



Newsletter

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Alligators in Ontario?



Photo used with permission of D. Lemkay

We want to hear from you!

If you have articles, photographs or images, interesting facts, web links or events that would be suitable for this newsletter, please contact the editor.

Ontario's forest history has many interesting facets and includes the use of tugboats called "alligators".

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Request for Content

Do you have an interesting story to tell about some aspect of forest history in Ontario? Or are you prepared to write an article for the newsletter on some aspect of forest history? Do you know of interesting photographs, documents, web sites or other items that would be suitable for inclusion in the newsletter? If so, please contact the editor to discuss the possibility of publishing your information in the newsletter.

Please provide your comments to the editor on items or themes you would like to see in the newsletter.

President's Message

Perhaps, the first question that anyone is likely to ask is, "Why a forest history society in Ontario?" There are in my view, a number of reasons. Forest lands are the largest portion (65 per cent) of the province's land base. Forests have been and still are a significant part of the fabric of Ontario, contributing to a major part of its well-being, ecologically, economically and socially. Although there are many organizations such as the Ontario Forestry Association which have within their specific interests some elements of historical concern, there are none which deal with the forests of the province as a whole entity especially in concerns for documentation, archival collections and education related to forest history. Over the years, from my personal experience and speaking with others, I recognized the need for an organization that has as its mission to "further the knowledge, understanding and preservation of Ontario's forest history". During my career at the University of Toronto and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources there were instances when I was aware of the removal and destruction of documents and materials that were of historical value and should have been placed in safe storage where they could be made available for future research and study. Too often they were discarded because the persons involved had no appreciation for their historical value. An organization dedicated to forest history can, over time, do much to bring a more general awareness of the importance of preserving forest history.

People have asked me, "What does forest history embrace?" In terms of time in this province it started when the ice from the last glacial period retreated, so it goes back some 15 to 20 thousand years, but for a large part of the province we are looking at about 10 thousand years. It embraces all the components that constitute our forest lands, trees obviously but all the living organisms that forest lands contain. Equally important are the processes and interventions both human and non-human which have determined the various natures of our forests. It is important that we engage others, outside of forestry, who have different and often divergent interests in our forests to contribute their knowledge and understanding, and so enrich us with their different perspectives.

In the application for establishment of the Society as a not-for-profit organization the mission statement was stated as, "*To further the knowledge, understanding and preservation of Ontario's forest history*". Several objectives were identified to accomplish this:

- To preserve forest and forest conservation history;
- To further the development and recognition of forest history;
- To support research and studies of forest history;
- To support the archival preservation of records and materials relating to forest history; and
- To promote the better understanding of forest history through public education.

At the inaugural general meeting of the Society on February 4, 2010 two projects were endorsed by the members. First, the development of a catalogue of books and publications relating to Ontario's forest history and second, the development of a protocol for the identification of existing and possible future collections of documents and materials pertaining to our forest history. For the undertaking of these projects we must rely primarily on our members, for as with any organization, they are the backbone of its accomplishments. The Society's newsletter will be an important means of communication with members and include contributions from them which will be of interest to a broader audience.

It is an honour and a privilege for me to be the first President of this new organization. I am deeply indebted to the Board and many members for their support and to the Ontario Forestry Association staff who have been so helpful in the Society's establishment.

Ken Armson R.P. F.

Editor's Message

I am delighted to be the first editor of the newly launched Forest History Society of Ontario. As a recent retiree from working in resource management for over 30 years, I was casting about for a volunteer opportunity. When Ken Armson called me to ask me if I would be interested in being editor I jumped at the chance as this work allows me to combine a number of my own personal interests while contributing to a great cause.

As Editor of the newsletter, my key message to you, the reader, is this – this newsletter is for you – to provide knowledge as well as entertainment. If you do not enjoy this newsletter, there is a good chance you won't read it. While the Board of Directors and I can anticipate the content that will be appealing to you, we need your feedback to let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter.

We also need your contributions in the form of articles, pictures, references, book reviews, events and anything else you think may be suitable material. If you have a topic of interest but aren't prepared to write about it, let us know and we will try to find someone who can do the composing. If you are aware of someone in your neck of the woods who would be interested in being interviewed for an article, again, let us know, especially if you would be interested in doing the interviewing.

We are looking for content about local as well as provincial items of interest. For interest, if there is a significant forest site near you, or an interesting upcoming event, let us know.

When discussing the intent and purpose of the newsletter with the Board of Directors, here is what I suggested could be possible topics of interest for the newsletter (this list is not exhaustive):

- ✿ ecological history of Ontario forests
- ✿ significant ecological events shaping Ontario's forests
- ✿ start and progression of forest harvest, management, conservation and protection, urban forests
- ✿ public, private and industrial approaches to forest management, harvest and conservation
- ✿ significant legislative / policy developments
- ✿ socio-economic factors shaping forest history
- ✿ persons who have made significant contributions to or had effects on forests
- ✿ key organizations shaping forest history
- ✿ forests educational history
- ✿ museums involved in forest history
- ✿ interesting reference material (books, internet, photos, maps etc.)
- ✿ locations of significant gatherings of documents of interest to forestry history (libraries etc.)
- ✿ descriptions of local practices, events, people, history etc.
- ✿ equipment / tools use and evolution over the years
- ✿ awards related to forests
- ✿ significant forest areas (e.g., Ganaraska forest)
- ✿ arts related to forests (music, poetry, paintings etc.)

The focus of the society and the newsletter includes the full range of activities involved in wood extraction, forest management, conservation and protection, private, public and urban forests.

We look forward to your feedback and contributions for future editions of the newsletter.

Sherry Hambly B.Sc.F., M.Sc.F.

Forest History at Ontario Hydro

The Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario was established in 1906 by the provincial Power Commission Act to build transmission lines to supply municipal communities with electricity generated by private companies already operating at Niagara Falls. It then began buying and building new generating stations and, after being given the mandate in the 1920's began electrifying rural areas of the province.

Trees and brush were interfering with power lines causing disruption in the service so, in September 1930 the Forestry Department was formed to clear trees and brush that could cause such disruptions. Initially they were authorized to clear high voltage lines and rural distribution lines on highways only. The Department was organized initially by three persons hired from the Davey Tree Expert Company in the USA and of the total staff of 22 many were "old Davey" men. After two weeks training they began work in southern Ontario.

From 1932 to 1947 the Department did line clearing work for various municipal utilities on an operating sales (recoverable costs) basis. They also undertook a number of small reforestation projects. For line clearing all tools and equipment were of the hand variety but in 1938 a motorized sprayer was mounted on a trailer to spray insecticides and herbicides on station grounds. By 1939 the staff had more than doubled to 58 and by the end of World War II in 1945 it had fallen to 39. However, from 1946 on there was a regular increase in staff until in 1960 it reached a maximum of 590.

Beginning in 1948 there was a rapid change in the nature and amount of tools and equipment used. Mechanized equipment, one-man power saws, motorized spray vehicles, tree planting machines, specially designed forestry vehicles and brush chippers became the means of carrying out their work; professional foresters had been hired and forest management activities were coordinated by a forest engineer under the direction of the Chief Forester of the Department. The forestry program became more comprehensive with major projects in forest surveys, regeneration and by 1951 significant timber harvesting, for example in that year 800,00 board feet were shipped to Niagara Falls for use on the Adam Beck No. 2 development. The reforestation program and increased use of herbicides in the early 1950's saw the use of fixed wing aircraft and in 1954 helicopters to apply herbicides and later to survey brush conditions.

By the 1960's the Forestry Department was not only increasing its mechanization using '*Tree Farmers*' and '*Timberjacks*' for mounting sprayers but also to mount other equipment such as aerial ladders and chippers. The onset of Dutch Elm disease had a significant effect primarily in the removal of trees, for example, in the period 1964-1966 28,000 elms were felled at a cost of \$560,700. Increasingly, governmental requirements for safety and environmental concerns brought about changes in many facets of the Department's operations. For example, in 1972 a policy for selective cutting of new transmission rights-of-way in developed areas with a low percentage of forested lands was finalized; as well as for transmission lines in less developed areas with a high percentage of forested lands. An expansion of the reforestation program was approved so that in townships with less than 15 per cent of the farm area in woodlots, an acre of land may be reforested for every acre of woodlot selectively cut for the construction of lines. In 1979 a methodology was developed for the quantitative landscape assessment of sites and facilities and an assessment for all transformer stations was completed.

In 1983 Ontario Hydro won the International Society of Arboriculture Award of Merit for their selective vegetation control and right-of-way management policies. In 1979 the forestry responsibilities were separated into distribution and transmission departments. The transmission department was terminated in 1989. Forestry was considered not important by senior management at the time. Tree-caused outages soared in the 1990's and the current Forestry Division at Hydro One is re-vitalized.

Acknowledgements: I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Messrs. George Hunter and Rob Smith, Forestry Department personnel from 1945 to 1979 and 1979 to 1989, respectively, for recording and preserving a comprehensive set of records of which this is but a very brief account

S.T. Griffith, R.P.F., Ontario Hydro, 1967-1993

Crown Surveyors – The Timber Cruisers of Yesteryear

Most people are unaware of the hidden gems of information on forests contained in the original Ontario Crown land surveys. These surveys were conducted to provide a standard description and an orderly disposition of land. The surveys began in 1783, and much of the province was surveyed by the end of the 1800's. Surveyors were highly respected individuals at the time of settlement. They were trained to observe, document and interpret information as they saw it. Survey crews walked close to 200 kilometres in most average sized townships.

Surveyors were given specific instructions for each project and were required to keep a daily diary and field notes. In regards to forest information, surveyors described the vegetation, hydrology, topography and soils of the land they traversed, as well as disturbances such as fire, wind or lighting. Typically, as the tree species composition changed along the concession boundary walked by the surveyor, he would note the distance in chains and links, and list the species present in order of abundance. No indication of forest structure was provided. While the data reported by each individual surveyor is slightly different in both quality and quantity, most surveyor notebooks show specific details and incredible sketching to illustrate key features and geography.

Here is an example of the field notes from a survey conducted by J. Robertson in the township of Fraser in 1854/55.

65° 8' 20"	5	2	50		Gradual descent
		5	20	Pine & balsam.	Rock. Foot of descent
		8	30	Ash & alder	Swale

Pine and balsam on rock; ash and alder in a swale

At the end of the project the surveyor had to submit a final report containing the diary, field notes and a summary of the work that was done. The summary generally contained the surveyor's judgment on the general suitability of the land for agriculture, timber extraction, mining potential and sometimes abundance and type of wildlife resources.

Here is an example of the comments made by surveyor Crosbie Brady on the suitability of timber in the township of Anglesea (near Kaladar), in his summary report submitted in 1868.

As to merchantable timber, a great deal of good pine has been, & is yet being removed by lumbermen - Much has been destroyed by fire & a considerable

"As to merchantable timber a great deal of good pine has been and is yet being removed by lumbermen – much has been destroyed by fire and a considerable"

There are several examples of where this information has been analyzed and used for forest management purposes. As one example, staff of the Pembroke District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources analyzed surveyors' notebooks to determine what the pre-settlement forest may have looked like in preparation for the 1996 forest management planning process. There was strong interest from the public and the Local Citizens' Advisory Committee in working towards an objective of re-establishing some of the pre-settlement forest in the Pembroke Crown Management Unit

(now Ottawa Valley Forest). The task was made more difficult if the surveys were done at a later date, as extensive cutting coupled with massive fires had changed the landscape considerably. The gap between the first survey in Renfrew County (1807) and the last survey (1893) of a specific township understandably gives one a much different picture of the landscape.

District staff assigned forest units and working groups to the tree species recorded in the surveyors' notes. This information was used to recreate a picture of the pre-settlement forest cover in the district. From the interpretation of this data, it is interesting to note that in the township of Griffith, pre-settlement pine forest was estimated to be a whopping 62% cover by forest unit. In a neighboring township (Grattan) the hemlock working group was close to 40%. This information was valuable to both the district and the public during discussions to set the future forest condition targets in the forest management planning process.

The original surveys are legal documents and are still used on a regular basis by ministry staff, surveyors, lawyers, researchers and others. Most of the survey documents are kept by the Crown Surveys Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in a secure, controlled environment. Documents not used on a regular basis are housed at Ontario Archives. Most ministry districts house copies of at least some of the original documents for use in their Lands program.

The original surveyors would be quite thrilled to know that the forest information they collected would be useful 200 years into the future.

Ray Bonenberg, Retired Manager, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Special thanks to Pembroke District staff and staff of the Crown Surveys Section, both of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, for information provided, as well as Sherry Hambly (photos). If you are interested in obtaining more information on the Pembroke project, please contact Krista Watters, Area Forester, Pembroke District, at 613-732-5597 or email her at krista.watters@ontario.ca.

There are other examples where Ontario Crown survey records have been analyzed for information on pre-settlement forests. Here are links to such items that can be found on the internet.

Forest History of Eastern Ontario

http://www.lrconline.com/Extension_Notes_English/pdf/forhis.pdf

State of Eastern Ontario's Forests, Pre-settlement Mapping

http://sof.eomf.on.ca/Biological_Diversity/Ecosystem/Cover/Case_Studies/Forest_Information/cs_forest_information_e.htm#presettlement

Changes to Preindustrial Forest Tree Composition in Central and Northeastern Ontario

<http://rparticle.web-p.cisti.nrc.ca/rparticle/AbstractTemplateServlet?calyLang=eng&journal=cjfr&volume=38&year=2008&issue=7&msno=x08-034>

A comparison of historical and current forest cover in selected areas of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Forest of central Ontario

<http://pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/journals.old/tfc/tfc78/tfc78522-4.pdf>

Historical Change in White Pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) Density in Algonquin Park, Ontario, During the 19th Century

<http://forestresearch.canadianecology.ca/Projects/Sustain/HistoricChangesInAlgonquinParkPw.pdf>

A comparison of pre-European settlement (1857) and current (1981–1995) forest composition in central Ontario

<http://article.pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/ppv/RPViewDoc?issn=1208-6037&volume=30&issue=4&startPage=605>

Presettlement forest in southern Ontario

<http://www.fire-regime-model.com/Publications/PDF/SufflingetalFC2003.pdf>

Indian Lake Lumber Company at Osaquan

In 1909 David Low Mather relocated his sawmill operation from Gull River to a site a few miles west of Ignace on the south shore of Camp Lake. This new operation was named Indian Lake Lumber and the town site which developed to support it became known as Osaquan.

Logs for the mill were harvested north of Osaquan off of the Indian Lake chain. The outlet of Indian Lake was dammed at what is now known as "Fisherman's Bridge" on the Camp 325 Road. Damming raised the water level in Indian, Little Indian and Orangutan (Mameigwess) Lakes as well as the creek joining Camp Lake to Indian, allowing tugboats to move logs to the mill site. Logging also took place off of the shores of Sand (Sandbar), Trout (Paguchi), Barrel and as far away as Elephant (Kukukus) Lakes, with logs being moved by sleighs in winter as far as the navigable waters of the Indian chain.

Three "alligator" tugboats were used to pull logs to the mill. The Matilda and the Mudhen were paddle wheelers. The Osaquan Queen was larger and powered by twin screws.

Logging took place during the winter with the loggers working out of bush camps. Bush workers came from a variety of backgrounds, but many were farmers from the prairies who spent the winters in the employ of Indian Lake Lumber and returned to work their farms the rest of the year. As one would expect the horse was the mainstay of logging operations at this time, although Indian Lake Lumber did undertake some very early mechanization. Lynn Haulers were used to pull sleighs and Fordson tractors were used for skidding.



Indian Lake Lumber Alligators "Matilda" and "Mudhen" on Camp Lake



Indian Lake Lumber Mechanical Logging – 1920's

At the sawmill, slabs, shavings and wood waste powered three hydro rotor turbines which in turn provided power to run the sawmill and planing mill. There was no dry kiln. Lumber was piled outside to air dry prior to planing.

A spur line was built to join the mill site to the CPR mainline. A small steam engine known as "the shunter" made a daily trip from Ignace to pick up railcars loaded with lumber and bring empties to be loaded.

While Indian Lake Lumber was in operation Osaquan was home to approximately 45 families. Additionally there was a large bunkhouse and cookhouse that accommodated single men. There were also large company gardens to support the cookhouse as well as horse barns and hayfields.

The nerve centre of the community was the "Office". The "Office" served not only as the business headquarters of Indian Lumber but also as the post office and company store where groceries, clothing, and essential household items could be purchased. Osaquan also had a school and a community centre although the community centre was eventually destroyed by fire. After the fire, community events took place in the school or the cookhouse.

The depression of the 1930s was the death blow to the Indian Lake Lumber Company. By the early 1930s the mill was forced to close. Osaquan lived on for a short while as families struggled through the depression years. Some of the men found work in the construction camps during the building of the Tran Canada Highway through the region, but by the end of the depression, Osaquan had disappeared.



Indian Lake Lumber Sawmill at Osaquan - Camp Lake in the background



Indian Lake Lumber Sawmill at Osaquan - Planer Mill is to the right

The assets of the Indian Lake Lumber Company were eventually acquired by Great Lakes Paper (now Abitibi-Bowater). The Timber Limits are now part of the English River Forest.

My grandfather worked for Indian Lake Lumber from 1920 until the mill closed. My mother was born in Osaquan and lived there until 1936. Mom has written a book of her memories of Indian Lake Lumber and growing up in Osaquan. Although this has not been published, I would be pleased to forward an electronic copy to anyone who is interested.

Murray Ferguson R.P.F. Email: mandvferguson@hotmail.com

Provincial Forest History Associations in Canada

There are four provincial forest history organizations in Canada. The oldest, the Forest History Association of British Columbia was formed in March, 1982. In the previous year, 1981 a British Columbia Forest History Newsletter was published as a result of a meeting that year of the Forest History Society at the University of British Columbia (UBC). The committee forming the new Association consisted of the Chief Forester of the British Columbia Forest Service, Bill Young, Professor Jack Thurgood of the Faculty of Forestry at UBC, Gerry Burch from the forest industry, Clay Perry from the International Woodworkers of America and John Parminter from the B.C. Forest Service. The Association continues the publication of its newsletter, as well as holding workshops on oral history methods.

The Forest History Association of Alberta was formed in December 2002 but did not have a constitution or by-laws until 2004. As with the British Columbia Association, individuals who were the nucleus of its formation were from forest industry, the provincial Department of Sustainable Resources, the University of Alberta and several other persons with diverse interests in Alberta's forests. The Alberta Association publishes a biennial newsletter, *Trails and Tales* and has contributed to the publication of two books on aspects of forest history in Alberta.

The Société d'histoire forestière du Québec was formed in 2007 as a result of the efforts of M. Patrick Banchet, a historian, and foresters from industry and government. The Société receives major support from the Québec Ressources naturelles et faune, the Société de protections forêts contre le feu (SOPFEU) and the Université de Laval. The Société publishes a magazine, *Histoires forestière* twice a year. As with the Alberta Association, the Société is involved in publishing and has a forthcoming book on the history of the Faculty of Forestry at Laval University.

These two associations and the Société have similar objectives to that of the Forest History Society of Ontario and we have been warmly welcomed with their best wishes. I look forward to a continuing relationship among all four organizations.

I would like to express my personal appreciation to the individuals from each of them who have been both helpful with information and encouragement when I contacted them about their organizations: Stan Chester and John Parminter of the Forest History Association of British Columbia; Brue Mayer and Peter Murphy of the Forest History Association of Alberta and Éric Alvarez of the Société d'histoire forestière du Québec.

Ken Armson R.P.F., President

Web Links for Various Forest History Associations

Organization	Web Site
Canada	
British Columbia	http://www.fhabc.org/
Alberta	http://albertaforesthistory.ca/
Ontario	http://ontarioforesthistory.ca/
Quebec	http://www.shfq.ca
Network in Canadian History and Environment	http://niche-canada.org/foresthistory/networking
Outside of Canada	
Forest History Society (has a section on Canada)	http://www.foresthistory.org
American Society for Environmental History	http://www.aseh.net/
(American) National Museum of Forest History	http://www.nmfs-history.net/
European Society for Environmental History	http://eseh.org/

Cataloguing and Database Projects

For anyone interested in looking for information about one or more aspects Ontario's forest history there are several approaches. A key one is the ability to access what publications already exist. Some publications may be out of print and available in only a few places; others may have been published locally and virtually unknown outside that area. For this reason the Society is embarking on the first steps in developing a catalogue of all publications that pertain to our forest history. This is obviously a major undertaking and will always be ongoing, but here is where we can start with **THE HELP OF YOU – OUR MEMBERS**. First, we want to have your input for two or three publications that each of you may know about or have on your bookshelf. We will then see how to deal with the information most effectively and then proceed to develop a process that can be used to produce an ongoing listing ultimately available online.

Either mail your list to:

"Publications" - The Forest History Society of Ontario,
Suite 701, 200 Consumers Road,
Toronto, ON M2J 4R4

Or E-mail it to:

info@ontarioforesthistor.ca

The second is to develop a list of collections of material relating to Ontario's forest history. We are in the process of contacting various archival institutions – the Ontario Archives, universities, forest companies etc. about their collections but we also know that individuals and some of our members have accumulated over time important items that we should know about. Professor Mark Kuhlberg is coordinating this project and completed forms should be sent directly to him. His address is on the form. This project is very timely as the Forest History Society (Raleigh, NC) has proposed a two-year collaboration with the *Network in Canadian History & Environment* (NiCHE) and the Canadian Forest Service to, a) undertake a survey and listing of official archives in each Canadian province that could take on forest history related collections, and b) identify forest history collections that should be preserved in official archives and facilitate their going to appropriate repositories. Our Society would have a close working relationship with those undertaking the project as will the other three provincial forest history organizations.

The first Ontario Surveyor-General of Woods and Forests was Peterborough Robinson who held the post for 10 years – from 1827 to 1837.

Algonquin Provincial Park was the first park to be regulated in Ontario, achieving this status in 1893. The first superintendent of the park was Peter Thompson of Brussels, a builder of roads and bridges.

Publications dealing with Ontario's Forest History

Guide to completing publication form:

1. TITLE: Give the full title:

e.g. A Deo Victoria: The Story of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company, 1871 – 1942

2. AUTHORS: Surname followed by initials and first name where given:

e.g. Silversides, C. Ross

Where more than one author, the initials for the second or subsequent authors precede their surnames:

e.g. Larson, B.M., J.L.Riley, E.A. Snell and H.G. Godschalk.

3. DATE PUBLISHED: Give the year. If it is republished give that year with a note:

4. PUBLISHER OR SOURCE: Where it is a publisher give the name and location; this is usually followed by the number of pages in the publication and note if it contains illustrations:

e.g. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Markham, Ontario, 233p. + illus.

When the publication is one of several in an edited publication the format is:

e.g. Burgar, R.J., 1983. Forest Land-Use Evolution in Ontario's Upper Great Lakes Basin, Chapter 11, p.177-193 in The Great Lakes Forest – an environmental and social history, ed. Susan L. Flader, Univ. Minneapolis Press, Minneapolis. 336p + illus.

When the publication is in a journal the format is author, year, title, journal title, volume, issue number and the page numbers of the article:

e.g. Bennett, K.D. 1987. Holocene history of forest trees in southern Ontario. Can.J.Bot. 65:8: 1792-1801

When the publication is only available as a manuscript or other unpublished format give the fullest information possible.

5. ONTARIO LOCATION: If you know where a copy is located such as the local library this could be indicated. If it is a personal copy just state, "personal".

Accessibility may be limited if a personal copy and should be so noted.

6. SUBJECT MATTER: In this initial survey only broad categories are being considered. More than one category may apply to a publication.

The first scientific discourse on the trees of North America was published in 1810. It was called "The North American Sylva" and was written by Andre Francois Michaud of France after 10 years of research. The original editions are now considered rare books and command values of twelve to fifteen thousand dollars.

Publications dealing with Ontario's Forest

1. TITLE:

 2. AUTHOR(S):

 3. DATE PUBLISHED:

 4. PUBLISHER or SOURCE:
-

CONTENT

Indicate with a check mark (✓) if applicable

5. ONTARIO LOCATION:

Accessibility: check if limited

6. SUBJECT MATTER:

Forest (descriptive): vegetation, wildlife etc.

Industry: e.g. logging, sawmills, pulp & paper, workers etc.

Government: e.g. forest policy, regulation, management, parks etc.

Organizations: e.g. OPFA, OFA, Ontario Nature

Community: e.g. towns, local areas (e.g. Ottawa Valley)

People: e.g. E.J. Zavitz

FHSO Archival Database Form

Name of Data Provider:

[Please provide, name, address (postal & e-mail) and telephone #]

Date Data Provided:

Details of Archival Collection

Name of Person/Company/Organization Holding the collection

Nature of Material (indicate whether documents, photographs, maps, memoirs, original reports or books, etc.)

Size of Collection (estimate in numbers of standard 1 foot by 1 1/3 ft bankers' boxes)

Does the holder of the materials wish to donate them to a formal archives/museum?

People

🌿 Frank Archibald MacDougall (1896-1975)

Ontario's Reluctant – Yet Remarkable – Career Government Forester

Frank Archibald MacDougall was one of the unlikeliest civil servants Ontario ever had, but he ended up being one of this province's longest serving and most distinguished persons in this field. Born in Toronto in 1896 and schooled in Carleton Place, he suspended his undergraduate studies at Queen's University in 1915 to enlist in the Canadian army during the First World War. Although he survived being gassed at Vimy Ridge in 1917 his lungs were damaged by the experience. After the conflict he entered the University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry, from which he graduated in 1923. Immediately thereafter he began what would grow into a nearly half century career with Ontario's Department of Lands and Forests (now the Ministry of Natural Resources).



Frank A. Macdougall: Photo provided by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

MacDougall spent his inaugural five years as an Assistant Forester, first in Pembroke, then in Sault Ste. Marie. In 1928 he was appointed District Forester for the "Soo", and over the next few years pushed for the department to undertake reforestation both unilaterally and in cooperation with industry. His success in the former instance was manifested in the plantations that became the Kirkwood Forest near Thessalon. In 1931 he was appointed Superintendent of Algonquin Provincial Park, a position he held for the next decade. During these years he was able to deepen his love of flying through his innovative use of aircraft in carrying out such duties as law enforcement in the park. His work in this regard earned him the moniker "the flying superintendent" of Algonquin. In 1941, he was promoted to Deputy Minister, the department's highest unelected position. His appointment came with a mandate to modernize the department so that it was able to formulate and implement policies that were designed to conserve all the resources found in the Crown woodlands. One of his marquis accomplishments was overseeing the dramatic expansion in the types and number of provincial parks; the latter went

from 6 to 90 during his years as "DM". Although he encountered political opposition to implementing fundamental forestry reforms in Ontario, he persevered, and remained at his post for a quarter century (he retired in 1966). The latter part of his career also saw him consulted by natural resource managers the world over, including those in Ethiopia who needed tree planting advice, those in Belgium who sought to establish a game management program, and those in Chile who wished to assess the extent of their forest resources.

The ironic part of his remarkable tenure in the civil service was his initial distaste for his employer. During his first year with the Department in 1924, MacDougall had repeatedly begged the dean of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry, C.D. Howe, to find him a job in the private sector because he was so frustrated dealing with government red tape! Howe was able to convince his former student to stay the course, a directive MacDougall clearly took to heart. When Frank Archibald MacDougall died on 27 June 1975, he left a distinguished legacy of resource conservation in Ontario.

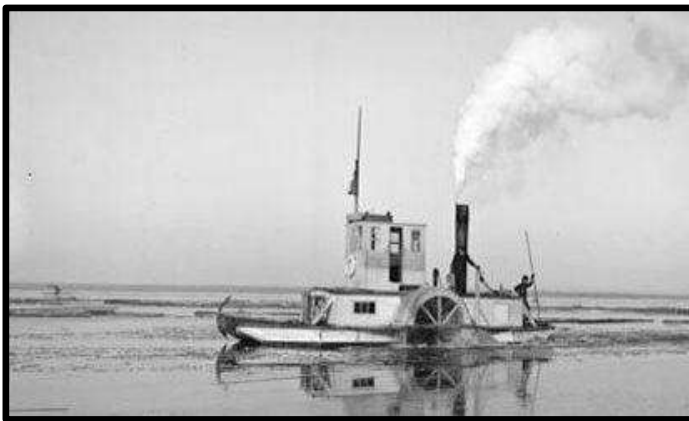
Professor Mark Kuhlberg, Laurentian University

Books

🌿 “Alligators of the North”

(Barret, Harry and Clarence F. Coons. 2010. Dundurn). This long-overdue book that chronicles the Alligator Steam Tug Boat is the combined work of authors Harry Barrett and the late Clarence Coons, with supporting data by John Corby. Harry Barrett is a life-long resident of Norfolk County, a noted naturalist, conservationist, and historian. Clarence Coons was a well-known professional forester in Kemptville, Ontario. John Corby is curator emeritus of the Canada Science and Technology Museum. Their combined work chronicles the intriguing history of West & Peachy and their invention, the Alligator.

A Canadian invention, which very few persons have heard of today, the Alligator Steam Tug Boat had a profound effect on Canada’s forest industry during the late 1800’s and the early decades of the 1900’s. Before roads and railways, harvested timber was transported to the mill by the spring and summer river drive. The forests of the Ottawa Valley, Haliburton Highlands, west to Georgian Bay, Lake of the Woods and Minnesota and east to Quebec and Maine were all being harvested. The tributaries of the Ottawa, the Trent-Severn System and the St. Maurice and the Saguenay Rivers were forestry highways. Enter the inventors, John West and his partner James Peachey in 1889, who with their foundry staff, built steam-powered warping tug boats that could tow or winch massive booms of logs on a lake and then go overland to the next lake, using its own power. The Alligator with its steam power and mile-long winching cable was high technology of the day.



**Alligator Tug Boat “Amable du Fond”,
Charles MacNamara Collection**

The Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) supported this project early on in the 1980’s and is proud to be involved in the publishing of this book some twenty-five years later. As a publishing partner, CFA offers a discounted price to each of you who enjoy Canadian northwoods nostalgia, forest lore and even technical innovation. This is a milestone book for your library!

Order your copy now for \$30.00. Add \$5.00 for shipping in Canada.

Send us your mailing address with cheque payable to: *Canadian Forestry Association* or call to use your credit card.

**Alligators
Canadian Forestry Association
200-1027 Pembroke Street East
Pembroke ON K8A 3M4
1-866-441-4006 toll-free
www.canadianforestry.com**

Dave Lemkay, General Manager, Canadian Forestry Association

“Echoes of the Forest: Canada’s Lumbering Story From Past to Present”

(Soucie, Alan. 2008. Bak Bak Productions). The book describes Canada’s early lumbering operations and river drives. Alan has also created a film documentary based on the book that contains old footage and pictures plus interviews with some people of that era.

“The Golden Spruce”

(Vaillant, John. 2006. Vintage Canada). This book is actually a book about a golden Sitka Spruce tree that grew on the Queen Charlotte Islands and had great significance to the Haida people. Unfortunately it was cut down by an unstable personality who was also a strange character in many ways. In telling the story of this tree and its demise, the author includes a global overview of forests and forest activities in North America in a global context, and the forces that shaped the development of forest activities over the centuries. The book is easy to read and moves along quickly.

“Renewing Nature’s Wealth”

(Lambert, Richard S. and Paul Pross. 1967. The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. Toronto). The book cover describes this book as “the exciting story of Ontario’s natural resources, [and] John Robarts, in his Foreward to the book as ‘much more than a history of one of the Departments of the Government of the Province of Ontario; it is a vital component of the history of Ontario’, reaching back nearly 200 years to the days of the first surveyor General of Upper Canada in 1794. The book describes the impact made by a civilized people upon the primitive forest that originally covered the land, and the development of its natural resources under public administration from an early state of confusion and waste down to the modern era of conservation and scientific management.” We will provide a précis of one chapter of this book in each future edition of the newsletter.

Chapter 1 (The Great Forest): The primeval forests of Ontario were described by early settlers and explorers as vast, thick, silent and lonely with a variety of species that had girths up to six yards and heights of 60 yards. The geologic history and forest regions of Ontario are described briefly; as was the practice of the natives to burn the forests for wildlife management. Only a few remnants of the original forest remain today and include Springwater Creek, Bacchus Woods and Rondeau Park. The forests began to be cleared for agriculture in the late 1700’s, often with the mighty trees simply burned to remove them. The British harvested large oaks for naval masts and other products between 1776 and 1836. Square timber from white and red pine was shipped to Britain for sawed lumber products in the 1800’s, with production increasing exponentially from 1850 onwards after the Canada/US reciprocity agreement was signed. Pulpwood production followed the square timber era. The concept of conservation began in the mid to late 1800’s; at first with the intent of sustaining forest products, then later to encompass all natural resources and recreation. The Royal Commission of 1983 *Report on Forest Reservation and National Park* laid the foundation for Ontario’s future management of forests by stating that forest management must be scientifically based and that the forests were to remain in Crown ownership.

Books Recommended by Professor Mark Kuhlberg

James T. Angus, *A Deo Victoria: The Story of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company, 1871-1942* (Thunder Bay: Severn Publications Limited, 1990).

A.R.M. Lower, *Settlement and the Forest Frontier in Eastern Canada* (Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, 1936)

Ian Radforth, *Bush Workers and Bosses: Logging in Northern Ontario, 1900-1980* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987)

Carl Wiegman, *Trees to News: A Chronicle of the Ontario Paper Company’s Origin and Development* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1953)

Events

First Annual General Meeting of Forest History Society of Ontario

On February 4, 2010 the newly-formed Forest History Society of Ontario held its first Annual General Meeting at the Nottawasaga Inn, prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Forestry Association.

Members adopted the By-Laws of the Society and elected a Board consisting of: Ken Armson R.P.F., President; Mike Rosen R.P.F., Vice-President; Rob Keen R.P.F., Secretary-Treasurer; Murray Ferguson R.P.F., Rob Galloway, Professor Mark Kuhlberg and John Riley. Sherry Hambly has accepted the position of Editor of the Newsletter of the Society, and a first issue is expected by May of this year. Several examples of possible logos were exhibited and David Fayle agreed to provide a selection from which the Executive would choose one to be used as the emblem of the Society.

The Society is initiating two projects involving input from members. The first is the preparation of a catalogue of publications dealing with Ontario's forest history and the second is a process whereby members can record information about collections and items that may exist outside of formal archives (provincial, university etc.). A small-scale trial is planned for the first project to determine the most appropriate format. Professor Mark Kuhlberg is heading the second project, and has developed a form to record information.



Members attend the inaugural meeting of the Forest History Society of Ontario, held February 4, 2010, at the Nottawasaga Inn

Visit to Bob Staley's Woodlot

Society member Bob Staley hosted a visit to his woodlot by other members and fellow foresters in April. The history of his woodlot is documented from 1803 when the Crown grant was made to Joseph Durham. It is situated on the Oak Ridges Moraine and described in "**Ontario Forests - A Historical Perspective**".



From left to right - Professor Martin Hubbes, Fred Somerville, Bob Staley, Doug Drysdale Jr., Bob Burgar (barely visible), John Somerville, Marie Rauter and Doug Drysdale Sr. (using tree for protection!)

Hearst Forest Plantation Field Tour

A field meeting to view conifer plantations in the Hearst area will take place September 28 & 29, 2010. This tour may be of particular interest to Society members who were involved in the early reforestation efforts by the Ministry of Natural Resources during the 1960-1980 period. For more details contact Wally Bidwell at: wbidwell@ntl.sympatico.ca .

Contest

Name the Newsletter!

The newsletter needs a name – a name that will catch and keep people's interest. If you have a suggestion for a name for the newsletter please send it along to the editor. The winner of the 'name the newsletter contest' will receive a free two-year subscription to the Society. Submissions will be accepted until October 31, 2010. Please send your entry to the newsletter editor.

The first Crown timber sale in Ontario occurred in 1827.

Sylva Recap

The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests published for many years a journal called "Sylva". The purpose of this journal was to highlight changes in policy, individuals and the comings and goings of staff. This journal contains nuggets of forest history that will be selected for each edition of the newsletter. For this issue we have selected a short biography of Edmund J. Zavitz, from the very first edition of Sylva.



Our "160 Year Old" Forester: Edmund J. Zavitz (Reprinted from Sylva, Volume 1, Issue 1, 1948)

If we were to credit Edmund J. Zavitz's graduation diploma, we should have to conclude that he is the oldest forester living, since through a gallant attempt by his Alma Mater to use up nineteenth century diplomas, his "sheepskin" reads "1805." However, Mr. Zavitz assures us that it should read "1905" and, though he is one of the senior foresters of Canada, that he has yet to reach the century mark.

Actually, quiet spoken, blue-eyed Edmund Zavitz was born in 1875 in the village of Ridgeway. There he spent his childhood years among the fields and orchards of Durham County. Since those carefree Victorian days he has accomplished much, and contributed creatively to Canadian forestry.

It was one of those rare mellow summer afternoons when we called upon Mr. Zavitz for this interview. Through the windows of his office we could watch the breeze playing upon the spacious, sunlit green lawns of Toronto's Queen's Park. Off in the distance the carillons were ringing. And, as the solidly built, white-haired man before us spoke, we could not help reflecting what a far cry it was from this spacious, picture-lined office with its shining, orderly, mahogany desk to the squat, ink-splattered, penknife-scratched desk in the two-roomed rustic schoolhouse of his boyhood.

Yet, in many ways, Edmund Zavitz has remained essentially the same throughout the more than half a century which has intervened since his childhood, for it can be truly said of him that he has been concerned with forestry "all his life." Mr. Zavitz is intensely interested in forest insect life, and when he was but a blue-eyed Victorian tyke in faded blue shorts he collected insects on hikes with his old school teacher. Mr. Zavitz's career in adult life has been that of a forester, but hardly before he had learned to run in the pastures around his Ridgeway home, his Devonshire grandfather took him on tours through the local orchards, telling the wondering child about the miracles of trees. It is those early hikes with his teacher and the talks with his grandfather which the veteran forester of today credits with forming an early desire to work among trees.

In his 'teens, young Ed Zavitz worked for the local commercial czar, who not only owned the general store, but also the lumber-mill, flour-mill, and just about everything else worth owning. This was "broadening" work, Mr. Zavitz believes today, for he not only spent time serving around the general store but was employed at odd jobs in the mills as well. During his out-of-school years, before he went on to college, the future forester became a jack-of-all-trades. He took turns at plumbing, farming, baking and a few other jobs, with a six-month business course thrown in for good measure.

After these youthful years of wandering from job to job, Ed Zavitz began studies at McMaster University, graduating in 1903. Post-graduate courses in Forestry at Yale and Michigan Universities followed, and, in 1905, he was prepared to undertake a faculty position on the staff of the Ontario Agricultural College. At the College, it wasn't very long before Ed Zavitz began introducing new ideas. He started a nursery and began distribution of trees; in 1909 he started the first outdoor Forest Station in Ontario, at Norfolk.

The year 1909 proved to be a happy one for Ontario, for it was then that Mr. Zavitz was first appointed to a position in Provincial forest administration. Accepting the position of Provincial Forester in what was then called the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines, he set to work instilling a new vigour and initiative into our forest affairs.

It is not for nothing that Edmund Zavitz has been described as the "Father of Ontario Forestry." From what was then a two-man organization plus a belief that forest fires "just couldn't be controlled," he built the foundations of what is now our complex department and proved that forest fires could be fought successfully—a fantastic conception in 1909.

When he became Provincial Forester, Mr. Zavitz started out from scratch with the belief that a successful Lands and Forests Department must be built upon three platforms. These platforms were: (1) Fire fighting organization; (2) Reforestation programs; (3) Forest surveying programs. From those three main theses, he started to build up a worthy forestry division. He pioneered in many major advancements. He had an important role in bringing about railroad-fire protection at a time when railways were causing about 50 per cent of forest fires; he submitted what are now historical reports on forest fire protection in 1912 and 1916. After the great loss of life in the Cochrane fire of 1916 he did much to frame the Forest Fires Prevention Act of 1917 - the real beginning of fire fighting organization in this Province. He successfully won his fight for increased reforestation in 1922, and it was largely through his foresight and endeavour that planes were purchased for Departmental use in 1924.

In 1928, Mr. Zavitz's achievements were recognised when he was invited as a delegate to the British Empire Forestry Conference in Australia. These Empire Forestry Conferences are very exclusive affairs, comprising only 75 delegates in all, and it was a signal honour to be invited. On that memorable trip, Mr. Zavitz spent five months travelling through Australia and New Zealand with the noted foresters of other Empire countries.

Deeply occupied as he has always been with forestry matters, Ed Zavitz has yet found time for other activities. No mere "swotter" in youth he was a crack athlete in youth, he was a crack athlete in school and college, playing on championship teams in both soccer and hockey. Among his early sporting memories are those of Federal candidate John Bracken, who was a fellow half-back on the Agricultural College rugby team. Mr. Zavitz has also found time to acquire the nick-name "Fuzzy," have a caricature drawn of himself (apart from the one with this article), and generally to get as much enjoyment out of life as he has put endeavour into it—and that is a great deal.

Mr. Zavitz has few habits, but he is fond of smoking cigars (he will settle for a pipe, if necessary), wearing blue and grey clothes, and likes work - lots of it.

Looking back on his own experience, the Department's veteran sees a great future for forestry. "A larger and more intensive program must eventually be established," he believes, "if we in Ontario are to handle our lands and forests as they should be cared for." Pointing out that pre-war Germany employed a forester for every 100 acres of forest; he says that our own present organization is still a "mere skeleton" ... "I look forward", he adds "to the day when there will be thousands, instead of less than hundreds of foresters."

Mr. Zavitz believes, too, that the people still underestimate the vital importance of their lands and forests. But, he says: "The people would support an enlarged program if properly informed. Education and propaganda are the only answer in awakening public interest and concern."

Forestry is still a very young profession which holds great opportunities for the young people of the present and tomorrow. . . .

"I can think of no better career than Forestry for a happy and healthy life," Mr. Zavitz asserts. Today, at seventy, he himself is living proof of that remark.

***The official records for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and its predecessors
are continuous from 1827.***

Forest History Society of Ontario

Membership Form

Thank You For Your Support!

The mission of the Society is : "To further the knowledge, understanding and preservation of Ontario's forest history" and accomplish this with the following objectives:

1. To preserve forest and forest conservation history;
2. To encourage and further the development and recognition of forest history;
3. To support research and studies of forest history;
4. To support the archival preservation of records and materials relating to forest history, and
5. To promote the better understanding of forest history through public education.



One of the first projects, involving members' participation, will be the preparation of a catalogue of existing publications dealing with various aspects of Ontario's forest history. It is anticipated that a Newsletter will be provided to members at least twice a year.

A second project involving the identification of collections and materials relating to Ontario's forest history has also begun.

Please fill out the membership form below. Thank you for your support!

Please return this portion to the FHSO with your cheque or credit card information to the address listed below.

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(The FHSO has a privacy policy. Your information will not be shared or sold.)

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