



THROUGH THE KNOTHOLE

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



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www.huronianwoodlandowners.ca

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The Huronia Woodlot Owners Association (HWOA) 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:

- *Jack O'Hara Forestry Award recipient*
- *New Director: Ruth Henderson*
- *Huronian AGM Overview*
- *Review of Chainsaw Handling Course*
- *The Ice Storm: impact and Aftermath*

Save the Date:

- **10 JUNE, 2025** *Forest Health Event*
- **04 OCTOBER, 2025** *Fall Field Day*
- **15 NOVEMBER, 2025** *White Pine Award*

 *(Detailed info to follow as we confirm speakers)*

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.

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.

At our AGM we were very pleased to announce that **MEREDITH HAYHOE** was the recipient of this year's scholarship! Meredith is a 2nd Year student at Fleming College and will be continuing her forestry education at the University of New Brunswick this fall to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree.

Meredith attended our meeting in-person and presented a show of her work and of her interests in all things tree related! She graciously answered several questions from the audience.

You can access our website to review previous recipients at:

www.huronaiawoodlandowners.ca.



Director Cam Douglas presents recipient Meredith Hayhoe with the cheque from the Jack O'Hara Scholarship Fund.

A new Director joins the Board:

The Huronia Chapter welcomes RUTH HENDERSON into her role as a director of the Huronia Chapter.

Ruth Henderson OWA Member since 2015

My husband and I purchased a 106-acre property in Tay Township in 2013, and developed our first Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan a year later.

The property is mainly forest with old regenerating farm field, and meadow. The somewhat rugged terrain has deep ravines with creeks cutting through mixed deciduous uplands and mixed coniferous lowlands.

Throughout the woods there are the signs of decades of past poor harvesting practices and the invasion and destruction of several tree species by invasive species. Despite this, the forest canopy and understory thrive with diversity, and brilliant & abundant colours are seen each fall. As well, the property provides a home and wildlife corridor to a great diversity of birds and animals that navigate a fragmented agricultural landscape.

While we live in Barrie, our woodland has become our destination for hiking and snowshoeing, nature viewing and learning, a source of firewood, and for the ongoing tasks of trail maintenance and field mowing. Our aim is to preserve, promote diversity, and use best silviculture practices in stewarding, rehabilitating, and providing climate adaptive strategies that will protect and sustain this wild woodland through generations.

Becoming a director on the HWOA board will allow me to learn more about forest health and practical beneficial silviculture, interact and share ideas with members, and advocate the benefits of HWOA/OWA membership and partnerships.

My favourite spring plant: Blue Cohosh

My favourite tree: All of them

(Editor's note: Ruth has recently completed the OWA "Forestry and Climate Change" course. She is also actively engaged in the Healthy Hogg Creek Committee.)



Facebook and Website updates!



Erin Hawke has stepped up to assist HWOA with setting up a Facebook profile and managing our website. Erin is daughter of David Hawke and granddaughter of Matt Valk, so she has had “forestry stuff” ingrained on her all her life.

The website has been ‘tweaked’ to be more friendly on mobile apps.

Please register as a Friend on our Facebook page, and share pics and insights of trees and all things tree related on your property or travels.

www.facebook.com/groups/HWOPrivate

Huronia Chapter Strategic Plan

Doug Frost and the Board of Directors have created a new guiding document for the Huronia Chapter. The full Plan was shared with all members at 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 provides guidance to the Huronia Chapter in regards to what we do and why we do it.

This Strategic Plan is currently available to for your viewing on the Huronia Woodland Owners website.

HWO Strategic Goals:

- 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.*

Chainsaw Maintenance and Handling Workshop at Success!

On Saturday April 26, 2025, despite frigid temperatures and a nasty drizzle, 13 people attended the Chainsaw Handling workshop hosted by the Huronia Woodland Owners. Set on the farm of president Craig Drury, attendees “learned a lot of stuff they didn’t know” about chainsaw safety and proper handling of equipment.

This workshop was presented by Jennifer Carroll, owner/operator of Tree Effects, Bob Smith, a fully licensed and very experienced arborist.

From the importance of chain sharpening to the challenges of a bore cut, participants became engaged with each topic at their own comfort level. Some had been ‘slashing about’ with a chainsaw for decades, and others were quite new to this aspect of forest management.

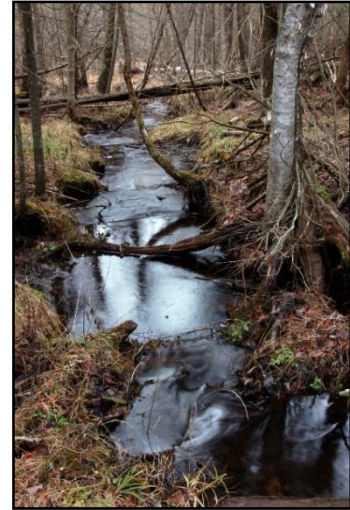
By the end of the day, the world had over a dozen chainsaw operators who now know that safety in the woodlot begins with the person holding the saw.



Healthy Hogg Creek 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.



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

Here is the next event:

The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) and Healthy Hogg Creek Committee have been planning information sessions. Due impacts and aftermath of the ice storm, the Watersheds 101 session originally planned for April 12 was postponed. It is being combined with an information session on Invasive Species - more information is below.

You are invited to **Watersheds & Invasive Species** on **Saturday, May 31st**.

This **FREE** event will provide information about **watersheds**: what they are, how they work, description and maps of Hogg Creek watershed, and how stewardship and citizen science can be used to monitor and improve watershed health. The session will also feature information about **invasive species**: how to identify them, which ones are commonly found in Hogg Creek watershed, what you can do about them. An optional invasive species walk will follow the session. Resources and links to more information will be provided as part of the session.

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday May 31st, 2025
- **Time:** 9:00am to 12:00pm (plus optional invasive species walk afterward)
- **Location:** Vasey Unity United Church ([4967 Vasey Road](#), Vasey ON)

Pre-registration for the session is required. Please respond to sseainfo@severnsound.ca or telephone 705-534-7283 ext 202 to register no later than Monday May 26th so we can ensure there are refreshments for everyone!

If you know of Hogg Creek watershed community members that might be interested, please pass along the information or have them reach out to SSEA to be added to this email list.

Making home-made traps for detecting Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) in your own forest

Submitted by Director Ruth Henderson

We know that HWA has a devastating effect on hemlocks, resulting in the death of infested trees within 4-12 years. And, as hemlocks are a foundational species, their death results in the destruction of a special ecosystem that cannot be replaced. HWA has a complex life cycle in which two generations are produced each year, and while the classic white cottony fuzz (egg sacs) would appear on branches from December to March, other HWA stages require other means of observation.

One egg-hatching stage begins in early spring and runs till about mid-summer during which time an adelgid crawler may be active in a hemlock tree. A way to detect this crawler is to install sticky traps below selected hemlock trees in mid-April and remove them around July when another stage of HWA becomes established. The idea is that the trap catches any crawlers that fall from an affected hemlock. The tiny crawlers are then identified by viewing through a hand lens (or microscope).

Here are two references that I consulted to learn about what to look for, and how to make my own traps.

Detection tools for an invasive adelgid

Frontline Forestry Research Applications, Natural Resources Canada

HOW TO: Sticky Trap Sampling for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Invasive Species Centre, YouTube, March 30, 2020

Here are my home-made traps, constructed and installed at my property with the help of my husband. I used yellow corrugated plastic and applied rubber cement to create a sticky surface. If this project proves useful, other hemlock-owning HWOA members may want to try this in an addition to regularly checking branches and needles for the “white fuzz”.

(If any questions, you can reach me at hendersonandhartley@gmail.com).



Ruth Henderson installing homemade sticky traps to monitor for Hemlock Wooley Adelgid.

Bill 5 will destroy environmental protection in Ontario.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/environmental-groups-new-ontario-legislation-species-protection-1.7515955>

As mentioned in the May newsletter from OWA, there is real concern about an omnibus Bill being introduced by the Premier of Ontario: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy. (which makes even less sense than this title).

This Bill 5 will gut the Endangered Species Act, the Ontario Heritage Act, the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, Ontario Environmental Protection Act and several other in-place Acts. Doug Ford is trying to remove any barriers to getting his wack-a-doodle plans to proceed in building unapproved highways, and in further destroying Ontario Place. He is trying to null any Provincial laws that could stop these Toronto-centric projects. (If that sounds like a Trump ploy... it is.)

The above link will explain this terrifying proposed Bill in detail, and allow you to link to an informational session being offered by EcoJustice Ontario.

The Great Ice Storm of '25.

If you have property anywhere in Simcoe County or lower Muskoka District, you no doubt have a real challenge ahead of you in regards to forest health and plantation management.

On the evening of March 28 the rain began to fall and by early morning of the 29th we were awakened by the rifle-sharp snaps of huge limbs being sheared off mature trees. The first impression when looking outside was one of a magical ice kingdom, but this was short-lived as yet another limb snapped clean off right beside you. POW!

No tree species was spared: birches all snapped clean in two, apple trees had all branches flattened to the ground, big maple lost a good portion of their crown, and oak branches were left dangling on thin wedges of bark and sapwood.

The risk of working in a forest immediately increased ten-fold. 'Widow makers' hung everywhere, and dozens of saplings were bent like a bow under the falling debris. If ever the terms 'tension and compression' came to a chainsawer's thoughts, this was the event!

For the record, attached a few photos of my property (David Hawke) but I'm sure you probably have just as many from your own woodlot.



Photo 1. Elm and black cherry.



Photo 2. Black Walnut (16 years)

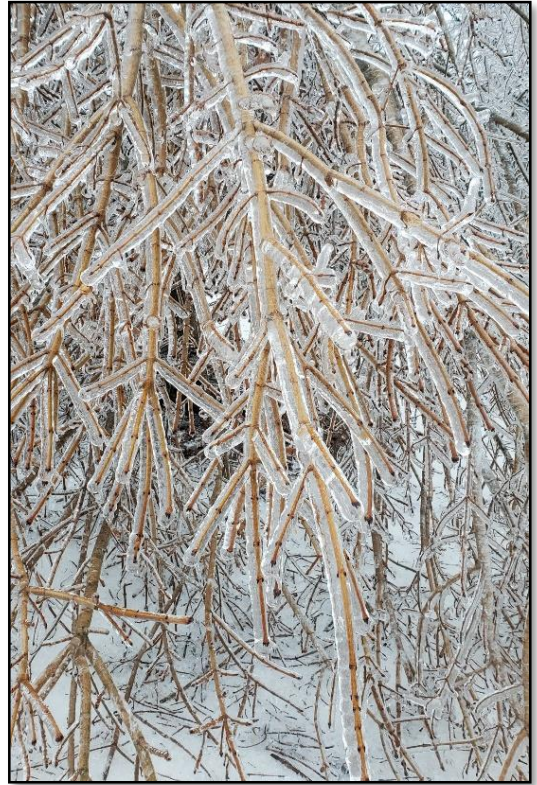


Photo 3. Ice on sugar maple.



Photo 4. Red Pine plantation (16 years; pruned and thinned last December)



Photo 5. Entrance Lane.



Photos 6 and 7. Typical forest lane blockage and 6-hour clearing task.

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 Grant Casbourne to know for sure.

Grant Casbourne: bgcas@hotmail.com

2025 Huronia Chapter DIRECTORS:

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See us on Facebook!