



THROUGH THE KNOTHOLE

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



Issue # 102

www.huroniawoodlandowners.ca

January 2025

Editor: David J. Hawke david.hawke55@gmail.com

The Huronia Woodlot Owners Association (HWOA) is now 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 "Huronia Chapter" on your membership form).

Inside:

- *2024 Huronia White Pine Award Recipient*
- *2 Directors ending terms*
- *Hogg Creek Stewardship Project with SSEA*
- *OWA Climate Change and Forestry course*
- *Historic Fuelwood Guidelines*

Save the Date:



- ***HWOA Annual General Meeting: Saturday February 08, 2025***
Held at Guthrie Arena (second floor), Line 4 Oro-Medonte and Hwy 11. Starts at 1:00. Light refreshments.

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.

2024 Huronia White Pine Award for Forest Stewardship:

Each November the HWOA recognises the work and achievements of one of our members in regards to promoting forest health. The recipient for 2024 was **MARK SCHARF!**



Mark Scharf was born in a displacement camp in Germany in 1945. He and his family then went on to live in Poland until 1950 when his family moved to Israel. In 1953 his family moved to Canada and Mark went on to complete his high school education and was later accepted to University of Toronto. Mark also commissioned as an officer through the “Canadian Officer Training Corp”.

Mark graduated from Law school at U of T in 1971, was called to the bar in 1973, and then in 1974 he and his wife Joanne moved to Barrie to set up his own law firm dealing with family law.

He also became heavily involved in the community. Before it was known as RVH, it was the Barrie Hospital, where he became Chair. He became Vice Chair of the Barrie Police Board, spent 25 years as Deputy Judge in small claims court, and then worked as a resolution officer/judge in family court.

Mark became a member of the **Huronia Woodlot Owners Association** almost from the beginning. More than just a member, he became a director for many years. He helped **Bruce Keeling, Chris Ellesmere and Cam Douglas** work through the Jack O’Hara Forestry Scholarship Award from the very beginning, and eventually took over running it. For many years Mark had hoped that the scholarship would go from \$500 to \$1000, which it finally did a couple of years ago.

Since building his house in Oro-Medonte he has been a wonderful steward of his woodland. A nice thing about the White Pine Award is that you don’t have to have the greatest woodlot but rather, as in Mark’s case, his long-standing sage advice to our members and the other directors has made him a very worthy recipient of this award.

(see photos next page)



Director Cam Douglas (left) presents the White Pine Award to Mark and Joanne Scharf.



There was good attendance at the White Pine Award meeting in Elmvale.



At this November meeting we also had the pleasure of hosting guest speaker **Elliott Groen from the Ontario Woodlot Association** to 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 presentation on the **Private Land Silviculture and Restoration Program (PLSRP)** shared insights from work occurring in the Kawartha Region and other regional hubs, highlighted the objectives of several funding applications, and shared 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 at least one year or two semesters in a Forestry Program or a program that impacts on Forestry.

Three directors are currently receiving and reviewing the applications sent in for the January deadline. The name of the successful applicant will be announced at the February AGM.

You can access our website to review previous recipients at:
www.huroniawoodlandowners.ca.



Two Directors stepping down

As of the 2025 Huronia Chapter AGM, two stalwart directors will be reaching the end of their current term and will be stepping down.

Jack McFadden has already served previous terms and is our current Membership Coordinator with OWA. Doug is also the current head director with the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, so he will still be nearby for advice and encouragement.

David Bowden was on the committee planning the recent OWA Annual Conference held at Horseshoe Valley. He provided excellent advice in reviewing the proposed Strategic Plan, and is on the Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship committee.

The Huronia Chapter thanks these gentlemen for their involvements, and looks forward to having them attend future events.

Facebook and 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).



The Directors are also considering the formation of a Facebook page so that members may share information and experiences in a timely manner.

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) or

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 (now posted on the HWOA website).

As opposed to being a long-winded and onerous plan (as some are wont to be), this one is direct and easily understood. It will provide guidance to the Huronia Chapter in regards to what we do and why we do it.

This strategic plan will be presented, discussed, and voted on at the February AGM.

A draft version is currently available to for your viewing on the Huronia Woodland Owners website.

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.

Hogg Creek Healthy Watershed Landowners Meeting:

A new initiative that is being explored by the **Severn Sound Environmental Association** to enhance ways to get information to landowners about preserving and enhancing their property. An ecologically healthy watershed benefits everyone!

Initially brought forward by HWOA Directors **Sandy Agnew** and **David Hawke**, a "town hall" meeting was held last November at the Vasey United Church with 29 local landowners attending. Many in the audience were members of OWA and the Huronia Chapter.

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

Presentations and discussions 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.

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 contact director Sandy Agnew, or the Severn Sound Environmental Association: sseainfo@severnsound.ca or 705-534-7283.



Climate Change and Forestry: OWA on-line course.

Recently members **David Hawke** and **Ruth Henderson** completed the 8-module course offered by OWA and the Climate Risk Institute; **Sandy Agnew** has also done this course a couple years ago. This course is do-at-your-own-pace, and requires a fair bit of reading of the provided documents, and there are a lot of documents. (But they are excellent documents!)

The intent is to have you prepare a management plan for your property taking into consideration the known and predicted changes that will challenge the resilience of your woodlot to survive and thrive within a changing environment.

The plan is structured very much like a MFTIP plan, and as you move through the modules you can insert your ideas of how best to steward your property. The completion of this plan is not mandatory, but it helps keep you focussed and on track.

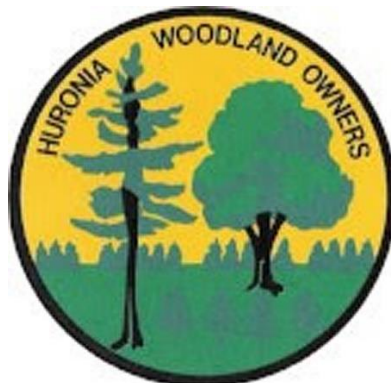
There are only a few 'hard answers' as to what species to plant or not, and many new questions will come to mind. One the outcomes of this course is simply a broader awareness of the impacts of climate change, and it certainly does do that!

Next course starts January 20th ; Register via Ontario Woodlot Association's website.



HWOA Jacket Crests Available

A very limited supply of HWOA jacket crests (4" dia. cloth) will be available to purchase at the February AGM for \$5.00.



The Firewood Poem

By Lady Celia Congreve, first published March 02, 1930

Beechwood fire burns bright and clear
If those logs are kept a year;
Store your **beech** for Christmastide
With New Year holly cut beside.

Chestnut's only good they say
If for years 'tis stored away.

Birch and **firwood** burn too fast
Blaze too bright and do not last.
Flames from **larch** will shoot up high
Dangerously the sparks will fly.

But **ashwood** green and ashwood brown
Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown.

Oaken logs, if dry and old,
Keep away the winter cold.

Poplar gives a bitter smoke
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.

Elmwood burns like churchyard mould
E'en the very flames are cold.

Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread
So it is in Ireland said,

Applewood will scent the room

Pearwood smells like flowers in bloom.

But **ashwood** wet and ashwood dry
A King may warm his slippers by.



(This poem has been much altered by many people over time, but the core remains.)

Membership Dues and Benefits

You must register or renew directly with the Ontario Woodlot Association (not directly with the Huronia Chapter).

If you are receiving this **Through the Knothole** newsletter and **The Woodlander** magazine, you have paid for an annual membership at least once. Annual membership fees are to be paid by Sept.15 for the upcoming year.



Sometimes... and we've all done this... we get busy and forget to renew. Please take a moment to think about when last you paid up.

You can check in with HWOA director Jack McFadden to know for sure.

McFadden, Jack: (705-534-0138) jjmcfadden@sympatico.ca

2025 Huronia Chapter DIRECTORS:

President: Craig Drury: Craig.Drury@vermeercanada.com

Vice-president: Doug Frost: (705-487-5723) doug@forksinthetrail.com

Treasurer: John Crawford: (705-487-3373) line8jccrawford@hotmail.com

Secretary/Scholarship: Cam Douglas: (705-487-7142)
cameron.douglas100@gmail.com

Knothole editor: David Hawke: david.hawke55@gmail.com

Adam Parker: a_parker@sympatico.ca

Sandy Agnew: sagnew@ecomedic.ca

Curtis Grey: csquared2003@gmail.com

Grant Casbourne: bgcas@hotmail.com

(Additional Director(s) may be added at the AGM in February)

Website: huroniawoodlandowners.ca