Forest History Society of Ontario

Forestory

Volume 7, Issue 1, Spring 2016

Contents

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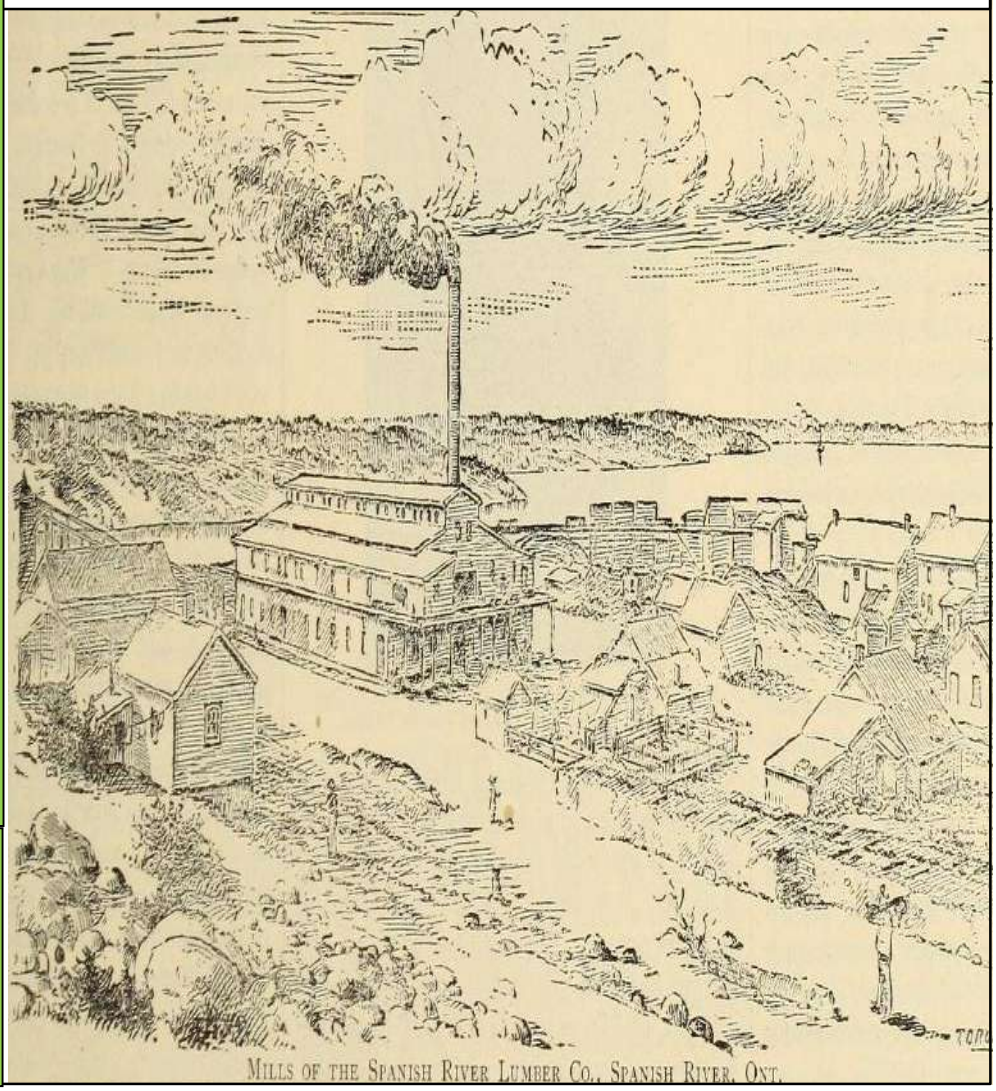
If you have articles, photographs or images, interesting facts, web links, personal reflections or events that would be suitable for this newsletter, please contact the editor.

The Spanish River Lumber Company, 1891



MILLS OF THE SPANISH RIVER LUMBER CO., SPANISH RIVER, ONT.

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Front Cover Photo Credits:

See Alicia Boston's article on the Spanish River Lumber Company (page #10).

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Request for Content

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

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Chair's Message – Spring Has Sprung … Finally!

Up here in Sudbury, where I live, the trees must have been wondering what was going on over the last half year or so. Winter came very late, and when it did it was much "milder" and snowier than the previous ones we had recently experienced. Spring began slowly but surely, and the maple sap began running (we lack a good supply of sugar maple so we have to rely instead on red maple for our delicious syrup). But then winter returned with a vengeance. Not only did the sap stop running, but the snow returned; cross-country skiers were delighted by the extra few weeks they were given to enjoy their trails. The warmer weather came back again, and this time the sap ran like the Ottawa River during the spring freshets. The trees probably thought twice about releasing their buds, but lo and behold they are doing so and the forest in the Nickel District is greening up once again. Although this sequence of events seems unique to me (I have only lived in Sudbury for a dozen years), reviewing them with some of the local "old timers" reassures me that history is simply repeating itself.

In many respects, this experience reminds us of the important work that the Forest History Society of Ontario (FHSO) is doing. So many of the occurrences we witness in our contemporary world appear to us to be unprecedented, and although some of them are, in many instances they have antecedents in our past. Only by exploring our history are we able to gain a healthy perspective and valuable insight into how events we witness in the present have been shaped by and reflect those that occurred years earlier.

This is particularly true in our forests. They are experiencing major changes today just as they have done for millennia. As noted in the preceding story of spring's stuttered arrival in Sudbury, trees in Ontario have long been adapting to changes in climate and their environment. Similarly, intense debate still surrounds how the government should "manage" some of the larger species that inhabit our province's woodlands. The recent announcement of a program to expand the scope of the re-introduced spring bear hunt has raised more than a few hackles, and time will tell how the actual implementation of this project plays out. Over a century ago deep concerns about the state of Ontario's wildlife populations led to a royal commission that introduced a number of regulations that aimed at maintaining healthy populations of the province's most cherished game species. In addition, Ontario's forest industry seems to be rebounding – albeit slowly – from the acute downturn through which has suffered over the last decade and a half. This is hardly the first time it has bounced back, however, and tried to adjust its operations to changing environmental, economic and social conditions. Furthermore, today urban foresters are grappling with the vexing problem of an emerald ash borer infestation, much in the same way the pioneering cadre of foresters in southern Ontario addressed the challenges that the Dutch Elm Disease presented to them over a half century ago.

In all these instances the FHSO has a potentially huge role to play. Every time we are able to uncover stories about our forest history and bring them to light, we help provide the proper context within which to frame contemporary issues that involve our woods. This can only occur if we are diligent in preserving the archival documents and materials upon which rigorous and sound history must be based. In fulfilling our mandate, then, we are performing a critical public service. We are contributing to a better understanding of our province's forests and the creatures upon which they depend, and are providing Ontario' policy-makers with the proper tools for formulating rational plans for managing all our trees.

Mark Kuhlberg PhD
Chair, Forest History Society of Ontario

Editor's Message

As a member of the Forest History Society of Ontario (FHSO) and a diehard fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs, around this time of year I am almost always reminded of an insufferable (yet undeniably witty) joke: "The Leafs are out - it must be spring!"

Fortunately, much like the Leafs themselves, the future looks bright for Ontario's forests in general and the FHSO in particular. With regard to the former, it appears that the province's forest industry has been recovering from a roughly fifteen year slump, though this has been a slow process that still has some ways to go. On a more upbeat note, although I was unable to attend the FHSO's Annual General Meeting last February, from what I heard it was a well-attended and enjoyable event which confirmed that the lifeblood of our organization – our members – are still committed to helping us with our ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the history of Ontario's forests.

This edition of *Forestory*, just like its predecessors, embodies the devotion and enthusiasm with which the members of the FHSO operate. Year after year, we have been able to harness this eagerness and use it to create interesting collages of stories which reflect the diversity of experiences and ideas surrounding Ontario's woodlands. This issue of *Forestory* is no different, and ideally will intrigue readers enough to get them thinking about how we can use our knowledge of the past to improve the ways in which we manage and value our province's rich and vast forests.

I would like to thank all of our contributing authors for their efforts, as well as our readers for taking the time to read this latest edition of *Forestory*. I look forward to what the future holds for the FHSO.

Scott Miller

Nature's Own "Monocultures"

By Mac Squires

This article was previously published in the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal (7 July 2012 under the headline "Nature can create 'monocultures'") and has been reproduced with the author's permission.

Fires have occurred as semi-random events in the boreal forest for several millennia and almost all of this woodland has burnt at least once. Each fire has a different impact on the future forest depending on the pre-existing forest and the types of soil and terrain it covered, the season of the fire, and prevailing weather, among others factors. For these reasons foresters often describe the boreal forest as "fire driven."

Despite variability, some results tend to repeat on burnt ground. Jack pine, black spruce, trembling aspen, and white birch trees are common to almost all burnt areas because of the unique way each species has evolved filling fire-created niches. The portion of the forest dominated by each species is determined by the particular mix of factors just mentioned and many more.

If jack pine has the only adequate seed supply on sandy soils it often becomes the only tree species in the next stand. Similarly, on finer moister soils fire will sometimes create pure stands of black spruce, but more often mixtures of jack pine and black spruce. If for some reason there is a low seed supply of both pine and spruce trembling aspen (locally called poplar), which develops from root suckers, it will sometimes form a pure stand or mix with pine and spruce. If there is a low supply of pine and spruce seed and no live roots of aspen in the burnt stand, then white birch can form pure stands or be in mixture with any one or all three of the other species. Within any large fire which covers a variety of soil and terrain most or all of these mixtures can be found.

A natural 34-year old jack pine "monoculture" that originated following the large TB-46 fire storm of 1980 north of Garden Lake.

On the Spruce River Forest north of Thunder Bay, for which I was responsible for the forest management with Abitibi-Price Inc. between 1980 and 1997, a total of 11% of the forest area consisted of naturally occurring single-tree-species stands and 6% was covered by naturally occurring black spruce "monoculture."

Yes, nature produces its own “monocultures,” whereas it is extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive to create plantation monocultures. That is because planting is usually prescribed for the richer soils of some timber harvested areas where there is often suckering aspen roots, and banks of seed from other species in standing trees, logging debris (slash) and humus. Almost all of the over three hundred square kilometers of plantations that are part of my forest management legacy contain natural regeneration of other species, leaving them looking somewhat like the majority of natural stands with variations of mixed species. Ironically most of the pure single-species stands in my forest management legacy are jack pine that we encouraged by spreading logging slash and seed on sandy areas of clear-cut. The resulting stands to the casual observer resemble the natural stands that were harvested and that had regenerated following forest fire.

As I took this photo, I was standing with my back to a mixed pine/spruce stand while looking into an extensive natural upland black spruce “monoculture” that originated following a forest fire approximately 90-years earlier.

"The strike has been described as the bloodiest in the country's labor history": The Reesor Siding Incident of 1963

By Scott Miller

A close-up of the top of the Reesor Siding monument on Highway 11 near Kapuskasing.

The Canadian labour movement has a long history of improving the lives of ordinary working people, and this is especially true with regard to those employed in Ontario's forest industry. Indeed, during the early twentieth century the province's woodworkers were subjected to many harsh conditions, including "Draught bunkhouses, bedbugs, low pay, dangerous work, sparse timber, [and] unfair foreman."[1] Fortunately, after the Second World War these individuals made considerable gains in terms of conditions, wages, job security, and union recognition. Yet the postwar era certainly did not mark the end of tense labour relations in Ontario's woodlands. In fact, on 14 January 1963, over 1,000 employees of the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company in Kapuskasing staged an illegal walkout as part of an effort to obtain better working conditions. The strike came to an abrupt halt on 11 February at Reesor Siding, a small hamlet located less than 40 miles west of Kapuskasing, when three strikers were shot and killed, and another dozen were wounded. Although charges were laid, no one was ever convicted for these crimes.[2] While a number of factors ultimately contributed to the Reesor Siding incident, it was largely the government of Ontario's inadequate approach to resolving the strike that led to its deadly aftermath.

The outbreak of the strike at Spruce Falls in the winter of 1963 marked the beginning of bitter and violent conflict which stemmed partly from bureaucratic inertia. Along with the roughly 1,000 employees from Kapuskasing, another 400 workers of the Longlac division of Kimberly-Clark (Spruce Falls' parent company) had also joined the walkout. Both groups were represented by the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union (LSWU) Local 2995, which had been trying to negotiate new contracts since the previous August. The union was insisting that both companies sign separate agreements with comparable terms. However, because Kimberly-Clark was a pulp mill and Spruce Falls was a newsprint mill, the companies maintained that such an arrangement would not be sensible from a

[1] Ian Radforth, *Bushworkers and Bosses: Logging in Northern Ontario, 1900-1980* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987), 107.
[2] Ibid., 157-158.

business standpoint, specifically citing the unstable market in sulphate pulp used in the production of fine paper as the main reason why each company wanted to negotiate separately with the union. In addition, the LSWU wanted contracts similar to the one that had been signed recently with the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, which settled on the basis of a 40-hour work week over a two-year agreement. With the companies continually refusing to concede to these demands, in mid-January the bushworkers ultimately decided to walk off the job. Although the strike was technically illegal because the union had not first taken the dispute to a conciliation board, the Ontario Labour Department had not even appointed such a board at Spruce Falls or at Kimberly-Clark. The department apparently had hoped that these firms would simply follow Abitibi's lead and grant the LSWU its desired terms, and therefore refrained from appointing conciliation boards at either company.[3]

The situation was further exacerbated by the fact there were around 1,000 settlers in the Kapuskasing area who depended upon selling pulpwood to Spruce Falls for their very survival. The LSWU believed that these independent woodcutters were undermining their bargaining position, and responded by patrolling the roads to prevent their pulpwood from reaching the company. In fact, it was not uncommon for the strikers to physically unload truckloads of timber against the drivers' wills. One local man even claimed that his bush camp had been raided twice by the union. Of course, this behaviour rightfully upset the settlers, who felt that the LSWU was infringing upon their livelihoods. Tension between the two groups escalated quickly, and within a matter of weeks the provincial police had more than tripled their Kapuskasing detachment in hopes of keeping things under control. Despite these efforts, the union still had more patrol cars on the roads than the police themselves. Indeed, Ontario Provincial Police Inspector Ralph Crozier himself admitted that "there may have been an isolated incident where strikers had raided and provincial police were helpless because they were far outnumbered." On 24 January, *The Globe and Mail* captured the seriousness of the situation when it quoted Kapuskasing Mayor Norman S. Grant, who cautioned that "These settlers are getting so desperate they are going into the bush with guns and they will shoot anyone who tries to interfere with their cutting."[4]

Nonetheless, these early warning signs did not elicit an effective response from the government of Ontario. On 25 January, the Ontario Labour Department met with the LSWU's officials, but the talks led nowhere. According to *The Globe and Mail*, it appeared that the department was turning its attention away from the Spruce Falls dispute and instead was focusing on other companies in the pulp and paper industry where conciliation procedures were already ongoing. Moreover, it seemed as though the department was "basing its tactics on the hope that settlement with the other firms that have not been struck would lead to a solution of the Kapuskasing and Long Lac [sic] strikes." Union leaders later lamented the department's handling of the matter, with Jack Pesheau, secretary of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Area Council, taking direct aim at Minister of Labour Leslie Rowntree. Pesheau asserted that Rowntree and his associates were stubbornly assuming that "the companies would follow the Abitibi settlement pattern" despite the fact that "We told them we had information that [the companies] would not go along with Abitibi."[5]

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[3] "OPP Probing Charge Settlers Intimidated by Striking Bushmen," *The Globe and Mail*, 26 January 1963, page 9; "Firm Refuses to Talk While Loggers Idle," *The Globe and Mail,* 30 January 1963, page 2; "Laskin Named as Mediator In Bush Strike," *The Globe and Mail*, 4 February 1963, page 4; "Union Asks Royal Probe Into Battle," *The Globe and Mail,* 12 February 1963, page 1.

[4] "Police Force Tripled To Cope With Strike," *The Globe and Mail*, 23 January 1963, page 8; "Guns Carried in Northern Muskeg: Strikers, Independents in Bitter Logging Fight," *The Globe and Mail,* 24 January 1963, page 1; "OPP Probing Charge Settlers Intimidated by Striking Bushmen," *The Globe and Mail*, 26 January 1963, page 9.

[5] "Bushworkers Criticize Lack of Negotiation," *The Globe and Mail*, 26 January 1963, page 9.

As the days passed and negotiations between Spruce Falls and the LSWU remained at a standstill, the provincial government came under greater pressure to intervene. On 27 January, a large group "of logging jobbers, bush cutters, businessmen and mill workers" drove to Moonbeam, just 12 miles east of Kapuskasing, to meet with Rene Brunelle, member of the Ontario Legislature for Cochrane North, "to demand immediate Government intervention" in the now two-week old strike. On behalf of this delegation of concerned citizens, Kapuskasing Councillor George Maybury professed that "We, the people of the Kapuskasing district … ask Government conciliation officers to take immediate steps to bring both sides together to reach a settlement. We … have an obligation to our communities and our families. The Government has an obligation to us." In response, Brunelle emphasized the gravity of the situation, and affirmed that the Ontario government was doing everything in its power to bring about a resolution.[6] The next day, Maybury prophesized that the strike "will result in violence. It must be settled now."[7]

Shortly thereafter the Ontario Labour Department took some small steps in the right direction. In early February the press reported that R.V. Bradley, described as one of the department's "top conciliation officers," had been tasked with expediting the negotiation process. In the meantime, however, the citizens of Kapuskasing were left idling. On 1 February, *The Globe and Mail* cited an anonymous trucker who stated that "the 25-man squad of the Ontario Provincial Police in Kapuskasing is not sufficient. It would take 400 policemen before it would be safe for the truckers to start hauling."[8] Although the provincial government still did not send more reinforcements to the area, Professor Bora Laskin of the University of Toronto, a specialist in labour and constitutional law, soon stepped in to act as a mediator in the strike "at the request of the parties involved." [9] Unfortunately, about one week later there was still "no sign of progress" in reaching an agreement.[10]

The strike reached its boiling point shortly thereafter when tragedy struck at Reesor Siding. Late into the evening of 10 February, a group of 400 strikers drove to Reesor, a village some 40 miles west of Kapuskasing, with the intention of dismantling the woodpiles that had been put together there by a team of around twenty independent operators. These settlers had been working under the protection of a 12-man, 24-hour police guard for the previous few days. When the strikers arrived on the scene, the police warned them to stay off the property and managed to keep them at bay for a short period of time, but eventually the strikers pushed their way forward and began tearing down the piled pulpwood. At that moment, just after midnight, the independent woodcutters, armed with rifles and shotguns, emerged from a nearby shack and began opening fire on the crowd. Three of the strikers, brothers Joseph and Irènée Fortier, along with Fernand Drouin, were shot and killed, while another dozen were injured.[11]

The violence and deaths at Reesor Siding finally pushed the government of Ontario into action, though by this point it was too little, too late. Attorney-General Frederick Cass immediately ordered 200 provincial policemen to the Kapuskasing area, while Premier John P. Robarts proclaimed that "It is now clear drastic steps must be taken at once to restore the rule of law and to make certain that these illegal acts do not occur again."[12] On 13 February, *The Globe and Mail* reported that charges of non-capital murder had been laid against 19 independent woodcutters, while rioting charges were levied against 400 strikers in what "was believed to be the greatest mass roundup on murder and

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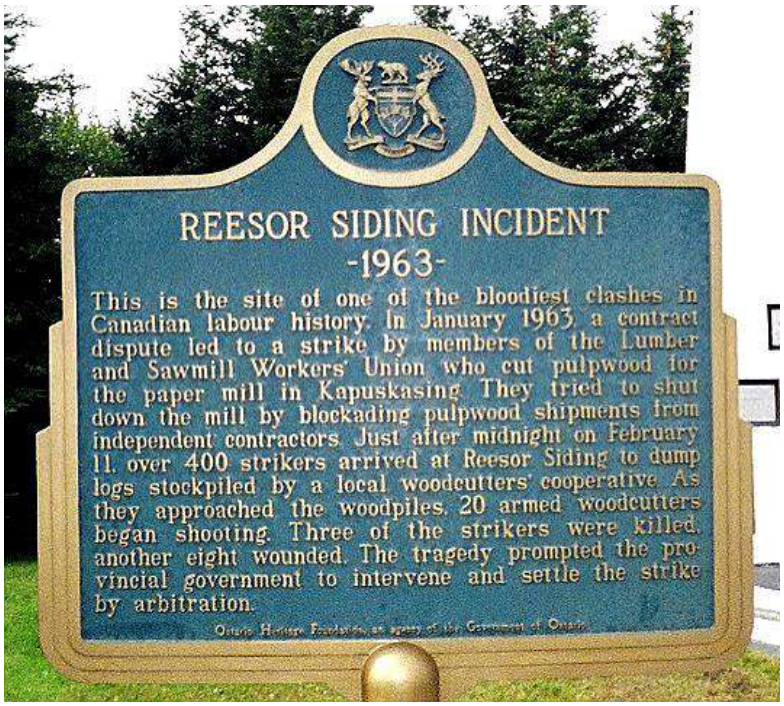
[6] "Delegation Meets MPP: Province Urged to Act in Timber Strike," *The Globe and Mail*, 28 January 1963, page 5.
[7] "Jobbers, Truckers Plan to Defy Strikers in Kapuskasing Bush," *The Globe and Mail*, 29 January 1963, page B2.
[8] "Queen's Park Seeks New Basis For Settling Bushworkers' Strike," *The Globe and Mail*, 1 February 1963, page B1.
[9] "Laskin Named as Mediator in Bush Strike," *The Globe and Mail*, 4 February 1963, page 4.
[10] "Talks Stalled on Woodsmen, Parties Report," *The Globe and Mail*, 11 February 1963, page 5.
[11] "19 Released on Bail in Shooting: 200 Police Sent North After 3 Strikers Killed," *The Globe and Mail*, 12 February 1963, page 1.
[12] Ibid.

rioting charges in Canada's history."[13] In fact, *The Globe and Mail* later remarked that "The strike has been described as the bloodiest in the country's labor history."[14] The strike at last came to end an on 17 February after the provincial government imposed compulsory arbitration.[15]

Nevertheless, the Ontario government only came under further scrutiny in the weeks following the Reesor Siding incident, with the most scathing attack coming from Ontario Liberal Leader John Wintermeyer. In a speech delivered before the Cochrane North Liberal Association in September 1963, Wintermeyer pinned the blame for the bloodshed at Reesor Siding entirely on the shoulders of Robarts' Progressive Conservative government. He accused the regime of deliberately disregarding the province's labour legislation, and stated that "This Government had ample warning of impending violence from responsible union and municipal officials. It took only token action. Despite cries for help, it failed to protect lives and property of people entitled to protection." Wintermeyer blasted Labour Minister Rowntree in particular for having misled both the public and the union about Spruce Falls' and Kimberly-Clark's willingness to follow the Abitibi settlement pattern. He also charged the Tory government as a whole with having committed an array of blunders, including its failure to address the poor working conditions in the province's logging industry, treating "the settlers' timber cutting permits as fair game for party patronage," allowing the illegal trafficking of said permits to the detriment of the community, and neglecting to implement better labour laws in general. Overall, Wintermeyer deemed the Reesor Siding incident "a monument to Tory stupidity."[16]



A plaque dedicated to the Reesor Siding incident.

[13] "Number Reported to Be Canadian Record: Charge 19 Settlers with Murder," *The Globe and Mail*, 13 February 1963, page 1.
[14] "Grand Jury Probes Slaying of 3 Loggers," *The Globe and Mail*, 1 October 1963, page 15.
[15] Mike Commito, "History 'n' Hockey: Canada's bloodiest labour tragedy," *Northern Life*, 11 February 2016, https://www.sudbury.com/columns/commito/history-n-hockey-canadas-bloodiest-labour-tragedy-260491 (accessed 14 April 2016).
[16] "Reesor Siding Fault of PC Regime, Wintermeyer Claims," *The Globe and Mail*, 2 September 1963, page 10.

About one month later, a Supreme Court grand jury decided the fate of the twenty independent operators who had been charged with the murders of the three strikers. On 2 October, after more than two days of deliberation, it was determined that there was not enough evidence to proceed, and the jury cleared all twenty men of charges of non-capital murder.[17] Three of these men were later fined $100 each after they pleaded guilty to a joint charge of possession of an offensive weapon.[18] Ironically, earlier in the year 138 of the strikers had been found guilty of illegal assembly and were each fined $200.[19] Expectedly, the LSWU was far from satisfied with the court's decision, but in the end all it could do was erect an impressive 35-foot, $25,000 monument near Reesor Siding to honour the deaths of the Fortier brothers and Drouin.[20]

The strike at Spruce Falls in the winter of 1963, as well as its deadly aftermath, arose largely because the government of Ontario impaired the ability of all those involved to find common ground. Its inadequate approach to resolving labour disputes in the province's pulp and paper industry only dragged out the negotiation process and pushed the LSWU into desperation. Moreover, its failure to react swiftly to the early warning signs of impending violence between the strikers and the independent woodcutters allowed the conflict to reach its fatal climax. Indeed, perhaps the greatest tragedy of the Reesor Siding incident was that it occurred between closely related people who allowed their reconcilable differences to blur their greater commonalities. This need not have been so. Rather than carrying out its public duty and bringing clarity to the situation, the Ontario government ultimately cast a shadow over the dispute and left the province's history with a scar that will forever be memorialized at Reesor Siding.

All of the photos featured in this article can be found at:

Mike Commito, "History 'n' Hockey: Canada's bloodiest labour tragedy," Northern Life, 11 February 2016, https://www.sudbury.com/columns/commito/history-n-hockey-canadas-bloodiest-labour-tragedy-260491 (accessed 14 April 2016).

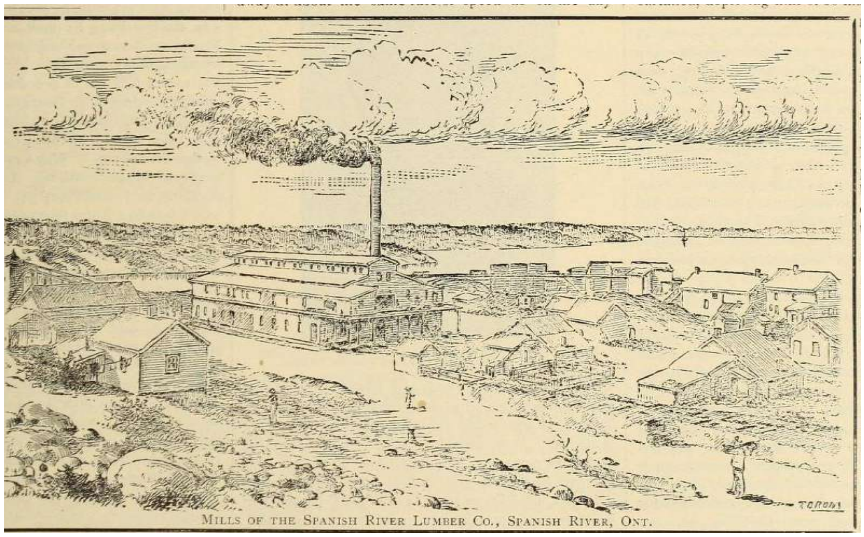
"Reesor Siding Incident of 1963," Ontario's Historical Plaques, http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques/Plaque_Cochrane02.html (accessed 3 May 2016).

[17] "Reesor Siding Slayings: Jury Clears All 20 In Loggers' Deaths," *The Globe and Mail*, 3 October 1963, page 1.
[18] "Hearing Called Mockery of Justice: 3 Settlers Fined $100 in Reesor Siding Shooting," *The Globe and Mail*, 8 October 1963, page 12.
[19] "50 Years Later: The Reesor Siding incident," *Kapuskasing Times*, 13 February 2013, https://www.sudbury.com/columns/commito/history-n-hockey-canadas-bloodiest-labour-tragedy-260491 (accessed 17 April 2016).
[20] "Reesor Siding: Monument dedicated to strikers," *The Globe and Mail*, 7 July 1966, page 39.

A Brief History of the Spanish River Lumber Company's Timber Operations

By Alicia Boston

In the 1880s, the Ontario government began selling timber licences up and around the Spanish River. This area attracted many American based lumber companies because they could take advantage of the river's connection to Lake Huron, allowing them to tow their logs easily from Canada to the United States. One such enterprise was the Spanish River Lumber Company (SRLC). It operated in this area for over thirty years, and also built several sawmills there. The *Canada Lumberman* reported on the lumber company's timber operations from 1888 to 1923. These articles explain that although the SRLC experienced some challenges during this period, it ultimately grew to become one of the largest and longest-running lumber companies operating in the Spanish River district.



A sketch of the SRLC's operations in Spanish River.
<u>Source:</u> "The Spanish River Mills" The Canada Lumberman X11 no. 5 (May, 1891): 1.

The SRLC was one of the oldest and biggest lumber companies on Georgian Bay's North Shore. The business originated in 1882 in Bay City, Michigan and was founded by Messrs. Arnold & Fulsom, of Albany, N.Y. Its Canadian headquarters, in Massey, Ontario, handled the company's operations in the Spanish River district. The SRLC began timber operations in Ontario in the year 1882 after it inherited a limit from a Mr. A Smith; it encompassed a sawmill and "400 square miles fairly timbered with pine." The company tore down the mill, which was built by the original limit holder, John Cameron. The SRLC then built a much larger and more modern mill at Spanish Mills, which is located on Aird Island, near the mouth of the Spanish River.[1] However, the company continued to tug logs across the border to process them in the United States.

By the turn of the twentieth century, the sawmill at Spanish Mills had become a particularly valuable asset to the SRLC. In 1898, Canadian millowners "succeeded in persuading the provincial government to use its authority as a landlord to prevent the export of unprocessed pine sawlogs cut

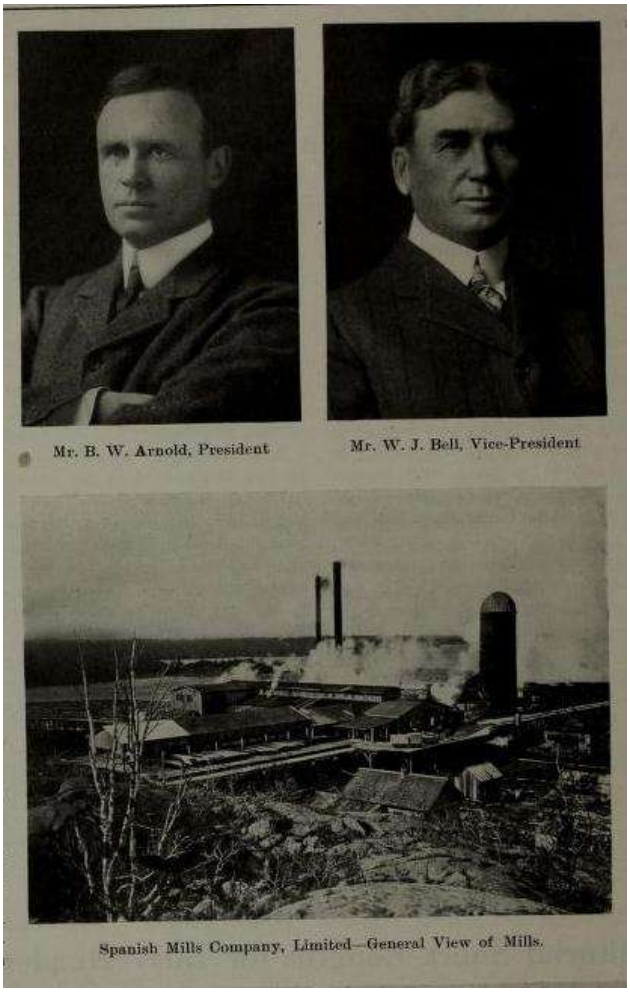
[1] "The Spanish River Mills" *The Canada Lumberman* X11 no. 5 (May, 1891): 1.

on crown land."[2] Predictably, that same year the *Canada Lumberman* reported that "The Spanish River Lumber Company has decided to operate its mill at Spanish River this upcoming season."[3]

As a result, the SRLC worked its limits in the Georgian Bay area from 1899 to 1904. For example, in the summer of 1899, the *Lumberman* remarked that "E. T. Carrington of the Spanish River Lumber Co., says that only about 60,000,000 feet of logs will come down the Spanish River this season. The mill of his company is running steadily."[4] This activity encouraged the SRLC to consider erecting a pulp mill on the Canadian side. The *Lumberman* reported that the firm was interested in a location near Webbwood because "there is a fall, of sixty feet, capable of developing, it is said, twenty thousand horsepower."[5] This area would also make it possible for the company to build a railway that connected the projected works with the Sault Ste Marie branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). Although Spanish River did not build a pulp mill, another firm did erect one at the site a short while later.

In 1904, E.T. Carrington and Mr. Arnold (son of the Company's founder) purchased the interest of their partners in the SRLC. The *Lumberman* explained that they acquired "some stock in the Spanish River Boom Company, some 50,000,000 feet of pine, and a large quantity of hardwood and cedar in the Spanish River country."[6] Arnold became the president of the company, while W.J. Bell of Sudbury became its vice president.

Thereafter, the SRLC bought and sold mills during the 1900s. For example, in 1901 the company sold its saw mill on Georgian Bay to C.F. Braman and W.H. McCormick, of Bay City, Michigan. The *Lumberman* reported that "The deal also includes a general store and all the appurtenances of the plant. The Mill has an annual capacity of 20,000,000 feet, and is equipped with band saws, gang, and circular rig." [7] Then in 1905, the SRLC purchased a mill from the Huron Lumber Company. This mill on the Spanish River was reported to have "an annual capacity of 20,000-000 feet … [and] has been stocked with logs the last five years."[8] Ten years later, the company built another sawmill in Cutler, Ontario, and it boasted the latest technology. The *Lumberman* explained that "a unique feature of the Cutler Mill is that the entire foundation is constructed of concrete. This feature, together with the fact of the mill being equipped



***Source:* "Important Sawmills of the Georgian Bay: No. 3. The Spanish River Lumber Company's Operations- Well Equipped Mill Turning out 175,000 Feet of Excellent Lumber per Day," The Canada Lumberman (1911): 24.**

[2] Ian Radforth, *Bushworkers and Bosses: Logging in Northern Ontario, 1900-1980,* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987), 14.
[3] "Stocks and Prices," *The Canada Lumberman* V no. 6 (March 1899): II.
[4] "Stocks and Prices," *The Canada Lumberman* V no. 24 (July 1899): II.
[5] "Pulp Notes," *The Canada Lumberman* VI no. 19 (May 1900): 17.
[6] "Stocks and Prices," *The Canada Lumberman* X no. 49 (January 1904): II.
[7] "The News," *The Canada Lumberman* VII no. 19 (June 1901): 13.
[8] "The News," *The Canada Lumberman* XIII no.38 (November 1905): 13.

exclusively with band saws, makes it probably the most modern and up-to-date plant on the North Shore."[9] This same article explained that the company was also utilizing motorized vehicles which made production more efficient.

By the early 1910s, Ontario's lumber industry in general was suffering through tough times, but the SRLC in particular still managed to thrive. In 1914, the *Lumberman* reported that there was a concern for the future lumber operations in Ontario and that many companies' returns were decreasing, but maintained that "The Spanish River Lumber Company, Limited have 22 camps operating in the woods this year and will cut 60,000,000 feet. This is ahead of any previous year's cut and shows the confidence of the men behind the concern in the future of the lumber business in Canada."[10]

However, within two years the company began to experience a decrease in its operations, due largely to the labour shortage that plagued Canadian businesses during the Great War. The SRLC even wrote a letter to the editor of the *Lumberman* which stated that "It is very hard to say how many logs we will take out this season. If we cannot procure labour faster than we have been doing up to date, we will not get out enough logs this year to run our mills on a day shift. Last year we took out about three-quarters of a million pieces, which we have just completed sawing. We would like to get as many this year in order to have work for the mills next season, but the outlook is doubtful, owing to the shortage of labour. We manufacture only pine."[11] It appears as though the SRLC's prediction was accurate. Timber operations began to decline much more steadily after this point. In the fall of 1920, only five camps were operating in Cutler, a quarter of the number that had been operating just six years before.[12]

Interestingly, between 1905 and 1910, the *Lumberman* ignored the fact that the SRLC was in dispute with the Ontario government over its right to cut timber on the Spanish River "Indian Reserve." In 1907, the Natives of this reserve filed a formal petition with the Department of Indian Affairs to stop the company from cutting any more timber from their reserve. The Natives claimed that the company had a sufficient number of years to cut the trees that were under its licence and that the SRLC was cutting timber not covered by its licence.[13] In 1909, the government declared that it would grant the company only two more years to finish cutting and then License no. 112, which the company had held for over thirty years, would be cancelled.[14]

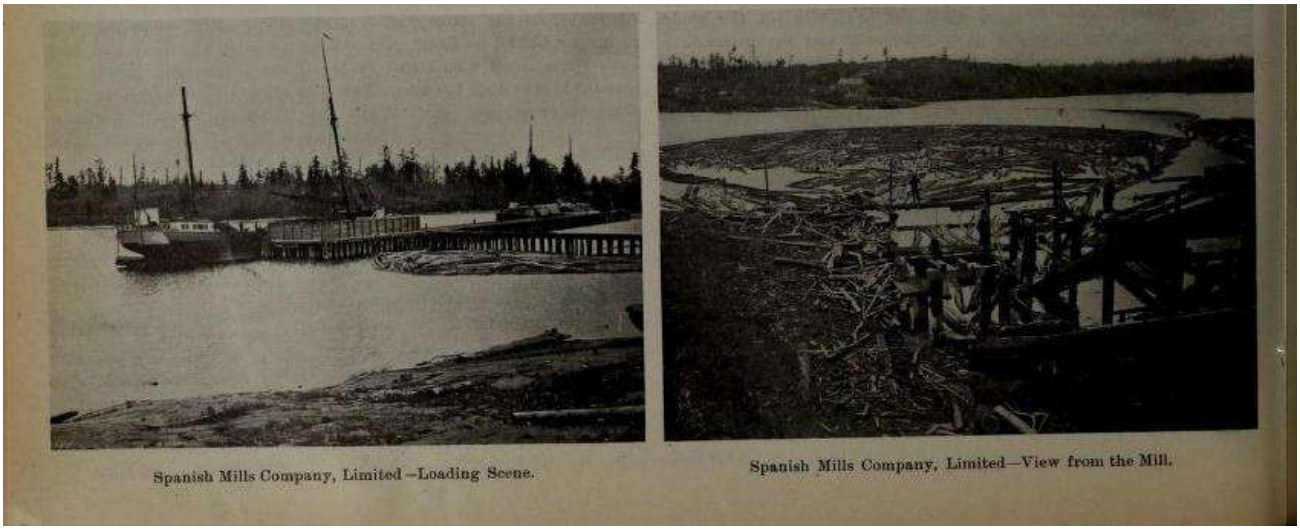
The SRLC's operations on the reserve was not the only controversy that the *Canada Lumberman* ignored. In June 1922, *The Globe and Mail* described how the company was under investigation by the Ontario government with regard to its timber operations. The paper reported that "According to the report the books of the Spanish River Lumber Co., and associated companies, show that there were always more logs sawn at the mills than were returned to the department as cut, for the years

[9] "Progressive Methods in Northern Ontario: Spanish River Lumber Company's Operations- Supplies hauled by Motor Truck- Model Headquarters," *The Canada Lumberman* 36 no. 17 (September 1916):68.
[10] "Edgings," *The Canada Lumberman* (1914)
[11] "Woods Operations in Ontario Reduced: Reports from Manufacturers Show How Labor Scarcity and High Cost of Provisions will Curtail Coming Winter's Output," *The Canada Lumberman* 36 no. 22 (November 1916):23
[12] "How Lumber Cut is Shaping for Coming Year: While Production is being Curtailed in Some Districts Reports from Others Show that Wood Operations are Proceeding on Fairly Large Scale," *Canada Lumberman* 40 no.21 (November 1920): 49.
[13] Petition by the Spanish River Reserve aggrieved that the SPRLC has claim to their hardwood. 29 Dec 1896, Pg 58 LAC RG 10 Volume 7828 File 30036-3
[14] J D McLean to the Spanish River Lumber Company, (January, 1909) Pg 214 LAC RG 10, Volume 2360, File 72,745-3

1910-19, inclusive, the difference being nearly 6 percent."[15] According to the *Riddell- Latchford Timber Commission,* which occurred in 1920-21, the actual number of logs sawn between the years 1910 and 1919 was 6,467,374. The investigation obtained this number from the shanty books that the jobbers had to submit to the company. However, there was a discrepancy in the number of logs the company indicated to the government that it had cut. The affidavits returned to the government stated that it had cut only 6,169,351 logs. According to the commission, the SRLC neglected to report 298,023 logs.[16] This difference equated to millions of dollars in revenue lost to the Ontario government.

Unlike the *Lumberman,* the *Globe* informed the public of the timber probe inquiring about the SRLC's allegedly fraudulent timber operations. The *Globe* reported that John A. Ferguson, an SRLC foreman, admitted in the inquiry "that he had given instruction through the clerks to take off a percentage of the logmen's returns as to account of timber cut."[17] This admission meant that there had been a conscious decision made to defraud the government.

Then, in June 1922, the *Globe* reported that the commission had ruled that the company had misled the government in its timber operations. As for the consequences of this action, "it is recommended that proceedings be taken to recover the amount to which the Province is entitled by reason of the timber which was cut not having been returned in full."[18] Although the company had to repay the government, this appears to have been a relatively light punishment. The newspaper also highlighted the commission's recommendation that the government make reforms in its administration of the forest industries. The courts recognized that what the SRLC did was only allowed because the government's policies were not fully enforced, otherwise it most likely would not have gotten away with its actions.



Spanish Mills Company, Limited—Loading Scene.

Spanish Mills Company, Limited—View from the Mill.

***Source:* "Important Sawmills of the Georgian Bay: No. 3. The Spanish River Lumber Company's Operations- Well Equipped Mill Turning out 175,000 Feet of Excellent Lumber per Day," The Canada Lumberman (1911): 24.**

[15] "Says Ontario Should Insist on Reparation," *The Globe and Mail,* (June 1922): 15.
[16] William Renwick Riddell and Francis Robert Latchford, *Interim Reports of the Commission: To investigate and Report Upon the Accuracy or Otherwise of all Returns Made Pursuant to the Crown Timber Act, Section 14, by any Holder of a Timber License etc.,* (Toronto: 1921): 52.
[17] Clerks Ordered to Cut Return of the Logmen: John A. Ferguson Makes Admission at Spanish River Lumber Inquiry," *The Globe and Mail,* (April 1920): 8.
[18] "Timber Commissioners Urge Immediate Thorough Reform in Administration of Forests," *The Globe and Mail* (June 1922): 13.

Unlike the *Globe,* the *Lumberman* was understandably much more concerned with how well the SRLC was doing as a business. In October 1922, it reported that the company was on pace to exceed its output in the previous year by about 20 percent.[19] Unfortunately, in 1923, the magazine reported that the sawmill in Cutler had burned to the ground. [20]

Overall, the reports of the *Canada Lumberman* explain how the Spanish River Lumber Company became one of the biggest and longest-running companies operating in the Spanish River district. Although the magazine did not report all the company's activities, it did show that the firm was able to thrive in large part due to its mills on the Canadian side of the border. The reports show that the firm was successful for most of the forty years it operated on the Spanish River. Although the company got its wrist slapped near the end, it was undoubtedly a significant contributor to the forest industry in northern Ontario during this period.

[19] "Output on North Shore is Heavier, "*Canada Lumberman* 42 no.20 (October 1922):52.
[20] "Big Sawmill at Cutler is Burned," *Canada Lumberman* 43 no. 19 (October 1923):38.

The Pagets and a Forestry Connection

By: Garry Paget

The timber industry in Ontario was built around the white pine. There were big names associated with the cutting of these large, majestic trees - J. R. Booth and J. S. L. McRae to name but two. However, there were also many “Mom and Pop” type operations as well.

The Free Grant and Homestead Act of 1868 was meant to open up Ontario to new settlers. The building of colonization roads was meant to allow these people to choose their location ticket and to begin clearing the land. A huge amount of work was needed before the farming could begin. There were stipulations which required a certain amount of acreage to be cleared per year, and which required the building of a home that was a minimum size of sixteen-by-twenty feet. If all conditions were met after a five year period, including residency for at least six months of each year, the settler could apply for the Patent on the property. Each person over 18 years of age could apply for a 100-acre lot. Furthermore, if the land proved too rocky, another 100 acres was available - but the main crop of the Pre-Cambrian Shield was rocks!

The majestic Ontario white pine would grow in excess of 200 feet tall. Its wood was in demand, in England and Europe, because of its quality. Can you see the logger? Photo courtesy of pastforward.ca/Internet

The early settler had to rely on the timber on his land or winter work in a lumber camp in order for survival. It was five years before the timber from his lot could be sold for profit. Up to that point it could only be used for building and fuel. There are many stories of such endeavours - and survive they did! For those who didn’t there was the westward migration of “Manitoba Fever” to the rock free, fertile, flat land of the Prairies. Some used the grant land as collateral, while some simply walked away.

The Pagets were a family of pioneers and entrepreneurs who were involved in both business and politics, wherever they resided. In 1879, my great-great uncle George Paget arrived in Muskoka. He was followed in 1890 by his brother, my great grandfather, Henry Paget, who had previously arrived in Canada in 1865. In 1894, George founded the Sturgeon Falls Pulp Mill. The mill was only one of a number of his business ventures and investments. Indeed, "While the local economy had revolved primarily around lumbering and farming, the pulp and paper industries played an increasingly important role, after Paget and Heath of Huntsville founded the mill in 1894."[1]

After a few ups and downs with getting the project functioning, the investment consortium headed by George Paget, which included Dr. Hart, a noted physician and businessman, and a Mrs. Willis (all from Huntsville), divested their combined interest in the mill. In the notice published in the 7 July 1899 edition of the *Huntsville Forester*, the headline announced: "SUCCESSFUL VENTURE FOR TOWN LUMINARIES: Mr. Paget, Dr. Hart and Mrs. Willis have sold their interest in the Sturgeon Falls Pulp Company. It was a great success. And they did well." Mr. Heath, a businessman connected to the Huntsville Lumber Company, is not mentioned.

Arthur Paget (my 2nd cousin once removed and future mayor of Huntsville 1919-1920) and his 1st cousin Frank (my great uncle). Photo courtesy of H. John Paget, Elm Farm, Burnett, Bristol, UK.

In 1899, the British firm Jenckes Machine Company purchased the company's assets and signed an agreement with the government for harvesting privileges on the Sturgeon River pulp concession. Like other contracts of this type, this one required $1,000,000 to be spent within three years for the construction of a paper plant to complement the existing pulp mill. Ownership eventually transferred to Imperial Paper Mills Ltd. in 1903.

Amongst the many sawmills that sprang up around the province, three were owned and operated by my Paget family. It's my understanding that there was already a saw mill operating on the shores of Oudaze Lake (then called Sand Lake), but I'm not aware when this operation began. To the best of my knowledge, this mill apparently ran into difficulty and was taken over by my great grandfather Henry Paget. It became the first Paget-owned saw mill in the area. This ownership transfer would have occurred after 1890, the year my great grandparents moved to the Chaffey Township. On 6 December, 1892, they purchased a 100 acre tract property designated as Lot 26, Concession 14, Chaffey Township, which was situated just a mile or so from the site of this sawmill.

The second Paget saw mill was located on Highway 592, north of Novar, near Savage Settlement Road, along the shores of the Little East River. I have two photographs that were taken of my great grandfather's separate saw mills and there are the same three people in each picture that carry a

[1] https://vintagepostcards.org/sturgeon-falls-ontario/ (accessed 18 April 2016).

strong Paget resemblance, including one who appears to be my grandfather Alfred Henry ("Alf") Paget (Henry's second son). The photos are believed to have been taken between 1893 and 1908.

Very little is known about these two mills. I have stood at the site on the shores of Oudaze Lake, and without a falls or river to drive the saws and gears, it is likely that steam was the only other option for power. My great grandpa appears to have sold the mill in 1908 (he definitely sold his land in 1903 when my great grandma became ill). Following the sale, the couple moved to Huntsville to live with their son, Charles Edward. My great grandmother, Mary Ann, passed away in May 1907, but Henry lived until 17 December 1932. In his obituary Henry was remembered as "the esteemed citizen of this district for many years, and a man with beauty of character and a lovable disposition, quietly sleeping away."

A friend of mine who is a genealogist, Wayne Cooper of Huntsville, Ontario, uncovered information from the Huntsville *Forester* that a saw mill was still operating at the Sand Lake location in 1920. While there is no indicated connection of my great grandfather to this particular mill, a Mr. William Percival House was directly involved with its operations. By profession, Mr. House was both a bush contractor and foreman. He was working as a foreman for Jack MacDonald of Emsdale when, in 1920, he set a district record for putting out the biggest draw of cordwood and saw logs to the Sand Lake Mill at Novar: thirty-five teams of horses had moved 4,800 cords of wood and 16,000 saw logs. Usually a load of cordwood was 5 cords but, at times, 6 were carried. I'm sure there were more than just a few "brag loads" on those early trails as well.

A "brag load." Judging by the men standing beside it, this is 40' (3 stories) high! Photo courtesy of visitthelumberjack.com

In 1903, the Croft Lumber Company of Magnetawan/Ahmic Harbour created the third Paget mill. A saw mill built by a local settler named Jim Rae was already operating on this site. On 28 September 1903, George Paget and his nephew, Charles ("Charlie"), came to a partnership agreement with Rae. With the signing of the incorporation documents under the "Huntsville Syndicate" banner, the Croft Lumber Company was born. George Paget served as President, while Charlie was the manager. Also, George's second son, Arthur, who went on to become the Mayor of Huntsville, was the Secretary and Treasurer.

Alfred "Percy" Paget (George's third son) arrived in New York, NY on 8 October 1903. He was on his honeymoon with his new bride Minnie Webb and his mother, Emma Paget, in tow. Emma was to reunite with her husband. To save face, George, who had been accused of embezzling church funds, had left England in 1873 to join his brother Henry in London, Ontario. The charge was later proven to be false and George was exonerated. By 13 October, Percy had arrived in Huntsville, at which time both he and his brother, Arthur, signed the partnership agreement.

The Croft Lumber Company and its saw mill operated on the current site of The Swiss Country House Restaurant & Old Mill Lounge, on the shores of Ahmic Lake, west of Magnetawan. My grandfather Alfred managed the saw mill operation. I have read that he was also a partner, but I have seen no record of that fact. However, by the 1920's, the red and white pine that was suitable for harvesting had all but disappeared. The mill was sold by the Pagets around 1926. This was also the year that Alfred built the Knoepfli Inn, just up Highway 124. The mill continued to operate until about 1930 when an individual took over the property and began building cabins for tourists to rent. In 1935, the saw mill was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

During a recent visit to "Sunny Slope" along Highway 124 east of Dunchurch, my friend John Macfie (a retired Ontario Department of Lands & Forests employee and Fish & Wildlife Officer) described how his family, in addition to their farming activities, used the cutting of timber on their own property as well as adjacent Crown land to supplement the household income. On this October day in 2014, John remarked how the trees were just beginning to grow to the heights he remembered in his early childhood.

Over the last century, much has changed regarding the forests and the forest industry. It didn't last forever, as some had opined. "Slash and burn" has evolved into "sustainable harvesting" of this valuable natural resource. And the small, family operations still exist throughout the province.

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by both Carol Ann Stevens (Emsdale) and Wayne Cooper (Huntsville) on details concerning the two Paget mills in and around Novar, Ontario. Their help is greatly appreciated.

Paget Saw Mill. This is believed to be the steam-powered Paget mill that stood on the shores of Sand (now Oudaze) Lake, ca. 1900. My grandfather Alfred ("Alf") Paget is the 2nd man from the left in front row right. Photo courtesy of Gerald Maw, Huntsville, Ontario.

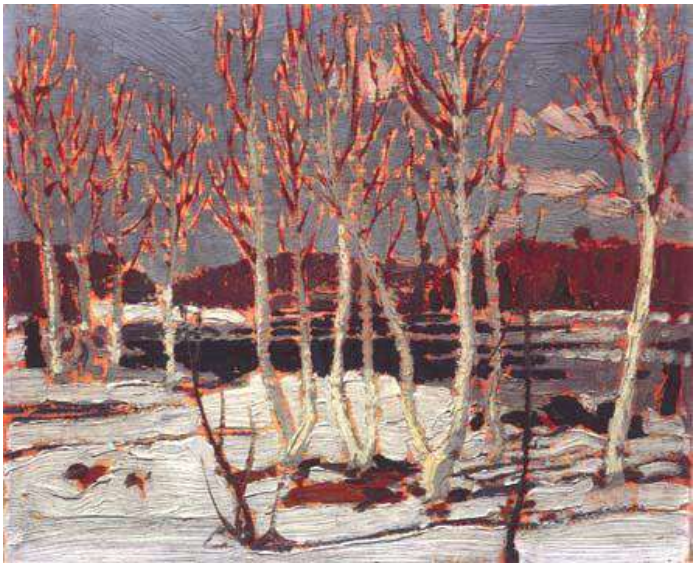
Art in the Park

"A Lover of the Wilderness": The Legacy of Tom Thomson

By: Scott Miller

On 16 July 1917, the lifeless body of Tom Thomson, an artist who had a significant influence on some of the men who would eventually form the famous Group of Seven, was found in Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park. The circumstances surrounding his death remain a mystery to this day, making his name fairly well-known throughout Canada. Moreover, Thomson's artwork, much of which captures the beauty and awe-inspiring nature of Ontario's forests, has played a key role in sustaining his legacy.

Thomson was born in 1877 near Claremont, Ontario, and moved to Toronto in 1905. It was here where he met J.E.H. MacDonald, one of the founding members of the Group of Seven, which was officially created a few years after Thomson's death. The two of them soon began taking regular sketching trips together to nearby lakes. Thomson made his first excursion to Algonquin Park in 1912, and from 1913 to 1917 he worked there every summer as a park ranger. A naturally gifted artist, Thomson drew inspiration from the rugged landscape of northern Ontario, and over the years he produced quite a bit of work which captured the essence of this distinct wilderness.



Thomson's April in Algonquin Park (1917).

In the summer of 1917, however, Thomson went missing in Algonquin Park. He often took painting expeditions on Canoe Lake, and was known to be a skilled canoeist, fisherman, and swimmer who was very familiar with the area. He was last seen alive on 8 July, and it was not long before his disappearance caught the attention of the public eye. For example, on 13 July, *The Globe* reported that Thomson, described as "A Lover of the Wilderness," had been missing for a number of days "and was thought to have been drowned or the victim of foul play."[1]

Then, just a few days later, Thomson's body was discovered in Canoe Lake by a group of men, including Dr. G.W. Howland. Howland, a medical doctor from Toronto, examined the body and found that it was "in advanced stage of decomposition" and noted a bruise on the right temple. It was also found that there was still air in Thomson's lungs, and it appeared that fishing line had been wrapped around his ankle. The coroner ultimately determined that Thomson had died of accidental drowning.

Thomson's The Jack Pine (1916-1917).

Many people were not satisfied with this conclusion, with some suggesting that Thomson had been murdered or maybe even committed suicide. In fact, the case remained the focus of some investigation until as late as the 1990s. It is unlikely that we will ever know exactly what happened to Tom Thomson on that summer day in Algonquin Park nearly 100 years ago.

Nonetheless, Thomson's artwork continues to attract interest from modern-day Canadians. It has been said that "His work broke with the conventional landscape style; his art was vividly realistic yet almost abstract in its use of bright colours and its manipulation of texture."[2] Featured here are three of Thomson's paintings, each of which depict different aspects of Ontario's forests: *April in Algonquin Park, The Jack Pine*, and *Black Spruce and Maple*.[3]

Thomson's Black Spruce and Maple (1915).

[1] "Toronto Artist Missing in North: Tom Thomson Missing From Canoe Lake Since Sunday – A Talented Landscapist," *The Globe*, 13 July 1917, page 7.
[2] Dimitry Anastakis, *Death in the Peaceable Kingdom: Canadian History Since 1867 Through Murder, Execution, Assassination, and Suicide* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015), 104-116.
[3] "Paintings by Tom Thomson," Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=tom+thomson+paintings&title=Special:Search&go=Go&uselang=en&searchToken=15hyfjli0fqgew4tr7pl8fjoy (accessed 20 April 2016).

People

A Tribute to Alfred S.L. Barnes (1905-1976)

By: Anne Wynia

Alfred Barnes was born in Gibraltar in 1905 and came with his parents to Canada in 1910. He grew up in north Toronto and graduated from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry in 1930. He then became a member of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers and was hired by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests where he worked in the Reforestation Division for five years.

In the early 1930s Barnes supervised the planting of thousands of trees in Simcoe County to restore the blow sands that resulted from forest clearance. In 1950 he and some of his contemporary colleagues, including Jack Simmons and Doug Drysdale, bought acres of poor agricultural land west of Lake Simcoe with the intention of using it to grow Christmas trees. They saw this as an opportunity to build a small business and as a reason to get out of the city on weekends. The Drysdale Tree Farm still exists today.

From his earliest years as a professional forester, Barnes was very involved with "The Men of the Trees," an organization devoted to tree planting and reforestation. Through this work he obtained the support of several very influential and wealthy figures in Toronto. Alf was responsible for acquiring hundreds of acorns and oak tree seedlings from England for the Men of the Trees which were planted in recognition of the coronation of King George VI in 1937. Several of these oaks, which are descended from thousand year old trees are known as Coronation Oaks, were planted in Coronation Park on the Toronto waterfront as well as many other places in Ontario. Many are still growing today.

Alf (left) being presented with a silver tea set by Norman Bradford, Chairman of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (1970).

In 1937 Barnes and many other foresters were let go by the Hepburn government. In the midst of the Great Depression, Barnes was able to eventually get a job in Kapuskasing, probably with the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company under the direction of C.W.W. Phipps. Barnes travelled up north by train, the only means to get there, and did not return to southern Ontario for many months. Once back in Toronto, he went into private business as a consulting forester and

landscaping contractor for prominent people in the Toronto area. In 1940 he joined the army and became a captain in the Royal Canadian Artillery. His family moved to Ottawa for two years but returned to Toronto in late 1944. Alf left the army in March 1945.

Upon Barnes' return, A.H. Richardson invited him to join the Department of Planning and Development as the head of the Forestry Section of the Conservation Authorities Branch, a position which he happily accepted. He and Richardson worked well together for many years, and eventually established the Conservation Authorities of Ontario. During those years, each summer a survey camp was set up in the watershed where the community had agreed that a conservation authority was needed. The surveys, research and planning involved the appropriate professional scientists including foresters, hydrologists, biologists, engineers, meteorologists, geologists and botanists. Every summer university students were hired to assist and learn, many of whom were influenced significantly by their experience.

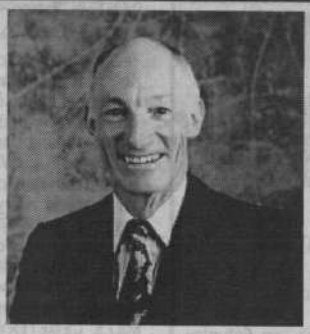
Alf was in charge of these surveys and wrote extensive reports which resulted in the establishment of many conservation authorities in Ontario. Each one had its own board with funding and representation from the local community. When Richardson retired, Alf became Director of the Conservation Authorities Branch, which later moved to the Department of Lands and Forests. Between 1945 and 1970 the Authorities developed and progressed well, leaving Alf with a very rewarding career. He was always actively involved with the Ontario Professional Foresters Association as a founding member, as well as the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Ontario Forestry Association. Dean Bernard Sisam of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry, was a colleague and close friend from whom no request for service was refused by Alf. Upon retirement Alf became the Executive Secretary of the Quetico Foundation, and when he died in 1976 he was the president of the Royal Canadian Institute.

Alf received a number of awards throughout his life, including one from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority "in appreciation of the untiring assistance towards the authority's conservation program." He also received the Honour Roll Award of Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority "For his interest and support during the period 1962 to 1970 as Director of the Conservation Authorities Branch." More specifically, he had been instrumental in obtaining the approval of the government of Ontario for a number of new programs and policies on behalf of this organization, and was also recognized for his continued active interest in the field and for his efforts in editing A.H. Richardson's book *Conservation by the People.* In addition, Alf was acclaimed by the Soil Conservation Society of America "for contributions to the science and art of good land use as a conservationist and as an administrator; for efforts to further the conservation authorities movement in Ontario; and for unselfish devotion of time and effort as a meeting speaker, author and advocate of conservation programs which helped create an enthusiasm for conservation among Ontario residents."

Alf receiving an award from the Soil Conservation Society of America (1975).

Remembering Dr. Justin Roderick Carrow

DEATHS **DEATHS**



DR. JUSTIN RODERICK CARROW

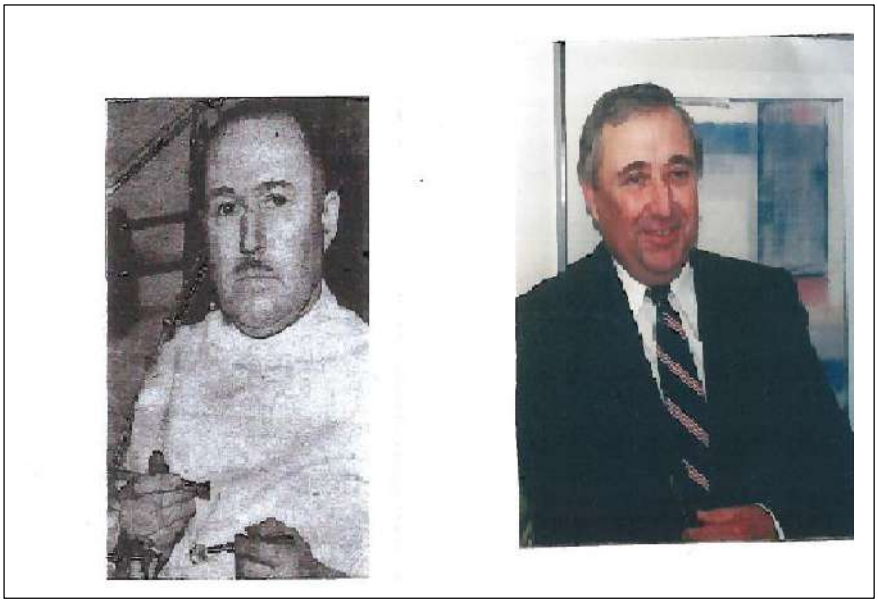
On January 30, 2016, Rod passed away at home surrounded by loving family and friends, after a difficult battle with cancer. Rod was predeceased by his beloved wife of 34 years, Pat Pelech, in December of 2013. He leaves behind his two sons, Geoff (Jody) and Mike (Zan) and grandchildren, Ruby, Sophie, Amelie and Jordan, as well as nephews Glen, Brian and Gavin and niece, Laurie. Rod will also be missed by many close extended family members and friends. Rod grew up in Toronto attending University of Toronto Schools in his high school days. He earned degrees at the University of Toronto (B.Sc.F. - Forestry), University of British Columbia (M.Sc. - Zoology) and Cornell University (Ph.D. - Entomology). After working briefly with the Toronto Board of Education as a teacher at Bloor Collegiate Institute, Rod became Research Scientist and project leader for the Canadian Forest Services tackling the problem of the balsam woolly aphid in British Columbia from 1967-1977. For the next five years, Rod served with both the Provinces of Ontario and British Columbia as Supervisor of Pest Control to stem infestations of spruce budworm. In 1982, he was seconded to New Brunswick to solve a similar outbreak. Rod helped to pioneer strategies of pest control involving both biological and chemical agents. In 1985, Rod accepted the role of Dean of Forestry at the University of Toronto for the next ten years. He then went into semi-retirement as a consultant and worked on various challenges in forest management. As a young man, Rod performed at a high level in various sports such as skiing, tennis and football and was a mainstay on the UTS swim team. His real passion, however, was amateur wrestling in which he truly excelled. Within 5 years of starting wrestling, he had captained the University of Toronto team, won the OUAA championship, the Canadian Open championship and silver medalled in the light heavyweight division in the 1959 Pan American games held in Chicago. His iconic gold medal match with the legendary US wrestler, Frank Rosenmayer, was used in a promotional film to encourage young people to participate in the sport. During his professional career, Rod lived with his wife, Pat, in the Orangeville, Ontario area for almost thirty years. They both had artistic leanings and considerable talent and became involved with the Dufferin Arts Council where they made many lasting friendships. Rod, especially, enjoyed working with his brother, Bruce and his children on the farm property, Carrow's Glen, which has been in the Carrow family for three generations. Rod and Pat travelled extensively through Canada, Alaska, the US Southwest, Hawaii, New Zealand, the Caribbean and Europe. In 2001, they purchased a cabin on Hornby Island in British Columbia's Salish Sea where they spent many memorable vacations with their children and grandchildren. In 2008, they moved to the Victoria area to retire in a beautiful part of the world and be close to their family. Rod was interested in numerous charitable institutions and was a strong supporter of: The Salvation Army, Plan Canada, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Dufferin Arts Council and the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Rod's memory could consider one of these institutions or one of their own choosing. A celebration of Rod's life will be held at SEQUOIA GARDENS MEMORIAL, 4665 Falaise Drive, Victoria, BC, on February 13, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

A Reforestation Pioneer: Dr. W.J. Milton Lloyd, DDS, DDC, LDS

By: Bruce M. Lloyd

Dr. W.J. Milton Lloyd was one of the earliest entrepreneurs in Ontario to plant and nurture private reforestation tracts, beginning in the 1930s with stands in Simcoe, Grey and Dufferin counties.

Milton was born in the Lloyd family farmhouse in Terra Nova, Ontario in 1899, the only boy of four siblings. The house still stands on the property deeded to his grandfather, newly emigrated from Scotland. Six of Milton's grandfather's brothers immigrated to Canada and settled in nearby areas. Purchasing a tract of Crown land required the settler to clear a certain number of acres and build a cabin within a designated time. Milton's grandfather, who had been a school teacher in Scotland, acquired the property in 1832 and began the challenging task of clearing the land and building a cabin. This cabin still stands on the farm property and, according to a former secretary-treasurer of Mulmur Township, is believed to be the oldest one in Dufferin County. During the winter months, Milton's grandfather went to South River to cut wood to supplement his income. Around 1875, the Lloyd brothers built the family farmhouse, near the original cabin, and it was there that Milton was born.



Pictures of Milton (left) and his son Bruce, the author of this article.

Milton attended the nearby one-room school until Grade 8, the Creemore High School until Grade 12, and Dundalk High School in Grade 13. In his final year he had to board in Dundalk and recalled traveling to and from home on weekends in a two horse cutter across the fields when the snow was higher than the fences. Milton provided teaching assistance at a local primary school until he left home and then enrolled in university in 1919. As he only son in a family of four children, he spent every summer working on the farm for his father and financed his university education from the sale of his own crops. In 1923 he graduated from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry, and began his practice at Bathurst and College streets in Toronto. He also served at Toronto Western Hospital and later at Grace Hospital as a Dental Surgeon.

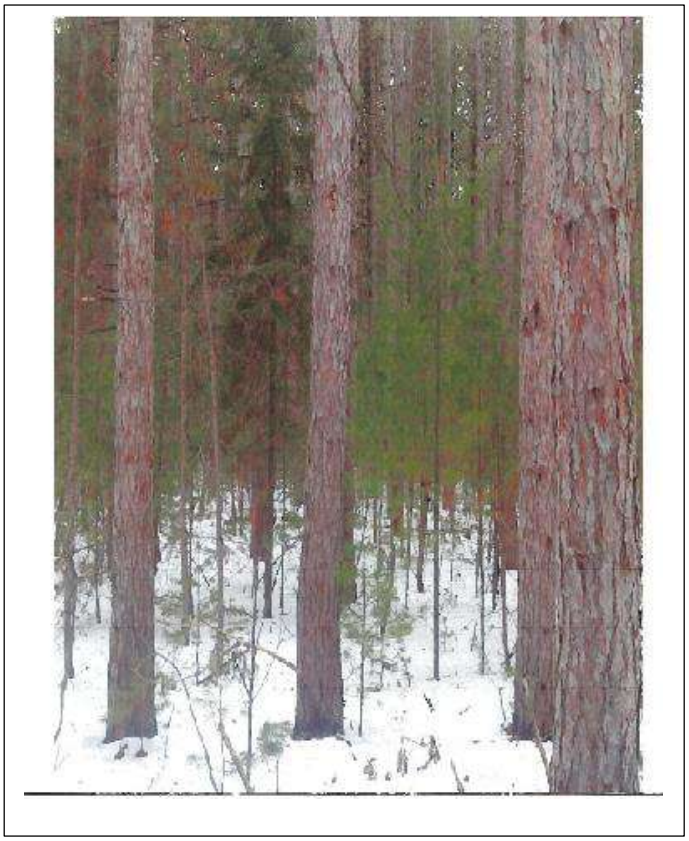
Milton never lost his great love of farming and in the 1930s he started a reforestation program in Mulmur Township, Dufferin County on an old farm that had turned into sand dunes, much like Camp Borden which was close by. He acquired red and white pine seedlings from the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.

However, because the department limited the seedlings to 200 per person, Milton co-opted his wife, his lawyer and his family members to increase the number and together they planted the first crop by hand. As one of the early pioneers in reforestation in the province, his leadership and funding has resulted in the largest individual privately owned reforestation area in Ontario, extending into three different counties: Simcoe, Grey and Dufferin. During these years Milton developed a very collegial relationship with the esteemed Dr. Edmund Zavitz, Chief of Reforestation for the Province of Ontario, as they pursued a common goal to return desolate land to healthy stands of trees.

Separating the stands, in terms of locations, ensured that not all trees would be lost in the event of a major catastrophe, such as fire or disease. Milton chose to keep all branches on the outer rim of each stand trimmed to a height of 16 feet to discourage knots which would reduce the value of the mature trees. This also minimized storm damage. In those early days, long-handled and mechanical trimmers were not used and Milton's son Bruce has memories of climbing the trees himself and trimming with an axe. On one lot, Milton became an early adopter of the practice of planting Christmas trees between the red pines, both planted at the same time. During the six to seven years until the Christmas trees matured, the pines were encouraged to grow straight. In addition, some short term income was generated when the Christmas trees were harvested. There was much skepticism about these practices; however, they proved successful over the years. The University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry often used the tree lots for educational purposes. In the 1970s a Ministry of Natural Resources representative commented that one of the lots had the highest concentration of healthy wood in southern Ontario. During the early years staff of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests provided generous advice and encouragement which was gratifying to the family.

Sadly, Milton died suddenly in his prime, at his beloved Lloydbrook in Terra Nova on 12 June, 1960. The timber stands have remained in the Lloyd family under the stewardship of Lloyd's son Bruce. In the 1970s, Bruce and Milton's wife Clara Lloyd successfully lobbied the Ontario Government, along with the Ontario Forestry Association (OFA), for fair taxation for Managed Forest properties. This resulted in the introduction of the Managed Forest Tax Rebate Program. This excellent program, eliminated by the province in 1993, was reinstated in 1996. In 2002 the government changed to market value assessment for Managed Forest properties. Bruce joined with the OFA and its membership once again to advocate for fair taxation, and this was achieved in 2005.

As a long-time member of the Ontario Forestry Association (now known as Forests Ontario), Bruce has always enjoyed a cooperative relationship around key issues, such as the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, and he considers this organization to be a true advocate and friend to Managed Forest owners.



One of Milton's pine plantations.

In 1955, Milton wrote:

Trees, Trees, Blessed Trees

When our grandfathers first discovered this country, the southern part was covered with dense forests. Today that forest has almost become a myth, if it were not for some old stump hidden in an out of the

way place. That once virgin forest has given way to waste land, no longer any use for farming, a picture of desolation, famine and dustbowls. Is our civilization going to survive under these conditions?

Get behind your Department of Reforestation and help to cover that bare and barren hill; that you may look with pride as the ground turns to green, and as the years go by your descendants can say, “My father or grandfather planted those trees.”

The man who plants a tree very seldom cuts it. What better monument can a man leave to show his unselfishness by planting a tree for future generations?

Milton’s early dream for our valuable forests continues to be realized to this day. It is hoped that his words will receive the respect and support of future generations as we move forward to develop and preserve our “Blessed Trees.”

Dr. Wladyslaw Plonski

By: Andrzej Skibniewski (Published in LAS POLSKI, No. 19/1999, pg. 27; Translated by Tom Tworzyanski).

Dr. Plonski in front of the signage of the "Walter L. Plonski Forest" (1986).

Wladyslaw Leon Plonski was born in Lwow, Poland on 4 April, 1901, where he also completed high school. As an army volunteer, he took part in the battle for Lwow in 1918-19 and also fought the Bolsheviks in 1920. He received a ribbon for his participation in the battle for Lwow, as well as the War Order of Virtuti Militari, which is Poland's highest military decoration for heroism and courage in the face of the enemy at war.

After the war, he attended The Officer's Artillery School in Torun. From 1920 to 1924, he studied forestry at the Agricultural-Forestry faculty of the Lwow Polytechnic Institute. After graduation he worked in that faculty as a teaching assistant in Forest Protection as well as in the Forest management. He received his doctorate after defending his thesis, titled "The impact of microrelief and soil types on the average height of tree stands." (Sylwan 1929, Nr2). In 1935 he further studied dendrometry and forest management. Between 1931 and 1935 he lectured in forest assessment and statistics. From 1935 to 1939 he lectured in forest stand management. In 1926 he passed Provincial exams for certification as an independent forest manager. This allowed him to also work as a private forest manager.

Six years later he commenced working at the Warsaw Research Institute where he was the general manager and director until 1939. During his tenure there he implemented 1,100 permanent sample plots in pine and spruce stands, which was the basis for developing growth and yield tables. In 1938, Plonski was nominated as a Professor and was to assume the Chair of Forest Management at Lwow Polytechnic. This was prevented by the outbreak of the Second World War, however.

From 1927 to 1939, Plonski published ten papers dealing primarily with the growth and yield of forest stands, more specifically spruce. In 1936 he took part in the Second International Forestry Congress

in Budapest and the IX IUFRO Congress in Hungary where he was a speaker. In 1937 he did a scientific tour to Germany that was published in a Polish technical Forestry Journal. From 1937 to 1939 he was the editor of the Polish Forestry Journal. He also participated in the Physiography Commission in Krakow. All this was a testament to his recognition as an active and well-recognized scholar and researcher up to 1939.

In August of 1939, he was drafted into the Polish Army. He served in the Polish Army in Poland, France and in the Great Britain with the rank of Captain. After the war he immigrated to Canada.

From 1948 to 1970, he worked with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. He was one of the first to establish management planning principles for the forests of Ontario. He also conducted growth and yield studies in the Englehart Management Unit. In 1986 the Englehart Management Unit was officially named the Walter Plonski Forest. He also received the Ontario Forestry Award, which is awarded to those who provided lasting and significant contributions to forest management in Ontario. Plonski passed away on 2 May, 1987 in Toronto.

Personal Recollections

My Centennial Summer as a Junior Ranger – Part 2

By: Garry Paget

Author's Note: Part One of this article, which chronicled events that happened in less than a full day, appeared in the Fall 2015 edition of Forestory. This piece brings us to the next morning, and covers the interesting journey of a seventeen year old who ventured into the bush for the first time as a member of the Junior Forest Ranger Program in the summer of 1967. What follows is an overview of that summer, condensed into 9 weeks and 2,400 words.

On Monday, 3 July 1967, the morning dawned early on Barclay Bay Camp. We had arrived in darkness the previous evening and it was probably both nature's call and the sounds of her orchestra that had awakened me. Not unlike the black and white beginning of the Wizard of Oz, I opened the door unto a world of bright sunshine - alive in greens and blues! I stopped on route to the "2-holer" and drank deeply. The camp was beginning to stir.

To my left the cul-de-sac ended at a baseball diamond. To my right, Lake Missinaibi, or "Big Miss," sparkled in the morning sun. All around me the Whiskey Jacks were squawking up a storm.[1] We had invaded their territory.

I cannot specifically remember what our first breakfast consisted of, but the daily fare was a combination of cereal, pancakes, toast, syrup, bacon, sausages, and/or eggs. Canned orange juice, coffee, tea, water and an occasional shipment of fresh milk washed it all down. I only know we never went hungry.

After breakfast, on our first day in camp, we met in the dining hall to get acquainted, and to set up the crews. Conrad Levesque, a quiet, smiling outdoorsman of French-Canadian descent, took control of the crew I was assigned to. Thus began my working summer.

***Top two photos:* "The Dock" was the main project for the summer. Barclay Bay was still foremost a fire camp and the dock's size would allow servicing of Ontario Provincial Air Service amphibious, firefighting aircraft and watercraft alike. Dock is approx. 30'x30' (10'wide birth). Author is third from the left in the top left photo. Author is third from the left in the top right photo.**

***Bottom two photos:* The "Turbo-Beaver" was a workhorse for the Department. This a/c (CF-OEI) was purchased by the OPAS in 1966 and I can remember it still smelled new inside! It was operated for Lands and Forests until it was sold in 1974.**

While the sequenced specifics are a distinct blur, the details are crystal clear in my memory. We fell quickly into the typical camp routine:

- Early bull-cook up to have fire burning to heat water for washing
- Hearty breakfast
- Dress into work clothes
- Down to the dock and board the pointer
- No dock at the new boathouse, as of yet, so we come ashore at the public dock and walk to work
- Back across the lake for lunch then a return trip for the afternoon's tasks
- Home in time to clean up for supper (usually a lake bath)
- After supper we were left to our own devices which included pick-up baseball, playing cards, fishing (from the dock or a trip in the pointer out onto 'Big Miss')
- Lights out by 11 p.m. as the morning comes early
- Each crew gives up 1 member to share the duties of bull-cook and "cookie" for 2 days
- We work Monday to Friday with a half day Saturday, all for $5/day plus room and board - and boy did we eat. Great food!
- Time off was spent fishing, traveling to Wrong Lake to play softball, traveling "Big Miss" in the pointer, checking out the history of the area (i.e. the remains of "Brunswick House" a Hudson Bay Company Outpost and Indian rock cliff pictographs at Fairy Point)

The group was split into two crews each under a sub-foreman, mine being Conrad Levesque. The "ne'er-do-wells" had Murray Cuthbert. I cannot recall if we had nicknames for the crews, but I'm sure we did. A strong, natural competitive energy played out between each crew - this was back in the days when that was acceptable! I know we wrote a song - at least someone did – and I had the words somewhere at one time.

For the first two weeks the jobs involved the rudimentary cleaning of the park because the visitors – there weren't a lot, and they were mostly Americans - pitched their camper trailers on the beach or had RVs. We also had to brush out the roughed-in campsites for the new "Missinaibi Wilderness Park." The cleaning was shared between the two crews. Initially, we all worked on the campsites. This allowed us to become acquainted with the tools, the jobs, and the environment. The tools consisted of Sandviks, chainsaws, axes, sledge hammers, draw knives, and bark peelers. We thinned jack pines from the area surrounding the park, peeled the bark, and cut them into roughly eight foot lengths. These were set to dry for later use the following year, as railings for the campsites. Both crews, at various times, were also involved in planting tublings of jack pine, a hearty northern species.

At the beginning and throughout the summer, whenever transport was required (whether it be for work or pleasure) it was dispatched from Wrong Lake. More often than not it arrived with Robert at the wheel. Robert, a Chapleau Cree, adopted us as an older brother. Robert was Supervisor to a crew of Senior Ranger tree planters. Unfortunately his last name, if I ever knew it, is lost to time.

But by far our most interesting and important project was the building of a new dock at the Department of Lands & Forests (DL&F) boathouse and storage shed. I believe this began the second week of July. We were told that each previous summer a dock had been constructed and each dock proved only temporary as the winter's ice succeeded in destroying it. It was determined that this structure would survive winter's grip.

There was only one crew at a time on the dock itself. My memory serves that our crew seemed to be the one who spent most time with the initial construction. I recall floating the original logs into place. I remember feeling that we had the more "seasoned gang," but that may have been the fact that Conrad was the senior sub-foreman and was assigned the task of building the dock. As each layer of logs was added, a floating wedge-shaped frame was formed. This was tied to the boathouse. Six large cribs were built into the structure. We used the pointer to collect rocks along the shoreline, which were placed in the cribs, causing the structure to sink. More logs were then added to the frame and the process repeated, until the dock was firmly settled on the bottom. We then levelled the frame in preparation for the decking boards. This was completed by the fulltime DL&F staff after we had departed. I can still remember that "we didn't get to finish the job" feeling.

There was never a moment that there wasn't something to do - even if it was doing nothing, which didn't happen very often. Working five and a half days a week makes that day and a half rather special.

And, there was never a dull moment, to say the least. A humorous incident with the connected cabin next door (the "ne'er do wells") occurred one sunny Sunday morning in August. I was awakened by the shuffling of many feet on the run and snickered guffaws! Upon inquiring on the situation, it was suggested I go out and look down towards the dock. There, in quiet repose, lay one of their cabin mates, sound asleep in his cot with a note pinned to his pillow. The note read, "If you don't take a bath today, you're going into the lake the next time." Allegedly, this individual was not bothering to bathe, and was getting rather ripe! I seem to recall he couldn't swim, and the lake was our only bath tub. I do remember that he was a heavy sleeper. Somehow, having gotten up early together, they managed as a group to carry his bed with him sound asleep out the door, down the steps and hill, onto the dock and left him there. They then retreated to sit on the porch and steps to see what happened when he woke up. In the end it all worked out and he was smelling properly by that afternoon. Frontier justice, I guess.

Top: ***Our canoe camp on Little Missinaibi Lake ("Little Miss").***

Middle: ***Missinaibi Lake ("Big Miss"). This shows about 10 miles of the 14 miles we paddled. Our fire camp is behind on the right and Whitefish Falls ahead on the left.***

Bottom: ***Little Missinaibi Lake with our island lower right.***

The most memorable adventure occurred during our canoe trip. Each camp had this as an end of summer event whereby a canoe trip was combined with the work of clearing out the established portages. Ours was set for the second week of August. Our trip was extended by three days due to weather. Four canoes, eleven Junior Rangers, and one foreman were deposited at the foot of Whitefish Falls at 10 a.m. and bid farewell. We set a course for Little Missinaibi Lake.

We carried enough food and supplies for five days. Having made our way via portages and paddling and one overnight stop, we arrived at the Little Missinaibi River early on the second afternoon and set up shop. Behind us, the portages between “Little Miss” and Trump and Elbow Lakes were clear of encroaching vegetation and deadfall. Our temporary home was on an island in the middle of the lake. A rock incline sloped upwards from the lake’s edge to ground some ten feet above water level. Tents were quickly pitched, camp organized, and cedar boughs collected for a mattress.

We were to have three full days there and be picked up by the DL&F’s “Turbo-Beaver Taxi” on the sixth day out. It would drop off the crew that would continue from where we left off and fly us back to Barclay Bay Camp. We spent two wonderful days exploring the area and generally relaxing. More than an hour or two was spent fishing, but we caught nary a bite except those from the squadrons of mosquitoes.

Whitefish Falls is a powerful waterfall, and a great place to fish pickerel. This photo shows the rugged beauty of the area.

The day before our pickup, the clouds moved in and the rain began. We had some food left, no fish, and it rained and rained. Conrad, the real fisherman in the group, set out to try to catch fish to feed the crew, but to no avail. Our own frugal attempts ended with the same success.

On the third day of rain, the decision was made to break camp the next day and paddle home, if the weather didn’t lift. Four canoes were subsequently loaded and we headed down the lake to the Little Missinaibi River and onto Whitefish Falls, running the rapids (minor as they were) as we made our way downstream. One final portage around Whitefish Falls brought us to the shores of Big Missinaibi Lake.

Big Missinaibi is not a forgiving lake at the best of times and is quite rough in bad weather. We headed out onto 'Big Miss' and paddled right down the middle of the lake with a following sea. It is the smoothest and safest place to be, aside from being onshore. As the waves rolled past us some water came over the gunwales, but our passenger/chief-bailer took care of that.

I recall the distance from Barclay Bay to Whitefish Falls being some fourteen miles. About a mile out our camp came into view. We got that "home-free" rush and picked up the pace. We were drenched to the bone, but not cold as we were heating up our thermal layers with body heat. What's hypothermia, anyway? Never heard of it.

Unbeknownst to us, Rick Wilson, our Camp Foreman, had been getting incredibly edgy. He was responsible for Conrad and a crew of eleven seventeen year-olds out in the bush and there has been no contact for eight days. As we approached, in the distance I saw a lone figure in a yellow rain slicker, walking slowly down to the slope to the dock. He stopped and suddenly ran up the hill to the cabins. It was still overcast, but the rain had stopped and visibility was good beneath the clouds. We had been sighted!

In less than a minute the camp was on the dock watching us paddle in. What a glorious feeling; home at last! I'm getting misty eyed as I type this. We were directed to our cabin as the others took care of our kit and equipment. I remember walking up the slope, into the cabin where a small drying fire was burning in the stove, and stripping off what felt like a ton of wet clothing. And then the stories began, and as fate would have it we were in time for supper.

Two days later the weather broke and the sun shone brightly. The "Turbo-Taxi" arrived to take the second crew to their appointed rounds, but, prior to departure, we were treated to our missed flight around the lake.

As the second crew headed out, we settled in to wind down our work projects and to finish the work remaining on "our dock." It was hard to believe that, before long, the summer would be over. The feeling of melancholy that spread over me is not forgotten.

The camp was quiet and reflective with only our crew at home. Our canoeing experience had welded us together. One of us came up with the idea to paint a piece of plywood in International Orange, scribe the

1. ***Aerial view of Barclay Bay Fire Camp***
2. ***Author takes a lake bath***
3. ***Barclay Bay Fire Camp***
4. ***Camp Dining Hall***
5. ***Conrad Levesque, from whom we learned so much about the bush, fishing off camp dock while author looks on.***

Centennial maple leaf logo on it, and to have everyone sign it. This was to be attached to the dock - our monument to a great summer. The second crew would sign it upon their return.

I believe it was Thursday, 31 August that we shipped out for home. I can't remember the ride into town, although I have a photo that captured part of that journey. I believe it was because I didn't want the summer to end. The train ride is a blur, but I do remember arriving in Ottawa. I overnighted with Fred Quick's family, and went to visit my girlfriend in Ottawa on Friday. On Sunday, 3 September, I departed for Brockville via Voyageur Bus Lines and arrived home that evening.

The summer of 1967 has left an indelible mark on me and, as a result, on my life as well. I've returned a number of times to visit "Big Miss" over the years, and it brings not only the intense pleasure of good memories but also an instant calming to my bio-rhythms. I've also run across familiar faces from this experience. It was a summer to remember, and has left me with a lifetime of great memories.

Fire Lookout Towers - What Could They Really See?

By Bob Mitton

The rain had pounded all night on the aluminum roof over the Chief Ranger's station in Biscotasing. Sleep had come with difficulty for the three members of the project team who were bedded down in the attic, otherwise known as the penthouse. First light had come over Biscotasi Lake with leaden skies, distant rolling thunder and light drizzle. This would not be a day for low helicopter flight and certainly visibility would not be the required fifteen miles. Forestry students Jerry Drysdale and Bob Mitton, along with helicopter pilot Glen Trudeau, would spend a day in the office organizing topographic maps and arranging for fuel caches and other logistics.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the forest fire lookout towers were the backbone of Ontario's fire detection system. During that time the last of the new towers were erected. At the same time new technologies were developing that held the potential to detect new fires more effectively, and perhaps in time, at less cost. It was for this reason that in early June, 1965 the Department of Lands and Forests had initiated a project to determine the effectiveness of the fire tower system. Part of this system-wide assessment consisted of mapping the areas visible from the fire towers, individually and collectively. A project team would spend the summer preparing visible area maps for the fire towers in Sudbury, Chapleau and White River Districts.

The Spring 2013 edition of *Forestory* (Volume 4, Issue 1) was dedicated to stories about forest fire and forest fire fighting history. In this issue, Clayton Self addressed the methods used to locate fire towers, the colourful characters who manned the towers, and the equipment and methods they used to spot and report smoke. Mr. Self's article provides the setting and background for this story.

Two key assumptions were made when mapping the area considered visible from each fire tower. First, it was assumed that fresh smoke from small fires could be observed within a line of sight of fifteen miles from the tower. Secondly, it was assumed that any landform closer than fifteen miles, that defined the horizon, effectively blocked the view beyond. Although some tower men thought that they could pick out small smokes at greater distances (a matter of pride, no doubt), these assumptions were generally adhered to provided that they applied uniformly to all towers.

Many readers will remember the large composite topographic wall maps that were mounted on the wall in chief ranger stations and district forest protection offices. The location of each tower was located by a coloured pin surrounded by a circular decal marked with the Azimuth scale. Also attached to the pin was a fine string. When a tower man reported the Azimuth reading of smoke the string was drawn across the map at that reading. Alerted by a common radio frequency, neighboring tower men would scan the area and report the smoke from their position. When the string from two or more towers intersected, the approximate location of a new fire could be determined. The same scale of maps and types of instruments used in this existing system were used for visible area mapping.

In each tower was a round table which supported a topographic map of the area, with the tower in the centre, and a ring around the circumference showing the Azimuth readings. The alidade was the sighting instrument used to pinpoint smoke and read the direction from the Azimuth ring.

The first step in the process took place in the tower and involved removing the fixed alidade from the tower man's map table. Then a new topographic map was secured to the table and oriented accurately by triangulating visible landmarks and using a very accurate box compass. A circle with a radius of fifteen miles, with the tower in the centre, was drawn on the new topographic map.

The next step required excellent visibility. The portable alidade was placed on the map with one corner over the tower location. While sighting through the alidade, a team member rotated the alidade until the sight line cut through a break in the horizon. A pencil line was drawn on the top map using the alidade as a straight edge. The alidade was then rotated further through an arc until the next break in the horizon occurred and another line was drawn. This formed a pie shaped figure on the topo sheet. The alidade would then be rotated very slowly through the full 360 degrees drawing a line at each point that the horizon was cut by a landform (see Figure 1). The result was a circle on the map with a number of pie shapes which the team called "sectors." Each sector was assigned a number. The final step of preparation in the tower was the replication of the circle and sectors on a transparent acetate overlaid on the map. The topographic map was carefully removed from the table leaving the acetate precisely positioned.

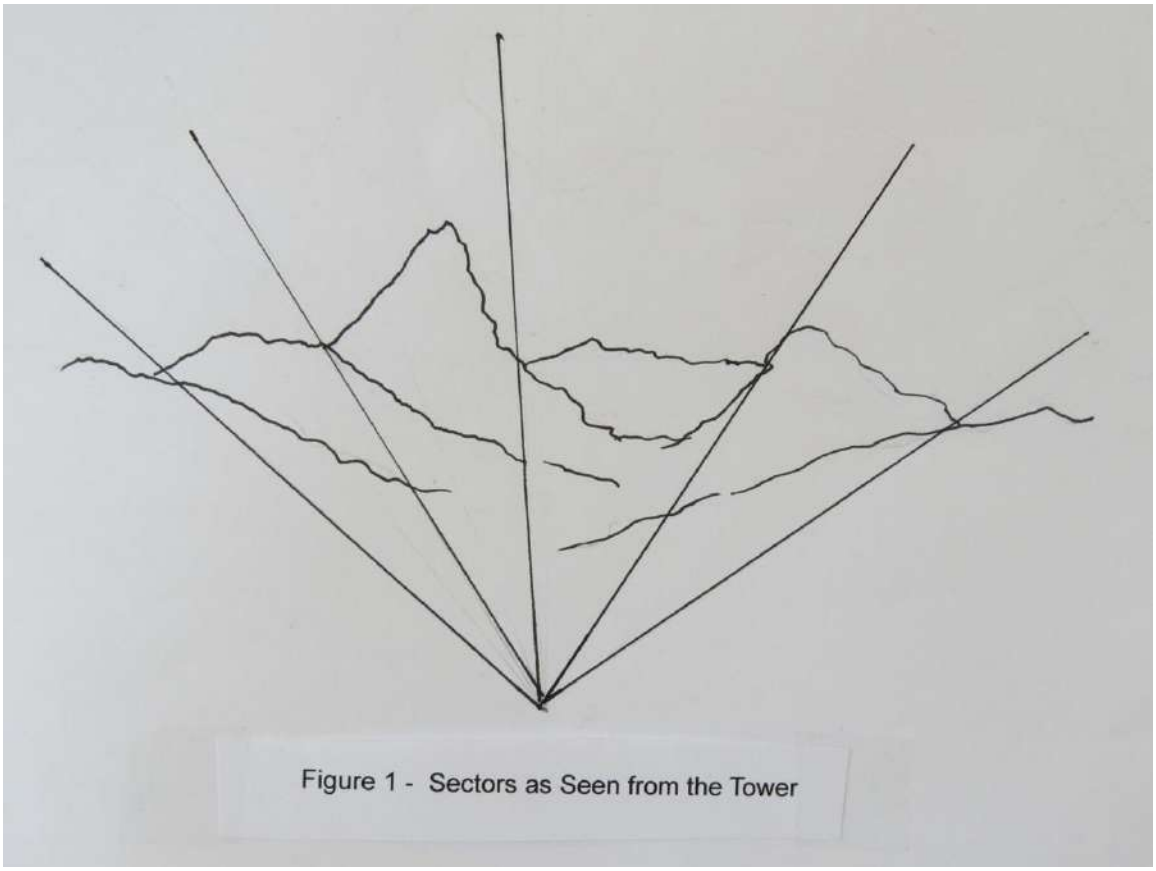


Figure 1 - Sectors as Seen from the Tower

In addition to excellent visibility, suitable weather conditions for low level helicopter maneuvers were required to determine the precise location of the horizon in each sector. One team member remained in the tower with a 20X60 spotting scope on a tripod directly over the acetate copy of the numbered sectors. The other team member took the topographic sheet with the numbered sectors in the helicopter. A dedicated open channel on the radio allowed for a continuous flow of conversation between the team member in the tower and the helicopter. The method used to locate the horizon in each sector was through a line-of-sight from the tower to the helicopter. The tower member would

watch the helicopter fly out, at low level, in each sector until it disappeared over the landform that formed the horizon. The call would then go out: “You’re behind it.” The helicopter would make a tight 180 degree turn and fly back towards the tower staying in the sector. As soon as the helicopter came back into view the call would go out, “You’re in front of it.” For the next few minutes the helicopter would hover and fly slowly over the landscape below allowing the team member in the helicopter, in collaboration with the pilot, to draw the location of the hill or feature that constituted the horizon. This was easy if the feature was a distinct hill, but tricky if the feature was a gentle ridge. The exact same process was followed for each sector until all the horizon was mapped or declared to be beyond fifteen miles from the tower (a typical visible area map would look like Figure 2 superimposed on a topographic map).

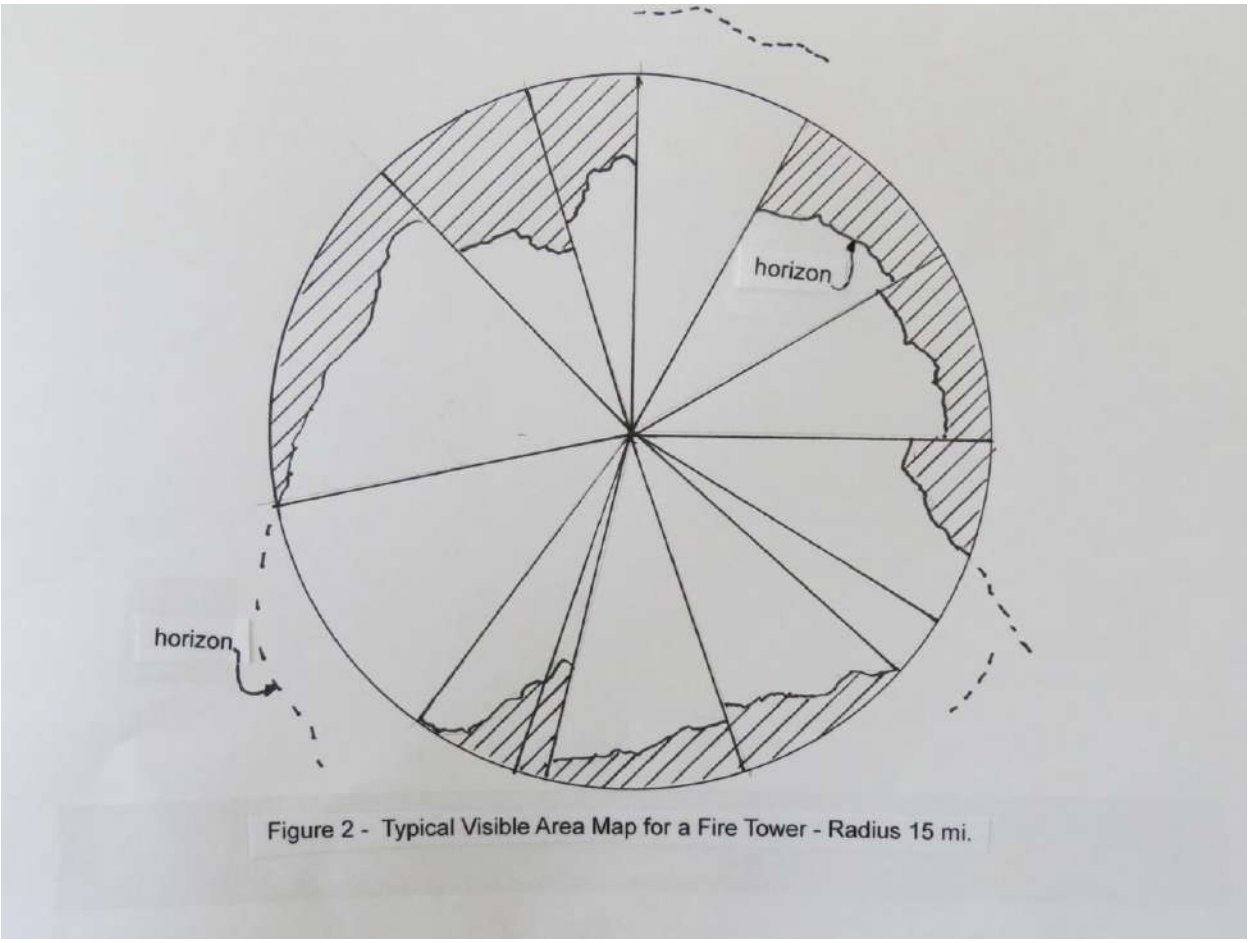


Figure 2 - Typical Visible Area Map for a Fire Tower - Radius 15 mi.

For each tower the team members switched roles. The job in the tower was a one way trip to eyestrain. A small Bell G4 helicopter at fifteen miles, even through the scope, looked like a fruit fly on the window! Losing sight of the helicopter, when hit in the eyes by the sun or losing one’s concentration, required much chatter on the radio and climbing into the clear sky where it could be more easily seen. Time was lost when this happened. The helicopter crew had their own challenges. Map reading, staying in the correct sector while flying at a very low level, and being sure of your exact location through lots of turns and climbing was difficult even for one not prone to motion sickness or vertigo (fortunately none of us were). Sketching of the location of the horizon required absolute accuracy in location so, when becoming disoriented, the helicopter also had to climb high enough to allow for accurate map reading, then return to the correct sector. Fortunately the learning curve proved to be fairly steep and the team became more efficient as the weeks went by.

The final step was undertaken in district offices, usually on the floor of the boardroom. Once again new topo maps were cut and taped into a composite of the whole district. The completed visible area map for each fire tower had been copied to the transparent acetate so they could be placed on the large composite map and overlay each other. This was the final phase and the one that created great curiosity in the district office. Everyone wanted to watch the visible area map for the district take shape. It clearly showed what the tower system could see but, more importantly, it showed what no tower could see!

The most immediate follow up action would be regular flights, especially after lightning storms, concentrated on the areas that the towers could not see. As we know now, the long-term implications were a gradual reduction in reliance on towers and greater dependency on an aircraft and then increasingly on more advanced remote sensing technologies.

In 1994, flying in a Ministry of Natural Resources aircraft from Chapleau to Sudbury, a few short detours allowed for overflights of former tower sites that had become so familiar almost thirty years earlier. Some were visible only as the remaining concrete abutments but, alas, most were barely recognizable in a clearing now being reclaimed by the forest. Fortunately a few of Ontario's fire lookout towers have been saved and maintained by interested communities and local citizens as monuments to this romantic period of our forest history. Passing within sight of Biscotasi, one wondered if the "penthouse" is still used by summer students.

Timber Harvesting Has Changed in the Boreal Forest

By Mac Squires

This article was previously published in the Thunder Bay *Chronicle Journal* (8 February, 2014 as "Follow forest industry's good example") and has been reproduced with the author's permission.

Are the things that disturb us about current harvesting more a result of the harvesters' behaviour than of the silvicultural techniques being used? Much of our concern about timber harvesting is based on memories of practices that were current years ago, but today are rare. Let's look back four decades.

I recall in the early 1970s participating in national conferences of industrial foresters in which we reflected on rising public criticism of our practices. We knew that media and public perceptions were based on a mix of truth and something else, but in the public's eyes perception was reality. We asked ourselves, "Are we able to make a difference?" The industry was counting on us to propose ways in which it could improve its image. Many of us proposed to our employers that we openly confront our faults and correct them.

Throughout the 1970s it remained easy to see careless practices on harvesting operations anywhere in North America. Some of the more obvious practices included ignoring fuel and oil leakage or even dumping oils on the ground; abandoning broken machinery and parts; leaving broken and retired cable where last used; excessive bulldozing of extraction road rights-of-way and landings; causing soil erosion and stream siltation by blocking drainage with poorly constructed roads, culverts and bridges and using machinery in streams; leaving merchantable logs that were lost from skidders to rot on cutovers and piles of harvested wood to rot at roadsides; and, of course, not ensuring regeneration of harvested areas.

Six years after this fen near Keelor Lake along Highway 527 was severely rutted by wheeled skidders during timber harvesting, the ruts are beginning to fill in with growing sphagnum moss and naturally seeded black spruces are beginning to grow.

This waste of resources and the natural environment had been publicly condoned and attempted improvement was even impaired by wavering official public policies from the beginning of timber harvesting, but by the late 1970s it was clear that citizens now cared and they were no longer going to tolerate careless practices. Our faults were exposed for all to see and the industry was being hurt in its markets.

Objective self-examination forced us to admit that there was much that we could do to improve. As lobby groups' pressure on our world markets and media attention intensified, our industry began to respond.

To help guarantee wood supply, the industry requested and successfully negotiated Forest Management Agreements in which they took responsibility for forest management on their licensed areas, and during the early 1980s things began to change. Harvested areas were now subjected to independent forest-management audits which opened investor's and management's eyes to the fact that there was much truth in our critic's claims.

My employer empowered its foresters to draft a forest management policy followed by a policy on all of our behaviour in the natural environment. After corporate approval of the final documents they were made public and applied to company-wide operations. Our executives made it clear that all employees from the top down were accountable for living those policies. Today I recall the pride that generated among us and how the change in corporate attitude caused dramatic change in the bush. We were now able to make a difference. We were determined to become leaders for positive change in our industry.

By the mid-1990s, the forest industry had generally cleaned up its act. Oh yes, there were, and still are, exceptions to the rule, but a company can no longer expect to ignore public criticism and retain the freedom to carelessly operate without consequences on public land. I am convinced a battered but enlightened industry now welcomes that change.

Now, let's ensure that all other industries, businesses, and citizens follow the forest industry's good example because with objective reflection we can all discover ways to improve our attitudes and practices. Let's do it.

This 29-year old mixed stand of black spruce and eastern larch is at the same location as the scene in photo above. The ruts have partially grown over with sphagnum moss but some holes remain. The trees are healthy and growing surprisingly fast for the site. Deep water-filled holes are a normal feature of black spruce fens.

Species

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum)*

The red maple is found in central and southern Ontario, namely in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. It is a medium-sized tree that can grow up to 25 metres tall, with a trunk that's 60 centimetres in diameter. Its leaves are 5 to 15 centimetres long, light green on top and paler underneath. Its bark is smooth and light gray when the tree is young, turning greyish-brown, scaly and ridged as the tree gets older. The seeds of the red maple are contained in "keys" that float down from the tree's branches in the early summer. The red maple grows best in moist soil, but can tolerate different moisture levels and thus can grow in a variety of soils. It can also tolerate some shade. The red maple is a tall, straight tree in the forest, but in the open it tends to divide its main stem several times, often making it susceptible to breaking later in life. This is a good, fast-growing shade tree, although pruning and maintenance may be needed to keep its form strong if it is shading your house. Its roots are shallow, but they can spread widely, so make sure you plant your red maple where it will have room to grow. It's easy to recognize the red maple in the autumn when its leaves turn a beautiful

bright red.[1]

The maple leaf has long played an important symbolic role in Canadian culture. From as early as the nineteenth-century, the maple leaf has featured prominently in various forms of Canadian poetry, song, coinage, medals, and other popular imagery. In 1921, King George V proclaimed the Royal Coat of Arms of Canada, thereby making red and white the country's national colours. Then, in 1946, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie appointed a committee to study the idea of creating a unique national flag for Canada. That year, of the over 2,000 designs that were submitted by the public to the national flag committee, nearly 70% included maple leaves. However, it was not until 1965, after years of debate and inaction, that Canada officially adopted its present-day flag. With the red maple leaf serving as the flag's centrepiece, it is no wonder why this tree holds a special place in the hearts and minds of so many Canadians.[2]

[1] "Red Maple," *Government of Ontario*, https://www.ontario.ca/page/red-maple (accessed 26 April 2016).
[2] "National Flag of Canada," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/flag-of-canada/ (accessed 26 April 2016).

The Archives/Museums Corner

CAMP 51 – The One Millionth Cord

By: Nipigon Historical Museum Archives (Published with permission of Betty Brill, Museum Curator)

Domtar Woodlands Limited, Nipigon, Ontario: One millionth cord was cut by Camp 51 on 31 October, 1968.

About Camp 51

While the early history of Camp 51 is sketchy, it is known that the original buildings were erected in Nipigon in 1944 by Northern Forest Products Limited. This was a one year pole cutting operation, but no record of the quantity that was cut is available.

In 1945, local contractors Rask and Sundstrum moved their wives and 14 children onto the site and spent the entire winter producing 320 cords which were then hauled to and shipped from Jellicoe.

On April 9, 1946, Roy L. Tansley & Sons Limited, represented by Son T.E. "Tom" Tansley and W. E. "Bill" Sinclair, moved onto Brompton Pulp and Paper Company Limited limits to salvage 7,000 cords of blow-down at Camp 51 and produce lumber and pulpwood. This was a great boost for the nearby community of Jellicoe which had almost become a ghost town since the wartime closing of near-by mines. In 1946, the site produced 10,670 cords, making it a very respectable operation for its time.

Although the "Bull of the Woods" era was past, camp buildings were constructed of rough lumber in those days and insulation and indoor plumbing was still in the distant future. Kerosene and pressurized gas lanterns provided the illumination, but even then the horse barn enjoyed electricity produced with a gasoline powered generator. Horses were in one part of the barn and pigs in the other. It was rather common practice for a camp to raise its own pork.

The first night the generator was installed, it seems that one teamster who was slightly under the weather went to the barn to check on his horse. The story goes that he thought all the unexpected brilliance was caused by demons. As he tried to escape, he fell over a low partition into the pig pen, passed out, and spent the night with the pigs.

The 1947 season produced 17,777 cords of forest products, the greater part of which was pulpwood. Horses, of course, played a major part in moving the logs to the river banks and skid-ways. Mechanical equipment was in very short supply during the early post-war years. Power saws were not here yet, and the tubular steel bow saw frame and narrow raker tooth blade was used exclusively to fell and buck. Although the turnover of workers was high, as men searched for greener pastures, some did stay, and left camp in the spring with well-stuffed wallets.

Fellers like Ken and Rocky Anderson hand loaded 40 cords of eight foot pulpwood a day, and one day set a record of loading 65 cords. Considering that a cord of pulpwood weighs about 3,500

pounds, it isn't too hard to determine the effort put into a feat of this kind.

It was about this time that a Miss Barbara Bradbury, a comely Montreal Miss, riding a pony to Vancouver, stopped over at Camp 51 for a short rest. She stayed on as a cook and worked for a year. Later, Miss Bradbury published a book of her experience, and much of her story was about Camp 51.

In 1948 a new era of logging began when the first power saw arrived at Camp 51. A cumbersome man killer, weighing all of 45 pounds, it heralded the move of the forest industry towards more mechanization and the end of the old “Bucksaw."

Men were scarce, and the first displaced persons of World War II were now arriving from Europe. These people had lost all their worldly possessions during the war, and had chosen Canada in which to make their new home. Camp 51 received its share of the 400 immigrants which Brompton undertook to employ.

Living conditions in camp again showed a marked improvement. Eight brand new 8- man sectional bunkhouses were constructed on the hill overlooking the river. Centrally located washrooms were built in order to make living away from home just a little easier.

It was also in 1948 that a new cookery to accommodate 100 men was constructed. Here again, this seemed to be a matter of dire necessity. A family of skunks had established residence under the old cookhouse. It appeared to be easier to build a new one than to move the skunks.

And this was also the year the first portable Nesco Slasher arrived on the limits at a cost of $7,260.72. This piece of equipment did not prove to be economical and was seldom used again. However, it did prove that an evolution was taking place and that the horse era would soon be a thing of the past.

Art Steinke, Neil Arthur, Connie Ropret, and Paul Lewicki were already well up on the seniority ladder. Connie eventually established the longest run for any cook - 19 years.

The year 1949 was slow for Camp 51. Limit production ground to a halt, and had it not been for the sawmill operation, Camp 51 would have closed its doors. However, timber and lumber for mining operations was in demand, and 2,730 cords of forest products were produced for conversion to building materials.

Although production picked up in 1950, it was slightly below the 1948 figure. These were the years of the "Jammer" loading operations, and winter horse hauls where men could still pride themselves with having the best team in the camp.

Nipigon Historical Museum photo

A great deal of affection existed between horse and man then. Today, of course, you don't give your Wheeled Skidder a friendly pat, or cover it over with a blanket to protect it from rain and snow. Jammers were the noon day meeting places, and lunches - often hot - were served around a roaring fire. However, the Jammer's day was also numbered. In 1951, a mechanical giant made its first appearance. Referred to as a "Bundle Yarder" or "Cable Yarder," this self-propelled leviathan literally dragged one cord bundles of pulpwood off the strips for distances of up to 700 feet and loaded the wood on the decks of waiting trucks. The use of these machines resulted in radical changes in logging methods and introduced parallel all-weather roads and increased summer pulpwood delivery. Gradually the need for horses diminished.

By 1952 there were further improvements in the bundle yarding techniques, and more sophisticated “Drott” front end loaders started to make their appearance. The move towards total mechanization was becoming more rapid. St. Lawrence Corporation Limited had purchased Brompton assets the year previous, and the influence of the larger company was becoming evident.

In 1953 production increased and facilities expanded. New wash and dry rooms were constructed that year, and flush toilets appeared for the first time - goodbye at last to the outdoor biffies. Indeed, another era had passed. This was the year when the saw-mill went up in flames, but Tansley and Company gamely started reconstruction on the same site.

During 1954, production remained constant, but the lumber market was giving very little return for the investment. In 1955, the saw-mill closed its doors, never to re-open. However, demand for pulpwood was stronger than ever, and Camp 51 produced 61,810 cords - an amount far in excess of any previous year.

In 1956 and 1957 production dipped slightly. This was the last year for the truck owner-driver. In 1958, a new fleet of tandem trucks was purchased to provide for bigger pay load and more efficient operation. In 1959, 73,235 cords of forest products were produced, surpassing by far any previous cut. This equalled the production of ten or more camps in the early days and was certainly a new record for our limits.

The year 1960 is best known for the great fire hazard. The largest fire in standing timber ever to

occur on company limits broke out at Camp 51 that year, and raged uncontrolled through 60,000 cords of potentially merchantable pulpwood. Over 500 fire fighters were called upon in what was one of the greatest salvage operations ever, as 30,000 to 40,000 cords of fire-killed timber was ultimately picked up.

The year 1961 was truly the end of the horse and buggy days, as the last horse was retired at Camp 51. While horses were still used elsewhere on the limits, Camp 51 was now completely mechanized. The "Tree Farmer" had finally taken over. It seems so hard to have any affection for the wheeled monsters we see now.

A modern two-story centrally located bunkhouse now appeared on the hill above the cookery. Two men to a room offered more privacy that the former eight-bed plan. Some liked the change, but others preferred the old life. However, we cannot stand in the way of progress.

On 1 October 1962, the St. Lawrence Corporation was to be purchased by Dominion Tar and Chemical Company Limited. Then, on July 12, 1963, "Domtar Day" was celebrated, and Camp 51 was honoured by a visit from Mr. W. N. Hall, President of Dominion Tar and Chemical.

The next few years were quite uneventful as Camp 51 continued to produce its share of limit wood. The old garage had burned down, and had been replaced by a new one. The last of the yarders was scrapped and new trucks and skidders were replacing the older types. Production was becoming more efficient, as power saws and machines were improving continually.

In 1965, a new modern cafeteria style cookery was erected across the road from the old one – same "good grub," but better surroundings. Staff quarters were also constructed on the hill to make the foreman's lot a little easier. It was 1966 when the first portable lunch shacks appeared on skidding sites. Workmen could use these shelters in case of rain.

The year 1967 saw the completion of another two-storey bunkhouse that could accommodate 88 men. The old eight-man bunkhouses were scrapped and abandoned, but were certainly not forgotten by many of the workmen. But what was considered modern 20 years ago certainly looks obsolete now.

That same year, a new "Nesco" Slashmobile made its appearance. Remember the old ones that cost $7,000-8,000? The new machine is worth ten times that amount, but what a difference in performance!

In 1968, the old eight-man bunkhouses burned down, but Camp 51 produced its 1,000,000th cord on 31 October, 1968. And so ended another era. It is unclear if the production of 1,000,000 cords from one camp is a record.

The Nipigon Historical Museum wishes to thank the author of this piece.

DID YOU KNOW?

1,000,000 Cords piled 4' high and 4' wide, would stretch for a distance of 1,515 miles, or from Camp 51 west to Banff, Alberta. Or, following Highway 11 to the East through Montreal, it would stretch from Camp 51 to Moncton, New Brunswick.

The individual sticks to make up 1,000,000 Cords, if laid end to end, would reach 90,910 miles, or

FOUR times around the earth at its circumference.

1,000,000 Cords of Pulpwood would produce 1,818,182,000 pound of Newsprint.
This is equal to 4,675,325,142 issues of a 28 page Newspaper, which is the average size of a weekday issue of the News Chronicle or Times Journal (these are Port Arthur and Fort William - now Thunder Bay - newspapers). And it would keep the newsprint machine at Red Rock in production for 13 years.

The newsprint produced from 1,000,000 Cords, if laid flat, would cover 3,912,960 acres, or 6,114 square miles.

Nipigon Historical Museum

40 Front Street, Nipigon, ON
Open daily during the summer months from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Admission by silver collection.
Curator: Betty Brill
Email: nipigonmuseum@gmail.com
Phone: 807-887-0356

The Nipigon Historical Museum displays a number of artifacts that will help you to understand the rich history of the Town of Nipigon and its surrounding area. A number of different displays showcase the history of Nipigon from the time of the fur trade to the development of the forest industry. Each display offers an impressive amount of information through literature and artifacts such as the tools that were used, the product that was made, or pictures of the people who were there at that time.[3]

[3] "Nipigon Historical Museum," http://www.nipigon.net/visitors/nipigon-historical-museum (accessed 10 May 2016).

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.

Investigating the Birch
By: G.A. Sinclair

Sylva 1950 Volume 6 (2) 3-9.

Birch! What sort of a picture does that word bring to the minds of people in Northern Ontario? Those of a poetic nature probably see chaste white birches whose leaves and branches dance gracefully to the music of a gentle summer breeze on the picturesque shore of a northern lake. The more practical-minded would see stands of white birch - D.B.H. 8" – 14" ready for cutting into bolts to be used for wooden-ware or fuelwood. Those botanically-minded would think of the family *Betulaceae*, genus *Betula*, species *Papyrifers*, *lutea* and others. There are a host of other pictures which the "birch" conveys, each tailored to individual experiences. However, the one to be discussed is one with which many folk in Northern Ontario are becoming more familiar. To many hardwood operators, "birch" represents a job, a home, a car – in other words, it is a source of livelihood. In the last five years, the interest of these lumbermen in birch has been increasing. This concern stems from a condition of this species known as "birch-dieback" which, since 1935, has destroyed many valuable stands in the Maritime provinces, and which has been thought by some to be spreading westward through Quebec to Ontario. It is natural, then, that they should be concerned with the health of a tree which is the most important commercial hardwood of eastern Canada. Let us look into the personal habits of this influential tree.

The northern border of the range of yellow birch, whose other common names are gray, black, bronze and curly birch, extends from the Lake of the Woods area in north-western Ontario east to Lake Superior, and generally follows a line east of Michipicoten to the Maritime provinces. Although it grows on sites ranging from rich bottomlands to less fertile ridges, it reaches its best growth on the lower portion of well-drained slopes. This species has been known to exceed heights of one hundred feet and diameters of three to four feet, but a general average is sixty to seventy-five feet in height and two feet in diameter.

Knowing the size yellow birch may attain and the position it holds in the hardwood lumbering industry, the anxiety of lumbermen is quite understandable in view of this possible threat by "birch dieback" to its future. As a result, top priority has been given by forest research authorities to the investigation of the condition of yellow birch.

In 1947, Mr. G.W. Barter, an expert on assessing the amount of dieback in birch stands, came from the Maritimes to make a preliminary survey of the conditions of yellow birch in Ontario. He returned again in 1948 and reviewed the areas visited the previous season. In his report, he suggests "that the birch in the areas visited in Ontario as far west as North Bay are in a state of deterioration which may be the early stages of the condition which preceded the dying of birch in New Brunswick. Whether such a condition will develop in Ontario or reach such serious proportions as it did in the Maritimes, can only be determined by an annual check on the condition of individual trees in the main birch-growing regions of the province."

In the summer of 1949, the Dominion Laboratory of Forest Pathology, Toronto, in conjunction with the Research Division of the Department of Lands and Forests and the Dominion Division of Forest Entomology, began a more intensive survey, a survey which (at the outset) is expected to last ten years. Permanent sample plots in accessible areas of yellow birch were located from the South River area on the west to the Petawawa Forest Experimental Station in the east, and from Abinger Township in Lennox and Addington County in the south to French Township on Highway No. 63 in the north. Within this portion of the range of yellow birch, plots were established in areas felt to be representative of the locality. Where possible, the plots were put on Crown land, but on a few occasions private land was used. Most of the plots are an acre in size.

The work done on each plot consisted of marking the area with corner posts (painted white with a red top for easy identification), tagging and tallying the diameters of all trees whose diameter was two inches or more, making a detailed description of the condition of each birch tree (yellow and white), and the plot itself, and mapping the topography and every tagged tree on this plot. Fifty feet or more away from the plot, yellow birch trees in various stages of crown injury were felled and analyzed intensively. Both on the plot and on the felled trees, special note was made of any disease symptoms and insects present. Further work during the early fall consisted of collecting increment borings from every species of tree on the plot.

Another phase of this study is the inoculation of healthy trees with the pure culture of a fungus belonging to the genus *Phomopsis*. This fungus is one that has been found quite frequently in dead twigs of yellow birch. It is hoped that a detailed account of the movement of this possible agent for causing the primary symptoms of dieback may be recorded. It is know that *Phomopsis* will weaken a tree by killing leaves and small twigs, but whether it does enough damage to cause the death of a tree has yet to be proved. Repeated experiments and annual checks of these experiments should tell the story.

As may be well imagined, the task of assimilating and assessing all the data is not easy. It may seem to those not fully acquainted with this branch of forest research that much of the information gathered is superfluous. This is not true. There are so many characteristics peculiar to each plot that often data which in the summer was thought to have little or no consequence, proves to be of great importance when the report is being compiles. A full report of all details is published upon completion of the study and is available to all. Each year, interim reports are distributed to various interested parties to keep them abreast of the work under way.

Here it might be mentioned that, in the north-eastern States experiments of a similar nature are in progress. In addition American pathologists are investing the possibility of a virus as the prime cause of the dying-back of birch. So far, their findings almost climate virus as a principle agent.

At the time of writing it is difficult to make a statement concerning the condition of birch in Ontario. From the areas visited, it is evident that some of the yellow birch show symptoms similar to the early characteristics of the Maritimes "birch dieback". However, the symptoms, though met with in each area, were never in alarming quantities nor was there any uniformity to their occurrence. So far there is not sufficient information to draw any final conclusions. More work will be done on plots already established, as well as in plots yet to be located until the economic range of yellow birch has been thoroughly investigated. Two important phases of this work are the annual examination of the crowns of all the birch trees on the plots, and the complete classification of each site.

White birch (*Betula papyrifera*), it is hoped, will be dealt with in a similar manner but of more importance at the moment in the condition of yellow birch in Ontario. If it is found to be deteriorating at an abnormal rate, any possible measures to control this destruction will be undertaken.

Co-operation is the keynote to this survey, for no one branch of either the Department of Agriculture (federal) or the Department of Lands and Forests (provincial) can hope to deal satisfactorily with all aspects. Nor is co-operation between the various branches of provincial and federal governments all that is essential. On a few occasions it was necessary to locate plots on private lands. Not once was any opposition encountered. In fact, in all cases a free rein was given the field party and aid was offered if needed. Such a spirit of friendliness and co-operation will unquestionably simplify the problems still to be met and solved before the birch dieback question reaches a successful conclusion.

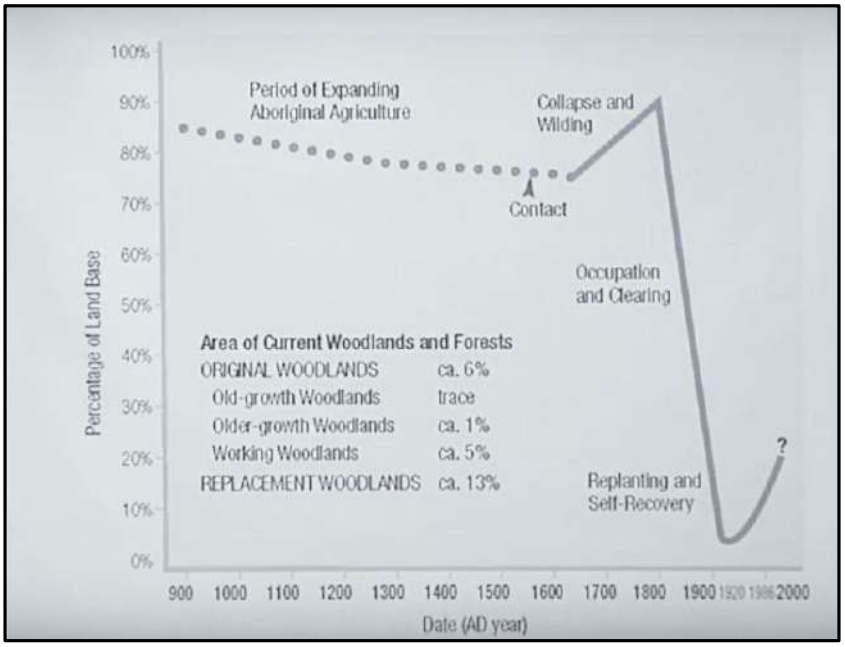
Books / Articles / Web Sites or Other Resources

John Riley's "The Once and Future Great Lakes Country: Grasslands, Extinctions, Invasives and Us."

By: Sherry Hambly

The following is a recap of a presentation delivered by John Riley (Author and Chief Science Advisor, Emeritus, Nature Conservancy of Canada) at the Third Annual Trent/Kawartha Land Trust Talk, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. The video can be accessed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ1YGHucoVg),

John Riley, who has researched and written extensively about the history of the natural environment in southern Ontario, gives a provocative one hour lecture in this video on the changes that have taken place in the Great Lakes region over the past five hundred years. From a thriving mosaic of grasslands and cultivated areas created and managed by indigenous peoples, alongside towering original forests, the land and natural environment has been changed dramatically by the influx of European settlers and their descendants.



The advent of settlers decimated not only the native human population, but also the natural environment. Riley describes these changes and contends that the invasive species brought to the new world over the past 500 years are greater threats than climate change.

The Great Lakes Region holds one quarter of the world's fresh water, and at its current rate of growth will be home to over 40 million people by 2050. Healthy, abundant forests are vital to the well-being of this area. While almost all of the original natural environment has disappeared, Riley ends on an

upbeat note, showing the tremendous efforts and positive results of ecological restoration over the past twenty years that hold hope for the future.

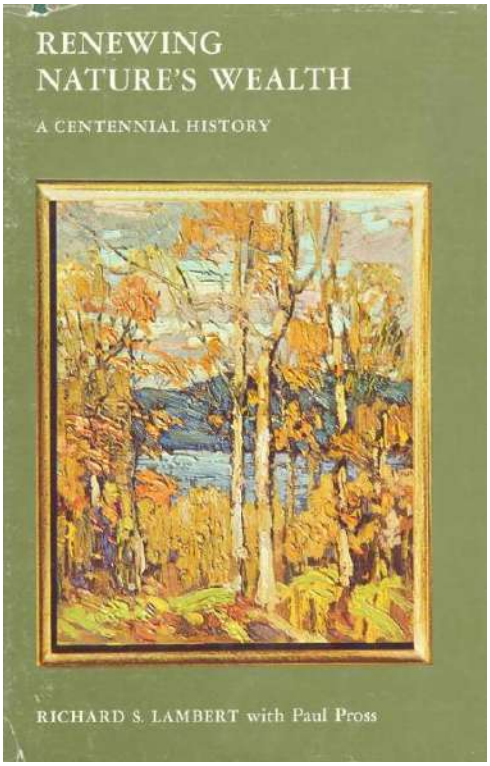
His talk is filled with interesting facts and perspectives and ends by challenges us to “restore the world you want to be.” The video is well worth an hour of your time.

Other Interesting Online Sources:

Krista McCracken, “Archival Literacy and the Role of Universities in Archival Instruction”: http://activehistory.ca/2016/02/archival-literacy-learning/

“Origins of Common Tree Names”: http://www.ontree.ca/faqs-resources/articles/origin-of-common-tree-names

Renewing Nature's Wealth



Lambert, Richard S. and Pross, Paul. *Renewing Nature's Wealth: A Centennial History of the Public Management of Lands, Forests, & Wildlife in Ontario, 1763-1967.* Toronto: The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, 1967.

Renewing Nature's Wealth is approaching the 50th anniversary of its original publication, and yet it still manages to offer readers valuable information on an important part of Ontario's history. The book covers a span of nearly 200 years, describing the impact made by a civilized people upon the primitive forest that originally covered the land. It also traces the development of Ontario's 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 *Forestory*. All photos are taken from the book itself.

Chapter 12: The Start of the Air Service (pages 234-249)

Shortly after the First World War, the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests began using airplanes to help it conduct some of its work. The postwar era was characterized by a surplus of aircraft and demobilized pilots looking for employment throughout the country, and thus the Department saw aviation as an opportunity to modernize its practices and increase its efficiency.

After a few test flights were conducted in 1920, the Department began taking a more systematic approach to its use of aircraft. In 1921 it facilitated an aerial timber survey in northwestern Ontario using three HS2L flying boats that had been supplied by the Federal Air Board. This project proved successful, namely in the sense that it confirmed that the aerial sketching of forest-type maps was a viable practice. Various test flights conducted during the early 1920s demonstrated that airplanes

were also a useful means of detecting and controlling forest fires, classifying forest types, estimating quantities of timber, and performing other tasks in managing natural resources in Ontario.

1948 Beaver

Provincial Forester E.J. Zavitz was soon approached about the possibility of the Department establishing its own air service to carry out this type of work in the future, and this eventually culminated in the formation of the Ontario Provincial Air Service (OPAS) in 1924. That same year, the Department purchased a fleet of fourteen HS2L flying boats, and named W.R. Maxwell, a former employee of the privately owned Laurentide Air Service, as the first director of OPAS. Described as "a first rate organizer and operator," Maxwell held this position for nearly a decade. Upon his appointment, he quickly selected Sault St. Marie as OPAS's centre of operations, and in 1925 a large hangar, eighty by one hundred feet in size, was built in the city. Maxwell was ultimately dismissed in 1934 after a Royal Commission found that he had a tendency of "showing favouritism in his organization and of allowing confusion in his accounts." He was replaced by G.E. Ponsford, who apparently implemented few changes in the organization during this tenure as director, which lasted until 1961.

Over the years the Department continued to expand and modernize its use of aircraft and related technologies. In 1924, one of its employees built the first effective short-wave transmitter and receiver, and this device played a key role in detecting a fire in the Sudbury region that summer. Within a matter of years the Ontario Provincial Radio Service was formed, a province-wide network of radio stations which by 1966 had expanded to 2,247 stations. In addition, the Department purchased

new aircraft from time to time, acquiring fourteen Norseman planes from 1944 to 1952. It even built its own planes – four Buhls CA-6 aircraft – during World War II. However, by 1965 the Department's fleet consisted of 33 Beaver planes and ten Otters. It also gradually expanded the number of its airbases from three (initially at Remi Lake, Sudbury, and Sioux Lookout) to twenty-eight across the province by the late-1960s.

Otter aircraft "Ody" dropping a load of water.

From the early 1920s until the late 1960s, a number of individuals associated with the OPAS were presented with the McKee Trans-Canada Trophy, an award that was presented annually by the Minister of National Defence "for operations tending to advance Canadian aviation." For example, in 1964, Frank MacDougall, the Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, received the award "for his many years of energetic activity in building up the Ontario Air Service to its present high level."

Chairman's Report on the Annual General Meeting, February 2016

It is with great pleasure that I can report that the Forest History Society of Ontario (FHSO) conducted another very successful Annual General Meeting (AGM). It was held on 4 February 2016 at the Nottawasaga Inn near Alliston, Ontario. As usual, the meeting occurred the day before Forests Ontario hosted its annual conference and general meeting.

We were fortunate to have a very strong turnout – arguably our largest and most enthusiastic ever – at the meeting, and the event was both informative and enjoyable. I explained that we had succeeded in 2015 in publishing one edition of our wonderful journal, *Forestory*; this was only possible because of the great editorial work done by Scott Miller, a student in Laurentian University's MA History program. Scott went to great lengths to ensure that this volume of *Forestory* was a high-quality publication, and he hit the bull's eye in this regard. In addition, I outlined how we continue to act as the liaison between potential donors of archival materials and repositories across the province. In order to illustrate how long this process can sometimes take, I relayed the story of the late W.K. Fullerton, a lifelong professional forester. It took roughly five years from the time I first contacted his son, Andrew, until Mr. Fullerton's papers were donated to the Archives of Ontario. I also updated those present at our AGM on the status of our application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Although we were unsuccessful in our first application some years ago, I pointed out that we were committed to trying again, a project on which Scott Miller and I would be working in the near future. The goal is to obtain a substantial grant that we can use to put the FHSO on a sustainable basis, principally by obtaining significant donations from the forest history community. We will keep our fingers crossed for this initiative!

Those present at the AGM also heard about our proposal to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Ken Armson and I had approached the OMNRF with a two-pronged plan. We offered to assist it in identifying archival materials across the province that are in need of proper preservation. We also offered to assist the OMNRF in writing a history of its organization since 1967; we would pick up the story where *Renewing Nature's Wealth* had left off. We hope to be able to update our members on the likelihood of these endeavours coming to fruition as 2016 unfolds.

Ken Armson provided an update on the status of the Frank A. MacDougall Forest History Trust Fund, which had been created to support the FHSO's special projects. The fund now has nearly $4,000 in it, and the first project that it will help support is the erection of a plaque at the Bushplane Museum in Sault Ste. Marie. We are still working out the details for this effort, and hope to be able to see it realized this year.

The highlight of the AGM was undoubtedly the presentation delivered by this year's guest speaker, Dr. Anne Koven. Her talk deftly analyzed how decision-making with regard to Ontario's forests has changed dramatically over roughly the last three decades, transitioning from a traditional focus on timber production to one within which the ecological discourse of Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations had become dominant. In the course of her discussion, Dr. Koven adroitly highlighted how Ontario has been a continental – and at times international – leader in assessing how forest management was being carried out in the province and its commitment to sustainable stewardship of its woodlands. All present benefited both from this provocative talk as well as the stimulating

discussion that ensued. As a token of the FHSO's appreciation, Ken Armson presented Dr. Koven with a piece of art work created by one of our members, Malcolm "Mac" Squires.

As usual, we thanked all the great folks who contribute to the FHSO's success. These include Forests Ontario and, most importantly, our members. Thanks to all of you for helping make the AGM in 2016 such a success, and here's to an equally great event next year!

Mark Kuhlberg

Mark Kuhlberg, Dr. Anne Koven, and Ken Armson at the FHSO's AGM in February 2016.

About the Authors

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.

Alicia Boston: Master's in History student at Laurentian University. Her research focuses on the Canadian government's management of Aboriginal resources during the late-nineteenth to early twentieth-century, with a particular focus on timber on the Spanish River Reserve.

Robert (Bob) L. Mitton: After graduating from the Forestry program at the University of Toronto, he worked for thirty years in public administration in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. From 1990 to 1993 he was Deputy Minister of Education in Ontario and from 1993 to 1995 he was Deputy Minister of Natural Resources in Ontario.

Anne Wynia: Daughter of Alfred S.L. Barnes (1905-1976).

Bruce M. Lloyd: Son of Dr. W.J. Milton Lloyd (1899-1960).

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 last year in order to learn more about his great uncle Dr. Walter Plonski.

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.

Mark Kuhlberg: Chair of the FHSO and Professor of History at Laurentian University.

Forest History Society of Ontario

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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:

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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.

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