



Through The Knothole

a quarterly newsletter of the

HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Issue # 88

www.huroniawoodlandowners.ca

Summer 2021

We hope that you and your families are all safe and well, managing these unique times of the era of Covid-19.

The great news is that the number of people getting their second vaccinations is going up, the end is in sight regardless of the 4th wave.

Upcoming Event: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Great News !!!

2021

FALL FIELD DAY

September 18, 2021
9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Watch your email and the HWOA website for updates

The event will be at the McFadden property on Highway 2, just east of Midland. The theme will be “**What’s Attacking our Forests**” and will focus on invasive species and forest pests that are in our area.

Due to COVID protocol, we will be requiring a pre-registration procedure for the event. You will be receiving an email with the events for the day, a map to the event and a link to the Survey Monkey site to register.

If you have a friend who is interested in joining the Huronia Chapter of the OWA, bring them along but remember the same

registration procedures apply for ALL participants.

All COVID protocols in place at the time of the event will apply.

Huronian Community Forest Owners Co-operative Project

Pilot project organized by the OWA and the Huronia chapter.

Submitted by Doug Frost

Local Site Visits Kick-off Forest Co-op Pilot Project

HWOA members take great pride in their woodlots and know that forest health require some ongoing management. Most members are also part of the MFTIP program and prepare forest management plans. However, we’ve all seen properties that could use a little TLC.

For a variety of reasons, some forests don’t get the attention they deserve. There are many privately-owned 30 – 50 year old conifer plantations in our area that have remained untouched since planting. They are now far too dense with impaired growth. The only ground cover is a heavy layer of pine needles. Conifer plantations were never meant for this fate. One only has to look at the Simcoe County forests where successive harvests of conifers have led to the emergence of mixed hardwood/softwood forests. Hardwood forests also need attention to deal with invasive species and disease.

The problems outlined above seem to exist primary on smaller properties (< 10acres). A harvest may be uneconomic and therefore the owner cannot attract any interest from a logger. Nothing happens as the owner may not know where to turn for help.

The Huronia Community Forest Owners Co-operative Project is a pilot organized by the OWA and the Huronia chapter. The project will bring together forest landowners to develop economies of scale where under-utilized wood fibre in currently orphaned and fragmented conifer plantations or hardwood stands can be harvested for commercial use by the forest industry.

A full description and project outline document is accessible via the following link to the HWOA website. <https://www.huroniawoodlandowners.ca/member-events>

Initial Site Visits

In May, we held our first site visits to four woodlots. In addition to the local team of Jack McFadden, Sandy Agnew and Doug Frost, we were joined by Paul Robertson (OWA president) and Jim Eccles (Hurononia Co-op project manager). Three of the properties were conifer plantation and one was mixed hardwood. The conifer lots were in close proximity to each other and should be ideal for an initial cut – likely next spring.



Process for Forest Landowners

Once a potential property has been identified, the owner will be contacted and provided with an information kit (project outline document and sample contract). If the owner wishes to proceed, the steps will be as follows:

- 1) Initial site visit by project manager and completion of land inventory
- 2) Preparation of property prescription and financial budget
- 3) Contract between landowner and OWA
- 4) Tree-marking
- 5) Tendering
- 6) Harvesting and supervision
- 7) Completion and revenue sharing

It is hoped that most projects will be revenue positive, but some smaller projects may require an owner contribution in order to cover costs.

Participating landowners will be encouraged to join the OWA and enroll in the MFTIP program if property size allows.



How Can HWOA Members Help?

There are several areas where local HWOA members may be able to help develop the co-op in our region.

- 1) Do you have a woodlot or a part of your property that requires harvesting? Potential woodlots need to be identified for future site visits. If so, please contact any of the project team leaders listed below.
- 2) Are you aware of potential woodlots owned by neighbours or friends who are not OWA members? How about a woodlot where you may not know the owner, but feel that it might be a good candidate? We'd be happy to contact the landowner, participate in an initial meeting and provide an information kit.
- 3) Let others know about the co-op project and the benefits of joining the OWA.
- 4) All participating landowners will become ongoing members of the co-op. This will ensure ongoing

forest management and provide continuous education and interaction between the members. Let us know if you have ideas about how co-op members can work together. One example is accessing maple sap for syrup production by another member.

We will be onsite at the HWOA members Fall Field Day to provide more information and answer questions.

Forest Co-op Project Team Contacts

Jim Eccles (Project Manager) ecclesforestry@bell.net

Sandy Agnew sagnew@ecomedic.ca

Doug Frost doug@forksinthetrail.com

Jim McFadden jimcfadden@sympatico.ca

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Hurononia Chapter (HWOA) members Art and Linda McIlwain celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 24th by planting a Sugar Maple Tree given to them by their family to commemorate the milestone occasion.



In keeping with their love of nature and their commitment to best forest management practices of their woodlot, it was very appropriate for them to plant the tree.

Congratulations to the happy couple.



Through the Knothole, Jim Marchand, editor

Our members would like to see stories about our members, their properties and projects. Please consider sending me an article, from you or a friend.

Send to: jimmarchand5@gmail.com

Submission deadlines for articles:

Winter issue: Jan 10

Spring issue: April 10

Summer issue: Aug. 10

Fall issue: Oct 10

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2021 Fall Field Day

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OWA Director, HWOA Chapter Rep.

Directors Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month except June, July and December.

The Huronia Chapter of the OWA (HWOA) has a 50 year history of involvement in good forestry guidance, management and practices.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who might be interested in joining our association.