

The Professional Forester

March 2007

The official publication of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association

Number 185



What's Inside...

every issue

A Few Words From ...	3
What Do Foresters Do?	20
Business Cards	22
Member News	23
Coming Events	24

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this issue

The Early Days of the OPFA	3
CIF Role in Founding of OPFA	4
Looking Backwards	5
Where Have the Young Foresters Gone?	6
My Perspective on Forestry and My Future In It	7
The Public Interest	7
A President's Look Back at Licensing	8
Who's Running the Show?	9
Why Belong to CIF?	11
Free Mapping Tool For Your Local Stewardship Activities	11
50th Anniversary Conference and Annual General Meeting Information	12
Professional Growth and Sustaining Professional Competency	15
Is It Your Turn?	16
Urban Forestry Committee Formed!	17
Call for Nominations	18
First-Ever Fairness Commissioner Appointed	19
U of T Faculty of Forestry Celebrates 100 Years	21

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The Professional Forester is published quarterly by and for members of the Association, as well as those interested in the profession of forestry in Ontario.

Unless specifically stated, views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Association, its Council or the employers of members.

Printed in Ontario, Canada

REPRINT PERMISSION

Requests to use material published in *The Professional Forester* should be directed to the OPFA at opfa@opfa.ca or 705-436-2226.

A Few Words From... Our Editor

Caroline Mach, R.P.F. #1754

Just as I was working on this issue of *The Professional Forester*, Executive Director Tony Jennings, R.P.F. forwarded a "thought of the day" about professional accountability:

The ancient Romans had a tradition: whenever one of their engineers constructed an arch, as the capstone was hoisted into place, the engineer assumed accountability for his work in the most profound way possible: he stood under the arch.

Michael Armstrong

The brain teaser for you is, what is the appropriate forestry equivalent? We're opening this up to a competition amongst the members...submit your ideas to newsletter@opfa.ca or phone the OPFA office at 705-436-2226 prior to April 10. A panel of esteemed judges will decide the winner(s), which will be announced during the Annual General Meeting portion of the 50th anniversary annual conference in Huntsville (April 18-20, 2007) and in the June issue of *The Professional Forester*. So, put those thinking caps

on and keep in mind the wide range of "what a forester does"!

The Early Days of the OPFA

Reminiscence of the Junior OPFA Charter Member

As OPFA members are probably aware, their Association was incorporated by an Act of the Ontario Legislature which became law on April 3rd, 1957 when the Bill entitled *An Act to Incorporate the Ontario Professional Foresters Association* received Royal Assent.

Perhaps I should first explain the "junior" part. I was a member of the U of T Forestry Class of 4T9 which consisted of over 100 WWII veterans and 12 secondary school graduates of which I was the youngest – hence the youngest member of my class. Upon graduation I, together with classmates Ross Smith and Earl Palmer, proceeded directly to Osgoode Hall Law School from which we all graduated in 1953. A little over a year later in October, 1954, I found myself installed in the Woodlands Department of Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company in Kapuskasing, Ontario. I understood that this was a consequence of the desire of the former U of T Forestry Dean, Gordon G. Cosens, to have a lawyer working in the woodlands department of the pulp and paper company

with which he had for many years been connected as consultant and later as an official.

Anyway, sometime during the year 1955 I was sitting at my desk in the Spruce Falls Woodlands Industrial Relations office minding my own business when suddenly I was surrounded by at least three of the senior company foresters, including Woodlands Manager the late Fred Flatt. A bunch of papers were deposited on my desk and it was explained to me that Dean Bernie Sisam of the U of T Faculty of Forestry was reinvigorating the languishing desire of a number of senior foresters to form a self-governing Association for foresters similar to what the professional engineers had. Bernie Sisam knew and had retained Beverly Matthews, Q.C., a senior corporate lawyer with the then prestigious Toronto law firm of McCarthy & McCarthy to assist in getting the necessary provincial government legislation passed, and a Mr. Wardrope, whom I believe was the Member of the Ontario Legislature for the Lakehead area, had agreed to sponsor the legislation.

The procedure being followed required a number of persons, who were supposedly representative of the various aspects of the forestry profession throughout Ontario, to sign a petition for the legislation in which they would be charter members of the OPFA and constitute its provisional council. I did recognize some of the individuals who were to be petitioners, such as Dean Sisam, and my former forestry professor Bob Hosie, John Matthews the chief forester for Abitibi, Bill Phipps of our own Spruce Falls organization, Tom Mackey of the Department of Lands and Forests, and Walter Giles who had been a year ahead of me at the Faculty of Forestry. (To the best of my knowledge only Walter Giles and myself are currently surviving of all the named Charter Members.)

What I did not and never have understood is why I was selected to be a petitioner, particularly from the Kapuskasing area when outstanding foresters such as Fred Flatt were available. Perhaps the Spruce Falls crowd were deluded with the idea that a forestry lawyer, however newly minted and being the only one such species in Ontario, was

(Continued on page 8)

CIF Role in Founding of OPFA

Mack Williams, R.P.F. #156

Editor's Note: This was originally submitted as a Letter to the Editor and its receipt was the genesis for this special 50th anniversary issue of The Professional Forester.



I am enjoying the September issue of *The Professional Forester*, and in particular Roxanne Comeau's article on the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF). She reminds us of many good reasons why a practising forester might want to be a CIF member.

I think it useful to recall some of the history of the relationships between the CIF and the OPFA, that in a way go back to when the CIF (the CSFE, or Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, as it was called until a major reorganization in 1950) was founded in 1908. It is useful to recall the major role of the CSFE's Ontario sections in the years of effort it took to bring the OPFA into being. And I know that CIF sections in other provinces have had a strong hand in founding their professional organizations.

For several years in the 1980s I worked to develop the history of the CIF Southern Ontario Section (SOS), which was published in 1991. I had (and still have) in my possession the entire archive of the section, and even though I lived with it since about 1949 was impressed with the attention devoted to this role of bringing the OPFA into being. What follows is from the material I found in the SOS archive, and was shown at the OPFA office.

At the very beginning, in 1908, the new CSFE, with Dean Bernard Fernow as its founding President, felt two main needs: to evolve a section structure, and to work toward "a closed profession" i.e. a professional organization, this need received continuing attention over the next 25 years or so. It may not be coincidence that in the 1930s, during the Great Depression, there was renewed interest and effort in this. It tended to dominate meetings of the short-lived Ontario Section, formed in 1934, the Southern Ontario Section, formed in 1937, with which I am most familiar, and the other sections, five in all, that by 1941 covered all of Ontario.

A letter from Fred Flatt of Kapuskasing to the five CSFE sections across Ontario made the case that a unified organization of foresters across Ontario would serve the interests of forestry practice and of the public. He felt that the time was right to act, given that a new Minister and new Deputy Minister might

be receptive to the idea. Thus began an effort that would continue, with a three-year lull, until 1957 when the OPFA came into being.

In October, 1941, forty-one foresters, mostly CSFE members, from across Ontario met in North Bay, and formed the Ontario Society of Forest Engineers (OSFE), with an executive of seven, and a goal of "the advancement of the profession and practice of forestry in Ontario-----." A letter ballot sent to Ontario CSFE members indicated a strong interest in drafting a constitution and an Act for consideration by the Ontario Legislature. Interest was intensified by visiting Quebec members who enthused about the professional organization they had had since 1921. OSFE members worked during 1942-44 on developing their constitution and drafting the Act, with the full knowledge of the Government. By 1944 OSFE had a draft Act, which was circulated through CSFE sections to all foresters in Ontario, and some amendments were made.

In February, 1945, with some further amendments to make it legally suitable, it was introduced to the Legislature, received second reading, and it is believed would have been passed but for a couple of things: it came just as an election was called and some foresters who had been strong supporters did not understand the need for the changes being made, and became bitterly, vocally, and publicly opposed. After the election, the Government, well aware of the dissent, declined to take further action. There were those who felt that this would set back professional recognition by several decades.

The matter went dormant for a while, though some members from all over Ontario kept the hope alive. Then, in February 1949, the Southern Ontario Section of the CIF, with Dean J.W.B. Sisam as Chairman, showed renewed interest, spurred by two resolutions: one from the U of T Foresters' Club, and one from the CSFE national body, forming a "professional recognition" committee. Delegates from all five Ontario CIF sections met in Sault Ste. Marie during the CSFE-CIF Annual Meeting in October, 1950, and, encouraged by the National Executive, favoured forming a professional association, an effort that would involve all Ontario sections, with the Southern Ontario Section given the lead role, since Dean Sisam was a champion of the effort, and because of proximity to Queen's Park.

Their first action was a ballot to be signed by foresters across Ontario, indicating: I am/am not in favour of forming (a professional organization); I am/am not in favour of forming such an association through a government sponsored bill; I will/will not oppose passage of such legislation provided foresters across Ontario have signified favour. The ballot went to all the foresters in Ontario, 544 in all; 383 responded, all but two were in favour.

Over the next couple of years advice was sought as to how to draft a bill, and by April, 1952 copies of the draft bill were circulated, through the CIF sections, to foresters across Ontario.

In April, 1953 another ballot was sent to all foresters in Ontario, seeking reaffirmation of support, and authority to submit the draft bill at Queen's Park. In January 1954 the draft was to go to the Minister of Lands and Forests, by April this had been done, and, as is noted, "the going became very slow." It seems that the Premier, mindful of the controversy in 1945, was reluctant to have it stirred up again. The committee was asked to re-draft it, and to seek further assurance of forester support.

In 1955 it was submitted again to the Minister, who referred it to his Advisory Committee, who supported it. The Attorney-General's Department, after some delay, approved it with some minor changes.

In 1956 the professional recognition committee reported to members that there was still not government support for the bill, and sought foresters' approval for a private member's bill, believing this to be a step toward obtaining a public or government bill later on. This approval took the form of yet another ballot.

In January 1957 the Southern Ontario Section assigned certain of its members to contact various members of the legislature to seek support for the bill as it came before the legislature. The bill passed in March 1957, and the OPFA came into being. Its provisional council met in March, and OPFA's first general meeting was in North Bay September 16-17, 1957. Dean Sisam, who had chaired the CIF's professional recognition committee served for several years as OPFA's first President.

Looking Backwards

K. A. Armson, R.P.F. #209



There are three basic positions for human heads. One is to look straight ahead, another is to persist in looking backwards and the third, all too common, is to bury it in the sand. While the attributes of the minds associated with these three positions are typically ascribed to individuals, they can also be related to corporate bodies such as professional associations.

When a person reaches their 50th year or a 50th anniversary of whatever sort is celebrated, the 'golden anniversary' celebrations are usually focused on the past – accomplishments, experiences and relationships. Occasionally, there may be a nod to the future but the view is primarily, if not exclusively, on the past. This year is not an exception as the Ontario Professional Foresters Association celebrates its 50th anniversary. As with many individuals achieving this milestone, perhaps the first sense is one of relief – “we’ve made it!” The natural instinct of survival is uppermost. Not only has the OPFA survived, but during the period it has transformed into a licensing body, a goal that was there since the Association’s inception in 1957. A goal that a few foresters had even before the Association was born. In terms of accomplishments, as compared to individuals,

associations only function as a reflection of the actions of their corporate leaders. Further, as most persons biologically tend to be conservative, the attitude of their ‘heads’ reflects Marshall McLuhan’s “rear view mirror” description of people who while appearing to look ahead have their eyes mostly fixed on a view of the past. As with the driver in the car, the view of the distance ahead is limited, hence any sense or vision of the future in the longer term is not impossible, but unlikely.

In the 1960s logging in Algonquin Park was hotly debated and I think it fair to state that most foresters initially thought it was largely an emotionally-charged issue that would “blow over”. After all, logging had been going before and after the park was established in 1893. At an annual meeting of the OPFA in Toronto in the late ‘60s, as President I was asked by the media what the OPFA policy was on logging, i.e. forest management in provincial parks. Of course, we didn’t have one, but I stalled them and after a hurriedly convened Council meeting we did have one that I could communicate to the media. That is not the way to craft a policy! But in those days developing a policy on forest management in provincial parks was not uppermost in foresters’ minds. The attention of most people and organizations on a day to day basis dwells, of necessity,

on the here and now. This does not mean that the Association has not looked forward.

During this same period, the late ‘60s, the Association held a series of what are now called continuing education courses on computer use in forestry, pesticide use and silviculture for non-timber values. What the Association was doing was what it was supposed to, i.e. focus on aspects of forest practice that were deemed relevant. Invariably the looking ahead, having due regard for the past, in any association is done by individuals – those normally elected to chart the course and oversee the proper functioning of the body. This is not easy because issues of the day constantly need attention. When one looms out of the horizon that is little anticipated the initial response is often reactionary. Over the years the Association has not been at “the cutting edge” on public issues relating to forestry, but then honing a “cutting edge” seems to be essentially dependent on individuals, not associations or institutions.

We know what happens when the view is only ahead. For those who take this position their destiny is to repeat over and over mistakes from the past. What happens to those with their heads in the sand? They get run over.

1957 - 2007

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April 18 - 20, 2007

Where Have the Young Foresters Gone?

Laird Van Damme, R.P.F. #1376
KBM Forestry Consultants Inc.

Forestry has been a good career choice for me. Friendships made at university, field work and through my business have been rich and rewarding. I still love working, writing about and recreating in the forest. So why do so few young people seek to join the profession?

As a member of the Lakehead University Faculty Advisory Committee, the issue of declining enrolment has been a topic of concern for many years. This concern is shared by forestry post-secondary institutions across North America and much of the developed world.¹ The enrolment declines precede membership declines in our association.

Further anecdotal evidence came from my son who attended a lecture I gave at Lakehead University about forest planning in Canada. I had binders from several case study projects to show students. My son looked at these piles of paper work and said, "Remind me NOT to go into forestry".

This decline in interest among young people is not a reflection of poor marketing by the post secondary institutions. There are deeper social and market forces at work. There is also a stereotype about forestry as a low tech, low paying, lonely, male dominated profession. These perceptions, be they true or not, influence the choices young people make.

Canada is now an urban society and few people are attracted to small town or rural life where much of the forestry work is found. Young people interested in the forest have many exciting intellectual pursuits to choose from in an urban environment through environmental studies at universities or by working for ENGOs (lets not forget urban forestry).

For those interested in rural life and forests, the forest industry crisis is hardly the environment a young person would want to enter into. As one senior banker said to me several years ago, with full conviction, investment in a sunset industry is hardly an attractive proposition. Many young people probably share that conviction and choose to invest their time elsewhere.

The public sector is one step removed from the current industry crisis. This sector provides above average wages and benefits and some interesting challenges in implementing

public policy or doing applied research. The downside is that the sector is dominated by a union environment where promotion can be based on seniority, among other things, besides merit. Many young people may not find this an attractive environment.

The young people that work with me at our firm do not necessarily have an undergraduate degree in forestry. Most have a graduate degree which is necessary for much of our consulting work. Despite their diverse training they have a few things in common at their age. They want to make a difference. They want to feel part of something positive. They value creativity.

Some of our projects involve a narrow process to produce documents that go to "binder heaven". Hardly the kind of thing to inspire a young person. Much of Ontario's forestry work is a lot about following prescribed process rather than achieving desired outcomes. None the less we are able to find enough challenging projects and new business ventures that keep them fully engaged.

Although we may not be able as individuals or as an association to change some of the stronger social and economic forces, we can do some things to attract young people. We need to think about ways of keeping the work environment and the profession stimulating and exciting. We can do this by:

- Engaging in principled debate.
- Updating legislation
- Interacting with other resource management professionals
- Challenging the stereotypes

I am as guilty as fellow members of not writing responses to newspaper articles to correct errors and omissions on reports dealing with our forests. Forestry professionals are often quiet folk, perhaps because Canadians over-value compromise and consensus. Silence is a form of consensus.

Good ideas need vigorous and principled debate. The OPFA and the educational institutions do provide a place for this to occur but we rarely see it in action. Position papers or involvement over and above basic administration are rare commodities.

The Crown Forest Sustainability Act deserves some consideration for an update. The cur-

rent emphasis on manuals and process ahead of professionalism needs to be changed. Perhaps the results based management concepts that have taken root in British Columbia may provide a starting point for this change.

It would be nice to see annual general meetings attended by a broader group of resource management professionals. A policy and legislative environment that advances professionalism will require an expanded professional association. The contributions of biologists, geographers and hydrologists are just as important as foresters in undertaking natural resource management. As another writer observes:

"Professional associations need to open their doors to professionals who know about forest management as it relates to wildlife, fisheries and First Nations approaches to resource management, even if they do not know as much about harvest scheduling or silviculture. We have gone overboard in self limitation and exclusive membership."²

There were some good television ads sponsored by the CPPA a few years back that challenged the stereotypical forestry scene. A more sustained effort is needed. Lakehead University has produced an excellent CD targeting young people but it needs broader distribution. There is certainly a role for the OPFA here. After all, forestry relies on advanced technology, there is considerable fraternity, the pay is above average, and women play increasingly important roles.

These things tend to work themselves out over a period of time. The forest industry crisis will no doubt be a catalyst for change. As we reflect on the developments of the last fifty years, we may be pleasantly surprised to find a more diverse skill set and age demographic being part of this association in the next fifty years. Some concerted effort by members of this association can secure that future. Perhaps my son might reconsider his career choices if this effort is successful.

¹ Smallwood, D. ND. State of forestry education and careers. Canadian Institute of Forestry, Ottawa, 109 pp. <http://www.wnmf.com/main/vision/annual/forestry%20education/smallwood,%20careers.pdf>

² Lewis and Hawkins (2003): *Professional Associations stuck in Time*, Forum, Nov/Dec 2003

My Perspective on Forestry and My Future In It

Jennifer Platt
H.B.Sc. F. Candidate



As a high school student in southern Ontario I became aware of a possible career in forestry through Envirothon and my involvement with the stewardship ranger program. When I first began my studies here at Lakehead University my future in forestry seemed to have endless possibilities; that I could go in any direction I wanted. The years that followed seemed to bring a far less optimistic view. The mill closures, softwood lumber dispute, and continued strikes among labour unions only added to the growing disappointed outlook of a forestry student.

My years studying forestry have always been accompanied with the ongoing pressure of the job hunt. By mid-November to December I am expected to know where I am going for the summer, before I have even finished the first semester. This added pressure, along with the dwindling job prospects in Ontario, only breeds a stressful state of mind. The knowledgeable words from foresters in the industry do not bring any hope to the situation as I have been told on more than one occasion to leave Ontario

for a few years until the situation improves.

I now approach completion of my HBScF degree, and my career lies before me. The endless possibilities I once imagined are not so clear. Basically, to go out west or not to go out west is the main question. Though I still have hope for the industry in Ontario, no matter where I go there is more to forestry and being a forester than there appears to be at first glance. Outcomes from the Kyoto Protocol and climate change will affect forestry practices in the very near future. The environmental propaganda beginning to surface is only going to point out the negatives in the forest industry. So, as someone who wants a future in forestry there is no choice but to step up and point out that forestry is not evil, but is just meeting the wood and fibre supply demanded by the public while trying to do our best handling the delicate ecosystems with the knowledge that we have.

As a future steward of the forest it will be my responsibility to do so, and incorporate new knowledge as it comes available. I know that my education in forestry does not end

once I've graduated but continues as I work and grow as a forester. I do not see my whole career taking place in remote regions, nor do I see the OPFA and CIF being organizations only foresters know of. I see the forest industry becoming more up front with the public so that it may continue. I feel that it is important for me to develop my personal relations and communication skills to adapt to a changing industry. As a future forester I will not only be dealing with fellow foresters but people from all walks of life including First Nations, government, and the public beyond the local citizens committees more closely.

I began my education in forestry with a very optimistic attitude, and although I've seen a few ups and a large number of downs in the forest industry, I still see great potential for a career, even if I choose to remain in Ontario. The industry does have a future whether it be in value added products, research, intensive management, or some combination therein. I anticipate many challenges, and I will undoubtedly face them with the same youthful enthusiasm I came to Lakehead with.

The Public Interest

Rod Carrow, R.P.F. #1096

There's public interest, and then there's public interest. There's the interest, or lack thereof, of the public in the state of Ontario's forests. Then, there's the kind of public interest that displays a lack of understanding of what forest management is all about - the kind that often elicits a response from foresters that if the public only understood what we are doing, then they would be on side. But the public interest that is central to the practice of professional forestry is expressed in the *Professional Forestry Act* (Sec. 5): "The principal object of the Association is to regulate the practice of professional forestry...in order that the public interest may be served and protected." This is the principal object of the OPFA and it should also be the guiding principle of professional forestry in Ontario.

What is meant by this type of public interest? Over 90% of Ontario's forests - more than 60 million hectares - is owned by the public, and the legal responsibility for care and management of these forests rests with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The public interest associated with sustainable management of our forests is substantial and can be characterized by factors such as: nearly 90,000 jobs; hundreds of millions of dollars in Crown dues; rural economic prosperity; countless opportunities for recreation, hunting and fishing, and protection of the ecological integrity of our forests. While the OMNR holds the legal responsibility for forest management, the agent who holds daily responsibility for protecting this public interest is the professional forester and the vehicle he/she

generally uses is the forest management plan. While many individuals and organizations contribute constructively to the development of the plan, the professional forester is the one person who authors and takes responsibility for the forest management plan, the plan whose central purpose should be to serve and protect the interest - economic, social, and environmental - of the public in the forests which the public owns. It is a critically important role that the professional forester plays because the external forces are numerous and complex, and generally none of these forces is concerned with the broad challenge of protecting the public interest. That is the unique role of the professional forester!

A President's Look Back at Licensing

John F. Goodman, R.P.F. #774

When I joined the OPFA in 1965, eight years after its formation, I found a fledgling "right to title" organization allowing anyone to practice professional forestry in Ontario. It was the voice of professional foresters in Ontario, it provided a platform for advocacy and it provided some continuing education for members.

We have come a long way from this early beginning. After years of lobbying, hard work and dedication by members we now have the *Professional Foresters Act* (2000). This Right to Practice legislation established forestry as a self regulated profession, defining the scope of practice and at long last enabled the association to be responsible for the regulation of the practice of professional forestry in Ontario.

Following ratification of the Act I assumed the Presidency and the enormous challenge began to sink in. The work ahead during the first few months was challenging and significant. The most important challenge that I, and the Council, undertook was to maintain high standards of professionalism while ensuring accountability as a self-regulating association. The task was to ensure we were compliant with the new laws of self-governance. One key daunting task was to ensure each member of the OPFA understood his or her new responsibilities and

accountabilities and was committed to this common goal.

Although my term as President was ground breaking and unique in some respects, the success was in large part due to the committed Council members, including the five public members of Council appointed by the government. This active public involvement by non-foresters in developing and managing the mandate and affairs of our association was new to all of us. These five individuals brought invaluable, unfettered experience and advice as we tackled the first year of our new association. I will be forever grateful to each of them. Of course I would be negligent if I didn't acknowledge the tremendous work and dedication of our Executive Director Rick Monzon, R.P.F. He kept us focused and challenged and really made us all look good.

Let me briefly summarize some of the work we initiated as a Council during this first pivotal year of self-regulation:

- public policy development
- development of the first scope of practice bulletins
- development and implementation of academic standards
- writing a plan for the development of practice standards

- development of a mentoring plan for new members

These were in addition to the key areas of work from our Strategic Plan:

- carrying out essential core responsibilities established by the new Act
- increased communications with all members on regulatory issues
- continued development of new operations programs
- implementation of a mandatory continuing education program for the membership

It was a year of firsts, of challenges and of accomplishments and one I will not forget for a long time.

Perhaps Ken Armson summed up this new start very succinctly: *"The introduction of licensing is the most significant action to bring about the better management of Ontario's forests during the past 20 years and provide for their sustainability for future generations"*.

OPFA Presidents, Councils and staff since have continued to mature our association and I am confident we are well placed as we celebrate 50 years to ensure the professional management of Ontario's forest estate well into the next 50 years.

(Continued from page 3)

somehow an asset for the incorporation procedure. Anyway, given the pressure around my desk, I did not ask very many questions and, in accordance with the unwritten rule for employees in a single company town, signed the petition as requested with the thought that perhaps being an OPFA charter member might be the only way my name would be enshrined in the annals of the Province of Ontario.

Now 50 years have passed, I have been privileged to serve as a legal advisor for the OPFA for many of those years and am currently a life member, which membership I greatly value. My the next 50 years be beneficial to the OPFA and to all its members.

Edwin F. Ault, Q.C., R.P.F. #9 (Retired)

Further Reminiscences

One thing members of the Ontario Professional Forester Association seem to have forgotten is that the formation of the Association was instigated in the Ontario sections of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Each section elected or chose a member to be on the organizing committee. I represented the Lake of the Woods section of the Institute on that committee. The first annual meeting of the Association was held in North Bay in 1957 (as I remember) when the final presentation to the government was adopted. None of the founding members expected any competition for membership between the two organizations, we were after all first and foremost members of the Institute and were organizing the Professional Foresters' Association to follow the lead of foresters in New Brunswick, Quebec, and British Columbia. The latter had just shortly before completed their organization. Under the terms

of these organizations, only members could sign Forest Management Plans as required by their individual provinces from timber license holders. As one member of the committee said at the time, "the purpose of the OPFA was to regulate foresters in their performance of their duties in the province, while the CIF instructed forester in changes to forest management practices across Canada." The committee members thought this was an excellent explanation of the differences between the two organizations and, in my opinion, still applies.

George Garner, R.P.F. #7

Who's Running the Show?

Matthew Benson, R.P.F. #1345

Formation of the OPFA

The OPFA was originally created by the 25th Legislature of the Province of Ontario via Bill 10, the *Professional Foresters Association Act* on April 3, 1957.

According to Ken Armson, "Ontario foresters felt strongly that the need for provincial legislation would bind them together as a professional body for the purposes of increasing the knowledge, skills and proficiency of its members in the practice of forestry and to regulate the standards of practice of members. It was hoped that such legislation would include licensing, but Bill 10 fell short of that and the Association became a registration body."

The names of the following twelve foresters appear in the original Bill as inaugural members: John Sisam; John Matthews; Thomas Mackey; Alva Bray; R. C. Hosie; Willard Phipps; George Garner; Robert Young; Edwin Ault; Charles Rowe; John Giles; and Ewan Caldwell. By the end of 1958, there were about 410 members in the Association.

(Editor's Note: See the article by Mack Williams, R.P.F. on page 4 for more on the formation of the Association.)

Executive Director

To the best of our knowledge, the OPFA has had only six Executive Directors. The first was Cy Wilde, who took office in 1957. Following Cy was Al Fenwick, who came on as a part-time Secretary/Treasurer in 1967. According to Ken Armson, "the main concern (in 1967) was getting the OPFA into a stable financial position and...to build up a reserve equivalent to finance the Association for six months if we ever had to close."

Al Fenwick hired Marjorie Beresford as a part-time secretary and when Al retired Marjorie took over as Executive Director. One of President Bill Brown's fondest memories of his "time on OPFA council and as President, is Marjorie Beresford. Marjorie served OPFA so well and was a delight to work with."

Following Marjorie was John Ebbs, R.P.F. and

then Rick Monzon, R.P.F. (1999-2005). The current Executive Director, Tony Jennings, R.P.F., started on March 1, 2005. A highlight for President Craig Howard was recruiting Tony Jennings to replace the retiring Rick Monzon as Executive Director and Registrar.

President

The first President of the OPFA was John Sisam, R.P.F. in 1957. Since then thirty-three members have served as President, including the current President David Milton, R.P.F. Thirteen members have served two terms as President and only one member, Art Herridge, R.P.F. in the mid-1960s, has ever served three terms as President.

As there is no written history of the OPFA, I contacted some previous Presidents in order to share their insights about our past. A few early Presidents are deceased and unfortunately we have lost contact with some others from the early days of the Association. Thankfully, many Past Presidents responded enthusiastically to share their memories.

Most former Presidents remember their term fondly as an exciting part of their professional life. Craig Howard, R.P.F. (2005, 2006) said, "it was a blast and I learned a ton". John Fingland, R.P.F. (1991) remembers, "having a great time and a very busy time". Some, like Jim Coats, R.P.F. (1985), confessed that "the term in office is something of a blur". And some like Paul McAllister, R.P.F. (1993) jokingly said they "tried to forget it".

Most former Presidents had a long involvement in the OPFA before their term as President. Most spoke of serving on Council and on a variety of committees and many commented on the many dedicated volunteers. Sometimes however, that volunteer spirit had to be coerced. Jim Coats, R.P.F. recalled being "asked to accept the presidency on the guise that he would be forever remembered as the President who brought licensing to the profession". Jim doesn't recall the details of being elected and assumes it was by acclamation, as there was no campaign. Laird van Damme, R.P.F. (1995) remembers being asked to serve while Dave Gordon, R.P.F., the elected President, stepped aside to work on the

Crown Forest Sustainability Act and thus avoid a conflict of interest.

When asked about the issues of their day, all the former Presidents easily recalled the most significant ones. Not surprisingly many of the issues were reoccurring and are still present today. Ken Armson, R.P.F. (1968, 1969) recalls "the OPFA was unprepared for the greenies onslaught over Algonquin Park and this meant that members had to think in broader terms than just timber management. The result was the series of 3-4 day courses the OPFA put on in February of those years at the Faculty of Forestry during Study Week. Courses such as Computer Use for Foresters, Pesticides and Silviculture for Non-Timber Values and Uses (interestingly, the last was the least successful!)." Ken also remembers the continuing effort to convince practising foresters who had not joined why they should become members of the OPFA.

The two biggest issues that Jim Coats, R.P.F. recalls were ethics and public recognition. "We weren't very good at responding in public, in a professional way and the media told us so." "We did get an ethics committee formed and I remember one of our draft responses sounded like it came from the Department of Lands and Forests!" remarked Jim. "We ditched that one and came up with something better. We retained the Ontario Editorial Bureau. They were very good at what they did, but we had little organized to say and couldn't afford them." Licensing was also a major concern during Jim's term and "although we worked at it, there was little progress."

The issue that Bill Brown, R.P.F. (1989, 1990) recalled was the Environmental Assessment hearings. Bill recalled attending the hearings with John Ebbs, R.P.F. and appearing as a witness. He also remembered doing interviews with the media on the OPFA view of the issues. "A key part of the OPFA position was that licensing of foresters should be part of their consideration for the future". A "clear majority of the membership had indicated a desire for licensing at previous annual meetings." Other issues of Bill's term included accreditation of forestry schools, closer cooperation with the CIF, formation of the Foundation, and membership for foresters

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

with out-of-country education and experience.

John Finland, R.P.F. recalls “there was a very active and enthusiastic group of people on the Licensing Committee,” as he came to office. “They were ready to go and get it done. Unfortunately we had to ask them to stand-to because the Timber EA hearings opened and we felt compelled to participate.” Other issues of John’s term included Temagami, old growth, national accreditation, sustainable development, better communications with the public, relationships with MNR, a membership drive, and the review and modernization of the logo.

The major issues during Dave McGowan, R.P.F.’s, 1993 term were the ongoing pursuit of licensing and the need for a planned direction for the Association. This was “addressed through the effort to develop a strategic plan to guide Council and the Association.”

Laird Van Damme, R.P.F. recalls speaking to a government standing committee reviewing Bill 171 (CFSA) during his term. “Although the Bill had many positive aspects, I spoke about my concerns as a professional forester over centralized knowledge, emphasis on manuals over professional judgment and the need to have diverse interpretations and strategies in pursuit of forest sustainability.” The Bill was passed, of course, with few changes and the outcome has been worse than Laird forecasted. “Perhaps future Presidents can be more persuasive in amendments to the CFSA such that the role of professionalism in forestry matters is expanded,” suggests Laird. Craig Howard recalls seeing “the organization grow its regulatory mandate and deal with issues of policy and discipline with new rigour and credibility” during his term. Craig also fondly recalls, “seeing the regional seminars grow (20% of our membership now meets face to face) into great exchanges of information and opinion among our members.”

Finally, many of the Past Presidents remarked on the value of a history of the Association. Jim Coats, R.P.F. jokingly said, “I remember little and have no files to go to.” It would be great to have an extensive history of the OPFA that covered the great work so many staff and volunteers have done for the organization.

50 Years of OPFA Presidents			
Year	President	Year	President
1958	JOHN SISAM	1985	JIM COATS
1959	JOHN SISAM	1986	HERB BAX
1960	FRED FLATT	1987	LORNE RILEY
1961	WESLEY MCNUTT	1988	WILLIAM GILMORE
1962	ROBERT HOSIE	1989	WILLIAM BROWN
1963	ED BONNER	1990	WILLIAM BROWN
1964	ART HERRIDGE	1991	JOHN FINGLAND
1965	ART HERRIDGE	1992	NICK SALTARELLI
1966	EWAN CALDWELL	1993	PAUL MCALISTER
1967	ART HERRIDGE	1994	DAVID MCGOWAN
1968	KEN ARMSON	1995	LAIRD VAN DAMME
1969	KEN ARMSON	1996	DAVID CHAPESKIE
1970	KEN HEARNDON	1997	GEORGE BRUEMMER
1971	KEN HEARNDON	1998	ALEC DENYS
1972	WILLIAM HALL	1999	ALEC DENYS
1973	DAVID BRUCE	2000	RIET VERHEGGEN
1974	DAVID BRUCE	2001	RIET VERHEGGEN
1975	ROBERT DAY	2002	JOHN GOODMAN
1976	ROBERT DAY	2003	JOHN CARY
1977	JOHN BLAIR	2004	JOHN CARY
1978	JOHN BLAIR	2005	CRAIG HOWARD
1979	BILL FULLERTON	2006	CRAIG HOWARD
1980	IAN BIRD	2007	DAVID MILTON
1981	ROBERT HAIG		
1982	ROBERT HAIG		
1983	MIKE INNES		
1984	MIKE INNES		

Why Belong to CIF?

John Pineau
Executive Director, CIF/IFC



I won't apologize that the answers to this question read like some kind of excessively enthusiastic infomercial - because I believe that the answers are best suited to be delivered in that way... There are actually a lot

of very good reasons. You should want to belong to the CIF/IFC to be part of a powerful and effective national network of forestry professionals and practitioners that is in the process of adding value and changing in many very positive ways... The Institute is undergoing a major rejuvenation exercise that will bring much improvement, and that is already providing immediate new value to members across Canada! The CIF/IFC already brings together many members of the different provincial professional associations in a diverse and objective membership that strongly promotes continuing education and personal, professional development for its members, and advocates for responsible forest stewardship... Here are some examples of new and long-standing value and privileges that membership brings...

The revamped CIF/IFC **E-newsletter** is entertaining, informative and nationally, regionally and locally relevant. It will be emailed to members only, six times per year.

The Institute is developing a new **Dynamic and Exciting Website** focused on useful information, resources and tools for its members. The site will have its debut on March 30, 2007.

A national **On-line Discussion Forum** has been created to allow effective networking and engagement of members on forestry-related issues and topics from coast to coast! Visit the CIF website and click on the CIF/IFC Forum link to see what your colleagues are saying.

All CIF/IFC members now receive - free of charge - **Canadian Silviculture Magazine**; a practical and informative publication focusing on forest regeneration.

The CIF/IFC has launched a monthly **Electronic Lecture Series** that will be practitioner-relevant and timely, with presentations from forest scientists, researchers and practitioners across Canada - again free and easily accessible to all members! You can obtain your continuing education credits in your office. Visit the CIF/IFC website to find out the time and title of our next lecture.

The Institute is investing in new **Partnerships** with industry, government and other organizations to advance the dissemination of forest information, science, research, resources and tools to its membership.

Significant discounts on all CIF/IFC **Section and National Events** including technical workshops, field tours, conferences, and socials...

And last but not least - six issues per year of

The Forestry Chronicle, our respected and informative journal published since 1925, with a planned shift to provide additional practical and applied science and information for use in forest management planning and operations; also going digital and on-line back to 1925 for all members before the end of 2007!

The Institute will celebrate its centenary in 2008! We are a venerable organization with a rich, but admittedly sometimes passive history. However, the CIF/IFC is beginning to provide significantly more to its members; and this effort will continue - aggressively. The powerful continuing education and personal professional development component of CIF/IFC membership is growing rapidly, and will be a considerable and valuable package that individuals, organizations, companies and governments come to recognize and actively seek. Ultimately, the opportunity to effectively network and communicate with fellow forestry professional and technical practitioners locally and across Canada; and the opportunity to openly and objectively advocate responsible forest stewardship will be the major focus of the Institute in the years to come...

Provincial association members will add much to their professional and personal experience, knowledge and credentials by also holding membership with the CIF/IFC.

Free Mapping Tool for Your Local Stewardship Activities

Mark Rowsell
Geographer
Eastern Ontario Model Forest

Several conservation partners with an interest in environmental stewardship are working together to develop an online database and mapping application that will enable organizations in southern Ontario to manage their stewardship and restoration projects. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) Foundation, local Conservation Authorities, Ontario Stewardship, and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest are guiding a non-profit organization called the Centre for Community Mapping to develop the application. The end product will be a free, publicly available website that

will allow users to map the location, describe the activities, track and report the success of specific projects, and learn from others.

Details of the product are currently being developed in cooperation with a wide range of partners and potential end users.

For more information, contact Mark Rowsell at mrowsell@eomf.on.ca or 613-258-8400.

1957 - 2007

50th

Annual Conference

Deerhurst Inn Huntsville, ON

April 18 - 20, 2007

Value the Past, Embrace the Future



We are pleased to announce that the 2007 Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) Annual Conference (our 50th!) is being held April 18, 19 and 20 this year. We are anticipating an excellent meeting as the Conference continues to build on its reputation as the pre-eminent gathering of forest professionals in Ontario. The dialogue will be significant, and deliberations will influence how public and private land policies and practices are developed and implemented in the years to come.

The theme of the Conference is "**Value the Past, Embrace the Future**". The Conference will combine thought provoking comments on our recent history with insights into the challenges likely to face us in the future.

The plenary session on April 19th will bring some of our history to the forefront, as **Ken Armson, R.P.F.** heads a group of six speakers that will confirm the social, economic, political and environmental influences that shaped the development of professional forestry in Ontario. Our afternoon sessions will look at the challenges and opportunities that drive today's foresters. Industrial forests, urban forests and conservation forests all have current circumstances that call for the technical and management expertise of a Registered Professional Forester. Finally, on Friday morning, our group looks to the future. With all of us predicting great changes in our profession, it will be instructive and, we hope, inspiring, to hear our leaders present their version of Ontario's forested future.

The keynote speaker at the banquet Thursday evening will be **Roy MacGregor**. Mr. MacGregor is a highly entertaining public speaker, a natural comic and a passionate storyteller with a sense of this country that, from 30 years of travel is second to none. He was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 2005, and brings to our meeting a sense of local history and national perspective.

Value the Past, Embrace the Future: 50th Annual Conference Agenda

Wednesday, April 18

1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Field Trip

The field trip will include tours of Tembec Inc.'s (Huntsville Division) sawmill and flooring plant, maple syrup production at Deerhurst and urban forestry in Huntsville (Chris Madej, Manager of Planning, Town of Huntsville).

4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Dinner on own

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Registration (Waterhouse Ballroom 1- 3)

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Icebreaker and Tradeshow (Waterhouse Ballroom 1- 3)

Thursday, April 19 (Waterhouse Ballroom 4-5)

8:00 a.m. to noon - Registration (Pavilion Lobby)

8:30 p.m. to noon - Morning Session

Lessons from the Past

Moderator - Bob Carman, Member of OMNR Provincial Forest Policy Committee & Chair of Dean's Advisory Board, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto
Ken Armson, R.P.F.

Brent Connelly, R.P.F., Retired Manager of Operations, Algonquin Forestry Authority

Herb Bax, R.P.F., KBM Forestry Consultants Inc.

Michael Rosen, R.P.F., President, Tree Canada

Edward Borczon, R.P.F., Forestry Consultant and Educator

Anne Koven, Past Chair of Class EA Timber Management Hearing & Past Vice-Chair of the Environmental Assessment Board

Noon - Lunch (Ballroom Conference Hallway) With Speaker, Honourable David Ramsay, OMNR (invited)

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Afternoon Session

Living in the Present

Moderator - Faye Johnson, R.P.F., Woodlands Manager - Ontario, Grant Forest Products Inc.

Mark Speers, R.P.F., Director, Industry Relations Branch, OMNR

John McNeil, R.P.F., Manager of Forestry Service, Town of Oakville

Bob Fleet, R.P.F., Vice-President Woodlands & Environment, Grant Forest Products Inc.

Graeme Davis, R.P.F., Forester, County of Simcoe

Lorne Johnson, Ottawa Bureau Director, World Wildlife Fund

Maureen Kershaw, R.P.F., Chair, Forestry Futures Trust & Forestry Futures Committee

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Cocktails and Tradeshow (Waterhouse Ballrooms 1, 2, 3, 4)

6:15 p.m. - Banquet & Awards (Tom Thompson Room) With Keynote Speaker, Roy MacGregor

9:00 p.m. + Social

Friday, April 20 (Tom Thompson Room)

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. - CIF Breakfast (Waterhouse Ballroom 1 & 2)

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. - Registration (Tom Thompson Room)

8:30 a.m. to noon - Morning Session

Looking to the Future

Moderator - Tat Smith, Dean Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto

Jamie Lim, President, Ontario Forest Industries Association

Bill Thornton R.P.F., Assistant Deputy Minister, Forests Division, OMNR (invited)

Dean Assinewe, R.P.F., North Shore Tribal Council
Andrew Kenny, R.P.F., Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto

Murray Woods, Senior Analyst, Forested Landscapes, OMNR

George Bruemmer, R.P.F., Executive Director - Fibre Centre, Natural Resource Canada

David Milton, R.P.F., President, OPFA

Noon - Lunch (Tom Thompson room)

1:00 p.m to 3:30 p.m. - OPFA Business Meeting (Waterhouse Ballroom 1-2)

For registration inquiries, please contact:
Maggie Maw 705-789-9647

For more information about the conference, please visit www.opfa.ca or contact:

Carl Corbett, R.P.F.
705-789-9647 ext. 29
carl.corbett@algonquinforestry.on.ca

Note: Although the guarantee date has passed, Deerhurst Inn will continue to honour the special conference rate while suitable rooms are available.

1957 - 2007

50th Annual Conference

Deerhurst Inn Huntsville, ON
April 18 - 20, 2007

Do you have historic OPFA photos?

If you would like to share them as part of the 50th annual meeting and conference, please send them to:

Carl Corbett, R.P.F.
Algonquin Forestry Authority
222 Main Street West
Huntsville, ON P1H 1Y1
carl.corbett@algonquinforestry.on.ca

or bring them with you to the meeting in April!



Professional Growth and Sustaining Professional Competency

Tony Jennings, R.P.F. #745
Executive Director, OPFA

Will you be at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the conclusion of the 50th Anniversary Annual Conference?

Those members who can attend the General Meeting will have the opportunity to discuss the next important initiative in meeting the OPFA responsibilities under the *Professional Foresters Act 2000*. This initiative will be important to all members.

Background

Under the *Act*, “The principal object of the Association is to regulate the practice of professional forestry and to govern its members . . . in order that the public interest may be served and protected.”

As a first step in meeting this responsibility for the continued professional growth and competence of each member in his or her area of practice, we currently have a basic requirement for continuing education activity and reporting.

While this first step is important, the continuing education activity is part of a larger framework of maintaining the competencies of the membership. As members, you are all aware of these requirements. It is a member driven system requiring the individual member to be accountable for professional growth and sustaining their competencies in their areas of practice.

At the 2006 AGM a resolution was put forward at the request of the Continuing Education Committee seeking member support for initiating the next step in ensuring member competency was being sustained. The motion called for the introduction of a program to “audit” continuing education records with a percentage of members reviewed each year. The expectation was that, with support, the Committee would develop the process and by-law changes for consideration at the 2007 AGM.

While the resolution was approved by a considerable majority, there were both opposing votes and abstentions, along with several strongly voiced concerns.

Resolutions passed at an AGM are referred to Council for consideration. In reviewing this one, Council decided to take a broader look at the issue of “ensuring” continued

competence by members in their area of practice.

Council felt that members should have a clear and comprehensive picture of the program(s) which will ultimately be needed to meet the Association’s (and thus the Council’s) responsibility. Council established a working group and asked Public Council Member Jim Parker to facilitate the working group discussions:

- David Balsillie, Honorary Member; Adjunct Professor
- Rod Carrow, Retired Dean of Forestry
- Phil Davies, Associate Member
- Bob Elliott, Forestry Consultant
- Craig Howard, Past President
- Caroline Mach, Council Member
- Jim Parker, Public Council Member (facilitator)
- Tony Jennings, Executive Director

Corresponding:

- Herb Bax, Northern Consultant
- John Goodman, Retired Past President
- Herman Ebberts, Associate Member
- Mona Wiltshire, Council Member

(Terri Bissett, a colleague of Jim’s, and Judy Biggar, who will be working with OPFA, provided research support and took notes.)

This group was to develop a comprehensive approach to this important area of responsibility for the OPFA.

The issue of maintaining competence, or of quality control of member activity, is one that has been, or is being, dealt with by other regulators of professions. Research was undertaken into the approaches being used by other professions and by Professional Foresters in other provinces.

There is a range of language and approaches in use, but most involve responsibilities for both individual members and the regulator for both continuing education and continuing competence in practice.

The working group’s conclusions dealt as much with how we should proceed in developing our actions as with the actions that would appropriately reflect the range of practice issues in our profession and our Association resources. The conclusions were supported by

Council at its last meeting.

Working Group Findings

Key elements are summarized by the following points:

- the program must eventually be one that members of the public would view as adequate oversight by the Association to ensure public trust in the OPFA as regulator when an issue of competency of a member in their area of practice is identified;
- the resulting program should be designed to be a positive approach to professional growth that results in sustaining the professional competencies of all members;
- the program emphasis should be on being helpful to members in meeting their individual responsibility, rather than emphasizing punitive action;
- members (and Council) should have a clear picture of all the elements of the OPFA “continuing competence” or “quality control” program;
- the elements should be set out in a series of steps to allow progressive implementation by members and by the Association and;
- time is needed to involve the membership in how best to meet this obligation.

Involving the Membership

To ensure member engagement on this fundamental issue a “discussion paper” is being developed:

- the paper will be introduced and presented for discussion at the 2007 AGM;
- the paper will then be posted for members on the website;
- the paper will be part of the agenda for the 2007 fall regional information sessions and;
- a proposed program with a draft timetable will be developed based on member input.

It is intended that at the 2008 AGM a resolution of support for the revised comprehensive program will be considered for adoption by the membership.

(Continued on page 19)

Is It Your Turn?

Tony Jennings, R.P.F. #745
Executive Director, OPFA

OPFA **is** its volunteers. Is it your turn?

While you have a Registrar and Executive Director and I depend on other “staff”, we simply make the administration happen. The real work of the Association is done by volunteers. In that regard, we are blessed with a number of people willing to provide their time. (We try to ensure that expenses are covered, but for most of us, time is money, and, anyway, expense claims do not always include all “costs”).

There are Statutory Committees, which are required by the Act, Standing Committees which carry on elements of our work, occasional Working Groups for specific tasks and individual volunteers. In all cases we have folks willing to serve for a number of years and this helps as there is learning needed in many cases. However, we also have folks who must, or simply wish to, step down, having usually done more than their fair share. So each year we need new volunteers.

Being involved in the work of the Association has advantages. What we value varies with the individual, but can include: learning, networking, camaraderie, a change of pace and/or the satisfaction of a responsibility met.

Let us know if you would like to step forward. Please don't wait until you are called or you have “spare time”. We can't always effectively use a volunteer when they appear, but knowing they are (or even might be) available is essential.

Statutory Committees

With the exception of Council, members are to be appointed by Council in accordance with numbers and mix specified by the Act.

Council has two sources of Councillors: election by members (ten) and appointments by government (five). Officers (President, Vice-President) are elected annually as is the Councillor-at-Large. The Past President position is ex-officio. The other six member Councillors are elected for staggered two year terms. Council meets approximately quarterly and is responsible for governance of the Association.

The Executive Committee is defined in the Act as made up of the Current, Past and Vice Presidents and two Councillors appointed by Council. It acts between Council Meetings and has specific responsibilities in the complaints/discipline processes (e.g. approving the cost of the Registrar appointing an investigator).

The Complaints Committee is a screening body that reviews complaints to determine if the matters are within OPFA jurisdiction, are not frivolous, and could attract discipline if referred to the next Committee. The Committee considered its first cases last year.

The Discipline Committee is quasi-judicial in its processes and decides whether and to what extent discipline is to be applied to a member. The Committee has not yet considered a case, but, like the Complaints Committee, its members must be “trained” in the processes to be ready if needed. The Discipline Committee could require a reprimand be placed on an individual's public file, restrictions on his or her right to practice, order the person to take specific training or other actions and, in severe cases, could decide to revoke the person's license to practice.

The Registration Committee is the most active of the Statutory Committees, meeting bi-monthly to consider applications for membership, reinstatements, etc., with careful attention to consistency and fairness. While Council has responsibility for policy, the Committee has made recommendations regarding policy changes and maintains its own documentation of processes and precedents set.

Standing Committees

Council can establish other Committees and has done so. Our practice is for Council to name a Chair and usually a Councillor to serve on the Committee. Committee Chairs seek out members for their Committees and their selections are reported to Council for ratification. Currently we have the following:

Blue Ribbon Panel: While not active in the past year, this small group of individuals were asked by Council to be available to provide advice when needed to the Executive Director/Registrar, the Executive and/or Council.

Finance: Overseeing the business practices of the Association, this Committee has been rather active recently considering changes to our practices as a result of the fraud.

Nominating Committee: Under the chairmanship of the Past President, the Committee is responsible for annually ensuring suitable candidates are put forward for Council.

Awards and Recognition: As its name applies, this Committee is responsible for the annual consideration of OPFA Awards and for other recognition activities that take place at the Annual Conference. Folks with a good awareness of the work of other members are an asset.

Website Committee: Members of this Committee maintain different parts of the website, our primary means of communicating with the public and our members. While current members have been trained with the software, we could really use more folks who bring good website technical knowledge and a bit of time.

Editorial Board: *The Professional Forester*, our quarterly newsletter, is built by a strong Editorial Board whose members plan the themes and search out willing authors. We are building a valuable set of reference materials, which a number of members keep in permanent files.

Continuing Education Committee: Having developed the policy and processes, this Committee monitors usage, provides member advice on maintaining their continuing education filing requirements, and fields questions about specific cases. Some of the members also act as assessors to provide advice on what continuing education credits would be earned by typical attendance at learning events, often helpful in marketing the events.

Annual Conference: Our Annual Conferences are planned and executed by committees of local volunteers, who continue to impress us all with their achievements. A “manual” of guidance material is maintained by the OPFA office, building on the learning with each

(Continued on page 17)

Urban Forestry Committee Formed!

Jim McCready, R.P.F. #889
Michael Rosen, R.P.F. #1387

Although urban areas occupy only a very small proportion of the earth's total land surface, almost half of the world's population lives there (United Nations 2001). And in Canada, the situation is even more pronounced - 80 % of the population of Canada lives in urban settings. While awareness of urban forests is growing, properly funded programs are still in their infancy here when compared to the United States. The 2004-2005 Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario noted:

"Maintaining the forest cover in urban centers is becoming an increasing challenge, especially for trees situated near roads, in parking lots and on boulevards.... U.S. cities like Chicago have created very detailed rules about the size of trees to be planted in new developments; the required soil volumes, guard rails and protection; the amount of tree cover relative to paved surface; and the spacing of trees from property frontages. Larger urban centers like Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton, London or Windsor could consider imposing these rules.... Finally, as mentioned, some urban forests are aging and dying, often without a replacement plan or budget at the local level. For all of these reasons, greater resources and attention will need to be paid to the trees of urban Ontario in order even to maintain the cover

that exists at present in certain areas of the province."

Understanding the urgency, Lloyd Burrige, R.P.F., a long-standing OPFA member and urban forest pioneer, put forward a motion at the OPFA's AGM in Sault Ste Marie to create an Urban Forestry Committee in the OPFA. The motion was unanimously supported.

The Urban Forestry Committee is a Standing Committee reporting to Council. Its mandate is to support those members who work in urban forestry. Specifically:

- To make other members aware of the science and practice of urban forestry;
- To work with urban foresters so they can advance as professionals through mentoring and training;
- To promote best management practices in urban forestry; and
- To act as a focus group for discussions with allied organizations and like minded associations.

Members of this Committee are to represent the range of the province where urban forestry is practiced, with an understanding of arboriculture, having one OPFA councillor, with a Chair appointed by Council for a term of one year.

The Council approached Mike Rosen, R.P.F., President of Tree Canada, to be Chair and he accepted. The present Committee consists of:

- Mike Rosen, R.P.F., Tree Canada- Chair
- Craig Huff, R.P.F., City of Ottawa
- Richard Ubbens, R.P.F., City of Toronto
- John McNeil, R.P.F., Town of Oakville
- Bruce McGauley, R.P.F., Urban Forest Consultant
- Lloyd Burrige, R.P.F.
- Dr. Andy Kenney, R.P.F., University of Toronto
- Ann Koven, Public Member, OPFA Council
- John Cary, R.P.F., Councillor, OPFA
- Jim McCready, R.P.F., President, Eastern Ontario Model Forest
- Shelley Vescio, R.P.F., City of Thunder Bay
- Nancy Houle, R.P.F., MNR Southern Region

This is a dynamic group who will make a difference in furthering urban forestry in Ontario and beyond. Together they can lift the profile of urban forestry while working closely with other organizations like the Ontario Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Look for great things in the future!

(Continued from page 16)

conference. Currently we are looking for some more volunteers in the Thunder Bay area to repeat the accomplishments of a few years ago.

Private Land Forestry Network: While not currently structured as a committee, the PLF network provides opportunities for members involved in private land work to learn, compare notes, raise concerns, and suggest solutions.

Acting on a resolution at last year's Annual General Meeting (part of the Conference), Council has now approved a new **Urban Forestry Committee** to provide support to members active in this field (more details on

page 17).

As noted on page 15, we also currently have a Working Group on Competency Maintenance.

Lastly, we have representatives on other bodies:

- we have a representative on the Ontario Trails Committee;
- the MNR Regional Directors each have a Regional Advisory Committee to which OPFA is asked to name members;
- as Registrar and Executive Director, I have been asked (and received Council support) to serve on:
 - the Provincial Forest Policy Committee;
 - the Lakehead University Forestry Advisory Committee;

• the University of Toronto Forestry Faculty Undergraduate Committee (members of the Faculty of Forestry are teaching undergraduate forestry courses in the Faculty of Arts and Science)

- *There may be other logical places to be represented*

Where would you be willing to contribute?

Call for Nominations

OPFA Council December 1, 2007 to November 30, 2008

Nominations by OPFA members for vacancies on next year's Council would be welcomed by the Nominating Committee.

Positions for which nominations may be submitted are:

Officers:

President	1 year term	(Currently David Milton, R.P.F.	Whitby	#951)
Vice-President	1 year term	(Currently Carl Corbett, R.P.F.	Huntsville	#1253)

Councillors:

South West	2 year term	(currently Caroline Mach, R.P.F.	Rosemont	#1754)
Central East	2 year term	(currently James McCready, R.P.F.	Carleton Place	#889)
North East	2 year term	(currently Alan Foley, R.P.F.	Englehart	#1403)
At Large	1 year term	(currently Mona Wiltshire, R.P.F.	Thunder Bay	#1784)

Should you wish to respond to this call, please send written nomination(s) to:

Executive Director Tony Jennings, R.P.F., before Monday, July 31, 2007.

For Information:

- With last year's by-law change, Associate Members are eligible to be candidates. (As an invited participating guest, Laird Nelson, an Associate Member, attends Council meetings until the end of this year.)
- All current incumbents are eligible for re-election.
- The Nominating Committee will also prepare a slate of candidates.
- In an election, Section Councillors will be voted upon by the Members in that Section.
- The position of **Past President** is ex-officio and is not elected.
- The following Councillors will be continuing in the second year of their two year term:

South East	Debra MacEwen, R.P.F.	Peterborough	#1663
Central West	Greg Pawson, R.P.F.	Sault Ste. Marie	#1465
North West	Frank Miklas, R.P.F.	Thunder Bay	#1613

There are currently five Public Members of Council, named by the Ontario government:

Anne Koven	(1 st Term ends May, 2008)
Deborah McGregor	(2 nd Term ends March, 2007*)
Jim Parker	(2 nd Term ends March, 2007*)
Ray Riley	(2 nd Term ends April, 2008)
Margaret Wanlin	(2 nd Term ends April, 2008)

* Public Members continue to serve until replaced.

First-Ever Fairness Commissioner Appointed

JEAN AUGUSTINE - FIRST-EVER FAIRNESS COMMISSIONER

TORONTO – Jean Augustine has been nominated as Ontario's first-ever Fairness Commissioner to work with regulatory bodies to ensure that the credentials of internationally trained professionals are evaluated fairly and transparently, Ontario Citizenship and Immigration Minister Mike Colle announced on March 12. (The appointment of Augustine is subject to review by the Standing Committee on Government Agencies.)

"The Fairness Commissioner will play a vital role in ensuring that Ontario's regulatory bodies build fair and open registration

processes so that internationally trained professionals have the opportunity to put their skills to work," said Colle. "Jean Augustine brings a depth of knowledge from the perspective of government, regulatory bodies and the immigrant experience that makes her the right person to take on this vitally important job."

The Office of the Fairness Commissioner is a key component of the landmark *Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006*, which became law on March 1, 2007. The Commissioner will be responsible for overseeing regular audits to ensure that the registration practices of regulated professions are transparent, objective, impartial and fair. The Commissioner will also submit an annual report to the Minister of Citizenship and

Immigration on the implementation and effectiveness of the Act.

"The appointment of a Fairness Commissioner, together with the reporting, certification and audit requirements set out in Bill 124, will play a vital role in establishing consistent standards for the processing of applications across all regulated professions."

The *Fair Access To Regulated Professions Act, 2006*, the first legislation of its kind in Canada, also established Global Experience Ontario, a one-stop information and resource centre helping people navigate complex systems when seeking to enter regulated professions and promote internships and mentorships.

(Continued from page 15)

All members should understand that the present Continuing Education Program will continue until such time as the Association amends the by-law.

This will be a significant set of actions for us all that is intended to meet the requirements of any regulatory body and provide for growth of members and pride in being a member of the OPFA.

We trust as many of you as possible will be present for the AGM presentation.

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Deerhurst Inn Huntsville, ON

April 18 - 20, 2007

What Do Foresters Do?

The Forest Management Plan;

A Forestry Career Interrupted

Brad Ekstrom R.P.F. #1802
All Purpose Forester



If you ask any forester why they have become involved in this profession the likely answer is that they did not want work in an office for their entire career, they wanted to be able to work outside. In my case at least this was also coupled with a desire for a more solitary work place. I was doing a pretty good job of avoiding the office for the first 10 years or so of my career. I started off as a dirt forester involved in all aspects of the silviculture program, timber cruising, and harvest block and road layout. I was schooled by older foresters and company foremen who quite often met the enthusiasm of my latest idea with 'you can't do that' and then let me try so I'd learn for myself.

Fast forward to April 2004 when I was named plan author for the upcoming forest management plan for the Hearst Forest. Not that I was unconfident in my abilities, I had been involved in the previous two plan submissions but I was a little nervous embracing this new challenge. The production of a forest management plan is a daunting task. While the first plan for the Hearst Forest in 1987 was composed of two binders, the 2002 plan weighed in at 171 pounds and consisted of 19 binders and map rolls. The new 10 year plan I was now assigned to author was to be produced under a new manual and given the exponential growth of the plan over the previous 15 years I was anticipating a significantly larger product at the end of the process.

The new process takes two and a half years to complete and is heavily front end loaded, I think in the hopes of ensuring that planning teams have done all of the heavy thinking to form the strategic part of the plan but this thinking often results in removing the plan author from the field, which for me is hardly the reason I became a forester. Having been through the process I now believe that three years should be allotted for the planning process.

Forest management planning has evolved greatly since the first plans were written. Efforts to get public input, including First Nations, and increased efforts to manage the forest for more benefits than simply timber supply are forcing foresters to become increasingly involved in public discussions and into roles that were previously unheard of in the profession. When I was in school no one told me that one day I would have to make public presentations and enter into negotiations with other stake holders in the forest to attempt to ensure that the best possible plan could be produced.

The challenge for me as a plan author was to identify ten years of wood. Identifying this on the maps, let alone seeing it, either from the ground or the air, is no small feat. Add to this getting the blocks laid

out, doing the operational planning required to keep all of the stakeholders and planning team members happy, balance the AHA, meet 80-20 requirements and do all of the rest of the plan writing etc required. This and keep track of some of the day to day tasks that co-workers, supervisors and bosses can place on you.

Because of the pressure to meet deadlines, both real and imaginary, I found myself spending less time with family, enjoying weekends or even sleeping at night. I live on an island and I hardly managed any daylight hours there during the last six months prior to the submission of the plan. Imagine my chagrin to discover a newly constructed osprey nest not 200 metres from my house during a final flight over some of the proposed harvest blocks just before plan submission. The fact that the MNR biologist was in the helicopter only served to add just a little more salt to the wound.



Although I managed a holiday following the submission of the draft plan, the deadline eliminated any possibility of a summer vacation as I was still tied to my computer. Lots of other activities become constrained or altered. I was at two hockey tournaments out of town with my son; while the other parents were 'relaxing' at the end of the day I was responding to comments from the kids on the team that I had to have some stupid job to have to do 'homework' at a hockey tournament. Despite this, I got the plan done, submitted, and approved on schedule to allow operations to continue in April 2007 and that is what I have been working towards for the last three years.

Looking back I can say that although I spent the first half of my career in the field and accomplished a lot of good work, I have now put my seal on the plan that will shape the activities that are to take place on the Hearst Forest over the next 10 years, and being involved in the long term planning of a forest is what being a forester is all about. This accomplishment is one that I am very proud of.

The planning process has been blamed for a number of foresters swearing off writing another plan in their career. Once finished I was asked if I would write another. At this point I'm reserving judgment and making plans to enjoy a field season getting my hands dirty and go back to learning from the forest.

By the way, the new plan weighed in at 56 pounds, CDs are lighter than paper.

U of T Faculty of Forestry Celebrates 100 Years

In 1907, after several years of indecision and some sparring between Queen's and the University of Toronto, the first university forestry school in Canada was established with Dr. Bernhard Eduard Fernow as Dean. The story of how this all came about is fascinating and is told in a forthcoming book about the history of the Faculty by Dr. Mark Kuhlberg, Professor of Canadian History at Laurentian University. Many events are being planned to celebrate this centennial, details are posted on the website:
www.forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial.

Briefly:

► On March 28, 2007 the official founding of the Faculty will be celebrated at the University of Toronto with President David Naylor in attendance.

► Beginning in April a series of three lectures by distinguished speakers has been organized. The first is by the Canadian author Margaret Atwood on April 5 in the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles Street West (Victoria & Emmanuel College). She will be speaking about the Canadian connection with forests and the influence of forests and forestry in Canadian culture and society. The second lecture is by Monte Hummel (M.Sc.F., 1979). A co-founder of Pollution Probe and President Emeritus of WWF-Canada Monte

will be speaking on May 23, 2007 at the Innis Town Hall (Innis College). The final speaker is Robert Bateman, noted Canadian artist, environmentalist and naturalist on September 4, 2007 at a yet to be determined location.

► For alumni of the University of Toronto, especially forestry alumni, the Spring Reunion will be held May 31 to June 3, 2007. This year the alumni from the graduating classes of 1927, '32, '37, '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77 and '82 will be honoured.

► August 18 and 19 are special dates for a series of Faculty of Forestry Homecoming events. There will be tours of the Faculty on the 19th, and a major event will be a dinner on the evening of the 19th. It is even rumoured that Dr. Fernow himself, may make an appearance to see how the Faculty has measured up to his vision for it. During this homecoming the Faculty will have a new graduate directory for distribution and there will be an unveiling of a "Centennial Wall". The "Wall" is a project sponsored by a group of alumni and their associates from the 1966 era. It will honour individuals who have made significant contributions to the Faculty since its inception in 1907. It will include names of alumni, faculty, researchers and staff and others from outside. Nomination forms are

available from the Faculty. The committee overseeing this project is co-chaired by Derek Coleman (B.Sc.F. 1966) and Paul Cooper (B.Sc.F. WS 1969; Ph.D.1991) with the assistance of John Balatinecz (P.h.D.1966).

► During August 19 to 23, the Faculty will host a National Conference on the theme, "Forestry in Settled Landscapes". The Canadian Institute of Forestry – Institut forestier du Canada (CIF-IFC) will hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the conference. This type of symbiosis was successfully used last year in Cochrane when the CIF-IFC held their meeting in conjunction with the "Congrès Boréal – Boreal Conference" hosted by the Lake Abitibi Model Forest. The conference will bring together forest practitioners, policy-makers, landowners, NGOs and interested citizens. For more information go to:
[www..forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial/cif.htm](http://www.forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial/cif.htm)

► Finally, September 30 to October 3, 2007, the Faculty will host an International Congress with presentations dealing with the "Global Vision of Forestry in the 21st Century". The Congress will be held at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Toronto. For more information go to: www.forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial/int_congress.htm



Faculty of Forestry Centennial 1907 - 2007

**Calling All Alumni and Friends of the U. of T. Faculty of Forestry
2007 is Your Centennial Year; Plan Now to Come "Home" This Year**

**Many events have been planned from March-October to Celebrate this Occasion
Homecoming will be on the August 18-19 Weekend**

If we have your correct address, all graduates should have received the First Mailing by now. If Not!!.....Contact us with your coordinates and get on the list and into the new Directory (david.balsillie@utoronto.ca) or phone the Faculty at (416) 978-5750.



For Centennial Details, Please Visit our Website at: www.forestry.utoronto.ca

Business Cards

Your Business Card Here!

Advertise your company or services here.

Members \$25 per single issue
 \$80 per year (four issues)

Non Members \$40 per single issue
 \$140 per year (four issues)

If you would like to be included in the Business Card section please email opfa@opfa.ca.



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Voice of Forest Practitioners since 1908

The Forestry Chronicle
the national journal for forest practitioners

Our membership includes foresters, forest technicians and technologists, educators, scientists and others with a professional interest in forestry.

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www.cif-ifc.org



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MARYA@LMS.CA

Jessica Sheehan 416-644-7730
JESSICAS@LMS.CA

1-800-663-6628 WWW.LMS.CA/OPFA

Putting the pieces together for you

Errors and Omissions Insurance: Do you have yours yet?

The Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) offers a group Errors and Omissions insurance policy to its members through LMS PROLINK Insurance Group and a master insurance policy underwritten by Lombard. This covers liability for suits initiated in Canada for alleged claims of professional malpractice occurring in Canada. For more information or an application form, call the OPFA office at 705-436-2226 or email opfa@opfa.ca

Member News

At the end of January, 2007, Tree Canada announced **Michael Rosen, R.P.F.** as its new President. Since 2002, Mr. Rosen has been Tree Canada Vice-President, responsible for project implementation and communications, including the carbon neutral programs under *Grow Clean Air*. He has helped direct Tree Canada's other programs including: *Green Streets Canada*, *Operation ReLeaf*, and *Greening Canada's School Grounds*.

Ulf Runesson, R.P.F. was the recipient of Lakehead University's Distinguished Instructor Award. This is Lakehead's highest award for excellence in teaching; being awarded for exceptional teaching service sustained over a ten-year period. The recipient is honoured during a public lecture, and provided with a monetary award of \$2,000.

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The Professional Forester

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Number

40026838

Undeliverable copies can be sent to:
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Coming Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
OPFA 50th Annual Conference	April 18-20, 2007	Huntsville, ON	www.opfa.ca
ForestLeadership Conference	May 8-10, 2007	Vancouver, BC	www.ForestLeadership.com
20th Annual Global Forest and Paper Industry Conference	May 10, 2007	Vancouver, BC	www.pwc.com/fpp
Decisions for Sustainability: Forest Estate Models for the Future	June 12-14, 2007	Victoria, BC	www.femc2007.net
6th North American Forest Ecology Workshop	June 18-22, 2007	Vancouver, BC	www.nafew2007.org
IUFRO - Complex Stand Structures and Associated Dynamics: Measurements Indices and Modeling Approaches	July 29-August 2, 2007	Sault Ste. Marie, ON	www.iufrosault.org
Forests in Settled Landscapes/CIF Annual General Meeting	August 20-23, 2007	Toronto, ON	www.event-horizons.com/fsl/
Global Vision of Forestry in the 21st Century	September 30-October 3, 2007	Toronto, ON	www.forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial/int_congress.htm

OPFA Dates

EVENT	DATE
OPFA 50th Annual Conference Huntsville, ON	April 18-20, 2007

Submissions

Submissions are welcome and can be addressed to:

Caroline Mach, R.P.F., Editor
newsletter@opfa.ca

Deadline for the next issue: May 1, 2007

