



# THROUGH THE KNOTHOLE

Quarterly newsletter of the **Huronia Chapter**  
of the Ontario Woodlot Association



Issue # 101

[www.huronianwoodlandowners.ca](http://www.huronianwoodlandowners.ca)

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***The Huronia Woodlot Owners (HWO) is a chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA). Your membership with the provincial OWA automatically enrolls you as a member of the local HWO (just be sure to indicate "Huronian Chapter" on your membership form).***

## **Inside:**

- *HWO Fall Field Day recap*
- *Update: Draft Strategic Plan for HWO*
- *Scholarship Award nomination process*

## **Save the Date:**

- *Hogg Creek Watershed Landowner initiative November 02, 2024*
- *HWO White Pine Award: Saturday November 16, 2024*
- *Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship deadline January 13, 2025*
- *HWO Annual General Meeting: February 08, 2025*

# THANK YOU



We wish to thank Vermeer Canada Inc. for supporting the Huronia Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association by supplying the refreshments that we enjoy at our meetings throughout the year.

## Upcoming Events (Save The Date):

### **White Pine Award for Forest Stewardship presentation and meeting.**

Each November the HWOA recognises the work and achievements of one of our members in regards to promoting forest health. A recipient has been chosen and the 'big reveal' will

happen at the **Elmvale Legion Hall (6 John Street) on Saturday November 16 at 1:00 p.m.** Also hear guest speaker **Elliott Groen from the Ontario Woodlot Association** present updates on the small woodlot program.



*Elliott Groen is the Sustainable Forestry Coordinator in a shared position with the Kawartha Land Trust and the Ontario Woodlot Association. Through this he works on challenges and opportunities for managing and restoring treed landscapes. This includes facilitating silviculture, conducting landscape level analysis, and working on funding and collaborative opportunities.*

*Elliott will present on the **Private Land Silviculture and Restoration Program (PLSRP)** sharing insights from work*

*occurring in the Kawarthas and other regional hubs, highlight the objectives of several funding applications and share how small woodlot owners within the Huronia chapter can get involved in this program.*

### **Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship**

The Huronia Chapter annually awards the Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship. This **\$1,000 scholarship** is awarded to a College or University student who has completed one year or two semesters in a Forestry Program or a program that impacts on Forestry.

If you know of a forestry student (or are one) please consider a nomination for this award. There is value on receiving this when placed in a resume... and the thousand bucks can pay for a few forestry books! Full application form is on our website ([www.huroniawoodlandowners.ca](http://www.huroniawoodlandowners.ca)). Submissions are due by **JANUARY 13, 2025.**



## **Website management assistance requested.**

**Doug Frost** has been looking after the Huronia Chapter's website for several years and is hopeful that there is someone "out here" who would consider taking over this aspect of our communications. While not an onerous job, it does require knowledge of website management (primarily posting new info).

If you, one of your kids, or a tech savvy friend would like to discuss this with Doug, he would really like to have a conversation with you! (705-487-5723)

[doug@forksinthetrail.com](mailto:doug@forksinthetrail.com)

## **Huronia Chapter Strategic Plan**

Doug Frost and the Board of Directors have been creating a new guiding document for the Huronia Chapter. The full Plan will be shared with all members for review prior to our Annual General Meeting in February, 2025.

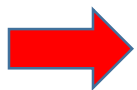
*HWO Strategic Goals (proposed):*

- 1. Ensure members get value from Chapter membership.*
- 2. Deliver valued forest health education.*
- 3. Assist members with forest management projects.*

*Each of these goals is then broken down to a series of sub-categories:  
What we are going to do; How we are going to do it; How we will measure success.*

*The 'nature' of our Chapter has shifted from the original intent of woodlot owners supporting each other's timber production initiatives to a broader community interest in forests in general with impacts of climate change, rampant land development, the surge in invasive species, and understanding forest values beyond commercial applications.*

## **Huronia Chapter AGM:**



Members and friends will be gathering on **Saturday February 08, 2025** at the Guthrie Community Centre (corner of Hwy 11 southbound and Line 4 Oro-Medonte Township) at 1:00 p.m. The strategic plan will be presented, the Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship awarded, elections held, and a fabulous guest speaker will inform and educate you.

## Hogg Creek Watershed Landowners Meeting:

A new initiative being explored by the **Severn Sound Environmental Association** to enhance ways to get information to landowners about preserving and enhancing their property. Initially brought forward by Sandy Agnew and David Hawke, a “town hall” meeting will be held **Saturday November 02 at the Vasey United Church at 10:00 a.m.**

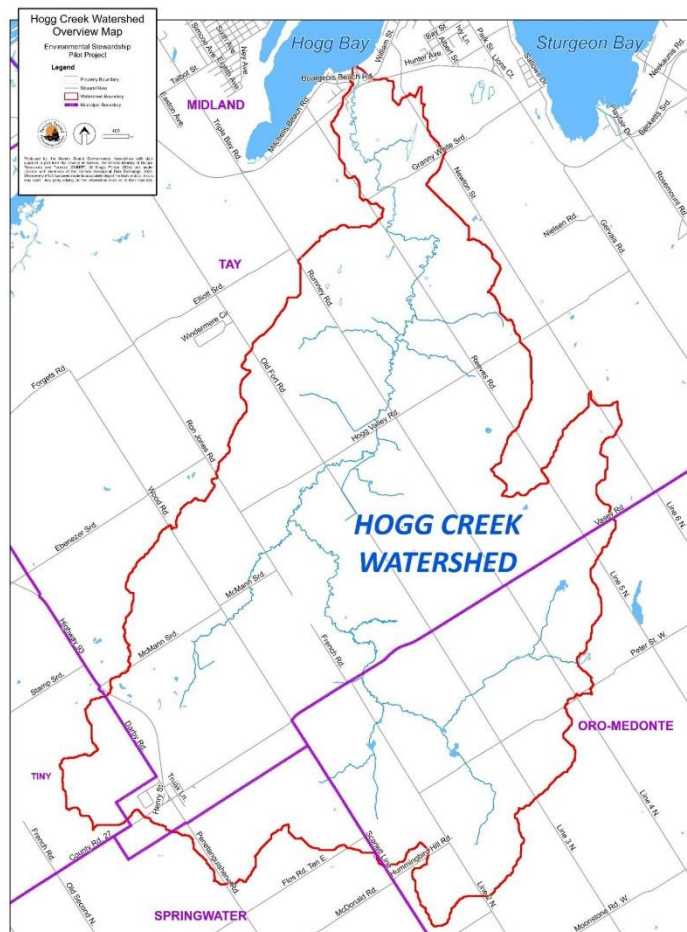
Several other conservation-minded organizations will be attending, including the Couchiching Conservancy Land Trust, Huronia Land Trust, the Wye Marsh Centre, and the Huronia Woodland Owners.

Presentations and discussions will be focussed on what programs are available to assist landowners, such as tree planting, streambank improvements, woodlot management, citizen science monitoring, conservation land easements, and tax incentive programs.

A good portion of the meeting will be to hear from landowners as to what they want /need to be better stewards of their properties.

This is an exploratory project that focusses on the Hogg Creek sub-watershed of Severn Sound, and if successful will be applied more broadly across other watersheds.

For more information and to RSVP: [sseainfo@severnsound.ca](mailto:sseainfo@severnsound.ca) or 705-534-7283.



## Huronia Chapter's Fall Field Day Event (28 September, 2024):

The weather was ideal, the program was informative and educational, the attendees were the best people, the location was perfect... need I say more? Well, yes, as it was a big event.

This year's Fall Field Day was hosted at the farm and woodlot of Craig and Sandie Drury, located just north of Barrie, near Crown Hill. This property has significant history as it has been owned by the Drury family since the 1830s. Craig's great-grandfather was Ontario Premier E.C. Drury, one of the instigators of the province's original reforestation initiative in the 1920s.



*Photos 1 and 2. Our host Craig Drury welcomes attendees to the Huronia Fall Field Day.*

Over 50 folks with a love of all things 'woodlot' attended the full day event, attracting not only local members but OWA members from surrounding areas and chapters as well. This was a great mix of old friends and new acquaintances. **Vermeer Canada Inc.** provided refreshments.

The morning was divided into four presentation areas which the carefully divided crowd rotated through with fine precision (most of the time). Craig had arranged equipment demonstrations and speakers from Norwood portable saw mills, Black's Creek Innovations wood processors, Humber College Chainsaw Safety, and Vermeer Canada Inc..



**Photo 3. Bob Smith of Humber College gave an excellent overview of chainsaw maintenance, personal protection equipment, and how to safely wander around with your chainsaw.**

**The questions from the audience indicated that we all need this kind of refresher about working in the woodlot.**



**Photo 4. Brian Shelswell and Jenna Luscombe-Mills of Norwood Saw Mills provided a demonstration of portable saw mills, both small and large.**

**This demonstration provided members opportunity to ask “ask all the dumb questions” and get professional and pertinent information about owning and operating a portable mill.**



***Photo 5. This larger portable Norwood mill gave attendees a look at what might be established if they truly want to mill their own lumber (and their neighbour's).***



***Photo 6. Sheldon Gilmer of Black's Creek Innovations provided an excellent demo on processing tree trunks into firewood. An impressive pile of blocks was created in mere minutes, much to the awe and envy of attendees.***



***Photo 7. A slightly smaller wood processor was also demonstrated by Sheldon of Black's Creek Innovations. If one is serious about making firewood, one has to seriously consider one of these units.***



***Photo 8. Adel Sakkab, Ontario Arborist Product Manager for Vermeer Canada Inc. gave us insight as to selecting proper PPE for working in the woodlot. The new products are truly awesome in their design and application.***

***Bonus for attendees was that many items were available to purchase at GREATLY reduced prices. Several attendees were seen loading their cars with safety chaps, ropes, gloves, and other essential woodlot equipment.***



After a casual 'bring your own' lunch, we reconvened for a tour of the Drury woodlot. This property was one of the first to be surveyed in Upper Canada, and the 100 acre lots run narrow and deep, stretching like a ribbon from the famous Penetanguishene Road (route of 1812 British supply chain between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay) to the next Concession Line. This meant that it was a fair distance to actually get to the trees from across the farm fields. Solution: tractor wagon rides!

*A new portable microphone and speaker system proved invaluable for communication (until the battery died).*

*Photos 9, 10 and 11. A hay wagon ride proved a great way to tour the farm and get to the distant woodlot. We discovered that the more you squeezed in, the more comfortable the ride was!*



The woodlot tour included work that Craig has been doing, mainly removing dead ash as well as experimenting with methods of thinning an overstocked conifer area. Again, excellent questions were raised as to the whys and how-tos of forest work being conducted by an individual.



**Photo 12.** *Craig Drury (on right with headset mic) shared his take on forest management and requested advice from the group. Good discussion on promoting forest diversity versus culling weed trees.*

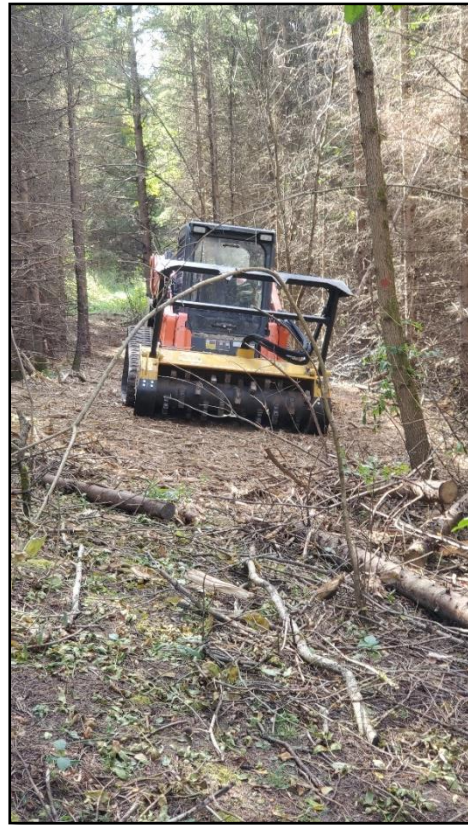


A 'widow-maker' of a hung up tree was left for our viewing and open discussion of how best to deal with such a situation. Bob Smith, a trained arborist with Humber College, walked us through the challenges and possible solutions of safely dealing with this somewhat common occurrence.

**Photo 13.** *"Uh-oh, now what do I do?" Getting a hung up tree safely to the ground is a challenging task.*

**Bob Smith talked us through this all too common situation. EXTREME care is required due to the unforeseen tension on the supporting trees.**

***Photo 13. Craig is trying to use a mulching technique to improve an overstocked conifer stand. Planted by the Boy Scouts in the 1980s, the trees are now in desperate need of thinning.***



***Photo 14. CTV2 Barrie was invited and they presented a clip on the evening news. An article and photos by Huronia director David Hawke was also sent to Village Media that evening.***



**While Craig was the main mover-and-shaker to arrange the various companies to participate, there were many other tasks covered by Huronia members, including sign-in, picking up refreshments, ordering an outhouse, parking, building a step for the wagon, crowd control and advertising. HOORAY HURONIA CHAPTER!**

## **Memberships:**

Please check that your OWA membership is current and paid up; you should have received a reminder e-mail recently. Please ensure that you have indicated your preference to be listed with the “**Huronia Chapter**”. You can contact the OWA or directors **Doug Frost** or **Jack McFadden** to clarify your status.

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**2024 HWOA DIRECTORS:**

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