



Forestory

Volume 5, Issue 2, Fall 2014

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James Herbert White

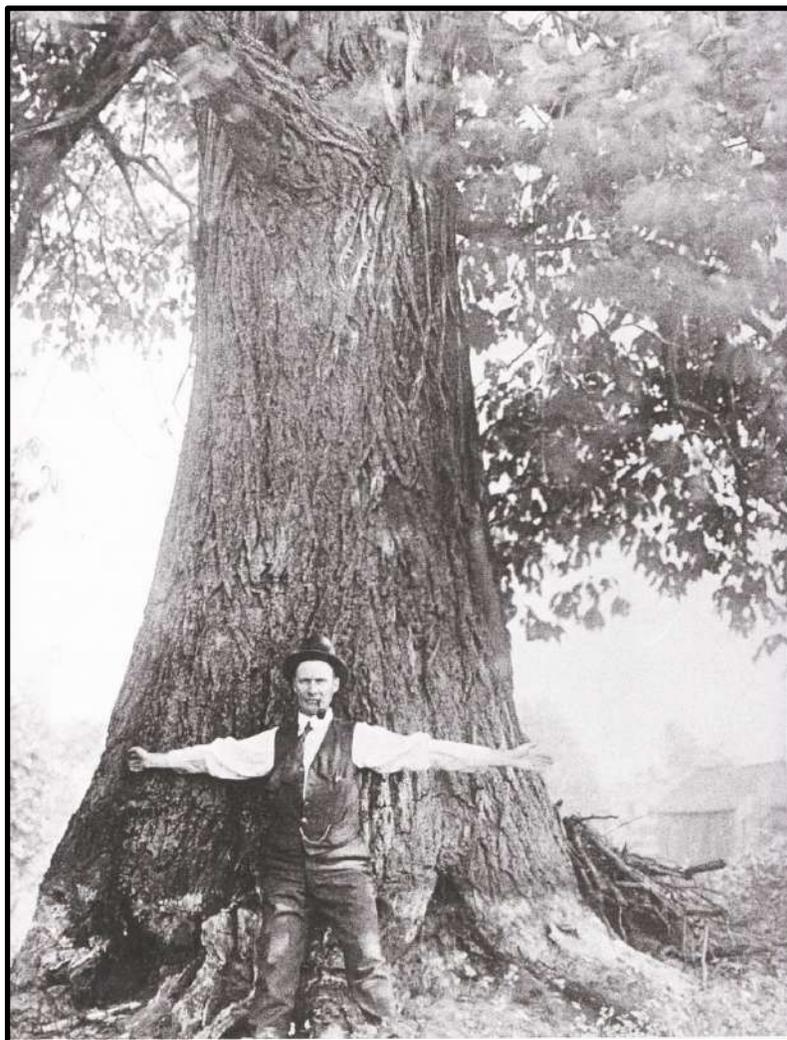


Photo of James H. White taken by Edmund Zavitz.

We want to hear from you!

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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Chair's Message

As Ontario's forests close the book on the year that was 2014, I am reminded of the classic hit by The Byrds, Turn! Turn! Turn! Released smack dab in the middle of the tumultuous decade that was the 1960s, the song was as much an appeal for peace as it was a reflection of the rapid and dramatic changes that were defining the period.

Ontario's forests are going through similarly rapid and dramatic changes. On the one hand, trees that grow in our urban settings are receiving increasing attention. More and more studies are conclusively demonstrating the benevolent effect woody plants have on human health. While these investigations provide solid ground for increasing the prevalence of trees in our cities and towns, the trees themselves face a variety of threats – ranging from urban development to non-native pests – that seem unprecedented in scope. At the same time, forests that make up our commercial woodlands are increasingly in the news, but often not for good reasons. The decision to shutter permanently some of northern Ontario's major mills – the icons of our once grand pulp and paper industry – continue to make headlines, and conflict continues to embroil the practice of forestry in places such as Algonquin Park. Finally, government policy towards the fish and wildlife that reside in our forests is also in the spotlight. The recent reintroduction of a limited spring bear hunt has rekindled the debate over how to manage the fauna that depend upon our woods for survival.

These and other developments all serve as object lessons in how history repeats itself. Discussions concerning the important role trees ought to play in fostering human health in our urban environments are nothing new. This idea was a central tenet in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries' British New Towns Movement, a message that Thomas Adams helped diffuse across Canada. Similarly, Ontario's forest industry has gone through more highs and lows over the last few centuries than a loyal fan of Toronto Maple Leafs' has experienced since the last time the team won the Stanley Cup. Although things seem particularly bleak for the string of hinterland communities whose economic lifeblood was formerly a sawmill or pulp and paper mill, reviewing previous downturns in our province's forest industry provides hope that the re-opening of some of these enterprises and the launching of new wood fibre-using initiatives signals a decided upturn in the fortunes of this sector of our economy. Likewise, the Ontario government's administration of our remarkable range of forest animals has seldom been without controversy. Not long after it established Algonquin Park in 1893, for example, government officials were exporting from the area what it deemed "surplus" deer, beaver, marten and fishers to other locales, and importing elk and wild turkeys. Remembering that it is still unclear how anyone determined the optimal population for any of these animals helps one put present day issues involving hunting and fishing into their proper perspective.

And that is where our FHSO comes in, particularly at this seemingly unsettled juncture in the history of Ontario's forests. Our mandate is to ensure that we discover, preserve and promote all the stories that remain buried amidst the trees, independent of whether the latter are growing in downtown Toronto or the relatively remote woodlands north of Red Lake. This is an especially important task to be undertaking at this time when so many archival documents and artifacts from our forest history are in danger of being destroyed forever. By aiming to identify these materials and preserve them for posterity, the Forest History Society of Ontario is doing its utmost to ensure that present-day practitioners of forestry and wildlife management are allowed to learn from the lessons of their past, and not simply go forth in a manner that repeats previous mistakes.

Mark Kuhlberg PhD
Chair, Forest History Society of Ontario

Editor's Message

Well, dear readers, this is the last edition of *Forestry* for which I will be editor. After five years, ten issues and 444 pages, I am moving on. It has been a great experience. I have learned a lot about Ontario's forest history and met many wonderful and interesting people along the way. I plan to remain involved in the production of *Forestry* wherever I can be of assistance, and I will remain as webmaster for the Society's website for the time being.

The articles in this issue cover the changes in thinking related to forest values - from a place to desecrate for needed products and short term financial gain, to a place that needs to be and can be sustained to provide for all the things for which we value forests. Forests are entities that go beyond trees; forest management practices are intimately entwined with the management of other values, such as wildlife habitat. Forests as habitats can be regenerated. The article on turkeys in Ontario ends by suggesting that we may never see turkeys in Ontario again, but I see them regularly on my travels in my local habitat, many decades after they were extirpated from Ontario.

The articles in this issue once again reinforce the significance of individuals in changing forest policy through their beliefs and dedication. Visionaries such as Thomas Southworth, J.H. White, E.J. Zavitz and Bernard Fernow were giants in their time for moving forest management ideas, policies and practices forward.

Each time an issue is produced, I am pleasantly surprised by the amount of local forest history that exists. This issue is no different. Who knew there were three (!) different museum displays devoted to the history of maple syrup in this province?

The Society continues to be actively involved in facilitating the preservation of forest related archival material - an important part of its mandate. The Society has made significant strides over this past five years and is on the cusp of even greater success. Your continued support is important in ensuring that the Society achieves its potential.

And once again, I end by saying that you never know what is going to happen in your life. The year 2014 has reinforced that with me in spades. Be kind to all and tell your loved ones often how much you love them.

All the best in 2015!

Sherry Hambly MScF

Ontario Timber Class Environmental Assessment

By Anne Koven

A Short History of the Class Environmental Assessment of Timber Management on Crown Lands in Ontario (1988-1994)

The preliminary hearing for the Timber Class EA began in May 1987. Twenty-seven years later, the legacy of the hearings lives on in the Forest Management Planning Process (FMP) and the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, among other legal requirements. It has survived six provincial governments, the longest forest industry downturn in Ontario's history, the rise in the influence of environmental organizations, the legitimate demands of First Nations, Metis and aboriginal communities to share in the benefits of forestry and significant changes in the foresters' profession. This article will talk about only a few of the political and environmental issues associated with the Timber EA process.

The statistics are impressive for the largest public hearing on forest management conducted in Canada: 411 hearing days (held in 15 locations mostly in northern Ontario) involving 45 parties and more than 500 individual witnesses and members of the public, recorded on 70,000 pages of transcripts and many more pages of exhibits and a 561 page decision, all at an estimated to cost tax payers in excess of \$20 million.

It began with the passage of the *Environmental Assessment Act* in 1975, which set the stage for the eventual pressure by environmental organizations on the Ministry of the Environment to require the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) to undergo an environmental assessment process. There were a few initiatives during the 1980s that drew attention to forest issues, for example, the provincial *Royal Commission on the Northern Environment* conducted in the 1970s, although Commissioner Fahlgren did not report until 1985, but it was the Temagami forest protests of the 1980s that drew political and media attention.

Temagami represented Ontario's 'war of the woods', similar to the British Columbia public protests with the Haida on Lyell Island in the 1980s and at Clayoquot Sound in the 1990s. The complex mix of First Nations disenfranchisement, the challenge to traditional forestry practices such as clear cutting and road building and the biological issues being raised by environmental organizations at Temagami were high profile issues identified for scrutiny at the Timber Class EA hearings. Additionally, once the future premier, Bob Rae, was arrested at Temagami as a protester, forestry issues were guaranteed to occupy the political agenda of Ontario.

It was Jim Bradley, the Minister of the Environment in the 1980s with the Peterson government, who was given the job of bringing the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) into compliance with the *Environmental Assessment Act*. I have been told that there was a "poisonous" relationship between the two Ministries but eventually the MNR committed itself fully to developing its EA and wholeheartedly pursuing approval before the Environmental Assessment Board.

The OMNR experienced many challenges at the public hearings but two of them were formidable: first, the EA developed by the OMNR was examined, to the advantage of its opponents, on the basis of changing circumstances and new scientific findings; and secondly, the political context was volatile. On the first point, the hearings were conducted with the assistance of only fax machine technology, constraining OMNR's ability to react quickly to weaknesses identified in its EA, and the words 'biological diversity', which represented a new way of looking at the forest landscape, did not even enter the conversation until the hearing was well advanced. These challenges worked to the advantage of the environmental organizations that are credited with advocating for sustainable forest management, which at first was opposed by the OMNR, who argued that more time was needed to investigate its feasibility.

In the meantime, the Rae NDP government had been elected with a strong environmental mandate, and northern MPPs were represented in Cabinet portfolios associated with forest policy: Floyd Laughren, who represented the Sudbury area riding of Nickel Belt, was finance minister; Bud Wildman, the MPP for Algoma, was minister of Natural Resources, Aboriginal Affairs and the Environment; Shelley Martel, who represented the ridings of Sudbury East and Nickel Belt, was minister of Northern Development and Mines; Howard Hampton, MPP for Kenora-Rainy River was minister of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Elie Martel, a retired NDP MPP from Sudbury East, was a member of the hearing panel for the Timber Management Class EA and had close contacts with the Rae government during the hearing and the development and passage of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act.

The Rae government kept a close watch on the Timber EA hearings and developed new legislation in tandem with the issues being debated. At the conclusion of the hearing, the OMNR announced that its position had changed and it was now in support of sustainable forest management.

The Timber Class EA decision released on April 1994 granted OMNR an approval, contingent on meeting 116 legally binding terms and conditions, which also required the OMNR to set the stage for sustainable forest management. Within a record six months, the Rae government, working in close collaboration with the OMNR bureaucrats, facilitated quick passage of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*.

The non-government environmental coalition, *Forests for Tomorrow*, was a main influence at the hearings, along with the forest industry. A total of \$1.83 million was awarded by Orders-in-Council to the parties. Funding, however limited, enabled environmental organizations and First Nations to hire staff, legal counsel and expert witnesses and to participate as full time parties to the quasi-judicial hearing process.

The Timber Class EA hearing had detractors, including the hearing panel who complained about the cost and timeliness of the six-year process. The concern was that the experience of the Timber Class EA would put the EA process into disrepute. As it turned out, changes were subsequently made to the *Environmental Assessment Act* that arguably weakened it, and the Intervenor Funding Project Act, 1988, was repealed.

The legacy of the Timber Class EA has continued to survive political challenges including: the Harris Conservative government's creation of the Living Legacy of protected areas, cuts to MNR's budget and staffing and downloading of costs onto the forest industry, most of which government has had to resume paying for; and the McGuinty Liberal government's budget cuts, its *Endangered Species Act* and the *Far North Act*, both of which reflected ecological interests rather than those of the ailing forest industry or First Nations.

The report of the decision on the Timber Class EA can be accessed here:

http://www.web2.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/forests/timberea/decision_pdfs/intro.pdf.

The Office of the Ontario Environmental Commissioner has an archive of taped interviews with Timber Class EA participants and these can be accessed at:

<http://environmentalbeginnings.ca/mnrs-timber-management-class-ea/>.

Further information on the Timber Class EA can be found on the web site for the Environmental Commissioner for Ontario.

<http://www.eco.on.ca/>.

Grey County: The Death and Rebirth of a Forest

By John Bacher

Grey County is a bright spot in forest recovery in Ontario. This is a happy point in quite a tumultuous history of the destruction and rebirth of a predominately-forested ecosystem. This history began with the Ojibway and Ottawa Nations ceding their land to the Crown on August 9, 1836.

The area known as The Saugeen Tract Agreement, involving some 6,070 square kilometres of land in Grey County, was one of the most infamous land surrenders by the most infamous of the Lieutenant Governors of Upper Canada, Francis Bond Head. It was the last large area of fertile land in Upper Canada where native land title was surrendered. Native grievances against the surrender played an important part in the recall of the Lieutenant Governor, but none of his specific acts was reversed.

The Saugeen Tract Agreement was the largest treaty facilitating the removal of a native community orchestrated by Bond Head during his brief tenure as Lieutenant Governor. Its basic concept was that the native communities would be removed to areas in Bruce County, which at the time was pledged as a perpetual reservation. This situation continued until 1854 when a new treaty surrendered most of this area. In contrast with the 1836 agreement, this treaty provided the basis for enduring reservation communities. These reservation areas include numerous islands of Georgian Bay and the mainland reservations of Nawash and Cape Croker.¹

Unlike many counties in southern Ontario, there were no Indian Reservations in Grey County to serve as pockets of relatively well-forested landscapes. This encouraged the rapid fall of the forests in Grey County to rock bottom, which was reached around 1919, before the impact of the reforestation and conservation efforts of the Department of Lands and Forests under the direction of Edmund Zavitz began to be felt. At this time, forest cover had decreased to a level of 10 per cent.²

One of the basic reasons for the intensity of the liquidation of the forests of Grey County is that the region was viewed by farmers as an "Ashery." Farmers would burn down trees for ashes to be used in the manufacture of soap and other industrial products, often for export. It would require the burning of sixty large maple trees to create a standard barrel that contained 650 to 700 pounds of potash. Such attitudes encouraged farming even on areas of poor soil (such as the Niagara Escarpment).³

The assault on Grey's forests caused environmental devastation in less than a generation following the Saugeen Tract Agreement. This was seen in a name change of the Sauble River to the Mud River as a consequence of the sedimentation caused by soil erosion. Floods became more devastating in the 1860s as a consequence of deforestation. On April 18, 1862, Crispin's Bridge in Walkerton was swept away. At the same time, a flood in Mount Forest destroyed mills. In 1869 the Toronto Globe recalled how, "the bridges on the Saugeen River have been carried away by a freshet." A second flood the same year swept away, "nearly all the milldams" in the vicinity of Mount Forest. Flood intensity increased as more forest was burned away for ashes. In 1872 several houses in Southampton were destroyed. A bridge over a river at Port Elgin was carried away. In 1873 mills in Glenelg and Durham were ruined.⁴



Photo by Edmund Zavitz showing effects of excessive harvesting of forestlands.

The effects of forest devastation in Grey County at the time of Confederation did help to change attitudes in Ontario. Grey County produced two quite visionary advocates of forest restoration, Robert William Phipps and William Roy. Both of these men were active members of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association (OFGA), which was the province's first environmental protection advocacy group. They attended its 1879 winter meeting in Hamilton, which

¹ Anthony J. Hall, "The American Empire and the Fourth World", (Montreal: McGill/Queen's University Press, 2003), pp. 436-440. The Saugeen's efforts at the treaty negotiations were focused on obtaining education provisions for basic literacy.

² Ontario Ministry of Planning and Development, "Saugeen Valley Conservation Report, 1952", (Toronto: Department of Planning and Development, 1952), p. 20.

³ Ontario Ministry of Planning and Development, p. 16.

⁴ Ontario Ministry of Planning and Development, pp. 10 -12.

Edmund Zavitz saw as a major turning point in the province's attitudes towards forests. The conference called for measures to prevent forest fires and advocated reforestation.⁵

Roy attended the 1879 OFGA convention after being awakened to the possibilities of forest conservation after a pilgrimage to Chiefswood, the estate of one of its members, the Mohawk Chief, George Johnson. In his capacity as Vice-President of the OFGA, Roy explained to the Hamilton assembly how he had toured the "fine walnut grove of Chiefswood at Chief Johnson's at Tuscarora." He explained that walnut cultivation was compatible with certain forms of agriculture, such as hay cultivation, noting that he was impressed by the "new luxuriant grass" under the walnut trees of Chiefswood.⁶

Phipps, a Grey County apple grower and journalist, moved to Toronto in 1883 to assume the newly appointed position of Clerk of Forests, created by the Ontario government in response to OFGA lobbying. His main achievement in this position, after a decade of advocacy, was the creation of Algonquin Provincial Park. Phipps sought to prevent, in eastern Ontario, the devastation caused by the stripping of forests he experienced in Grey County. He was especially concerned about reforesting what later became known in the Niagara Escarpment area of Grey County known the Blue Mountain. Phipps viewed the Blue Mountain area as "natural storehouses" for water and "reservoirs of moisture." He viewed the "woods on their slopes" as holding "the water of rain and snow from flooding the land when it was not needed and to deal it out in creek, river and underground channel, as it should be needed throughout the year."⁷

Phipps had a network of informants of conservationist-minded OFGA members across the province, whose writings to him he published in the Ontario legislature's Sessional Papers. A number of these informants relayed to him the growing devastation from deforestation in Grey County. George Buskin, an informant in Artemisia, warned that deforestation in the Saugeen and Little Falls watersheds was causing the drying up of streams in the summer months, endangering mills. Daniel Marshall from Keppel sent another ominous warning. He explained how, "Ten years ago this neighbourhood was nearly all forest, but the forest is being cut down everywhere, rock elm is all gone for square timber. Now the axeman is in the swamps, cutting telegraph poles, railway ties, fence posts and saw logs, our saw-mill men are culling for all kinds of hardwood, and saw logs, so that in ten years more there will only be culls, except some small pines that are protected. Our firewood will not be easily obtained ten years from now."⁸

Despite valiant tries, Phipps was unable to use his publicity efforts as Clerk of Forestry to persuade many farmers to undertake reforestation and keep livestock out of their vanishing forests. Consequently, Grey County forest cover continued to plummet, and flooding events became more violent and extreme. Walkerton was devastated again in 1892 and its streets were frequently flooded. A Globe and Mail account recorded how a "new iron bridge recently erected ... now rests and the bottom of the river from its former location." An ice jam in 1907 knocked out Denny's bridge on the Saugeen and shut down the Saugeen Electric Light Company's hydro electrical plant. At this time in Flesherton three dams were knocked out, moving a large brick bridge over the Boyne River sixty yards.

Flooding in Tesswater in 1910 led to the drowning of three women. In Paisley two milldams were swept away, and fatalities were avoided through boat rescues. In Durham, milldams were swept away.⁹ Watershed disruption by deforestation in Grey County launched the career of one of Canada's most accomplished environmentalists, Elihu Stewart. His experience as a land surveyor taught Stewart how deforestation caused flooding. In 1896 he was elected Mayor of Collingwood in nearby Simcoe County, and three years later he was appointed by Sir Wilfred Laurier as Inspector of Forests. Stewart's experience of the flooding caused by the stripping of Blue Mountain gave him some awareness of the need to protect the Rocky Mountains from a similar fate, which brought about the passage of the Dominion Forest Reserve Act.¹⁰

The critical event in the resurrection of Grey County's forests was the election in 1919 of the United Farmers of Ontario-Independent Labour Party government of Premier E.C. Drury. He was the son of a former Minister of Agriculture, Charles Drury, who was an OFGA activist in the era of George Johnson, William Roy and Phipps. What proved crucial was the establishment of the Midhurst nursery in 1921. The nursery, which was eventually surrounded by a forest of its creation, Springwater Provincial Park, was a vivid demonstration project. It showed how formerly desolate areas of blow sands could be transformed into healthy forests.

⁵ E.J. Zavitz, "The development of forestry in Ontario", *Forestry Chronicle*, 15 (1939): 36-43.

⁶ Anon. "Appendix C: Report of the Fruit Growers' Association for Ontario for 1880", Annual Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Arts, 1880, Commissioner of Agriculture and Arts, Province of Ontario, Toronto: Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario by C. Blackett Robinson, 1881.

⁷ R.W. Phipps, "Report on the Necessity of Preserving and Replanting Forests", Province of Ontario, Toronto, Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario by C. Blackett Robinson, 1883.

⁸ R.W. Phipps, "Forestry Report", Province of Ontario, Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario by C. Blackett Robinson, 1884.

⁹ Ontario Ministry of Planning and Development.

¹⁰ R. Peter Gillis and Thomas R. Roach, "Lost Initiatives", (New York: Greenwood Press, 1986), pp. 56-58.

As with much of southern Ontario in the 1920s, pockets of blow sand on vulnerable moraines in Grey County provided the basis for the first reforestation projects in the county. One of the most visible examples of deforestation was on Springbank Road near Hepworth. Using trees supplied by the Midhurst nursery, a 20-acre reforestation project was initiated by the Owen Sound Kiwanis Club. It was spearheaded by one of its members, Mr. Beatty, who also served as the Grey County Engineer. It was eventually expanded to 95 acres. Zavitz's Department of Forests also worked with the Owen Sound Public Utility Commission in an early Niagara Escarpment reforestation project. It involved planting 161,500 trees on the 180-acre Inglis Falls Tract. This created a popular recreational area and protected Owen Sound's water supplies. A small reforestation project in Owen Sound served to buffer a residential district from a dock and factory areas.¹¹

While these reforestation projects were important in changing attitudes, they were not on a sufficient scale to alter the devastation of watersheds caused by deforestation. Flooding continued to intensify as overall forest cover continued to decline. In 1929 flooding in Mildmay and Neustadt swept away dams and bridges. Factories and homes also collapsed. Flooding also hit homes in Neustadt and flooded all the stores on its main street. Some of the most dramatic flooding was in the town of Hanover and the surrounding Bentinck Township. Here fifty bridges were damaged. The impact of the worst natural disaster, in 1932, was recorded in the *Globe and Mail*. It noted that the Saugeen "went into a flood stage, broke through the milldam, and carried away part of the old grist mill operated by Mrs. Sarah Bell...The mill is a Port Elgin landmark which has withstood time and tempest. Some of the streets in Southampton are flooded, and men are working hard to turn the rushing water from the flood. Many cellars are flooded."¹²



Photo by Edmund Zavitz showing effects of desertification in Grey County caused by extreme deforestation.

The peak of Grey County's flooding came shortly before Edmund Zavitz, who was working intensely to correct such problems, was demoted from the post of Deputy Minister of Forests to director of its Reforestation Branch. During this period, many of his forester colleagues engaged in reforestation were being sacked by the new Deputy Minister, Frederick Noad. In his new capacity, Zavitz toured the blow sand areas of Grey County and the stony denuded wastelands of the Niagara Escarpment. This trip produced some of his most dramatic photographs of deforestation. One photo in particular shows a graveyard exposed by desertification, the coffins coming close to being opened up by howling winds.¹³

Zavitz was eventually able to turn attitudes around in Grey County. The Midhurst nursery sponsored a Chapter of the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association, which created public support through tours and banquets. This prompted the participation of Grey County in the Agreement Forest program in 1939. In addition to earlier conservationist groups such as the

Kiwanis, a supportive role was played by a retired Colonel, Arthur Le Plan. He was a civil engineer from Owen Sound who, at that time, was working with Zavitz and his long-time friend, James Herbert White, in a reforestation project around the David Dunlap Observatory in Richmond Hill.¹⁴

Under the Agreement Forest program, first launched in 1921 in the Hendrie Forest in Simcoe County near Midhurst, County governments would purchase 1,000 acres of land for reforestation and forest management, which would be planted and maintained by the provincial government. Eventually, the Grey County Forest system would involve 8,340 acres of forests in 39 different tracts. These are heavily concentrated on the Niagara Escarpment and provide a protected corridor for the Bruce Trail. The reforestation of these lands in the decade after the Second World War, achieved Phipps' vision of the Blue Mountain area protecting Ontario's waters. Ten per cent are off limits to logging because of such environmental constraints as their importance to wildlife.¹⁵

While impressive, the County forest system of Grey County is overshadowed by the assemblage of forests under the Agreement Forest program that were developed by the two Conservation Authorities operating through the Conservation Authorities Act of 1946. The first was the Saugeen Conservation Authority created in 1950, followed by the North Grey Conservation Authority, created in 1957 and the Sauble, established in 1958. These later two authorities were merged into the Grey Sauble in 1986. Grey

¹¹ Ontario Ministry of Planning and Development, "North Grey Region Conservation Report, 1959", (Toronto, Ontario Ministry of Planning and Development, 1959), p. 3.

¹² Ontario Ministry of Planning and Development, 7-14.

¹³ Copies of photographs of Edmund Zavitz in collection of St. Williams Forestry Interpretation Center.

¹⁴ Copy of letter from LePan to Edmund Zavitz, June 5, 1939, in the J. H. White Papers, University of Toronto Archives, B83-00/008.

¹⁵ Grey County, "Grey County Recreational Strategy", November 3, 2009.

County authorities brought 18,694 acres into the Agreement Forest program, an effort that proved critical to putting catastrophic flooding into the history books.¹⁶

The necessary local leadership in the 12 years it took to blanket Grey County with conservation authorities was created through the impact of flooding. The inundation of Walkerton by flash floods had become an annual event, with boats rescuing residents from drowning. Cellars in the central business district were chronically flooded and factories were forced to close. Rail service was suspended. The driving force in bringing the Conservation Authorities Act to Grey County was the Walkerton civic leader, Irwin Lobsinger.¹⁷

The current forest management plans of the Grey Sauble and Saugeen Conservation Authorities document that remarkable recovery of forest cover in Grey County. They indicate that forest cover in the county now is at fifty per cent - a ten-fold increase to what it was in 1921, when provincial programs of conservation began to have an impact on the region. This increase in forest cover has not only come from extensive government programs, but from extensive re-naturalization of the lands of private owners. One of the factors responsible for this change has been the Grey County Tree By-Law, following the model of Halton Region, encouraged by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The current by-law, passed on November 28, 2008, is based on the standard diameter-limit cutting with an option for landowners to choose good forestry practices that prevent high grading. While agriculture is in decline because of unfavourable topography and site conditions, forestry has become of growing importance to Grey County's economy. Hard maple from Grey County has been found to be of exceptional quality, generally 40 to 80 per cent higher than the remainder of the province. Many sawlogs are graded as veneer quality and are often exported to processing plants in Europe and the United States.¹⁸

The extensive forests owned and managed by Grey County conservation authorities illustrate a remarkable fusion of environmental protection goals and logging for wood products. The forest network is basically divided into three categories, recreational (which are advertised as conservation areas in publications), nature reserves and managed forests. Within the managed-forest designations are extensive areas designated as "Wildlands" in which "minimal property management", such as fire suppression and garbage clean up take place. Such heavily protected areas cover about 30 per cent of managed forest lands, and are intended to evolve to old growth forest conditions.¹⁹

Within Managed Forests, carefully controlled logging is used to enhance wildlife habitat. These goals are well illustrated in the following passage from the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Management Plan. It notes that, "Mast trees and shrubs provide food for wildlife and should be retained. Large trees used by raptors for nesting are found throughout the watershed. Trees with cavities or the potential to become cavity trees are important to nesting birds and mammals. Super-canopy trees, trees that extend far above the canopy of the forest, are important habitat features...Downed woody debris and snags provide habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Large tracts of interior forest provide habitat for significant species such as the red-shouldered hawk, cerulean warbler and American ginseng. Shallow, wet depressions or ponds within forested areas provide critical breeding habitat for reptiles and amphibians. The fractured bedrock landscape of the Niagara Escarpment provides denning sites for large mammals like the Black Bear. Forest management prescriptions will also target areas in need of habitat improvements or restoration."^{20 21}



Reforestation project on the northern part of the Niagara Escarpment. Photo by Ted Jenkins, 1954. Photo provided by Dolf Wynia, St. Williams Forestry Interpretive Center.

The basic logging technique for managed conservation area forests in Grey County is a thinning process beginning with the removal of the fourth row within age ranges of 15 to 40 years. One benefit of improved softwood markets is that virtually all of conservation authority plantations in Grey County have received their first thinning, allowing deciduous trees to establish themselves. Logging prescriptions exceed provincial guidelines for the protection of bird nesting habitats. Not all lands purchased by the Agreement Forest program have been reforested in order to encourage ecosystem diversity. Open areas of former farmlands have become

¹⁶ Edward Borczon, "Evergreen Challenge", (Toronto: Ministry of Natural Resources, 1982), 5-10.

¹⁷ Saugeen Conservation Authority, "Twenty Years of Conservation on the Saugeen Watershed", (Walkerton: Saugeen Conservation Authority, 1970) Lobsinger served as Chairman of the Saugeen Authority for 20 years. He built parks and donated them to the public, and wrote a history of the Greenock Swamp.

¹⁸ Anne Lennox, *Grey Sauble Conservation Forest Management Plan*, (Owen Sound: Grey Sauble Conservation, 2013).

¹⁹ Lennox.

²⁰ Lennox.

²¹ Saugeen Conservation Authority, "Saugeen Conservation Managed Forests, Forest Management Plan, 2005-2025".

remnants of old abandoned fields to provide areas of additional diversity where species of benefit to wildlife such as black cherry are planted. Such properties are regularly evaluated, and in some spaces, additional openings are created.²²

Through the creation of the Grey Bruce Forestry Service, the Saugeen and Grey Sauble conservation authorities have maintained private stewardship efforts comparable to those that existed throughout the province around 1992 before provincial cutbacks to the budget of the Ministry of Natural Resources. (MNR). The service provides tree marking for private landowners. It also distributes trees at the 15 cents per tree on projects of a minimum size of 2.5 acres for reforestation.²³

Much of the success of the provincial programs developed by Zavitz in Grey County are a testament to the dedication of a remarkable person, Mac Kirk, who during his career with the Department of Lands and Forests saw them implemented in the region. Like most government foresters, Kirk was a graduate of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry, (1942). His earlier work as the Zone Forester for the Lindsay office of the Department of Lands and Forests gave him remarkable training for a conservationist career in Grey County that would span the years 1957 until his death on September 27, 2012. His most critical work for a decade was to supervise the ambitious reforestation goals on the Ganaraska Survey, the template for the ecological restoration work of conservation authorities across Ontario. Here the massive public land purchases and reforestation work he supervised on the Oak Ridges Moraine ended the marching drift of deserts and massive flooding and ensured the rehabilitation of the Ganaraska as a salmonid, brook trout fishery.²⁴

When moving to Owen Sound in 1957 to become the Resources Manager for both the North Grey and Sauble Valley conservation authorities from his earlier experience on the Ganaraska, Kirk was well aware of the ecological restoration wonders that the programs and policies developed by Edmund Zavitz could accomplish. He explained to me that impoverished landowners were grateful to sell their land for “pennies” and regretted that with a larger budget his accomplishments could have been much more substantial. His retirement in 1973, while ending his role as a direct purchaser of land for public agencies, saw him continue similar acquisitions for a great number of private organizations. These included the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Nature and the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy.²⁵

Kirk’s retirement in 1973 illustrates the important relationship between land-use planning and other programs in land acquisition and stewardship. He was quite concerned that protected public forests and private nature reserves not be isolated islands of green. At the eve of his retirement, he outraged municipal councillors serving on boards of Grey conservation authorities for being a key informant for a provincial inquiry on the Niagara Escarpment headed by Waterloo University Professor Leonard Gertler. Following his retirement, Kirk became an active member of the Grey Association for Better Planning, concerned with curbing urban sprawl.²⁶

Kirk’s retirement came at an important time for better land-use planning in Grey County, since there was fierce resistance to land-use planning controls for the Niagara Escarpment. Opposition to Escarpment protection resulted in a mass demonstration of predominately Grey County landowners at a racetrack in Orangeville in 1977, resulting in a two-thirds reduction in the planning area of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. (NEC). This action resulted in the formation of the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), whose first executive director was a Grey County resident, Robert Leverty. Mel Swart, an Ontario legislator from the Niagara region, played a major role in the founding of CONE in 1977. Later in 1985, Swart helped secure the passage of the Niagara Escarpment Plan in the final days of the cabinet of Premier Frank Miller. Strict planning controls protecting remaining forested lands in the plan area in Grey County were achieved with the passage of the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Critical to this success was the defeat of a proposed resort comparable to a small town, the Epping Commons, through designation of the lands in the plan as “Escarpment Natural”.²⁷

The transformation of Grey County under the forest conservation and afforestation policies of the Ontario government is as dramatic as that of the template for Ontario’s conservation authorities, the much smaller Ganaraska watershed. In both as in the rest of Ontario, flooding and desertification have gone into the history books. What makes however, both fairly unique in southern Ontario outside of the Canadian Shield is that forest cover has increased fivefold, to fifty per cent. While in the smaller Ganaraska this has primarily resulted in the creation of recreational forests, in Grey County forestry for wood products has also become an important economic force.

²² Lennox.

²³ Grey Bruce Forestry Service, Saugeen Conservation Authority, <http://www.saugeenconservation.com/forestry.php?page=greybruceforestry>, accessed October 22, 2014.

²⁴ Ross McLean, “In Memoriam: A Tribute to Malcolm (Mac) Kirk, in “The Professional Forester, December 2012.

²⁵ McLean, Personal communication with Mac Kirk.

²⁶ McLean.

²⁷ Mel Swart Papers, Public Archives of Ontario, File Epping Commons. Personal communication from Robert Leverty, Executive Director, Ontario Historical Society.

Bruce County

The restoration of forest cover in Bruce County followed a similar pattern to that of Grey County. The Agreement Forest program played an important early role followed by efforts of various non-governmental, environment organizations. Mac Kirk, a forester with the local conservation authorities, played an important role in acquiring forest lands in Bruce County.

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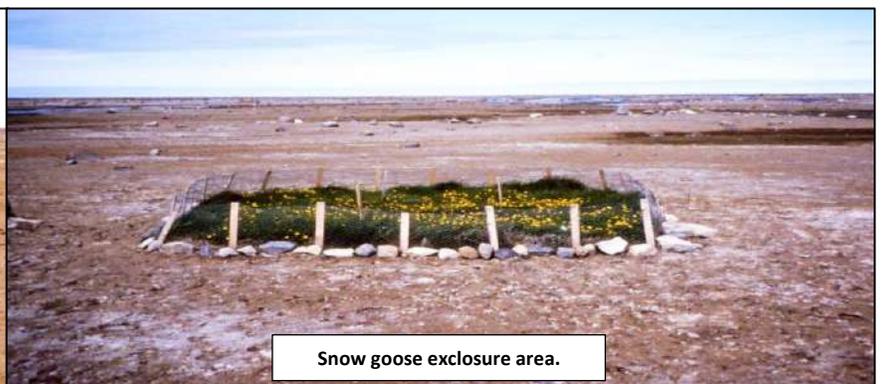
Ontario's Lesser Snow Goose - An Ever-Changing Story

By Erling Armson

We often get lulled into believing that nature has a timeless rhythm that is consistent, and can always be counted on. The traditional April migration across Ontario of high flying Canada Geese on route to their breeding grounds throughout the Hudson and James Bay lowlands is a classic example. This, however, is not the case, especially over extended periods of geological times, or even over a generation or so. The following is a brief summary of the changes that have occurred with the Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*) and its habitats continentally and in Ontario.



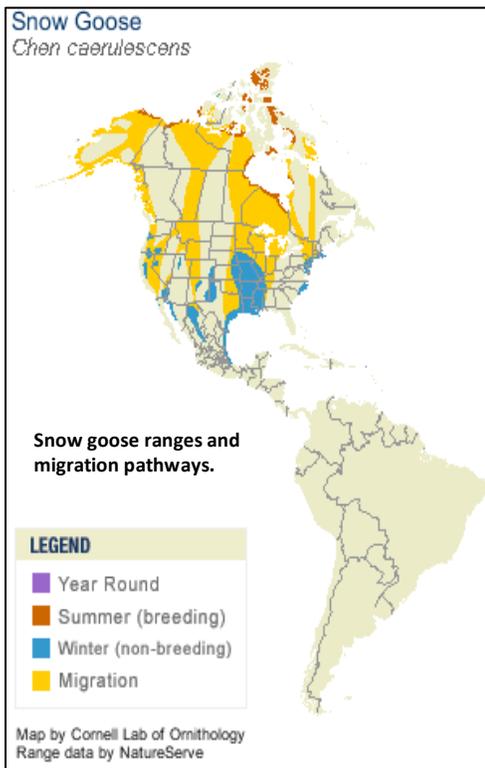
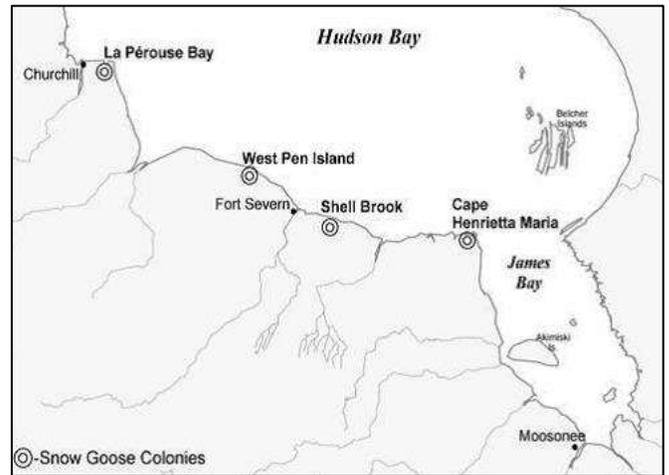
Snow goose "grubbing" site.



Snow goose enclosure area.

In an age where many wildlife populations are declining, Lesser Snow Geese have increased dramatically over the last few decades. This mid-continental population explosion has been the result of agricultural expansion and changed land use practices throughout their migrating and wintering areas in Canada and the United States resulting in increased availability of high-energy foods such as grains, rice released them from their winter carrying capacity restraints that sustained populations at lower levels before agriculture changed the North American landscape. The result for the geese has been increased body condition, survival and fecundity with an increased recruitment of young birds into the breeding population.

While food availability increased in southern agricultural areas, it remained the same on traditional summer breeding grounds in northern latitudes. The influx of increased numbers of geese, concentrated in relatively small areas along the coast, exerts heavy foraging pressure that removes coastal vegetation, disrupts soils and over-fertilizes shallow ponds. The “grubbing” of plant rhizomes by the geese over the years has denuded many parts of the lowland coastal zones of vegetation entirely and regeneration of food plants has still not occurred. These impacts to breeding habitat were first identified in the 1990s, and they continue to be a concern for habitat and migratory bird managers. This loss of native coastal plant species on traditional breeding grounds coupled with other factors such as continual land rising (post glacial rebound), climate change and encroachment of willows and other shrubs on coastal habitats has resulted in a massive change in the coastal habitats of Hudson’s and James Bay over a relatively brief period of time. Ontario has three main breeding colonies along the Hudson and James Bay coasts: (1) the West Pen Island; (2) the Cape Henrietta Maria; and (3) the Akimiski Island colony. Colony size has been tracked since the 1950s. Current estimates for the colonies are approximately 150,000 breeding pairs. Nest/pair densities vary greatly from a few per km² to over 2300 birds per km². The total number of breeding birds grew by 300 per cent from the 1970s to the mid-1990s, concurrent with a continent-wide increase, but has recently stabilized and declined in some areas due to the low food availability now on their breeding grounds.



The Hudson Bay Lowlands historically have been highly important to migrating and staging birds in both spring and fall. Spring migration connected wintering areas in the Missouri and Mississippi River valleys and intermediate staging areas in the northern United States prairies and southern Manitoba to final pre-breeding staging areas on the Hudson Bay and James Bay coasts via a passage across the interior of the boreal region of northwestern Ontario. These patterns held from the 1940s to the early 1990s. On the return journey, large numbers of birds used to stage along the coast of James Bay before making a non-stop migration to the Gulf coast. Since that time, migration of snow geese has shifted westwards due to new and expanded agricultural food resources across the mid-continent, changing coastal habitats along the Hudson Bay coastline and the lack of significant food plant regeneration in areas overgrazed by the large numbers of geese initially. The large numbers of geese that congregated in southern James Bay have all but been extinguished since the early 1990s.

Wildlife managers have tried to implement a variety of strategies to deal with the ever-burgeoning population of snow geese such as increasing the harvest of adult birds, but this has not as yet made any significant impacts on the still record high numbers of Lesser Snow Geese. So increased food resources has meant an explosion in the population of Snow Geese, which, in turn, has degraded their breeding grounds and shifted traditional migratory routes westward.

It seems to me that the only consistent pattern in the world of wildlife, or anything else for that matter, is change!

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Men of the Trees

By John Bacher

Few Canadian environmental organizations have been as effective as the short-lived Ontario Men of the Trees. It was part of an international movement, now ninety years old, launched in 1924 by a former British colonial forester, Richard St. Barbe Baker. It appears never to have been formally incorporated into its British parent, which in 1992 took on the gender-neutral name of the International Trees Foundation. However, in terms of achieving what Baker and his organization are most vividly associated with, turning back marching deserts by planting trees, the Ontario branch of this branch of conservation thinking has been one of the most successful in the world. (Men of the Tree groups also took root other places as well, e.g., Australia).

Although born in Great Britain and raised on the tree nursery of his father, John, in Hampshire, Baker was lured to Canada in 1909 by the letters of a great-uncle, Richard Baker, about an appealing animal, long extirpated from his homeland, the bear. After arriving in Saskatchewan in 1909 he was appalled by the ruthless clearing of forests, predicting, accurately, that it would trigger a dust bowl. Seeing appalling sin in forest destruction, he decided to study theology at the University of Saskatchewan with a view to becoming an Anglican priest. Here he developed a life-long friendship with the future Prime Minister of Canada, John Diefenbaker. He decided to return to England however, to complete his theological studies – which were interrupted by the First World War. The terrible devastation of the war convinced Baker to become a forester. After receiving a forest diploma from Cambridge, he entered the British colonial service, and was assigned to Kenya.

In Africa, Baker was alerted to the catastrophes caused by the spread of the Sahara desert. He was horrified to learn that communities that were being inundated with sand had decided not to have any more children, in order to spare the unborn a life of starvation. To prevent Kenya from being buried in sand he launched a movement he called Men of the Trees. He assembled the former male warriors of the A-Kikuyu Nation to unite peaceably in a Dance of the Trees. He later recalled how on “that day”, July 22, 1922, “a power was generated with joyfulness that soon brought warring tribes together to vie with each other in planting trees.”¹

Although Baker’s success doubled when he won African trust by blocking with his body a beating intended for a black Kenyan, he found this action made it impossible to advance in the colonial forest service. As a result, in 1924 Baker returned to England, where, with the support of prominent British aristocrats, he was able to launch Men of the Trees as a conservation charity. It was initially focused on tree loss there from urban sprawl.

Baker also believed strongly that involving veterans in tree planting was a way to provide employment for them as well as provide a positive experience to counteract terrible memories of war.

Surprisingly, what gave Men of the Trees its great boost was a violent conflict in Palestine between Jews and Palestinians. In response to this tragic cycle of violence, the British High Commissioner, Sir John Chancellor, brought Baker to Palestine on a difficult mission to get both sides co-operating by planting forests to stop the sands that threatened to bury the region. Working with Christian, Muslim, Bahai, and Jewish leaders, Baker was able to quell the violence by planting forests between Bethlehem and Jerusalem to stop the desert. Recently, I was able to see one such coniferous afforestation project, which continued to be administered by Jordan after the Mandate ended in 1948.^{2,3}

By 1934, Palestine’s tragic civil war had at least momentarily been stopped by Baker’s forestry work. Baker’s success caused Viscount Sir Edward Allenby, who had led the defeat the armies of the Ottoman Empire in Palestine during World War I, to give a speech praising Men of the Trees for bringing Jews and Arabs together through the conservation of nature. This speech was heard by a visitor to London from Ontario, F.E. Robson⁴, who was strongly impressed by the message. He resolved to create a Men of the Trees group in Ontario when he returned to Toronto, which he did in 1934.⁵

¹ St. Barbe Baker, “Remembers Men of the Trees”.

² A.S.L. Barnes, “The Men of the Trees”, *Forestry Chronicle* 13 (2)(1937):371-374.

³ Personal visit by the Author to Israel-Palestine, November 2014.

⁴ F.E. Robson was a Toronto businessperson, associated with Ridpaths: Gail Crawford, *A Fine Line: Studio Crafts in Ontario from 1930 to the Present*, (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1998), 184.

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4l6V1PBHhyUC&pg=PA184&lpg=PA184&dq=robson+%22men+of+the+trees%22&source=bl&ots=kQ1KfsVYIP&sig=Xz2SOpTJy9zro-7gjQUS6y9d8tM&hl=en&sa=X&ei=quCYVPzjLcuMyATA74CQAw&ved=0CCMQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=robson%20%22men%20of%20the%20trees%22&f=false>, (accessed December 22, 2014).

⁵ Barnes, “The Men of the Trees”; Barnes collection of Baker’s writings and the publications of Men of the Tree can be found in the home of Anne and Dolf Wynia.

Robson decided to create Men of the Trees at an important time when government policies federally and in most provinces in Canada were reversing conservationist policies of the past. At the federal level the transfer of Crown lands to the western provinces led to much of the boreal forest being invaded by refugees of the prairie dust bowl, who frequently burnt it down to establish farms. These activities led to the suicide of the chief of the Canadian Forest Service, William Finlayson.⁶

In Ontario, the newly elected government of Mitchell Hepburn, heavily influenced by a lumberman foe of conservationist forestry, Frederick Noad, had unleashed a massive firing of professional foresters. One of these foresters was Alf Barnes, who at the time was heavily involved in reforesting the desertified sand wastes of Camp Borden in Simcoe County. Barnes, like other foresters on Noad's list, was fired by local political hatchet men in the Liberal Party.⁷

Robson was helped in his mission by the retirement of the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario, Sir William Mulock. Although in his nineties, Mulock was in excellent health and now had a lot of time on his hands to devote to his new position as the Honorary President of Men of the Trees. In essence, he assumed responsibility for the new organization across the province, while Robson served as President of its Toronto chapter.⁸ Several chapters were established across Ontario – I have learned about several of them through my travels across Ontario and my research on reforestation.

Mulock was well connected. He was a major force in the University of Toronto, where during his time with Men of the Trees, he served as Chancellor, which put him in touch with John Irwin. Irwin, who served as the Faculty of Forestry's representative on the University of Toronto Senate, was one of the most vocal critics of Hepburn's attacks on foresters.

Mulock was the former publisher of the *Toronto Star*, which gave excellent press coverage to the activities of both Men of the Trees and an allied group founded at the same time, The Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association (OCRA). He was one of the closest friends of the former Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Wilfred Laurier, who shared his conservationist passions. Serving as Minister of Labour of Laurier's cabinet, Mulock brought into public service, William Lyon Mackenzie King, who was now Prime Minister.⁹

Although Mulock remained a close friend of the Prime Minister, he was disgusted with the effect his policies and those of his Liberal allies in Ontario were having on Ontario forests. Essentially these policies were reversed by Men of the Trees, by the same sort of means that Baker had used in Great Britain after his defiance of the racist norms of the periods that caused him to be isolated and marginalized. The critical figure in the success of Men of the Trees was one of the 14 foresters fired through Noad's machinations, Alf Barnes.

After being fired in the middle of planting trees in the blow sands of the Angus plains, Barnes spent much of his time at Men of the Trees Ontario headquarters. It was established in the Ontario building at 169 Yonge Street. As Baker assembled aristocrats in support of forest conservation, Barnes brought together a similar network of prominent luminaries, who served as Patrons. One patron was Jessie Dunlap, a University of Toronto benefactor, who had recently donated land to the university for the David Dunlap Observatory. At this site, with much ceremony, Mulock planted the first tree of an eventual 125-acre forest. This forest was intended to protect the Observatory from light pollution and provide forest cover for the Don watershed. It was seen as the basis of a future University of Toronto Arboretum.¹⁰

Another Men of the Trees patron was a Toronto financier, Sir Henry Pellet, builder of the largest personal home in Canada, Casa Loma. The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Herbert Bruce (a leading Toronto physician and hospital administrator), was also a Patron. Another influential patron was the recently retired President of the University of Toronto, Sir Robert Falconer, a United Church clergyman. The university's Dean of Forestry, C.D. Howe, was also a Patron.¹¹

These influential patrons shared remarkably left-wing, reforming, environmental and social passions. This astonishing paradox is illuminated by the fact that the Lieutenant Governor, who enjoyed the privilege of weekly meetings with Premier Hepburn, was an ardent social reformer. The Honourable Herbert Bruce advocated subsidized rent geared to income housing for Toronto's poor.

⁶ R. Peter Gillis and Thomas R. Roach, *Lost Initiatives*, (New York: Greenwood Press, 1986): 225-235.

⁷ Interview with Barnes' son-in-law, Dolf Wynia.

⁸ Barnes, "The Men of the Trees".

⁹ Anon, "William Mulock", *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Mulock, (accessed December 20, 2014).

¹⁰ The creation of the Observatory forest originally planned as an Arboretum and park, involved close co-operation between Jessie Dunlap, Zavitz, James Herbert White, Sir William Mulock, the university's property administrator, Colonel Arthur Le Plan (from Owen Sound, Le Plan also stimulated reforestation in Grey County). Copy of letter to Edmund Zavitz, June 8 1939 in the J.H. White Papers, University of Toronto Archives, B83-00/008.

¹¹ Barnes, "The Men of the Trees".

Supporters of this cause met in his palatial official residence, Chorley Park. Patrons of Men of the Trees lived in Toronto's castle-like homes, one now demolished, the other, Castle Loma, a museum.¹²

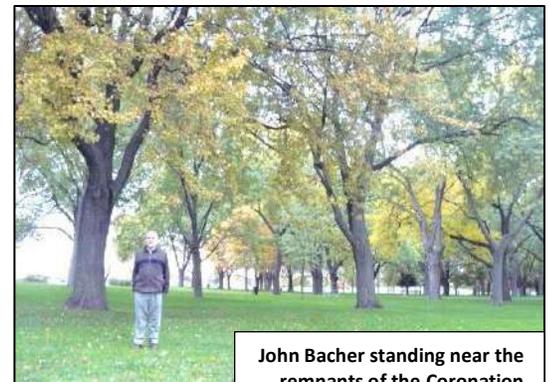
The environment of castles in which some of the supporters of Men of Men of the Trees lived and organized their campaigns for environmental protection and social justice is typical of how Men of the Trees was an organization that thought in terms of major change. Barnes fortified this thinking by the way he organized the Toronto chapter's monthly meetings and associated field trips. While some would be lured to Men of the Trees meetings by the prospect of learning about increasing their residential surroundings with trees, the speakers Barnes brought in would give a very political message. This would be reinforced, moreover, by decades of experience from the inside. One speaker was the first Chief Forester of Ontario, Judson Clark, who left his position in disgust over the opposition to his planned reforms by business boosters from northern Ontario. Another was his successor, Edmund Zavitz, and his long-time assistant, Herbert Arthur Richardson. Men of the Trees also gave a platform to John Irvine, who at the time led the group, Save Ontario's Forests. He was the most vocal public critic of the Hepburn government's opposition to scientific, conservationist forestry.^{13 14}

The messages of the speakers were reinforced by the field trips that Barnes organized for Men of the Trees. These tours were to places like the Midhurst and St. Williams Forestry Stations. Here Men of the Trees members' passions for conservation were stoked by seeing images such as the healthy forests that now were established on former "blow sand" desert wastelands.¹⁵ Barnes was quite explicit in how he wanted Men of the Trees to influence public policy in Canada and Ontario. In the professional journal for foresters, *The Forestry Chronicle*, Barnes wrote that he hoped that Men of the Trees would become "a force", which would ensure that "eventually our legislators will feel that public opinion is solidly behind much needed reforms in forest administration, flood control and highway beautification. Then and only then will legislation be forthcoming to remedy the present deplorable conditions. Such is the vision of the founders and the present officers of the organization."¹⁶

Barnes had an extensive library of Baker's books and Men of the Trees publications. Through reading them he became quite aware of his appreciation of the role of ceremonies such as the Dance of the Trees, in pulling people together to work for reforestation. In these efforts, he was helped by Richardson's deep involvement in the Boy Scouts. A massive tree planting was held at a Boy Scout Jamboree near the Ontario Tree Seed Plant in Angus, in a blow sand affected section of Simcoe County. As an added bit of promotion, Richard St. Barbe Baker took part in this Jamboree planting.¹⁷

The upcoming Coronation of King George VI was viewed by Barnes as a great opportunity to organize tree-planting events, to popularize conservation. He obtained 8,000 acorns and 8,000 oak seedlings from the New Forest in England for Men of the Trees. He did this "with the object of the opportunity provided by the Coronation to endeavour to develop a tree sense in every citizen through the planting of trees." Men of the Trees distributed royal acorns free to children through the schools. They were made available to others for what Barnes termed a "very small service charge only sufficient to cover postage and other incidental expenses."¹⁸

There were small scale Men of the Tree plantings in small towns and cities such as Stratford and Creemore on the May 12, 1937 Coronation Day of King George VI. These were dwarfed however, by the massive planting that took place that day in Toronto's Coronation Park. It came about by the unusual opportunity created by reclamation of land from Lake Ontario on Toronto's waterfront. Robson, in his capacity as Chair of the Toronto chapter of Men of the Trees, made a presentation to Toronto City Council for permission to plant the six acre site with trees in celebration of the upcoming Coronation. A proposal for a war memorial was also put forward by the Toronto Ex-Servicemen's Committee, which was led by Thomas Hobbs and Andrew Gillespie. The Council decided that the two groups should work together in a tree planting to celebrate the Coronation, which would also serve as a veterans' memorial. The council in



John Bacher standing near the remnants of the Coronation Park plantings. Photo courtesy of Les Stewart.

¹² "Report of the Lieutenant-Governor's Committee on Housing Conditions in Toronto", (Toronto: Toronto Board of Control, 1934); Efforts at historical interpretation of both Casa Loma and the ruins of Chorley Park are oblivious to the important role the occupants of these homes played in advocating conservation.

¹³ Barnes, "Men of the Trees".

¹⁴ John C.W. Irwin, "Testimony of the Legislative Committee on the Department of Lands and Forests", *Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario*, Appendix One, 732-39.

¹⁵ Barnes, "Men of the Trees".

¹⁶ Barnes, "Men of the Trees".

¹⁷ Archives of Ontario, Forestry Branch Newspaper Clippings Book, RG 18, 125

¹⁸ Barnes, "Men of the Trees".

response had both groups plan the park together through the formation of a Coronation Park Advisory Committee.^{19 20}

In the centre of the ceremonial planting, an oak was planted in honour of King George VI. It and the rest of the trees, all native Canadian maples, were all donated by the Toronto Chapter of Men of the Trees. Around the oak were seven maples, representing the British Isles, the Commonwealth Dominions of Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, India and the Crown Colonies. Most of the trees in the park were planted in honour of every division and unit in the World War One Canadian Expeditionary Force. Additional trees were planted to honour Canadian nurses, and veterans of the Boer War, the 1885 rebellion and the Fenian Raids of 1866.²¹

Men of the Trees took full advantage of the spectacle of the May 12, 1937, planting, which took place on a public holiday. The keynote speaker was A.S.L. Barnes. He stressed that, "Trees are the most interesting things on earth. Some were 2,000 years old when Christ was on earth." To a group of schoolchildren, Barnes explained that the oak was chosen to represent the King since its deep roots represented, "the depth of the English tradition, English Kings having been crowned in the same way, 1,000 years ago as today."²²



Typical plaque commemorating a Canadian Expeditionary Force unit of the First World War. Photo courtesy of Les Stewart.

The Coronation Park planting representing Men of the Trees just getting their feet wet in terms of mastering ceremonies to shape public opinion. Their great time for this would come during the three day Civic holiday weekend, which ended on August 1, 1938. Some 60,000 veterans marched through the streets of Toronto, cheered on by 250,000 spectators. Prominent politicians, most notably Prime Minister Mackenzie King, viewed the spectacle, which was reinforced by enormous religious services. The climax of these complex festivities was the unveiling of plaques indicating what the various trees in Coronation Park honoured.

While army veterans unveiled most of the plaques, with the exception of the Royal Oak, the master of the ceremonies was the Honorary President of the Men of the Trees, Mulock. He gave the keynote speech. It was based on those present reciting a solemn oath based on service to the nation and the defence of democracy against the extremist threats of communism and dictatorship. The ceremony concluded with a prayer from Archdeacon F.G. Scott, loved by veterans as padre of the Canadian Corps. His prayer and blessing expressed how the park's trees were fitting symbols of the ideals of the Corps since both "reached upward toward heaven."²³

The finale spectacle that Barnes put together took part at an auspicious moment when Hepburn's Minister of the Department of Lands and Forests, Peter Heenan, was being grilled by a legislative committee through the effective and co-ordinated testimony of Zavitz and Irvine. Heenan had been a sponsor of Noad's purges, but this ended when the Premier Hepburn became outraged at lists prepared for additional firings.

In the spring of 1939, Royal support for forest conservation gave it a big boost within the provincial government.²⁴ The Royal blessing on conservation took place on May 22, 1939, when the car carrying King George VI and his consort, Queen Elizabeth, passed slowly down the Avenue of Remembrance that lines Coronation Park. As this procession took place, 125 maples were planted by schoolchildren assisted by veterans of Men of the Trees.²⁵

The dramatic ceremonies of Men of the Trees, their field trips and lectures all reinforced the Field Day spectacles organized by OCRA. All these contributed to a major shift in policy as cabinet ministers and legislators in the Liberal government at Queens Park increasingly joined in and, as a result, received favourable publicity in the *Toronto Star*, and the *Farmer's Advocate*. This shift contributed to the major victory by Men of the Trees when Peter Heenan was replaced by Norman Hipel, who became one of the most dedicated conservationist ministers in charge of forests in Canadian history. An MPP from Waterloo County, he had an experience of the relationship between flooding and deforestation of southwestern Ontario from his service as Mayor of Preston on the Grand River.^{26 27}

¹⁹ John Bacher, "The History of Coronation Park", *Urban History Review*, 19 (3) (February, 1991), 210-17.

²⁰ Further information on the creation of Coronation Park and the nature polices associated with it can be found in an online article by Becker Associates, Gale, A Living Memorial, A History of Coronation Park, Cengage Learning (1991): <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/A+living+memorial%3a+the+history+of+Coronation+Park.-a0150853427>.

²¹ Bacher, "The History of Coronation Park".

²² Bacher, "The History of Coronation Park".

²³ Bacher, "The History of Coronation Park".

²⁴ Richard Lambert, *Renewing Nature's Wealth*, (Toronto: Department of Lands and Forests, 1967). 343-353, 529, 530.

²⁵ Bacher, "The History of Coronation Park".

²⁶ Lambert, *Renewing Nature's Wealth*, 29, 360-70.

Hipel undertook changes that foresters such as Judson Clark had been urging in vain since 1904, such as reducing incentives to farm on the Canadian Shield. One of his most important actions was to push Prime Minister King to provide the basis for federal-provincial co-operation through the Canada Forestry Act. This legislation provided the basis for a massive expansion of the Canadian Forest Service's network of research stations, forest inventory and federal aid to the provinces in forest fire protection. This renewed the warmth of the friendship between King and his old mentor, Mulock. When the Prime Minister helped Mulock celebrate his 101st birthday in 1944 both shared a commitment to the federal government striving to protect Canada's forests.^{28 29}

Hipel's positive relationship with King also helped to foster discussion of the major concerns over forest removal on private lands. The two governments co-operated closely in post-war planning through the James Committee on Post War Reconstruction. Men of the Trees, through their representative C.R. Purcell, took part in the 1941 conservationist Guelph Conference, which selected a committee to meet with the James inquiry. Out of this meeting it was agreed that a pilot watershed study would be undertaken – the resulting report, the Ganaraska Survey, later became the basis for the 1946 Trees Act and the Conservation Authorities Act.³⁰ The happy change that Men of the Trees wrought was seen by Barnes being able to return to work with the provincial government through the creation of the Conservation Authorities Branch. Originally employed as an assistant to Richardson, he would eventually become his heir until retiring in 1970. During this time they developed policies that tripled forest cover in southern Ontario from 9.7 to 25.2 per cent. Their efforts got a boost when John Diefenbaker, who continued to be friends with Richard St. Barbe Baker, boosted abilities of County Forests and Conservation Authorities to restore forests, through the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act (ARDA).^{31 32 33}

After 1946, Men of the Trees focussed their efforts in southwestern Ontario where there was more difficulty in obtaining significant increases in forest cover because of the greater return from agriculture crops on the highly fertile soils of the area. The last achievement of the organization was the creation the W. Leslie Dickson Arboretum in East Zorra, Tavistock, which has 150 labeled trees on a twenty-acre site.³⁴

One of the reasons for the dissolution of Ontario Men of the Trees and its companion in advocacy, OCRA, was the implementation of the conservation authorities program, whose mandate was to conserve forestland, and was carried out on a more secure basis than the Men of the Trees organization could achieve.

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²⁷ "Forestry Branch Newspaper Clippings Book"; Coverage of Men of the Trees and ORCA events in the Toronto Star collected by Zavitz showed growing support for conservation from Liberal caucus members and cabinet ministers, most notably Hepburn's successor as Premier, Gordon Conant. (The conservationist Minister of Lands and Forests, Norman Hipel, served in his cabinet).

²⁸ Gilles and Roach, *Lost Initiatives*; In their overview of efforts to protect Canadian forests before 1950, Gilles and Roach rank Hipel highly as one of the very few politicians in Canada outside Quebec who put much effort into protecting forests.

²⁹ Wikipedia, "Mulock".

³⁰ A.H. Richardson, *A Report on the Ganaraska Watershed*, published jointly by the Dominion and Ontario Governments; Richardson's report laid out the basic framework (afforestation and tree protection by-laws) for protecting and expanding southern Ontario's forest cover that endures today.

³¹ Ken Armson, *Ontario Forests: A Historical Perspective*, (Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2001), 122.

³² Personal communication from Ed Borczon. When Borczon first became employed as a forester in the early 1960s, his immediate task was to secure ARDA funding to expand the Lanark County Forest.

³³ The influence of Barker on Diefenbaker is also seen in the National Capital Commission's use of the Agreement Forests program to expand the Greenbelt, one of the last uses of the program before its abolition by the provincial government in 1998.

³⁴ Personal communication from Dolf Wynia. As Superintendent of the St. Williams Forestry Station, Wynia worked closely with the last Men of the Trees groups in Ontario to provide them seedlings.

Comment

Hello:

I read with interest, your recent edition of *Forestory*. I'm attaching a copy of "Ecological Effects of Forest Fires in the Boreal and Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Forest Regions of Ontario". It's an annotated bibliography that was compiled by the Canadian Forest Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in 2002. You could provide it as a handy reference as a follow-up to your article by Dan Johnston, "The Ecological History of Forest Fires in Ontario".

We also have several printed copies of this report.

Timothy J. Lynham

Forest Fire Research Project Leader | Incendies de forêt chef de projet de recherche

Natural Resources Canada | Ressources naturelles Canada

Canadian Forest Service | Service canadien des forêts

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If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Mark Kuhlberg or Ken Armson at info@ontarioforesthhistory.ca.

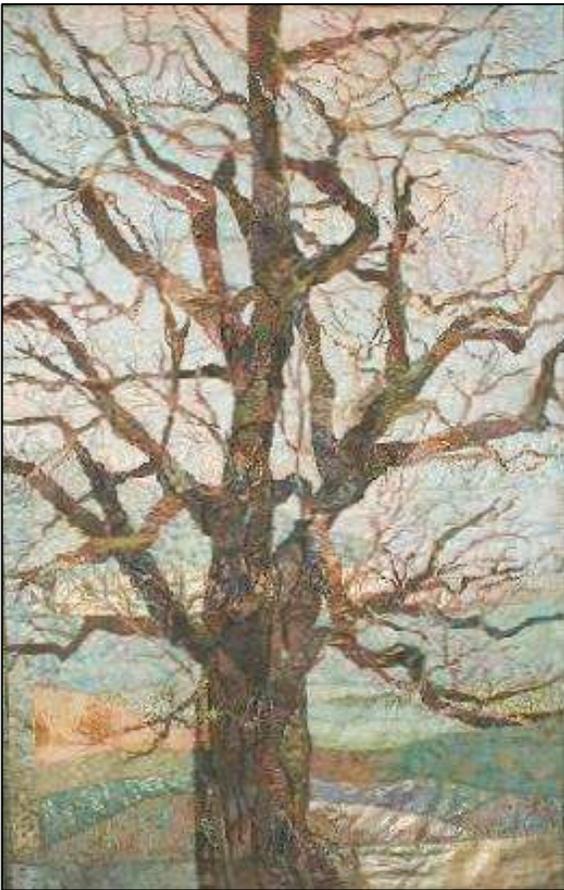
Art in the Park

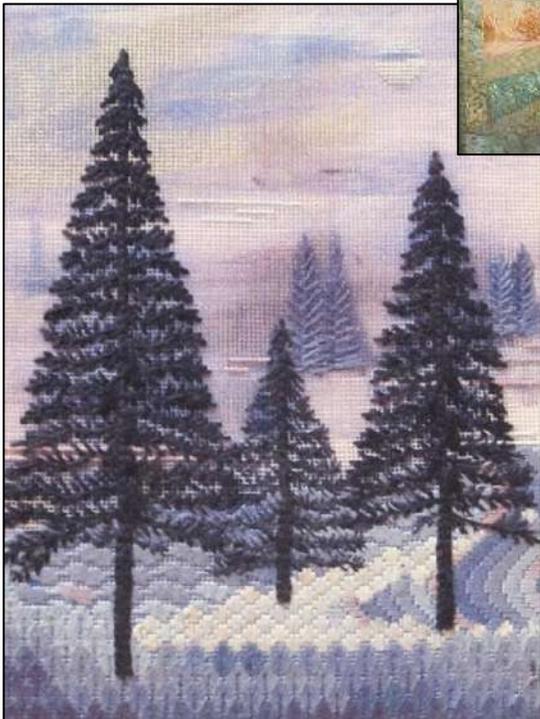
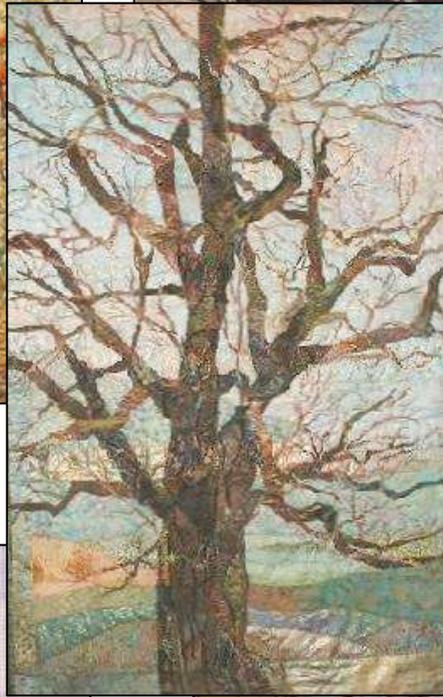
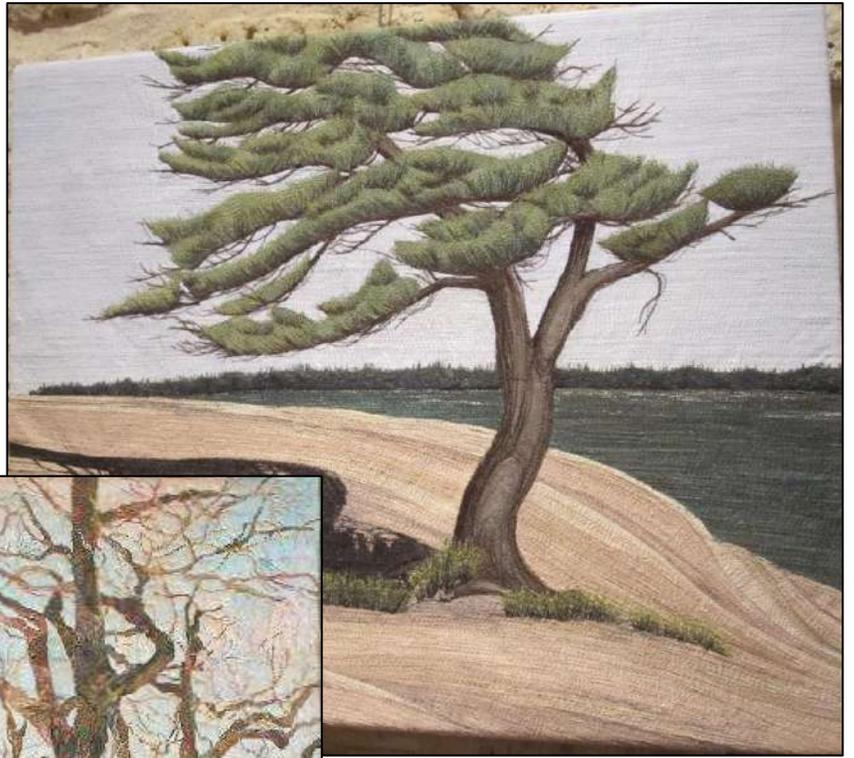
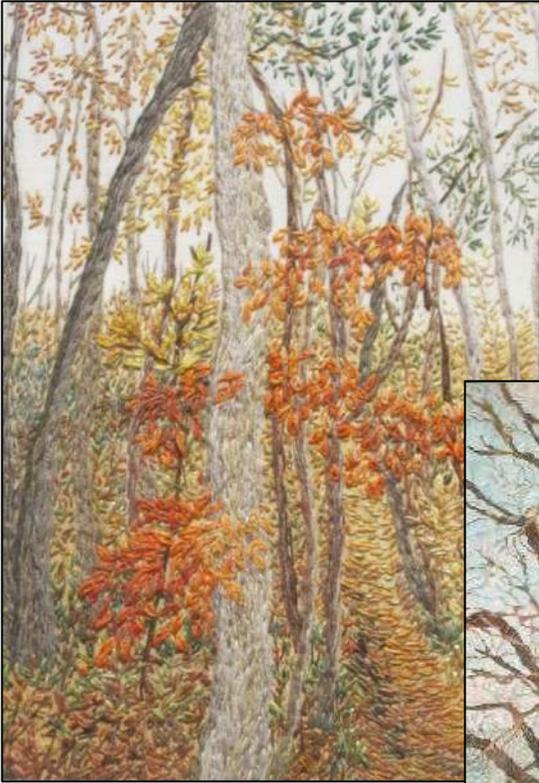
Textiles and Trees

Trees and landscapes form a large part of subjects for artists. We usually think of this type of art subject being created through various forms of painting. Another form of art that lends itself to trees and landscapes is textile art. The Ontario Network of Needleworkers (ONN) hosts a themed, travelling juried textile art exhibit every three years. The theme of the 2010 exhibit was "Trees". From the Quilter's Connection website:

"Trees" will showcase a range of interpretive works of the highest technical and artistic quality. Entries are as varied and spectacular as the techniques and material used to create them; ranging from dramatic wall hangings to small three dimensional sculptures. Each provokes a wide range of interpretations while exploring the theme and taking the viewer on a journey of discovery; from the subtle, to the very personal, humorous or the more serious environmental issues."

Below are some of the pieces that were exhibited. Unfortunately, the information on the artist and title of each piece is not available on the internet.





Species

White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Common Names, Encyclopedia of Life

<http://eol.org/pages/1149366/details>

Paper birch, white birch, canoe birch, silver birch.

Origin of the Name, Birch

A Modern Herbal, Botanical.com

Birch, Common

<http://www.botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/b/bircom43.html>

The name is a very ancient one, probably derived from the Sanskrit bhurga, 'a tree whose bark is used for writing upon.'

Betula papyrifera, Paper Birch

<http://www.rook.org/earl/bwca/nature/trees/betulapap.html>

Kingdom *Plantae*, the Plants

Division *Magnoliophyta*, the Angiosperms (flowering plants)

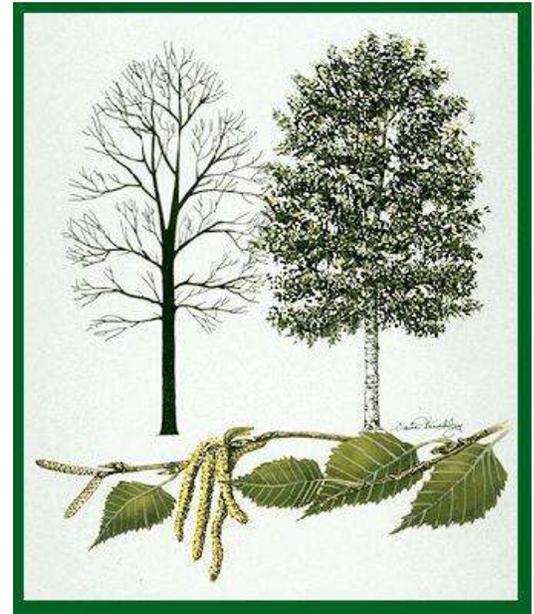
Class *Magnoliopsida*, the Dicotyledons

Subclass *Hamamelididae*

Order *Fagales*

Family *Betulaceae*, the Birches

Genus *Betula*, the Birches



Overview of White Birch Ecology and Management in Ontario

Proceedings for the Ecology and Management of White Birch Workshop

September 21 and 22, 1999, Wawa, Ontario, NEST Workshop Proceedings WP-003, May 2000

Compiled by Han Chen, Alison Luke and Wally Bidwell

<http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/~hchen/papers/white%20birch%20workshop.pdf>

This document provides an overview of the current knowledge of the ecology, management and uses of white birch in Ontario.

Sacred Earth

<http://www.sacredearth.com/ethnobotany/plantprofiles/birch.php>

- Youthful Goddess of love and light
- Bark used as paper
- Tiny winged seeds, which are so light that they may be carried for several hundred miles
- Europeans evoked the image of a beautiful young woman, which they identified with the Goddess Freya or Frigga
- The Celts, who were equally fond of the Birch identified her with the virgin Goddess Bridha or Brigid. Etymologically the name Birch derives from the Sanskrit 'bhura', meaning 'shining tree' which no doubt is an allusion to the striking white bark and bright golden autumn cloak
- Birch provides medicine and nourishment and its bark and wood can be fashioned into a large number of utensils, from birch bark containers, to coverings for the lodges, and even garments and shoes. The sap is rich in nutrients and the inner bark can, if need be, be ground into a flour to make cakes
- The bark is extremely water resistant
- Lightweight canoes as well as all manner of domestic items such as pots for collecting sap, or cribs to carry babies, shoes, lampshades and even toys
- Birch trees also yield a resinous substance called 'Birch tar', which can be extracted from the bark. It is very rich in tannins and is used for curing leather. It can also be used as an insect repellent to ward off mosquitoes and gnats and as a balsamic healing agent for all manner of skin sores including insect bites.
- One should not take more than 2-3 litres at a time and only 'milk' the tree once every two years. The hole must be sealed with special tree wax to protect the tree from bleeding to death
- Native Americans prepared a mushy paste by boiling and pounding the bark so it could be spread on inflammatory skin conditions, ulcers cuts and wounds. This brings down swellings and prevents infection and pus formation. They also extracted an oil by boiling wood and bark which is extremely effective in all kinds of fungal and parasitic skin conditions.
- 'Root beer' made from the twigs and sap

Dr. Christofer's Herbal Legacy

http://www.herballegacy.com/Birch_History.html

- Historically, Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) as well as other species, were possibly the most important trees to many indigenous people across the northern latitudes around the world
- Has a resinous inner bark, which makes it waterproof and resistant to decay
- Shelter - Wigwams, Tee-pees
- Birch trees exist in a 360-degree radius of the Northern Hemisphere of the Earth
- Buckets to carry water, kettles to cook food in as well as food storage containers, baskets, plates, winnowing dishes, funnels, utensils and bowls
- Great firewood as well as torches and tinder.
- Various forms of art such as stencils for beadwork, fans and figures – sometimes by biting patterns
- Horns for calling Moose and other game.
- Immune to Lightning Strikes and was used a Protector
- Wintergreen oil was extracted from the twigs and roots
- Medicine Rattles
- Syrup taken for cramps of the stomach
- Infusion of the inner bark was used as an enema and for treating diseases of the blood.
- Nanabozhoo – created black marks on birch in an angry rage
- Anishinabe believe that Birch is a wise tree and can assist humans to live a humane life.

Anishinaabemdaa

The Legend of the Birch Tree

<http://www.anishinaabemdaa.com/legend-2eng.htm>

This legend tells us that the white birch tree came from a young native man who was killed in battle and then buried on a hill near his home. A beautiful white birch tree grew from his grave the following spring.

American Cancer Society, White Birch

<http://www.cancer.org/treatment/treatmentsandsideeffects/complementaryandalternativemedicine/herbsvitaminsandminerals/white-birch>

One of the chemicals that has been isolated from birch bark is called betulin. Betulinic acid, which is made from betulin, is being studied as a possible cancer treatment. Betulin has also been found in many other plants. Birch bark or white birch (which contains betulinic acid and other compounds) is used on the skin to treat warts, eczema, and other skin conditions. Promoters say that birch tea can be taken internally as a diuretic or a mild sedative and that it can be used as a treatment for rheumatism, gout, and kidney stones. The leaves are sometimes used on the scalp to help with hair loss and dandruff. Birch tar (an oil distilled from birch bark) is used on the skin for skin irritations and parasites. Other claims for birch bark include the treatment of diarrhea, dysentery, and cholera.

NativeTech: Native American Technology and Art

<http://www.nativetech.org/brchbark/index.html>

Describes the native uses of birch bark.

Making a Birchbark Canoe

<http://www.northwestjournal.ca/VIII4.htm>

Traditional Birch Bark Canoes

<http://www.birchbarkcanoe.net/birchbarkcanoes.htm>

Traditional birch bark canoes – types and methods of building

Outaouais Forest History

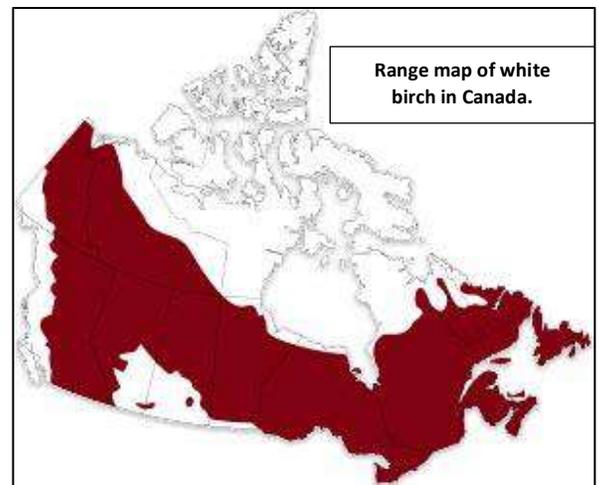
The Fantastic Birch Bark Canoe, Vignette A7

<http://www.histoireforestiereoutaouais.ca/en/a7/>

A Brief History of Shining Tree, Ontario

<http://www.timminsoutdoors.ca/Pages/Gogama/HistShining.html>

The name "shining tree" is a translation of an aboriginal title that referred to the many white birch trees growing on McReae island. The place name Wasakwagama was "the place where the shining, or white, trees reflect on the water".



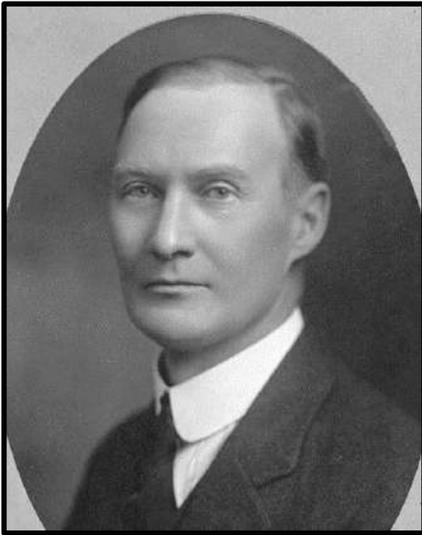
People

James Herbert White – Saviour of Northern Ontario

By John Bacher

A great tribute to James Herbert White can be witnessed in the enduring beauty of the Canadian Shield in northern Ontario and its powerful, surging and clean rivers. While most of the residents of Ontario think of this natural beauty as an artifact from the retreat of glaciation, the landscape is also the heroic legacy of a man who transformed human actions.

The rescue of Southern Ontario by Edmund C. Zavitz from stripped watersheds and spreading deserts is relatively well known. More obscure is the story of James H. White, whose great accomplishment was to stop human-induced forest fires that were burning soils and creating bare rock on the Precambrian shield.



James Herbert White
(University of Toronto Archives.)

White grew up in the village of Snelgrove (now a suburb of Brampton) in Peel County. At that time, according to the provincial government's Royal Commission on Forest Protection, Peel had only seven per cent forest cover. This resulted in frequent flooding to the county seat of Brampton. In this bleak land of what the Royal Commissioners termed dying "scattered clumps of scraggily trees", James Herbert White grew up under the guidance of one of the most eminent botanists of the province. This was his father, James White, who taught elementary school in Peel County for 40 years.

During his distinguished school-teaching career, first at SS No. 1 in Snelgrove in 1877 and then 18 years later at SS No. 10, James White developed a formidable reputation as a botanist. He collected specimens of the entire flora in Peel County and corresponded with botanical authorities throughout Canada and Europe. Plant and insect specimens were exhibited in artistic wood cases of his own design. His wood working skills were quite formidable. James White was also an accomplished musician and he played a violin of his own making.¹

His appreciation of the economic value of wood and the importance of forests as ecosystems was cultivated in his son, James Herbert, one of his four children. The Whites of Snelgrove had no great fortune, with his father starting off teaching in a log cabin one-room school. He followed his father's path teaching elementary school. By 1899, J.H.

White had saved sufficiently to attend Brampton High School. In 1900, he was honoured by receiving the second Edward Blake Scholarship in Mathematics and Science. Afterwards he attended the University of Toronto, graduating in 1904 with a degree in Honours Science, which was followed by a second round of school teaching.²

White was among the first class of forestry students at the University of Toronto when the school was founded in 1907, and, in 1909, became the first student in Canada to obtain a forestry degree. He was a zealous founder of the forestry student club. He already displayed what an obituary tribute by the Department of Lands and Forests would record fifty years later – a passionate support of conservation which grew "with a determination born of deep conviction and understanding."³

White became close friends with one of the faculty, Edmund Zavitz, who, similarly, had been a mature student upon entering university. Zavitz was a part-time instructor in dendrology at the time. Zavitz photographed White in a 1908 faculty trip to Rondeau Park to engage in reforestation work.

Following his forestry degree, White continued in graduate studies, completing his doctorate in 1919. During this time he married Jean Buckham who predeceased him in 1936, after a long, happy



Photo by Edmund Zavitz,
taken in Rondeau Park, 1908.
J.H. White is on the far left
(Archives of Ontario).

¹ Press Clipping, "Jas. White Dies, Noted Botanist", in Clipping Files, University of Toronto Faculty, University of Toronto Archives, Reference A 1973-0026/509, (93).

² Anon, "James Herbert White: Tribute to A Great Expert in Forestry", *Sylvia* 10 (1957): 22.

³ Anon, "James Herbert White" 20.

marriage of 27 years. For a few years during the First World War he served as the acting Superintendent of the St. Williams nursery, and focused on rolling back threatening, sandy deserts. He stepped in when its superintendent, Frank Newman, the first forestry graduate to be employed by the provincial government, was away on wartime service.

The most important work that White did during his graduate school career was to author and do background research for publications by the Canadian government's Commission on Conservation. This organization was the creation of the environmentally minded Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Wilfred Laurier. It was carried out in partnership with provincial governments. Unlike apathetic departments across Canada that ignored his call, the University of Toronto's Forestry Faculty, under the leadership of its Dean, Bernard Fernow, did its utmost to provide the documentation the Prime Minister needed to achieve his desired conservationist reforms. Nobody else in the Faculty put as much into realizing them as the determined James H. White. White undertook an important mission for the Commission of Conservation in 1912. This was to undertake, under the direction of Clyde Leavitt, Chief Forester of the Commission of Conservation and Chief Fire Inspector for the Board of Railway Commissioners, a study of the forests of northern Ontario. This study was undertaken by train travel from Sudbury to Port Arthur on the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), and then northwards on the Algoma Central.

White informed the Commission's forestry committee that his method of research was "to note what could be seen from the train and to stop off at various stations where he sought all possible sources of information." Wherever he got off, he obtained as much information as possible from "Crown timber agents and lumbermen". He was forced to rely on industry insiders since no others in these communities had any reliable knowledge of forest conditions.⁴

All along the CPR mainline from Sudbury to Port Arthur, White recorded evidence of devastation from repeated railway fires. He found that for "the entire distance of 550 miles" all lands had "been burned at one time or another...except the spruce swamps". From careful personal observation as was provided by local contacts at train stops, White found that some burnt areas had "partially recovered by temporary stands of poplar, white birch and jack pine, either pure or in mixture." These burnt out areas showed no signs, however, of the regeneration of valuable White and Red Pine. White found that fire had destroyed half of the area of these valuable lumber species. Along the Algoma line, he discovered "2,000 miles of a desolate wilderness." For much of the north, White surveyed repeated burns by fires that had created a situation where "... there is nothing left but bare rock." Such conditions ran back five to ten miles from rail lines. They also crept "... in streaks between waterways" in a similar fashion.⁵

In formulating reforms for the north, White based his recommendations on the earlier work of the Royal Commission on Forest Protection. As a result of its recommendations, the province had designated certain areas of Crown lands as Forest Reserves. Here agriculture and land sales were prohibited and fire controls instituted. White termed such areas as "a reserve for timber growing."

Except for a narrowly defined area of the Clay Belt and the existing settlements, White urged that all the Crown lands of northern Ontario be designated as Forest Reserves. He saw that the "... agricultural areas within this whole territory are practically negligible, the land being absolute forest soil." He believed the three existing Forest Reserves should be combined and divided into two distinctive regions for forest care. The northern reserve would be for the protection of predominately "spruce and jack pine" forests. A southern one expanding and combining the existing Temagami and Mississauga (also called Algoma) Reserves, would be to ensure the regeneration of White and Red Pine.⁶

White's trip helped Edmund Zavitz meet his greatly expanded challenges after 1911 when he became Chief Forester of Ontario. At the time of his investigations, Zavitz had just been given new responsibilities for ensuring the protection of northern forests from fires sparked by railways. Zavitz's first act was to second Professor J.H. White from the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Toronto as his chief assistant for 30 months.^{7 8} White devoted part of his time to planning the service and building up an efficient organization. White assisted Zavitz in his new duties to impose controls supervised by his Forest Protection Branch. These controls required that federally chartered railways would have the required prevention measures. These measures included having rights of way cleared of logging debris, placing metal nets above steam stacks and wetting coal ash pans. Foresters under Zavitz's supervision would read railway logbooks on a weekly basis and conduct inspections to ensure that regulations were being observed.⁹

⁴ J.H. White, "Memorandum Regarding the Country between Sudbury and Port Arthur", in Clyde Leavitt, *Forest Protection in Canada, 1912*, Commission of Conservation Canada, Committee on Forests, (Toronto: Bryant Press, 1913), 156.

⁵ White, "Memorandum", 156.

⁶ White, "Memorandum", 156.

⁷ Richard Lambert, *Renewing Nature's Wealth*, (Toronto: Department of Lands and Forests, 1967), 213.

⁸ Anon, Obituary, James Herbert White, *Forestry Chronicle* 33(4) (1957): 387-388.

⁹ Edmund Zavitz, *Report of the Forestry Branch, Department of Lands and Forests, 1913-1914*, (Ontario Sessional Papers, 1915), 101.

White summed up aptly the challenge facing northern Ontario. He told the Commission of Conservation that, "If the fire devastation were at once stopped, the future of the region is secured."¹⁰



J.H. White, second from left, back, student, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, 1908. (University of Toronto Archives.)

White saw the ruination of northern soils and forests as an extension of forest destruction he had earlier documented for the Commission of Conservation in its Trent Watershed Survey. While a graduate student, White co-authored the survey with Professor C.D. Howe of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry. Howe, who held a doctorate in Ecology from the University of Chicago, was responsible for documenting the problem of soil loss from repeated burns. The survey documented how, "Fires have swept through it repeatedly, each time causing further deterioration of the forest cover, until, finally, the bare-rock conditions or man-made desert is the result." In the three townships of Methuen, Anstruther and Burleigh alone, it was found that "nearly 150,000 acres of such desert exist."¹¹

While Howe, as an ecologist, had the task of determining how fires were destroying the soil, White took on the task of the impacts of agriculture and related social, economic and environmental impacts. He found erosion from farming as well as forest fires. White documented, through photographs, a

bizarre situation where enough rich grass was growing between barren boulders for livestock to graze successfully. His photos captured also how grass between the boulders would die when the soil between the rocks became too thin.¹²

White had the controversial task of describing how farmers in the Trent canal watershed were put into a poverty trap. He recorded how farmers "in their own language", told him that "this country was never meant to be farmed", and that "they would get out if they could." He recommended that tourism provide a replacement for agriculture, and stressed that it was "undeveloped" throughout the watershed with the exception of the Kawartha Lakes. White stressed that there were "numerous lakes for camping purposes" that were well wooded, "with plenty of fishing, and with a connecting network of streams for canoeing." He viewed the region as a great asset as "an inexpensive recreation ground" for urban citizens "who have but a short vacation in which to tone up."¹³

Eventually the recommendations for the Trent Canal watershed would be implemented in White's lifetime by the provincial government after the passage of the Conservation Authorities Act of 1946. The implementation would be carried out through the reforestation efforts of conservation authorities and county forest systems. It was also boosted by the creation of provincial parks in the region, such as Bon Echo and Serpent Mounds, during the 1950s.¹⁴ [12]

The long enduring fire crisis of northern Ontario postponed action on the Trent Watershed Survey. This can be seen in Zavitz's reports to the Ontario legislature in his capacity as director of the Forest Protection Branch. While Zavitz had a passion for the south's broken forests, he understood that the fire crisis of the north required a massive effort to terminate. While Zavitz's name appeared on the annual reports of the Forest Protection Branch, and later Department of Forests, in matters regarding northern Ontario, they were heavily shaped by White's sense of the challenges in fire protection.

Zavitz and White were very close^{15 16} and Zavitz deferred to White's deeper knowledge of northern Ontario, which was shaped by White's work with the Commission of Conservation. It was subsequently further honed by White's 30-month secondment to the government establishing an administrative structure for the Forest Protection Branch.

¹⁰ White, "Memorandum" 159.

¹¹ Bernard Fernow, "Introductory Discussion to Trent Watershed Survey", in C.D. Howe and J.H. White, *Trent Watershed Survey*, (Toronto: Bryant Press, 1913), 4.

¹² Howe and White, *Trent Watershed Survey*, 94.

¹³ Howe and White, *Trent Watershed Survey*, 101.

¹⁴ Shortly after the Trent survey was published, White, Fernow and Howe did stir interest in Hastings County in acquiring bare rock wasteland for reforestation. Outrage, however, over White's linkage of poverty and soil erosion, caused Hastings Council to change its mind. The later realization of the value of White's recommended reforms is revealed when, after the adoption of the Conservation Authorities Act of 1946, these 809 hectares of rocky wastelands were acquired by the Moira Conservation Authority. Ontario Department of Planning and Development, *Moira Conservation Report*, (Toronto: Ontario Department of Planning and Development, 1965), 71.

¹⁵ Harry Barrett, *They Had A Dream: A History of the St. Williams Forestry Station*, (Port Rowan: South Walsingham Heritage Association, 2000), 108.

¹⁶ Mark Kuhlberg, *One Hundred Rings and Counting: Forestry Education in Toronto and Canada, 1907-2007*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009), 100.

In his 1920-21 report, Zavitz spelled out how rescuing northern Ontario from fire devastation was the province's priority. Influenced by White, he concluded that, "The outstanding feature of forest administration in this Province, as in all Eastern Canada, is an inability to control the losses from forest fires. The undertaking is so large and it's bearing so important that the other phases of administrative work are comparatively minor matters." This same year that this warning was penned, White estimated that the "439,383 acres that had been burned that year" had been "reduced to rock desert." Such soil destruction was the consequence of "repeated burns."¹⁷

What caused Zavitz to call on White to establish a new structure for forest protection in the north was the catastrophic Matheson Fire of July 1916, which burnt out 2,548 square kilometres of land and resulted in 243 deaths. Protests over the incident caused the then Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, Howard Ferguson, to give his Forest Protection Branch, with its staff of professional foresters, responsibility for combatting forest fires. White was given responsibility to establish its regulations and structure on the watershed-based administrative model of the Indian Forest Service. Ferguson authorized White's appointment after Zavitz explained that, "the correspondence is piling up in the Department and the work is practically at a standstill."¹⁸

The mess White had to contend with in the north was shown by the first inspection of provincially chartered railways, which had been exempted from the 1912 forest fire prevention regulations. When White's dedicated team of foresters, largely graduates of the University of Toronto Forestry Faculty, got to inspect 711 previously exempted locomotives, they found that 30 per cent had "defective screens, ash pans, or other appliances."¹⁹

The core of the system that Zavitz created was to have a staff of district foresters supervise a network of forest rangers. The most important task of the rangers was to regulate, during the dry summer months, deliberate burnings of forests by farmers to clear land for crops. There was considerable temptation by farmers to employ fire to clear land during hot and dry periods to remove remaining forested swamps.^{20 21}

The success of the fire control system developed by White, which was improved through the use of aircraft to detect burns, suppress them and to catch offenders of burning restrictions, is shown by the consequence of when areas were removed from its controls. This caused the last two incidents of deaths from the destruction of human settlements by forest fires. Both were caused by the removal of communities from restrictions on clearing land for agriculture through burning. The first disaster was the Haileybury Fire of 1922, which killed 40 people and incinerated the town for which it was named. The last was the Dance Fire of 1936 near Fort Francis, which killed 20 people, and burned 37,231 hectares.²²

During the 1920s when Zavitz was close friends with the two premiers of the period, E.C. Drury and Howard Ferguson, White was at the height of his influence with the provincial government. Following two trips to Europe, he supervised the establishment of forest research activities in Ontario in 1929. In 1925 he authored the book, *Forest Trees of Ontario*. This book, through three editions, remained the standard textbook on native trees in the province into the 1950s.

White was given a task by Zavitz of supervising the afforestation of a blow sand area, which, in 1956, became established as Turkey Point Provincial Park. This project involved the planting of 700,000 trees to stabilize aggressive shifting sands that were preventing natural forest regeneration. After these areas were stabilized, less vulnerable lands seeded naturally to oak and native herbaceous plants such as bird's-foot violet. While removing stumps left over from logging, he was careful to have "healthy specimens of white pine and white oak remain" that survived past devastation. Such actions served to have "clumps or islands of trees for the purpose of natural fertilizer or leaf drop" and served as windbreaks and fire prevention stands. He created an arboretum featuring rare local trees such as the Chinquapin Oak. His management records were so thoroughly kept that they became a template to aid reforestation throughout southern Ontario.²³

Throughout the 1920s White remained Zavitz's source for understanding forest conditions in northern Ontario, a position that was formalized by his being appointed Assistant Provincial Botanist. His growing influence was felt through the 1929 replacement of Forest Reserves with an extended network of Provincial Forests. Aircraft and his fire prevention regulations had made it possible for recreational uses to be encouraged on these lands. The establishment of the Kawartha Forest began to implement the goals of

¹⁷ Zavitz, *Report of the Forestry Branch*, 173.

¹⁸ Memorandum, February 17, 1916, From Deputy Minister of Ontario Department of Lands, Forests and Mines, Alan Grigg to Howard Ferguson, Archives of Ontario, Forestry Branch Correspondence Files, 104-MTL.

¹⁹ Edmund Zavitz, *Recollections*, (Toronto: Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, 1965), 12.

²⁰ Michael Barnes, *Killer in the Bush: The Great Fires of Northeastern Ontario*, (Erin Mills, Boston Mills Press, 1987) 55-63;

²¹ Lambert, *Renewing Nature's Wealth*.

²² Anon, "James Herbert White", 21.

²³ Edmund Zavitz, *Report of the Department of Forests, 1928*, in Ontario Sessional Papers, 1929, 22, 23.

White's Trent Survey, initially by returning to the public domain fraudulent private seizures through mining claims and agricultural sales. The new Wanapitei and Georgian Bay Provincial Forests served to protect valuable areas of Red and White Pine. White stressed how the Provincial Forest Act of 1929 served to provide opportunities to protect these lands by having their management guided by foresters. White also helped spark the first reforestation efforts in northern Ontario, which he termed the "Kirkwood Plains." This area east of Sault Ste. Marie provided "an opportunity for experimental reforestation plots hard to duplicate", since desertification had produced conditions where trees could not regenerate naturally.²⁴

At White's zenith of influence in 1933, he was suddenly and dramatically isolated from the government of Ontario. This isolation was not from any falling out with his old friend Zavitz. It came from his being Zavitz's watchful eye on northern Ontario. While not counted as one of the official victims because of his on-going employment with the University of Toronto, White suffered a fate similar to the firings and early retirements of provincial professional foresters orchestrated by Zavitz's replacement as Deputy Minister of Forests, Frederick Noad. Noad was a hatchet man for the Minister of Lands and Forests, Peter Heenan, who was hostile to the objectives of conservationist forestry. Noad's action followed his meetings with Crown Timber Agents across northern Ontario, many of whom had been appointed by local lumber interests.^{25 26 27}

The Ontario general election of 1933 produced an anti-environmental backlash in northern Ontario. While keeping loyal ridings such as in Eastern Ontario in the south, the governing Conservatives under Ferguson's heir, George Henry, lost every seat in the north. Most significant was the defeat of A.J. Kennedy, a parliamentarian who had worked to enshrine legislatively White's recommendations for protections from forest fires. Noad was from the lumber industry, which held opposite values to the pulp and paper industry. The latter industry was concerned about its longer-term survival because of the heavy capital investment. The lumber industry had earlier clashed with the professional foresters of the Department of Forests.²⁸

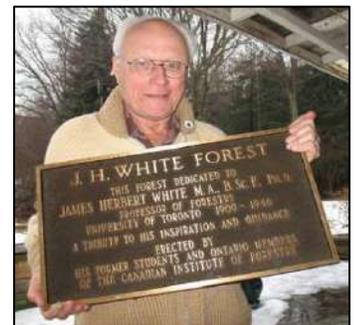
White was a target of hostility for the anti-conservationists of the lumber industry, and was never able again to secure even an unpaid post on any provincial advisory board. Even though he was exiled from the provincial government, he continued to influence forest policy through his connections with large American pulp and paper companies, owned by newspapers. This connection was not surprising since these newspapers, notably the Chicago Tribune and the New York Times were all full of praise for the conservationist policies of the American President, Franklin Roosevelt.

White's influence would be felt through the appreciation for his high ideals of care for the forest and the species and waters that depended upon it by his former students working for the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company based in Kapuskasing. The mill at the time was owned by the New York Times, which purchased its newsprint. Its Woodlands Branch was headed up by G.W. Phipps, then President of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, an organization of professional foresters. Phipps was proud to be able to have 14 university of Toronto graduate foresters working under his direction.

Following White's exile from influence by the Ontario government, Phipps on September 14, 1938, wrote to reassure him that his conservationist concerns endured in the north. He explained to him how, "I have always thought of you as a friend and advisor." Phipps felt that White's "quiet, encouraging words" meant more to him than the praise "of the multitude." This sentiment, he told White, was shared by his employees who had earlier been taught by him at the University of Toronto. Phipps assured White that "after passing through" his instructions, "they have nothing but respect and admiration for you."²⁹

Upon White's retirement in 1946, the company created the James Herbert White Fellowship for forestry students. Spruce Falls also became a leader in conservation, and was a pioneer in northern reforestation and in establishing riparian buffer strips along streams to protect habitat of such cold water sensitive species as brook trout.³⁰

While the lumber industry and northern boosters prevented White from being appointed to advisory boards, they were unable to prevent employees of the Department of Lands and



Dolf Wynia holds plaque re-commemorating the J.H. White Forest in southwestern Ontario. (Simcoe Reformer, March 10, 2011).

²⁴ J.H. White, *Forest Research in Ontario*, University of Toronto Archives, J.H. White Papers, Box 2.

²⁵ Robert Pike, "Hell and High Water", *American Heritage Magazine*, 18(2) (February 1967), 3.

²⁶ Kuhlberg, *One Hundred Rings and Counting*.

²⁷ Lambert, *Renewing Nature's Wealth*, 229, 230, 236, 328.

²⁸ White, *Forest Research in Ontario*.

²⁹ Letter, G.W. Phipps to J.H. White, September 14, 1938, J.H. White Papers, Box 7.

³⁰ G.E. Meyer, "River Shore Reservations for Kapuskasing Brook Trout", *Sylva* 4 (1951): 17.

Forests from honouring him. One of Zavitz's last acts as Chief of the Reforestation Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests in 1949 was to name the 2,000-acre forest he created in Turkey Point in his honour. The plaque and cairn to honour White was placed in a more prominent location by the St. Williams Forestry Interpretation Center in 2011.^{31 32}

In his retirement, J.H. White became the driving force in the University of Toronto's Forestry Alumni Association. He was able to live long enough, until his death on November 14, 1957, to see his plans for the Canadian Shield implemented by government, which included the protection of forest cover and riparian habitat and the discouragement of agriculture on lands more suited to forestry. His impact is seen in the north's thriving forests, rivers and wildlife.

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Henry Tiemann, 1926 – 2014



Henry was born in Hille-Hartum, Westphalia, Germany, and grew up on the family farm. He trained as a forester and emigrated to Canada in 1954. A year later he was joined by Hanna and they married in Ottawa. They moved to Saskatchewan where Henry worked as a forester and developed an early appreciation of the native peoples and their knowledge of the land.

In 1959 they moved to Toronto where Henry began a long career working for the Ministry of Natural Resources. He particularly enjoyed working with farmers to promote the benefits of reforestation.

Obituary and photograph courtesy of the Heritage Funeral Centre, Toronto:

<http://www.heritagefuneralcentre.ca/book-of-memories/1949079/Tiemann-Henry/obituary.php>.

³¹ Barrett, *They Had A Dream*, 108.

³² Anon, "Old Growth, Commemorating Two Forest Pioneers in Ontario", *Forestry Chronicle* 87(1) (2011): 12. The article can be accessed here: http://www.cif-ifc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Commemorating_Two_Forest_Pioneers_in_Ontario_Jan_Feb_2011.pdf (accessed December 17, 2014).

Wheeler's Maple Products

Vernon Wheeler was born and raised in the Lanark area and has spent his whole life in and among the local maple forests. He has been involved in making maple syrup since he was six. It was natural, then, that he and his wife, Judy, would buy their own property and begin a maple syrup production. From modest beginnings in 1978, their operation is now one of the biggest in Canada. It has become a family business that that has expanded to include two museums, a pancake house, a blacksmith's shop, trails and events - all associated with the production of maple syrup.

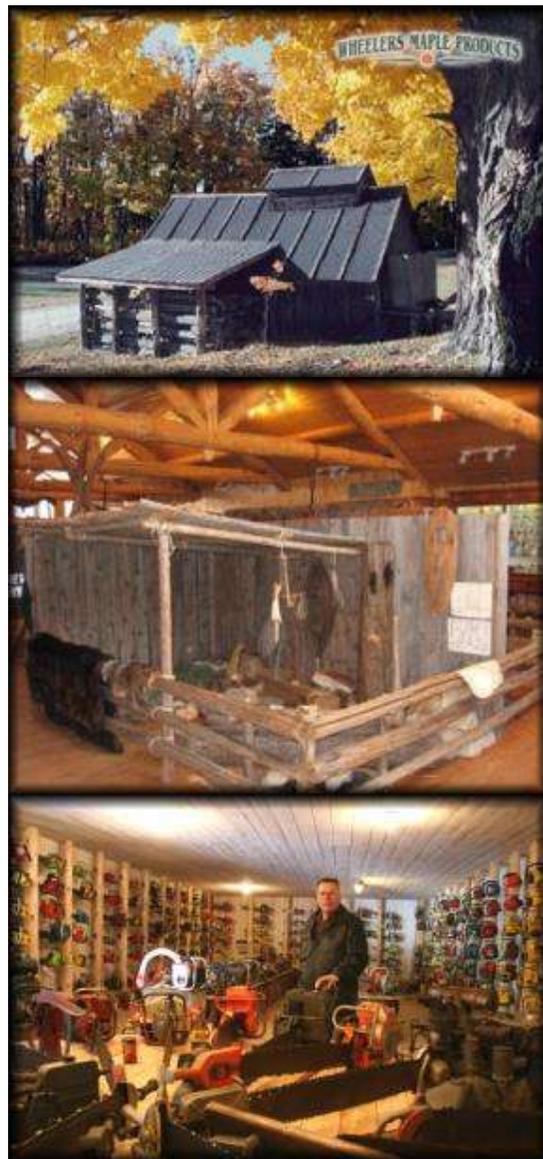
Vernon's father was an auctioneer, so Vernon became familiar with, and was exposed to, historical artifacts related to maple syrup production and logging when he was growing up. His love of the maple syrup business and his knowledge of, and access to, artifacts associated with maple syrup led Vernon to develop a collection of items that is the largest in the world, as acknowledged by the Guinness Book of Records in 2014. The museum contains over 5,000 artifacts associated with maple syrup, including items used by the aboriginal community. Vernon also has amassed a collection of chainsaws - over 700 different models from around the world.

Their maple syrup business and museums have grown into a huge attraction in the Lanark area. The Wheelers now tap over 20,000 maple trees each spring. The site is open every day except Christmas day. School tours are frequent, and individual tours can be arranged. With the internet, they receive exposure to the whole world and get queries and visits from many different countries. Their site was designated as a Culturally Significant Heritage Event in Canada in 2009, and a plaque describing the event has been placed at their location.

More information on maple syrup, how it's made and graded, along with nutritional information and recipes, the museums and other attractions of the site can be found on the Wheeler's Maple Products website at: <http://www.wheelersmaple.com/>.

Photographs

All photographs are from the Wheeler's Maple Products website and are used with permission.



Archives of Ontario

The Archives of Ontario list a number of references to maple syrup in their various databases. The list includes photographic and textual records from the 1800s and 1900s. The archival material represents personal as well as organizational material related to the production of maple syrup. There is no online archival material available at this time. Access to the material is through onsite investigation. Some of the material the Archives holds includes a document titled "The History of Maple Syrup in Lanark County"; a series of photographs taken by John MacFie, a local forest historian from the Parry Sound area, documenting the making of maple syrup on his family's farm; and a series of records from the Maple Syrup Producers Association.

More information on the Archive's holdings and a searchable database can be found here: http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/our_collection.aspx.

The Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario

Editor's Note: The information in this item was obtained from the website of the Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario and through an interview with Albert Martin, a retired farmer, former maple syrup maker and a long-time volunteer at the museum.

The Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario is located in The Mill, St. Jacobs, Ontario. The museum was built by the local maple syrup producers association spearheaded by John and Pat Weber and Brent Dysart. The museum holds artifacts, photographs, a video and displays that describe the local maple syrup industry from aboriginal times to the present. The museum includes a mock-up of a sugar shanty and shows a short video called Liquid "Gold of Spring".

The museum is open Monday to Friday and either Saturday or Sunday depending upon the season.

The museum will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2015.

More information on the museum can be found at these websites:

<http://www.stjacobs.com/exhibits-galleries>

<http://www.stjacobs.com/media-gallery/detail/68/295>

<http://www.attractionscanada.com/Ontario/Waterloo/Maple-Syrup-Museum-of-Ontario-St-Jacobs-ON/default.asp>

Photographs

Photographs were obtained from the websites above and are used with permission.



The Royal Ontario Museum Maple Syrup Exhibit

The Royal Ontario Museum has a small exhibit case in the Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada showing artifacts used in maple syrup production in Ontario. An intern (Jaime Clifton-Ross) wrote a short but informative blog on early maple syrup production techniques and the importance of cultural activities associated with the yearly rite of sugaring. Her blog entry provides links to *Historica Canada*, which hosts a video and more information on aboriginal sap collection.

Ross's blog post can be found here:

<http://www.rom.on.ca/en/blog/celebrate-canada-day-with-maple-syrup>

Photograph – from the website above.



Preservation Activities

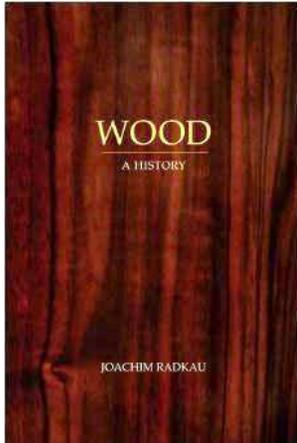
This fall Professor Mark Kuhlberg assisted Andrew Fullerton in donating the archival papers of his father, William Kenneth Fullerton, to the University of Toronto Archives.

Books / Articles / Web Sites or Other Resources

Book Review

By John Bacher

Wood: A History by Joachim Radkau, German edition, 2007, translated into English by Patrick Camiller, 2012, Polity Press, 399 pages.



The book *Wood* by the German environmental historian Joachim Radkau is the most comprehensive account to date of the relationship between humans and their forests. It is appropriate and understanding that such a far-seeing approach should come from a German historian because of Germany's long history of working with forests sustainably. Radkau appreciates what he terms the "Holy Trinity" of forest biodiversity, environmental prosperity and a longer-term shift towards ecological sustainability again light of the perils of human-induced climate change. The author presents impressive chronicles of examples of good, sustainable forestry management from the medieval period to today.

In his appreciation of the holy trinity, Radkau is no maverick, but a voice for a German national consensus. He points out that, "In 2004 a Charter for Wood, supported by a consensus stretching from the timber industry to the Green Party, made the increased use of wood an official goal of central government policy." The country, despite having a dense population of 86.6 million people, has become a major exporter of wood and finished wood products (291).

What makes Radkau's history so important is that he reveals how the German wood miracle, which has helped make a prosperous state and increasingly the economic backbone of Europe, has its roots in the medieval past. In this regards, what is especially instructive is his history of the Shilwald forest, the municipal forest of Zurich, Switzerland.

The Shilwald forest provided much of the inspiration for the reforms of both the creator of the United States National Forest system, Gifford Pinchot, and Edmund Zavitz, the rescuer of Ontario. Zavitz, who studied at the Yale University Forest department that Pinchot endowed, used the Shilwald forest model to develop Ontario's network of County and later municipal forests.

Radkau notes that Zurich's forest history in terms of written records "is far the most extensive available", stretching back "as early the late Middle Ages." In this regards it is illuminating that at the start of what is now a model, managed forest had some rocky beginnings. In 1489 the mayor of Zurich, Hans Waldmann, developed enduring policies for the protection of the forest. While lauded now, in 1489 these regulations caused such upheaval as to result in the mayor's execution. Despite this controversial birth, the regulations, which were typical of the reforms in central Europe associated with centrally governed states, ensured both a "booming trade in wood" and "an affordable supply for its citizens" (110).

The Shilwald forest is now a 12 km² innovative "Pleistocene Park" styled primordial nature reserve (with the Brown Bear, European bison and Przewalski's Horse now being introduced into a forest where logging stopped in 2000). Radkau presents impressive stories of forests in Central Europe that have been managed sustainably since the medieval period. One example is the Westphalia forest of Siegerland. When the system of sustainable management of the forest began to decline with the passing of traditional peasant agriculture "many a nature lover regretted it." The resulting concern from naturalists by the end of such regulated harvest measures, such as coppicing, resulted in the 20th century in the passage of some "of the earliest conservationist laws passed by the North-Rhine Westphalia" government" (110).

Radkau states "forest conservation is successful only when it coincides at least partially with the interests of the people living there and the concepts they have of legal rights" (325). He illustrates this concept using China and Japan as examples. He shows the impact of conscious policies of conservation by describing the vast differences between the health of forests in north China and Japan. He stresses that these differences cannot be understood on the basis of either geographical or superficial cultural reasons, since both regions are mountainous and have cultures with a great respect for wood for such prestige purposes as religious architecture. The big difference he finds is that while Japanese peasants in their ancient forest-respecting ways were able to have some influence of their country's governance, those of China were horribly oppressed and beaten down. The author stresses that local people in Japan who understood their forests did a good job of sustainably managing them. In contrast to the more autocratic and centrally managed forests of China, deforestation was encouraged since, "the forest was the preserve of non-Chinese minorities

... imperial rule expanded by clearing the forest, not by protecting it” (307). He warns that despite an increase in forest cover in China with the collapse of Maoist manias, current success in northern China is precariously based on a situation where afforestation projects have to be “artificially irrigated” (308).

The book *Wood* should be widely read. Its message of the importance of forest conservation in developing a sustainable human civilization is an important part of a broad public discourse on this topic.

Further information on the book can be found at Polity Books:

<http://www.politybooks.com/book.asp?ref=9780745646886>

“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 edition of the journal.

Part III: Wider Responsibilities, 1901 – 1940; Chapter 10 (The Rise of Forestry): During the period 1860 – 1880 there were many voices in Ontario, and North America, complaining about the desecration of forests and the negative effects of this desecration on nature – flooding, soil erosion, loss of nature.

In 1882 the American Forestry Congress, held in Cincinnati and Montreal, gave voice to these concerns. The Congress led to the rise of leadership to focus on forest preservation and the restoration of the benefits of forests, to be achieved primarily through enlightened public opinion.

Shortly after the Ontario delegation returned home, a communications specialist, R.W. Phipps, was hired, Arbor days were declared, and new legislation was enacted, including:

- *Trees Act*, 1883 (not implemented) – encouraging municipalities to plant trees
- *Arbor Day*, 1885 – education the future generation (students) about the value of trees and forests
- Implementation of the *Fire Protection Act* of 1878 in 1885
- *Trees Act* becomes the *Ontario Tree Planting Act* in 1896.

Phipps was a prodigious producer of information for the public. After Phipps passed away, his position eventually was filled by Thomas Southworth, who has been called the father of forest policy in Ontario. While Phipps’ focus was on farm forestry, Southworth was more interested in northern forests (timber lands), especially in the creation of forest reserves, and on better forestry practices (diameter limit cutting and the improvement of forest protection). He supported the formation of the *Royal Commission on Forest Protection in Ontario* in 1897, which led to the development of the *Forest Reserves Act* of 1898, and eventually the creation of several forest reserves across the province. Southworth also wrote the important historical document titled *History of the Crown Timber Regulations from the date of the French Occupation to the year 1899*. In that same year, 1898, the one-clerk forestry department was expanded to become a bureau, with more staff and greater responsibilities.

Bernard Fernow gave a series of lectures on forestry at Queen’s University in 1903, which were as important as the Forestry Congress in setting the stage for future improvements in forest management across the province. His lectures eventually became a publication that formed the basis for forestry education for many years.

In 1904 the first full time professional forester was hired, Judson F. Clark. But due to his aggressive nature he was not able to accomplish much and left his post after two years.

In 1907, a professional Faculty of Forestry was created at the University of Toronto and the first dean was Bernard Fernow. Fernow viewed forestry as a practical business; he fostered close ties with the government, believed in public policy development and took the long-range view of forest management. His graduates were instrumental in promoting the growth of proper forestry through their employment within the government ranks.

Fernow directed the *Trent Watershed Survey* in 1912, a seminal study that formed the basis for reforestation in southern Ontario. He had a close working relationship with J.H. White, one of the professors at the faculty.

E.J. Zavitz eventually was chosen to replace Judson Clark and was given the title of Provincial Forester. His emphasis was on farm forestry and the reforestation of forest wasteland in southern Ontario. He authored an important document in 1908 titled *Report on the Reforestation of Wastelands in Southern Ontario*, which formed the basis for a massive reforestation effort in southern Ontario.

In 1912, Zavitz became the first Provincial Forester in the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines. Zavitz had three areas of focus: fire protection, reforestation and gathering information the forest resources of the province through a dedicated survey program. He was aided in this endeavour by J.H. White, who assumed a 30-month secondment to work with Zavitz, primarily on the creation of a bureaucracy to support the *Forest Fire Protection Act* that became legislation in 1917.

The crop of foresters that graduated in the 1919/1920 year included foresters A.R. Fenwick, J.A. Brodie, F.A. MacDougall and J.F. Sharpe, all of whom had tremendous impacts on the development of the department of forestry and its programs.

The post-war government was supportive of Zavitz's plans, which led to the development of reforestation centres in Simcoe County. At this same time, the government was going through an audit of shady practices by the previous government related to contracts with the lumber industry.

The decade after the First World War led to significant expansion of the reforestation program, the building of the Angus seed plant, the enactment of the *Counties Reforestation Act* (1911), the support of reforestation on private lands and the development to the Kirkwood Forest near Sault Ste Marie. Professional foresters played a significant role in these advances. The survey program led to the publication of the *Forest Resources of Ontario* in 1930, authored by Sharpe and Brodie.

In 1926 forestry became its own department and Zavitz was named Deputy Minister of Forests – forestry had arrived and was on an equal footing with other programs. Further expansion occurred over the next two years with the passing of the *Forestry Act* in 1927 (it allowed the exclusion of land for forestry purposes); the *Provincial Forest Reserves Act* in 1929 (it strengthened the previous act related to forest reserves); and the *Pulpwood Conservation Act* in 1929 (it required companies to supply information to the government and to develop plans for forest sustainability).

The *Forestry Act* of 1927 led to the creation of the Forestry Board to provide recommendations on forest research, although this board made broader recommendations as well. This board disappeared with the onset of the depression in the thirties.

The decade of the thirties was to be a severe test of all that had been accomplished during the past thirty years in forestry in Ontario, but that is another chapter.

Events and News

Events – Past

University of New Brunswick Celebrates Forest History Month

By Ken Armson

The University of New Brunswick (UNB) Archives Department and the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management hosted a reception on June 23, 2014, to celebrate the centennial of one of their most illustrious forestry graduates and the last Dominion Forester of Canada – Donald Angus Macdonald. The guest of honour was his son, Honourable Donald S. Macdonald, who had given the original collection of his father's diaries, correspondence and photos to the UNB Archives, forming the "Donald Angus Macdonald" fonds. Following an introduction by Dean Van Lantz, Donald S. Macdonald spoke about his father, and presented a framed picture of his father as a young forester in the field to the University Archivist, Francesca Holyoke, to add to his father's collection.

The reception concluded with a statement by Ken Armson, the author of the article in the May-June, 2014, issue of the Forestry Chronicle about Donald A. Macdonald, on the importance of conserving Canada's forest history by such archival additions, and a presentation by Francesca Holyoke about the UNB archives.

A short overview of Donald A. Macdonald's career can be found on the website announcing the reception:

<http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/forestry/news/mcdonaldreception.html>.

Here is a link to the abstract of Ken Armson's 2014 article on Donald A. Macdonald:

<http://pubs.cif-ifc.org/doi/abs/10.5558/tfc2014-057>.

Events – Upcoming



Forest History Society of Ontario

Annual General Meeting

February 19, 2015

Details can be found here:

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

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. *Sylva* contains nuggets of forest history that will be selected for each edition of the journal. Several articles on forest resources inventory were published in *Sylva*. The one below provides a general overview of the program to 1954.

The Wild Turkey in Ontario (*Sylva* Vol. 4(6) (1948):3-12)

By C.H.D. Clarke

The wild turkey is a game bird without equal in a world well provided with game birds. He is beautiful as the autumn woods where is hunted, fast on the wing and afoot, wary to a wonderful degree. On the table he has the aroma and flavour that has made turkey the symbol of good cheer since the days of the New England Puritans and their first Thanksgiving. And what a size! A day's bag of lesser game birds could be used as stuffing for one ordinary turkey and some of them would certainly gain flavour in the process.

The original range of the wild turkey was Eastern United States, the forested part of the Mississippi valley and some of the south-west, extending down into Mexico, where the civilized Indians of long ago accomplished its domestication. A stranger with a view of Canada in its modern proportions and some idea of the southern type of forest with which wild turkeys are associated might be surprised to hear them mentioned as Canadian birds, but they were once very decidedly associated with Canada. Before confederation "Canada" meant only Quebec and Ontario. Into the latter, on its southern fringes, intrudes the southern hardwood forest of the United States. Our pioneers, whether Loyalists from the States or immigrants from Britain, settled this area first and the wild turkey became bound up in our pioneer traditions to a degree out of all proportion to the area it inhabited. Later on wealthy travellers visiting Niagara Falls or making an adventurous voyage on Lake Erie were able to get good sport in nearby Canadian territory. Still later, the turkey was more common in Ontario than it was in the adjacent states. That is a special part of our story, but meanwhile, we can see three separate causes whereby the wild turkeys inhabiting a limited area in Ontario were able to establish a reputation for Canada.

The total range included parts of fifteen counties: Essex, Kent, Lambton, Elgin, Norfolk, Haldimand, Welland, Lincoln, Middlesex, Oxford, Brant, Wentworth, Halton, Peel and York. Only in the first eight were they really abundant – an exceedingly limited range.

The province was still young when turkeys started to get scarce. We don't need to look far for a reason. In the States, as far north as Pennsylvania, where they still hang on none too securely, it has been found that it takes over 1,200 acres of range to produce one bird for the game bag. (1) The requirements were surely at least as large in Ontario where winters can be bad for ground feeding game, and as turkeys travel in flocks, the range per bird needs to be multiplied accordingly. Our southern counties were settled early and we find that in 1884 (2) some of them showed the following percentages of land in woods, which would be hardwood forest but not contiguous, Middlesex, 35; Oxford, 17; Brant, 25; Norfolk, 24; Elgin, 30; Lambton, 40; Kent, 37; York, 22½. Turkeys need woods, not necessarily contiguous, but still substantial. The conditions revealed in this survey show too much clearing, even in 1884, to provide a place for them. As a matter of fact their decrease marched with settlement. Gourlay (3) wrote in 1822 that they were "now scarce". King's "Sportsman and Naturalist in Canada" (4) said that "the gradual extermination of this bird proceeds slowly year by year", in 1866. This was merely a measure of the march of settlement and clearing.

In those days, there were temporary natural checks, from which the birds recovered. For instance, in the winter of 1842 they were nearly wiped out by the severe weather (5). Yet in 1874, Forest and Stream records that visiting sportsmen had good hunting (6), and there are excellent later accounts in the same magazine of turkey hunts under real Canadian conditions. December was a favourite month and the weather was sometimes very cold.

In another decade, after Small's survey, the turkeys were gone in most of these counties. This history duplicated that of the wild turkey in the adjoining states. In Minnesota, they were gone by 1871, northern Indiana by 1870, in southern Indiana by 1900, in Michigan by 1886, in Wisconsin by 1872 (7). We may see that the turkeys in most of their range near Ontario were gone before 1890.

There is a certain ghoulish satisfaction in tracing the bones of the last survivor to the ultimate garbage can. We have unable to do so in Ontario and it may be that some reader can help. The famous Edwyn Sandys wrote in 1902 (8), "Thirty years ago one could drive

in almost any direction through the woods of western Ontario and reasonably expect to see either the birds themselves or their tracks crossing the snowy roads. Twenty years ago the range had narrowed to the big woods of the western tongue of Ontario. Ten years ago the last stronghold had dwindled to the wildest parts of about three counties. To-day, there is perhaps a single narrow strip where one might strike a trail and possibly catch a glimpse of a fleeing survivor of the old-time hosts." The last bird recorded from Elgin County was killed in 1889 (9), but it was from a flock and the fate of the others is certain but unrecorded. In December, 1896, Charles Durand saw one in a butcher shop in Toronto (10) that had recently been trapped at Petrolia in Lambton County. In 1900 Game Warden F.C. Quallins reported a flock in Kent, the last that we know of outside of Essex County. He wrote that, "as our timber is becoming depleted very fast, I am afraid the turkey will go".

Essex County was omitted above from the list of counties, giving the amount of forest. The evidence is there in Small's book and it seems unbelievable except that it all ties in with turkeys and other things. Essex County was 66% wooded: for comparison we have Haliburton, 80% and Renfrew, 46%. Anyone knowing Essex now can hardly imagine it, but away from the old Detroit River settlements and the Lake Erie shore, back inland, the big hardwoods were still standing, mostly on poorly drained soils. There the wild turkey was to make its last stand. It happens that I have some intimate links with the Essex County of that day. As a child, I was fascinated by an uncle's description of wild turkeys on a farm near Maidstone in the '80's. On cold mornings they would be scratching at the strawstack, near the barn, plumage iridescent in the first rays of the morning sun, something about their very pose and stride marking them as wild at a glance. As the woodshed door opened they raised their heads higher and higher until they seemed to grow as tall as men and as thin as rails, to take off in a flash, on mighty wings, when the door was thrown open. Across the road was a large unbroken stand of timber, which was doomed and which vanished in the '90's or earlier. There were plenty of turkeys then – they loved the stooks and stubble of fall wheat, even as pheasants and Huns do now, and could do real damage. There were some mighty hunters there, and some notable turkey feasts. My uncle cared little for hunting and looked with amused tolerance at my eagerness for details about turkey hunts, yet he had hunted his turkeys as had everyone, and even had a twenty-two embedded in his anatomy which had actually been fired at a turkey. Our Ontario turkeys lasted well beyond the muzzle-loader days. (9)

The last stronghold of game in the county may well have been the Gesto swamp. There were more than turkeys there. There were plenty of deer, and my father, who was there for a short period in the mid-'90's, heard timber wolves. Axe and saw were already at work and this relic island of wilderness, isolated by hundreds of miles from all other deer, wolves and turkey, was doomed. It was not much of a place for pioneer subsistence farming, but it can produce modern cash crops. The people of the time were not awake to the changes that were taking place and protected the deer and turkeys only at the last minute. It didn't really matter, so far as the turkeys were concerned. A few miles away, in a comparatively small soap manufacturing city called Detroit, a man named Ford was soon to leave no doubt about the nature and extent of changes in the physical world. To-day Essex County is the most thoroughly cleared, combed and scraped land in Canada. Strangely enough the deer have come back. We know now that they will hide out in some places that will not support a cottontail. The old swamp deer went out about 1907. Jack Miner (11) tells us that they fled from the forest and wandered to Lake Erie in that year.

There was still an open season on turkeys in 1910, but we suspect that there might just as well have been an open season on prong-horned antelope. In 1908, it was November 1st to December 1st, and there was probably the same number of turkeys as in 1910. In 1906, the season was longer, but were there any turkeys? In 1902, it was until November 1st, 1905". Now we are getting closer. The barn door was shut then and reopened later, but where was the horse? The birds had had a previous respite at the time when they were vanishing from other counties. Curiously enough, the export of their carcasses was prohibited by the Customs Act in 1883 and this was dropped only recently. We still carry them in our Game and Fisheries Act.

They seem to have been present in 1902 according to Game Warden Quallins' report. In 1904, the Chief Game Warden gave it as his view that there was no longer a wild turkey in the Province. Even that date may not be final, because his chief informant, Warden Charles Quallins, seemed better acquainted with the Leamington area than with the Essex woods. Their presence in the latter was noted from year to year, but we are not given the last date. Warden Quallins left the service in 1902 and in the absence of his accustomed source of information, the Chief Game Warden might have been a year or two out in dating the end of the Wild turkey.

In the declining years of the horse and buggy era there were still in Essex County nice wild patches where the "wild banana" (pawpaw) grew in profusion, and from mock orange hedges and snake-rail fences an abundance of bob-white quail could be heard. That is another story which will need more space for the telling than that of the turkey, but there were at the same time woods where a surviving gobbler could have hidden for a year or two. To-day one sees a generation, many of whose fathers never heard of a wild turkey, grooming every last inch of the rich soil. Bring it back? It would be just as reasonable to reintroduce the bison to the prairie wheat belt. In future, when their requirements will be better understood, we may be able to keep a minimum population,

say a pair or two, in some place like Rondeau, just to be able to say we have them in Ontario, without hope of increase. So far as the hunting goes we have long since eaten the cake, and very nourishing cake it was.

Some of our ornithological writers have suggested that our Ontario turkeys gradually became extinct by mingling with the domestic flocks. So far as I know there is only a small element of truth in this theory. Domestic turkeys nested away in the woods and there were certainly crosses. Crosses were even more frequently claimed by farmers, who knew the superior eating qualities of the wild birds, but this was probably largely wishful thinking except in the cases where wild turkey nests were robbed by them. One of the interesting discoveries of recent years in wildlife management is that wildness is a heritable factor in turkeys governed by endocrine glands rather than plumage. (12) Farm raised "wild" turkeys are no good for re-stocking because they are not wild and the young of bush-raised crosses are likely to be either wild or tame. Farm flocks may be culled until in plumage they duplicate the native bird perfectly, but they still are not wild. Further, wild-caught birds or those hatched from wild nests are exceedingly hard to rear. The few that do survive become little better for stocking than the old game farming strains. It may be possible, with great difficulty, to get a wild strain started from such stock, but introduction into occupied wild turkey range is inadvisable. Such facts about turkeys interest us here only to the extent that they are also true of other species still with us, but they strengthen the view, against which there are no substantial facts outstanding, that our wild turkeys were never anything else but wild. When the last one was shot the essential element was one, and if there was any linkage between a tendency to wildness and native blood the chances of survival of the latter were correspondingly diminished. This is given more credence by one very definite early statement dealing with Ontario wild turkeys (13) that they were difficult to tame even when taken from the nest or reared from eggs. In spite of the manner in which tame turkeys roamed the bush, there was no confusion between them and the wild birds to anyone who knew them. I have asked the turkey hunting generation how they were told apart and felt the scorn in their answer. There was never any question about a wild turkey. He who asked had never seen one. Wild and tame turkeys are the same species, but the tame birds lack the power to go wild and it cannot be bred back into them. Wild turkeys can be produced only by wild turkeys.

It is as clear as crystal then that our wild turkeys were part and parcel of our southern hardwood forests. In spite of market hunting and long seasons, and the high value set on them, they stayed with us. The curtain came down simultaneously on turkey and forest. The last bird may have been shot, but if he was, it was the axe and not the gun that made him the last.

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