



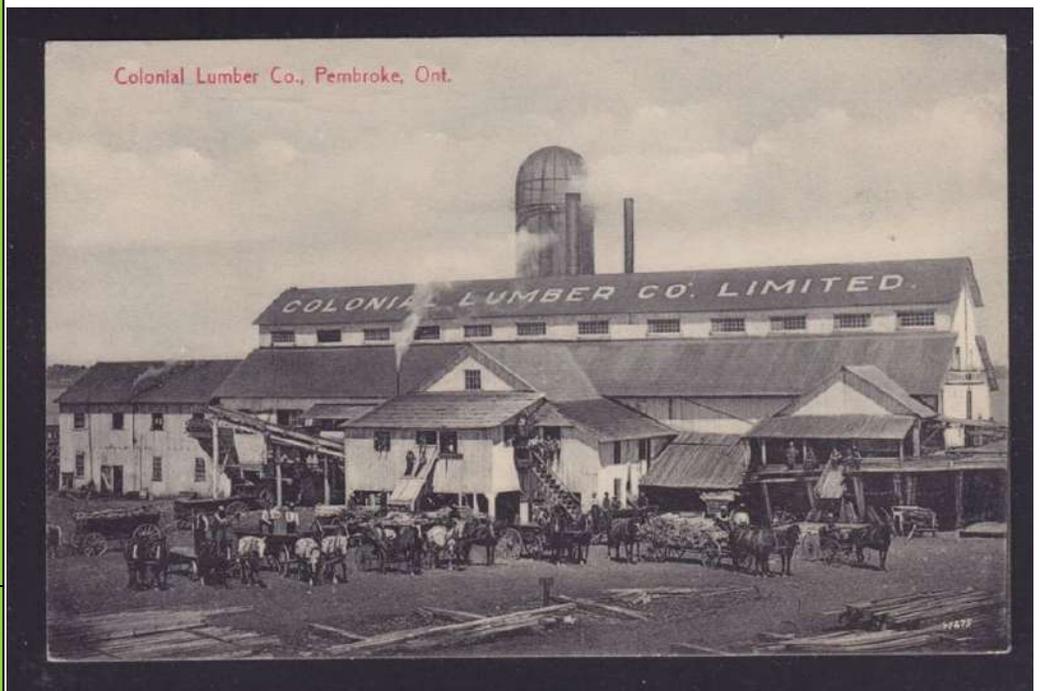
# Forestory

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## Sawmills, Part 2 and Forest Protection



Era postcard.

### ***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 Caroline Mach, R.P.F. at [carolinemach@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinemach@hotmail.com). Deadlines are April 1 and October 1.

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# ***Request for Content***

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

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

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## ***Chair's Message: Winter Left on a Sunday, and It Overstayed Its Welcome!***

**By: Mark Kuhlberg**

Well, winter has finally left us and we are enjoying the warmth of another spring. This year the snow and ice seemed to have stayed with us for much longer than usual. Here in Sudbury, our lakes still have an ice cover and snow remains on the ground in some well shaded areas, and the maple sap seemed to wait forever before flowing through our spiles. Nevertheless, the buds are starting to open, ever so slowly, and the bears are starting to roam in the bush behind our house. It won't be long now until some of us are lamenting the heat!

The Forest History Society of Ontario (FHSO) has undergone a few changes over the last half year or so. For starters, we are so grateful that Caroline Mach agreed to be the new editor of our journal, *Forestory*. Caroline brings a wealth of experience to the job, and we are so thankful that she has taken on this role with our organization. In addition, two of our members, Fraser Dunn and Jim Farrell, have launched an initiative to strengthen our organization and take its activities to a new level. They call it "Growing Forward", and its over-arching goal is to put the FHSO on a much more stable and sustainable footing. Fingers crossed that it succeeds!

Some things remain the same at the FHSO, and that is a good thing. We continue to facilitate the donation of archival collections to appropriate repositories. This spring has seen the families of two icons in Ontario's forest history, Benjamin F. Avery and Jim Austin, donate their surviving artifacts and documents. Because both Avery and Austin operated in northeastern Ontario, and Avery was crucial to establishing Laurentian University in Sudbury, this institution's archives has agreed to accept these collections and the paperwork for making this transfer official is almost completed. Thanks to the Avery and Austin families for their willingness to help preserve a few more important pieces of our province's illustrious forest history. Several members of the FHSO's board – Ken Armson, Dave Lemkay and I – represented our organization on a recent conference call of the Network of Canadian Forest History societies. It is a semi-regular meeting that the Canadian Forest Service convenes, and the electronic get-together creates a forum in which the four provincial associations can discuss their activities and share ideas for promoting their work. Caroline Mach has also been representing the FHSO in discussions surrounding the closing of the Angus Seed Plant and the dispersal of its archival materials, and I have been involved in similar activities involving a large cache of historical materials at the old Fort William cold storage facility in Thunder Bay.

We will keep you informed and updated on any new developments involving the FHSO, and as always, we thank you for your continued support. Here's wishing you a wonderful spring and summer, and we look forward to reconnecting in the next edition of *Forestory*. Please consider contributing an article to it!

## Editor's Message

by: **Caroline Mach, R.P.F.**

To start off with, I apologize that this edition is tardy - at the start, getting articles was a bit of struggle and then it was May - I am sure that many of you in the forestry business can relate to how busy May is and this year has been worse than most - I think because April was still winter! We literally went from fresh snow on the ground to 26°C in two days at the end of April.

Thanks to Stephanie Prince, articles from *Forestry* will be periodically reprinted in the Forests Ontario newsletter - this will bring more exposure to the FHSO and hopefully expand membership. As many of you know, I am also the Editor of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association newsletter, so I am hoping that we can get more exposure for the FHSO through that avenue as well.

Deadlines for *Forestry* are **April 1 and October 1**; please send submissions to [carolinemach@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinemach@hotmail.com).

**Check This Out on [www.ontarioforesthistor.ca](http://www.ontarioforesthistor.ca)**

### **A Brief Recent History of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**

Ontario and Canada are marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation this year (2017). The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is taking part in this celebration by highlighting its proud tradition of conserving Ontario's natural resources, and helping to build the province and the country.

As part of this anniversary celebration, the Ministry commissioned Laurentian University to produce a series of articles that describes the scope of the Ministry's work over the past 50 years. Under the direction of Professor Mark Kuhlberg, several post-graduate students have written the articles. The articles were reviewed by both current and former MNRF staff. They provide an interesting and informative overview of the wide range of activities undertaken by the Ministry over the past fifty years.

These articles build on the history of government management of Ontario Crown lands and forests as documented in the centennial of Canada publication commissioned by John Robarts, Premier of Ontario, in 1967, titled *Renewing Nature's Wealth*.

To find the articles, go to Resources—MNRF History at [www.ontarioforesthistor.ca](http://www.ontarioforesthistor.ca).

# Events



## John Macfie Receives Honorary FHSO Membership

At the FHSO AGM in February, the FHSO recognized John Macfie with an honorary membership.

Mark Kulhberg's remarks on the occasion: "For those of you who don't know John Macfie and for those who do, please allow me to tell you a little about the man. John is one of Parry Sound's favourite sons...the other being Bobby Orr.

John A. Macfie was born on a farm in Sunny Slope, near Dunchurch, Ontario, and combined his love of the outdoors with his successful career in the Department of Lands and Forests (L&F). He retired from L&F in 1981. John was involved in the implementation of several Wildlife strategies. His efforts are still reflected in Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry practices some 40 years later.

A decade spent in Northern Ontario in the 1950s working with L&F saw John photographing and writing about his experiences with the First Nations communities that he worked with. Fourteen hundred photographs, taken during this time before great change came to the North, now reside in the Archives of Ontario.

This interest in history also led John to spend 30 years recording the oral histories of pioneers and loggers in the Parry Sound District. Hundreds of audio tapes provided the source material for approximately 1000 newspaper columns, published in the Parry Sound *North Star* and 13 books on the history of Parry Sound.

At Ken Armson's request John's first contribution to *Forestry* was an article titled "*Dam It! So That's How Loggers Drove Those Creeks*" which appeared in the Fall 2010 edition. As a point of interest, John's first article also appears in our current edition. To quote John... "*I wrote the story in the Fall 2017 issue that was copied from "Silva" about Ontario's farthest north sawmill, but was too modest to give myself the byline. Alex Cringan, the district biologist, was signing the mail the day it was submitted to Queen's Park, thus his name appeared as author. A great blow considering it was my first published piece, but I overcame the grief and carried on writing*".

It is for these reasons and many others that we feel John is very deserving of this recognition.

Unfortunately, John could not be present to accept the honour. Garry Paget accepted it on his behalf: "It is, indeed, a pleasure to accept this recognition on John's behalf. It is unfortunate that John is not able to be here this afternoon to say "Hi" and to accept it in person.

Those were nice words, but it would be nearer the truth to say "John, speaking from the lofty perch of age 93,

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confesses that his principal motivation was an urge to be satisfied at the end of each day...that he'd gone a little farther or tried a little harder than he was paid for."

"You see, I was grateful to have the job."



Garry Paget (left) accepting the award on behalf of John Macfie from FHSO Chair Mark Kuhlberg (right).



"The mounted certificate has arrived. My thanks to you [Garry Paget] and Ken [Armson]. I've just located a prominent place to hang it." John Macfie with his FHSO award. Photo credit: Jessie Langford, Parry Sound.

## ***It Took Sleighs of Several Sorts to Harvest the Original Crop of Pine***

**by: John Macfie**

*The following column has been reprinted with the gracious permission of John Macfie, originally published in the Parry Sound North Star under John's byline.*

*John is widely known as one of Parry Sound's favourite sons...the other being Bobby Orr. Most articles do not "tell it like it really was" but John's do. A prolific aggregator of local history and documenter of the same, John Macfie is a wealth of knowledge regarding the history of the District of Parry Sound, including the lumber industry. We thank John for sharing these columns.*



**A light 'cadge sleigh' like this made regular runs 'out front' for supplies. A wider hay rack was easily substituted for this box rack. The men are Donald Campbell Jr. (left) and his father, Donald Sr. Also prominent in the background is the aftermath of recent pine logging. Photo courtesy of Duncan Campbell.**

In the heyday of the logging industry, everything that needed moving in the winter woods did so on runners. Several kinds of sleigh, each having a special purpose, were to be found in an average lumber camp of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. I begin with the most humble of these, a small, barefoot (lacking steel bottoms on its runners) runabout, whose regular tasks included delivering noon meals to men 'dinnering out' on the jobsite. Usually the camp 'handyman' (carpenter) built them, beginning by chopping a pair of runners out of naturally curved tree trunks. Lumberjacks applied several pet names to the little vehicle, including 'jumper,' 'swing-dingle' and 'pung,' the latter perhaps derived from the French word for bread. Generally, you would find only a single example of this little sled in a lumber camp.

The 'cadge sleigh,' a lighter version of the 'log sleigh,' was likewise a loner in the logging jobber's extensive horse-drawn fleet. Yet it was a key piece in a lifeline for camps set deep in the woods. Making regular trips out to

the lumber company's 'depot' the cadge sleigh kept a camp supplied with provisions for the cookery and hay and oats sufficient to keep a dozen or so teams of hard-working horses in fine fettle. A steel-shod bobsled mounted with either a box or a hayrack depending on the job at hand, the same conveyance also served as the standard farmer's sleigh of the time.

Some supplies, hauled in the fall on wagons over rough, dry land 'cadge roads,' would already have been stockpiled in camp before snow fell. But by January, log-hauling roads, which took advantage of level going offered by frozen swamps and lakes, a cadge teamster's life got easier. Old-timers have told me that, upon switching from a cadge wagon to a cadge sleigh, they counted on doubling the weight of goods carried. Among teamsters, cadging was regarded as a plum position.

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Taken north of Maple Island circa 1920, this photograph reveals the wide stance and robust construction of a log-hauling sleigh. The bunks appear to be 11 feet long, the maximum allowed under rules designed to limit the footprint of log-hauling roads. The logs are being loaded using a 'jammer', the 'bull roper' on the left ensures the log arrives parallel to the sleigh, and the 'top loader' steers it to its chosen position in the load. Photo courtesy of Bill Ward.

This brings us to the 'log sleigh,' the 18-wheeler of the winter woods. They, like cadge sleighs, could be purchased ready-made from wagon factories. But often the camp's handyman and blacksmith joined forces to build the heavy heavy-haulers in camp. The handyman hewed out runners, benches, bunks, sway bars and so on using hand tools, while the blacksmith made the ironwork -- everything from bolts and nuts to inch-thick steel shoeing -- in his forge and on his anvil.

Ideally, the jobber's fleet of ten to 15 log sleighs was launched in early January, when multiple thousands of sawlogs cut in fall and early winter waited in piles to be 'sleigh hauled' to a 'dump' on some lake or river. Jobbers counted on 'good slipping' lasting until mid-March, but late freeze-ups and early break-ups often upset calculations, and much fine pine timber was stranded in the bush to be riddled over the coming summer by

larvae of the white pine sawyer beetle. .

*John Macfie is a photographer, author and historian who lives in Parry Sound. His Parry Sound North Star column appears regularly. You can email him at [jmacfie@cogeco.ca](mailto:jmacfie@cogeco.ca).*



Men and draught horses in Albert Atkinson's lumber camp near Maple Island, around 1900. In the left foreground the 'pung' or camp runabout, is parked with its tongue raised out of the way. Photo courtesy of Lysle Atkinson.

# Old Soldiers Never Die

**by: Judi McLeod**

When a ceremony, complete with full dress American Civil War uniforms and muskets, gets underway in a remote cemetery in Novar, Ontario this weekend, a never-say-die U.S. civil war soldier will be there in spirit.

William Strong, who outlived four wives and eight children, lived a life more colourful and interesting than the hero of any Hollywood story.

First of all, this American soldier who came to be buried in Novar, near Huntsville, was a lifelong true hero on his own stage.

The leaves of Novar trees were not ablaze in crimson and gold six months ago, when Barb Patterson, a Huntsville-based genealogist, Dawn Henderson, a priest from the Anglican Church of Canada and Bruce Butgereit of the proud Sons of the Union Civil War Veterans in the United States got together to restore an abandoned cemetery and honour the grave of a long-ago soldier.

Through their work, and that of his great-grand-daughter Cindy Leep, the U.S. government will be sending to Canada, a Civil War headstone to be placed on the grave of the long-lost William Strong, on the Thanksgiving weekend of Oct. 18.

Steeped in mystery and romance, this heart-fetching tale takes its beginning from a daughter's profound love for an aging mother.

Cindy Leep's love for her mother knows no bounds. Proving that you can do most anything if you continue to try, Cindy takes after her spunky great-grandfather.

"In October of 2002, my mother, 85-year-old Phyllis Strong, of Saginaw, Michigan and I decided to put together five scrapbooks with pictures and anecdotal stories about our family history/genealogy," Leep told *Canadafreepress.com*.

What started off as a small project in Leep's Grand Rapids home, turned into a major one lasting two and a half months. Planning the project as a Christmas gift for her siblings, Leep would do the entire picture scanning of some 600 photographs, while her mother, a journalist, would do the writing.

It didn't take long for the story of William Strong to strike a haunting note. "My great-grandfather on my father's side, all we knew of William is that he had served in the Civil War; that his first wife had died and he remarried by great-grandmother, Jane," Leep explained.

"We only knew of one other sister and one step brother. We had also heard that he died in Canada after he fell down a flight of stairs and that his sister Allie traveled to Canada for the funeral and got snowed in for two weeks."

Mind you, in the beginning, this was all hearsay that had to be painstakingly confirmed.

Before long, William's great-granddaughter decided that contacting the U.S. National Archives where Civil War records on veterans are stored, would be in order.

Having downloaded the forms from the Internet, she mailed them to Washington, D.C.

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The bright-eyed delight of her mother, when she received a package one month later, goaded her on.

"My Mom said `Isn't this exciting, just like a mystery, only better because it's our family!'"

A treasure trove of information was contained in the package posted by National Archives.

It was like coming across a cherished old family Bible that had been kept updated.

First of all was the military information, which indicated that plucky great-grandfather Strong had served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry Company E and had fought in the Battle of Stone River and the capture of Murfreesboro, Tennessee and also the Battle at Chickamauga, Georgia.

Great grandpa Bill was a swashbuckler whose passion came leaping off the page more than a century later.

Born on April 17, 1838 in Ash, Monroe County, Michigan, there was a list of all eight of his children and their birth dates, and several wives Leep and her mother did not know about.

Proving the theory that true life is often stranger than fiction was an application for reimbursement to the U.S. pension office from the state Muskoka, the township of Chaffey, in the town of Novar, province of Ontario, Canada!

The application bore the signature of Minnie Maw of Novar, listed as William's stepdaughter.

According to his death certificate, the rascally soldier, who had lived a life of adventure, was brought down by "chronic tubular nephritis" on Dec. 8, 1924.

For the wintry funeral, Ed Dewitt of Novar provided three teams of horses; the Rev. L. Sinclair sold the plot for five dollars and had the grave dug for six dollars. Total cost of medical care and burial was \$184.25, for which Minnie of snowed-in fame wanted reimbursement.

To her delight, Leep found genealogist Barb Paterson of the Muskoka Parry Sound Group from Huntsville listed on a website. Better still, Patterson recognized all of the names listed in Leep's email.

"The main questions for me, my mom and Barb were how did William ever end up in Canada and who was Minnie Maw."

Further investigations brought in the information that at an age when most are headed for the rocking chair, at 70 William was spiffing up to get married.

The soldier married Hortense E. Burdick on May 31, 1919 in Grand Rapids, Mich. William happened to be in Grand Rapids because an Old Soldiers Home was located there and he was a patient. His first wife Alvira Jackson had died in June of 1870 in Wayne Co. Mich. He had then remarried Jane Spencer in Wayne Co. in September of 1871, The couple moved to Midland, Mich. where William farmed. Jane died on Dec. 30, 1899. She was the mother of Leep's grandfather Frank Strong who was a young buck of 18 at the time.

As it turned out, Leep's hunch that Hortense Burdick Strong was the definite Canadian link proved right. Leep, who deduced that she was probably Minnie Maw's mother from another marriage, also

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proved to be true.

Via emails with Barb Paterson, it was discovered that Hortense was buried next to William in St. Mary's Cemetery in Novar, and that she had departed earth before her husband.

"Barb ultimately contacted Gerald Maw, whose grandmother was Minnie Maw, in Huntsville," said Leep. "My family had always heard that William had died falling down a flight of stairs. Gerald told me, 'Oh no, he fell through a trap door in the floor to the cellar and died.'"

Then came the fascinating gem that the home where William died had been moved to the Muskoka Heritage Village and still stands, although somewhat changed from 1924.

Leep and her mother were overjoyed to hear from Maw that one of Minnie's sisters is still alive and could have more information and possibly even pictures.

Clues keep coming in and one day all the dots to the mystery will be joined.

Meantime, William Strong continues to make news even long after his death.

When the Sons of the Union Veterans perform their international grave dedication and ceremony next weekend, it will mark the first time a dedication ceremony for a Civil War soldier will be conducted outside the United States.

So far, there has been nothing in William Strong's days on earth that wasn't colourful.

On the day of his graveside dedication, the trees of autumn will lend a panoramic background, ablaze in crimson and gold. The Civil War uniforms and muskets will take those in attendance back to the days of Abraham Lincoln. At the heart of the ceremony will be a proud great-granddaughter with her much beloved mother.

And the reverberating chuckle, destined to be heard by all at ceremony's end, will be pure Civil War Soldier William Strong.

*Judi McLeod is editor of the enterprising, truth-honouring well-read Canada Free Press.*

## To Kill the Worm: The Budworm's Impact on Ontario During the 1970s and 1980s

by: Dylan Roy with Mark Kuhlberg

Infestation. The word crawls up the reader's spine, drawing an uneasy and unpleasant feeling. Infestation is much more than just an abstract word that generates negative emotions; sometimes infestation can manifest very real and dire consequences on the environment and economy, and in the political realm. Both spruce and jack pine budworm infestations during the 1970s and 1980s in Ontario demonstrated the influence and changing nature of the province's environmental movement, and they often pitted it against the interests of many northern Ontario communities that depended on the forest industry for their vitality.

Understanding the physiology of the budworm helps explain how such a tiny insect can have such dire effects over vast regions. The two budworms that wrought the most havoc on Ontario's forests during the period in question were the eastern spruce budworm and jack pine budworm. The eastern spruce budworm feeds largely on spruce and fir trees, and prefers the latter (the name of the species is thus misleading). The feeding habits of its larvae can cause severe damage to trees; they feed on the new growth or "buds" – ergo their name – of the trees in which they nest, thereby causing defoliation. If feeding persists on a tree for several years, it eventually dies. Although this is a natural process and the eastern spruce budworm is a native species of North America, its most troubling aspect is that its population spikes every thirty to forty years. The occurrence of these epidemics is why the eastern spruce budworm is considered such a dangerous forest pest. Large, prolonged infestations can cause extreme losses in timber that is valued by both the lumber and pulp and paper industries, and also create vast swaths of dead trees that are prime fuel for forest fires.

The jack pine budworm shares certain traits with the eastern spruce budworm. However, it feeds primarily on jack pine (hence its name) and secondarily on other pine. Like the eastern spruce budworm, the jack pine budworm larvae cause defoliation of trees, and if feeding persists for several years, the trees may die. The jack pine budworm, like the eastern spruce budworm, also experiences extreme spikes in its population and these occur every eight to ten years.

Both of these budworm species caused havoc in Ontario's forests during the 1970s and 1980s, and the problem became so acute that *The Globe and Mail* (hereafter *The Globe*) featured numerous stories about it; these articles will serve as the primary source for this article. *The Globe's* coverage of the story began in the early 1970s during a major budworm epidemic that was affecting large parts of the province, including Algonquin Park, the jewel in Ontario's provincial park system.

*The Globe's* first few articles about the infestation demonstrate that many Canadians had a particular view of what a provincial park should be. In their eyes, a provincial park should be perfectly forested with no natural pests that impaired its beauty, a theme upon which Alan MacEachern focuses in his book, *Natural Selections*. As he writes, "We cannot see national parks as natural without understanding that it is our culture that has made them so and declares them so." MacEachern's words speak to the element in Canadian culture that is linked to perceptions of the "natural", and by extension, what a provincial park should represent.

*The Globe* tackled this complex issue head-on in the mid-1970s when a battle erupted between those who wished to preserve Algonquin Park's aesthetics and those who opposed the means used to achieve this end. The newspaper reported that the Ontario government had chosen to phase out its use of Fenitrothion, a pesticide it had been using to combat the spruce budworm, and replace it with Orthene; the former chemical had reportedly killed many birds in New Brunswick when it had

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been used there. As a result, the Ontario government sprayed Orthene over 2,000 acres of budworm-infested forest in Algonquin Provincial Park in the mid-1970s. The government admitted that it used Orthene “strictly for esthetics,” and was thus roundly condemned by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. It argued that the government “should not violate this sanctuary to preserve artificially green corridors.” This is an interesting protest because it shows the shift of perspective regarding provincial parks. Some groups were beginning to believe that Ontario parks should not be maintained as mere tourist attractions, but that natural processes should be allowed to proceed unencumbered. This speaks to the rising environmental movement in Ontario during the 1970s and 1980s.

As the development of different control mechanisms for pest populations such as the spruce and jack pine budworm were pursued, the conflict between those who felt they were protecting the environment and those who sought to promote the economy intensified. For example, during the mid-1980s *The Globe* described some of the new control mechanisms, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT). Although the new control mechanisms were more environmentally friendly, they were shown to be less effective at controlling budworm populations. Moreover, scientists began to realize that budworm populations were developing resistance to BT much more quickly than they were to other concoctions, thereby severely limiting its effectiveness. Almost as importantly, BT proved to be a drain on Ontario’s finances because using it still required significant funding but it was less effective than previous control methods. As Paul Fast, a research scientist with the Canadian Forestry Service, put it with regard to comparing BT to chemical insecticides, the former “would still be environmentally better, but I don’t know (about) economically.”

The matter was of even greater importance to the province’s forest industry, whereby the damage the budworm was causing to its fibre supply represented a potentially devastating challenge. During the mid-1980s *The Globe* paid significant attention to E.B. Eddy Forest Products Ltd., specifically its pulp and paper mill in Espanola in Northern Ontario, and the threat the exploding jack pine budworm infestation was causing to its timber. One article cited the views of Jim Waddell (Eddy’s manager of resource development) to convey the seriousness of the situation, namely how important the nearby woodlands were to the local economy. As Waddell put it, “Without the jackpine [sic] we have no operation. We have 1,100 people working here and another 350 in the bush, plus the contractors’ employees that transport all that stuff. This area naturally grows jackpine and the mill is set up for jackpine.”

The situation in and around Espanola during the 1980s also highlighted the degree to which a gaping chasm often existed between North and South when it came to environmental issues. Still in the mid-1980s, *The Globe* reported that, when the mayor of Espanola tried to arrange a meeting with then-Premier Frank Miller, his calls went unanswered. This left the mayor feeling “very disappointed.” The Eddy Company lobbied for more extreme measures to address the damage that the jack pine budworm was causing in order to preserve the firm’s timber; the Ontario Forest Industries Association had done so a few years earlier on behalf of all of its members. However, the government chose to use biological sprays instead. John Sewell, a journalist with *The Globe*, wrote about how the Espanola jack pine budworm problem “is one more sign of the fragility of settlements in Northern Ontario. They all depend heavily on external factors hardly within their control.” It should be noted that although the budworm epidemics demonstrated the tenuous relationship between northern and southern Ontario, certain political parties favoured environmental measures more than others.

While there was definitely a divide between North and South, another one existed among Canada’s political parties and their attitudes towards managing the environment during the 1980s. In this regard, the NDP were at the forefront of the “environmental movement”. The NDP’s lobbying efforts in concert with the environmentalists had been the impetus pushing the Ontario government toward

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finding solutions other than chemicals to control the budworm.

Nevertheless, *The Globe's* coverage of this issue also highlighted how some Ontarians may have espoused a love of nature, but it was a qualified love. During the 1980s, *The Globe* reported that a significant number of private and municipal property owners in Ontario were continuing to arrange for their lands to be sprayed by private contractors. This type of attitude underscored the difference between the ideological environmentalism that was espoused by many Ontarians, including political parties, and their actual conduct when it came to environmental practices. As Volker Kromm, owner of TreeDoc Forestry Applications, remarked in 1985, "most people really didn't care what we used as long as we got rid of the budworms." Although Kromm's comments do not provide a comprehensive picture of what Ontarians felt was the appropriate means to deal with the budworm, the principals behind other spraying companies concurred with him. For instance, when trees on private properties needed to be sprayed several times using BT, customers requested that stronger chemicals be used.

At the same time, Ontario's forest industry was fighting a similar battle against the Ontario government. In 1986, Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio decided to ban the use of chemical sprays by private firms employed to control budworm populations. Instead, the only spray allowed was BT. This move outraged Ontario's pulp and paper industry. In a meeting of the Ontario Forest Industries Association, its then president Joseph Bird proclaimed that it would try to fight and reverse Kerrio's decision and "demonstrate to the public that chemical insecticides have a place in a foresters' tool kit." He added that, "If chemical insecticide is removed from the tool kit, our forests are going to suffer."

Despite protests by forestry companies, the decision to utilize only BT was favoured by 80% of the people who mailed in responses to the ministry's proposal. Furthermore, as science developed new methods to control budworm populations (such as the use of other biological weapons like wasps), the use of chemicals seemed to become an anachronism in the eyes of Ontarians.

*The Globe and Mail* coverage of budworm epidemics in the 1970s and 1980s shows that environmentalism was gaining strength, especially in terms of addressing the use of chemical spraying as a control mechanism against forest pests. Even though the budworm caused enormous damage to Ontario's forests, the use of chemical spraying in the province's woodlands was seemingly only championed by forest companies or small northern communities (such as Espanola) whose economies were dependent upon healthy tree populations. At the same time, the coverage of the budworm epidemic illustrated the divergent interests between the North and South. Whereas small settlements in northern Ontario (like Espanola) needed thriving tree populations for economic growth and sustainability, those in southern Ontario typically did not. Therefore, environmental policies were often the result of south-centric ideologies, causing chagrin among their northern neighbours.

Finally, the history of the budworm also captures the changing conceptualization of what nature should be. As the case of Algonquin Provincial Park demonstrates, some environmentalists were in favour of allowing the budworm to feed because they accepted that it was a natural process that should not be prevented simply because it would detract from the 'charming' allure of the park that tourists desired. Thus, regardless of whether one's intent was to preserve nature's beauty, maintain the health of timber crops, or protect wildlife from the dangerous effects of chemical sprays, *The Globe and Mail's* coverage of the budworm epidemic reveals the changing nature of environmentalism in Ontario during the 1970s and 1980s.

(Continued on page 15)

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# ***The Balaclava Water Mill: The View From Downstream***

**By: John Macfie**

Dave Lemkay's story in the Fall 2017 issue of *Forestry* titled "Balaclava Water-powered Sawmill" caught my notice because the William Hunter who operated a gristmill a mile farther down Constant Creek at Dacre in Renfrew County, and was a thorn in the flesh of the Balaclava mill, was my great-grandfather. In 1910 members of the Hunter family took the Richards to court for hogging water flow and for causing sawdust to pollute the stream and Hunter's meadow.

William was a son of United Empire Loyalists, and his granddaughter (my mother, Edith (Mitchell) Macfie) remained as fiercely proud of her roots as any Loyalist original. When a story about the Balaclava mill titled "Saga of a Nineteenth Century Sawmill" by Brenda Lee-Whiting, appeared in the February 1967 issue of the *Canadian Geographical*, my mother was furious. In her opinion, the author's treatment of her Hunter ancestors sullied the family's good name.

So I reached for my tape recorder and asked Mother to describe her grandfather's milling operation, and life lived at the mercy of the Balaclava mill's sawdust and Constant Creek's unreliable flow. Following are excerpts from the tape and from her own writings:

*"My grandfather's gristmill was on the west side of Constant Creek. There was a little waterfall about opposite where his house was, and he built a dam across it with a slide in the dam. When he needed the waterpower diverted to the long flume he would close something and the water went down there and supplied the power.*

*"In the slide of the dam he used to catch eels, they got stranded there. He used to collect the eels, and he had a smokehouse where he smoked the eels and ate them. Some of the neighbours thought that was a terrible thing, they weren't fit to be eaten. But he and his wife and his daughters and their children enjoyed them. A dry delicious rich food. Mother would cut them and fry them like fish. They were a great source of free food, and that was something when a man would work ten or twelve hours for a dollar to support himself and wife and children.*

*"The farmers from all around came with their grain, anytime at all, especially in the winter after the harvest. They'd thresh their harvest a little at a time in the barn with a flail [and] bring the grist to the mill for their household supply of flour.*

*"Occasionally we would look to see how this grinding process took place. [The grain] started up on a high level in the building – there were maybe three levels – then it was fed down through the central part. The millstones were horizontally placed low on the floor, because they were quite a weight. One would be set in the floor stationary and the other went around, and between these the grinding took place. Then it would go down to the next area where it would be sifted and the hulls eliminated. I think that less than half a day would do a wagonload of grain, but it usually involved the man and his son for another meal for Grandma. She had ten children, and that's quite a few."*

Mother then turned her guns on the owners of the Balaclava mill, at first deigning even to mention them by name. Shortly after William Hunter's death in April 1909, certain members of his family, perhaps William the younger and his wife, Maggie, successfully sued the Richards for damages, ultimately receiving a settlement of two or three hundred dollars.

*"This write-up claims [sawdust] immediately enriches the soil. Quite the contrary, it draws from the soil until it is rotted; it takes some natural power in the soil to rot the sawdust. So Mother always thought that her father was in the right and Mr. Richards was looking after his own business and*

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*didn't care for the man downstream that was suffering.*

*"It was Grandpa's son William and his son's wife — his son married a kind of a well-to-do old schoolteacher, and she was a bossy old gal and perhaps persuaded Uncle Willie to sue the Richards, and the author has confused the two Williams. The lawsuit was brought in 1910, but note Grandfather died in 1909. I think Uncle Bill ran the gristmill a bit now and then after grandpa died, after we left Dacre. Anyway, [Lee-Whiting's story] reads Mr. Richards got his own back. He got the [Hunter] property and buildings and tore down the gristmill using it in his own mill [after fire partly destroyed it], so that explains why not a stick is left there, and not a stone of the mortarless foundation. The millstones are gone.*

*"A better monument is the Baptist Church standing tidily among the pines on a corner of the farm on the hilltop on the outskirts of Dacre. My grandfather gave the land and considerable toward the building and worshipped there humbly. I remember seeing him in the service and hearing his voice blending sweetly in the hymns. He was a good man, doing no harm to anyone. Mother had told us of the difficulties with the sawdust and flow of water, and of his having to walk up [to Balaclava] and back requesting restoration of normal stream. There is no reason for blots on his good name."*

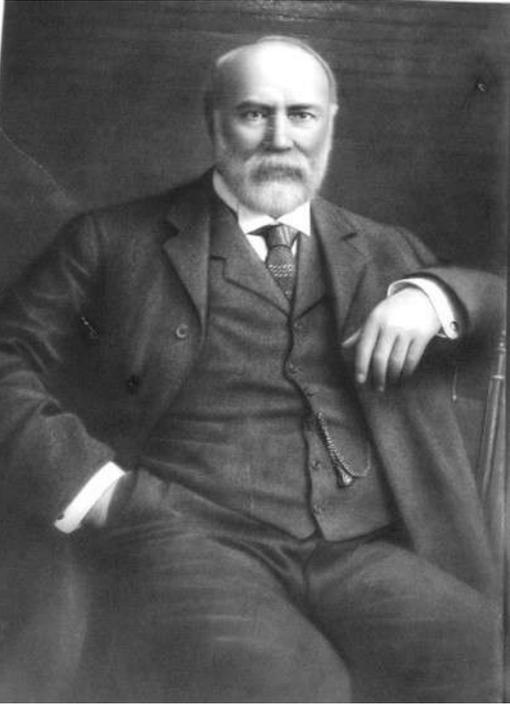
My mother left Dacre in 1903 at the age of eight, when her father who, ironically, had long been the sawyer in the Balaclava mill, moved the family north to Haileybury to take similar work with Foster's sawmill on the Lake Temiskaming waterfront. Mother revisited Dacre in 1910, and a time or two more beginning in the 1950s.

The Hunter lawsuit was surely one of the pioneer court actions for stream pollution in Ontario. However, such cases date back to at least 1884, when federal fisheries officer Frederick George Mackenzie Fraser successfully charged the Muskoka Mills and Lumber Company with depositing mill waste on a fish spawning bed where the Muskoka River enters Georgian Bay. That story appears in my first published book, *Now and Then: Footnotes to Parry Sound History*.

# The Victoria Harbour Lumber Company and John Waldie<sup>1</sup>

By: Ken Armson, O.C., R.P.F. (Ret.)

John Waldie came to Ontario from Scotland as a nine-year-old lad with his parents in 1842; when he died in 1907 he was acclaimed the “second largest lumber operator in Canada”.<sup>2</sup> The story of how this came about is tied to the development of the times – one of immigration and agricultural settlement together with the rapid expansion of markets for the primary products of wheat and lumber that Ontario could provide. But it was John Waldie’s own character and spirit which was the defining element.



John Waldie. Photo courtesy of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church and the Huronia Museum, Midland.

His father, a tailor settled with his wife and two children, John and younger sister Agnes in Wellington Square (now Burlington). When John was 19 years old his father decided to move to Morris Township in the Huron Tract and take up farming. By this time John was working as a clerk in William Bunton’s general store in Wellington Square and three years later in 1855 bought the business and built a new store in what is now downtown Burlington at the corner of Water and John streets. The business prospered and the surrounding farming area became a major exporter of wheat and then lumber – in Nelson Township where Burlington was located there were 17 sawmills in 1846. Not only did Waldie and his business prosper, but in partnership with Bunton, they became involved in shipping as owners of two ships, the *Aizor* and the *Sweepstakes*. Waldie was also active in local politics and as Reeve of Nelson township he was responsible for having the villages of Wellington Square and Port Nelson combined to form the town of Burlington. He later became the Warden of Halton County and then in 1887 was elected as the Federal member to Parliament. In 1885 he sold his business to William Kerns, who he had hired as a clerk in 1861 and who became a partner in 1867. In 1885 Waldie moved to Toronto; his wife Mary Ann had

died the previous year. The move to Toronto was undoubtedly connected to his marriage in December 1885 to Sarah Jarvis of Toronto and the fact that Toronto was the financial centre for the burgeoning lumber business on Georgian Bay.

Following the initial development of the pine lumber business in the Ottawa Valley to supply Great Britain in the early 19th century as a result of the Napoleonic Wars, the major market for Ontario logs and lumber became the United States. Thus the pine forests of Georgian Bay and the North Shore became a major source to supply the burgeoning development in the central and midwestern states. This resulted in the building of sawmills, largely owned by American entrepreneurs. But there were a few Canadians who had the capital and interest to invest in this growing lumber industry and one of them was John Waldie.

A small sawmill had been established at Victoria Harbour in 1843, but it and successor operators were unsuccessful until 1869 when a local group set up a steam powered mill, “Kean, Fowlie and Company”, based on the expectation that the Midland Railway would be built through Victoria Harbour on its way to Midland. The railway did not arrive until 1879 and by then the mill had closed. Richard Power took over the mill and applied for the timber mark “VH” by which the logs for the mill would be identified. In 1886 John Waldie entered the picture as a major shareholder, together with Richard Power, for the newly chartered Victoria Harbour Lumber Company. Five years later Waldie

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had bought out Power and together with his own shares and those in the names of his family members (wife and two sons) the Victoria Harbour Lumber Company had its head office in Toronto. The company had two operating mills known as No. 1 and No. 2, with an annual output of 15 million board feet of lumber per year from logs coming primarily from the French River area. In 1899 the company expanded with the purchase of two band saw mills which were combined to form mill No.3 and mill No. 1 was converted to a planing mill. From all mills the total



**Aerial view of Victoria Harbour showing the three mills of the VH Lumber Co.  
Photo courtesy of the Huronia Museum, Midland.**

production was 300,000 board feet per ten hour day. About one half of this daily production came from the No. 3 mill. By 1900 the total annual production from the Victoria Harbour mills was 50 million board feet. In 1906, the year before Waldie died, he purchased the mill and limits of Cook and Brothers Lumber Company at Spragge, Ontario on the North Shore for \$2 million and also the Eddy limits at Lake Panage for another \$1 million. The purchased company was renamed Waldie Brothers Limited as a subsidiary of the Victoria Harbor Lumber Company with Fred Waldie and Robert Waldie as President and Vice President respectively and two other brothers, Walter and Charles as Directors. The companies prospered during the next few years and during World War I, but Walter and Charles, who had both enlisted, did not survive the war and Fred Waldie had health problems so by 1927 it was decided to close the mills at Victoria Harbour; the mill and property at Spragge had been closed in 1911 and sold to J.J. MacFadden in 1913. The Victoria Harbour company did not relinquish its charter until 1942. The real legacy of John Waldie and his lumber company has been the community of Victoria Harbour, but that is another story.

<sup>1</sup>This article is drawn from the book, *The Legacy of John Waldie and Sons – A History of the Victoria Harbour Lumber Company* by Kenneth Armson and Marjorie McLeod. 2007. Natural Heritage Books, Dundurn Group, Toronto.

<sup>2</sup>*Canada Lumberman and Woodworker*, July 1907, 18

# Living in a Lumber Mill Village - Byng Inlet, Georgian Bay

## Recollections of Grace Joy

by Grace (Joy) Wright and Fred Holmes

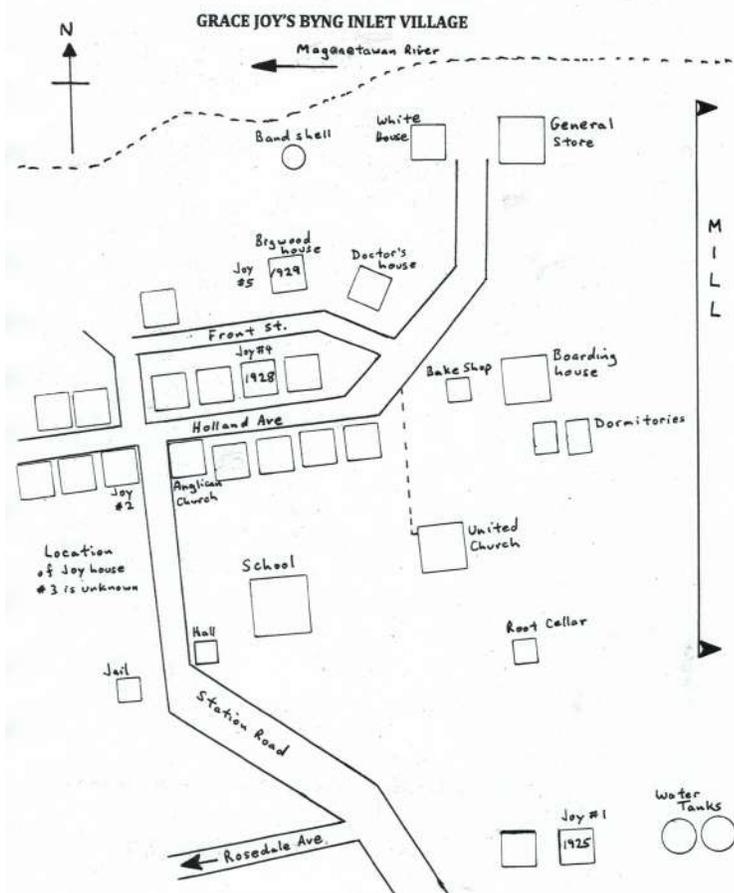
What was life like living in a remote lumber mill village in the 1920s and depression years of the 30s? Grace Joy lived it as a child from age 10-22 and wrote about it through her young eyes. At her celebration of life in June 2017, I said that Grace was probably the last living person to have seen the sawmill at Byng Inlet operating. Born in 1915 and passing away in her 102<sup>nd</sup> year in 2017, she moved to Byng Inlet, aged 10, from Delamere Station, a C.P.R. railway station near Rutter (today's Alban). Her Dad, Frank Joy, had learned Morse code with the help of his wife Minnie, and had got employment as a telegraph operator with the C.P.R., first in Copper Cliff before heading south to Delamere. *We kids enjoyed it there-no school.* All good things do come to an end and Frank and Minnie *thought it necessary that we five children be educated and Byng Inlet had a school.* Frank was successful in getting the operator's job at Byng Inlet station and so the family moved there in 1925.

Byng Inlet, as a sawmill town, began cutting in 1868. Until the C.P.R. crossed the Magnetawan River in 1908, access and departure was typically by steamer from Collingwood. 1916 was the last year of regular steamers visiting. The name Byng Inlet creates great confusion. The water body is Byng Inlet, which drains the Magnetawan River, whose headwaters are in Algonquin Park. The original south shore lumber mill village was called Byng Inlet and the two lumber mills on the north shore (one was on the most westerly island) were initially the Lower Village and Middle Village before carrying the name Byng Inlet North and in September 1923, the current name of Britt.

Flashing forward to the current century, Grace's daughters coerced her to write her life's history, *Memories of A "Wright" "Joy"- Full Life* that filled 60 pages typed on a ribbon-equipped typewriter. Through a number of letters from Fred Holmes asking about neighbours she remembered, she responded with numerous typed letters. After her passing, her daughters gave Fred Grace's photo album labeled, *Old Byng Inlet*. All of these, along with the Goad Fire Plans, served as the source material for this article.

Byng Inlet of 1925 was a classic company village, the iteration that Grace experienced was built and owned by Graves, Bigwood & Co. Houses were for workers with families and single mill workers

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Grace Joy's Byng Inlet Village. Credits: Grace Wright, Plan 165, Goad Fire Plans of 1899, 1901

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lived in the dormitory. The C.P.R. Toronto to Sudbury line ran inland of the water body Byng Inlet, so the actual railway station was three miles southeast of the community. A spur line connected the mill to the mainline. Passengers had to take a horse drawn sleigh in winter and a horse drawn stage wagon between the community and the Byng Inlet railway station, or walk.

As mill workers and other service providers came and went, houses became available to rent. Being the newest in the community, the Joy family first located on top of the hill to the south of the village overlooking the village, mill operation, and across the inlet to the C.P.R. coal docks of Britt. This was a two storey house with a single story back stoop, outhouse out back, built of wood on wood foundations, typical of lumber 'camp' temporary housing. They had just one neighbour, the Kiselchuks. Also on the hill were the water tanks of Graves, Bigwood that were available to residents for water when the mill was running.

*Byng Inlet was a thriving lumber town, at that time. The Mill was owned and operated by Graves, Bigwood & Company. The village had a large general store, post office, Presbyterian Church, Anglican Church, dance hall, boarding house and [a] two roomed public school—also a jail and resident policeman.*

*A water tower was on the hill. It supplied water to the lumber mill during the summer. We were able to get water from it too. During the winter, we bought water from a water wagon that came round. The sleigh was pulled by a team of horses. [The man] would have pumped water from the Magnetawan River into the tank on his sleigh. If some of the people did not have access to water during the summer months, they would have to use his services too.*

*There was also an old, black, vacant house at the bottom of the hill, which we had to pass on our way to school. It was scary. People said it was haunted. We believed anything in those days.*

*Dad had to get from our house to the station, a distance of 3 miles, to work each day. One night in a snowstorm, he would have been lost if he had not seen the light in Mrs. K's [Kiselchuk's] window. My father bought or rented a handcar so he could ride to work and back during good weather. It had only three wheels, one where the rider sat, one behind and the other at the end of a bar to the railway track, opposite.*

*During the summer of 1926, at night, we watched a huge forest fire burning in the distance. Several people buried their valuables, expecting they would have to leave.*



**Bigwood House. Credit: Grace Wright's photo album.**

*Our second house was the Anglican rectory, across from the Anglican Church. The ceilings were so high. The stovepipes were removed in spring, mainly because they had to be cleaned each year, otherwise, we could have had a chimney fire, if they were not. After the stovepipes had been removed, we kids would listen at the stove pipe hole when Mum and Dad had visitors. Very interesting.*

*There was only one store in Byng Inlet during the 1920s, Graves, Bigwood General Store. It had a different system of collecting for purchases made. Author Will Ferguson in his book, "Beauty Tips from*

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*Moose Jaw” says “Joyners Dept. Store”, built in 1892, installed the first cash car in their store. As long as Graves, Bigwood operated their store, this system was in use. The cash car: when the customer paid for his or her purchases, the bill and money were deposited in this car, shot across the ceiling, on wires, to an unforeseen destination. The receipted bill and change, if any, were sent back along the wire to the customer. Maybe it was to discourage robberies. We could also order groceries through Eaton’s catalogue and they would be delivered.*

*We were not long in our third house when the postmaster in Byng Inlet died suddenly of a heart attack. Dad applied for the job. He got it so we moved into our fourth house because the post office was part of the house. The depression was on at that time, so getting the post office job was a godsend. [Sister] Marg and I were sworn in as assistants. I was 14 or 15 years old. At the end of the day, we had to do the books. When it was Marg’s turn, she disappeared each time, it seemed. Neighbours on Holland Ave included Mr. Pugh, manager of the Graves, Bigwood store, Mr. Clay the butcher, the Galley family where Mrs. Galley was so stout she could not do much housekeeping so that the youngest son Frank did most of it and Mr. Grasswell, manager of the mill, but he was grumpy.*

*Then we moved into our fifth house, the former Graves, Bigwood home. This would have been 1929. William E. Bigwood had passed away August 16, 1927 making the home available by the end of 1928, the last year of ‘real’ production at the mill. It was a larger house and Dad made part of the large dining room into the post office, with a door leading outside. This house, still standing, faces Front St. but had a long sloping backyard to the shoreline of the Inlet with a bandstand adjacent to the shore.*

*We had no conveniences. Everyone was in the same boat. We had a roller towel beside the washbasin in the kitchen, which we all used to dry our hands and faces. It was boiled in a boiler on the wood stove along with the white clothes every Monday—always Mondays. Washday was not a pleasant job, when we had to wash slimy handkerchiefs or bloody menstrual cloths. When Mum was ill, we had to do the washing with the old scrub board and wringer. As far as clothes went—in our family, after Friday night bath, we changed, wore those same clothes, all week—even the same dress, until the next Friday. No bathroom. The chamber pot resided under the bed and had to be emptied every day. We bathed every Friday night in a tub on the kitchen floor. Dad pumped water from the Magnetawan River during the summer. In winter we carried water. Dad made a wooden yoke so it would be easier for us to carry water from the river and empty it into a large bathtub installed in the kitchen. It had a wooden lid so was used as a working area or a seat as well. Wash water was disposed of by throwing it outside, as there were no sewers or septic systems. There were gas lamps and coal oil lamps and the outside toilet.*

*In 1929, the Doctor’s house was between the White House and Bigwood’s. I did not see the Doctor, his wife was pleasant but soon moved away. The house was vacant for some time and then pulled down. The White House is also still standing.*

*When the blueberries were ripe, we would go off for the day. We would fill an eleven-quart basket*



**Band shell with coal docks on the north shore of Byng Inlet and tug Reginald.**

**Credit: Grace Wright’s photo album.**

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*and sell it at Graves, Bigwood Store for a one dollar due bill. Mum gave us the dollar and used the due bill to buy groceries at the store.*

*The school was situated on a hill, next to the United Church [post 1925 merger with the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches]. Miss Purcell was my last teacher, a frumpy type. One day there was a fire in the Senior Room. Hurrah! No school! Not to be however, as we had lessons in the old bake shop until the school was ready. In winter, toboggan riding down the school hill was a great past time as was skating on the river.*

*Mary Little was married to Harold Wellstead on December 4, 1929, in the United Church by Rev. Grant of Lakefield, Ont. What a thrill - the first wedding I attended. That afternoon, Mum and I walked across the frozen river to the Little's house near the coal docks, to the reception. After Mary left as church organist, I took over. Sometimes Marg would sing a solo, which we always picked. The minister did not think, however, that 'Drink to me Only with Thine Eyes' was appropriate for church.*

*My Dad bought a disappearing propeller boat so we got rides down the river when he was home. Called her "Leaping Lena". Our rowboat, which we kids used, was called "Limping Liz".*

*The Schweigs kept horses. Kelly drove the stage to the station every day to meet oncoming trains. Sister Margaret and I suffered after riding bare back to the station and back one day.*

*Dad heard of people in Pakesley who had a goat for sale. He took me on the train to see this goat. That was enough - he bought a cow instead. Guess who did the work of milking etc. - Mum of course. Daisy was a real pet. We had milk, butter, and sometimes ice cream.*

*We loved playing softball - sometimes at recess, then evenings on a flat place near the lumber mill. Margaret and I would watch for a coal boat to arrive at the coal dock in Britt. Then later, Marg and I would row over to ask the sailors if they would play ball against we girls. They always agreed. Afterwards, two or three of the sailors would come to the house for a singsong and lunch.*

*I used to wish I could see a movie once in a while, but that was impossible in Byng Inlet. When we first moved there, dances were held in the hall. Everyone went. We had benches along each wall. When there was a dance, the parents went along too. It was a sad day when it closed. The hall was pulled down as part of the close up activities of the mill. Eventually we had dances in private homes. No carpets in those days, just pushed back the furniture, and away we went.*

*One winter day, I noticed how inviting the ice was on the river. I put on my skates and was going merrily along when, getting too close to the coal docks, the ice gave way. I managed to keep my arms on top of the ice, so gradually got myself pulled up, then rolled over to safer ice. Sure didn't take long to skate home after that.*

*The family moved down to Pointe au Baril in 1937, Dad having secured the night operator's job at the Pointe au Baril station. I carried on at the Byng Inlet post office, until a new postal clerk was sworn in May 4, 1938. One experience I remember: After Mum and Dad moved to Pointe au Baril, I was still in charge of the Byng Inlet post office and the only day off was Sunday. Sometimes I went to Pointe au Baril on the #28 [train] Saturday night, returning early Monday morning. One Monday I missed the train No other way to get to Byng Inlet - I walked - along the railroad tracks (about 30 km), then down the road 5 km to the post office. Guess I slept well that night.*

*For the rest of Grace's life, please pull her binder at the Parry Sound Library, Memories of a "Wright" "Joy"- Full Life. Grace "Joy" married Arthur "Wright" of Byng Inlet on November 25, 1941 in Pointe au Baril in the same United Church that once stood in Byng Inlet but had been relocated. She and Art spent the rest of their lives in Pointe au Baril.*

# **William Elijah Bigwood – 2 October 1863 – 16 August 1927**

**By: Roger Miller**

Born 2 October 1863 in the woollen milling town of Winooski, Vermont, William Elijah Bigwood was the second son of Samuel Bigwood and Mary A. Herrick. His father was a tinsmith from England who was also a hardware storeowner. His mother was the daughter of an old Vermont family. All four boys in this family worked with, or for, their father at some time.

William attended elementary and high school in nearby Burlington, Vermont, and went on to the University of Vermont at Burlington in 1881. He graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1885.

In March of 1886, along with a fellow graduate engineer from his year, he went to Milwaukee, WI to work as an engineer/draughtsman for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Louis Railway. Late in 1887 he moved to Detroit to work as an engineer for the Saginaw & Durand Railway. He oversaw the laying and completion of this 70 mile line of track. This time in Michigan was to give him exposure to the movers and shakers of Detroit and the Saginaw/Bay City areas.

In the summer of 1888 William accepted a position as draughtsman with the Wood Extract Co. of Detroit. Shortly after joining this firm he was designing and supervising the construction of their new plant in Perrinton, MI. In 1889 he was appointed as manager of the plant and he moved to Perrinton, while also maintaining rooms in Detroit.

Somewhere along the line he met the charming elder daughter of lumber baron Temple Emery of Bay City, MI. Cora Emery and William E. Bigwood were married 23 September 1890 at Bay City. They took up residence in Perrinton. Their first child, Marguerite West Bigwood, was born there 25 June 1891.

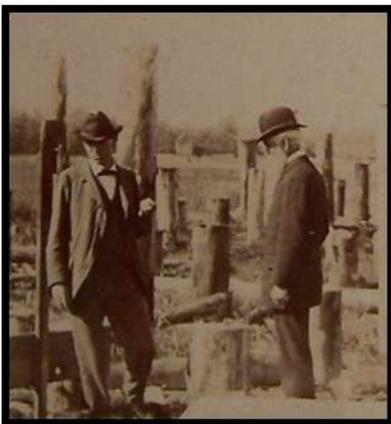
Wm. E. soon got into the life of Perrinton. He was elected as one of the trustees for the village in its first elections in 1890. He was also a founding member of the Knights of the Modern Maccabees that formed a chapter in Perrinton in 1890.



**Wm. E. Bigwood @ 1888**



**Wm. E. Bigwood Family 1898**



**Wm. E. Bigwood and Nelson Holland at the ruins of the lower mill.**

In 1891 his father-in-law's brother, Hiram Emery, left The Emery Bros. Lumber Co. to resume working with Henry W. Sage, and Temple Emery re-organized his lumber empire. Temple's son William O. Emery and son-in-law William E. Bigwood were appointed overseers of the Emery Lumber Co. branch of the operations. The Emery Lumber Co. had been operating in Canada out of Wahnapiatae, Ontario since 1885, cutting logs for the Emery Bros. mill at East Tawas, MI, and other mills along the Saginaw River.

Wm. E. resigned his positions as a trustee of Perrinton and as the manager of the Wood Extract Co. plant at this time. He now spent his time travelling between Ontario and his family in Perrinton. Wm. O. Emery and his family were resident in Wahnapiatae until 1892 at which time they moved back to Bay City. Wm. E. and his family were sent to Wahnapiatae.

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In 1892 Emery Bros. Lumber Co. was re-organized as Holland & Emery Lumber Co., and Temple's nephew, James T. Emery, was appointed manager of the East Tawas mill. In 1893 the seven hammer marks of the Emery Lumber Co. were transferred to Wm. E. who spent much of his time between Wahnapiatae, Sudbury, Toronto, Detroit and Bay City on Emery family business.

Wm. E. and Cora Bigwood welcomed twins Temple Emery and Paul Herrick into their family 1 February 1894. The twins were born at Bay City, but Temple Bigwood died at Sudbury in July of that year. Wm. E. still had an office in Detroit at this time, but was living at Wahnapiatae overseeing the Emery interests.

In 1895 Wm E. rented a house in Toronto and moved his family there. He shuttled between Toronto and Wahnapiatae as he managed the Emery interests in Ontario. Holland & Emery Lumber Co. had anticipated tariff problems between Canada and the USA, and had secured an interest in the mills at Byng Inlet, Ontario in 1893. In 1896 the Holland & Emery Lumber Co. was brought to the verge of bankruptcy by the actions of one of the company's partners. Temple Emery had signed as guarantor on several bonds for this partner, and when this partner defaulted on his obligations, Temple made good on over \$300,000 worth of debt. Temple Emery left the Holland & Emery Co. and this company was re-organized with Wm. E. Bigwood becoming secretary of the company, and its manager of Ontario operations.

When, in 1897, the Ontario government decided that logs cut in Ontario had to be sawn in Ontario, Holland & Emery Lumber Co. moved their East Tawas mill to Byng Inlet with James T. Emery as mill manager. Wm. E. was the Canadian agent for Holland & Emery and other Michigan interests. His name appeared in the records of those attending the timber berth sales and other lumber related activities in Ontario from this time until his stroke in 1923.

In 1900 Holland & Emery was re-organized as Holland & Graves when Nelson Holland's nephew, Luther P. Graves, moved into a position of importance with the company. The Bigwoods bought 145 South Drive in Rosedale, Toronto in 1903. Their children attended the best schools, he became involved with Anglican Church lay groups, the Toronto Board of Trade, the Lumberman's Association of Ontario, the Canadian Lumberman's Insurance Exchange, and the Mississauga Golf Club, among others.

In 1906 Holland & Emery was again re-organized, this time as Graves, Bigwood Lumber Co., when Nelson Holland left the company and Wm. E. Bigwood bought in.



**Marguerite W. Bigwood 1914**

1908 was a big year for Wm. E. He became a member of the Log Pickers Association [until 1918], and he was a director of the French River Boom Co. [until 1924].

Wm. E.'s youngest brother Fred H. Bigwood came from Vermont to act as a travelling salesman for Graves, Bigwood. Fred and his wife Jessie moved to Toronto in 1909 and he was their chief salesman until 1922.

Wm. & Cora's daughter, Marguerite, married civil engineer John Clifford Rogers at Toronto 28 October 1914. The Bigwood's son, Paul, freshly graduated from Trinity College School, entered Graves, Bigwood as a clerk. Wm. E. was part of a group that chartered the Lumbermen's Safety



**Wm. E. Bigwood and Luther P. Graves**

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Association to co-ordinate with the Workman's Compensation Board.

Wm. E. was elected president of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association in 1916, a position that he held for two years. Paul Bigwood signed up as a lieutenant with the 162nd Battalion (Parry Sound) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 10 April 1916, and arrived at Liverpool in November of that year. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an observer 9 May 1917. Sadly he was shot up over France while on a mission 21 June 1917. The pilot of the plane survived, but Paul died shortly after their crash landing. He was buried in Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium.



Paul H. Bigwood 1917



Wm. E. Bigwood 1922

Archie C. Manbert, Wm. E. Bigwood, J. L. MacFarlane and Henry I. George formed the Canadian General Lumber Co. at Toronto in 1919. Wm. E. was elected as president of the Sauble & Spanish Boom Co., and the Spanish River Improvement Co. in this year.

In 1920 Wm. E. and Archie Manbert bought out Luther Graves, and the company continued under the name of Graves, Bigwood. Wm. E. was a director of the French River Boom Co., and the Mississagi River Improvement Co. In 1921 Wm. E. organized the Lumber Dealer's Association trip to tour the mills at Byng Inlet that summer.

Fred H. Bigwood became the sales manager of the Canadian General Lumber Co.

On the evening of 6 August 1923 Wm. E. suffered a debilitating stroke at Byng Inlet while getting dressed preparatory to catching the train to Toronto. He remained at Byng Inlet for several weeks before he was brought to his home in Toronto. While his name remained on his business interests, he was never able to recover sufficiently to resume anything more than a consultant role with those interests. He died, lauded by all, 16 August 1927, at his home in Toronto. His remains were taken to the Emery Family plot at Elm Lawn Cemetery, Bay City, MI, and were interred beside those of his infant son. His widow, Cora, died 6 February 1940 at Toronto, and was also buried at Bay City.

The mills of Graves, Bigwood Lumber Co. at Byng Inlet continued operation

until the end of 1928, and the company existed until the 1933 death of Archie Manbert. The remaining company assets were dispersed in 1935, and the final chapter for Graves, Bigwood Co. was closed in 1936.

**IN MEMORIAM**

WILLIAM E. BIGWOOD

The Church in Algoma has lost a faithful friend in the death of Mr. William E. Bigwood, who passed away at his home in Toronto on Tuesday, the 16th August. He had been in poor health for the past few years, following a paralytic stroke from which he never fully recovered. Bigwood was President of the Graves, Bigwood Lumber Company, which until recently operated at Byng Inlet; and the beautiful little church at that place was one of the objects of his deep interest as a loyal and devoted Churchman.

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord."



Wm. E. Bigwood and his two eldest grandchildren, John Jr. and Pauline Rogers at Byng Inlet, 1922.

Obituary for Wm. E. Bigwood from The Algoma Missionary News of 1927.

# From Ontario's Waste Lands to Ontario's Garden - Trees Did It

By: Dolf and Anne Wynia

The story of Norfolk County is the story of many places in the world where people with good intentions and hard work but ignorance of the natural world created havoc in their environment. The county was settled through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By 1883, R. W. Phipps was appointed commissioner by the Provincial Government to compile a report on the "important subject of the forests of Ontario". In commenting on the clearing of the land for settlement, I should like to quote a short paragraph from his report as I picture Norfolk every time I read it: "Among all the politicians who in turn have saved our country, few of them have thought it worth while to save the timber. Here might have been seen a mystic, placidly destroying a grove of white pine, worth millions of dollars, in order to uncover a barren waste of sand which at first gave but little wheat and has since pastured but a few cows".



One of the farms purchased to develop the Forestry Station.

Not all the timber was wasted. Pine was used for building American cities on the south shore of Lake Erie and in all the settlements in the County. Hardwoods were used for furnishings and boat building and sometimes for their potash. In the 1877 atlas of Norfolk County, where entrepreneurs paid to have their business represented, sawmills featured prominently. More than 100 sawmills operated at one time in the county and the timber industry was the biggest employer.

By 1900 farms were being abandoned by disillusioned settlers due to blow sand conditions, while at the same time, Walter McCall, a St. Williams furniture maker and boatbuilder was having ever more difficulty getting the quality of timber which he desired. McCall had started a small nursery near the sawmill from which he planned to distribute seedlings to interested settlers to reverse the trend of deforestation and provide timber for the future. He made acquaintance with Edmund Zavitz, a forester who owned a summer residence near Forestville in Norfolk County. Zavitz, at the time a forestry lecturer at the Guelph Agricultural College, had been commissioned to report on the "waste land situation" in the Province by the Provincial Government. The local member of Provincial Parliament, Colonel Arthur Pratt, had also become concerned about the rapidly spreading local blow sand wastes: Once the topsoil was destroyed subsoil sand would blow onto neighbouring crop lands and roads, severely affecting the entire western part of the county.

Based on Zavitz's well illustrated 1908 report: "**Reforestation of Waste Lands in Southern Ontario**", the three men proposed a tree nursery be established on some of the waste land near St. Williams to produce seedling trees for distribution to local interested farmers. With surprising speed, the Provincial Government, using an Order in Council, approved taking an option on the land chosen and the St. Williams Forest Station was established. In his report Zavitz had emphasized the importance of managing existing forests as well as establishing new ones and provided forecasts of the income opportunities. Hence the name Forest Station rather than nursery. The significance of the "demonstration forests" may be the subject of a future writing.

To demonstrate the then current reforestation practices, Zavitz obtained a shipment of white pine nursery stock from the Heinz nursery near Hamburg, Germany. They were successfully shipped and planted under his direction. At our Interpretive Centre we have his posed photograph of the event as

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well as many others of his photos. Through the generosity of Dr. Alan Gordon, we also have photographs of the German Nursery at that time, as Mr. Heinz, the owner, was also an avid amateur photographer.

During the following years, another four forestry stations were established plus two major northern nurseries and several small ones to service the needs of northern Crown Land harvesting operations. The production of tree planting stock in the province of Ontario was subject to continuous growth and upgrading into the 1990s, reaching an annual production of over 200 million trees per year.

In 1958, Zavitz, who by then had retired as Ontario Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests and had been awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree by McMaster University (his Alma Mater for his B.A.) wrote a sequence to his 1908 report: **“Fifty Years of Reforestation in Ontario”**, in which he detailed the success of the first 50 years.

On the day I was hired in 1957 as a “Zone Forester” for the Galt zone, I was introduced to Dr. Zavitz, who was working on his photographs in a darkroom at Queen’s Park, photographs which to this day are very basic to our understanding of the rural land condition in his time. I felt privileged to meet him but did not realize until much later how much influence he had had in his time. John Bacher recently wrote his biography: **“Two Billion Trees and Counting”**, which illustrates the uphill battles Dr. Zavitz fought for the protection of Ontario’s landscape and industry. Bacher’s work and that of Harry Barrett who wrote **“They Had a Dream, A History of the St. Williams Forestry Station”**, describe well the reasons that Norfolk now prides itself on being “Ontario’s Garden”: There are very few places in the agricultural parts of the county where you can stand and not see some trees that came from the nursery. The county now has a very respectable 33% forest cover. The grave of Colonel Pratt is in the little park on the nursery grounds with the epitaph: “My memorial: Look around you!”

In the 1990s, when the Conservative Government started to dismantle the Ontario Nurseries the production grounds of the St. Williams Station were leased for 99 years to a private entrepreneur who soon was declared bankrupt after building a 10 million dollar greenhouse complex to produce containerized seedlings for Northern Ontario. This was mostly due to the recession in the forest industry there. A venture capital company which saw some future in the production of a much broader line of natural vegetation for land rehabilitation took over under the direction of John de Witt, a well-known grower in Ontario. John asked me one day, in about 2005, what his firm, Forest Care, might do to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Station in 2008. In a meeting with the president of the local heritage association we decided that we should re-open the small museum on the nursery grounds and present the public with an illustrated account of the history of the county and reforestation in order to prevent a repeat of the past errors.



Canada’s First Forestry Station in the summer of 2008.

With the help of a Trillium grant and endless committee meetings and promotions and the involvement of more

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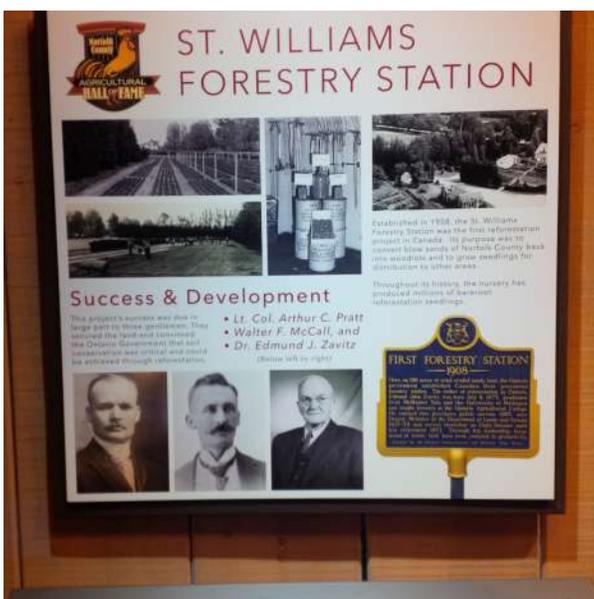
than twenty local organizations and some industries we did meet the deadlines and we had a memorable Forest Fest opening event in the summer of 2008 with several hundred people attending. The Lieutenant Governor declared the County "The Forest Capital of Canada" that year.

Not long after our centennial celebrations the lease was transferred to a new company, the "St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre" which has again widely expanded the product range and now produces wild flower and grass seeds as well as all types of woody planting stock for the major natural restoration projects throughout Ontario and indeed North America. The company prides itself on delivering locally sourced stock, which fits well with our story. They also provide power and heat for our centre and thus make a great contribution to our educational efforts.

The "demonstration forests" surrounding the Forestry Station have now been declared a Provincial Conservation Reserve for their superior natural heritage and ecological value. Management is focussed on endangered species.

Since 2008, members of the Port Rowan/South Walsingham Heritage Association have been keeping the Interpretive Centre operating with the help of summer student interpreters and donations. We try to have relevant temporary exhibits as well as summer public events (Forest Fests) to in some ways pay tribute to the important social impacts the station had in terms of education, employment and enjoyment. The Centre is open from Victoria Day weekend to Labour Day weekend from Wednesday to Monday (closed Tuesday) from 10:30 am until 4:30 pm. There is no admission charge, but, of course, we appreciate donations. In 2018, our Forest Fest will be on July 21. Everyone is welcome from 10 am to 4 pm. For anyone not able to travel, the four books mentioned give a much more insightful account of the Forestry Station than this short review.

Contact us if you wish to visit outside regular opening hours or with a group: 519-875-3350 or [adwynia@gmail.com](mailto:adwynia@gmail.com).



On Sunday April 29, 2018, Canada's First Forestry Station was inducted into the "Norfolk County Agricultural Hall of Fame" at the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum along with two other major contributors to the agricultural prosperity of the County. Recognition was given by the three senior government representatives of the County: The Honourable M.P. Diane Finley, M.P.P. Toby Barrett and Mayor Charlie Luke. The station shared the podium with Clarence and Albert Hellyer who pioneered the ginseng industry and Bauke Vogelzang, a Dutch immigrant who played a leading role in grassroots agricultural and forestry organizations in the county. About 50 people attended.

## The Art of Forest Protection (From Fire, Flood, Ice and Wind)

By Sherry Hambly

Please Note: I am not an art connoisseur nor an art historian. The information presented here is a review of what I found while researching art that has some aspect of forests or forestry as its focus. The article is not intended to assess the value of the art from an artistic or social perspective. Art can portray a number of different things – the artist's view of the world, the viewer's view of the world, social norms and values, and historical information. We should keep these ideas in mind when researching and presenting art with a forest related theme.

This article describes artworks that show some aspect of the effects of a forest hazard (fire, flood, ice and wind) or protection from the hazard. In the broad scheme of things there is not a lot of art that portrays these themes. In relation to Ontario, there is even less. But, there are some iconic pieces both from Ontario and across the broader landscape. This article references artworks that represent art created within and outside of Ontario.

### Fire

Most of the art related to forest protection focuses on fire. Two Group of Seven artists (Frank H. Johnston and Tom Thomson) created paintings of locations in Ontario with fire as a theme. Frank Johnston painted *Fire Swept Algoma* showing a scene after a fire, and *The Fire Ranger* showing an airplane flying over a fire. *The Fire Ranger* is the only painting about Ontario that portrays the actual act of forest protection. Tom Thomson's *New Life after Fire* shows the rebirth of forest life after the destruction from a fire.



Frank H. Johnston: *Fire Swept Algoma*



Christine E.S. Code: *Wildfire*



Robert Guest: *Fire with Southwest Wind*

Robert Guest, Grande Prairie, had first-hand experience with fire as a towerman. He painted many scenes of fire during his career. Christine E.S. Code and Derrick Olson of Saskatchewan, Allan Harding MacKay of Alberta and Lenora de Lude of Colorado capture the landscape view of a forest fire. Cameron Bird of British Columbia shows a moose leaving the scene of a forest fire. Jim Corwin, New York/Montana, also portrays moose in a burned over forest. Monte Dolack, Montana, portrays fire fighters using their tools in the heat of the moment.

The Fort McMurray fire of 2016 left a lasting impression on artists. Liana Wheeldon painted a water bomber in action along with several other pieces, and Sharon Heading painted the famous photograph that went viral across the internet showing a rainbow arching over the fire-destroyed forest. Elizabeth Eakin painted Fire Rangers walking towards the fire. Several other artists have

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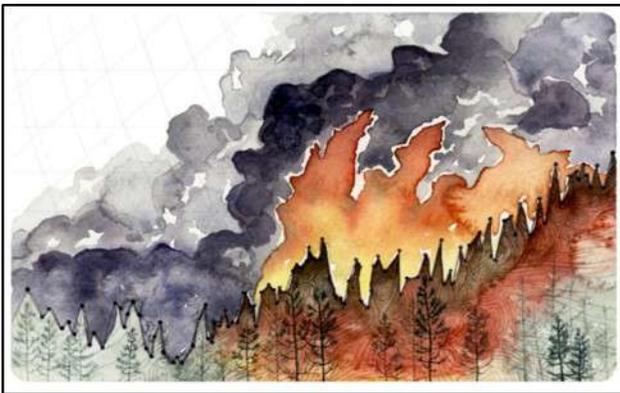
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created works representing various aspects of the fire.

I found three artists creating photographic art with forest fires as the theme – Nicole Hemeon, British Columbia, and Darvin Atkeson, California, photograph fires in reality; Jessica Lin, Toronto, photographs fires then turns the photos into abstract prints. Other artists have used different media to portray forest fires – Lisa Jenni, Seattle, made a fire-themed quilt and Lisa Cochrane, Nova Scotia, created a piece of art using decommissioned fire hose.



Liana Wheeldon: *Bomber Acqua*; Elizabeth Eakin: *Wind and Fire*; Lisa Cochrane: *Decommissioned Fire Hose*



Jill Pelto has produced a work of forest fire themed art that shows the increase in wildfires over time.

Other artists to explore include: Carol Harmon, Lindsey Saunders, Laurie M. Landry, Blake Horsley, Jennifer Walton, Jordanka Yaretz and Kristen Gautier Downes.

Jill Pelto: *Increasing Forest Fire Activity*

## Floods

There are very few paintings depicting floods and forests (or trees). Homer Watson painted *The Floodgate*, probably in his home territory near Guelph; Bruno Bobak produced two paintings of flooded cities and trees in New Brunswick. The Virtual Museum of Canada has an interesting, short discussion on the meaning of his painting *Flood*. Their thesis is that art can provide important historical information.<sup>1</sup> Jamie McGill, Poul Thrane and Renate Hulley, all Ontario artists, have painted scenes of floods showing forests; as did Ted Seeberg of Vancouver.

## Ice Storms

There is very little art related to the theme of the destructive nature of ice storms on forests and trees. Robert Blenderman, Kingston, admirably captures the damaging force of such storms on a tree. Painted in 1998, it represents the effects of the ice storm of that year on trees in Kingston, which was hit very hard by the ice storm. Three American painters manage to capture, to some

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degree, the destructive force of ice storms on trees – Aldro Thompson Hibbard, Tim Sappington and Walt Pasko. Tom Thomson of the Group of Seven captured the beauty of the effects of an ice storm on trees.



**Bruno Bobak: Flood**



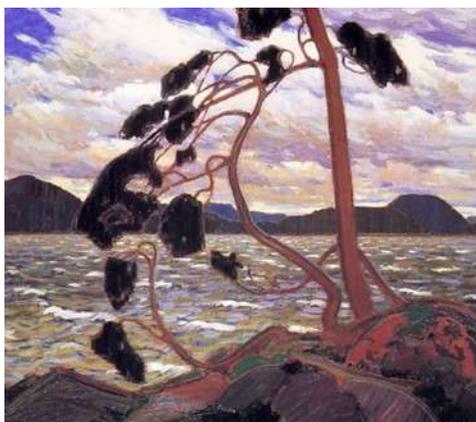
**Bob Blenderman: Ice Storm**

## **Insect Damage**

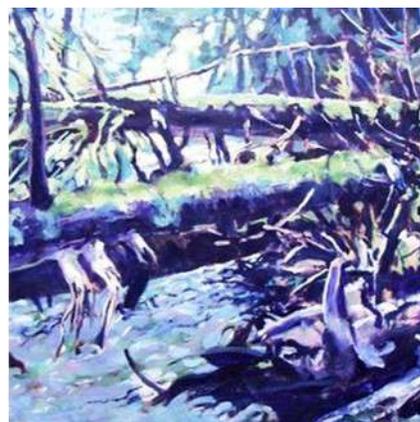
I was unable to find any art related to destruction caused by insects. This is interesting. As an amateur photographer, I found the scenes of mountain pine beetle damage in the landscape of interior British Columbia very captivating, and managed to take a few lovely pictures of the effects. Perhaps such artworks exist, but the titles may not reflect the origin of the cause of the scene.

## **Wind Damage**

I found several pieces of art that portrayed the destructive effects of wind on trees, the most famous of which is Tom Thomson's *West Wind*, which shows the effects on a white pine tree existing in a persistent west wind. David Graff, Alberta, created a piece of abstract art showing blowdown. Several American artists have produced art works with the theme of blowdown, including Ron van Gilder, Minnesota, Ryan Douglas Jacque, Minnesota/California, Roger McKee, Nancy Boudreau and Susan Beebe, Connecticut, Nina Jerome, Maine, Bob Keefer, Oregon, Jim Fowler, Alaska, Ross B. Young, Idaho and Robert Bissell, Oregon. Rich Franco, Florida, is a photographer who captures the essence of blowdowns in Glacier National Park.



**Tom Thomson: West Wind**



**Jim Fowler: Blowdown**

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I am sure there are other works of art that have some aspect of forest protection as the theme. If you are aware of such art, please let me know.

<sup>1</sup>Virtual Museum of Canada: <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/edu/ViewLoitLo.do;jsessionid=D77600ECD76F79B2D98343AC7AA9AF4B?method=preview&lang=EN&id=110>

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Poul Thrane: <http://www.poulthrane.reach.net/index.html>

*Spring Flood*: <http://www.studio737.com/PoulThrane/page1.htm>

Renate Hulley: *Spring Flood*: <https://renatehulley.wordpress.com/portfolio/water/>

Rich Franco: <https://rich-franco.pixels.com/>

Blowdown Glacier National Park: <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/blow-down-glacier-national-park-rich-franco.html>

Robert Bissell: *Blowdown*: <http://www.robertbissell.com/robert-bissell-galleries/paintings/index.html>

Robert (Bob) Blenderman: <http://www.robertblenderman.com/>

*Ice Storm, 1998*: <http://studio22.ca/gallery/1/original/pages/Ice%20Storm%2C%201998.htm>

Robert Guest: <https://aggp.ca/exhibitions/robert-guest/>

*Fire with Southwest Wind*: <https://aggp.ca/collection/fire-with-southwest-wind/>

Roger McKee: *Blowdown*: <https://www.salmonkill.com/2017/8/21/blow-down>

Ron van Gilder: *Blowdown Buck – Mule Deer*: <http://www.wildwings.com/item/1913056065IG>

Ross B. Young: *Blowdown Grouse*: <http://www.rossyoung.com/blowdowngrouse.htm>

Ryan Douglas Jacque: *Blowdown*: <https://www.galleryone.com/fineart/JACBL3.html>

Sharon Heading: *Rainbow*: <http://www.fortmcmurraytoday.com/2016/06/14/local-artist-partners-with-arts-council-to-auction-painting>

Susan Beebe: *Blow Down*: <http://www.susanbeebestudio.com/category/portfolio/paintings/>

Ted Seeberg: *Spring Flood*: <http://www.tedseeberg.com/sold-work/>

Tim Sappington: *Ice Storm*: <https://www.artcollectormaine.com/art/ice-storm>

Tom Thomson: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom\\_Thomson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Thomson)

*New Life after Fire*: <http://tomthomsoncatalogue.org/literature/entry.php?id=271>

*After the Sleet Storm*: <http://tomthomsoncatalogue.org/collections/entry.php?id=484>

*The West Wind*: <http://tomthomsoncatalogue.org/catalogue/entry.php?id=634>

Walt Pesko: *After the Ice Storm, VT*: [https://paskofineart.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Ice\\_Storm\\_lg.jpg](https://paskofineart.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Ice_Storm_lg.jpg)

## ***Sylva Recap***

*The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests published for many years a journal known as "Sylva". The purpose of this journal was to highlight changes in policy, individuals, and the comings and goings of staff. Sylva contains nuggets for forest history that will be selected for each edition of the journal. The following was provided by Sherry Hambly.*

### **Rangers versus Insects**

#### **Condensed from "Conservation Corner"**

#### **Reprinted from Sylva Volume 10 (5): 15-19, 1954**

Fighting forest fires is a regular part of the job for Ontario's forest rangers and this phase of their activities has become well known to the public because of its spectacular appeal.

Little has been said and written, however, about the role these same guardians of the Province's forest wealth play in fighting that silent, at times unseen, but equally destructive scourge the forest tree insect.

The secret of fighting forest fires is to spot them and put them out while they're still small, Lands and Forests fire control officers explain. The same principle, say the entomologists, applies to combating insect epidemics or plagues. Sometimes, although the problem is usually more complex than fighting forest fires, an insect plague may be prevented if its early signs are spotted in time.

Each year in Ontario and throughout Canada, many thousands of acres of valuable timber lands fall to the ravages of countless hordes of destructive tree insects which can level whole forests just as surely, though not as quickly, as an outbreak of forest fires.

The war against destructive forest tree insects in Ontario has become intensive during the last few years. The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests cooperates closely with the Federal Department of Agriculture in the costly, continual struggle to find ways and means of controlling the tiny creatures that cost the pulpwood and lumbering industries, the Province of Ontario and the rest of the Dominion, millions of dollars each year of forest wealth.

Not all insects are destructive, of course. Entomologists place them in three main categories for forestry purposes. First on the list are the destructive types; the common insects, which have no great importance to the forests; and the beneficial insects. An example of the last named and known to most people is the common "ladybird" which preys on aphids.

The most seriously destructive insect in eastern North America is the spruce budworm, which alone has destroyed more spruce and balsam in eastern Canada during the past fifty years than any other single cause not excepting forest fires. Actually, its menace is twofold. Not only does it leave whole tracts of partially dead forests in its wake, but the killed, rotting balsam which it mostly attacks despite its name, "spruce" budworm makes a prime forest fire hazard. Fires in bud worm killed areas are hard to stop. In high winds the fire will "crown" – move into the dead tree tops and run swiftly for miles, defying man's every effort to quell it, killing pine and other trees which the budworm does not directly injure.

Lands and Forests rangers and lookout tower men throughout the forested areas keep extra sharp watch at all times during the summer to spot any destructive insects that may be invading their areas. They are supplied with collecting boxes or mailing tubes each season by the Federal

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Department of Agriculture. Thus insect specimens are forwarded to the research laboratories at Sault Ste. Marie and the new station at Maple, for identification and study.

Whenever the fire hazard eases off, the rangers equipped with tarpaulin, axe and specimen tubes, patrol their base areas inspecting all species of trees for signs of destructive insects. Sometimes they examine trees selected at random. At other times, they may be assigned to concentrate on a certain species being, or expected to be, attacked.



**An insect ranger notes spruce budworm damage. K.M. Andresen.**

The method of specimen collecting is simple.

Spreading a tarpaulin beneath the tree to be examined, the ranger strikes the trunk hard several times with the back of his axe, causing sharp vibrations in the tree which make the insects fall onto the canvas. Carefully examining his catch, the collector removes spiders, ants, wasps and other insects known to be harmless or that might devour his specimens en route to the laboratory. He places any known, or suspected-to-be, harmful insects into the mailing tubes along with foliage from the tree attached. This provides them with food for the journey. Later the senders receive a report from the laboratory informing them, as far as is known, the identity and other data on the insects forwarded. Thus the rangers become familiar with forest insects and, as a consequence, many become expert "bug men", capable of identifying at a glance many of the species encountered. Sometimes entirely new species, previously unknown to science, are collected solely because the ranger himself finds them

strange to him.

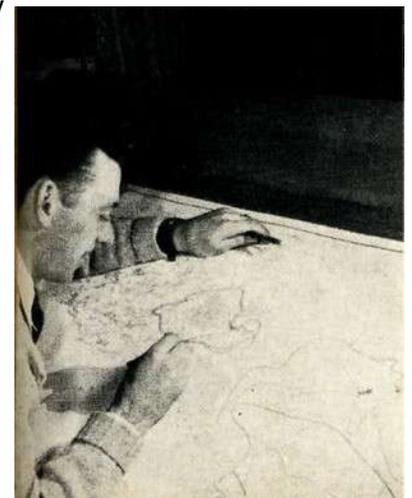
In 1945, the Province completed and opened one of the most modern insect laboratories on the continent. Staffed by Federal Department of Agriculture entomologists, cooperating with the Department of Lands and Forests, this building is devoted to general forest entomology, life histories of insects, parasites, predators, insect surveys and other related studies.

In 1950, a second large building was erected and staffed by the Dominion Government. It is devoted entirely to the study of insect diseases. Research work in the latter is geared mainly to discovering methods of controlling destructive forest insects through investigation of the diseases which attack them. Some of the preliminary results in this field have been described as "highly encouraging".

A third building, with coordinating staffs, has been erected at Maple.

There are three main biological types of control of forest insects, apart from climatic conditions. These are parasites, predators and disease.

Parasitic insects, as a rule, resemble wasps or houseflies, according to entomologists, which usually deposit their eggs on or in the forest insect worm. These eggs hatch grubs which eat out the "insides" of the forest insect larva, worm or caterpillar, and thus destroy it. The grub then turns into a mature parasitic insect, the female of which proceeds to lay more egg in the right place – the body



**At the Forest Insect Laboratory, Sault Ste. Marie, Hugh McPhee maps insect infestations. K.M. Andresen**

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of the injurious tree insect.

Predators are insects, birds or animals which catch their prey and devour it. Common predators are birds, small animals, mice, shrews, squirrels, and particularly certain other insects, each of which consumes great quantities of the insects preyed upon for food.

In the case of an insect epidemic, entomologists explain, the host insect – the destructive forest insect – usually has a head start and outnumbers its parasites many times over. But the parasite, in most cases of increase on the part of its host, increases rapidly and soon checks further spread of the injurious pests. Contrary to the belief of many persons, the parasites cannot increase in number unless the host insect increases. The cycle is interdependent. Entomologists point out that, even under ideally controlled conditions, it is extremely hard to produce predators or parasites artificially without the presence of their natural hosts, or prey.

This, of course, and perhaps justly, prevents the parasites and predators from themselves becoming over-numerous once their destructive prey is on the way to being reduced.



**Doug Peacock, entomologist in Lands and Forests uniform, and Doug Leavens, inspect forest tent caterpillars infesting woodland area. R.D. Robinson**



**Junior Ranger Doug Smith, Toronto, examines 6-year-old red pine needles harbouring Lactones Sawfly eggs. Infested needles will be removed and burned. M. Muckleston**

The study of insect diseases is a relatively new field in Canada, and has only got into full stride since Great War II. Of the diseases which attack insects, there are three classifications or main branches of origin: viruses, fungi and bacteria. Research workers suspect that every insect is attacked by many diseases, and these men hope to produce diseases that, once injected into an insect plague, will spread and quickly either eradicate it entirely or reduce it to harmless proportions. The ideal disease would be one which, once established, would persist year after year and even spread in ever-widening circles to affect all populations of the species concerned, near and far.

The research projects engaged in, at Ontario's laboratories at Sault Ste. Marie and Maple, are among the most important being carried on in North America in forest insect study. But, large and ultra-modern as the laboratories are, and skilful as the research workers might be, their work would be futile without the assistance of the rangers (and civilians) who notice and collect the insects, and send them to the laboratories from every corner of the Province at the rate of from six to eight

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thousand parcels per year. Many, of course, are sent in by Federal Forest Insect Rangers who work the year round at their task. But Lands and Forests rangers whose main job is guarding the forests from fire, contribute many hundreds of insect specimens from all of the twenty-two forest districts in which they are stationed, aiding science to bring the insect ravagers of the forest under control. And so do school boys and girls.



**Enlarged view of spruce budworm.  
K.M. Andresen**



**Estimating death toll of spruce budworms  
in experiment at Insect Laboratory, Sault  
Ste Marie. K.M. Andresen**

by: Sherry Hambly

## History of Aerial Control of Forest Insects in Canada

*Aerial Control of Forest Insects in Canada*. Malcolm L. Prebble, ed. 1975. Department of the Environment, Ottawa, 330 pp.

A review and precis of the contents of this book, along with a short overview of Malcolm Prebble's career, was written by John B. Dimond, Entomology Department, University of Maine. The review was published in the *Bulletin of the Entomological Society of America* (Volume 23, Issue 3, 15 September 1977, Page 240). His review also includes a precis of the book's contents. The review can be found online here: <https://doi.org/10.1093/besa/23.3.240>

## Canadian Contributions to Forest Insect Pathology and Use in Forest Management

Van Frankenhuyzen, K., Lucarotti, C., & Lavallée, R. (2016). Canadian contributions to forest insect pathology and to the use of pathogens in forest pest management. *Can. Entomol.* 148: S210–S238 (2016)

### Abstract

In the ~65 years that followed, forest pest management was the main theatre for the development and practice of insect pathology in Canada. Researchers from the federal government and academic institutions contributed to the growing discipline by acquiring foundational knowledge on taxonomy, mode of action, natural occurrence, and ecological role of key pathogens infecting forest pest insects, covering an array of fungi, Microsporidia, viruses, and bacteria. The ultimate goal was to develop pathogen-based alternatives to synthetic insecticides used in large-scale forest protection programmes throughout eastern Canada. That goal was achieved through the development of baculovirus-based products for control of gypsy moths (Lepidoptera: Erebidæ), tussock moths (Lepidoptera: Erebidæ), and various sawfly (Hymenoptera) species, which are now in the hands of private industry and poised for growing operational use. The second success was the development of products based on *Bacillus thuringiensis* Berliner (Bacillaceae), which have almost entirely replaced synthetic insecticides in forest protection. We review those successes and other key Canadian contributions to forest insect pathology within the context of emerging digital, molecular, and other technologies, and show how they have altered today's face of forest pest management in Canada. This article can be found online here: <https://doi.org/10.4039/tce.2015.20>

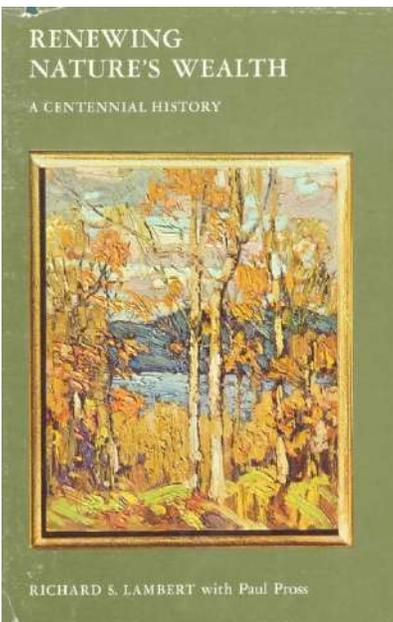
## History of Farm Forestry in Southern Ontario

Bowley, Patricia. (2015). *Farm Forestry in Agricultural Southern Ontario, ca. 1850-1940: Evolving Strategies in the Management and Conservation of Forests, Soils and Water on Private Lands*. Scientia Canadensis, 38 (1), 22–49. doi:10.7202/1036041ar

### Abstract

Early settlers in southern Ontario aspired to become prosperous land-owning farmers; they began by cutting trees. Within a few decades, wind and water, unimpeded by forest cover, devastated soil and crops. Farmers were encouraged by groups such as the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association to reforest some of their land. Farm forestry, as part of scientific agriculture, had a strong beginning in the early 1900s with the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, but that movement was poorly supported until the 1930s, when the relationship between deforestation and water supplies reached a crisis. The Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association (OCRA) and the Ontario Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) were created in agricultural southern Ontario in 1937-8 after a disastrously hot dry summer. Each organization interpreted the conservation of natural resources in profoundly different ways: the OCRA as a movement to create forest resources on public property, and the OCIA as management of privately-owned farmlands to improve crop production. This article can be found online here: <https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/scientia/2015-v38-n1-scientia02451/1036041ar.pdf> .

# 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: “*Renewing Nature's Wealth*, the exciting story of Ontario's natural resources, is described by Premier 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.

## Chapter 16: The Department Through War and Depression

The four decades from the turn of the century to the start of the Second World War was a period of tumultuous change for the department overseeing the province's natural resources. The death of Aubrey White in 1915 and the retirement of several key staff within the next decade marked a time of change for the department.

The scope of the department broadened to include all aspects of natural resources. In 1905 the name of the department changed from Crown Lands to Department of Lands and Mines (and later Forestry). Colonization and Forestry moved to Agriculture where it stayed for many years except for a brief time during World War I. The Forestry Branch was created in 1912 under the leadership of E.J. Zavitz. It was primarily responsible for reforestation and fire protection from railway fires. This same year the government created an Act to access funds to build roads in northern Ontario to be administered jointly by the department and Public Works. Zavitz hired one of the first University of Toronto forestry graduates, Dr. J.H. White, for two years, to build an organization to support the implementation of the Forest Fires Prevention (1917).

The onset of World War I resulted in loss of timber demand, government revenue and experienced staff. Inexperience of the replacements led to chaos and disharmony. The department faced several challenges after the war including participating in the settlement of veterans. The management of timber sales was still highly influenced by politics and unscrupulous timber barons.

In 1919, the United Farmers party, led by E.C. Drury, ousted the Conservatives. The United Farmers was a progressive party that supported good forestry practices, but ended up spending its time trying to expose the deficiencies of past government politicians, especially Howard Ferguson, the previous minister of the department, through the creation of the Timber Commission of 1920 – 1922. The department got its own legal officer in 1921.

The new minister was given the task of reorganizing the department and its personnel. The Canadian Forestry Association presented a brief to the government recommending the elimination of patronage in timber allocations, the establishment of a forestry advisory board and the transfer of

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forest management to department professionals. Drury hired Dr. Judson F. Clark to review the department's organization. Clark's primary recommendation was that the department be divided into two program areas – lands and forests. He also recommended the elimination of the use of the "Doyle" rule for estimating timber sales values. Lumbermen were incensed at this recommendation as its use was to their advantage financially. The rule was eventually dropped 25 years later. The government generally supported Clark's recommendations but a change in government in 1923 back to the Conservatives stalled implementation.

The focus of the new deputy minister was to improve the field organization, implement more policy based processes and to promote conservation and reforestation. During the period 1923 – 1926 Zavitz was focused on reforestation, forest protection and the implementation of the new air service. There was rapid expansion of the forestry, lands, timber and colonization branches during this time. In 1926 the Northern Development Department was created to manage the roads program. The Department created a new Deputy Minister position in 1928 expanding the number of Deputies to three – Lands and Forests, Forestry and Surveyor General (a new position).

The great economic crash of 1929 that led to several years of depression created significant upheaval and uncertainty in the ever-changing department. Sales of lumber and paper plummeted, leading to a huge decrease in government revenues (from approximately 4 million to 1 million dollars over four years). The government tried to find relief at the 1932 Imperial Conference in Ottawa by requesting reduced British tariffs on Canadian timber and an embargo on Russian timber imports to Britain. The British government gave some concessions but these were offset to a degree by the implementation of United States trade tariffs on timber. The reduction of revenues to the department meant that much of its work was curtailed.

The Liberals, led by Mitch Hepburn, ousted the Conservatives in the election of 1934. Part of their platform included attacking the cost of the department to the taxpayer. Peter Heenan was appointed the Minister responsible for forests and given the directive to overhaul the organization. He appointed his own son as Secretary to the Department. Heenan appointed a journalist, Frederick Noad, with no prior experience in the field, to oversee the reconstitution of the department. After several field visits Noad devised a plan to heavily reduce professional staff in favour of more technical positions. Not long after his appointment he was moved to the Deputy Minister position, replacing E.J. Zavitz, who was demoted to Provincial Forester. Noad then oversaw a massacre of professional staff positions during 1934 – 1935. These actions left deep, lasting scars in the department. But he got his comeuppance nine months later when he was unceremoniously fired on the spot by Premier Hepburn himself.

A Royal Commission to investigate the Air Service was initiated in 1934, out of which came several economizing recommendations. For the rest of the organization, the 1930's saw many staff functional changes including the reduction or elimination of Crown timber agents.

The great depression began to ease in 1934, which led to increased government revenues from the revitalized timber industry. Due to fewer fires during the depression the protection budget had remained low. This situation changed in 1936, which was the "worst season on record" for fires. The budget was then increased significantly.

The department continued to face challenges into the late 1930's. The timber industry was still recovering from the great depression and several companies were either liquidated or merged. Labour unrest in the industry began to surface. There was a strong undercurrent of dissatisfaction within the electorate related to the management of the province's natural resources by Hepburn and his members. While Hepburn was re-elected in 1937, the appearance of George Drew as the new and aggressive leader of the Conservative Party forebode interesting times for the future.

# Forest History Society of Ontario

## Membership Form

**Thank You For Your Support!**

<p>The mission of the Society is:          "To further the knowledge, understanding and preservation of Ontario's forest history" and to accomplish this with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve forest and forest conservation history;</li> <li>To encourage and further the development and recognition of forest history;</li> <li>To support research and studies of forest history;</li> <li>To support the archival preservation of records and materials relating to forest history, and</li> <li>To promote the better understanding of forest history through public education.</li> </ul>		<p>The Society has two ongoing projects, both available on our website:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.ontarioforesthistor.ca">www.ontarioforesthistor.ca</a></p> <p>The first is a catalogue of publications dealing with all aspects of Ontario's forest history. Members can submit contributions on our website.</p> <p>The second is the identification and listing of collections and materials relating to Ontario's forest history. The Society works with established archives such as the Archives of Ontario and several university archives to facilitate the preservation of significant collections.</p> <p>The Society publishes a newsletter, <b>Forestory</b>, twice a year – Spring and Fall - containing informative articles on Ontario forest history.</p>
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 (The FHSO has a privacy policy. Your information will not be shared or sold.)

**You can initiate or renew your membership online by clicking on the link below:**

<http://www.ontarioforesthistor.ca/index.php/membership>

**Or, by filling out and submitting the form below, with your cheque, to the address listed below:**

<b>Name</b>					
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<b>City</b>		<b>Province</b>		<b>Postal Code</b>	
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<p><b>Membership Type – Please Check One</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FHSO Annual Membership - \$45.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FHSO Student Membership - \$15.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FHSO Institution/Corporate Membership - \$100.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FHSO Membership for OFA / OWA / OHS Members - \$30.00</p>	<p><b>Please Make Cheque Payable To:</b></p> <p>Forest History Society of Ontario          144 Front Street West, Suite 700          Toronto ON M5J 2L7</p>
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