Forest History Society of Ontario

Forestory

Volume 2, Issue 2, Fall 2011

NEWSLETTER

Contents

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

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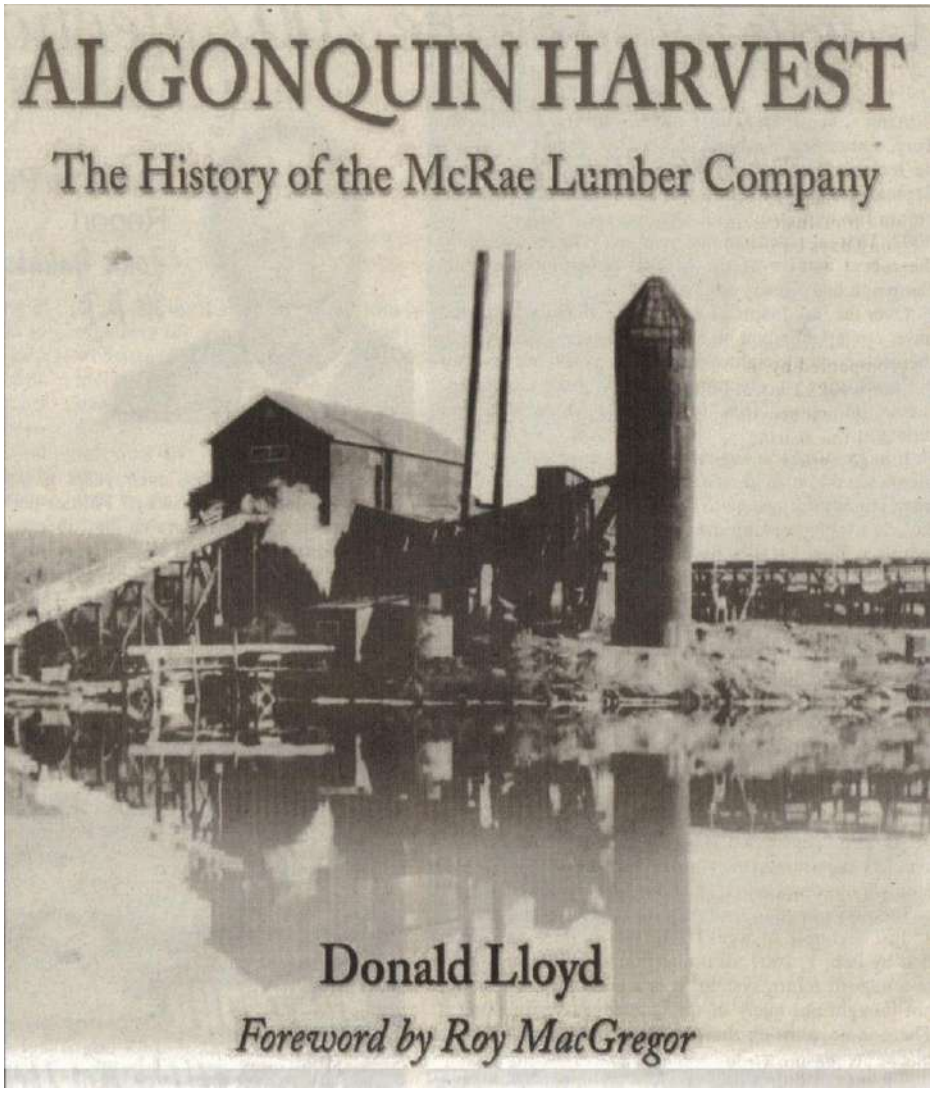

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Request for Content

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

Summer is supposedly the time for relaxation and I trust that our members were able to indulge to some degree, and enjoy doing that. For organizations such as ours the seasons are only of relevance in so far as they affect the nature of events in which we can participate. Outside events such as those held at St. Williams in mid-August in which the Society participated are unlikely to be held in the winter. So I have to report on a number of activities which have occurred since my report in the Spring issue this year.

First, the negative news: The Society applied to the Canada Revenue Agency for charitable status in November 2010. In March of this year we were informed the application would be reviewed within a few months and in June we received the decision that the application had been rejected due to the fact that apart from the Newsletter we could not cite evidence of activities for which we had expressed intent as specified in our mission statement and objectives, e.g. community and public involvement. As a result we withdrew our application with the intent of submitting a new one within the next year. On a positive note, within the past nine months the Society, either directly or through its members, has been involved with the movement of two major forestry collections to Archives Ontario and is engaged in the transfer of a woodlands collection to a university archives. We supported the Port Rowan and South Walsingham Heritage Association in their initiative and took part in the dedication and memorial establishing "The E.J. Zavitz Forest" at St. Williams and the rededication of the memorial to Dr. J. H. White at Turkey Point Provincial Park.

In August the Society became a provincial member of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS). Founded in 1888, in addition to provincial members, the Society has a large membership of local historical and heritage organizations and museums as well as individual members. An article about our becoming a member will be in a forthcoming issue of the OHS Bulletin, the newsletter of the Society. I believe that our membership in the OHS will be mutually beneficial and encourage our members to make themselves known to their local history, heritage and museum organizations.
The Canadian Institute of Forestry, at its AGM in Huntsville in September, kindly provided space for displays by the four provincial forest history organizations; we were represented by myself, our banner and copies of our newsletter, Forestory.

At the Directors' meeting in early December we shall be considering changes to our By-Laws, which are planned to be presented to the membership for discussion at the Society's annual meeting on February 9, 2012, at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston. Elsewhere in this issue you will note that the Society's address has changed resulting from the move of the Ontario Forestry Association to new offices in downtown Toronto. There is some forest history related to this since the new offices will be in the building which housed the federal Ontario Forest Pathology laboratory in the 1950's.

I wish all a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing many of you in Alliston in February.

Ken Armson R.P.F.

Editor's Message

For me, this issue of our newsletter is about six degrees of separation. It turns out that the author, Don Lloyd, of the book on which our lead story is based knows my husband from the time they spent together at Camp Ahmek in Algonquin Park many years ago.

I met one of the authors, Marion Seabrook, at a family function a year ago and was fascinated by the forest history she was telling me about Manitoulin Island – history of my home place of which I was unaware. When I received her draft article, I realized that one of the people she refers to (the lighthouse keeper) was my great great grandfather, who lived on Manitoulin Island for 30 years before returning south.

John Haegeman writes about the north shore and the stolen mill on John Island. The story I chose from Sylva last spring before I had made contact with John is about the Spanish River Lumber Company. The story includes reference to the "Stolen Mill". I had the pleasure of canoeing down the Spanish River with three of my colleagues when I worked for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Sudbury. We were looking for old growth white and red pine and saw lots.

Rob Galloway speaks about his experiences on the Englehart Management Unit, and I have fond memories of spending time there as an undergraduate and graduate student.

The other idea that has been rolling around in the back of my mind as I put this edition of the newsletter together is that history is made by people – of all shapes and stripes. I was reminded of this as I reread Chapter 4 of *Renewing Nature's Wealth*, and reading John Bacher's story of Zavitz and Drury, and Ken Armson's about Marie Rauter. And that it is people who pass on our history – like Valerie Kirkwood's ancestors did. There is so much local knowledge out there it amazes me. I think of my good friend and classmate, Peter Hynard, and the immense forestry knowledge he has of the Haliburton area. I was struck by John Haegeman's knowledge of the local forest history of the Espanola area, and of timber marks; and Marion's knowledge of lumbering on Manitoulin Island; and Ken Plourde's history of the Kenisis Lake sawmill. This is what the Forest History Society of Ontario is all about – finding this history and making it available to a wider audience.

I had a lot of fun putting this edition together – and talking to folks who know so much about forest history. I have almost enough material for another edition focussed on local forest history. But there are many other interesting topics and I am excited to start working on our next newsletter theme – forest inventory and all that it is connected to.

I would like to encourage all of you to send me your stories – either of your own experiences or of your local forest history.

We have two major changes in this edition and for future editions. Mike Commito, a PhD candidate in history, has agreed to be our regular book reviewer and will choose one or more books each edition to discuss in detail. Thanks Mike! We have also added a section that highlights archive sites across the province. Mark Kulhberg, Professor of History at Laurentian University very kindly agreed to write the first article. Thank you Mark. I will be looking for you, our readers, to think about investigating your local archives sites and museums and to send me articles about them.

Lastly, I would like to thank our President, Ken Armson, for his indefatigable support of the Society, as you will see from the Events page – it is people like Ken who make history! Thank you Ken for your dedication and hard work supporting the Society.

Have a great Christmas and we'll connect again next spring.

Sherry Hambly M.Sc.F.

The McRae Lumber Company

By Douglas Gloin

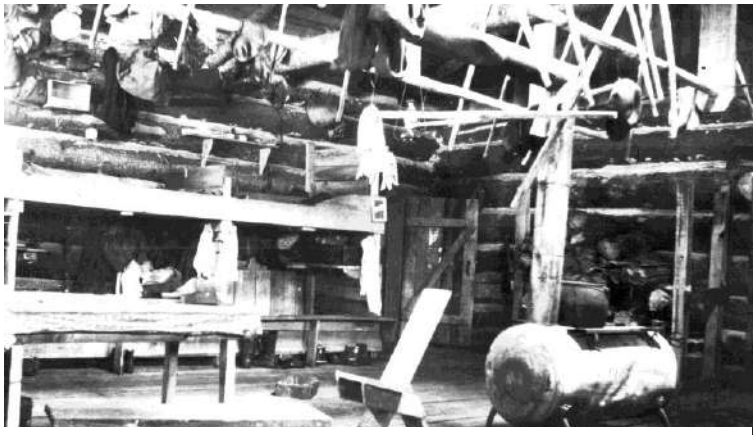
If there is one key fact coming through in Donald L. Lloyd's "*Algonquin Harvest*", it is that the histories of Algonquin Park, the McRae Lumber Company and the Whitney area are so inextricably linked that it would have been impossible to tackle a book on any one of the subjects without taking on all three in detail.

And that, basically, is what Lloyd has done with *Algonquin Harvest: The History of the McRae Lumber Company*, [which was released earlier this month].

Lloyd, the author of seven previous works, including three about Algonquin Provincial Park, has produced an exhaustively researched chronicle of the McRae family's fortunes from their arrival as Scottish immigrants in the early 19th century to their move into lumbering a few decades later. The real story, however, begins around the turn of the century with several key events: the 1893 passage of the Algonquin National Park Act by the province of Ontario; the establishment of the village of Whitney in 1895 with the arrival of the railway, and the move west of John Stanley Lothian McRae, soon to be the legendary J.S.L. McRae.

In 1911, having left Eganville after fire destroyed his father's mill, J.S.L. was cutting timber from a farm lot on Bark Lake near Barry's Bay and running a mill at Martin's Siding. By 1919, he was working in the Whitney area. Recession struck in 1921, and a year later J.S.L. took the opportunity to buy out the ailing Dymet Mickle Lumber Company. The McRae Lumber Company was born.

J.S.L. McRae



Inside a bunkhouse.

Lloyd has woven a fascinating compendium of facts, logging lore and trivia into the book's 348 pages. We learn, for example, the logistical problems of feeding the crew of hungry loggers for a month at the Cranberry Lake Operation in 1931. It took, to name just a few items, 700 pounds of pork, eight sides of beef, 500 pounds of lard, assorted vegetables in large quantities, and, somewhat mysteriously to those uninitiated to logging camp fare, five quarts of vanilla extract.

The book's elegant foreword is written by author and columnist Roy MacGregor, whose past is also entwined with the McRae family, Algonquin and Whitney.

Skidding a log.

J.S.L. McRae was married to Macgregor's aunt, Janet. His dad Duncan was a key McRae employee. Roy's grandfather Tom McCormick was chief ranger at Algonquin Park. The book, which took Lloyd five years to complete, was written with the enthusiastic support of the McRae family, in particular Bob McRae.

The research done into the mercurial fortunes of the logging trade and the McRae firm in particular included field reports from University of Toronto forestry studies going back to the early years of the 20th century, tapes from McRae family interviews and interviews with long-standing McRae staffers like Gary Cannon. There are recollections by and about legendary teamsters like Frank and Paul Shalla, Felix Luckasavitch and Felix Voldock. Lloyd chronicles the McRae mills at places such as Airy, Hay Lak,e Mink Lake - and Rock Lake - and always, the fortunes of Whitney.

The book's many maps and illustrations include a detailed look at the harness equipment required for draft horses (the McRae's led the conversion to motorized transport in the later years, but logging with horses was the reality for the first half of the 20th century. (The company last used horses in the bush in 1962.) Lloyd also includes a helpful and amusing glossary of logging terms, and

appendices with township maps, sample timber licenses, and copies of government orders-in-council that helped shape the fortunes of McRae Lumber, its employees and the village of Whitney over the years.

The author documents J.S.L.'s gruff demeanour, his contradictory reputations for being both parsimonious and generous, the extended and at times rough transition from his leadership of the firm to that his son Don McRae, and the much smoother transfer of power to Don's sons, John and Bob.

Some aspects of the McRae firm's role in Algonquin Park might surprise those who cast a jaundiced eye on logging in the park. The firm has played a leading role in logging research and has been involved with the Friends of Algonquin Park from its inception. Lloyd chronicles the tense years of the late 1970's, when the Algonquin Wildlands League was campaigning to end all logging in the park and operations became severely restricted. He recounts efforts of men like former park superintendent Frank MacDougall to make the relationship between logger and recreational users work.

Loading veneer logs on a truck with a jammer.

Some of the most fascinating parts of Algonquin Harvest are the accounts of life in Whitney through the war years. It was at the village's Red Cross Outpost Hospital that a young nurse named Helen McRorie came to work just before World War II. She met Donald McRae there and they were married when he returned from years in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

Equally fascinating are the book's photographs. They include a picture of Donald McRae in his RCAF uniform with former McRae employee Felix Shalla in 1941, just before both men shipped out for Europe.

Don's Halifax bomber was shot down during an air raid on Essen in 1942, and he was imprisoned in Stalag Luft III at Sagan in what was then East Prussia—now part of Poland. There, he played a role in helping to plan the famous "Great Escape" but was transferred out before he could be involved in the breakout itself.

Felix Shalla became a combat engineer and landed on Normandy's Juno Beach on D-Day in 1944, where he was severely wounded and died two days later. (Lloyd includes in the book a list of the men and women from the Whitney area who served during the war.)

One of the dangers of a book on the fortunes of a single company is that it might only interest diehard local history fans or those who have some connection with the company. Algonquin Harvest, however, is a worthwhile read for anyone who wants to know how this region became what it is today. And even the greenest of green newcomers is sure to recognize a name, a place, or a legend.

Editor's Note: *The text of this article is reprinted with permission from "Barry's Bay This Week". The article was titled "A Logging Legend" and was published in on September 20, 2006. The article is based on the book "Algonquin Harvest, The History of the McRae Lumber Company" by Donald Lloyd. The photographs accompanying this article are courtesy of Jamie McRae and are included in the book.*

Current operations, McRae Logging Company.

A Family Treasure Full of History

By Valerie Kirkwood

Since the late 1800s, our branch of the Kirkwood family has treasured and passed on a copy of the *"Report of Commission on Forest Reservation And National Park 1893*." My great-great-grandfather, Alexander Swebert Kirkwood, was the Chairman of the Commission that promoted the establishment of what we now call Algonquin Provincial Park. What makes this copy of the report so special is that it has been signed down through the generations, starting with Alexander, then to his son, John Swebert, and from his son, Frederick Swebert, to Russell Swebert, then to myself, Valerie Dianne Kirkwood.

Alexander Kirkwood.

Alexander Kirkwood was born in Belfast in 1823, and had a gift for languages. He was fluent in French, translated scientific material from Latin and Russian, and also studied Hebrew. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1846, and then to Canada in 1853. Shortly thereafter he became a clerk in the Ontario Crown Lands Department, where he remained until his retirement in 1900. As early as the mid-1880s, he began to promote the unsettled areas of Ontario's Nipissing District, after having seen the problems caused by the wholesale destruction of forests and land depletion in southern Ontario. In 1892, a Royal Commission was established to study the suitability of these lands as a Forest Preserve, and the resultant publication was printed in 1893.

I have taken the liberty of excerpting from the report some items which may be of interest to those who have visited the Park and may have, as I do, fond memories of camping or working there. Some show the foresight and vision of the Commissioners, some are coloured by the prejudices of the time, and some are downright amusing, in today's context.

"...it has appeared to Our Lieutenant-Governor of Our Province of Ontario in Council expedient to appoint a Commission to inquire into and to make full report respecting the fitness of certain territory in Our said Province, including the head waters of the rivers Amable du Fond, Petawawa, Bonnechere, Madawaska and Muskoka, and their tributaries, having their sources in the plateau or height of land region lying between the Mattawa and Georgian Ray, with boundaries to be hereafter determined, for the purpose of a Forest Reservation and National Park; the approximate cost of establishing and maintaining and the ends to be attained by the creation of such a Park, and the system adopted in the United States or elsewhere, for the government and management of the same;"

The Commission was established under the Letters Patent and Commission under the Great Seal of Ontario on February 8th, 1892. At that time, Alexander Kirkwood, Esquire, was Senior Officer of the Lands Branch of the Department of Crown Lands of Ontario. He, along with Aubrey White, Esquire, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Province of Ontario, Archibald Blue, Esquire, Director of Mines for the said Province of Ontario, all of the City of Toronto, and James Dickson, of the Village of Fenelon Falls, in the County of Victoria, Esquire, Provincial Land Surveyor and Inspector of Surveys for the Province of Ontario, were appointed to be Commissioners.

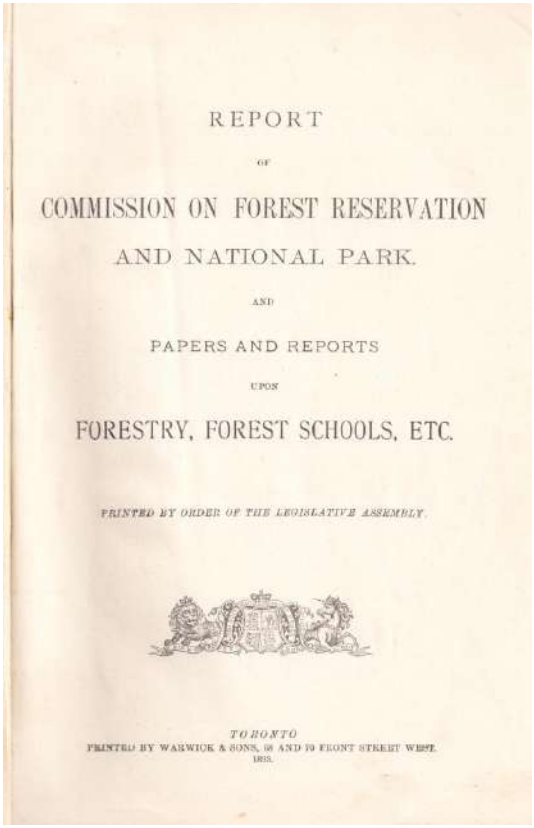
They had "the full power and authority to summon any witness or witnesses, and to require him or them to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, (or on solemn affirmation if such witness or witnesses is or are parties entitled to affirm in civil matters), and to produce to you, Our said Commissioners, such documents and things as you may deem requisite to the full investigation of the premises..." They were to report to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of

Ontario. The commissioning Lieutenant-Governor was the Honourable Sir Alexander Campbell, though the report was given to the new holder of that office, the Honourable George Airey Kirkpatrick, in January of the following year.

"... the commissioners endeavored to procure all available information as to the public advantages which might be expected to accrue from reserving a portion of the ungranted Crown domain to be set apart as a Forest Reservation and National Park, and the suitability of the tract of land suggested in the commission for such a purpose."

In words that echo through today's environmental consciousness, the report states, "The experience of older countries has everywhere shown that the wholesale and indiscriminate slaughter of forests brings a host of evils in its train." Citing soil conservation, watershed headland protection, climate moderation effects and preservation of forest resources, the Commissioners note that "The reckless removal of the forests, such as that which has characterized the greater portion of wooded America, including our own country, may for a limited time provide such a supply in prodigal profusion, but the waste of one generation must be atoned for by the enforced economy of the next."

The report then outlines what it considered as appropriate boundaries for the forest reserve, being somewhat smaller than what is now Algonquin Provincial Park. The lands in question were owned wholly by the Crown, and as such, there were no vested interests to be dealt with in the establishment of a park. It notes that fires and lumbermen had greatly diminished the quality of the red and white pine stands, but that considerable supplies were still available. Trees noted in order of abundance were black birch, maple, hemlock, ironwood, and smaller quantities of beech, black ash, basswood, cedar, spruce and tamarack in the swamps, and there was a dense undergrowth of balsam, hazel and ground hemlock in all parts, with alder along the creek beds and in the marshes.


REPORT

OF

COMMISSION ON FOREST RESERVATION

AND NATIONAL PARK.

AND

PAPERS AND REPORTS

UPON

FORESTRY, FOREST SCHOOLS, ETC.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TORONTO

PRINTED BY WARWICK & SONS, 68 AND 70 FRONT STREET WEST.

1893.

Algonquin Park Commission Report front page.

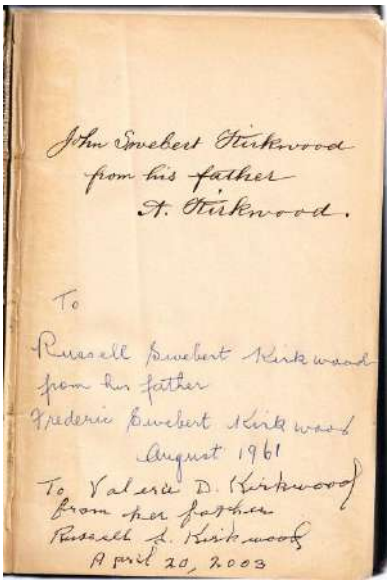
Surveyors had noted that most of the land was either rocky heights or lakes and marshes, very little of it suitable for agriculture. Arable soil was in isolated patches, scarcely large enough to make up a school section, and was generally stony in nature. As of that time, no settlers had impinged upon the area. These circumstances, plus the long distance to markets, precluded opening the area to agricultural development.

Even though much bedrock occurred at the surface, very little in the way of mineral deposits, other than some iron ore, had been discovered. On the other hand, the area was home to many varieties of valuable mammals, birds and fish.

It seems that Alexander Kirkwood never had the opportunity to visit the lands which comprise Algonquin Park, although reports from newspapers of the time show that he had visited Bracebridge and Sudbury. Of the Commissioners, the surveyor, Mr. Dickson, and a Mr. Phipps, had traveled in the area, Mr. Dickson quite extensively.

Although timber licenses covering all the land in question had been issued – some for pine only – this was not considered to be an impediment to the aims of climate mitigation and water handling in the proposed forest preserve. In fact, it was mentioned that the deciduous trees that were filling in where the pines had been removed, were beneficial to increasing the deer population, which had been greatly diminished by both legal and illegal hunting. The limit holders seemed to be quite supportive of the proposal, since at that time, it was primarily the pine that they were interested in. The report does caution for conservation of the resource: "To obtain from a forest the largest amount of product which it is capable of yielding without at the same time trenching upon its capacity, calls for careful and scientific management, such as has hitherto been but little practised on this side of the Atlantic."

Ends to be attained by the Reservation were: maintenance of water supply; preservation of a primeval forest; protection of birds and animals; a field for experiments in forestry; a place of health resort; and, beneficial effects on climate.


John Swebert Kirkwood
from his father
A. Kirkwood.

To
Russell Swebert Kirkwood
from his father
Frederic Swebert Kirkwood
August 1961
To Valerie D. Kirkwood
from her father
Russell S. Kirkwood
April 20, 2003

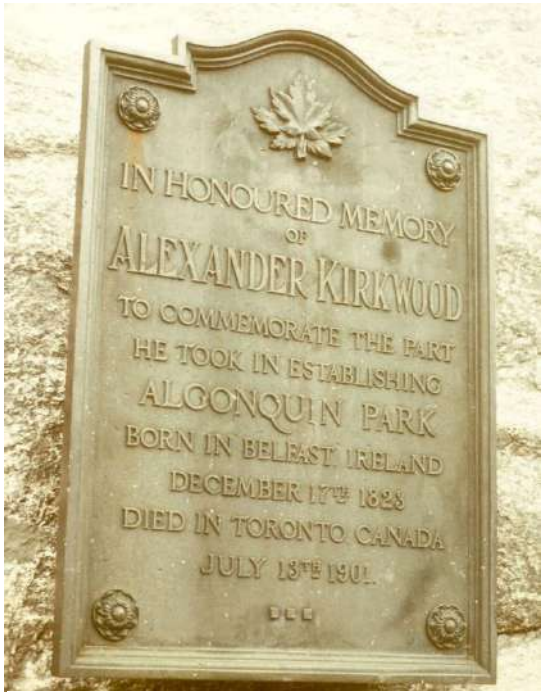
Signed commission report passed down through the generations.

The Commissioners determined that the costs for the purpose of preserving the timber, preventing poaching, protecting game and excluding trespassers, would be for a staff of four rangers at $1.50 per day and a chief or supervising ranger at $2.00 per day. The chief ranger should have a residence and might be a married man, but the other rangers – they should be young, single men – could live in "rustic huts" or tents (tents, canoes, axes and a general outfit would be supplied). The chief ranger should be given the powers of a magistrate, "so that he might convict offenders on the spot, and the rangers should have authority to seize and destroy traps, dead-falls, fishing-nets, etc., found within the limits of the Park." The rangers would also have fire-control duties. The Commissioners foresaw that hunting might be allowed in the park in the future, to control burgeoning wildlife populations. They stated that hardwood and young pine trees should be preserved, that the land should remain with the Crown, and that permanent (including summer) residences and town sites not be allowed.

And finally the "commissioners suggest that the name of the Reservation be The Algonquin Park, in this way perpetuating the memory of one of the greatest Indian nations that has inhabited the North American continent."

By far the largest portion of the report is comprised of supporting papers, and is entitled: "*Papers And Reports Upon Forestry, Forest Schools, Forest Administration and Management In Europe, America, and the British Possessions, And Upon Forests as Public Parks and Sanitary Resorts. Collected by Mr. A. Kirkwood*". A quick browse through them brings out the point that, even back in the 1800s, those who studied the natural sciences knew the principles of sustainable forest management, soil conservation, and reforestation.

It is clear that Alexander was proud of this report – why else would he have kept a copy, and signed it down to his son? He must have been proud of the results, too. I remember, as a very small child, seeing the volume nestled on a shelf of the locked book case in my grandparents' back bedroom. Other volumes there were "The Way the West Was Won", and "Treasure Island". At the time, all of these were rather heavy reading for me. I was, on occasion, allowed to unlock the door and browse the books. The wood has a very distinct scent – fumed oak, my grandfather declared it. Now that very book case is mine, and Treasure Island, and the Royal Commission Report. I shall cherish it.



Plaque commemorating Alexander Kirkwood's part in the establishment of Algonquin Park.

Sugar Island - *A Brief History of Gull Lake and Sugar Island*

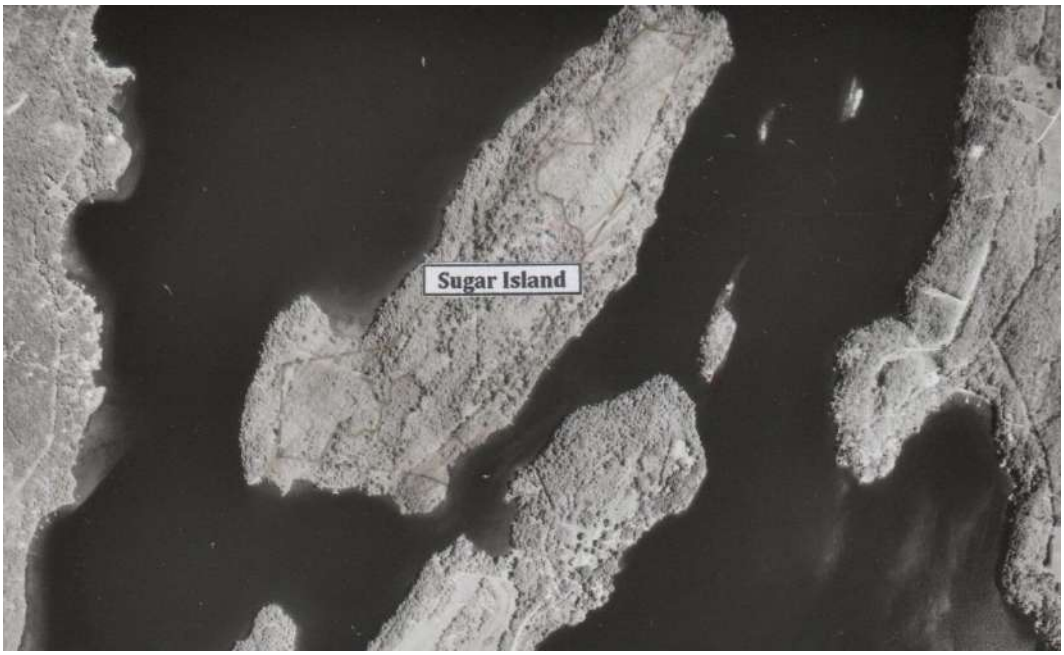
By Peter Hynard, R.P.F.

Sugar Island is located in Haliburton County about 12 km south of Minden. It's the largest island in Gull Lake, measuring about 1½ km by ½ km at its greatest length. It is 54 hectares in size.

The Historical and Geographical Context

Gull Lake is located on the southern Shield, about 10 km north of the point of contact between the Canadian Shield and the overlying limestone tablelands to the south.

The southern Shield is a country of very shallow soils over Precambrian bedrock, stretching in a broad east-west band from Georgian Bay to the Thousand Islands. It was formed during the melting period of the last ice age 12,000 years ago when post-glacial Lake Algonquin breached at the Kirkfield outlet and rushed down across the lower Trent watershed, sweeping away much of the soil with it. The present-day St. Lawrence River was blocked by a still-intact glacier at the time, forcing the meltwater to make its way to the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson River valley.



Aerial photograph of Sugar Island.

Geologically, Sugar Island is on the central medisedimentary belt boundary zone, which runs from Norland to Pembroke and separates the banded gneissic bedrocks to the west from the marble belt to the east. These rocks were formed deep in the earth where the combination of enormous heat and pressure metamorphosed them into their present form. Since then, a billion years of erosion and crustal uplift has brought these rocks to the surface and exposed them to the eye.

The soils in the area were formed by the crushing weight and grinding action of the last ice age on these rocks 20,000 years ago. Known as a ground moraine landform, the soils surrounding Gull Lake are the residue of this process although much of the resulting soil in the area was later washed away by the outflow of post-glacial Lake Algonquin. After it emptied, the lake left behind lacustrine deposits of calcareous silty clay that had originated farther up the Gull River watershed. It is this silty-clay deposit that causes the roads in Minden to heave so badly, and that gives parts of Gull Lake's bottom a squishy feel between your toes.

Still later, as meltwaters continued to drain off the Algonquin Dome, a post-glacial river occupied what is now the Gull River valley. This massive river eroded away some of Lake Algonquin's silt and clay deposits and left behind a riverbed of deep sand and gravel. Some of the old riverbed can be seen at Moore Falls and up the Deep Bay Road for a kilometre or so.

Historically, Haliburton County was opened up to settlement in the 1860s with a series of colonization roads and land sales. During the early years the timber was cut in wintertime, hauled by horse and sleigh to the lakes and log-driven down the Gull River to sawmills in Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon. The horses and labour were provided by settlers, who in summer cleared their homesteads and burned the debris for planting crops. In the early years, Gull Lake would have been choked every spring with pine logs on their way from northern Haliburton to the Boyd Lumber sawmill in Bobcaygeon.

During the late 1800s, Gull Lake would have seen countless log drives like this one, as pine cut in the Gull River watershed was taken to the Boyd Lumber sawmill in Bobcaygeon. The logs were boomed and towed down the lakes, then river-driven down the Gull. This picture was taken at the narrows where present-day Highway No. 118 crosses the narrows between Boshkung and Little Boshkung. Taken Early 1900s. Photo courtesy of the Stanhope Museum.

But the combination of unregulated logging and uncontrolled slash fires soon depleted the pine. By 1900 the pine was mostly gone and the soils had proven themselves too poor for agriculture. The last log drive on the Gull River took place in 1921. Many settlers migrated north to the Clay Belt or west to the prairies, leaving behind settlements like Moore Falls as only a name on a map. In their survey of the Trent watershed in 1913, Howe and White described the poverty and social degeneracy that prevailed for those who remained behind. The population and the local economy collapsed, not to recover again until the cottage country boom at the end of World War II.

View of Gull Lake from the lookout on the hiking trail.

Today, Haliburton County is home to more and more cottagers, retirees and tradesmen. The local economy is based largely on servicing their growing numbers, as it has been since the cottage country boom began. Most of these people are concentrated around the cottage lakes and in the settled areas, which leaves the intervening landscape in a relatively wild and natural state.

Sugar Island

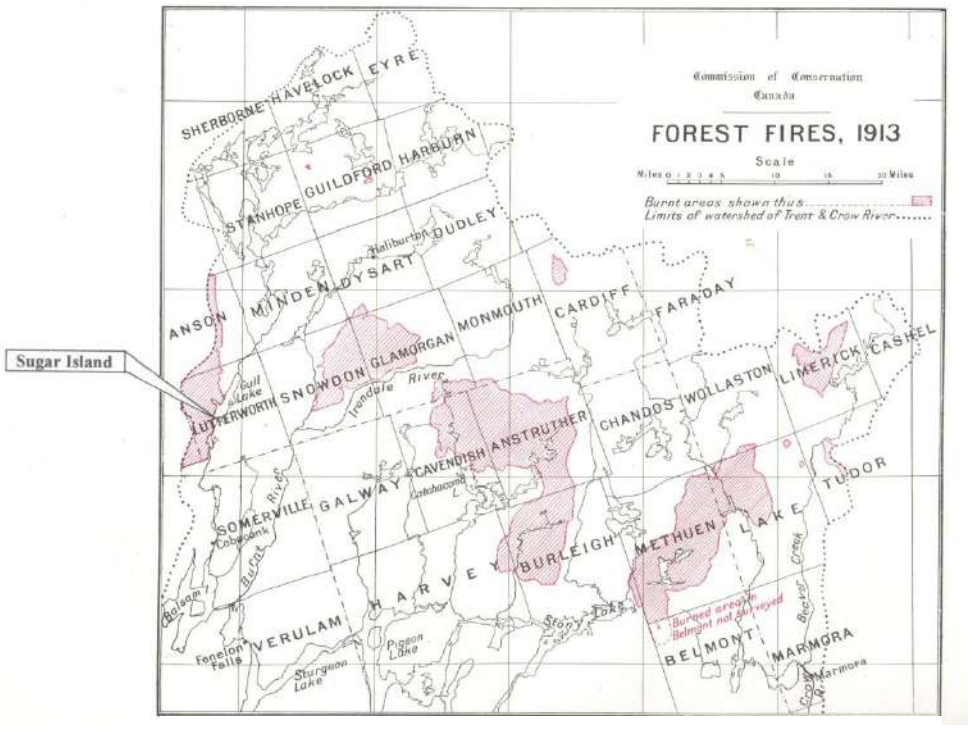
Sugar Island is a product of three major events. The first of these is the Precambrian Era, which gave the area its impervious bedrock, and hence its system of lakes and rivers. The second is the post-glacial melting period that left behind no agricultural soils, which is the reason the

area remains forested today. And the third is the settlement era, which depleted its timber but gave the area its infrastructure and lead eventually to its evolution into cottage country. Today, there are 34 cottage properties on the perimeter of the island.

The bedrock on the island consists of several NE-SW ridges of gneiss, which are banded and veined, pink and grey, and which give the island its classic northern look. The island's soils are a mix of lake-bottom clay in places, water-scoured bald rock in others and water-worked sandy till in others yet. Most of the soil was taken off lookout point and the other ridges by wave action, as post-glacial Lake Algonquin receded to the present-day Georgian Bay shoreline. The tree cover is made up mostly of fire species that colonized the logged-over, burned-over island at the end of the 19th century. The only part of the story that is missing is the settlement era. Sugar Island was never cleared for farming, and agriculture was never attempted here.

The island was first patented to Henry Becher on December 23, 1872. Mr. Becher mortgaged the property soon after but the land registry records contain no mention of a timber sale or the fire. (They rarely do.)

The first severance occurred in 1928 when Arthur Hatch bought the "north part" of the island. Mr. Hatch subdivided his part of the island into cottage lots in 1941 but most of the lots weren't sold until sometime after 1957. Shelley's father, Grant Morrison, bought the interior of the island in 1977 and Shelley and Al acquired the property from Grant in 1988. They built their cottage on the waterfront portion in 1995. The property was horse-logged at the time, in exchange for work on the cottage. The logs were taken across the ice to the Beamish property on the mainland.



It seems incredible today but this map shows the enormous extent of what burned in just one year. The fire of 1913 came right down to the west shore of Gull Lake but it didn't make the jump to Sugar Island. Core sampling of trees on the property showed that Sugar Island had already burned about 20 years earlier, in the early

Grant Morrison was an avid hunter, trapper, fisherman and outdoorsman. He enrolled the property in the managed forest tax reduction program when the program began. This is the third managed forest plan for the island's interior.

Editor's note: Ontario's Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program calls for plans prepared under the program to provide a brief history of the property and a brief description of past activities on it. This article is an extract of the managed forest plan for Sugar Island, as prepared by Peter Hynard.

John Island's Stolen Sawmill

By John Haegeman

With an east-west length of four and two-thirds miles, and a breadth of almost a mile and a half at its widest, uninhabited John Island rises 250 feet in Georgian Bay's North Channel. The island is located near the mouth of the Spanish River, twenty miles east of Blind River and 20 miles west of Little Current. It appears to have remained unnamed and unnoticed until 1889 when a sawmill was unloaded at the harbour near the eastern end of the island.

Our story begins on April 1 1889, when the steam tug "Tom Dowling", skippered by young Johnny Moiles, worked its way through the ice of Detour Passage towards the village of Detour. Detour is located at the eastern tip of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The arrival of the "Tom Dowling" signalled the opening of the shipping season, which was usually marked with great celebration and the blowing of the tug's siren, which could be heard for miles.

However, on this trip the tug's siren was silent. Why was the tug mysteriously silent and why was it pulling two barges? Five years earlier the five Moiles brothers, Charles, George, Henry Jr., James and John, had borrowed $100,000 from a Buffalo firm (to refinance their sawmill company). The mill was to cut 5 million board feet of lumber each year with the owners receiving $1.00 per thousand feet sawn. A mortgage was placed on all of the Moiles' property. The terms of the mortgage were reasonable. But in 1885, something went wrong and foreclosure began.

April 1, 1889, was election day in Michigan, so many people were about. Twenty year old Bill Jones was campaigning For T.C. Anthony, the area's Republican boss. T.C. Anthony was familiar with the Moiles brothers and knew about the loan.

The barges tied up to the Moiles' dock and about 50 men hopped ashore. The word was that the mill was being overhauled for the coming milling season. The next day the men started dismantling the mill and much of it disappeared into the bowels of the two barges. Mr. Anthony contacted the mortgagers and was told to hire a lawyer to stop the dismantling. The lawyer tried to call the Sheriff in Sault Ste Marie, but apparently the telephone lines had been cut. Young Bill Jones was sent to contact the Sherriff in Pickford some 40 miles north on muddy winter trails. It took him 14 hoursand he notified the Sheriff the next day. With the St. Mary's River still frozen the Sheriff had to go to St. Ignace (to try to intercept the tugboat), but by the time he arrived the "Tom Dowling " had left and was in Canadian waters.

A few weeks later the Moiles brothers began work on building a sawmill on John's Island. By the following spring it was operational. It appears that the Moiles brothers, with partners Henry Colclough and the White brothers from Saginaw, purchased a timber limit in 1892 located near Pogamasing Lake northwest of Sudbury. The railway had arrived there in 1884 and opened up a whole new block for logging. A huge fire in 1891 prompted the Department of Lands and Forests to offer several timber berths to try to salvage some of the burnt timber. In 1893, the Moiles brothers log drive from Spanish Forks was expected to arrive at the mouth of the Spanish River in 30 days. From there it was only a few miles to their mill. In 1895, Robert Booth and Pat Shannon purchased their limits, so the Moiles brothers operation was short lived.

Shortly after 1900, Guy H. Moulthrop from Bay City purchased the John Island mill. Moulthrop logged Harty Township north of Levack and part of Hess Township above it. His production for 1903 and 1904 was 17 million board feet for each of these two years, with his total production around 60 million board feet. A small village appeared on the island to house the workers and both Guy and his younger brother William and their wives spent the entire year on the island. On April 17, 1918, the mill burnt and so ended the stolen mill saga. The remaining buildings and logs were purchased by the Spanish River Lumber Company with W.J. Bell as its president. Today, the site is owned by the Sudbury Y.M.C.A. as a summer camp. Guy Moulthrop's size 16 footprints have been replaced by thousands of smaller ones belonging to kids aged 6-16. The camp has been operating for almost 60 years.

Guy Moulthrop registered 3 timber marks to mark his log: FOX – 1902, YUY - 1907 and GUY - 1907. A log with the mark "FOX" washed up on the shore of the Vermillion River this fall.

Many of the islands in Lake Huron commemorate navy officers, but there is only one island named after a man who stole his own sawmill. That island is named John Island.

Limerick Forest

By Valerie Kirkwood

In 2010, Limerick Forest celebrated its 70th anniversary. Limerick's 5782 hectares is situated in four main blocks – the South block between Roebuck and Bishops Mills, the North block south of Merrickville, the North Augusta block south east of North Augusta, and the Cranberry Lake block – and other smaller, non-contiguous blocks throughout the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville in Eastern Ontario. It is about equally comprised of conifer plantations, hardwood forest, and wetlands. Limerick contains or abuts on three wetland ANSIs: The Merrickville Bog, the Groveton Bog, and the Cranberry Lake Swamp. Provincially rare species occur within these complexes.

As with many of the Agreement Forests in Ontario, Limerick Forest's soils are generally unsuitable for agriculture, although they were cleared by European settlers during the 1800s. The southern areas are on sands deposited in beach formations by the receding post-glacial Champlain Sea, sometimes reworked into dunes. The northern areas are on very shallow soil underlain by the dolostone of the Smiths Falls Limestone Plain.

There was an Aboriginal presence in the area – an Iroquoian settlement of 1,600 people was located to the east of Roebuck, south of the Limerick South block. Some of the trails the Aboriginals used became some of our roads of today. Undoubtedly they made use of the forest in their day-to-day lives. The village had been abandoned by the time European settlers arrived.

Following the typical pattern for much of Ontario, the best of the trees were taken in the late 1,700s and early 1,800s. The huge white pines and oaks were sent to the ship yards of England. Sawmills were soon established on the local waterways, and turned out wood for construction and for furniture.

European settlers to this area were mainly of Irish and Scottish extraction, and began to arrive in earnest in the 1840s. They arrived via the St. Lawrence River at Prescott and carried everything they had inland, on their backs, including the seeds for the crops they hoped to plant. They had no horses, no oxen. Many were from the County of Limerick in Ireland. It is said that Andrew Forsythe, who settled on a 200 acre tract of land south of Bishops Mills in 1868, named the area in its honour.

After the land was cleared, the settlers had dairy and poultry farms, and grew hops on tall poles and potatoes on the sandy soils. Generally, they went to Prescott to sell their best farm produce in the early years. Later, as the interior settlements such as Merrickville and Bishops Mills grew, there were more local markets, grist mills and cheese factories. Away from the villages on the waterways, other settlements sprang up, and schools and churches were built. A few, such as Newmanville in Limerick North, can still be found on modern maps. Some, such as Shanty Knoll, have disappeared entirely. Only those who know exactly where to look, can find the small square foundation of the schoolhouse, once filled with the burgeoning families of those who cleared the land.

December 14, 1939

Agricultural Committee Studies the Map.

Frank Simmons, Forestry Branch, Toronto, (sitting left) is showing the location of the proposed counties forest in Grenville County. Sitting, also, are Victor Purvis, Chairman of the Committee (centre), and Wm. Jelly, Clerk of Leeds and Grenville. Standing, left to right: J. R. Cutler, Agricultural Representative for Leeds; Gordon Myers, Reeve of North Crosby; Carl Reilly, Deputy Reeve of Edwardsburgh; Wilfred Wells, Reeve of Augusta; Frank Latourell, Reeve of South Gower.

Leeds and Grenville Plan a County Forest.

Waste Land in Three Adjacent Townships Will be Planted—Tax-deliquent Property Will be Put to Good Use—Council Appoints Committee to Secure Options.

Article from local newspaper announcing new County Forest.

It didn't take long, once the farming began, for the limited organic matter in the soils to become depleted. In Limerick South, the bare sands blew so badly that one could scarcely see to drive along the roads. Limerick North "was like a desert," says Alf Campbell, retired Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) forester. "Grass would come up in the spring, but it would burn off in the heat of the summer. Everything was all dry and brown."

All too soon, due both to deteriorating soil conditions and the poor economic outlook, families were packing up and leaving. With tax arrears accumulating, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville began discussing the feasibility of turning some of these abandoned lands into a conservation area. In August of 1939, Frank Simmons, a forester with the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Forestry Branch, made a survey of the lands under discussion, and found them suitable for the reforestation plan. Victor Purvis, then Reeve of Yonge Front headed a committee comprised of, in part, J. R.

Ostler and H. G. McLeod, agricultural representatives for Leeds and Grenville respectively, to further study the issue. In November 1939, the Council accepted a report on the feasibility of the project.

On April 24th, 1940 the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville entered into the Agreement Forest Program with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. The Official Opening was held on May 14, and the first tree was planted by United Counties Warden, E.A. Connor.

In the early years of Limerick Forest, thousands of trees were planted by planting crews, helped along by Boy Scouts and school children. For years, Mr. Charlie Timanus of the local School Board organized a Tree Planting Day for the Grade 7 and 8 students from Brockville and the surrounding area. This was a very popular program, with as many as 700 students participating at once, planting 10,000 trees in an hour and a half! The children had a great time during this day off school, working and eating lunch outside. For their efforts, they were rewarded with milk and ice cream at lunch time, and, of course, the thrill of knowing that they were doing a good thing for these impoverished lands, and for generations yet to come.

School children planting trees at Limerick County Forest.

These plantings survived surprisingly well, despite the previous lack of planting skills of the enthusiastic school children. Unfortunately, there is no written documentation of where and in what year these plantings were made.

It was very much a trial and error process for the supervising foresters, learning which methods worked best on the sands or the grub-infested shallow soils on bedrock. Some plantations had to be replanted three or four times before a good survival rate was achieved. As well, methods of growing the seed stock, packing, shipping and pre-planting storage of the seedlings improved through the years, thus improving the survival of the young stands.

Spring planting season also provided employment opportunities for the local people. The planters worked in groups of two or three – one digging the hole, one spooning in larvicide, and one planting the seedlings. I had the opportunity to speak to one of these planters, Mr. Ralph Streight, now in his 80s. As we were driving through a particular stand of tall pines, he said with great pride, "I planted these trees". He remembers the blowing sand, and the hardships that the landowners endured, struggling to make ends meet on failing farms. Three generations of his family were born in a log house in Limerick South. The family eventually moved a few miles away, to better land just to the west.

Land acquisitions above and beyond the land taken over for tax arrears continued through the 1950s and '60s. Some land was purchased for as little as 50 cents an acre. Forester Alf Campbell was in charge of this. He tried to acquire land adjacent or close to the main blocks, although a few isolated blocks of special interest were also purchased. Today, Limerick is comprised of 175 compartments, and more than 9 million trees have been planted.

Limerick was a wild place 'way back when'. Stories abound of lively kitchen parties and dances, disputes between family members (including one family member shooting out the windows of another's house), and as times got worse, of thievery, moonshining, arson and poaching. Although the days of family feuds and moonshining are over, Limerick still suffers from the same illicit activities which plague all public forests. Vandalism of signs, illegal dumping of garbage and other destructive behavior keep both staff and volunteers busy.

The original Limerick school house, later dubbed "The Chalet" when used by OMNR as an office.

At one time, there were two schools within Limerick's South Block. Shanty Knoll School on the corner of Cooper Rd. and Ferguson Rd. and Limerick School at McReynolds on Limerick Rd. were both one-room school houses, with outhouses out back. At Shanty Knoll, students would draw water from the Typhair farm across the road, and at lunch time in the winter, would go sledding on the sand hills to the south. This school had as many as 35 students in its hey day, but closed as the community around it left the land. The building was sold and removed from the site, leaving only a stone foundation to mark the spot. Limerick School fared a bit better, remaining open until 1958. Water was carried from the Forsythe farm

across the road, and there was a ball diamond in the front yard. Neither of these were well-appointed schools like their neighbour in Bishops Mills. They had no piano, and music was taught in half hour sessions once a week by an itinerant music teacher, who carried a selection of sheet music and rhythm instruments. After its closure, the Limerick School was used in turn by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and because of the additions, named "The Chalet", and then as an interpretive centre for Limerick Forest Advisory Committee events. Because of mold and bat infestation problems, the building was replaced in 2010 by a new Interpretive Centre constructed out of red and white pine logs from Limerick Forest itself.

Because of Limerick's large extent and public ownership, the overseeing Foresters had the opportunity to do a great deal of experimental work. These included planting non-native species side by side with native species, to see how they prospered in comparison. Non-natives included European larch, Norway spruce, Japanese larch and Austrian pine. As it turned out, many of these non-natives didn't do particularly well here, and porcupines seemed to prefer them to native species.

The new Limerick Forest Interpretive Centre.

Different harvesting methods were tried, too. Strip cutting on shallow soils was tried, to see if hardwoods would come into the understory. This worked best if there was a hardwood seed source nearby; otherwise, hardwoods could be under-planted at the site. There is a number of permanent sample plots located in Limerick, used in the National Forest Inventory and Ontario Forest Biomonitoring Network programs. There is also a number of other ongoing studies on toads, frogs and reptiles occurring in Limerick

In the late '70s and early '80s, hybrid poplar clonal trials were established in several Limerick compartments to test the growth rates of various clones on specific soil types. This program ended in the early '90s when the Domtar mill in Cornwall closed.

Limerick has always been a showcase for forestry management techniques. Regular tours were organized for members of Counties Council and for forestry groups from across Canada and internationally. A wide variety of management types can be shown and discussed, and local woodlot owners can visit Limerick to see which management techniques might be applicable to their own land. The ever popular Open House events bring in community members of all ages to enjoy forest and wildlife presentations.

When the OMNR divested itself of the Agreement Forest program in the late 1990s, forest management was taken over by the Counties, assisted by the Limerick Forest Advisory Committee made up of members of the community with widely varying interests such as hunting, logging, recreation and education. This was facilitated by the Grenville Land Stewardship Committee, which has played a large role in Limerick's success. Now, with a 20 year Forest Management Plan in place, a full-time Forest Manager and a Resource Technician on staff at the Counties, FSC Certification in place, and continued support from the Friends of Limerick volunteers, County Council and the local community, Limerick Forest is on course as a multi-use, working forest that combines sustainable forestry practices with wildlife management, recreational uses, and educational outreach.

As so aptly stated by Dave Chapeskie, a forester formerly with OMNR, "The objectives for Limerick Forest were developed in the 1940s by progressive municipal officials in collaboration with forestry professionals. They were worthy multiple use objectives that have withstood the test of time and are as relevant today as they were in the 1940s."

In 2011, for the first time in 10 years, planting operations took place in Limerick. Ongoing thinning and other forest management techniques are encouraging the natural regeneration of many species of trees. The past 70 years have provided the foundation of Limerick's future, and that future looks bright.

Further information is available at Limerick Forest's web site: **www.limerickforest.ca** and in a more detailed history in "Limerick Forest 1940 -2010" **www.limerickforest.ca/en/literature/resources/HistoryofLimerickForest.pdf**.

Commemorative Cycling Trek of Edmund Zavitz's Ride

By John Bacher PhD

On October 12, and 13th of 2011, my wife, Mary Lou Jorgensen Bacher, and I commemorated Edmund Zavitz's 160 kilometre cycling ride from the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) in Guelph to the family farm of E.C. Drury at Crown Hill, north of Barrie. Using E.C. Drury's recollections in *"Farmer Premier"* and Zavitz's in his "*Recollections*" and his interviews with historians, I concluded that his epic ride took place in early October of 1905.

After this trip the remarkable duo worked quite closely together for the next three years, and they became lifelong friends until their deaths in 1968. Together they compiled much of the research that led to Zavitz's 1908 wastelands report that outlined their basic strategy for reforesting Ontario's devastated forestlands. They studied the forest wastelands of Simcoe County in a horse and buggy, although sometimes Zavitz would bravely set out on this harsh landscape alone on a bicycle. On these trips Zavitz would stay for several days at the Drury Crown Hill farm, which E.C. Drury had recently inherited from his father, Charles Drury.

Uxbridge Forest, Ontario County, taken by E.J. Zavitz in 1926
Photo courtesy of Ed Borczon.

At the time of his cycling marathon Zavitz had just begun the start of his service as a Lecturer at OAC. Drury was an active member of the Experimental Union. Three years before the ride, Drury played a major role through the Union's Forestry Committee, in persuading Zavitz's future father in law, John Dryden, to establish Ontario's first government funded tree nursery at OAC. It provided Zavitz's first job in the Ontario public service. Despite the fact that Drury helped create Zavitz's public service and teaching post, the two had never met before Zavitz's epic trek.

In the background there was another important figure linking Drury and Zavitz. This was the Minister of Agriculture, Nelson Monteith. At this time, Monteith was helpfully supervising Zavitz's work as a Lecturer at OAC. Drury and Monteith were close friends. Monteith, facing a tough battle to be elected as an MPP, received considerable help from Drury to get elected to the provincial legislature in the 1905 General Election.

During his ride to meet the future Premier of Ontario, Edmund Zavitz was 30 years of age. He was in good shape, being skilled not only in cycling, but college sports including hockey and soccer. Since he was in such excellent condition it is highly feasible that Zavitz did the entire trip in a single day despite the era's lack of multi-gear bikes. Zavitz probably took the most direct route, down York Road (Highway 7), and then up Yonge Street. Such a prospect was not relished by Mary Lou and me, both in our fifties, so we turned the commemorative ride into a two day journey. We took a side trip into Toronto to sleep in our own bed.

Our trek took place on October 12th and 13th, the last days in October that could be considered as "early October". It began in a numinous place of sacral beauty beneath the towering "Zavitz's Pines" of the Guelph Arboretum. It is here where a commemorative plaque to Edmund Zavitz was unveiled on September 16, 2011. Despite the showers at the start of our ride, the sun soon came through giving the plaque and the memorialized grove a splendid glow.

Blessedly, Monte Dennis of the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment drove from Burlington to photograph the start of our ride. We were also joined for the first half hour by another avid environmentalist, Marty Collier. Before departing under the watchful eye of a red tailed hawk, Marty adjusted my rented bicycle for safety.

As we cycled down York Road we were soon stunned by the awesome impact on this landscape of the life work of Edmund Zavitz. The landscape we cycled through is one of rebirth and ecological resurrection from destruction. The ecological region here is known as the Guelph Drumlin Hills. Although this is stony ground, not fit for agriculture, in October of 1905 when Zavitz cycled here, it was

Upper Photo: Mary Lou and John Bacher, with Marty Collier (left) and Rick Jordon, at the beginning of their trip among the white pines at the Guelph Arboretum. Photo courtesy of Monte Dennis.
Lower Photo: A photo taken by E.J. Zavitz showing white pine seedlings being planted at Guelph. Photo courtesy of Ed Borczon.

being farmed. The forests here, only about five per cent of the area at the time, were dying relics. Most were slowly being chewed to death by grazing livestock.

A few years after Zavitz's cycling trek, in 1912, flood waters originating in the Guelph Drumlin Hills cut off the OAC campus from the world. Many in Guelph had to be rescued in boats. A greater disaster here in 1929 destroyed most of the city's factories, and the city was on the edge of ruin after two dams burst threatening a third – all caused by the excessive deforestation of the area.
Where once there was a stony wasteland now is a verdant mosaic of coniferous plantations turning into mixed forests. These forests now account for thirty per cent of the landscape here but this forest cover is evidently spreading outwards. The restoration to mixed forest is now helped by the restored beaver, absent here as in the rest of Southern Ontario outside Algonquin during the 1905 ride. This transition is quite evident in the Rockwood Conservation era, which, when Zavitz passed by here, was occupied by a textile mill.

The restored forested landscape becomes lusher and the streams more alive as we pass through the Niagara Escarpment. Here we delight in seeing turkey vultures soar above and encountering healthy streams, such as the Black Creek. Its bubbling waters are marked by the Credit River Conservation Authority, as a "Wild Trout and Salmon River. "

What soon became evident for us the next day when we cycled up Yonge Street through the Oak Ridges Moraine is the importance of provincially directed land use planning in securing the protection of the ecological restoration legacy of Edmund Zavitz. After cycling through the magnificent restored landscape of the Niagara Escarpment, we toured through the Oak Ridges Moraine. Here Zavitz's similar glories of forest rebirth are being compromised by urban growth.

Zavitz played an important role in bringing land use planning to Ontario by being a link between two generations. In his thirties this was attempted by his close friend, J.H. White, who played an important role in the federal-provincial Commission of Conservation. Under the leadership of the heir of the Commission's patron, Wilfred Laurier, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King sponsored a similar federal provincial inquiry –the Committee of Post War Reconstruction, chaired by the Principal of McGill University, Cyril James. While White could no longer assist Zavitz because of the hostility to him from Ontario Premier Mitchell Hepburn, Zavitz was now aided on the James Committee by the new Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, Frank MacDougall.

The James Committee understood how the ecological restoration work of Zavitz in restoring the headwaters of streams that flowed into Lake Ontario on the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment were threatened by urban sprawl. This was one of the important reasons that they urged the development of provincial land use plans, to protect the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine by protective greenbelt zoning.

On October 12th Mary Lou and I could see from our commemorative cycling trek the benefits of greenbelt zoning through the Niagara Escarpment Plan, passed in 1985. The next day we vividly witnessed the consequences of the 16 year delay in this approach for the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Don Watershed, which was only 15 per cent urbanized when the James Committee deliberated, is now 82% urbanized. Cycling up Yonge Street it is not until we come to the forest around the David Dunlap Observatory that we can see any of Zavitz's reforestation work.

E.C. Drury beside horse and buggy on Orr Lake wasteland. Photo taken by E.J. Zavitz in 1907.

Cycling through the Oak Ridges Moraine along Yonge Street we see a pattern of grand-fathered exemptions to its plan. We see forests restored by Zavitz surrounded by creeping development and farms festooned by huge billboards advertising the newest subdivision. When we come to the Oak Ridges Moraine Corridor Nature Reserve however, we see a belt of 603 hectares of green space on both sides of Yonge Street between Bathurst and Bayview Avenues, which protects Bond Lake.

In the Oak Ridges Corridor the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) recently reforested 450 hectares here using the same well proven basic techniques pioneered by Zavitz in 1905. Here however, development pressures are still evident.

After we cycle across the Corridor Reserve the last sliver of forest along Yonge Street on the Oak Ridges Moraine is a Newmarket estate that is still owned by the heirs of Sir William Mulock. Mulock, who planted the first trees in the David Dunlap Observatory Forest, also organized Men of the T rees. This group of army veterans was crucial in mobilizing public opinion for the passage of the Conservation Authorities Act of 1946.
Seeing the inter-generational Mulock home as a shrine to forest conservation prepares us well for our encounter with the descendants of E.C. Drury at Crown Hill. We arrive here with the help of a local environmentalist, Stephen Ogden, who rescued us from a flat after we passed through Bradford.

E.C. Drury on the Angus Plains amongst burnt area. Photo taken by E.J. Zavitz in 1906.

We are blessed to speak to two of E.C. Drury's decedents, his grandson Robert and great-grandson Robert Jr. In speaking to them and looking around the shady grounds between the three Drury family homes and properties, we gain a better understanding of the family's long respect for trees and forests. We learnt for instance that the forest property to the back of their farms is a swamp forest, for which the three Drury families have a management agreement with Ducks Unlimited.

Meeting the Drury family causes me a few days after the ride to read more carefully the text of E.C. Drury's memoirs, "*Farmer-Premier*". What I was shocked to learn was how the future Premier was terrified during his childhood by three horrific forest fires during the 1880s and 1890s. His family during these years had learned to respect their swamp forest, understanding that its sour soils were not suited for agriculture. Although at Crown Hill in the 1880s all the remaining forests were unfertile swamps, there were still many farmers who were determined to burn them out and grow crops on their soils.

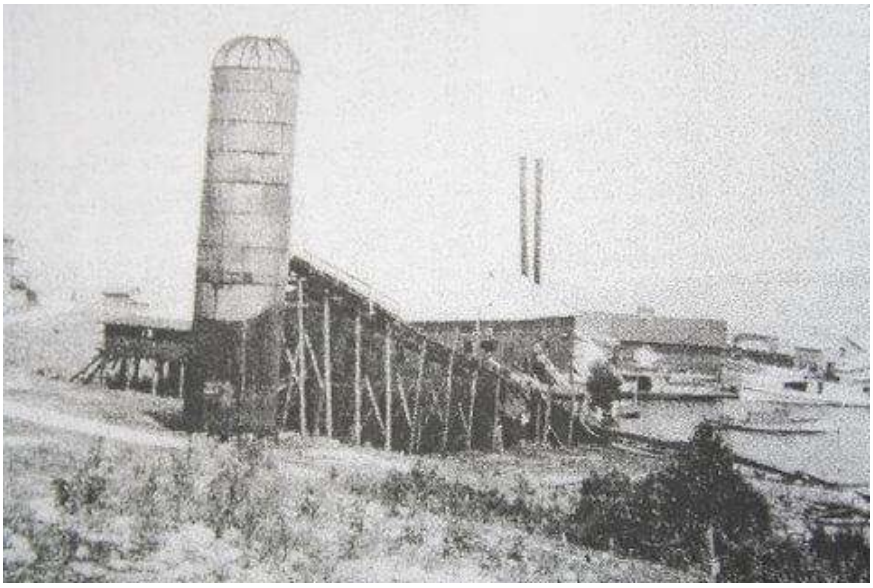
In September 1881, at the age of three, Drury was especially shocked by a fire that threatened his family's farm. The fire was caused by a swamp-busting attempt by a neighbour that got out of control and threatened the Drury farm. During the blaze the "air was full of smoke, and the sun shone through like a dim copper ball". But what was really terrifying came in the middle of the afternoon when it suddenly became pitch black.
At the time the Drury family did not know why the sky went black in the mid-afternoon. A few days later they learned why. In a single day a million acres of Michigan's forests had been burnt up, blackening the sky and leading to the deaths of around 300 people. The reasons for this disaster were the same problems that erupted at Crown Hill. Strong winds whipped fires, intended to burn swamps, out of control. Although it was not understood at the time, new research into the ferocity of these blazes points to the explosive consequences of burning up swamps full of methane.

The lessons of our commemorative re-enactment of Edmund Zavitz's ride are both cautionary and inspiring. Many of the dangers he and his generation faced, such as horrific fires setting off explosions of methane are similar to contemporary warnings about global warming. Under Zavitz's leadership and Drury's political power a past generation was able to quell the threats of fires, floods and ravaged forests. Our times can be up to the challenge. Edmund Zavitz planted a billion trees – why not, as the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has suggested – plant a billion more?

A History of Lumbering on Manitoulin Island

By Marion Seabrook

When the Manitoulin was available for sale, most Ontarians had never even heard of it. Some of the local papers had run articles about the Manitoulin Treaty of 1862 stating that land could now be purchased on the Island, but most settlers were so busy surviving where they were they had no time to even consider moving anywhere else. One of the papers, The Grand River Sachem, began to include stories of people who had visited Manitoulin. This drew some attention. They reported that the island was beautiful. It was dotted with lakes and covered with timber. There was a great variety of trees, including oak, pine, basswood, cedar, maple, ash, birch, balsam, spruce, and tamarack. Most of the forest had never been in contact with an axe. Steamers made regular trips past the Island on their way to Sault Saint Marie. If you wanted to take a ride to the Island, you could board a ship and get off at one of the ports where the steamers landed for wood to fuel their engines. This became the talk around the old potbellied stove when you went to the store or the post office in many small towns of Ontario.



Postcard of Meldrum Bay mill. Vintage 1880s.

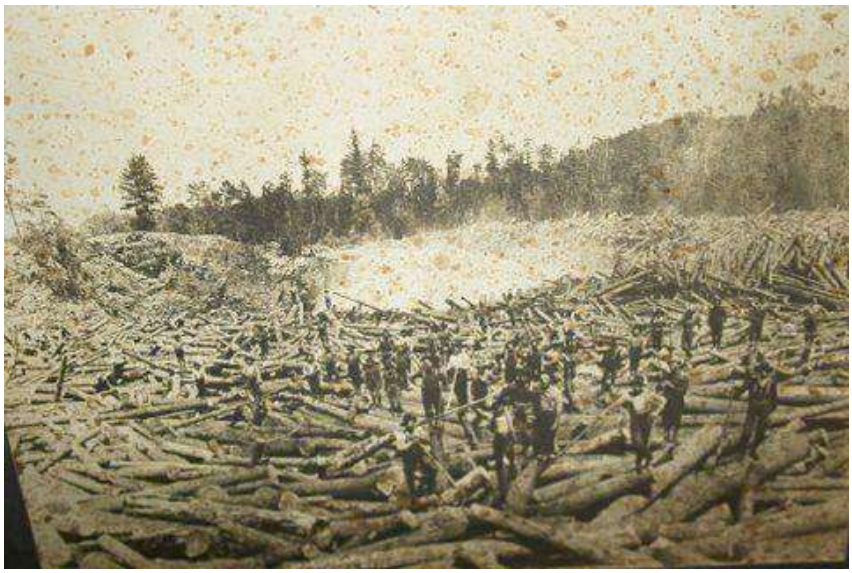
One of the first entrepreneurs to take advantage of a visit was Robert Lyon. He was astonished at the possibilities. As early as the middle of the 1860s he had not only visited but moved to Michael's Bay on the south shore of the Manitoulin. In no time he had built a dock as well as a lighthouse. He established a connection with the Toronto Lumbering Company and arranged to buy a tract of land in the newly surveyed township of Tehkummah to set up his business and create a village. He bought twenty two square miles of land at four dollars a mile and got a fifty cent grant per square mile. His first licence to cut was in 1866, but he was cutting before this time. By 1868 he had built his first mills and completed the harbour from which he shipped logs, boards, shingles, rails, laths, posts and ties to the United States and southern Ontario. His first mill was a frame building 60x27 feet in size. Five acres had been cut around the mill and it was partly logged the same year. Within twelve months the mill was producing 1,250,000 square feet of one board measure. One of his products was a "paving block" – made by placing pieces of wood vertically into a block form and filling the spaces in between with a limestone mixture that hardened to form a solid block. There were limestone kilns all over the Island. I believe the paving blocks were sold in Toronto for road building.

Very soon he had developed a town with school, store and business buildings. In the heyday of the Michael's Bay village Mr. Lyon employed 400 men. By 1869, he had created a village that included a blacksmith, a millwright, a carpenter, three coopers, a lighthouse keeper, businessmen, fishermen, and their wives and families. In 1873 he had overseen the cutting of 27,000 logs and sawn over two million feet of lumber. Settlers arrived here and stayed, confident that they could make enough money to establish themselves. Mr. Lyon kept himself tuned in to other developments on the Island as well as his own enterprises, and even convinced the government to steer the road, which was under construction from Little Current through South Bay to Gore Bay, around to meet his mill site. It is interesting that as well as being such a confident business manager, he was also the Member of Parliament for the new Algoma Manitoulin riding.

The rest of Mr Lyon's story is full of mystery and intrigue. Apparently he did not pay his bills. He also cut logs well outside his licenced territory. It was discovered that he had timbered 7000 logs in Sandfield, way beyond the boundaries of his agreement. He was ordered not to ship any more logs out of Michael's Bay until he had paid his bills. However, while the lawyer, Mr. Phipps, was away tending to other business, three shiploads of about 300,000 board feet of lumber went out of

Michael's Bay. Often he was able to get away with some dubious financial shenanigans, but finally he got himself in trouble. He owed money everywhere, even for the desks he bought for his school. In 1888, his company went broke. People became suspicious of his character, and in 1890, the people began to question his integrity. They found out that he was still cutting and had not renewed his licence for two years. When this came to light, the workers knew their jobs were gone. Mr. Lyon was already behind with wages. There was anger and frustration in the town. Robert Lyon packed up and went to live with a relative in Sault Ste Marie. Several different lumber companies tried to pick up the pieces and reopen the mill, but the town never thrived. People moved away. In 1910, a fire destroyed the town. Locally, even its name changed. Most people referred to Michael's Bay as Stump Town.

Although Michael's Bay was the first real timber town, there were many other sawmills that developed into honest businesses around the Island. There was a fine mill at Honora Bay. Houses were built around the site and a large hotel housed several workers and their families. Eventually, though, the timber was all cut, and the town died. Several of the buildings were moved on the ice in the winter time to other sites. The timber from this site was used in the building of the Detroit River Tunnel.



Postcard of Providence Bay. Vintage 1880s.

Two brothers, William and Robert Henry, got the timber rights to the Kagawong area. Before any settlers arrived, they built a saw mill and a grist mill. Then they built the whole village - a store, a boarding house, a blacksmith shop, a leather shop, a hatchery and a photograph shop. They donated land and logs for a church. The government would not grant the licence to timber until they were assured that the brothers could attract twelve families. This they did. They were well liked and respected. Unfortunately, tragedy struck just as the town was developing nicely. In the same year, 1882, each of them was drowned in different shipwrecks, one on the *SS Asia* and one on the *SS Manitoulin*. Their business was taken over by the Carter family and lumbering and other businesses continued to prosper. Lumbering and water power became the industry of Kagawong. This is still a thriving little village, full of historic buildings from the time of the Henry Brothers.

Postcard showing sawmilling activity on Manitoulin Island. Vintage 1880s.

Almost every bay around the shores of Manitoulin had some kind of lumbering activity. A boom of logs could be moved by taking advantage of the water currents which propelled the boom to a steamer. Another method was to build a giant raft and load the logs on it so they could be dragged by smaller boats and loaded on a waiting ship. Much of the lumber went to the United States. If you could find a pine that stretched at least fifty feet to the first branch, you could ship it to Tonawanda, New York. Loggers would always be on the lookout for a Tonawanda tree as they were worth more money. There were active lumber mills at Meldrum Bay, Providence Bay, Old Spring Bay on the western shore of Lake Mindemoya, and another one on the eastern side that the people called Hopetown. They thought this might be the site of their town as that was becoming the pattern-build a mill and make it thrive and watch a town spring up. This hope was never realized as a big fire burned down the mill and it was never rebuilt.

Mindemoya was later developed on a farming site a mile to the east. Two smaller mills were built in this town. There were many other mills around the Island. When it comes right down to it, almost all the villages we have today started out as small developments of houses and businesses around a mill.

Lumber mills were the bread and butter of pioneer life. In the winter time almost all the men were working for lumber companies. The larger mills provided employment and also accommodation in a logging camp. These buildings were called cambooses. They were windowless log camps with bunks lining the ends of the building. A very large fireplace was built in the middle of the camp. All the cooking was done here. Often there were seats around the fire. A hole in the roof provided escape for the rising smoke when the fire was burning. Loggers worked till dark, so there was no reason to have draughty windows. A logger's gourmet breakfast-every morning - was beans, salt pork, bread and tea. Often in the evening someone would start playing a guitar, or a harmonica or perhaps a squeeze box, and they would sing. Some who had come a distance would not get back to their homes until spring. All that time their wives were home looking after the children and the livestock.

The loggers earned $12.00 a month. A meal cost 13 - 18 cents and a drink cost 5 cents. At this time a pine log or a white ash log brought $1.00. If you were cutting railway ties, you earned 12 ½ cents a tie. Stove wood cost $2.00 a cord. On the other hand you could buy yard goods for 5 cents a yard, axes for $1.10, pork for 4 cents a pound, apples for 50 cents a bushel. Twelve dollars would buy quite a few essentials.

Lumbering was labour intensive. Imagine cutting down a big tree with a felling axe! Fortunately, saws were appearing on the scene. So were cant hooks and peaveys and chisels and chipping axes to square up huge logs. Oxen and later horses pulled wagons loaded with lumber to the closest mill. My grandfather was a pioneer who picked out 300 acres on the Island in 1874. He had one very big tree on his property and he was determined to build his cabin with the wood in this tree. My father said it took six men one whole day to cut the tree down. There was enough wood in it to build the whole cabin excluding the roof. My grandfather was a farmer, not a logger. He was fortunate to have found very good land for farming and cleared about one half of the 100 acres for farming and the other half for producing maple sugar and syrup. Fortunately for him, most of his forest was a maple bush. People who study land formations have concluded that Manitoulin is one third arable, one third pasture and one third forest.

The forest did provide the pioneers with money to get them started. Fortunately most of the men were young and adventurous and ambitious. Those who could not handle the physical labour chose to leave. Developments in the west were tempting and some decided to sell their land and try their luck in a different place. The downside of the logging frenzy was that there was no thought for tomorrow. Everything was cut. There is still an area on the Island called the Slash. The forest never returned. I visited friends in another area west of Evansville and admired the different kinds of trees around their home. They were small in size, but the colours and shapes were beautiful. When I remarked on the beautiful trees they told me they planted them all. This had been a sawmill site, and when they bought it, twenty five years ago, there was not a single tree.

A few other facts about Manitoulin's forest history – my great grandfather married a Scottish woman whose family brought walnuts to plant wherever they settled. There is a grove of200 walnut trees behind our family's original stone home by Lake Mindemoya. When I was a child we used birchbark sap buckets and wooden spiles that my family bought from native families at West Bay.

This short essay scarcely touches the significance of the forest to the people of Manitoulin in the early years. No mention has been made of the Anishnabec who years before had traded pounds and pounds of maple sugar with other native tribes for products such as corn and squash and pumpkins. Nor does it deal with the animals that were sheltered by the forests or the medicines that were gathered on the Island Manitoulin.

The material for this article is based on research from "Through The Years" by Lorne McQuarrie and Michael's Bay historian, Jean Farquharson.

Climate Change is Not New - *Climate Change 100 Years Ago*

By Terry Schwann

Climate change: You hear about it every day. What was it like 100 years ago regarding climate change news? I have come across four newspaper articles from around the turn of the 20th century with climate change in the headline.

Is our climate changing Jan 23, 1891, Owen Sound Advertiser: The unknown author discusses annual variation in precipitation and temperature. Upon reviewing data from the Meteorological Service of Canada the author concludes recent changes were within the normal range. Possible causes for this variation are suggested as increased solar activity, variation in the inclination of the earth's axis the return of the earth to its greatest aphelion* or a combination of these.

*The aphelion is the point in the orbit of the earth where it is farthest from the Sun. The Earth reaches its aphelion when the Northern Hemisphere is experiencing summer.

Can man change the climate? Sept 27, 1892, Owen Sound Advertiser: In this article the editor refers to a paper by Dr. J C. Taylor questioning whether the British climate is changing. The issue was dust affecting the colours of sunrise and sunset, temperature and precipitation. The immense quantity of dust discharges into the air by the innumerable fuel consuming engines of this age of mechanical progress may increase the cloudiness of a country like England, and thereby lead to colder and gloomier seasons *(my emphasis)*.

Is our climate changing. May 23, 1913, Owen Sound Sun: This article is based on another article by M.A. Bray in Canadian Countryman. In this longer article the author provided background on climate change from geological times as well as geographical variation across Canada. It seems inspired by "a winter…without precedent in its mildness and the lightness of its snowfalls". The author looks at records over the past 38 years for eastern Canada and finds people's memories are short (nothing new here) and there were many similar winters over the 38 years.

Yet the most pertinent article came earlier in *the Owen Sound Advertiser of August 28, 1890*. The article was a summary of a meeting of the "Executive Health Officers of Ontario" and in particular a paper by Dr. C McLennan, Medical Health Officer of Trenton. His topic was *"Deforesting and its Relation to Public Healt*h". The reporter stated;

"The Doctor said that Canadians had ample evidence of the effect of deforesting drying up the land. Streams had become dry and the swamps, formerly worthless to the settler, had become in many cases the most valuable part of his property. He explained the causes of humidity in forest lands and then spoke of the relation of forests to winds, the effect of the latter on temperature and moisture and their modification by the nature of land surfaces. He then spoke of the effect of deforesting and the climatic changes ensuing on the human system. The destruction of the forests in these new countries would result in leaving them barren like Egypt and Palestine which were once the wheat fields of the world. He cited changes resulting from the removal of forests in southern Europe and said that large tracts of forest should be left in this country and tree planting in the North West. Deforesting inclined the climate to extremes of temperature, reduced the moisture, and destroyed the condition necessary to health and comfort."

How times have changed. Now climate change dominates much of our daily lives. Information about it is everywhere. In Ontario scientific research on the subject abounds. Recent history shows some increases in temperature in parts of Ontario and computer models predict we can expect average temperatures to rise by as much as three to eight degrees Celsius over the next century. Ontario is supporting a 50 million tree planting program as one move to mitigate the effects of climate change. Dr. McLennan's call for more tree planting 120 years ago still ring true and is still needed today.

How times have changed!

John Arthur Brodie R.P.F., 1899—1995

By Doug Brodie

John Brodie was born in a fieldstone farmhouse just north of Toronto, Ontario, near Bethesda, in Whitchurch Township, on March 10, 1899. The farm had been purchased in 1835 by his great, great grandfather, a native of Aberdeenshire, Scotland.
A letter from his brother in France in 1917 indicates that "Steve", as he was to become known to his colleagues, had early intentions of becoming a pharmacist, but by the fall of 1919 he was a freshman in the Forestry Class of 2T3 at the University of Toronto. He mentioned that he took one course from Dean Eduard Fernow, in Forest Geography. As a student he worked with Reg Johnson ('17) and Frank Sharpe ('23) on the James Bay Forest Survey, a forest inventory of the Moose River watershed.

Upon graduation in 1923 he began a 44-year career with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. For a period he was Chief Timber Clerk for the Province. In 1927 a Forestry Board was established to conduct research related to forests. In 1929 Steve was placed in charge of a research unit in the Forestry Branch, which undertook some of the first studies on regeneration (success or failure), and growth and yield in the province. This work, undertaken with Frank Sharpe, culminated in 1930 with the publication of "The Forest Resources of Ontario". These inventories were the basis for many large pulp and paper company licences or concessions. The research work was abandoned in 1935 for lack of funds.

Part of the regeneration work he undertook in the 1930's was submitted as a PhD dissertation on October 20, 1939 entitled, "Vegetation and Soil as a Basis for the Classification of Forest Types in Ontario". The degree was never awarded. Some sources indicate this was due to the departure of his adviser, Dr. C.D. Howe from the University and the questionable authority of the Faculty therefore to offer the PhD without a PhD on the Faculty. He did receive a Master's Degree from the University of Toronto, however.
With the appointment of Frank MacDougall as Deputy Minister in 1941, the Department was reorganized and Steve became Head of the Research Division. Three years later he moved to the Division of Timber Management as Head of Forest Resources Inventory (F.R.I.). Here he undertook the initiation of a massive aerial mapping, typing and ground truth inventory of all the timber districts in the Province and the establishment of forest management units and staff across the province. He followed this assignment with a comprehensive forest management planning system and increased emphasis on forest regeneration. This groundwork stands as perhaps his greatest legacy to the profession and practice of forestry. For more than a decade, forestry students and recent graduates cut their teeth on F.R.I inventory crews and the winter drudgery of dot-grid stand typing. He wrote the reports for the first half of the District FRI Reports and edited the remainder with his usual curmudgeonly commentary on the writing skills of younger professional.

In the 1940's he was Head of Forest Protection for the Province. This was regarded as a critical civilian position due to fears of sabotage and incendiary attacks. During this period he was Ontario's representative on the Federal - Provincial Spruce Budworm Committee, which eventually resulted in the establishment of the Sault Ste Marie Forest Insect Laboratory. He was particularly proud of the provision of an electron microscope, one of the first dedicated to forest research.

In the mid 1950's, he served on a Royal Commission evaluating Forest Management in Newfoundland and attended a number of international forestry conferences. In the late '50s he replaced Sharpe as Chief of the Timber Branch, and held this position until his retirement from the Department in 1964. Upon retirement he was appointed Director of the Forestry Study Unit. The Unit's report in 1967 set out seventy comprehensively documented recommendations for the

future development of multiple-use forestry, many of which were acted upon. This was subsequently referred to as the "Brodie Report".

Steve was active throughout his career in the University of Toronto Alumni Affairs and served on the University Synod. He was one of the original members of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (#82). Active in the Association since its inception, he became a Life Member in 1970. He was also active in the Canadian Institute of Forestry, joining in 1923 at both Chapter and National levels.

He retired in 1967 at the age of 68 but remained physically and mentally active into his early 90's. He was a devoted naturalist throughout his life with a wealth of descriptive stories from his many field seasons in the north. In later years his favourite spots for checking flora and fauna were the Vivian Tract of the York County Forest and the Lands and Forests Research Station at Maple. Steve died at the age of 96 in 1995, some 10 miles from where he was born. The fourth of seven children he was survived by his oldest sister, Dr. Jessie Brodie, who was the Dean of Household Science at the University of Toronto for many years. He is survived by his sons, J. Douglas, a retired Professor at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, and Robert B., a retired attorney in Jackson, Wyoming.

Steve entered the profession of forestry at a time when foresters were expected to be able to perform, and therefore could perform a multitude of functions. Hence his career encompassed a wide array of responsibilities, now served by career-long specialists with narrower breadth in the full scope of forestry practice. Throughout his career, Steve Brodie continued his interest in research and was unfailing in his support of studies by forestry graduate students. His "nurturing" of foresters generally was one of his gifts – as was his hiring of foresters from outside North America – Plonski, Morowski, Protich, Zsilinski, Zsuffa and others. He was a quiet-spoken forester with immense integrity and a constructive philosophy on work and life. He was one of a small group of foresters who developed and shaped forest management in Ontario. Steve Brodie was, in every sense, an Ontario forestry pioneer.

Ferdinand Larose - Key Architect of Ecological Resurrection of Eastern Ontario

By John Bacher

Today the arable section of Eastern Ontario between the border of the Canadian Shield and the Quebec border with Vaudreuil County is an unappreciated world leader as an example of environmental sustainability. This area is comprised of the historic county of Carleton, the current United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, the United Counties of Prescott and Russell and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and Lanark. Throughout this area at least 20 to 40 percent of the rural landscape is in forest cover. This is a dramatic reversal of the deforestation that prevailed in the 1920s. Then, there were massive area of sand dunes and barren near-alvar conditions. Wildlife, which is today quite common, notably deer and beaver, had long fled.

Blow sands of the Larose Forest. Photo courtesy of Ed Borczon.

In the 1920s, much of Eastern Ontario had become a wasteland from environmental abuse. Most counties had forest cover in the range of five per cent. This was a product of both ruthless logging and agricultural practices. Although logging interests were frequently the victim of fires set by farmers to clear land, or from railways, they also over harvested forests and did not leave enough seed trees. While the arable part of Eastern Ontario did not suffer from the extreme of attempting to farm the Canadian Shield (which extends into only part of Lanark County), there were other efforts to encourage farming on marginal lands.

Attempts were made to drain bogs for farming, even to the point of burning them in a vain hop of removing the peat layer. As in other areas of Ontario deforestation of the fragile soils of glacial like moraines resulted in the creation of wastelands, such as the infamous Bourget and Limerick deserts.

The wasteland areas of Eastern Ontario were mapped by the 19th century Clerks of Forestry, William Phipps and Thomas Southworth, and they were identified in the 1908 map of Edmund Zavitz of ruined deserts. There was however, no local leadership in dealing with the problem. Eastern Ontario figures did not participate in the debates of the Ontario Experimental Union based in Guelph, Ontario College of Agriculture (OAC) that guided the early work of Zavitz. Zavitz had virtually nothing to say about Eastern Ontario in his 1908 wasteland report. Although he did work with the Agricultural College at Kemptville, (which eventually became affiliated to OAC), for several years after the passage of his Agreement Forest program in 1921, no Eastern Ontario County took part.

The man who brought reforestation to Eastern Ontario was a remarkable Franco-Ontario agronomist from Glengarry County, Ferdinand Larose, born on April 1, 1888. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Ottawa in 1910, majoring in Philosophy. The critical step in his life was to attend the University of Laval at Oka to study agronomy. Here he obtained his Bachelor Degree in Agriculture in 1919. Oka was an ideal place to nurture Larose's vision to transform Eastern Ontario. The white pine-dominated forest here was North America's first example of reforestation on desert like sand dune conditions. After graduation Larose secured employment as the Ontario government's agricultural extension agent for Russell County. In this role Larose would encourage farmers to reforest lands to protect their wells.

Larose Forest today. Photo courtesy of M.L. Bacher.

Zavitz's Agreement Forest program in the 1920s required Counties to acquire a minimum of 1,000 acres of to be eligible for provincial assistance, such as loans and grants to repay their original purchase price. The reason for this 1,000 acreage minimum was to have enough acreage so that it would be worthwhile for the province to hire a full time custodian. His principle responsibility of the custodian was to live in or near the forest to ensure that it would be protected from fire dangers. In 1928 Larose persuaded the Russell County Council to acquire 1,200 acres for reforestation in the Bourget Desert. Although slightly over the bare minimum for provincial assistance under the Agreement Forest Program, it eventually expanded to 108 square kilometres to become the largest County owned forest in Ontario. Until his death in 1955, Larose played a key role in these efforts as Secretary of the County Reforestation Committee. He was honoured by the Prescott-Russell County Council, by its naming of the massive forest in his honour.

Larose was not content for his reforestation efforts to be confined to the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, but sought to encourage reforestation throughout Eastern Ontario. His opportunity to do this came with the formation of the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association, (OCRA), in 1937, which successfully campaigned for provincial legislation to create Conservation Authorities. Larose and his long- time political supporter, Marshall Rathwell, the Reeve of Cumberland Township, organized an Eastern Ontario section of the OCRA. On September 30, 1938, this group held the first Eastern Ontario ORCA Field Day.

During the First Eastern Ontario Field Day Larose had participants observe the forest that had been named in his honour. The planted coniferous trees, that were ten years old or less at this time, did not look very impressive still struggling in the sands of the Bourget Desert. What did impress municipal councillors was the pine forest they visited in Rockland that had been planted under Zavitz's supervision twenty five years earlier. One of the participants, the farm leader, Watson Porter, told the Ottawa Citizen that, "The field day was a revelation to him. The 30 acre lot in Rockland . . . . was without peer in all Ontario. The forests we have seen should be just symbols of what every farmer should be doing on his own land." The Agreement Forest program had a dramatic expansion after this field day. Lanark and Leeds and Greenville began to create their own network of County Forests under the Agreement Forest Program.

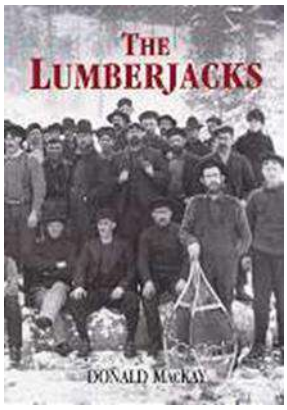
Following the passage of the Conservation Authorities Act of 1946, Larose became a driving force in the organization of the new bodies created under the legislation to Eastern Ontario. He took part in the creation of the first authority in the Eastern Ontario, the South Nation in 1948. The great transformation wrought by the massive reforestation ushered by Larose in Eastern Ontario is best seen by the lament of the South Nation Conservation Survey, which provided the basis for the new authority's efforts. The survey regretted that the "larger and more spectacular forms of wildlife" that are of interest to the average citizen had virtually vanished from the watershed. The transformation was most vividly illustrated by the early 1980s when a herd of moose became established in the Larose Forest, which eventually spread, much like the reforestation ideals of Ferdinand Larose himself, to the rest of Eastern Ontario. It is the only such large herd of moose, currently estimated to be about 300 animals, to range through a predominately agricultural area.

Mrs. Larose with The Honourable Rene Brunelle, Minister of Lands and Forests, at the ceremony to unveil the plaque commemorating the work of her husband, Ferdinand Larose. Photo courtesy of Ed Borczon.

Larose's spectacular leadership in encouraging reforestation in Southern Ontario needs to be celebrated and made known. Larose's efforts through the County Forest agreements he witnessed in his life time were later increased in scope by the blanketing of Eastern Ontario with conservation authorities and the Ottawa Greenbelt after his death. Virtually unknown outside the United Counties of Prescott and Russell his life is a vivid witness that reforestation in Ontario can bring a dramatic healing of past abuses to the earth.

Donald MacKay, 1925 – 2011

By Ken Armson



Many members of the Forest History Society and others will remember Don MacKay for one or more of his books relating to Canadian forests and forestry. Perhaps his best known for us is the "Lumberjacks" (1978), which is the most comprehensive historical account of Canadian logging. He had a remarkable affinity for those who worked in the bush, perhaps because of his relationship to Lee Fletcher in Sault Ste. Marie and many others elsewhere across the country. I first met Don in Montréal shortly after the publication of the "Lumberjacks" and was impressed by his keen interest in not only forests and forestry but especially the people who worked there. His history of the Macmillan Bloedel Company, "Empire of Wood" (1982) stands out as a first class objective account of a forest company and the people involved. Amongst foresters his 1985 book "Heritage Lost – The Crisis in Canada's Forests" represented the results of his travels across the country visiting foresters and others directly involved in the management of our forests. Although he received support from the Canadian Institute of Forestry-Institut forestier du Canada the book was essentially his attempt to jolt Canadians everywhere out of their complacency and make them aware of the importance of Canada's forests.

Throughout the greater part of his working life he was generally best known as a journalist, broadcaster and historian. For the forestry sector he was a friend and great contributor to informing the public about the importance of Canada's forests and its history.

http://www.dundurn.com/authors/donald_mackay

http://www.inmemoriam.ca/view-announcement-252017-donald-mackay.html

The Archives Corner

Seeing the Forest and the Documents: Focus on the Archives of Ontario

By Mark Kuhlberg PhD

With the increasing interest in researching Ontario's forest and conservation history, advice about where to turn for sources proves invaluable. Numerous repositories across the province hold germane materials, and this article focuses on one such institution, the Archives of Ontario [AO]. Located on the campus of York University in Toronto (it moved several years ago from Bay and College), it is readily accessible by public transit and admission is free (www.archives.gov.on.ca).

The AO holds a veritable treasure trove of materials relating to the history of the province's forests, and they span the gamut of media. These include films that were made about logging operations in Terrace Bay in the 1950s, and Abitibi's operations at Iroquois Falls and Sturgeon Falls, and KVP's activities in Espanola, in the 1960s. The AO's enormous map collection traces the evolution of timber licences and grants, and pulpwood concessions, from the early 1800s through to the present. The Archives also houses a remarkable assortment of photos. Naturally they depict cutting activities, but they also capture things such as the environmental damage wrought by wanton deforestation in southern Ontario in the 1800s and the early efforts to rehabilitate these areas after the turn of the twentieth century. Furthermore, the aerial photographs from the province's first FRI – carried out after the Second World War – allow the historian to recreate the evolution of most sections of Ontario's commercial woodlands over the last sixty-plus years.

The AO's cache of textual documents is as varied as it is rich. These items are divided into government and private (i.e., both individual and company) papers. The former deal with timber management going back nearly 200 years, including the dates on which timber tracts were sold, and the prices paid for and the harvesting that occurred on them. In addition, government papers deal with forest protection (this group of records includes a history of fires in northern Ontario from 1920), silviculture (the records from the Orono Forest Station trace its development from its founding in the early 1920s until the 1960s), fish and wildlife management, the string of royal commissions that investigated timber management and the state of the province's woodlands, and the now defunct Ontario Provincial Air Service. Private papers are fewer in number but still yield valuable information. These fonds (or collections) have been donated by the likes of Frank A. MacDougall (a lifetime employee of the Department of Lands and Forests and Deputy Minister from 1941 to 1966), legendary timber baron Edward E. Johnson, pulp and paper industry official Wallace Delahey, and the Davy Pulp and Paper Company, founded in 1845 in Thorold.

Whatever your interest in terms of forest history, there is certainly something of value to be found in these varied collections. A little time devoted to reviewing a handful of them often leads to revelations that can fundamentally change our understanding of the evolution of our woodlands.

Personal Recollections

Or How to Discourage Entry into Forestry School

By Ken Armson

I decided to enter forestry when I was seventeen but WWII intervened. When it ended in 1945 I was with the Canadian Army in Holland and destined to be part of the Canadian Army of Occupation in Germany until mid-1946 with the Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars, a Montréal regiment. However, looking to my future I decided to write to the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, and ask for application forms. I received a letter from the Dean, Gordon Cosens, discouraging me from applying. In it he stated that the Faculty was faced with an onslaught of applications from "veterans" and since I was not one yet he didn't see much point in applying. He then went on to elaborate about the field conditions I would have to endure during the summers – black flies, mosquitos, living in primitive conditions in the bush –and so on. This to a soldier in Europe in 1945! When I joined the staff of the Faculty some years later I got to know Gordon quite well and reminded him that if I'd taken his advice we'd never have met.

I joined the staff of the Faculty in September, 1952, and up until 1961 all applications by students for entry into the Faculty came directly to the Dean. Then he and the staff, there were only six of us, would review the applications. The main points of interest being about where they came from such as the influx we had from the Netherlands. Any applications from women were dealt with by the Dean, Bernie Sisam, in an interview prior to our review in which he would emphasize the primitive conditions for students during field camp and summer employment (mostly timber cruising in those days). He would then say that if they could get two or three more of their female friends to apply with them they could do their field work as a group. Needless to say, no women entered the Faculty until 1961. In that year and subsequently, all applications went directly to Simcoe Hall where they were assessed on the basis of their academic qualifications and gender was not a factor. The list of successful applicants was then passed on to the Faculty where, as usual, there was a staff meeting to review them. At the 1961 meeting Bernie Sisam opened by stating to the six of us (Dwight, Hosie, Michell, Love, Hall and myself) that we would have a woman as a first year student. Dead silence, then Bob Hosie turned to the Dean and said "Mr. Dean, if a woman enters this faculty I'll resign". Of course Bob didn't and as Marie Rauter , the applicant, can attest Bob was one of her strongest supporters!

The Englehart River Catchment Area

By Rob Galloway

In an historical album from 1981 MNR days I received a reminder of my time as a forester on the Englehart Management Unit. The Album "*Historic Album and Memoirs on Aerial Timber Sketching by H.H. (Holly) Parsons*" tells the story of inventory sketching, the people involved, the planes required, all the expertise required and the irrelevant facts that make life real. One of the maps is a 1945 Aerial Sketching of the Englehart Management Unit where I was the Unit Forester from 1980 to 1986. I stayed involved with the unit at the regional level for many more years after that. The "EMU", as we all called it, was one of the first units set up as a Management Unit in the 1950's and it was maintained that way well into the 90's.

1945 map of the Englehart Management Unit.

This early sketching, the boundaries set, management plans for many years prepared and having Swastika Tree Nursery established within its boundaries made the "EMU" one of the most intensive boreal units for silviculture. During my time there we averaged tree plants of 1,000,000 trees every year; this on an area of 9.5 townships (220,000acres). Intensive boreal forestry indeed! There were 7 forestry staff that worked on the EMU at that time.

The 1945 map for the area shows extensive burned areas, which grew to become prime harvest areas in the 80's. The area in the southwest part near Long Lake is shown as "immature" in 1945 and I know it was selectively harvested for white pine and large white spruce by "William Pollock & Son" pre-world war I. My great grandfather, Ross Pollock, worked for his uncle, William, at that time and I had the pleasure of discussing the early history of my "Unit", the EMU, with him when I first arrived on the Englehart. That certainly enhanced the ownership I felt for the EMU as Unit Forester.

The other unique history of the EMU is the link to U of T Forestry and federal and provincial research institutes. Due to the proximity to Toronto and southern-based researchers, the Unit has Nelder plots, spacing trials, herbicide trials and Growth and Yield plots. Staff put in many hours teaching foresters and technicians from all over the province, country and world. I personally toured Russians, New Zealanders, Aussies, Swedes and many more through this Unit. The Russian tour was very much still in the cold war time and we had 4 forestry professionals and a political officer with them to ensure all was kept in line with the Russian protocols of the day – a very interesting difference from today.
The EMU is recent, but holds a historical place in forest management and silviculture practices used at present indeed. The unit is now part of the Timiskaming Forest SFL and is still on many forestry research ledgers. It is a proud part of my heritage and of Ontario's forest history for this area.
Rob Galloway

Early Days at Kenisis Lake Sawmill

By Ken Plourde

My dad, his dad, and his grandfather before him were sawmillers. My grandfather came to Ontario, near Kirkfield, as a boy of nine, with his father, who built a sawmill where there was an abundance of large timber. The family kept the tradition and worked in the lumber industry for several generations. My grandfather, Albert James (Jim) Plourde became known for his ability to file saws that performed well in cutting quality lumber, and my dad, Ken Plourde senior, also gained a reputation as a saw filer who could help optimize the quality and grade of lumber. They worked in many sawmills in northern Ontario, New Brunswick, and Quebec in summers, and retired to Owen Sound in the winter, as was the custom in the early days of unheated mills. Some of the sawmills were in Timmins, Nighthawk Lake, and Moosonee, which was very remote. In the latter mills, during the war, we kids accompanied my dad and mom to very remote locations, often not accessible by road.

In 1942, my dad got a job in Meaford at a woodworking plant owned by Knights of Meaford. Shortly after the war a foreman for Hay & Company of came to Meaford and offered my dad a job at a mill at Redstone Lake, near West Guilford, in Haliburton County. The longer range plan was for dad to work in the large new modern mill which was planned for Kenisis Lake further north. This is now a cottage paradise, but at the time it was barely accessible.
While the old mill was being dismantled, our family lived in the old cook-house at Redstone Lake which wasn't designed for family, but had a large kitchen! We needed a place to live that was accessible to school bus service, so

with a couple mile walk, we were able to go to school. The house was very cold, and we had to carry water from the lake for cooking and laundry. An awakening for the boys!

We moved up to the Kenisis mill site in 1946, and since there were no houses there yet, we lived in two collapsible shacks in which the walls and roof were bolted together. One shack was the kitchen-living room, and the second was the bedrooms. This would do for the six of us for the summer.

As fall came, and time for school, we moved back to Redstone Lake, and lived in the former foreman's house, which also contained the office. We caught the school bus to West Guilford where they had to add a second one room school, as there were now too many kids. Grades 1 to 6 were in one building, and grades 7 and 8 were in another. My teacher was the principal who was recently returned from World War II, and I liked him because he spent a lot of time talking about bombing targets in Western Europe. By the time I got into Grade 8, they had built a new school to hold all public school kids.

The author, Ken Plourde (left), with his father, Ken Sr., and brother, Charles.

The Kenisis Lake mill was completed in 1947, and was quite modern for a remote sawmill. The mill had a mechanical shop, and a blacksmith shop, run by Albert Daniels and his son, Clayton. Another early family at the mill was the Schell family. The father, Charlie Schell, and his son Grenfell, were stationary engineers, and they ran the boiler room. The large kitchen in the camp was run by cook Mark Schell who ruled with a meat cleaver in his hand when necessary, and younger sons Leslie, Dick and Bill.

The Kenisis Lake mill was situated in a prime timber resource, with huge white pine and hemlock, and oak, maple and yellow birch on the ridges. The mill sawed softwood in summer, and hardwood in winter, with the prime oak, maple and yellow birch were selected out of the mix as veneer logs, and shipped to a plywood plant in Woodstock, ON. I recall that the hemlock was used in construction of the St Lawrence Seaway, mostly for scaffolding. The white pine was also of superior quality, and was selected for sash and door construction.

The front end of the Kenesis Lake mil showing the jack ladder.

The mill was steam driven, and the huge boiler was heated with sawdust, slabs and all mill waste. The logs were dumped into a hot pond, for washing in summer, and thawing in winter. The hot pond cleaned the logs of rocks and mud which would damage the saws. In the winter it served the same purpose, but it also helped thaw the ice from the logs. As the name implies, the hot pond was heated by steam from the boiler.

From the hot pond the logs went up a jack-ladder conveyor to the log deck. As the logs entered on the chain, they rolled onto a sloped log deck, and were lined up to be picked up by the carriage, and run through the band saw. The carriage was steam driven, and ran both ways, as the large band saws were "double cut", or had teeth on both sides, which allowed them to cut in both directions. The saw was mounted on a huge wheel, and due to the expert filing of teeth and maintenance of the saws and the huge wheel that drove them, the lumber quality was assured.

The sawn lumber moved to the back end of the mill where the boards stopped and did a right angle to go sideways and be edged, trimmed and sorted before coming out the other end. All of the machinery was powered by drive belts from underneath. These belts were powered by the huge steam engine.

In those days, before sawmill kilns, the lumber was sent down to the open lower deck to be sorted by species or grade. It then came out onto a high car on rails that took the green lumber to be piled by species, dimension and grade in the lumber yard to be air dried. When cured, the lumber was loaded by hand and trucked to appropriate finishing mills. Years later, this was all done by machine.

The back end of the Kenesis Lake mill showing the sawn lumber ready for sorting and piling.

When I was a teenager, my dad was trying to steer me towards an outdoor job, as I couldn't sit still, so he talked about biology and wildlife as possible careers.

There were some young foresters working in the area in the mid-fifties, and the locals called them "Brush Pile Detectives". I hadn't heard of forestry as a career, so I thought that might be interesting so I talked to the manager about it. He thought that if I were interested in that sort of work, I should be out in the bush with the log scaler in the winter logging season, so I scaled logs with a local scaler from Harcourt, Ontario, named Harcourt Pacey. Everyone called him Sunny.

The log scaling was a valuable experience. The logs were cut by cross-cut saw, and skidded with teams of horses. The teams of horses were beautiful, and would be shown off at fall fairs. With their best harness, they looked beautiful in the parades.

Power saws were coming into the bush, but were unreliable, and always seemed to be in pieces near a bonfire. The logs were loaded onto truck decks with an A-Frame and pulleys, called a jammer. The A-frames were mostly powered by teams of horses. The roads were built with an army surplus bulldozer with the blade raised by a pulley and cable. No hydraulics at that time!

While scaling logs, we often stayed at the bush camps. Our largest camps were run by Sinclair (Sinc) Nesbitt, and Bert Hicks, from Gelert. These camps had horse barns, and pigs to eat the kitchen slops, as well a cattle for butchering. They produced their own beef and pork to feed the crew. The bunk houses were heated with wood stoves, so they were either too hot or too cold. We had double bunk beds, so as a young guy, I was relegated to the top bunk, where it was too hot!

In the summers of 1951 and 1952, I tailed the edger, and worked on the lumber sort at the tail end of the process, where I learned valuable experience in lumber quality and grading. I also learned the finer art of grading white pine, which is so valuable that they estimate the clear cuts from the board for making sash and door. Where there are three grades of other species, there were 6 grades of white pine.

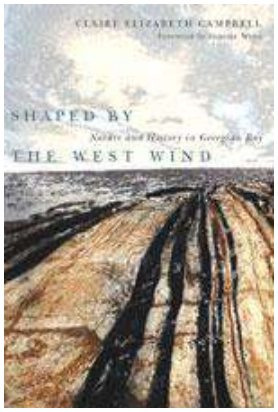
The Kenisis mill produced valuable, high grade lumber from the surrounding mature timber for many years.

Books / Articles / Web Sites or Other Resources

Book Review

Reflecting on *Shaped by the West Wind: Nature and History in Georgian Bay*

By Mike Commito



The cover artwork for *Shaped by the West Wind: Nature and History in Georgian Bay*, is taken from Edward Bartram's 1978 painting *Sans Souci Spring*. The showcasing of striated granite and dark waters pull the reader in before they have even the chance to turn the page. In this book, Claire Elizabeth Campbell examines the archipelago of the eastern shore of Georgian Bay from the Severn to the North Channel to demonstrate how "the Canadian experience has been inextricably intertwined with the natural environment."[1] As much as the book is about the picturesque landscapes, comprised of vast stands of wind swept Eastern White Pine and coral-coloured granite rock formations, it is also about human negotiation and interaction with nature. At various times the region has been viewed differently by certain groups of people depending on their interest or goal. Consequently, there is no universal vantage point for Georgian Bay and it must be studied in the context of competing visions and usages for nature. One of the most important factors in shaping the image of the Bay was its trees.

Timber was significant to the region's early settlers as the Canadian Shield precluded any real possibility of developing a permanent agricultural landscape. In the early stages of settlement, the logging companies took on dual roles as both employer and buyer. They offered settlers paid employment and bought the timber that needed to be removed from land before homes could be built. As life in the Bay progressed, the region's forests took on a new importance as they began to be viewed not only as an industrial resource but became prized for their aesthetic qualities. While it may have been contradictory, logging families such as the Dodges and McGibbons began reinterpreting the landscape for recreational purposes. They started summering in Georgian Bay in the 1880s, and recognized the importance of multiple-use for the land; it provided them with a livelihood and a place to relax with the family.

The book goes on to discuss other factors, which were instrumental in molding perceptions of the Bay. These included how the region's historical image was recast in popular culture such as literature and art and how community activism played an important role as well. Campbell's study is much more than a regional history; it is a thought provoking work on the complex relationship between people and nature. It serves as a reminder that the interaction between people and nature is a two-way process and is always subject to renegotiation and interpretation over time.

Currently, the debate still rages on over how nature should be utilized. Should it be set aside for industry, parceled out for cottagers or can a middle ground actually be achieved? Regardless of which competing vision actually wins out, the important thing to remember is that both approaches lead to the commodification of the wilderness. Whether logging or cottaging, long-term sustainable usage should be the most important factor taken into account

[1] Claire Elizabeth Campbell, *Shaped by the West Wind: Nature and History in Georgian Bay* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2005), 320pp.

before we use the land. *Shaped by the West Wind* is a great read for anyone with an interest in the environment and it will surely resonate with people who have built fond memories in Georgian Bay.

Claire Elizabeth Campbell and her family have spent considerable time in the Bay over the years. She has traded the waters of the North Channel for the Atlantic, as she is now a full-time history professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

"Renewing Nature's Wealth"

(Lambert, Richard S. and Paul Pross. Toronto: The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. 1967). The book cover describes this book as "the exciting story of Ontario's natural resources, and John Robarts, in his Foreword 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 4 (The Beginnings of Administration): The first Surveyor General of Upper Canada, David Smith, was an exemplary administrator and received high praise from Governor Simcoe for his integrity and abilities. Not so those who followed him after he retired in 1804. Over the next 40 years most of those who held this post were either inexperienced, incompetent or showed questionable business ethics. Increased emigration from Britain overloaded the lands department. In 1827 a new lands office was created and Peter Robinson, a member of the Family Compact, was appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands. He was given instructions to end the system of free land grants and to implement the New South Wales system of selling land to British immigrants, which was accomplished through the new Lands Act of 1837.

Robinson was also appointed Surveyor-General of Woods and Forests with instructions from London to organize timber licences and increase timber revenues. He paid little attention to this part of his job and left it largely to others to do. Robinson suffered a stroke in 1836, probably due to the stress of carrying two heavy government portfolios.

The Governor accepted the recommendations of the House of Assembly to amalgamate the two Commissioner positions believing, mistakenly, that the survey workload would be decreasing.

Lord Durham's report of 1837, *Report on the Affairs of British North America*, contained a scathing condemnation of the Lands administration system. Two committees were struck to investigate the workings of the two departments and recommendations were made for changes.

Thus ends *Section 1: The Age of Waste 1763 - 1841*.

Forestry Chronicle and Forest History

The Forestry Chronicle presents a wonderful resource in its recently completed digital archive of past articles. The Chronicle goes back to 1925, and contains a number of articles relating to forest history (try the search function). The Chronicle has also started a new feature called "Old Growth", to publicize information on Canada's forest history. The digital archive can be accessed at:

http://www.cif-ifc.org/site/information#access.

Events and News

Forest History Society of Ontario Annual General Meeting – 2012

The annual general meeting of the Forest History Society of Ontario will be held at the Nottawasaga Inn on Thursday afternoon, 9 February, 2012, at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston. The Guest Speaker will be Monte Hummel, President Emeritus, World Wildlife Fund Canada. The meeting will be held the day before the Ontario Forestry Association Annual General meeting, held at the same location, on Friday, February 10, 2012. Be sure to mark this date in your calendar and come join us!

http://www.ontarioforesthistory.ca/index.php/new_events

Norfolk County's Alligator Steam Tug Boat navigates the Ottawa River

By Dave Lemkay

To participate in the County of Renfrew's 150th anniversary celebrations in June of 2011, the Canadian Forestry Association undertook to transport the W.D. Stalker Alligator Steam Tug Boat up to the Ottawa Valley from its berth in the Lynn River in Simcoe, Norfolk Country, Ontario.

The Alligator was initially set up as a static component of the extensive forestry exhibit at EXPO 150, attracting many thousands of curious or nostalgic visitors. Attendants on hand over the five-day event heard wonderful stories from old lads telling of summers of their youth when they might paddle out from the shore to a steaming, smoking Alligator with a boom in tow, often on the Ottawa River near Pembroke or Deep River or Arnprior, to be treated to a piece of buttered bread or a slice of raisin pie from the cook on board. A Renfrew woman of note related a wonderful story from the summer of 1943 when she and teenage girlfriends, staying at a family cottage on the shore of the Ottawa near Castleford, would swim out to the Alligator, to be helped by the crew up onto the deck to dive off repeatedly while the tow was going past their beach. Running the boom logs in the old days was a recurring theme as men chatted, peering into the hold of the Alligator, to view the boiler, upright West & Peachey steam engine, and mile of steel warping cable on the large horizontal drum. Younger visitors often needed to be reminded that before railway access, roads or trucks, the Ottawa River was the highway upon which the vast timber harvests were transported each summer to mill or market. The river drive is legendary in the Ottawa Valley and captured in story and song by people like Stompin' Tom Connors, Mac Beattie and others, and once again now with the visit of the Alligator in 2011.

The Alligator Steam Warping Tug Boat was a significant forestry workhorse invented in 1889 and manufactured through to the 1930s by the West & Peachey Company of Simcoe. It revolutionized the river drive operations across the near-north by combining the technology of the steam engine and the warping drum to the process of kedging of log booms across large expanses of water in the watershed. Kedging (cadging) was the tedious, backbreaking system of winding the hawser rope around a capstan to haul the boom of logs forward on a waterway where there was little or no current. This had been done in early years with horses or men plodding around endlessly to turn the vertical pulley mechanism on a raft anchored downstream to a rock-filled crib or to a land base.

Alligator tugboat used in logging operations.

To put all this in context, Norfolk County was designated Forest Capital of Canada for the years 2008 and 2009 by the Canadian Forestry Association. The year 2008 was a signal year, marking the centennial of the St. Williams Tree Nursery and Dr. Edmund Zavitz's role starting then in reforestation in Ontario and beyond. This was captured eloquently in a book "They had a Dream" written by noted Port Dover historian and author Harry Barrett. A legacy project stemming from the Norfolk County campaign in 2009 was the publishing of the "Alligators of the North" book in 2010 that combined the early work of the late Clarence Coons and John Corby, now Curator Emeritus of the Museum of Science & Technology in Ottawa, with the writing skills of Harry Barrett. The success of this book, marketed widely by the CFA, spurred another project, designed to celebrate the Alligator Warping Tug Boat on a grand scale by bringing it north to the Ottawa Valley. While Simcoe and Norfolk County proudly celebrate their West & Peachey Alligator manufacturing heritage with the Lynn River display of the W.D. Stalker boat through all the years, the Alligators were shipped by railway out of town to destinations from Maine and Newfoundland across the Canadian Shield through to Minnesota. The Trent System and Georgian Bay and Ottawa River and St. Lawrence River watersheds were where most of them were put to work, some continuing in service even up to the 1950s and 60s. This is where most of them died, drawn up on shore or left in the water to rot away.

The W.D. Stalker has a checkered pedigree; it's not actually one of the 280 or so boats made by West & Peachey, but the combination of a few derelicts, with the main hull, most likely that of the Beaver, boat No. 116 (1912) of the Shevlin-Clarke Company, being rescued from oblivion near Atikokan, Ontario. Nonetheless, restored and assembled over a decade ago, this authentic 50' Alligator is the only operating West & Peachey boat in existence today, maintained and operated proudly by a dedicated group of men and women on Simcoe's Lynn River in Lynnwood Park. Alligators such as The William M, on display in Algonquin Park's Pioneer Logging Museum, and other such monuments across the country, even on enthusiasts' web sites, are a testament to our forebears in the legendary forestry river drive operations of yore.

The town of Simcoe had identified the need in 2010 to dredge their river so Forest Capital organizers and the steam committee decided it was the time to accept the invitation from the CFA and Renfrew County to fulfill the dream, shared by many, that the Alligator might ply the big water of the Ottawa River. The boat was dry-docked and refurbished from stem to stern, including new tamarack gunnels and the twin 24" cast iron propellers in preparation for this once-in-a-lifetime excursion, and the rest is now history. Following the showcase spot at Renfrew County's EXPO 150, the W.D. Stalker was trucked courtesy of Shaw Lumber of Pembroke to the Arnprior Marina on the Madawaska River. Even after backing the transport trailer down the boat launch ramp, it required a large crane to nudge the boat into the water far enough to float. The dry-docked hull desperately needed to be immersed in water to swell up the joints and there were a few anxious moments between the launch and the starting of the generator to power up three sump pumps in the bilge. Once stabilized, the Alligator was towed across to the Quebec side of the Ottawa River to be fitted out for the June 25th Norway Bay, (Quebec) to Braeside, (Ontario) Flotilla. Navigated by captain Fred Judd, pilot Cheri Emerson and engineer and firepersons Dave, Muriel and daughter Michelle Woods on that day, the W.D. Stalker was front and centre in the excursion across the mighty Ottawa. Other vessels in the parade included smaller steamboats belonging to steam aficionados Dr. Bill Burwell from Renfrew and Bruno Martens from Pembroke, a river drive camboose scow belonging to Peter and Barb Haughton, a Pembroke pointer boat, voyageur canoes, dragon boats and all types of conventional pleasure watercraft. In the flagship were Renfrew County Warden Bob Sweet, Bristol Quebec Mayor Brent Orr and McNab-Braeside Mayor Mary Campbell, demonstrating the longstanding collaboration among Ottawa Valley communities on either side of the river. The Alligator boat adventure of 2011 was yet another symbol in addition to previous golf excursions and routine ferry boat traffic from Sand Point to Norway Bay over many decades that illustrate that the Ottawa River doesn’t separate us but joins us in Pontiac and Renfrew Counties.

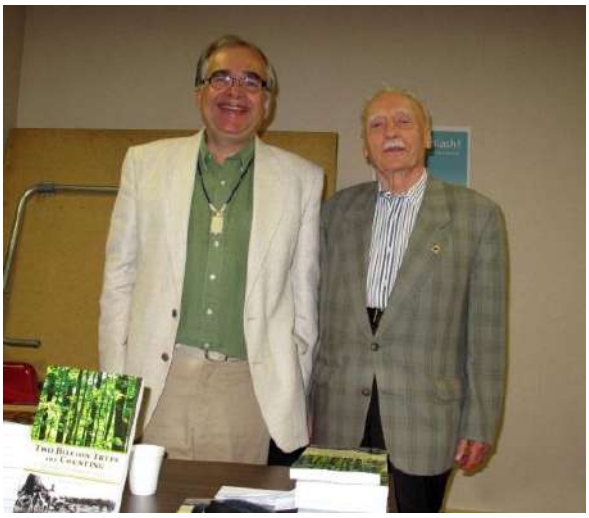
The Alligator remains in the Ottawa Valley, moored upstream from Bristol, Quebec, as a temporary addition to a small, but well placed waterfront forestry museum run by Peter and Barb Haughton that features, among other things, wonderful memorabilia from the Upper Ottawa Improvement Company (ICO) that managed river drive activities on the Ottawa River from Lake Temiscaming through to Ottawa from 1868 through to the late 1990s. The W.D. Stalker will be pulled up on shore at Bristol in October and prepared for an over-winter there so that partners can plot out their river activity for the summer of 2012. If we can get things organized, it might well be included in the City of Ottawa’s annual celebration of the Rideau Canal. Stay tuned!

http://pubs.cif-ifc.org/doi/pdf/10.5558/tfc2011-063

Forest History Society of Ontario joins with The Ontario Historical Society

Ontario's forests have been around for several thousands of years, and from the time of the first peoples following the retreat of the last ice age to the present, Ontarions have been increasingly dependent on them. Our forests have been part of life, initially by providing food and shelter, and then progressively as an economic source of resources until our present recognition of the values they represent. It seems strange, therefore, that a realization of their historical significance by the formation of the Forest History Society of Ontario (FHSO) did not occur until two years ago.

One of the reasons for this late start was the major changes which have been occurring in the forest sector over the past decade - particularly in the forest industry and in the province's dealings with Crown forests. It became apparent that with the closing of segments of the pulp and paper industry, valuable records of woodlands going back for almost a century in some cases were in danger of being lost. There are also many smaller collections of historical importance that were relatively unknown.



The OHS recently attended the launch of OHS member Dr. John Bacher's (left) *Two Billion Trees and Counting, the Legacy of Edmund Zavitz* (Dundurn). Pictured beside Mr. Bacher is Kenneth Armson, President, FHSO.

The mission of the FHSO is to "further the knowledge, understanding and preservation of Ontario's forest history." There are many ways in which this can be achieved and initially with two projects FHSO is focussing on the identification and archival preservation of records and materials. To do this, it has begun a documentation of relevant collections and facilitated, where possible, placing them in appropriate existing archives. A second project is the cataloguing of publications dealing with all aspects of Ontario's forest history. Obviously, these are continuing projects and are updated online:

www.ontarioforesthistory.ca.

Another objective relates to the encouragement and recognition of forest history, important in an ever-increasing urban population. In the past, many communities had a direct connection with the forest, but this has declined over the years. With it has come either ignorance or misunderstanding about the contribution that forests have played in the past and now contribute to our overall well-being. In order to provide information to the public, the FHSO publishes a biannual newsletter Forestory (spring and fall). Each issue contains articles on a wide range of topics and is available on our website or from our office. As an institutional member of The Ontario Historical Society, FHSO looks forward to working with local heritage and historical groups and museums to further interest in forest history. For example, this summer it supported the Port Rowan and South Walsingham Local Heritage Association in the erection of a memorial and the naming of the Edmund J. Zavitz Forest at St. Williams in Norfolk County. Although the FHSO's membership is not large, it is distributed well across Ontario and it encourages its members to work with local communities in their historical endeavours.

The OHS recently attended the launch of OHS member Dr. John Bacher's (left) Two Billion Trees and Counting, the Legacy of Edmund Zavitz (Dundurn). Pictured beside Mr. Bacher is Kenneth Armson, President, FHSO.
This article originally appeared in the October, 2011, Ontario Historical Society Bulletin and reprinted with permission.

Lights! Camera! Action!

By Mike Delfre

Visitors to the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre in Sault Ste Marie will be treated to a new 3D movie and high tech theater when Wildfires! A Firefighting Adventure in 3 D opens on November 26. The $550,000 project is a joint venture of the bushplane centre and Science North with a major role being played by the Ontario Ministry of Natural resources which supplied personnel, expertise, planes and equipment to produce the movie. The state of the art theater features 11 different special affects including scent, smoke, spray, lightning, butt kickers in the seats and several lighting effects sure to wow audiences of all ages. "Our goal with this movie and special effects theatre is to show fire's role in regenerating the forest which is the first piece in our expanded forest ecology education program" states Mike Delfre, CBHC Executive Director. We will be adding new interactive exhibits and curriculum-based forestry education presentations over the coming months. Our education intern has just completed a 20-piece Tree Identification Guide which will be given to all Grade 3 students in the Sault to help them identify and learn about the tress in their own backyard. "Bushplanes and forests have always been the focus of the bushplane centre, notes Delfre. We are very pleased to be able to present an awesome 3D movie experience to our guests who visit the centre.

FHSO President Attends Alberta Meeting

Our president, Ken Armson, was a guest speaker at the 7th Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Forest History Society held in Edmonton on March 16, 2011. His attendance was reported in the Alberta Association's October, 2011, newsletter "Trails and Tales". The newsletter can be accessed here:

http://albertaforesthistory.ca/docs/Newsletters/FHAA-Newsletter-Issue11-Oct2011.pdf

FHSO President Flies the Flag at CIF Meeting

Our president was active again promoting the FHSO at the Candia Institute of Forestry (CIF) Annual General Meeting in Huntsville this fall. Ken displayed the FHSO banner and copies of our Newsletter. The other provincial forest associations were also in attendance. One of the speakers, Brent Connelly, gave a presentation on his career working in Algonquin and Lake Superior Provincial Parks. His presentation can be accessed here:

http://www.cif-ifc.org/uploads//Website_Assets/Connelly.pdf

Ken took a side trip to Algonquin Park after the meeting where he spoke with Rick Stronks, the Chief Park Naturalist, to ask if we could have copies of our newsletters displayed in the Visitors Centre at the Logging Museum. He was agreeable and we will plan on beginning to display our material this next spring with the opening of the museum for the 2012 season.

Shady Characters

Neil Carleton, a public school teacher in Almonte, Ontario, writes a column called "Shady Characters", which focusses on local trees of renown in the local area. Neil's articles can be found here:

http://www.millstonenews.com/shady-characters/.

New Boreal Forest Toonie

The Royal Canadian Mint is celebrating Canada's boreal forest by releasing a circulating toonie depicting artistic impressions of tree species that grow in this forest zone. More information on the boreal toonie can be accessed here:

http://www.mint.ca/store/product/legendary_nature_coins.jsp?campaignName=Legendary&pId=400004&lang=en_CA

Guardian of Woods Honoured

A legacy of conservation and reforestation that began more than 100 years ago was marked at the unveiling of a University of Guelph Historical Plaque dedicated to E.J. (Edmund John) Zavitz at The Arboretum, September 16, 2011. More information can be found here:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/oac/zavitz-plaque-sept2011.cfm

Biodiversity strategy

Ontario has renewed its biodiversity strategy. The strategy can be accessed here:

http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/c527c66f#/c527c66f/1

Ontario Forestry Pioneers Honoured at St. Williams

Two Ontario forest pioneers were honored this summer – Dr. Edmund Zavitz had a forest on the St. Williams Forest Station named after him; J.H. White's memorial in Turkey Point Provincial Park was repositioned to a more prominent location in the park.

The Forestry Chronicle has a more complete overview of the dedication ceremonies, which can be accessed here:

http://pubs.cif-ifc.org/doi/abs/10.5558/tfc2011-076

Plaque identifying the forest dedicated to Dr. E.J. Zavitz.

Plaque identifying the forest dedicated to J.H. White.

About the Authors

Douglas Gloin: At one time, the editor of the Barry's Bay This Week newspaper.

Donald Lloyd: Retired Toronto high school teacher with a long association with Algonquin Park and author of several books.

Jamie McRae: A Manager, McRae Lumber Company, Whitney.

Valerie Kirkwood: A freelance journalist and photographer from Eastern Ontario, with special interest in equine, agricultural and rural historical topics.

Peter Hynard: a registered professional forester who lives in Haliburton County, not far from Sugar Island.

John Haegeman: Woodworker and avid collector of local logging history in and around the Espanola area.

John Bacher: Historian and environmentalist from St. Catharines, Ontario, is the author of "Two Billion Trees and Counting: The Legacy of Edmund Zavitz", published this year by Dundurn Press.

Marion Seabrook: Retired teacher smitten by the genealogical bug, constantly searching out stories of her birthplace, and recording them for her family, so that they too, will appreciate the magic of life on the Manitoulin.

Doug Brodie: Son of Steve Brodie

Mark Kulhberg: Professor of History, Laurentian University, with a focus on forest history of Ontario.

Mike Commito: Graduate student in forest history.

Terry Schwann: Guelph District Forester, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Ken Armson: President, Forest History Society of Ontario.

Ken Plourde: a forester who practiced Forestry in Canada for over 50 years, from Labrador to British Columbia, and is now dedicating his time to preserving the remarkable story of this great industry.

Rob Galloway: Retired Director, Northeast Region, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Timmins.

Dave Lemkay: President, Canadian Forestry Association, Pembroke.

Mike Delfre: Executive Director, Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, Sault Ste Marie.

Next Newsletter

Ontario has a long history of forest resource inventory (FRI), starting with the original land surveys in the 1700/1800's that assessed the type and value of forests encountered. Forest inventory for forest management purposes expanded exponentially in the early 1900's with the advent of aerial surveys. While the "FRI" is considered the most significant forest inventory, other types of inventories, such as Life Science Inventories of significant natural areas, are also used to gather data on our forests. FRI is closely associated with forest classification and growth and yield. Today, the use of sophisticated spectral and GIS technology along with advanced mathematical modeling makes forest resources inventory a very sophisticated program.

Our next newsletter will focus on providing historical views of forest resources inventories in all its manifestations, including the use of aircraft, technology and the people who made it happen. This issue will offer an excellent opportunity for you to provide us with your experiences in the field of forest inventory. Please send us your stories!

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. In the second issue of Sylva two Rangers were highlighted. We reprint one of those articles here.

The Spanish River Lumber Company (Sylva Vol. (1949):25-30)

By F.J. Kelly

In the year 1882, a Charter was granted to the Spanish River Lumber Co. Ltd. to take out saw logs for the manufacture of lumber, lath and pickets. This manufacturing was done at a saw mill on an island situated in what is known as the North Channel, being the northern part of Lake Huron. Aird Island, as it is called, is about six miles from Spanish Station on the Soo line of the C.P.R., which was under construction at the time the Charter was granted. The only communication between the island and the mainland was by water in the summer and over the ice in winter. The president of the company, B. W. Arnold of Albany, N.Y., made his first visit to this mill from Soo, Michigan, over the ice, accompanied by an Indian and dog team.

Year after year, men still feel the urge to join the drive and swap stories around the camp fire. K.M. Andresen

Logs were taken off timber berths on the Sable and Spanish River waters and driven in the spring to the mouth of the Spanish River, where they were rafted and towed to the mill. During the summer months, the lumber was loaded on boats and all sent to U.S. points.

Shortly after the turn of the century, W. J. Bell, of Sudbury, Ontario, became associated with Mr. Arnold in the business. "Willie Joe" (as he was popularly known) was a native of Pembroke, Ontario, and had always been connected with the lumber business. He was employed for some years in the Ottawa

Valley by the Eddy Co. before coming to the Sudbury district, where he started into business for himself, woods contracting.

In about 1907, Berth 10 on the mainland, some 20 miles from Manitoulin Island, was purchased by the Spanish River Lumber Co., which greatly augmented their log supply and ensured a longer life for the mill.

The flume – a spectacular method used to transport logs overland. K.M. Andresen

On November 11th, 1913, a Sunday afternoon I well remember, a severe windstorm swept through the east end of the Mississagi Provincial Forest around Sable Lake and adjacent townships, which resulted in much valuable timber being blown down. The government immediately offered these berths, in which the timber had been blown down, for sale. Early in 1914, they had disposed of them to various lumber companies, the Spanish River Lumber Co. getting four townships. They also added two additional townships along the C.N.R., north of Sudbury. In July of the same year, the logging equipment and timber rights on the Sable River were purchased from the Massey Lumber Co. of Massey, Ontario. Some twelve logging camps were then put in operation. Richmond Friar of Westmeath, Ontario was vice-president and general manager of the latter company, which logged in the township of Parkin in the late fall of the years 1914 and 1915. This company brought their supplies in via Milnet, then called Selwood Junction. While in this locality, the Massey Lumber Company drove their logs down the North River into Wanapitei Lake. They also drove logs down Mountain Creek into Wanapitei Lake, then down the Wanapitei River into the French River and down the French River to Georgian Bay, whence they were towed to Midland to be manufactured into lumber, lath, etc.

It was then decided the Spanish mill would be unable to handle the supply of logs, so in the winter of 1914 the saw mill at Cutler, Ontario, was purchased from Loveland and Stone. Shortly after the start of repairs to this mill, it was burned down. A complete new mill was built which was in operation in 1915.

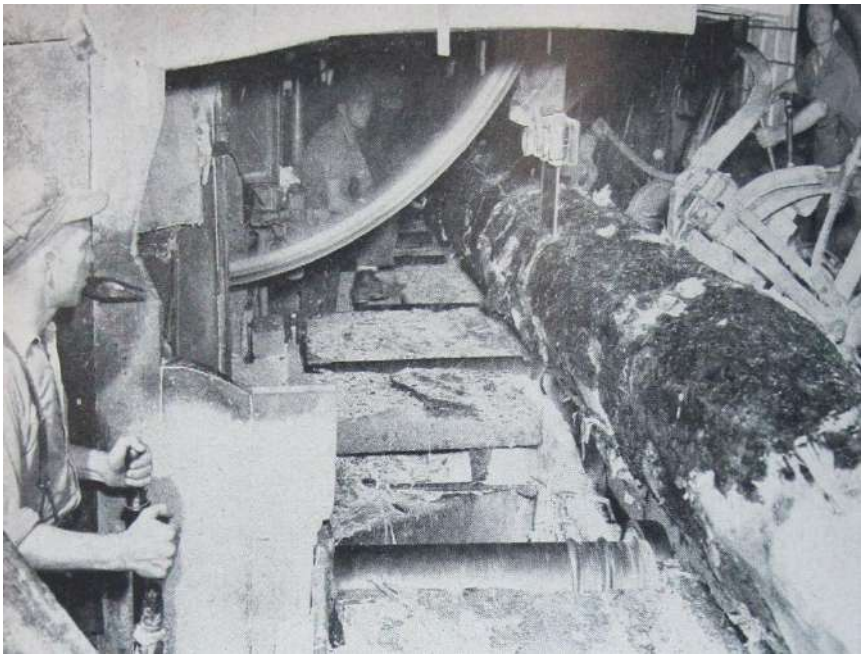
A subsidiary firm known as Arnold and Bell Ltd., Thor Lake, Ontario, (Thomas Hale, General Manager) commenced logging operations on the townships on the C.N.R. The logs from these limits were driven down the Wanapitei River to the mouth of the French River, then towed to the Cutler mill.

Both Spanish mill and Cutler mill were now running at full capacity of 250,000 bd. ft. per day of 10 hours, or a total of 500,000 bd. ft. per day.

Another subsidiary company was also formed during the first Great War. It went under the name of Ferguson and McDonell Ltd. and operated on timber berths reached from Cartier, Ontario. J. A. Ferguson was the woods manager and A. J. McDonell the mill manager.

Early in the spring of 1916, the Moulthrop Lumber Co. had the misfortune to have their mill destroyed by fire. This mill was on John Island, six miles from Cutler, and went by the name of the "Stolen Mill". The Spanish River Lumber Co. purchased the property, buildings and saw logs from the Moulthrop Lumber Co. John Island was admirably located as a picnic resort and families from both Cutler and Spanish mills held an annual field day there. The property was later donated by the W.J. Bell estate to one of the service clubs in Sudbury.

The Cutler mill was eventually destroyed by a fire, caused from spontaneous combustion, in 1923. This mill was equipped for handling a big class of saw logs, such as were taken off the Wanapitei waters. Because of the long river drive and expensive towing costs, it was decided not to rebuild the Cutler mill, but to build another one at Skead, on Wanapitei Lake, 20 miles northeast of Sudbury.



Operators watch carefully as a band saw rips through the huge logs. K.M. Andresen

Negotiations were now under way for the purchase of B.W. Arnold's stock in the Spanish River Lumber Co. by W.J. Bell, and by the end of 1923 the deal was completed. The timber on the Spanish Indian Reserve was now purchased and the mill at Skead built. It was in operation by the fall of 1924.

Timber was cleaned up off the Sable River, Berth 10 and the Indian Reserve Limits by 1926. The Spanish mill, being too expensive to operate for a short run, was shut down for good and, the logs were taken to Midland to be sawn. The entire plant was sold later to a firm of wreckers from Toronto. The timber berths on the Sable River were returned to the Government, and others obtained adjacent to the old holdings on the Wanapitei water.

Skead mill operated steadily till 1931, when the depression hit the lumber market worst. It then ran for two seasons, 1933 and 1935, then ceased operating entirely. The reason the mill did not operate in 1934 was because they were unable to get the drive out. The water became low and the drive grounded on the upper waters of the Wanapitei River. During the early ’40s this mill was destroyed by fire. Later on the mill site was sold to the Poupore Lumber Co. who erected a modern mill on the old mill site.

Thus ends a rough outline of the history of the Spanish River Lumber Co. Ltd., which operated in the logging business for approximately 60 years. Both Mr. Arnold and Mr. Bell have joined the great majority. The latter lived to a ripe old age, well on in his eighties, and was in full possession of his faculties right to the last. He never missed an opportunity of meeting his old lumbermen friends and there was nothing he enjoyed more than talking of his many lumbering experiences.

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 to 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.

Forest History Society of Ontario

The Society has two ongoing projects; both are available on our website: **www.ontarioforesthistory.ca**

The first is a catalogue of publications dealing with all aspects of Ontario's forest history where members can submit contributions.

The second is the identification and listing of collections and materials relating to Ontario's forest history. The Society works with established archives such as the Archives of Ontario and several university archives to facilitate the preservation of significant collections.

The Society publishes a newsletter, the *Forestory,* available to its members twice a year – Spring and Fall – containing informative articles on forest history In Ontario.

Please return this portion with your cheque to the FHSO at the address listed below.

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REV: 20-11-2011