

# Through The Knothole

*a quarterly newsletter of the*

**HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**

**Issue # 99**

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

**Spring 2024**

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

## **In this issue:**

- *HWOA AGM Recap*
- *Jack O'Hara Scholarship Award Recipient*
- *New Directors / "New" Board Structure: March 19, 2024*

## **Save the Date:**

- *OWA AGM and Conference: April 23 and 24, 2024*
- *Indigenous Awareness Workshop: May 23, 2024*
- *Forest Health Day: June 18, 2024 7:00 to 9:00, Edgar Hall*
- *Fall Field Trip to Craig Drury's Woodlot: Sept. 21, 2024*
- *White Pine Award: November 16, 2024*

## 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.

## **HWOA AGM Recap:**

We met on February 17, 2024 at the Guthrie Arena to celebrate our 2023 achievements and plan for events in 2024. (34 members were in attendance.)

Updated info was presented about the Simcoe County Museum saw mill restoration. A recap was given of our 2023 Forest Health Day (Biodiversity); the Fall Field Day event (hosted by Sandy Agnew); and the presentation of the White Pine Award (recipient Sandy Agnew).

**John Crawford** requested help in scanning 100s of 35mm slides documenting past HWOA events.

Treasurer's report was accepted. Election of directors was conducted.

**JOHN PINEAU** of Ontario Woodlot Association presented an overview of structural changes going on at the provincial level and provided good insight to the many activities that OWA

Rather than having a guest speaker, retiring directors **CHRIS ELLSMERE** and **JIM MARCHAND** were invited to the front of the room, where under the strict guidance of **EARL DERTINGER**, they were grilled (okay, interviewed) about the changes they've seen over the years with forestry and the HWOA. A hearty "thank you" to both these members for their long and steadfast support of this organization.



Photo 1. Cam Douglas presents last year's AGM minutes.



Photos 2, 3, 4: John Crawford, Craig Drury, Doug Frost provide updates.



Photo 5. Earl Dertinger (right) hosts interviews with retiring directors Chris Ellsmere and Jim Marchand.

## **Jack O’Hara Forestry Scholarship**

The HWOA awards the Jack O’Hara Forestry Scholarship annually; 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. Applicants were screened by Cameron Douglas and Mark Scharf.

In February 2024 this award was presented to JENNIFER CANN for her forestry studies at the University of Toronto. As Jenn was in Chile at the time, she sent a video describing her research and passion for the outdoors.



- Studying at University of Toronto
- 4th Year Earth Sciences & Forestry student
- Researcher in the Thomas Lab
- Graduating in June 2024

## New Directors!

Four new HWOA Board Directors were elected to serve a 3-yr term:

**Adam Parker:** Grew up just outside the village of Minesing with parents Harold and Linda Parker and siblings Rachel and Robert. Our home was on 50 acres with some farmland and a hardwood forest with a maple syrup house. From my early teens I would spend much of my spare time exploring the woods, helping process firewood to heat our home / boil maple syrup, annual tree planting and the countless odd jobs that come with living in the country. With my parents now both passed on, this property has recently been sold.

Down the road, my parents also had 175 acres bordering the Willow Creek and backing onto the Minesing Wetlands. I am now fortunate to be a co-owner of this property which we hope to keep in the family for years to come.



Through forestry consultant connections made through the HWOA there have been various selective timber and firewood harvests from our woodlots over the years. Small plantations of conifer trees that we planted border the 20 acres of active farmland. Over the last 10 years through the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and community volunteer groups, thousands of native trees and shrubs including silver maple, hackberry and burr oak have also been planted on portions of our property. The variety of habitats on our property and surrounding area make it a haven for birds and wildlife.

In my youth I enjoyed attending the HWOA meetings and field days with my father. After graduation from university, I joined the board and acted as secretary from about 1997 – 2002.

With only a short drive from our home in the City of Barrie our family frequently enjoys spending time at our property in Minesing. In 2024, on the downward slope of my formal working career, our children mostly grown, and with the support of my wife Carolyn, it is with pleasure I find myself back on the HWOA Board.



**Grant Casbourne:** My wife Bonnie and I bought a 50 acre woodlot on Line 5 N near the Bass Lake Road 25 years ago. What we loved about the woodlot was how lush and beautiful it was. It is a mix of maple, black cherry, white pine, red oak and beech.

Our plan was to build there in 5 years, but life got in the way. We have since raised our 2 children, Taylor and Kiera, in New Lowell, about a 40 min drive from the woodlot and we are hoping to move to the woodlot in the next 2-3 years.

Through the Woodland Management program, I have learned a little bit of woodland care but I want to continue to learn more and become a better woodland steward to keep our woodlot lush and vibrant.

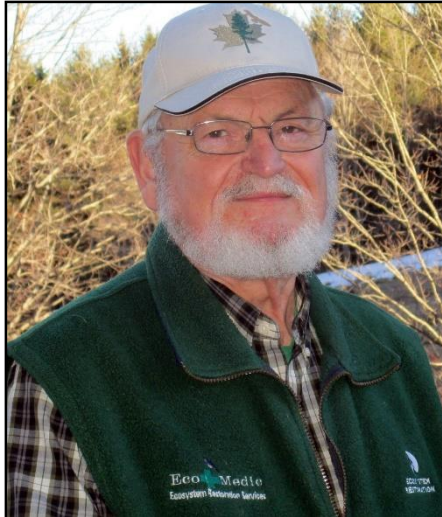
**Curtis Gray:** I have been living in Oro-Medonte for my entire life. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to live in a rural community and own property in the community that I grew up in.

In 2003 my wife and I bought 33 acres in Craighurst where our passion for agriculture and tree planting began. Every spring we would plant dozens of native seedlings in areas that were not arable with the hope of watching them mature.

But, in 2014 we bought the family farm! Twisted Maple Farm is 140 acres near Horseshoe Valley. The farm consists of 25 acres of red pine, 25 acres of mixed hardwood (primarily sugar maples) and 90 acres of pasture and hay fields.

Together with our son we continue planting new trees every spring and spend all summer watering them. Varieties include Chestnut, White and Black spruce, Red and White oak, Shagbark hickory, Red and White Pine, Hemlock, Sugar maple, Ash and Hybrid Poplar.

Not much happens in our woodlot without someone noticing, from bike rides, jogging, daily walks with the dogs and the odd golf cart ride. I look forward to serving on the Huronia Woodlot Owners Association board and will continue learning and sharing with our members the successes and challenges of good forest stewardship.



**Sandy Agnew:** Originally from Vaughan, Sandy moved up to Penetanguishene in 1974. He later purchased his current 47-acre property in Oro-Medonte in 1997 which consists of mostly low wetland at the headwaters of Hogg Creek and includes 13 acres of Provincially Significant Wetland.

In 2004 he established a conservation easement on 39 acres with the Couchiching Conservancy Land Trust. With his partner Lynne Melnyk, they are in the process of donating this easement to the Couchiching Conservancy for protection in perpetuity.

Trained in ecological restoration at Niagara College, Sandy is a managed forest plan approver under the MFTIP program, and since 2004 has completed over 200 managed forest plans.

Sandy has been a member of HWOA for over 20 years; and for the last couple of years has been involved with the OWA-Huronia Community Forest Co-op committee working to thin small conifer plantations. Last November he was honoured to receive the Huronia Chapter's White Pine Award.

See last page for a full listing of Board Members and contacts.

## Updates from the HWOA BOARD:

Over the last few years the Board has been operating without an assigned and elected executive. At the March 19, 2024 director's meeting the following annual positions were filled and accepted by vote:

President: **Craig Drury**

Vice-President: **Doug Frost**

Secretary: **Cameron Douglas**

Treasurer: **John Crawford**



At this meeting there was also agreement that an updated strategic plan should be drafted. The above executive will prepare an outline of how this will be accomplished; member input will be required as the Strategic Plan is developed.

**Doug Frost** has agreed to take on the OWA Membership liaison with OWA (replacing Jim Marchand)

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## **SAVE THE DATES:**

### FOREST HEALTH WORKSHOP:

The HWOA will be hosting their annual Forest Health Workshop on **Tuesday June 18, 2024** at Edgar Hall (1167 Old Barrie Road,). Speaker will be **John Williams**, President of the Maple Syrup Producers Association, discussing how to manage your maple forest for healthy biodiversity and high sap production. Starts at 7:00 p.m. No registration required. 1167 Old Barrie Road West, near Line 4 Oro-Medonte Township.

### FALL FIELD DAY:

**Craig Drury** has invited us to visit his farm and forestry operation on **Saturday September 21, 2024**.

Craig is from a multi-generational family of forest stewards, and is setting up his own saw mill operation. This will be a great opportunity to see and discuss the pros and cons of getting yourself set up for such activities.

A forest safety session will also be presented. 669 Penetanguishene Rd (County Road #93) Oro-Medonte Township.



## ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION EVENTS:

### **OWA Annual General Meeting and Conference:**



April 23 and 24, 2024. To be held at Horseshoe Valley Resort, Oro-Medonte Township. **REGISTRATION IS NOW FULL!**

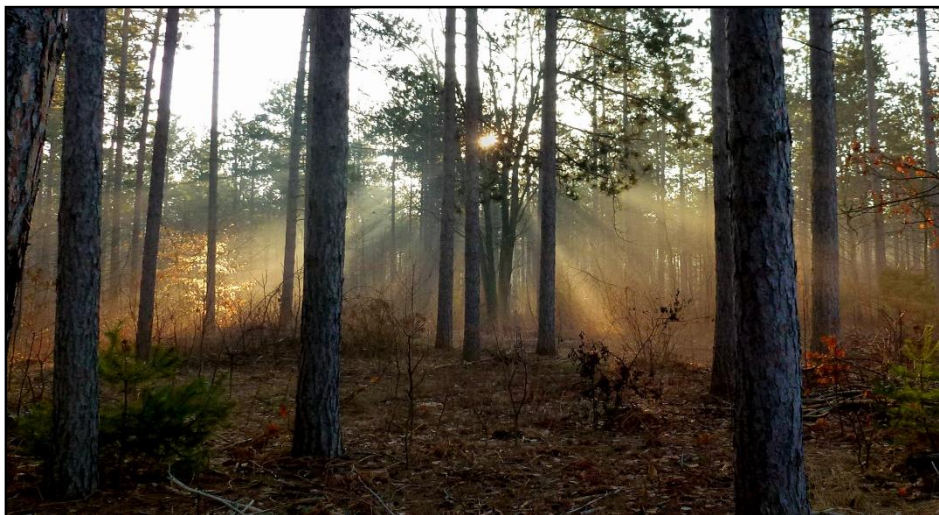
The OWA and HWOA are co-hosting this annual event and the planning committee has already pulled together a great event. Day One will see a selection of tours (saw mills; Simcoe county museum; guided hike into Copeland Forest) and an excellent dinner evening. Day Two will provide several presentations (from Food Foraging in Your Woodlot to the role of Conservation Land Trusts) as well as a **Trade Show** to view and discuss forestry equipment, wild food foraging and safety equipment.

HWOA Planning committee includes **Doug Frost, Craig Drury, David Hawke** and **Curtis Gray** who are working closely with OWA staff John, Olyvia and Sionaid.

### **INDIGENOUS CULTURAL MINDFULNESS TRAINING**

The OWA is coordinating a number of workshops on the subject of Indigenous Cultural Mindfulness Training. But please don't let the title fool you; this is not some high level attempt to promote someone's agenda but rather a practical opportunity to better understand where Ontario's indigenous folks have come from, the issues they are dealing with today and what role they might play in the future, along with an chance for us to ask any questions we have in that regard.

The OWA has been able to secure a gifted speaker in **George Couchie** who has been designing and delivering award winning workshops to help us better understand that culture. One of the 7 sessions being offered will take place in Orillia (St. James' Anglican Church, 58 Peter Street North) on **Thursday May 23, 8:30am to 4 pm** for residents of this part of Ontario. Register via OWA website. Local contact is HWOA director **Jack McFadden**. Pre-registration is a must, through OWA.



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## Memberships:

Please check that your OWA membership is current and paid up; there are reports that a few memberships have lapsed. Please ensure that you are in good standing and that you have indicated your preference to be listed with the “**Huronia Chapter**”. You can contact OWA or director **Doug Frost** to clarify your status.

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### 2024 HWOA DIRECTORS:

**President: Drury, Craig:** [Craig.Drury@vermeercanada.com](mailto:Craig.Drury@vermeercanada.com)

- OWA AGM committee
- VERMEER support

**Vice-president: Frost, Doug:** (705-487-5723) [doug@forksinthetrail.com](mailto:doug@forksinthetrail.com)

- OWA Cooperatives Committee;
- Huronia Community Forest Co-Op;
- OWA AGM committee
- Website manager
- Membership Liaison

**Treasurer: Crawford, John:** (705-487-3373) [line8jcrawford@hotmail.com](mailto:line8jcrawford@hotmail.com)

**Secretary: Douglas, Cam:** (705-487-7142) [cameron.douglas100@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.douglas100@gmail.com)

- Jack O’Hara Forestry Scholarship
- White Pine Award

**McFadden, Jack:** (705-534-0138) [jjmcfadden@sympatico.ca](mailto:jjmcfadden@sympatico.ca)

- OWA Cooperatives Committee;
- Huronia Community Forest Co-Op

**Hawke, David:** [david.hawke55@gmail.com](mailto:david.hawke55@gmail.com)

- “Through the Knothole” editor;
- OWA AGM Committee

**Bowden, David:** [david\\_bowden@hotmail.com](mailto:david_bowden@hotmail.com)

**Parker, Adam:** [a\\_parker@sympatico.ca](mailto:a_parker@sympatico.ca)

**Agnew, Sandy:** [sagnew@ecomedic.ca](mailto:sagnew@ecomedic.ca)

- Huronia Community Forest Co-op

**Gray, Curtis:** [csquared2003@gmail.com](mailto:csquared2003@gmail.com)

- OWA AGM Committee

**Casbourne, Grant:** [bgcas@hotmail.com](mailto:bgcas@hotmail.com)

**Website: [huroniawoodlandowners.ca](http://huroniawoodlandowners.ca)**