

Through The Knothole

a quarterly newsletter of the

HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

FOREST HEALTH MEETING UPDATE

By Neil Craig

Our meeting was held on May 15, 2018 at the Edgar Hall. About 40 members gathered on a pleasant spring evening to hear our guest speaker, Martin P. Hederich.



Martin is a retired captain of the German Armed Forces, who immigrated to Canada in 1984. He has a Masters Degree in Education and is a Certified Master Chimney Sweep and a Master Solid Fuel Technician. He is the author of the book

"Beautiful Heat" a very well written and educational book on the advantages and economics of heating your home with wood.

Martin discussed 10 good reasons to heat your home with wood. Regular tree thinnings and trail cleanups offer an abundant supply of fuel to the landowner. Martin then gave us a guide to high-performance woodburning appliances. The modern woodstoves and inserts today offer superior performance, greater efficiency and produce very little smoke and ash with properly seasoned wood. His talk was followed up with an entertaining question and answer period. Martin had brought copies of his book and personally autographed them at the end of the meeting.

Neil Craig, who chaired the program, gave an update on: the 50 million tree planting program, the Hemlock Woolly Algecid in Ontario, and highlighted attempts to save the oldest red oak tree in Toronto – a 300 year old specimen in North York. Bev Ellsmere provided coffee and cookies to tempt us all. The meeting ended with a social time.

Best wishes to MIKE O'HARA as he recuperates from a recent accident

Mike O'Hara was critically injured as a result of an accident while landscaping his home. Mike is recuperating and has the best care available. Mike has stepped down from his duties with the HWOA. He will advise us when he is ready to take personal emails. For now please use his wife, Nancy's email oharanancy@yahoo.ca From John O'Hara

History of the HWOA by Jim Laking

Jim is putting together a lengthy History of our Association. If you have something to include, forward it to Jim Laking,

24 Mills Circle, Midland L9X 0J7; call 705-722-0512; or email to jajlaking@rogers.com.

TRENDY TREES (Part 2) by Gerry Beauchamp

By the 1950's another development in furniture construction was to diminish the appetite for premium woods. With the influence of the 'space age' the trend was evolving towards metal furnishings. The old wooden kitchen table and chairs, for example, were being replaced by the 'Chrome set'

featuring a Formica top available in many designs and colours, and a strong steel chrome plated leg assembly and frame, as well as matching padded chairs. Another standard of the past was disappearing as well, and hardwood floors were now being covered with wall-to-wall carpeting by the acre. It seems that wood was no longer in vogue and even livingroom furniture such as coffee tables and end tables were featuring man-made products instead of the long-used forest products. Although not to disconnect from wood completely, the new products often featured an attractive 'wood grain' look.

The 1960's continued with more of the same, with the exception being televisions and hi-fi units now being housed in sleek wooden cabinets. Floors however were still carpeted but now with a plush shag material which had to be raked and vacuumed almost daily.

As with most trends however, their nature is fleeting and with the sixties and seventies disappearing into the rear-view mirror, the buying public was becoming nostalgic for the wood furnishings enjoyed by their grandparents. Some large furniture production companies were now producing vintage-look, premium-priced furnishings with an established and growing market. Furniture stores were becoming massive buildings with seemingly endless displays of dining room, bedroom, and livingroom suites. The appeal of well crafted, quality furniture was returning and the hardwood forests had to brace for the impact. As we headed rapidly towards a new millennium the taste of the purchasing public was finally harmonizing. A new home of the time would likely have Oak kitchen cabinets, clear or stained hardwood baseboard and door trim, solid hardwood flooring and high quality premium wooden furniture. It seemed like wood had finally found a permanent niche in the consumer handbook.

Now well established into the twenty-first century we are seeing yet another innovation in the home decor industry. People are still in love with wood floors, however they are more likely to be laminates, wood-grained vinyl impersonators, or imported wood products such as bamboo. We have evolved somewhat into a more ecologically conscious society as well, although I think many people wave the flag without contributing to the battle. As a result, current trends in furniture are seeing the emergence of terms such as: reclaimed, heirloom, antique, hand-hewn, rough-cut, and live-edge. In a current discussion about furniture at least one of these terms is bound to arise. One only has to view any of the prevalent DIY channels on television to note that the present trend in building and furnishings seems to have come full-circle. TV shows like 'Barnwood Builders' or 'Rehab Addict', are all encouraging the re-use of materials for building and decorating our homes today. To my way of thinking, this is a good thing since it spares some of nature's resources from the insatiable human appetite and intercepts many materials before becoming landfill giving them a new life as products which can be used again. Who would have dreamed that my grandfathers' century-old barn boards could someday provide a highly prized accent wall in a new home or the old rust laden metal roof of that same structure could be used to provide a clear-coated backsplash for an upscale kitchen. In the relatively short time (20 years) that I have operated a

sawmill and offered some wood products for sale as a hobby business, I have noticed a remarkable change in what people consider desirable. The demand for select-grade clear Red Oak for example has diminished while weathered and insect damaged planks with the edge bark still attached has become coveted. Clear lumber for furniture building is still in demand but if there is some spaling (beginnings of decay) characterizing the wood it becomes even more appreciated. As for pre-used lumber, with its weathered texture and flaws the demand has become insatiable.

People now seem to have developed an appreciation for the materials and workmanship of the past, and are willing to pay exorbitant amounts of money to capture it. Our forefathers would probably be flattered and perplexed by it all. Although the current trend is encouraging, I am not naive enough to think that it is going to last. History has taught us that today's treasure will be tomorrow's garbage and as time goes on I'm sure that our forests will once again be bracing for the next 'got to have items' requiring the widespread harvest of 'trendy trees'.

CALLING ALL AUTHORS

Please submit a Knothole article, or suggest websites for all of us to enjoy. What are you doing lately in your woodlot? Is there a story, photos, poem or history you wish to share? Send it to me, Jim Marchand, at: jimmarchand5@gmail.com

DIRECTORS (in alphabetical order)

Chairman: rotating among Directors

Craig, Neil: Forest Health (705-726-1334)
neil@greylands.ca

Crawford, John: Treasurer (705-487-3373)
line8jcrowford@hotmail.com

Douglas, Cam: Secretary,
Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship
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Ellsmere, Chris: Fall Field Day (705-726-8479)
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Ewens, Ken: (705-487-3731) sandimacewe@gmail.com
Jenkins, John (705-835-2680)

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Marchand, Jim: (705-835-0094) Communications,
Through the Knothole jimmarchand5@gmail.com

Parker, Robert (204-730-0597)
crparker28@hotmail.com

OWA Chapter Transition Team: Earl Dertinger and Jim Marchand.

Through the Knothole Dates, Jim Marchand

Spring: about April 27 - Summer: about Aug. 24 -

Fall: about Oct 26 - and Winter: about Jan 25

Deadline is 2 weeks prior.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

2018: March 13, April 10, August 14, Sept 11,

2019: January 8

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 29: Fall Field Day: Chris Ellsmere's property

Nov. 10: White Pine Meeting, Elmvale Legion, 1 pm

Feb.9, 2019: AGM at Elmvale Legion, 1 pm

May 14, 2019: Forest Health Meeting, Edgar Hall, 7 pm

UPDATE BY THE OWA CHAPTER TRANSITION TEAM

The Transition Team was set up at the HWOA Directors Meeting on April 10, 2018. Mike O'Hara and Jim Marchand volunteered to be on the team. It was brought forward at the meeting to ask Earl Dertinger to be added to the team as a third member which he accepted.

This team is currently 2 members, Jim and Earl, subsequent to Mike O'Hara stepping down in August because of his recuperation following his recent accident.

CONSTITUTION of HWOA as part of the OWA

First, the team began the task of formulating our new revised constitution as an OWA Chapter. We started preparing by referring to ourselves as the Huronia Woodland Owners Association chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association, following the OWA naming process.

Mike had sent the team the present HWOA constitution with the suggested name change. The OWA sent a Chapter Constitution Template as part of the 'New Chapter Package'. This template seemed to cover all the aspects put forward in the present HWOA constitution, but was also more encompassing and less stringently exacting than the wording we presently use. Jim prepared a document with the Chapter Constitution Template on the left and the HWOA Constitution on the right on the right, matching the Article subjects so the two wordings could be easily reviewed, side by side. This was reviewed by each Transition Team member and then distributed to the HWOA Board Members at the August 14 HWOA Board Meeting to take home and read. The Constitution will be formally reviewed at the September HWOA Board of Directors meeting. It is hoped that the new HWOA Constitution, as decided on at the Board meeting, can be presented to the HWOA membership at the White Pine Award meeting in November for a membership vote.

ARTICLE ABOUT HWOA IN WOODLANDER

Neil Dunning, OWA Communications, called to see if he could write up a story about us for the Woodlander. Earl and Jim arranged a conference call with him to answer questions for his article which will appear in the next issue of the OWA periodical "The Woodlander".

OUR OWN HWOA PAGE ON THE OWA WEBSITE

The HWOA page on the OWA website went live at 9 am on August 3rd 2018. Jim wrote a history of our organization with Earl's assistance, using some information from members. Jim had 12 photographs posted, and also our HWOA logo. The page has links back to our HWOA website. Have a peek at it: <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/huronia-chapter>

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The next task the Team had to tackle was the membership list. Some of the new people who paid memberships did not have any contact information, and some who renewed, but

were not on recent membership lists, had no contact information. With the most current list and payment info from John Crawford, Jim made a new Excel spread sheet. Earl had some old member lists. With these, and info provided by other members, Earl and Jim got the list updated and filled in to have contact information on all paid members.

This list was sent to the OWA on August 17, in time to get the membership process moving as we become an OWA Chapter.

FEE FOR 2018-2019 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ON OWA

Membership year in the OWA runs from Sept 15 to Sept. 14 of the next year. The membership fees are mailed out in mid to late August by the OWA. Payment is due on Sept. 15. Please note this is different from HWOA practice.

Prior to Mike's accident, Mike and the OWA Executive Director were involved in discussions to create a process to amalgamate the OWA and HWOA membership systems, fees and billing dates in a fair manner for both groups. The Transition Team and the HWOA Board of Directors has agreed to the plan Mike developed with the OWA Executive Director.

Shortly you should be receiving a membership invoice for 2018-19 OWA fees due September 15, 2018. This invoice from the OWA also includes our membership dues as part of the HWOA Chapter. FOR THIS YEAR ONLY, OWA membership will be for \$40, with \$7 coming back to the HWOA. In future years, membership will be the full fee with a portion coming back to the HWOA Chapter (for example: for other Chapters, the 2018-19 OWA membership is \$50, with \$17 coming back to each chapter).

BOARD MEETING OF THE OWA

At the HWOA Directors Meeting on April 10, 2018 Jim Marchand volunteered to be the HWOA representative on the OWA Board of Directors. The following is Jim's report:

The first meeting I attended was by conference call on June 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Topics included: financial update; creating a student membership; memberships are family memberships and allow a spouse to hold office; how to increase attendance at annual AGMs; MFTIP owners should have licensing and access to the same invasive species pesticides like farm property owners; and also the OWA committee reports.

The next OWA Board of Directors meeting is on September 12, 2018 in Brantford, ON.

QUESTIONS?

It has been a very busy few months. If you have any questions regarding the OWA transition you can email me (Jim Marchand) at jimmarchand5@gmail.com or by phone at 705-835-0094.

Submitted by Jim Marchand

Huronian Woodland Owners Association

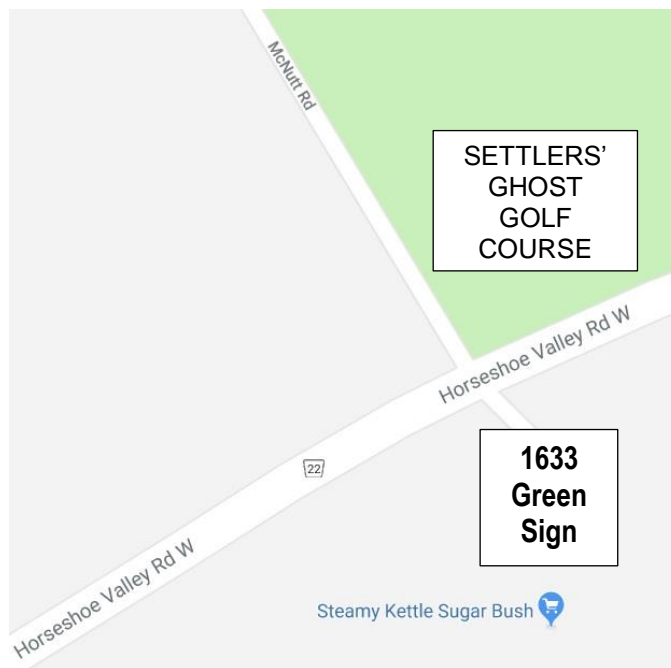
FALL FIELD DAY 2018

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2018, 9:30 am

Location: Green Sign Number- 1633 Horseshoe Valley Road



Event is located at Green Sign- 1633 Horseshoe Valley Road. It is on the opposite side of the road to McNutt Rd (where you access Settlers Ghost Golf Course). Watch for our HWOA sign at Chris Ellsmere's entrance.



Fall Field Day 2018 Events at Chris Ellsmere's property:

Plan to arrive at 9:30 am, when we will have coffee available to start the day, renewing with old and new acquaintances.

Starting about 10 am, there will be a walk around of the property. The property was recently thinned. Marking for the thinning was done by John Quick, who will explain his marking and the reasoning behind his choices. Ed Koski, who was the logger for the thinning, will also be on hand. He will talk about how he went about the logging, his reasons for doing what he did so as to have the minimum amount of damage to the bush.

Another use of the property is Maple Sugar production. Chris Ellsmere will talk about the pipe line he put in last fall, his generator and why he chose to install the generator. There is also a full production Sugar Shack for us to view. John Williams (who installed the pipeline) will be on site in the afternoon to explain the installation and why he laid out the pipeline in the manner he did. John Holmes of CDL will also be coming to the Fall Field Day to talk about maple syrup equipment.

Chris Ellsmere will also give us a demonstration of his Sawmill. Converting a round portion of a tree into planks is always an amazing activity to watch.

Bev and Chris Ellsmere are busy planning our coffee breaks and lunch, in their fantastic hospitality style. Lastly, Chris is arranging for a draw at the end of the day. He always has such amazing prizes for the perfect end to a perfect day.

COME AND ENJOY THE FALL FIELD DAY 2018 WITH YOUR HWOA FRIENDS!