



Forestory

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***Black Walnut History, White Pine History, Espanola Pulp and Paper Mill History
...and lots more history inside***



Black walnut furniture, carved by James Beaver, a Mohawk craftsman, in the bedroom of George and Emily Johnson at Chiefswood. Photo by Mary Lou Jorgensen-Bacher.

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Chair's Message

By: Jim Farrell

Welcome to *Forestory* Volume 12, Issue 1, our Spring 2021 edition. I think we are all hoping for a much better year than the last one and while uncertainty remains, many of the signs are looking positive. As of March, I was honoured to be named Chair of the FHSO and thank our previous Chair, Rob Galloway, R.P.F. (Ret.), and past Chair, Mark Kuhlberg, for all their dedicated work to advance the interests of the Society.

Given the meeting constraints we faced due to the pandemic we experimented with a virtual format for our March 18 AGM on ZOOM and added a panel of speakers. Moderated by new Board Member Bill Thornton, the panel included Rob Keen, R.P.F., President and CEO of Forests Ontario, Lacey Rose, R.P.F., County Forester for Renfrew and co-founder of Women in Wood, and Art Groot, retired scientist and forest historian living in Sault Ste Marie. Their presentations are posted on our website. We had a record attendance of 47 join our meeting, suggesting that in future we will need to build in a virtual component to entice participation.

At the business session of the AGM, members heard about our bold new plans to rejuvenate the Society starting with a transition to a working Board whereby Board Members take a hands-on role in various aspects of the administration and operation of the Society. The two priorities for the Board going forward are: increasing revenues and memberships; and updating and enhancing our online presence, including social media. The latter is an essential component of driving the former priority. While we will be exploring opportunities to strengthen the value of the Society, *Forestory* will continue to be the centrepiece of our engagement with members. I encourage all of us to contribute articles and stories for our journal and post freely and often on our social media accounts.

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We want to hear from you!

If you have articles, photographs or images, interesting facts, web links, personal reflections or events that would be suitable for this newsletter, please contact Caroline Mach, R.P.F. at carolinemach@hotmail.com. Deadlines are April 1 and October 1.

Brief History of the Espanola Pulp and Paper Mill

By: Aidan Kallioinen

Some of my earliest childhood memories can be traced back to travelling with my father (Paul Kallioinen, R.P.F.) through the woodyards of the Espanola Paper Mill. Early on, I realized the substantial importance of the industry; the thousands of people who rely on forestry and the forest sector in Ontario to put food on their tables and clothes on their backs. Espanola was the cornerstone of my childhood, and the town to which I owe some of my fondest memories.



Paul and Aidan Kallioinen in front of the Espanola Pulp and Paper Mill.

The Espanola Pulp and Paper Mill has been around for over a century, and is critical to understanding the history of Espanola, and the forest industry in Ontario as a whole.

The origins of the first mill operations in the Espanola area can be traced back to 1899, whereby the Espanola Agreement was signed between the Ontario Government and the newly-formed Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company. The agreement outlined the construction of a new mill to employ close to 300 people (in an area then known colloquially as "Webbwood Falls"), and gave the company jurisdiction to run new logging operations in a nearly 5,600 km² area of Northern Ontario wilderness. By the end of the next decade a town site had been constructed along the Spanish River, and become home to a small community of millwrights, construction workers, and loggers operating in the area. The town became host to the 1910 Spanish River derailment disaster, in which a passenger train carrying approximately 100 people crashed just west of what is now Nairn Centre, resulting in over 40 deaths and one of the worst disasters in the history of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Despite early tragedy the fledgling town site continued to grow, attracting large numbers of migrants from Quebec and Ontario's Francophone communities who settled south of company jurisdiction in what became known as "Frenchtown". Following a period of economic boom after the First World War, a trunk road was constructed by the then-Department of Northern Development (now Ministry of Transportation) linking Espanola to Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, as well as a route heading South to Manitoulin Island through Espanola which would become known as Highway 68 (later Highway 6). The mill was purchased by the Abitibi Power and Paper Company in 1927. After subsequent financial struggles during the Great Depression, the mill site was forced to close and was abandoned by the early 1930s. The town continued to host a few residents (mostly rural farmers) but was for all practical purposes a ghost town for nearly two decades.

The mill site found new life as a P.O.W. camp for captured German and Italian soldiers following the outbreak of the Second World War, some of whom painted a world map on the mill site's walls which can still be seen today. Towards the end of the war, negotiations began between the Provincial Government of Mitchell Hepburn and the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company to revitalize the mill site as part of a northern employment initiative. By 1943, Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company had resumed operations at the mill site under the KVP company. From then on, Espanola would become a centre for kraft paper production in Northern Ontario. Throughout the 1950s the town continued to boom, boasting a population of over 5,000 and a mill which employed hundreds

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of workers. Despite this, the KVP company came under scrutiny for environmental mismanagement, at one point a lawsuit directed at the company was appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, although this was never recognized. The townsite itself came under the administration of the Espanola Development Company, a subsidiary of KVP which oversaw the incorporation of "Frenchtown" by the early 1950s. (By that point, much of Frenchtown was still without basic services such as electricity or drinking water.) By 1958, the town was incorporated as a formal municipality, and jurisdiction was placed under the authority of a municipal council which continues to run Espanola today.

By 1966, the KVP mill was bought by Brown Forest Industries (a subdivision of Gulf and Western) and eventually sold to the Hull-based E. B. Eddy Company in 1969. E.B. Eddy oversaw the Espanola Mill (in addition to those in Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Elk Lake, Chapleau and Ostrom). The latter half of the 20th century saw Espanola continue to thrive as a mill town, and saw the construction of a brand new hospital facility and sewage treatment plant by the late 1980s. During this time, early efforts began to clean up much of the Spanish River's water pollution, which had been left relatively unregulated by the Ontario government up to this point. Awareness of the cause was made clear by an incident in the early 1980s whereby large quantities of effluent discharged into the Spanish River, killing thousands of local fish. From that point on, the Espanola Mill has made notable efforts to reduce its environmental impact and contribute to the ecological sustainability of Northern Ontario. The area west of the mill's hydro dam and rail bridge along the river has been designated a fish sanctuary ever since.

By the 1990s, the modern vision of Espanola began to take hold. E.B. Eddy was purchased by Domtar Corp. in 1998 and subsequently took over operations of the Espanola Mill. Espanola saw the construction of its modern Recreation Complex in 1999, and the development of a large retail zone south of town by the early 2000s. Today, the town boasts a population of just shy of 5,000 people, and significant investments in infrastructure have brought hope for an even brighter future for the over 120-year old pulp and paper mill.

The modern Domtar facility in Espanola provides over 500 jobs to residents, and remains the single-largest employer in the Espanola area. The mill produces 300,000 admt of kraft pulp in addition to 69,000 short tons of paper annually. It creates over 200 grades of technical and specialty papers. The mill has an estimated economic impact of \$694 million CAD on the wider Northern Ontarian economy, and last year alone donated nearly \$40,000 to local community organizations. The modern community of Espanola owes much of its existence to the Espanola Pulp and Paper Mill, and its significance in the economic development of Northern Ontario cannot be understated. The mill serves as a reminder to families such as my own of the important role the forest industry plays in our history and our communities.

A Thin Green Line

The Evolution of Natural Resources Law Enforcement in Ontario

By: David G. Ferguson



Author's Note: This article is not intended as a detailed history, but rather, a general summary from early days to the present. I have drawn liberally on the history from the book, *Game Wardens—Men and Women in Conservation* by Joe Fisher (1992 Queen's Printer), as well as my thirty-year career with the Department of Lands and Forests/Ministry of Natural Resources, and the current scene from Matt Orok, MNRF's Deputy Chief of Enforcement Operations. Thanks to Don Weltz for being the keeper of historic photographs.

1990s shoulder flash

In the beginning, or at least, when Europeans first arrived in the New World, this was truly a land of plenty. The forests, lakes and nearshore coastal waters presented what certainly appeared to be an unlimited bounty of fish, wildlife and forest products. But as we went forth and multiplied, consumption began to match, and then outstrip, production.

Of necessity, fish and game made up a large portion of early settlers' diets. Much of the early farming was marginal and fresh produce only available for part of the year. As cities grew, many rural folks derived an income from the sale of fish and game to urban populations. Additional pressures on the resources came from the advent of sport hunting, some of which was carried out in entirely unsporting ways.

In the early 1800s, observers commented on how flights of passenger pigeons darkened the skies and vast herds of buffalo ranged far and wide over the great plains. But the extinction of these, and other iconic species became a looming possibility as harvesting continued unchecked. By the end of that century many had all but vanished. The last known passenger pigeon died in 1914.

In Canada, the first hint of official concern over the uncontrolled harvest of wildlife came in 1762 when the military governor in Montreal proclaimed the first game law, creating a closed season on ruffed grouse during their mating season. The stiff £5 fine was to be shared equally between the poor in the parish in which the crime took place and whoever turned in the offending hunter. But no one was ever appointed to enforce the law.

Forward thinking groups and individuals, the nucleus of a budding conservation movement, began raising the alarm over dwindling fish and wildlife populations during the early 1800s but governments then, as now, tended to act with glacial speed and the first game laws in Upper Canada came with no provision for enforcement.

During that era, Ontario enacted various game laws in a piecemeal manner ... one law to stop hunting on the Lord's day, another to set the season for trapping, but placed no limit on numbers of fur bearers that could be trapped. Again, there was no provision for enforcement, although at the time, the province did have "woods rangers" hired to verify wood measurement at logging camps, a function necessary for determining the correct crown stumpage payable.

As for meaningful fish or wildlife protection, the federal government was the first out of the gate with a law that had any teeth. The *Fisheries Act*, with provisions for hiring fisheries overseers, was enacted in the 1850s. But life for the early officers was not easy. They met with frequent violence

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while trying to enforce the law in a previously ungoverned fishery. The mutilated body of John Gifford, the officer whose patrol area was Lakes Huron and Superior, was found floating off Manitoulin Island in 1864 after being beaten to death aboard the steamship that was taking him to his next destination. His killers were never brought to justice.

Finally, in 1892, the Ontario government got on board and passed the Act for the Protection of Game and Fur Bearing Animals. This new legislation came complete with the provision to hire game overseers, the title eventually evolving to "game warden". And hire, they did.

The first provincial force of game wardens consisted of one chief warden and four paid, part time wardens, plus 392 unpaid deputy wardens whose compensation was to be derived from half of the fine from each successful court conviction.

As for the first paid wardens, one can only imagine having responsibility for one quarter of the area of southern Ontario and the settled areas of the near north as your patrol area in an era before bush planes and pickup trucks. John Willmott, for example, had the patrol area that included the Districts of Algoma, Nipissing, Parry Sound and Simcoe County. In the twenty-first century, it would take at least nine hours to hot foot it from one end of that area to the other on modern highways.

For \$10 per month, the wardens were expected to arm themselves and provide their own transportation. There were no uniforms and no formal training. Upon being hired, they were given several hours of instruction on completing government forms, and then sent to their assigned areas to learn on the job.

They did get rail and steamer fares paid and a mileage allowance if they used their own horse, but most patrol was done by canoe or rowboat in the open water seasons and on snowshoes and dog sleds in the winter.

For the unpaid deputies, one would think that with the potential for all that fine revenue, they would have made out like bounty hunters, but it didn't pan out that way. Threats of barn burnings and other personal property damage by irate neighbours tended to dampen their enthusiasm for the job. Only a few put their authority into practice.



Conservation Officer Len Cote with his dog team which he used to patrol the Nipissing Crown Game Preserve, before snowmobiles, the photo was taken in the winter of 1948-49. Submitted by: Mike Buss

The original wardens were responsible solely for the protection of game, but they often came on situations of wholesale slaughter of fish, over which they had no authority to act. After protracted jurisdictional wrangling between the provincial and federal governments, the province finally took over fisheries enforcement in 1907 and created the Department of Game and Fisheries. The district wardens, now seven of them, were in charge of protecting both game and fish, provincewide.

There were simply far too few wardens to effectively protect the resources they were tasked to do. But it wasn't until after the First World War that their numbers got a substantial boost. In 1920, the force was increased to sixty full time officers and seven district superintendents. There were still too few officers in an era of increased mobility. City folks began to venture out to vacation in the wilderness in ever growing numbers. And as time passed, the automobile allowed them to hunt and fish even greater distances off the beaten path.

Officer numbers continued to grow slowly, but never kept pace with the expanding numbers and reach of the hunting and fishing public. In 1929 the *Game and Fisheries Act* authorized wardens to search aircraft after it became obvious that the rich could fly into remote areas to harvest whatever they wanted, virtually unimpeded by the law. And while Provincial Air Service bush planes gradually became available for enforcement, officers frequently got the short end of the stick. Forest fire spotting and suppression, forest mapping and transporting politicians frequently took precedence

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over enforcement.

Then, in the midst of the Great Depression, when masses of hungry unemployed pushed wildlife harvests to extremes, the Hepburn government fired all provincial employees, including the 117 game wardens. However, being a game warden is not just a job — it is a calling, and some of the officers kept on working, despite their sudden unemployed status. Fortunately, within a short time, some were rehired, but fish and wildlife populations took a beating all the same.

In the early days, the job of the wardens had been strictly one of enforcement, but starting in the period between the wars, they began to be assigned population management roles as well. Fish, pheasant and Hungarian partridge hatcheries started up and the officers became involved in stocking programs and population surveys as well as promoting wise use of the resources through connections with game and fish clubs.

In 1946 the Department of Game and Fisheries was merged with the provincial forestry agency to become the Department of Lands and Forests. Fish and wildlife management continued to play an increasing role in the duties of the wardens, but not all wardens were pleased with the evolution. An interesting reverse reaction has taken place among conservation officers of the late twentieth/early twenty-first century era where some are not pleased with the swing back toward the sole role of enforcement.



Conservation Officer Ed Shears and summer biologist Harold Cooper conduct sample netting in the summer of 1969.



1892-1992 - Ontario Conservation Officer Centennial
Uniforms from 1930 to 1992.

L-R: Bill Daniher (Sault Ste. Marie District),
Mark Robbins (Niagara District), Dave Beavers (Alymer District),
Anne Irwin (Lindsay District), Submitted by: Mark Robbins

The first wardens' uniforms showed up in the early 1930s and strongly resembled those of commissioned officers of the Canadian Army in World War One. And in the late 1930s, wardens were issued .32 calibre revolvers and handcuffs, but the revolvers were recalled in 1946 by a senior department bureaucrat who felt that post-war Canadian society would respect the authority of unarmed officers. Not long after, though, the officers were rearmed with .38 calibre revolvers.

Aside from a model change along the way, Smith and Wesson .38s were the standard sidearm until 1994 when the early nineteenth century technology was set aside in favour of more modern semiautomatic pistols.

Ontario game wardens were officially given the title Conservation Officer in 1948, but old habits die hard, and by many of the folks they serve, they are still called game wardens, among other titles — some not so complimentary.

As mentioned above, in the early years, other than several hours of form filling indoctrination, training was nonexistent.

New hires were required to be 'gentlemen of good character and strong physique' and accustomed to life on the land.

Upgraded training was the subject of a number of studies and reports over the years, but Government, being what it is, left them shelved until an influx of World War Two veterans returned home to take up jobs promised before they joined the war effort.

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In 1946 the Ontario Forest Ranger School at Dorset ran its first thirty-three-week diploma course, followed by specific courses in law enforcement and fish and wildlife management. By the time I began my CO career in 1975, a three-week law enforcement course at the Ontario Police College in Aylmer had been in operation for just over a decade. That, plus my two-year college diploma was pretty much the minimum standard required to become a conservation officer.

It is interesting to note, however, that on our last day at Aylmer, the director of Enforcement Branch came and told us that he hoped we had benefitted from our time at the police college, but we should put aside the police tactics we learned and remember that we were the Ministry's ambassadors with the public. All of that police stuff wasn't really what we do.

Of course, what we graduates drew from that rousing pep talk was that COs were a quasi-military force within a civilian agency that was, at least in part, uncomfortable with our presence.

Despite such attitudes, a great deal of progress has been made since the 1970s. Using my own experience as an example, when I was issued my first revolver in 1975, my supervisor, a biologist with no enforcement background, uncomfortably pushed a box toward me, across his desk with one finger. "This is for you," he said. "Don't shoot anybody. Go and see the OPP sergeant. They are qualifying next week."

We shot, standing like a row of swordsmen, one hand on your hip, revolver in the other, at targets fifteen and twenty-five yards away. I qualified, but I never felt truly confident carrying a revolver until the training improved in subsequent years. When we converted to the semi-automatic pistols, five years before I retired, the training was topnotch, provided by our own COs, using the police level standards they had been trained to.

Before the reader jumps to the conclusion that Ontario COs have become a bunch of hired gunslingers, it must be understood that in an era of dwindling respect for law enforcement, conservation officers are trained simultaneously in verbal de-escalation as well as non-lethal use of force techniques. And with all our advanced training combined, one can be assured that an officer, confident in his or her ability to handle a confrontation, is far less likely to have the situation go badly than it might have back in the days of "Don't shoot anybody."

Times Have Changed

The first five Ontario game wardens were responsible for the enforcement of the one law, the 1892 Act for the Protection of Game and Fur Bearing Animals. Over the years, additional laws have been passed that added to the responsibilities of our conservation officers. Now they are responsible for twenty-seven various natural resource and outdoor recreation-related provincial and federal statutes.

In the beginning, the job was strictly law enforcement. In the middle years, wildlife management made up an increasing part of an officer's workload. Now, in the twenty-first century, COs are largely back to straight law enforcement duties. The pendulum has swung both ways.

Over the last fifty years, three different Ontario political parties have taken turns in power, each running the Ministry of Natural Resources, once the crown jewel of Ontario government agencies, further into the ground. But despite the repeated abuse, Enforcement Branch has retained much of its pre-belt tightening strength. There are currently 184 field officers working under the direction of 30 managers.

When I took my first CO position in Moosonee in 1975, there were no female conservation officers in Ontario. Our first woman CO came onstream around 1980. Now there are 17. Two of them are managers and one is in an advisory position.

As mentioned earlier, being a CO is not just a job, it is a calling. Looking over a list of current conservation officers, a number of familiar family names stand out. That calling has been passed

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down to the sons and daughters of a surprising number of the officers from my generation.

In the beginning, there were close to four hundred unpaid deputy COs. The numbers have varied through the generations, but while some deputies actively contributed to the enforcement program with great results, many others added nothing. Twelve active badge carrying deputies currently remain on the roster.

In my day, COs worked for MNR Districts, under a lengthy chain of command that included levels of managers and directors with no enforcement background. Now, field COs work in one of twenty Enforcement Units across the province which report directly to Enforcement Branch in a command chain less than half that of the old system.

At the same time, Enforcement Branch has evolved into a professional law enforcement agency with capabilities and standards equivalent to many much larger police forces. And in order to be more compatible with like enforcement agencies, positions beyond field level COs are given police style ranks of Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Staff Superintendent, Deputy Chief and Chief in addition to their traditional MNRF job titles. COs working in Intelligence and Investigations Services (equivalent to a police Major Case Unit) are designated as Detectives.

As professional as the organization may now be, it is still one terribly thin green line — there are only 214 enforcement personnel to protect our natural resources in a province where the human population is watched over by more than 25,000 police personnel.



L-R: Al Bieck (Pilot), Doug Hyde and Mike Thede to count fish huts on Lake Simcoe
Submitted by Retiree Mike Thede

David G. Ferguson is a retired Ontario Conservation Officer and Novelist. His career with the Department of Lands and Forests and Ministry of Natural Resources ran from 1970 to 1999 (the first five years as an active Deputy CO). His novels are inspired by, though not based on, his career, training and life's experiences. His books are available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle editions. Contact: dpfergus@vianet.ca

Ontario's Most Famous Ghost Town Might Disappear Soon

By: Caroline Minks, readersdigest.ca

Updated: Apr. 06, 2021

Located about four hours east of Toronto, the town of BalACLava has rightfully earned its place in Canadian ghost town lore. Here's a look at its fascinating history.



PHOTO: DDEYELL VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Ontario is home to more than 200 ghost towns, but few are as famous as BalACLava. Situated in Renfrew County in Eastern Ontario, the site is well-known for its rundown sawmill, which sits along a shallow river and is surrounded by rotting tree logs, pieces of machinery and wagon wheels.

Intrigued visitors can find this town on Scott Bush Road, just north of the community of Dacre. Unsurprisingly, BalACLava has for years been a favourite destination for urban explorers and photographers alike.

"There are a couple reasons for the appeal of ghost towns," says Ontario historian and author [Ron Brown](#). "They recall those days of yore when we saw those tumbleweed ghost towns in cowboy movies, but to me and others, it's also the appeal of finding artifacts or just getting the sense that there was once a place here, with people and businesses."

The town takes its name from the Battle of Balaklava, a skirmish during the Crimean War in the 1850s. In its heyday, BalACLava was a flourishing lumber town that produced up to one million board feet of lumber per week. The sawmill at the heart of the community, one of Ontario's last water-powered mills, was erected in 1855. It was partially destroyed by a fire in 1936 but rebuilt three years later. The structure remains standing to this day, but in such a state of disrepair, it's best to admire it from afar.

BalACLava was also the site of Ontario's first-ever environmental lawsuit, says Brown. The Richards family bought the sawmill in 1868, but in 1911, they were taken to court when a nearby grist mill complained that the family was disposing too much sawdust into the river. The grist mill won the case, and the Richards were

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required to pay \$200 U.S. in restitution. The lawsuit also resulted in the addition of a sawdust burner.

By the mid-1950s, depleted timber supply in surrounding areas meant the sawmill was only producing a few thousand board feet every year. Soon, it was forced to shut down, along with Balaclava's general store. (A host of other shops and businesses had already shuttered several years earlier.) Bypassed by railways and with its only industry gone, Balaclava—once home to approximately 200 residents—was abandoned. In the following years, town staples like the general store, blacksmith shop, two hotels and sawmill, either burned down, were dismantled or fell into decay.

Brown has been researching Ontario's ghost towns, railways and unusual attractions for more than 40 years. The 75-year-old Toronto resident first visited Balaclava in the summer of 1996, and then again in August 2018.

On his first visit to Balaclava, Brown remembers a lovely row of wooden buildings and houses with still-intact porches lining the main street, describing it at the time as a "classical ghost town." But on his second visit, he recalls Balaclava's atmosphere felt more sad than eerie—in contrast with the notion that ghost towns are haunted and hair-raising sites.

Balaclava's crumbling remains are something visitors may want to catch before they're lost to the elements or rebuilt. In fact, the latter is slowly taking place. The collapsing attachment to the general store, for instance, was torn down and the building made into a hunting camp.

"There was an initiative maybe 15 years ago to preserve [the sawmill], but the property owners didn't want anything to do with that," says Brown. "We do not have very good heritage preservation standards in this province, so [the sawmill] sits, falling apart."

That's right: the sawmill is currently privately owned, with reports of threats to demolish it if people continue trespassing. According to Brown, there are also a few occupied homes in the general area of Balaclava.

Since the abandoned buildings are still private property, Brown says those who want to visit Balaclava should be mindful. Ask the sawmill's owner—likely to be found in the nearest building to the mill—for permission first if you want to get a closer look. It also doesn't hurt to try and strike up conversations with nearby residents, Brown says.

"My mission is to encourage people to explore the heritage which is in their own backyards, whether it's a built heritage like mills or ghost towns, or geological heritage," he says. "And there's a lot of that out there too, which is quite fun."

Editor's Note: Additional information about Balaclava can be found in the following articles in previous issues of *Forestry*:

Lemkay, Dave, "Balaclava Water-Powered Sawmill," *Forestry* 8, no. 2 (2017): 9-10. http://www.ontarioforesthistorystory.ca/files/FHSO_journ_vol_8_issue_2_fall_2017.pdf.

Macfie, John, "The Balaclava Water Mill: The View from Downstream," *Forestry* 9, no. 1 (2018): 17-18. http://www.ontarioforesthistorystory.ca/files/fhso_journ_vol_9_issue_1_2018.pdf.

The Impact of the Forest Products and Tourism Industries on the Development of the Bruce Peninsula, 1850-2019

Intro to MA Thesis

By: Paul White

Editor's Note: You can find Paul's entire thesis at <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/7340>

The Bruce Peninsula was the last wilderness region of substantial size to be opened for settlement in southern Ontario. The relatively late arrival of settlers to the peninsula and its commercial development is paralleled in the limited attention historians have given to the region. At almost the same time as settlers arrived in the 1860s, hoping to create an agricultural economy, commercial lumbering interests turned their attention to the Bruce Peninsula forests. Despite efforts to facilitate settlement alongside lumbering, disputes between the competing interests often arose. Regardless of the antagonism between the two groups, there were also benefits for both. Lumbering attracted ancillary job-creating commercial enterprises such as sawmills, port facilities, shipping companies, and businesses supplying diverse commodities to forestry workers. Settlements located adjacent to rivers and streams that could power the mills, or along the peninsula shoreline where natural harbours provided safe mooring for vessels transporting forest products arose to service these varied commercial and industrial enterprises.

This thesis, by tracing the influence of the forest products and tourism industries on the Bruce Peninsula from the mid-19th century to 2019, fills a longstanding historiographic void. Beginning with the impact of the forest products industry, it examines various historical and geographical factors that impacted, both positively and negatively, the peninsula's development. When the forest industry declined and largely ceased to influence the peninsula's development, it was supplanted, albeit only gradually, by a focus on tourism that remains central to the Bruce Peninsula's present-day economic wellbeing. Somewhat ironically, tourism on the peninsula emerged in response to humans being drawn to a natural environment which the forest industry had done much to diminish.

The thesis describes the interactions between the forest products industry and predominantly agrarian-based settlers on the Bruce Peninsula and, how competition between these two groups both promoted and hindered economic growth beyond the timber trade. Ultimately the lumbering industry's ability to dominate the peninsula's economy dwindled, to be replaced by tourism as the region's primary economic driver. Tourism's rise in influence was slower and more fitful than smooth and successful. For at least half a century following the forest industry's diminution to little more than a cottage industry serving a primarily local market, the tourism industry struggled to flourish. Not until the 1950s and 1960s did sufficient influences align to enable tourism to establish a secure foundation in the region.

The history of the Bruce Peninsula is a unique southern Ontario story, as many of the influences on its development were more representative of the experiences of districts in northern Ontario. It was the growth of tourism based on such popular and increasingly accessible activities as shipwreck diving, camping, hiking, and exploring that the Bruce Peninsula's unique natural setting offers, that would restore and enhance the region's economic prospects. For instance, in 1987, the federal government created Fathom Five National Marine Park and Bruce Peninsula National Park. Records from fiscal years 1990-91 show a combined visitation of 212,694ⁱ and records for fiscal years 2018-19 show that combined attendance for the two national parks had grown to 744,035ⁱⁱ. These significant attendance numbers suggest that the economy of the region has grown due to increasing numbers of visitorsⁱⁱⁱ to the region. The impact of the increase in visitation is reflected in the Stats Canada revenue statement for fiscal year 2017-2018^{iv} which shows the amount of money spent by Parks

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Canada on the two parks, \$7,875,000, and by visitors to the parks, \$121,486,000, for a total of \$129,361,000 by 848,199 visitors^v.

The Bruce Peninsula stretches south from Tobermory to the Lake Huron shoreline town of Southampton. The eastern boundary follows the Georgian Bay coast to the city of Owen Sound. Highway 21 connects the two southern points.

The physical geography of the peninsula provided obstacles not only for settlers hoping to farm the region, but also for the implementation of lumbering activities.

The Bruce Peninsula is an extension of the Niagara cuesta, which is part of the dolomite saucer that underlies the Michigan basin. The rock strata dips toward the west. The rise in the east "roughly coincides with the Niagara Escarpment which enters the district near Stoney Creek in Saltfleet Township, and runs northward toward Collingwood, later forming the east coast of the Bruce Peninsula."^{vi} The differences in the physical geography between the eastern and western sections of the peninsula produced diverse species of trees between the two distinct areas. Coniferous trees dominated the Lake Huron or western shore. These woodlands included spruce, cedar, and tamarack in the wetlands, while pines populated the sandy areas. On the eastern or Georgian Bay shoreline, forests consisted mostly of deciduous trees, including maple, elm, oak, ash, and butternut.^{vii} These hardwood trees were the raw resources that supported the creation of many furniture manufacturing industries in the southern reaches of the peninsula. Most of the "Bruce Peninsula consists of shallow soils over limestone bedrock, suitable for grazing and forestry,"^{viii} but for the settlers bent on creating an agricultural income proved to be marginal at best for growing crops in commercially sustainable amounts.

Writing in 1952, former University of Western Ontario professor W. Sherwood Fox provided another perspective on the geography of the Bruce Peninsula. He suggested that one need not visit the peninsula to notice its impact on the Great Lakes region. Merely looking at a map would reveal:

... it is a sword that has cleaved a body clean in twain: instead of one lake there are two. From another point of view, it is a spear piercing the very heart of the Great Lakes; yes, the heart, for the point of the blade lies almost halfway between the east end of Lake Ontario and the west end of Superior, very close indeed to the centre of the lake system's channels of traffic and travel.^{ix}

But, Fox continued, "in the eyes of sailors the same land mass may be just a formidable obstacle dropped most inconveniently across routes which would otherwise be short and easy."^x

An examination of the works of academic historians^{xi} best-known for their research on the impact of natural resources exploitation on Canada's pre- and post-Confederation economic development reveals a striking absence of references to the Bruce Peninsula's forestry history. Similarly, a review of the historiography of the tourism industry reveals not only a dearth of information about the Bruce Peninsula, but also highlights how tourism in general did not attract much scholarly focus until the 1980s when environmental issues rose to the fore in popularity. In short, the historiography reveals the relative lack of attention the Bruce Peninsula has received from scholars, a shortcoming this thesis endeavors to correct in part.

Endnotes

ⁱAlthough the two parks had been in operation since 1987, Fathom Five National Marine Park did not have tabulated results until fiscal year 1990-91.

ⁱⁱParks Canada Attendance (Fiscal Years – April 1 -March 31), 1988-89 – 2018-19. See Appendix "L"

ⁱⁱⁱ"Visitors are defined by Parks Canada as: "any individual who visits the park/site for the purpose of heritage appreciation during operating hours constitutes one-person visit. Persons re-entering on the same day, and/or persons staying overnight do not constitute new or additional person visits. If a person leaves the site and returns on a subsequent day,

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this constitutes a new person- visit. This term is used at all national parks and sites in Ontario.” Source: Parks Canada Attendance records.

^{iv}Stats Canada report for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 is not available.

^vParks Canada, “Economic Impact of Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park,” Stats Canada report for 2017-2018.

^{vi}Department of Lands and Forests, “A History of Lake Huron Forest District,” Ministry of Natural Resources Library, Peterborough, Ontario, 1963, 1.

^{vii}L.J. Chapman and D.F. Putnam, *The Physiography of Southern Ontario*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1973), 267.

^{viii}Department of Lands and Forests, “A History of Lake Huron Forest District,” Ministry of Natural Resources Library, Peterborough, Ontario, 1963, 2.

^{ix}W. Sherwood Fox, *The Bruce Beckons*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1962), xv.

^xFox, *Bruce Beckons*, xv.

^{xi}These historians include, Harold Adams Innis, Donald Creighton, Arthur Lower, J.M.S. Careless, and H.V. Nelles

The Trail of White Pine Across the Ocean From Germany to Ontario

By: Dolf Wynia



Figure 1. The Heins Nursery near Halstenbeck, 1905. Note the female weeding crew with supervisor, centre right. From Wilhelm Heins, Photographien 1900-1930, Baumland edition Museum fur Kunst und Gewerbe.

probably one of the largest tree nurseries in Europe.

In Ontario, Dr. Edmund Zavitz, who in 1908, with the member of provincial parliament Arthur Pratt and local lumberman Walter McCall, had succeeded in getting an Order in Council approved to develop the first Provincial Forestry Station realized that in order to get public support for the nursery enterprise it would be politically wise to start planting trees right away. Zavitz had graduated in forestry from Michigan University and had previously studied at Yale. He was familiar with imports of seedlings from Germany into the United States, so he made arrangements with J. Heins' Sohne in Germany to ship 350,000 trees to Ontario.

In the St. Williams Forest Station files there is an invoice, dated 12th of April 1909 for 200,000 white pine, 100,000 Scotch firs (Scots pine) and 50,000 spruce firs (Norway spruce). The

The role that eastern white pine played in the settlement of Eastern Canada is well known to everyone that has worked in the forest industry. Initially it was the foundation of many of our industries and it was much in demand as an export product. As the qualities of white pine became known in Europe, it was not long before forest owners there wanted to grow it in their forests. Most forests, particularly in Germany were privately owned and replanting after harvest was done with trees grown by privately owned nurseries. Eastern white pine and Douglas fir became favourite species for their forests.

One of the key players in the European nursery business was a firm by the name of "J. HEINS' SOHNE" in Halstenbeck, not far from Hamburg. As well as operating a tree nursery they also ran a forest training school. The institution was



Figure 2. Trees being shipped in willow wicker baskets to North America by wagon, train, and freighter. Photo by Wilhelm Heins.

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invoice is signed by E.J. Zavitz: "Goods received, prices fair and just, charge to vote 53". The cost of the 200,000 white pine was 33 British pounds. Packing for the shipment was £15. The trees left Halstenbeck by freighter on April 13 and Zavitz received them on May 14, 1909 at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. The trees had been packed in willow wicker baskets and must have been shipped on to the St. Williams Forest Station by train for the planting, which Zavitz documented with one of his famous posed photographs.

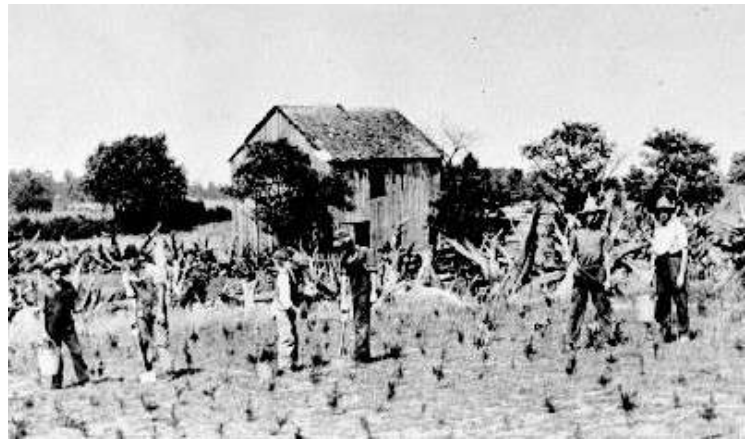


Figure 3. Planting the white pine trees shipped from Germany to St. Williams, 1909. Photo by Edmund Zavitz.

No one realized that with the importation of tree seedlings from Germany, most probably North America also imported the white pine blister rust disease (*Cronartium ribicola*), which is still a problem in white pine management in many areas. Further, many of the early white pine plantings were devastated by our native white pine weevils (*Pissodes strobi* Peck) and on the "blow sands", exposure to the biting, moving, sand often killed the nursery stock.

The early tree planters shifted from white pine to Scots and red pine after they experienced severe losses from exposure and damage from the native white pine weevil. Indeed, according to early employees, there was quite a far reaching senior decision made to try and salvage the first plantation by gradually removing or pruning misshapen trees rather than starting over again by planting new nursery stock. Since 1909 the seedlings have now produced a magnificent stand of white pine of many trees 32 metres high and more than 50 cm in diameter.

The invoice from "J. Heins Sohne" also showed 50,000 spruce. This intrigued Dr. Alan Gordon of the Ontario Forest Research Branch who spent a major part of his career researching the performance of many species of spruce planted in Ontario from around the world. He had found some exceptionally well performing Norway spruce in his neighbourhood in Sault Ste Marie and also many other places in Ontario and wondered if they might have originated as part of the shipment from Halstenbeck. So, in about 1975, he wrote to the nursery to see if there were any records of the origin of the seed. Thirty years later he got an answer: Not from the nursery, but from Gabriela Schmidt Heins, one of the granddaughters of Wilhelm Heins, the former owner. She had found Alan's letter in the nursery files while doing research for an illustrated biography of Wilhelm Heins. She informed him that the Nursery had been closed many years earlier and that no pertinent records were left. She did send Alan a list of the almost 100 tree species that had been produced by the nursery.

Even though Dr. Gordon was not able to prove any genetic relationships to the 1909 shipments to St. Williams, the residents of Lake Street in Sault Ste Marie held their spruce celebrations in 1998 anyway, because the trees had so greatly enhanced their neighbourhood. When I travelled the farms in Waterloo County as Zone Forester, I was also impressed by the performance of the non-native Norway spruce planted along the driveways of many Mennonite farms. My supervisor, Ernie Steele, said in 1957 that he believed they had been sold by a travelling nursery man whom I now am starting to believe probably grew them from the seed of that first shipment.

When Gabriela Schmidt Heins completed the biography of her grandfather she sent a copy to Alan. Alan graciously passed it on to the St. Williams Forest Interpretive Centre. It turned out that Wilhelm had been a prodigious and skilled photographer in the time that photographs were taken on glass slides. He loved "trick" photography. As the third generation owner of the nursery and forestry school he had become quite wealthy and he travelled around the world taking photographs. The early photographs that Edmund Zavitz took of Ontario's forestry were also taken on glass. As a

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result, we now have a continuous photo story of over a hundred years of the first reforestation efforts in Ontario from seeding to planting to maturity.

For anyone wishing to see the 1909 plantation, the best approach is to park at the old St. Williams Nursery office building and former interpretive centre (now a staff residence) at 885 Highway 24 West and follow the Norway spruce lane past the old superintendent's residence and then follow the trail north after the split. The white pine stand will soon be visible.



A view of the first planted forest in Ontario after 112 years and four thinnings. Photo by Dolf Wynia, 2020.

Black Walnut: Symbol of Ecological Recovery in Southern Ontario

By: John Bacher

The black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), is a symbol of ecological recovery in southern Ontario. It is astonishing how this vigorous tree, thriving especially in areas of rich floodplain alluvial soil, should have in the 1870s been at risk of being wiped out in Ontario. Its habitat was encouraged for millennia by native communities, like other nutritional species such as maple, hickories, (of the same Juglandaceae family), the American and Canadian plum and the papaw.

Early threats to the black walnut were paradoxically shown by how it was honoured by the German speaking migrants from the United States following the American Revolution. They took the trail of the black walnut seeking to found communities on rich alluvial flood plain soils where the species thrives. The end of the trail, however, the community now called Kitchener, soon became "Sand Hills", from desertification after they arrived. [1]

The desertification at the end of the Trail of the black walnut first became recognized in the Condolence speech of George Johnson, in 1857, upon becoming a Chief of the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee). The Condolence ceremony is also called the Hai Hai, and the Roll Call of Chiefs. It is a passionate invocation extolling the greatness of the founders of the Haudenosaunee League of Peace, one of whose titles has just been transferred. The words used in the Hai Hai when George Johnson was condoled were recorded by his friend, the anthropologist Horatio Hale. It ended with the warning that, "Their degenerate successor have inherited their names, but not their mighty intellects, and in the flourishing region which they left, nothing but a desert remain." [2]



Black walnut furniture, carved by James Beaver, a Mohawk craftsman, in the bedroom of George and Emily Johnson at Chiefswood. Photo by Mary Lou Jorgensen-Bacher.

Johnson's appreciation of the value of the black walnut had, by the time of his condolence, been encouraged by the influence of one of his closest friends, in a relationship that grew over three decades, the Ojibway Chief, the Reverend Peter Jones. Jones won a substantial cash prize from the Canadian Provincial Exhibition for a bowl and lathes he made from black walnut. Jones was a skilled carpenter. To store his books he made several black walnut bookshelves. Jones imparted to Johnson that careful selective logging of valuable trees such as the black walnut would be a sound basis for sustainable and prosperous Ojibway communities in southern Ontario. [3]

George Johnson's home, Chiefswood, was built with black walnut wood selected, harvested and milled from his estate's grounds. Walnut planks were laid horizontally for board and batten construction. Chiefswood trim, mantles and most furniture, including children's cradles, were from black walnut. Furniture at Chiefswood was made by Mohawk craftsmen such as James Beaver. Their familiarity and appreciation of black walnut helped build support for Johnson's forest conservation efforts. [4]

George Johnson's youngest daughter Pauline, in her fictional short story "My Mother", pointed out how such Mohawk artisans of wood knew and

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appreciated the value of the trees that wily white traders were stealing from the naive who exchanged valuable trees for rotten whisky. When Pauline was born her parents planted a black walnut midway between their home and the entrance to Chiefswood in her honour. [5]

Unlike Euro-Canadian farmers, George Johnson also kept tall old growth walnuts on his estate for aesthetic purposes. His eldest daughter Evelyn recalled how, "On the large walnut tree just behind the house we had a swing, and because we could hear an echo here very plainly, we love to call and shout to each other." Walnut giants, which had grown there since the American Revolution, towered at Chiefswood. [6]

Johnson planted various edible native nut growing trees of the Juglandaceae family. These included black walnut, butternut, and the shagbark, pignut, shellbark, and mockernut hickories. Gradually he developed an impressive reputation for this in the ranks of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association, (OFGA), which he helped to shape into Ontario's first environmental protection group. In Stratford on July 1, 1878 the OFGA had a meeting on the topic of "The nut-bearing trees of the Province and their adaptability for ornamental purposes, as well as a source of financial profit to the farmer." One outcome of the meeting was to send a delegation of Charles Arnold and John Freed, to visit, "the groves of Chief Johnson." They were joined by two reporters. One was from the Hamilton Spectator, another, W. T. Sawle, reported for the Caledonia Sachem. [7]



The black walnut tree planted by George and Emily to honour their youngest daughter Pauline at her birth. It is the walnut tree that can be seen outside the window. Photo by Mary Lou Jorgensen-Bacher.



Wedding photo of George and Emily Johnson.

Arnold and Freed told the OFGA that they were stunned by what they saw at Chiefswood. Their report told how, "Your committee were informed, by the Chief and his very intelligent and communicative son, that there were growing on their estate some 800 walnut, 300 butternut, and about 200 hickory trees of various kinds. Many of these trees were noble specimens - especially the walnuts. One upon the terrace below, almost in front of the house, was a really majestic tree, with a large massive globular head of some 120 feet in circumference. The lower branches nearly touching the ground, and the head rising up at least (40) feet in height, and every branch drooping with its load of large fruit, some specimens, measuring eight inches in circumference." They believed, "There are thousands of persons, doubtless, in our large cities and towns who would be glad to purchase these nuts at much higher prices if it were known where they could be got."

Arnold and Freed told the OFGA that on Johnson's Juglandaceae grove of 14 acres "Wagon load after wagon load" of walnuts "had been driven off by friends

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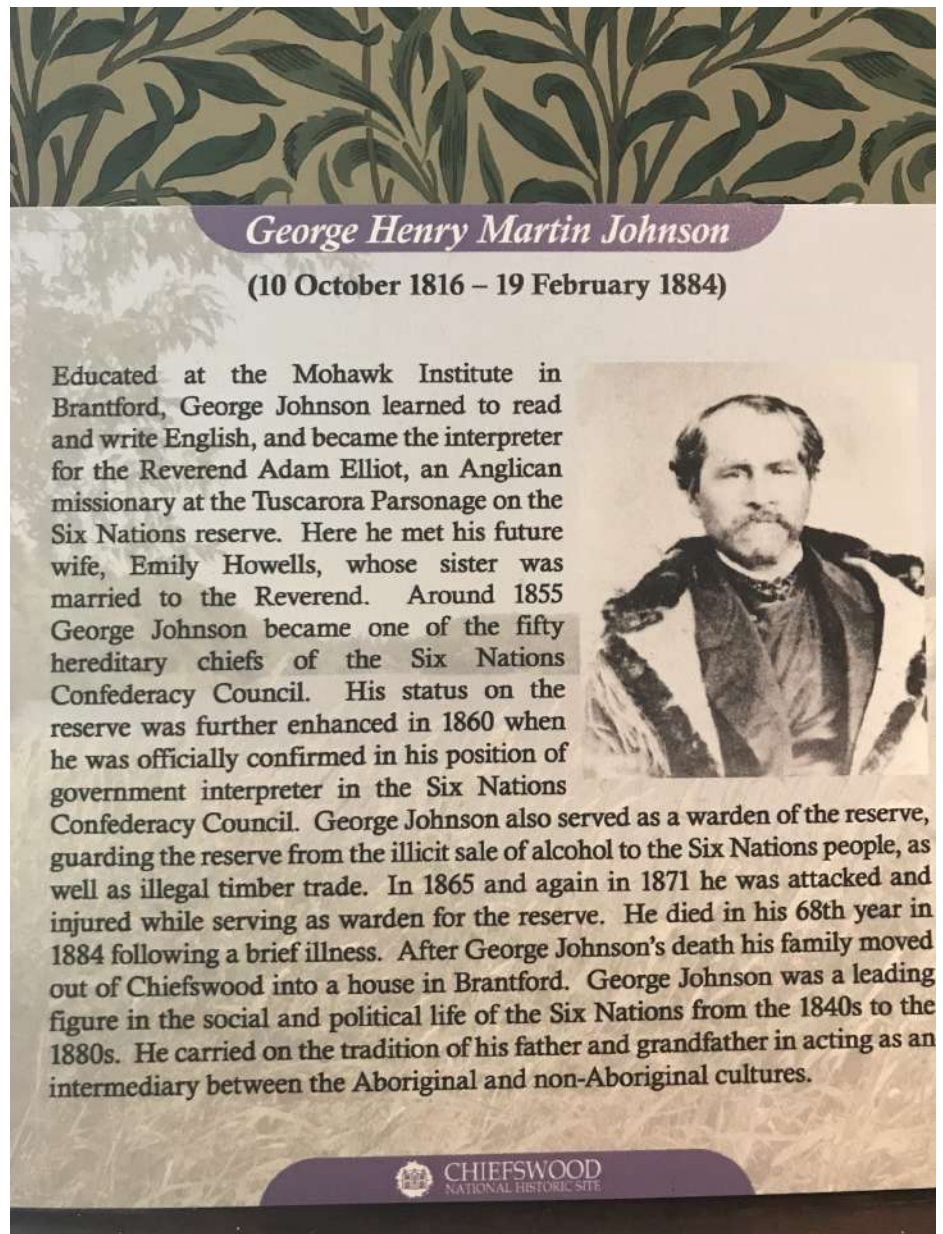
of the Chief from Brantford, Caledonia and Ancaster and elsewhere and still there are thousands upon the ground." They also found "the quality of the fruit is fine." They recommended widespread reforestation in southern Ontario, believing that, "A great many homesteads throughout the country would be much improved in appearance by the planting of walnut, butternut, or hickory trees, and beside the shade afforded, a rich produce could be made in a few years from the products therefrom." [8]

Arnold and Freed were joined by other OFGA pilgrims to Chiefswood to learn about the wonders of the native Juglandaceae trees of southern Ontario. One William Burke journeyed from Ottawa. He urged OFGA members "to obtain nuts of the black walnut, or butternut, or young trees, at trifling cost from Chief Johnson of the Six Nations Reserve." Another was the OFGA's Vice-President, William Roy of Owen Sound. He urged others visit the "fine walnut grove at Chiefswood at Chief Johnson's at Tuscarora." [9]

Pioneering conservationists from across Ontario journeyed to Chiefswood to visit both the

Juglandaceae groves and take part in the intellectually stimulating salons organized on weekends by George Johnson's English born wife, Emily. One of those in attendance was a painter from the Kitchener area, Homer Watson. He became an enthusiast for the black walnut and for the native Carolinian forests of the Grand River valley. An early painting of Watson's, "Nut Gatherers in the Forest", (also called The "Nutters"), featuring black walnut giants, could have been painted from sketches of Chiefswood. It is the only forest grove in Ontario where I have met with self-named "Nutters" proudly showing me their blackened hands from gathering black walnuts. [10]

Before Watson took up the cause there was no interest in forest conservation in Waterloo County. The future City of Kitchener (Sand Hills, Ebyville, Berlin were earlier names), left aside from development no tracts of natural parkland until he got involved. In the first seven decades of the community its parks were artificial creations after all the native vegetation had been cleared away. Watson broke this pattern by his campaign to protect a stretch of Grand River floodplain forest, originally called Cressman's Woods, where black walnuts thrive. It is now named Homer Watson Park in his honour. [11]



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Johnson challenged unscientific superstitions that no economically valuable crops could be cultivated under the shade of the black walnut. One of the most delicious treats served in Emily Johnson's salons were white currant preserves. The currants were cultivated below the towering walnuts at Chiefswood. At an OFGA meeting, Johnson described his success in growing raspberries under their shade. His recommendations were tested out by a pioneering conservationist, Thomas Beall of Lindsay. He reported how he was able to grow productively under the black walnut the same variety of raspberry recommended by Johnson, the Mammoth Cluster. He recommended to his fellow fruit growers that raspberries be planted six feet apart from walnuts. Beall found that no other Ontario hardwood "grows as rapidly", in southern Ontario's forests as the black walnut. [12]

Johnson gave further encouragement for the use of black walnuts in reforestation at the OFGA's September 27, 1880 meeting held at the City Council Chambers of London, Ontario. Here he explained his work in encouraging black walnut cultivation with the then Governor General of Canada, the Marquis of Lorne. Lorne was a great patron of Homer Watson's artistic work and a founder of the National Gallery of Canada. At the 1880 OFGA meeting Johnson explained how the fleshy green casing of walnuts make fine pickles, "if they are got at the right time of year, just when they are so large you can run a penknife through them." [13]

Johnson's 1880 OFGA address led to an article in its publication "The Canadian Horticulturalist". It detailed how, "Chief Johnson can supply any amount of either black walnut or butternuts, and they will be found the handiest and easiest to plant." The magazine's editor urged readers "to begin at once to plant, to plant early and often and especially to commence with the nut bearing trees." [14]

Johnson's praise of the black walnut caused the OFGA's President, Delos Beadle, who had at this time a nursery in St. Catharines, to look around Niagara to see if any black walnuts had survived. He lamented that although the tree lingered longer in Niagara than in other parts of southern Ontario, it had now all vanished. In his remarks to the Ontario Agricultural Commission in 1883 he reported sadly that even in its Niagara stronghold "all has been cut down." [15]

To build support for forest conservation Beadle delighted in telling stories of how Americans wise in the value of the once despised black walnut, were scouring southern's Ontario denuded countryside looking for their still valuable stumps and roots. Black walnut roots were being avidly dug up for sale to veneer manufacturers in the United States. [16]

The worth of the black walnut was taken up by some of the core of the OFGA's membership base in the Niagara Fruit Belt. After Johnson's death in 1884 at St. Catharines nurseryman, A. M. Smith took up his example. He grew and marketed black walnuts for reforestation purposes. J. Honsberger, a Niagara fruit grower in Louth Township, now part of the Town of Lincoln, became enthused about returning black walnuts to the floodplain of the Twenty Mile Creek, where, in the past, they grew in abundance. Honsberger explained his passion for the black walnut to an 1887 meeting of the OFGA. Here he explained why he purchased 400 black walnut trees from Smith. Honsberger explained how, "This walnut question is the one that brought me here. The walnut is a native of my native place, and a few years ago the last one disappeared; and being determined the place was not going to be devoid of walnut trees, I began putting nuts in the ground and I grew some trees." [17]

Today the fruits of Honsberger's combined purchase of trees and planting of nuts can be seen in the valley of the Twenty Mile Creek near his farm. The floodplain is dominated by black walnuts and another flood plain tolerant species, the sycamore. [18]

From personal observation in Niagara it is quite compelling to see how forests dominated by black walnut and sycamore will establish themselves in floodplains as soon as agriculture is abandoned. This I witnessed in St. Catharines after a purchase by the provincial government of land in the valley of the Twelve Mile Creek adjacent to the Short Hills Provincial Park in 1996. Within a decade of its acquisition from a rural estate owner who used the land for cattle ranching, a canopy forest of black walnuts had been established and continues to thrive. [19]

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Black walnut plantations, frequently of cultivars of the wild tree, are routinely established on fertile southern Ontario floodplains, as the tree has become recognized as "one of the most successful edible nut trees in Ontario." It has dominated floodplains in Niagara and in the various stream valleys flowing between the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario between Burlington and the western edge of the City of Toronto. This has been most vividly expressed in the City of Oakville, whose 845 hectares of woodlands are dominated by black walnut. [20]

The ecological recovery of the once barren floodplains of southwestern Ontario is a symbol of the vision of both the strength of the ideas of the ecological prophets of the 19th century and the robust vigour of the tree they encouraged, the black walnut. It is to be hoped that basic planning tools of our day such as wetland and floodplain protection and quarantine measures to prevent wood infected by the fungus that spreads the thousand canker disease will perpetuate this restored forest.

Endnotes

- 1) Elomore T. Reaman, "The Trail of the Black Walnut", (Clearfield, 1957), *passim*.
- 2) Horatio Hale, "The Iroquois Book of Rites", Chapter Four: Condolence and Installation", (Philadelphia, D. G. Brinton, 1883)
- 3) Horatio Hale, "Chief George H. M. Johnson-Onwanonsyshon, His Work Among the Six Nations", Reprinted from the Magazine of American History, February, 1885, PDF Brantford Public Library; Evelyn. H. C. Johnson, "Memoirs", (Chiefswood: Chiefswood Mansion, 2009), p. 12.
- 4) Donald B. Smith, "Sacred Feathers: The Revered Peter Jones and the Mississauga Indians", (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987) 216-200.
- 5) "Faithfully Yours: An Exhibition At the Woodland Cultural Centre Brantford, Ontario", (Woodland Cultural Centre, 2009), p.66.
- 6) Evelyn Johnson, *loc.cit.*, 30-40.
- 7) *Ibid.*, 20-30.
- 8) Charles Arnold and John Freed, "Report on the nut-growing grove of G. H. M. Johnson", Sessional Papers of the Ontario Legislature, Volume X, Part 1.
- 9) Annual Report of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association, 1879, Annual Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Arts for the Province of Ontario, Toronto: Hunter, Rose and Company by Order of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, 1879, Appendix D, pp. 305, 306.
- 10) Homer Watson entry, Wikipedia.
- 11) *Ibid.*
- 12) *Ibid.*
- 13) Annual Report of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association, 1879, *loc.cit.*
- 14) Minutes of the September 27, 1881 Meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers of Ontario, Ontario Sessional Papers, 1882, (No. 3).
- 15) Canadian Horticulturist, 1882", in Ontario Association of Fruit Growers collection, Brock University Archives.
- 16) September 27, 1881 Meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers of Ontario, *loc. Cit.*
- 17) Canadian Horticulturalist, Report of Ontario Fruit Growers Association, 1887.
- 18) Personal observation by author. Black walnut and sycamores are dominant trees in Twenty Mile Creek valley below Honsberger farm, which continues to be operated by his heirs.
- 19) I was stunned to witness the explosion of black walnut in the area of what is legally defined as Crown Land adjacent to Short Hills Park, shortly after the area was purchased by the provincial government in 1996.
- 20) Personal communication from Jai Hashemi, Manager Forestry Services, Oakville Parks and Open Spaces Department.

***Sylva* Recap**

The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests published for many years a journal titled "Sylva". The purpose of this journal was to highlight changes in policy, ecology facts, information about the activities of the Department, contributions of individuals and the comings and goings of staff. "Sylva" contains nuggets of Ontario forest history. One "nugget" from "Sylva" will be selected for each edition of the Journal. The following was provided by Sherry Hambly.

Wildlife Research in Algonquin Park by C. David Fowle **Reprinted from Sylva 4(1): 51-58, 1948**

Most kinds of scientific research require special technical equipment or laboratory facilities. The modern physicist requires the cyclotron as a tool, the chemist makes use of the special instruments and glassware of his profession and the bacteriologist cultures the bacteria with which he works under carefully controlled conditions in specially designed incubators. The wildlife biologist also uses many types of traditional laboratory apparatus but, it is also necessary for him to go out into nature and study animals in their natural environment. Thus, in addition to regular indoor laboratory facilities, the wildlife biologist must also have an outdoor laboratory in which to work.

Such outdoor facilities are to be found on the Wilderness Area in Algonquin Park. This thirty square mile tract of forest and water, established by Order-in-Council in June, 1944, lies north of Highway 60 in the northeastern part of Canisby and the southeastern portion of McLaughlin Townships, near Lake of Two Rivers. The boundaries of the Area have been so selected that none of the major fishing lakes of the Park have been included in it. Nor does it lie across any of the important canoe routes. The whole is closed to fishing and public travel.

The Wilderness Area is dedicated to wildlife research. In this vast outdoor laboratory, the animals and their environment can be studied year after year under relatively undisturbed conditions. The Area should not, however, be regarded as unique in that the results of all studies carried out upon it should have special reference to it. Rather, it is hoped to discover facts, principles and methods which may be used throughout Ontario and elsewhere, wherever they may be useful.

All the investigations going forward on the Wilderness Area have as their aim the production of useful data, that is, information which will be useful to the forester, the wildlife manager and administrator and to the biologist who is seeking a fuller understanding of our environment. There is no dearth of material with which the wildlife biologist may "work". Well over two hundred species of plants are to be found on the area. Many animal forms are there also, including eleven species of frogs, toads and salamanders. The reptiles are represented by at least two species of snakes and the snapping turtle. One hundred and six species of birds have been observed on the area; and at least thirty-two species of mammals have been found, ranging in size from the tiny pigmy shrew, weighing about a tenth of an ounce, to the huge bull moose which may weigh up to fourteen hundred pounds. Thus it will be seen that the forest, taken as a whole, is something more than an aggregation of trees; it is a living, dynamic association of plants in which dwells a variety and abundance of animals which is scarcely credited by the average citizen. It is the role of the animals in this complex environment which we hope ultimately to establish.

Animals are constantly acting and depending upon their environment. Many of those on the Wilderness Area depend upon the forest for food and shelter, while some of the forest plants, in turn, depend largely upon birds and mammals for the distribution of their seeds. A change in the forest environment, such as is wrought by logging operations or by fire, is reflected in changes in the size and species composition of the wildlife population ... Moreover, predatory animals, such as the valuable fur-bearing fisher and martin, depend upon squirrels and other small mammals for food. Consequently, the size of the small mammal population may be of great economic importance in view of this dependency.

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These complex relationships make the wildlife biologist's task a difficult one. Many animals are rare or difficult to observe, so that the collection of data relating to them can only be accomplished slowly and with difficulty over the years. Frequently so many factors are operating in the environment that it is difficult to discover which are the really important ones. The effects of variations in weather conditions, for example, are very difficult to evaluate. The complexity is further increased by the progressive and subtle changes which take place in the animals themselves throughout the year. Many birds, for example, arrive from the south in the spring migration in flocks, apparently bound together by that unity of purpose which is reflected in the migratory habit. Soon after arrival, however, changes associated with the breeding season occur within the birds and the males, who so recently had flown and fed with their fellows over thousands of miles, become completely intolerant of one another, setting themselves apart on more or less limited areas called territories, which they defend against intruding males of their own kind. Here, on the territory, the males usually wait for mates and may later build their nests and raise the young. Similar subtle changes occur in the behaviour of the deer. During the summer when the antlers are growing, a buck may sometimes be seen contentedly browsing with one or two other bucks. In the fall, however, when the antlers are fully developed and the breeding season begins, the same animals may threaten one another or fight whenever they chance to meet.

During the past three summers of 1945, 1946 and 1947 field parties, sent out by the Division of Research, have developed the working and living facilities on the Area and have spent much time in studying the wildlife. Visitors to the Area see university and high school students, who make up the field party, at work with the various tools of the wildlife biologist's trade. In the forest, observers with binoculars and notebooks study the behaviour of birds and the feeding habits of deer. Others, with compass and tape, survey lines through the forest along which vegetation study plots will be laid. The visitor should not be surprised to find that a man is concealed in a blind in a tree from which observations on the habits of the ruffed grouse are being made, or to find that some members of the party devote almost all their time to trapping and studying mice and shrews while others build deer traps. All of these activities and many more are part of an integrated program designed to uncover important facts regarding the lives of Ontario animals.

As we have already seen, the problems of wildlife biology generally have two aspects, that which concerns the animals themselves and that which concerns their surroundings. Some projects, carried on during the past summer, were concerned with this latter aspect. Exploration of the Wilderness Area, for example, goes on constantly, as more and more information on the distribution of forest types and various kinds of wildlife habitats is collected. Some of this data is plotted on specially prepared maps or on aerial photographs. Familiarity with the vegetation is essential to an understanding of the wildlife environment and to this end a representative plant collection is being accumulated. Collections of seeds, fruits and buds, now being made, will serve as references when the stomach contents of various animals is being identified in food habit studies. General weather observations, recorded several times each day, aid in the interpretation of the data relating to wildlife.

Several projects which were principally concerned with the animals themselves were carried out. These may be divided into two groups-those relating to mammals and those relating to birds. To date, twelve species of moles, shrews and mice have been found to inhabit the forest floor. Three other species, the chipmunk, the red squirrel and the flying squirrel are to be found on the ground or in the trees. These animals are thought to play an important role in the economy of the forest for several reasons. As has been noted, many of them constitute important items in the diet of fur bearers and other predatory animals. Some of them, like the squirrels, chipmunks and deer mice, may play an important role in the distribution of seeds. The insect-eating forms, such as the shrews, are known to destroy large numbers of sawfly cocoons as well as a host of other insects. The possible importance of small mammals as agents in soil formation and as factors limiting the survival of seeds and seedlings should not be overlooked.

The extent of the influence of these mammals will be governed, for the most part, by their abundance. Thus, a knowledge of the numbers of animals in an area is important and the development of a technique for measuring small mammal populations is fundamental to the collection of such information. For this reason, much time has been spent during the past three summers in an effort to devise a reliable method of measuring abundance of small mammals. Since any method which is used must be adapted to the habits of the animals, considerable time has been spent in studying the life histories and behaviour of the various species. During the past three years, over sixteen hundred small mammals, comprising seventeen species, have been examined, almost nine hundred and fifty of them being trapped during 1947. A detailed examination of each animal yields information on weights and measurements, age composition of the population, diseases and parasites and breeding habits. Details of habitat and home life of some species have been recorded, while the study of captive animals has also added to our understanding of them.

The protecting of tree seeds on planted areas has long been a vexing one in forestry. Some species of small mammals such as the squirrels, deer mice and shrews, may eat or remove a large proportion of the seeds from a plantation after they have been sown. A striking example of the storing habits of the deer mouse came to light on the Wilderness Area when a food cache was found which contained about half a million white and yellow birch seeds. However, it should be emphasized that in nature, in a forest already well stocked with trees, it is extremely unlikely that mammals remove more than the large excess of seed which ordinarily would not germinate or develop into trees. The real problem lies in protecting experimental plots, nursery beds, and areas which have been sown in an effort to restore the forest after fire or logging.

During the past summer, experiments with captive mice and shrews were carried out to determine the reactions of the animals to various chemical repellents. Seeds coated with repellents were fed to the animals in an effort to discover if any of the chemicals used would protect the seeds. To date, no successful repellent has been discovered. However, it does appear that the reactions of the animals vary according to species, one species refusing to eat treated seeds while others do so readily.

The importance of the white-tailed deer as a sport animal in Ontario is very great. In 1946, over 65,000 deer hunting licenses were issued in the Province and this compared with the 35,000 issued in 1941 gives us some measure of the increased hunting pressure which has been brought to bear on this species. Proper management of the deer depends largely upon a knowledge of the animal's life history and upon the numbers in the areas under management. This, in turn, depends upon a reliable method for determining numbers. Thus the wildlife census becomes for the manager what the inventory is to the merchant. It tells him how much stock he has to deal with and, in the cases of the manager, how many animals may be safely harvested without destroying the reproductive capacity of the population.

Investigations going forward on the Wilderness Area have been aimed at devising a suitable method for censusing deer in Ontario. Background material for this work is being obtained from a life history study of the species which is now under way. In addition, the problem has been attacked directly in a program of live-trapping and marking which will make possible the study of the local movements of deer. Several trials of known census methods have been made.

Among the projects directly concerned with the birds, two have received special attention. The first of these is the work with the birds of the forest. As has been noted in the cases of the small mammals and deer, little can be learned about the role of animals in the forest unless the numbers involved are known. Since this is true also in the case of the birds, an effort has been made to improve the known methods of censusing birds and to devise new ones. In the course of this work, considerable information on the lives and habits of the forest birds has been obtained.

Most of the one hundred and six species of birds which have been noted on the Wilderness Area live in the forest. The importance of birds in the economy of the forest is not well understood but it is probable that many species serve man's interests by destroying large numbers of insect pests and

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by distributing the seeds of many plants. Moreover, the very fact that these birds are among the most abundant and widely distributed in the forest suggests that we should add to our meagre knowledge of them.

The ruffed grouse is eastern North America's premier upland game bird and, as such, it deserves the attention of wildlife biologists. Since the summer of 1945 a general study of the life history and relationships of this bird has been going on in Algonquin Park, with a view to discovering facts which would be of value in managing the species. In 1947, the project was moved to the Wilderness Area, where a permanent long-term program was organized on a special study area where the bird may be studied from year to year. Special attention as being paid to the habitat requirements of the grouse.

The discoveries of wildlife research are not spectacular, nor are its rewards easily gained, but it is certain that the steadily increasing volume of information arising from the studies on the Wilderness Area will help us to understand, manage and use wisely the wildlife resources of the Province, which are so much a part of the Ontario scene.



Nature has provided most game birds with a colouring that blends with their environment
C.H.D. Clarke

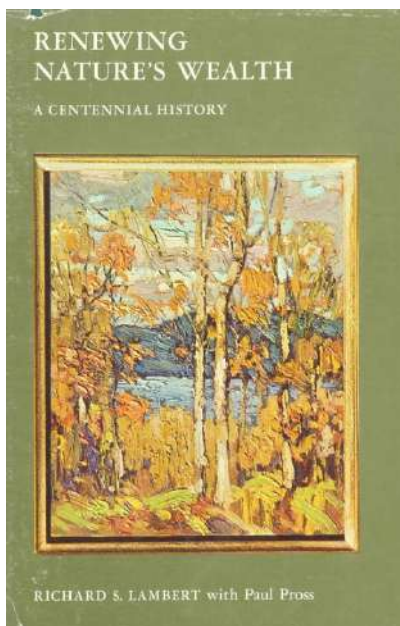


This friendly fawn enjoys the liberty of the Wilderness Area in Algonquin Park



A moose in its natural habitat.
C.H.D. Clarke

Renewing Nature's Wealth



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

We will provide a précis of one chapter of this book in each edition of *Forestry*.

Chapter 21 Fish and Wildlife Management Part 2, Game Management in Ontario

Hunting, like fishing, went through its destructive phase in the 1800s. Edwin Tinsley, Chief Game Warden, wrote the obituary for the most popular game bird of the day, the wild turkey, in 1904. The loss of this species inspired some of the earliest game laws. Efforts to restore the species failed.

The creation of agricultural lands led to an explosion of bobwhite quail across southern Ontario. This species was a popular game bird for a period of time. But the harsh winters of the 1850s decimated its population. The demise of the quail led the 'Sportsmen of Toronto' to agitate for and produce the Game Law of 1856. The quail did not return and the introduced ring-necked pheasants took its place. The first open season for pheasant was held in 1910. By the early 1960s 50 thousand birds a year were being distributed, and their range covered most of southern Ontario. From 1946-1951 special studies of pheasant were undertaken on Pelee Island by the Wildlife Management Institute of Washington, and districts undertook banding programs. Several private and public pheasant hunting grounds were created.

Ruffed grouse were found throughout Ontario and were the most popular game bird species. Some of the earliest Ontario game laws were created to save grouse populations. Hungarian partridge were introduced from 1927 to 1937.

The most favoured hunting quarry was the white-tailed deer. It was relatively abundant throughout southern Ontario prior to settlement. The expansion of agricultural lands and hunting caused the deer population to decrease in southern Ontario, but timber harvesting north of the shield resulted in an expansion of deer range and numbers from 1867-1892. Deer migrated into Canada from the US at Sault Ste Marie in 1887.

The first non-resident deer hunting licence was issued in 1888 and cost \$10.00. The first resident licence was issued in 1896 and cost \$2.00. The killing of deer in water was banned in 1896. The bag limit for non-residents was raised from one to two in 1899. By 1905 all residents had to have a licence to hunt deer. The first guide was licensed in 1909. The resident licence fee was raised to \$3.00 in 1918. Increased road access by the 1930s opened up prime deer range for hunting. The first significant attempts to manage deer began in the 1940s. Check stations were set up to enforce laws and collect biological data. Winter habitat improvements were conducted.

By this time deer had taken over prime moose habitat. In the 1880s-90s, Muskoka was a prime moose hunting area. With the expansion of railways, logging and fire, moose range expanded north.

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By the 1960s there were more moose in Ontario than a hundred years prior. Revenue from moose licences in the 1960s exceeded one million dollars annually. The moose season was closed in 1949/50 to perfect and undertake aerial moose population surveys.

From 1867 on, the main game of the north was woodland caribou. But logging decimated its source of food (lichen, which was very slow to regenerate) and the season was closed in 1929.

Black bear occur all over Ontario except the deep south. A bounty was paid for this species from 1941 to 1961 at which time it became a game species and the bounty was removed. A spring bear hunt was introduced, which became popular with tourists. In 1958, 4,800 bear licences were sold.

The oldest game licence in Ontario was created for a bounty on wolves. The Parliament of Upper Canada enacted a law in 1793 to encourage the eradication of bears and wolves. An Act of 1830 allowed bounties to Indigenous peoples to encourage the extermination of wolves. This policy failed. But the reduction in wolves led to the increase in coyote numbers, especially in settled parts of Ontario.

From 1925 to 1964 over 1.7 million bounties were paid out and nearly 100,000 wolves were killed. Attitudes towards predatory wildlife began to change from persecution to management in the mid-1900s. As an example, hundreds of tourists traveled to Algonquin Park in the 1960s to hear wolves howl. Management decided that a bounty was not needed as it was determined that the species could control its own numbers.

The worst hunting pressure was on waterfowl. Heavy hunting pressure led to protection laws in Canada but not the United States where much of the habitat was. And there was a loss of another important place of habitat in Canada's west. Many waterfowl hunters were rich and famous Americans who belonged to private hunt clubs in Ontario. By 1960, over half of waterfowl hunters were American.

The Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary was created in 1908. A group on Lake Scugog began the practice of banding ducks to collect migration data. Later Jack Miner took up this practice.

There was an amendment to the Game Act in 1916 to prohibit the sale or purchase of waterfowl, and to limit the number of waterfowl that could be shot. That same year Britain (on behalf of Canada) signed with the United States the Migratory Birds Convention that led to protective measures in both countries. To this day the management of migratory birds rests with the Canadian government.

Feeding to kill waterfowl was banned in 1935 and the use of live birds as decoys was banned in 1936. From the 1940s to the 1960s fluctuations in population levels led to the development of waterfowl shooting units for public hunting. The Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation was established at Guelph University in 1961 to further research into waterfowl.

The Migratory Birds Convention protected all migrating birds, not just waterfowl. Ontario had enacted a law in 1865 to protect insectivorous birds. This law became part of the *Game and Fish Act* of 1946.

The fur trade was an important economic activity from early exploration and settlement times. A steep decline in furbearer populations in the late 1800s led to the Kelly Evans Commission of 1909. This commission led to the closing of seasons for beaver, which led to an increase in the trapping of muskrat.

After World War 1 there was an explosion in fur prices, which led to the near extinction of fisher, marten, beaver and lynx. This situation led to the licensing of trapping and the development, in 1917, of the first Crown game preserves. After various strategies were tried, Ontario settled on a program, in 1948, to register all traplines in the province as the tool to manage furbearing animals. By the 1960s, Ontario had the largest, most extensive, fur management program in Canada. Game preserves fell out of favour as a method of management.

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In Memoriam: Peter Murphy

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved dad, Peter Murphy.

Dad was born Peter John Murphy, February 20, 1930, in Montreal to Helen and Herb Murphy, and was raised in Montreal.

He graduated from University of New Brunswick in 1954 with a BScF. He then headed west to work in forestry and worked in British Columbia and in Northern Alberta. It was in Alberta where he met the love of his life, Joan Elizabeth Robson.

Pete and Joan had five children: Sharon (Carly, Jason, Jonathan, and Nova), Shelagh (Calvin, Monique, Cian, McKenna, and Keyaan), Thomas (Sarah, Jade, and David), Barbara (Dave, Jacy, and Rose), and Bridget (Colin and Casey). Dad will be lovingly remembered by his brother Dr. David Murphy (Sonia, Luke, Matthew, and Deirdre), and his sister Judy Murphy (Cameron, Dana, Christie, and Terry). Pete and Joan have a huge extended family of cousins, in-laws, nieces, and nephews whom all spent time with him, at one time or another, and were left with fond memories. Dad was predeceased by Joan in 2011 and Bridget in 2009.

Throughout his career, Dad established the Forestry Training School in Hinton and was instrumental in the creation of the NAIT and University of Alberta forestry programs. Dad completed his MScF from University of Montana in 1963, and his PhD from University of British Columbia in 1985. In 1973 Dad began working at University of Alberta as a professor and chair of the newly created Faculty of Forestry program. He subsequently became the Associate Dean of the Faculty, until his retirement in 1995.

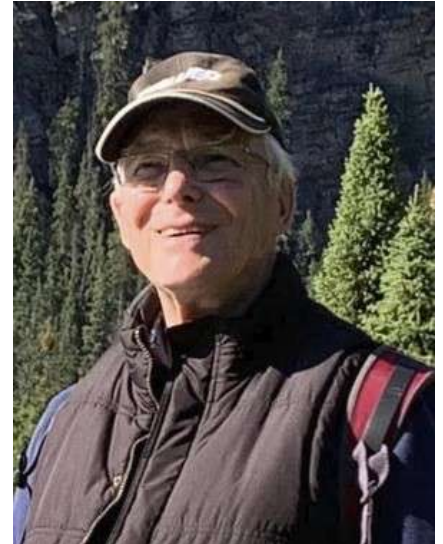
Dad had a great love for Forestry, but his true love was passing on his knowledge to future generations. As an author of numerous books on forestry in Alberta and Canada, his public speaking, and his active participation in tree planting and forest renewal projects, Dad would always find the time to talk with and encourage anyone who had an interest in trees or forestry.

His work at the University of Alberta allowed him to share his passion and nurture the love and respect for the forests in students and faculty alike. His work and personality garnered lifelong friendships by many who knew him, and respect from his colleagues in the field.

Dad was well respected and loved by many. He was a kind and gentle soul. He was a gentleman and a scholar. He loved bluegrass and classical music, delivering a good pun, and a good story. His favourite place in world was in the Alberta forests and mountains. We will always cherish his stories, good humour and love.

Donations may be made to the Dr. Peter J Murphy Fund in Forestry at uabGive.ca/Murphy

Published on November 7, 2020



In Memoriam: Robert Lloyd Mitton

ROBERT LLOYD MITTON Born in Thamesville, Ontario on August 24, 1944. Bob passed away suddenly on April 3, 2021 in Victoria, British Columbia. Bob graduated from the University of Toronto 1969 in Forestry and then worked in Algonquin Park. He later moved to BC where he was able to enjoy his passions of boating and fishing. Bob loved entertaining friends and family on his boat whether he lived in Ontario, BC, Florida, or California. He came back to Ontario in 1988 to become Deputy Minister of Education and later Deputy Minister of Natural Resources. Bob could always find the time to listen and loved being with young people. He was a trusted, loyal, energetic person who dedicated his career and life to the responsible science based management of Canada's natural resources. Bob is survived by his loving wife, Mimi Vandermolen, son, Craig, brother and wife Don and Judith and many nieces and nephews. All of these he loved and touched deeply.

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Fur farming started in 1902 and became so popular by the 1960s that the revenues from fur farms exceeded those of traplines. The first farms were registered in 1920. Initially, the key species farmed were foxes and muskrats. In the 1940s, a genetic mutation in mink, which led to the development of various types of mink furs, created an explosion in mink farming. The farming of other species declined. By the early 1960s mink farming was a well established and lucrative business in Ontario.


Several hunting accidents and deaths from guns led to the development of a Hunter Safety Program in 1957. An offence of careless hunting was added to the Game Act in 1961.

During the 1960s there was a growing public conscience and interest in wildlife – nature students, wildlife photographers, birders and artists. Pressure groups developed to promote conservation of wildlife and protection of its environment.

Forest History Society of Ontario

Membership Form

Thank You For Your Support!

<p>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:</p> <p>To preserve forest and forest conservation history;</p> <p>To encourage and further the development and recognition of forest history;</p> <p>To support research and studies of forest history;</p> <p>To support the archival preservation of records and materials relating to forest history, and</p> <p>To promote the better understanding of forest history through public education.</p>		<p>The Society has two ongoing projects, both available on our website:</p> <p>www.ontarioforesthistorystory.ca</p> <p>The first is a catalogue of publications dealing with all aspects of Ontario’s forest history. Members can submit contributions on our website.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Society publishes a newsletter, Forestory, twice a year – Spring and Fall - containing informative articles on Ontario forest history.</p>
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(The FHSO has a privacy policy. Your information will not be shared or sold.)

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

<http://www.ontarioforesthistorystory.ca/index.php/membership>

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

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