containing informative articles on Ontario forest history.

(The FHSO has a privacy policy. Your information will not be shared or sold.)

You can initiate or renew your membership online by clicking on the link below:

http://www.ontarioforesthistory.ca/index.php/membership

Or, by filling out and submitting the form below, with your cheque, to the address listed below:

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