

# The Professional Forester

The official publication of the  
Ontario Professional Foresters Association  
[www.opfa.ca](http://www.opfa.ca)



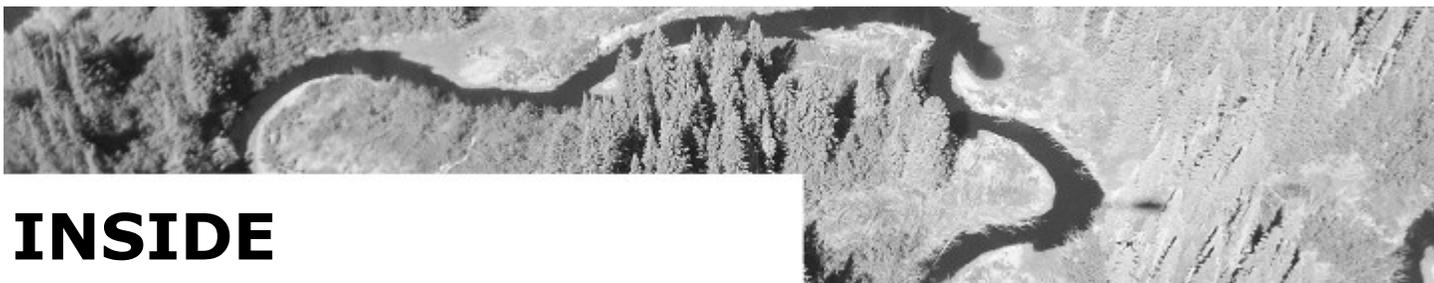
**65th OPFA Conference and  
Annual General Meeting:  
Supporting resilient forests  
and growing trust**

**ALSO INSIDE**

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The future is wood: Unleashing the potential of Ontario's forest

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## ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

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OFFICE	905.877.3679
FAX	905.877.6766
ADDRESS	5 Wesleyan Street #201 Georgetown, ON L7G 2E2

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[opfa@opfa.ca](mailto:opfa@opfa.ca)

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# Shakespeare was wrong because love is not blind: The lessons to be learned from killing bugs in Muskoka in the 1920s

**Mark Kuhlberg**, PhD, Full Professor, Laurentian University

Researching Canada's forest history has taught me many things, and one of the most important lessons deals with urbanites' attitudes towards the woods. I have dealt with the unrealistic and romanticized perspective that seasonal recreationists typically bring to the forest, and so I thought that this was a recent phenomenon. Not so, however. It has deep roots, going back at least a century. Understanding its earliest expressions can be helpful for foresters as they seek to gain public support for the policies they wish to implement in our contemporary world.

My knowledge of this subject was reinforced by my research into the history of Canada's aerial war against forest insects during the Roaring Twenties. This decade saw our country lead the world in developing methods for bombing pests that were attacking "natural woodlands" with toxic chemical dusts (sprays would be introduced after the Second World War). Understandably, the Canadian government conducted a slew of projects on behalf of the country's forest industry. Surprisingly, it carried out even more missions to appease cottage and lodge owners, recreationists, and civic boosters, all of whom professed a love for the woods because of its splendour. Seeing the trees in all their magnificence, they asserted, filled them with a feeling of unrivalled rapture. As a result, they literally demanded that the government do whatever it could to "save" their cherished trees from the ravages of bugs. The result saw the federal entomologists oversee a number of aerial dusting projects in some of Canada's most valued summer playgrounds and parks, including Muskoka in Ontario, and Stanley Park and Seymour Canyon in Vancouver.

*(Continued on page 4)*



**This photo captures the aerial dusting project against the spruce budworm that the entomologists conducted north of Sudbury in 1928-1929. The image was taken from another plane that trailed the dusting aircraft (Courtesy of the National Film Board, Shot ID1695, An Aeroplane dusting experiment for the control of spruce bud worm carried out at Westree in June 1929).**

(Continued from page 3)

What was most astounding was the resonance of the views that these “nature lovers” expressed in their campaign to spur public officials to take action. In Muskoka, for example, practically all of them argued that the wonderful hemlock trees that defined the region were stunningly beautiful, and were thus of infinite value. Apparently, this was only the case as long as these trees remained lush and green, however. For the minute that a tiny insect, which was a native species, began feasting on the trees’ needles, it unleashed a cacophony of complaints that the woods were no longer aesthetically pleasing and a powerful order instructing public officials to take every possible means to arrest the damage and restore the recreationists’ idealistic image of their trees. So powerful were these calls for action that the government ensured that they occurred even though they endangered the pilots’ lives and, initially at least, were doomed to fail. This was not merely a Muskoka-thing, as my teenaged kids would put it. Nearly identical attitudes drove another round of aerial dusting projects out in British Columbia during these years, all conducted in the name of “saving nature.”

Although foresters know that the only constant in the woods is change, those who interact with the trees only sporadically rarely do. Instead, their nearly irresistible inclination is to take a snapshot in their mind’s eye of the trees at their peak of health, and assume that it represents a permanent state in which the forest will be forever fixed. This approach is akin to thinking that we can eternally preserve our own bodies, such that our faces will remain as wrinkle-free as they were when we were teenagers and our hair just as thick (how I long for those days!). Although most folks can easily recognize that this is an illogical perspective that has no grounding in reality in terms of our own life cycles, when it comes to the woods and society’s general understanding of it, this irrational approach often prevails. As this piece of our forest history reminds us, tackling this enormous challenge is one of the greatest hurdles that foresters face in acting as prudent stewards of our woodlands.

Mark Kuhlberg’s new book is entitled, *Killing Bugs for Business and Beauty: Canada’s Aerial War Against Forest Pests, 1913-1930* (University of Toronto Press, 2022), and proceeds from its sale to members of the forestry community are being donated to *Forests Without Borders*. They can order the book (at <https://utorontopress.com/9781487526474/killing-bugs-for-business-and-beauty/>) at a 25% discount using this code: KillingBugs25

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# Biodiversity footprinting with the Global Biodiversity Score

**Margaux Durand**, Research Officer, CDC Biodiversité

During the 2022 OPFA annual conference, Margaux Durand, a research officer at CDC Biodiversité, presented the Global Biodiversity Score (GBS) and how the forestry sector is currently represented within the tool. CDC Biodiversité is a French consulting and engineering firm specialized in positive actions for biodiversity, biodiversity sustainable management (biodiversity offsets), and the measurement of corporate biodiversity footprint.

The GBS is a corporate biodiversity footprint assessment tool: it can be used to evaluate the impact or footprint of companies and investments on biodiversity. The results of assessments conducted with the GBS are expressed in the MSA.km<sup>2</sup> unit where MSA is the Mean Species Abundance, a metric expressed in % characterising the intactness of ecosystems. MSA values range from 0% to 100%, where 100% represents an undisturbed ecosystem.

In order to break down impacts across the value chain and provide ways to avoid double-counting, the GBS uses the concept of Scope, or value chain boundary. Scope 1 covers direct operations. Impacts occurring upstream are broken down into non-fuel energy generation which falls within Scope 2, and other purchases which fall within upstream Scope 3. Finally, downstream impacts belong to downstream Scope 3. Our previous reports<sup>1</sup> provide more details on this concept.

To account for impacts lasting beyond the period assessed, GBS results are further split into dynamic or periodic gains/losses (occurring within the period assessed), static or cumulated negative (persistent) impacts, and cumulated positive impacts.

In order to assess corporate biodiversity footprints, the main approach of the GBS is to link data on economic activity to pressures on biodiversity and to translate these pressures into biodiversity impacts. A hybrid approach is used to take advantage of data available at each step of the assessment. Biodiversity Footprint Assessments use company specific data on purchases or related to pressures (such as land use changes or greenhouse gas emissions). In the absence of precise data, a default calculation assesses impacts based on financial turnover data.

To link activity, pressures and impacts, the GBS uses peer-reviewed tools such as EXIOBASE<sup>2</sup>, an environmentally extended multi-regional input-output model, or GLOBIO<sup>3</sup>, a model assessing the impact of various pressures on biodiversity intactness. Its underlying assumptions are transparent. In the long run, the aim of the GBS is to cover all biodiversity impacts across the value chain (including both upstream and downstream impacts). It currently covers direct operations and upstream impacts (cradle to gate) on terrestrial and aquatic (freshwater) biodiversity. The pressures covered are:

- Land use
- Fragmentation of natural ecosystems
- Human encroachment
- Atmospheric nitrogen deposition
- Climate change
- Hydrological disturbance due to direct water use and due to climate change
- Wetland conversion
- Freshwater eutrophication
- Land use in catchment of rivers and wetlands
- Ecotoxicity

These pressures are illustrated in the figure on the next page.

*(Continued on page 6)*



# Pikangikum Indigenous cultural burning and the management of the Whitefeather Forest

**Andrew Chapeskie**, WFCRMA Senior Advisor **and Sarah Bros**, R.P.F.WFCRMA Planning Forester

'Charlie, did you burn?'

'Kawiin. No.'

'Did your father burn?'

'Ayhah. Yes.'

'Where did he burn?'

'Miziweh (all over).'

'Why did he burn?'

'(... To make the land beautiful)'

'Why did you not burn?'

'(I was afraid of going to jail.)'

(Conversation between Andrew Chapeskie and Elder Charlie Peters (translation from Elder Charlie's Ojibway is in parentheses) during Whitefeather Forest Initiative planning supporting the acquisition of a Sustainable Forest Licence for the Whitefeather Forest.)

In 2021, Kira Hoffman et al published a research paper with the title [Conservation of Earth's biodiversity is embedded in Indigenous fire stewardship](#)<sup>1</sup> in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. This review assessed primary data papers since 1900 relating to Indigenous cultural burning. The review points to the potential "Indigenous-led fire stewardship" to help conserve, and even enhance, biodiversity, mitigate impacts from increasingly destructive megafires, and protect human communities.

After long and careful deliberations, during which fears of disclosing Indigenous cultural burning on their territories resulted in a very measured approach to disclosure, Pikangikum Elders ended up endorsing the beginning of the [documentation of Indigenous cultural burning](#)<sup>2</sup>. They also agreed to participate in working with graduate-level researchers. Some of this research supported the [publication of research articles](#)<sup>3</sup>. The Elders' Planning supported the Whitefeather Forest Initiative "light footprint" approach embodied in planning documents. It also mandated the adaptation of Indigenous cultural burning to a new Indigenous livelihood opportunity, community forestry.

It is a requirement of forest management planning in the Whitefeather Forest to embody the light footprint stewardship approach gifted by Pikangikum Elders to guide the management of the Whitefeather Forest. This is because the Elders' direction for management not only involves renewing Indigenous cultural burning on their ancestral lands. It also involves adapting Indigenous cultural burning to Indigenous-led forestry in the Whitefeather Forest.

The silvicultural prescriptions in the 2022-2032 Forest Management Plan for the Whitefeather Forest focus on the use of fire, as the primary tool, to regenerate harvested areas. The silviculture systems that will be employed in the Whitefeather Forest will follow the Elders' direction of a light footprint approach on the landscape. That equates to cut-to-length harvesting, harvesting in the winter where suitable, no roadside slash and planting only to augment where natural regeneration after burning is not sufficient to meet regeneration standards. Herbicide spraying and thinning will not be prescribed in the Whitefeather Forest. It is the intent of the Whitefeather Forest to utilize the knowledge of the Pikangikum Elders in Indigenous cultural burning and apply it to conventional prescribed burning practices. Whitefeather Community Resource Management Authority is working with local and regional Fire personnel to find a path forward where the practice of Indigenous cultural

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burning can be applied (or married) to prescribed burning with the goal of putting fire back into the silvicultural toolbox at a reasonable cost and certainty of completion. Stay tuned.

The 2021 fire season saw the realization of some of the worst fears of Pikangikum Elders and community leaders regarding fire in their territories. Catastrophic megafires had an especially severe impact on Pikangikum lands within some of the Dedicated Protected Areas where 'wildfire' management is limited. Since 2010, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (wilderness category park) has seen 90% of its area burned, including on Pikangikum traplines.

Researchers, including Kira Hoffman and Amy Cardinal Christianson, are pointing to [barriers but also opportunities for Indigenous-led fire stewardship in Canada](#)<sup>4</sup>. The Whitefeather Forest management context offers a significant opportunity for innovation in this regard.

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1. Hoffman, K.M., et al. 2021. Conservation of Earth's biodiversity is embedded in Indigenous fire stewardship. PNAS Vol. 118 No. 32. [www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2105073118](http://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2105073118)
  2. Whitefeather Forest Initiative. Building Cross-Cultural Understanding of the Pikangikum Cultural Landscape. 2009. <https://www.whitefeatherforest.ca/category/documents/>
  3. Miller, A.M. et al. 2010. Talking about fire: Pikangikum First Nation elders guiding fire management. Canadian Journal of Forest Research. 10 November 2010. <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/X10-177>
  4. Hoffman, K.M., et al. 2022. The right to burn: barriers and opportunities for Indigenous-led fire stewardship in Canada. FACETS. 31 March 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1139/facets-2021-0062>
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# Forest carbon: Implications and opportunities for forestry professionals

**David Stevenson**, R.P.F., Director of Canadian Operations, Finite Carbon Canada Ltd.

## About the author

*David Stevenson started his journey in forestry planting trees in Ontario in the late 1980s. He completed his HBScF and MScF degrees at Lakehead University and worked for several years with KBM Resources Group on forest management plans before taking on the policy role for silviculture with the Saskatchewan Forest Service. David spent ten years with the Forest Service in a variety of roles managing compliance and enforcement, insect and disease, and silviculture programs, culminating in oversight of forest policy development. In 2017 David shifted gears to take on the development of the regulatory framework for Saskatchewan's climate change strategy. In January 2021 David joined Finite Carbon as the Director of Canadian Operations to lead the launch of the company north of the border. By volume, Finite Carbon is the leading global developer of nature-based offsets globally and specializes only in forest carbon projects. David is a Past President of the Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals, is the Chair of the ASFP Continuing Competency Committee, and sits on Council for both the ASFP and the SK Chapter of the CIF. David is an RPF in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and most recently has rejoined the membership of the OPFA.*

Forest carbon offsets represent a new way of generating revenue from the forest resources of Ontario. Up until recently the primary way of generating revenue from forest resources has been to process trees into products like two by fours. Forest carbon is no different really, it is just a different form of forest product. Instead of selling the wood from the stump, the economic opportunity now exists to sell carbon sequestration and storage on the stump. On some forests it will make economic sense to sell carbon offsets, on others it will make more sense to harvest the wood.

As professional foresters forest carbon offers employment opportunities that look and feel just like current professional opportunities. The development of forest carbon projects requires skills like mensuration, GIS, inventory, modelling, auditing, analytics, and business development. These skills are no different than those needed for any forestry operation or consultancy and that is why Finite Carbon considers itself a forestry company like any other. We just sell a different product. Instead of hauling wood to a mill, we use offset protocols to generate wealth from the forest resources.

For those who are interested in a career opportunity in forest carbon, the old dilemma of how one gets experience in something new might be daunting. Don't be hesitant - it is not like you can go to forest carbon school and no employer is expecting depth on the carbon side of things. A solid understanding of inventory and growth modelling is fundamental to many of the roles. Everything else can be taught on the job. Foresters who are skilled will always be in demand regardless of the role.

Given the overlap between forest carbon and traditional forestry skills sets, it is not a surprise that most of the scope of practice in the *Professional Foresters Act* is reflected in forest carbon project development. Forest carbon practices that fall squarely in the professional scope of practice include:

- a) appraising or evaluating forest resources and certifying forests;
- b) classifying, inventorying and mapping of forests;
- c) determining current and desired future forest conditions; and,
- d) customizing and using information from forest estate models.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/00p18>

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Under the *Professional Foresters Act*, you must be a member of the Association if you are doing these things on Crown land, woodlands or urban woodlands. Clearly there is an important role for the OPFA in forest carbon offset project development in Ontario. One of the primary purposes of a professional regulatory body is to protect the public interest. The public interest is undefined but takes many forms. The sustainable management of Ontario's Crown Forests is clearly in the public interest as is ensuring that forestry professionals are competent and acting to high ethical standards.

Why does this matter? Because wherever there is money to be made on something that the public does not really understand, there will be fraud and shoddy practices. World Wide Carbon was a US based company who sold millions of dollars' worth of forest carbon offset credits from several projects in Saskatchewan. Except that the projects did not exist and the FBI ultimately (successfully) got involved.<sup>2</sup> While fraud is certainly not in the public interest, it is hard for a regulatory body to provide effective oversight in the face of criminal behaviour.

The threat to reputation is a much more immediate risk for forest carbon developers, offset buyers, and landowners. Unlike a two-by-four whose quality can be graded, forest carbon offsets depend upon the credibility of the additionality assertions of their underlying projects. There has been a steady stream of news articles attacking the additionality of projects, most recently in Bloomberg Green regarding public land projects in Wisconsin<sup>3</sup>. Offset buyers are understandably nervous about the assumptions underlying projects which are admittedly opaque. For example, forest carbon projects that employ allowed but dubious practices like buffer ton arbitrage<sup>4</sup> are already being avoided by institutional buyers.

There is a role for forestry professionals in ensuring that forest carbon offset projects don't just meet a standard but exceed it. Similarly, there is a role for the OPFA in ensuring the forestry professionals are ethical and acting to protect the public interest. Education is the cornerstone of ensuring successful compliance outcomes and this is where the OPFA can act. The OPFA's Strategic Plan speaks to a goal of enhancing public awareness of the roles and responsibilities of registrants.<sup>5</sup> It is this type of educational outreach to members and the public that can build trust in a rapidly developing sector of forestry. It is this newsletter that can start that effort.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/man-pleads-guilty-defrauding-investors-carbon-credit-scheme>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2022-04-28/public-forests-enter-the-carbon-offset-market>

<sup>4</sup> <https://wecprotects.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Carbon-Markets-Are-They-Right-For-Your-Land-Trust.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://opfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/StrategicPlan2021-2026FINAL-min.pdf>

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# Summaries of presentations from the 65th OPFA Conference where a feature article was unavailable

## Collaborating with northern First Nations as they are driven to be resilient in the face of unprecedented climate change

**Dave Pearson**, Emeritus Prof, Laurentian University

Among the challenges facing the First Nations who live in the Boreal Forest of northern Ontario and scientists attempting to understand the future of northern forests around the world, is how land-reliant communities will adapt to climate change on the one hand and, on the other, how the northern forest ecosystems will respond to an unprecedented northern climate in the later part of the century. There are clearly overlapping interests in these challenges.

Up North on Climate (UNOC) at Laurentian University [www.upnorthonclimate.ca](http://www.upnorthonclimate.ca) is a small climate change adaptation group that has been collaborating with five northern Tribal Councils and Grand Council Treaty 3 for three years in an NRCan funded project to build climate change adaptation capacity in northern Tribal Councils and First Nation communities. The collaborating team is known as PICCA, the Partnership for Indigenous Climate Change Adaptation. Before beginning the NRCan project UNOC members had written confidential Climate Change Vulnerability Reports for 24 northern First Nations. This presentation will discuss the collaborative model, the background to building relationships and engaging in collaborations with First Nations, as well as the underlying cultural relationship to the land.

## OPFA initiatives and member questions

**Betty van Kerkhof, Chris McDonell, Francisco Murphy, Larry McDermott, Muhammad Waseem Ashiq, Peggy Smith**, Lakehead University, Faculty of Natural Resources Management

Update on a number of the current OPFA initiatives:

- 1) Strategic Plan for the OPFA
- 2) Equity and Inclusion Task Team
- 3) Professional Networking Task Team
- 4) Indigenous Peoples, Lands & Resources Standard
- 5) Professional Foresters Act
- 6) Awards Program
- 7) Opportunity for questions

## Understanding fire at Walpole Island First Nation through a participatory and traditional knowledge approach.

**Clint Jacobs**, Director of Walpole Island Heritage Centre (Nin.da.waab.jig), Walpole Island First Nation, **Leonardo Cabrera**, Ecosystem Scientist, Rouge National Urban Park, Parks Canada

In the Anishinaabe tradition, fire is one of the four elements made by the Creator. Fire is considered to have its own power and its own spirit. Fire is integral to the Anishinaabe survival as people, and a key feature of "place" with which they strongly identify. They are all vital for their cultural and physical survival. The tallgrass prairies and oak savannas at WIFN are considered unique and between the most diverse ecosystems in Canada that have been maintained through Indigenous burns since time in immemorial.

This presentation will tell a story of collaboration and participation between the Walpole Island First Nation and Point Pelee National Park (PPNP) that emerged from shared interests to conserve and restore these unique ecosystems with the use of fire. This joint-designed project was centered on creating opportunities with WIFN community members for dialogue, conversations, presentations, and participatory observations of fires in the Island. Results on community engagement,

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Indigenous knowledge on fire management, concerns and recommendations for continuing this tradition at WIFN are presented. Implications for fire management at PPNP from this project (in the past) are presented as well as those for current fire management planning and First Nation engagement at the newly created Rouge National Urban Park (in the present).

### Climate change from a municipal perspective

#### Adam Biddle, Sydney Clarysse

Norfolk County is relatively new in planning for climate change, having just approved a Climate Change Adaptation Plan in December 2020. The pair will briefly highlight Norfolk County's forestry and urban forestry programs and how they are being modified in consideration of climate change predictions. The presentation will also delve deeper into what sort of planning is being done at the municipal level with respect to climate change. Topics will include covering what steps in planning for climate change Norfolk County has taken thus far, assessing energy usage and emissions of the corporation, assistance and resources available to municipalities including training opportunities, working groups, and funding opportunities.

### City of Greater Sudbury: Is our forest ready for climate change?

#### Jennifer Babin-Fenske, Climate Change Coordinator, City of Greater Sudbury

Although the City of Greater Sudbury has been working on climate action for decades (began participating in the ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection in 1997), there was a boost in immediacy and motivation when City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Since then, the City released a climate change mitigation plan "Community Energy and Emissions Plan" and is currently developing a climate change adaptation plan. Both mitigation (reducing GHG to avoid change) and adaptation (preparing for change) will affect our surrounding forests. Building compact communities may reduce encroachment into the natural landscape and building with lower carbon footprint may increase demand for timber products. Communities will have to prepare for increased wildfire, native insect infestations and invasive species. Dr. Jennifer Babin-Fenske, the Climate Change Co-ordinator for the City of Greater Sudbury will discuss these topics, share ideas and listen for solutions to upcoming challenges.

### Toronto's untapped timber supply: The ravine

#### Eric Davies

The Toronto ravines cover about 17% of the city, with a total area of about 27,000 acres. Over the past century, the Norway Maple has become the most common street tree in Toronto, and consequently, it has also become the most common invasive tree in the ravine system. This presentation provides an overview of forest inventory work conducted by UofT Forestry, and provides some very rough estimates of the potential supply of Norway Maple timber. Quick extrapolation of plot data suggests there could be over 10,000,000 board feet of Norway Maple timber in the Toronto ravines. The hope of this presentation is that it inspires foresters & wood builders to give this idea some deeper consideration and evaluation. Together, we could turn this problematic timber resource into a profitable harvest, from which we could make sustainable buildings - done in a way that restores the health of the forests, while providing educational and engagement opportunities for all Torontonians.

### Regreening Southern Ontario: Is it more than counting trees?

#### Danijela Puric

The 21 century is an era of regreening and building resilience. Numerous countries across the globe have recognized this and invested in restoration, afforestation, reforestation, rebuilding natural areas and tree plantings. Though cyclical in their intensity, reactive and opportunistic, the regreening actions are not new to Ontario. Our society and environment have hugely benefited from the 1920-90s reforestation efforts. After about 2-3 decades of considering regreening as a budget cost, we (formally) embrace new tree plantings and restoration programs again. This talk will take a critical look at the existing and past regreening actions, their mistakes and successes and how along the way they shaped the land, vegetation, and forestry. The talk will discuss if and how the new term natural climate solutions differ from what we have done in the past. It will discuss why regreening must be an integrated effort strategically linked with forest and land conservation and land use planning. The talk will highlight the needs and regreening opportunities across urban to rural areas. It will argue that regreening is as much socio-political as an ecological and land management process, and it is more than counting the number of trees planted.

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**Forest carbon projects and offsets and the role of a professional forester**

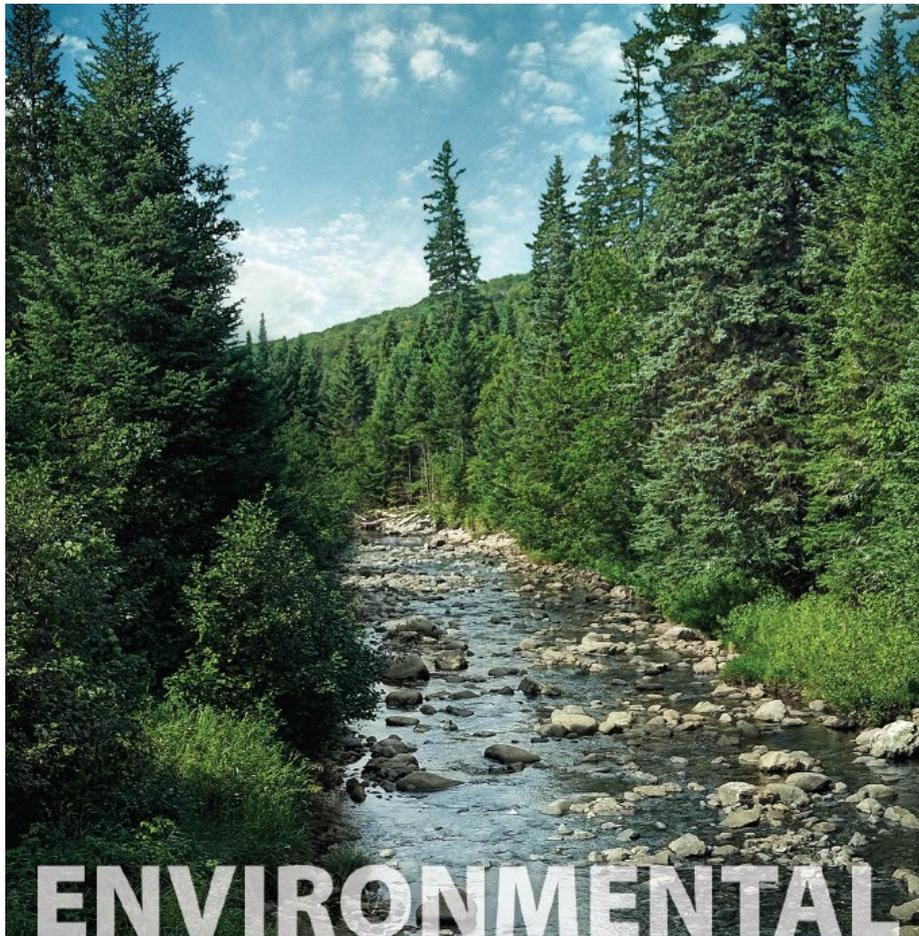
**Emmett Snyder**, Manager Forest Carbon Projects, Boreal Carbon Corporation, **Megan Finlay**

Forest carbon projects have environmental benefits beyond storing carbon from the atmosphere and aiding in climate change mitigation; they can also promote sustainable forest management while generating revenue from the offsets that can be put back into improved forest management practices. Megan and Emmett will discuss available forest carbon protocols and methodologies, forest carbon project development and project lifecycle and the role of a professional forester in carbon projects.

**What's next? Update on the federal greenhouse gas offset system**

**Jackie Mercer**

Update on the status of the federal GHG offset system, including the federal Improved Forest Management (IFM) offset protocol and the potential role for R.P.Fs.



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# Private forestry and protection of private and municipal trees/ woodlands in Southern Ontario

**Arben Pustina**, R.P.F., MFTIP, MLEOA

Land ownership in southern Ontario is dominated by privately owned agriculture and forested properties as well as county, region, city, town and conservation authority forests, woodlands, ravines and valley lands. In addition, private landowners own individual trees that beautify their front and back yards and increase property values. Counties, regions, cities and towns own trees in their road allowances that are an important asset, as well.

The Forestry and Municipal Acts in Ontario enable municipal governments to prohibit or regulate the destruction or injuring of trees in woodlands and to prohibit or regulate the destruction or injuring of individual trees, as well.

Individual counties, regions, cities and towns have passed forest or woodland conservation by-laws that promote use of good forestry practices, preparation of silvicultural prescriptions by an R.P.F. and enforcement of the provisions of the by-law through a forest conservation by-law officer. Either a permit is required or a notice of intention to cut is submitted for approval to the respective county, region or municipal department. In addition, trees on county, region, city and town road allowances, ravines and parks are regulated by their respective tree by-laws. On private properties individual trees are regulated by private tree by-laws where a permit is required to injure or destroy a tree. Minimum diameter of a protected tree varies between regions, cities and towns. Private tree by-laws are enforced, and permit applications are reviewed and issued by municipal by-law enforcement officers, forest protection inspectors/officers or urban forestry standards officers in each respective county, region, city, and town.



Education of property owners is an important component of woodland and tree by-laws in southern Ontario. While many owners are aware and comply with by-laws still more needs to be done to raise awareness on the importance of sustainably managed woodlands following good forestry practices and protection of individual trees using good arboriculture practices in both urban and rural areas. In some jurisdictions diameter limit cutting still exists. This practice is no longer considered good forestry practice. As such, amendments to these by-laws should be considered to move to good forestry practices on private woodlands. As well, some jurisdictions may not have woodland conservation by-laws. Enactment of such legislation will be of benefit to the long term sustainability of private woodlands in southern Ontario.

Woodland and tree by-laws provide provisions of enforcement when there are contraventions. The by-law enforcement officer can issue orders to stop contravention, to correct contravention or the municipality may carry out work to restore a woodland or trees at the property owners' expense. In addition, in extreme situations penalties under the Provincial Offences Act are applicable with a certificate of offence for minor contraventions (Part 1) and filing of information with the courts for more severe violations (Part 3).

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Continued from page 14)*

In addition, municipal governments have included in their tree and woodland by-laws requirements for tree protection plans. These plans are prepared in accordance with tree protection guidelines to protect and preserve trees on private property where development or disturbance of the natural forest cover or individual trees for the purposes of building construction and/or land development will be occurring.

The Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) has prepared practice bulletins to guide members on Good Forestry Practices on Private Lands, Professional Practice & Municipal Tree Cutting By-laws and Minimum Content for Prescriptions for Partial Harvesting on Private Land in Ontario. In many situations, it is members of the OPFA that are fulfilling the roles of the enforcement of woodland conservation and tree protection by-laws.

Province wide, we have the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) which is administered by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry. MFTIP offers a property tax reduction on well managed forest lands that are a minimum of 4 hectares (ha). This is an incentive to support forest landowners in the stewardship of their land using good forestry practices. Through MFTIP, landowners who get their property classified as "Managed Forest" pay 25% of the municipal tax rate set for residential properties.

To participate in the program a landowner must prepare and follow a 10-year forest management plan by applying good forestry practices on their woodland and submit a 5-year progress report, as well. This plan must be approved and submitted by a Managed Forest Plan Approver.

In addition, property owners are encouraged to protect important natural features that may be on their land such as Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), Niagara Escarpment natural areas, habitats of endangered species, Provincially Significant Wetlands and community conservation lands. Under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program natural heritage features of 0.2 ha or larger may qualify for a 100% property tax exemption.

Another aspect of trees on private property are those trees that are dead, diseased or damaged. Many municipalities in southern Ontario have passed by-laws for property standards and yard maintenance. One section of these by-laws regulates trees on private property that are dead, diseased or damaged and that may be a hazard to people and property. It is the responsibility of property owners to keep their property free of dead, diseased or damaged trees and to keep their trees free of dead, diseased or damaged branches. When this is not the case, a municipal by-law enforcement officer issues a voluntary compliance notice to the property owner to remove dead, diseased or damaged trees, or dead, diseased or damaged branches of a tree. The next step in the enforcement process is an order to comply issued to a property owner to remove dead, diseased or damaged trees from their property. When compliance is still not achieved, the municipality may execute the order via an arboriculture contractor and the cost of tree removal is billed to the owner's property taxes.

Members of the OPFA, when employed by county, region and municipal governments, play an important role in providing services, education and enforcement on private woodlands and for tree owners as well as when managing municipal woodlands and trees. R.P.F.s form part of the professional forestry and arboriculture team responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating all activities related to forest and tree management. It includes anything to do with the development of policies, management, conservation and sustainability of forests including urban forests and enhancing public awareness on regulated professional forestry in the province of Ontario.

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# The future is wood: Unleashing the potential of Ontario's forests

**Gabe Sembrano**, Policy Analyst-Intern and **Ian Dunn**, R.P.F., President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Forest Industries Association

Over the past year, forest products have experienced strong market conditions, resulting in significant economic growth, as shown in recent government statistics. Total revenue is up to \$18.0 billion in 2020 from \$17.6 billion in 2019, and total exports increased from \$6.5 billion in 2020 to \$7.5 billion in 2021. Direct, indirect, and induced jobs similarly increased by approximately 5,100. As Ontario implements its *Forest Sector Strategy*, we are confident that more good news is in store for northern, rural, and Indigenous communities.

Currently, Ontario's harvest level is approximately 13.4 million cubic metres per year, or less than half of the approved 30 million cubic meters that can be sustainably harvested annually, determined by approved forest management plans, and identified as a 2030 target in Ontario's *Forest Sector Strategy*. To drive economic growth, fully utilizing the entire annual allowable cut will require free and open access to domestic and international markets, an expanded workforce, improved public forest road infrastructure, and new investments in existing businesses. Mill by-products provide an additional opportunity that can be used in new products and revenue streams. Recognizing this great potential, Ontario's *Forest Biomass Action Plan* was developed to increase wood utilization by increasing markets for forest biomass.

A noteworthy example of how increased use of forest biomass can contribute to the goals and objectives of the *Forest Sector Strategy* is through district heating, energy, and electrical generation. At OFIA's 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Dr. Jamie Stephen, Managing Director for TorchLight Bioresources, noted that other jurisdictions are taking significant steps to integrate forest biomass into industrial processes. Biomass is recognized as a proven, low-carbon option as it is deployable, low-risk, and affordable, essential to decarbonizing our economy.

Centralized district energy systems have been used extensively across Europe and Scandinavia. In 2016, Stockholm inaugurated a \$800 million district heating facility powered by woodchips that provides 410 MW of combined heat and power and heats a quarter of the city. Communities in Ontario are showing strong interest in exploring options for local climate-friendly infrastructure, where centrally located bioenergy producers feed clean heat and power to efficient, multi-building district energy systems.

Ensuring Ontario successfully achieves the goals and objectives of the *Forest Sector Strategy* requires a competitive operating environment for our industry. Establishing service standards, increasing the speed of business, removing red tape, and streamlining processes and approvals will be essential in making Ontario a globally competitive jurisdiction. As Ontario seeks to attract new investments within the industry, it is crucial to benchmark ourselves against the leading forestry jurisdictions in Europe, Scandinavia, and the American South. Key areas such as energy, labour, transportation, fibre security and costs, and well-maintained public infrastructure are fundamental to the future expansion of Ontario's forest industry.

According to FPAC, the cumulative cost of carbon pricing in Canada's forest sector will be \$1 billion by 2030. Forestry is a climate solution and needs to be recognized by policy frameworks at all levels. Key opportunities for policy development include increased carbon and climate mitigation support through harvested wood products and the expanded use of sustainable forest management as an essential climate change lever.

As we enter a provincial election, the OFIA is working with all provincial parties to ensure the continued support and implementation of Ontario's *Forest Sector Strategy*. This will set the stage for a steady increase in forest utilization, climate change mitigation, and economic development for northern, rural, and Indigenous communities.



Mock-up of The Arbour. Photo courtesy George Brown College.

# Forestry and the media

**Peter Kuitenbrouwer**, R.P.F., Co-Vice Chair

Before Christmas I became a Registered Professional Forester, which grants me authority to write prescriptions to care for forests, as dentists are licensed to look after teeth. The Ontario Professional Foresters Association asked me to speak at its annual conference. Given my two skill sets, journalist and now, forester, they want me to talk about how the media perceives forestry or forest management issues and how foresters can better communicate with media.

A forester on the conference organizing committee who works in the Sudbury region noted that, when a new highway opens, you don't see a bunch of motorists parked at the side of the road by a new bridge, wondering whether it is safe to continue. The drivers cross the bridge, because they trust the engineers who designed it.

Why, he asks, does the public not feel the same trust in foresters? Why don't Canadians believe that those who write prescriptions for forest harvest act in the best interest of the forest?

Foresters often blame the media, and they may have a point.

Canadian media perpetuates an image of our forests as a wild and savage place of mystery and adventure, with towering pines, rapids and grottos, where the battle for survival plays out among wolves, coyotes, beavers, bears, moose caribou and deer. Unless a forester works to protect that type of forest, the forester is evil. Continuing the cliché, our image of a forester is Paul Bunyan, even though most foresters in my graduating class look more like Miley Cyrus.

Forests are contentious -- the setting of conflicts with First Nations. All these challenges make of foresters a defensive bunch, who rev their chainsaws to scare away critics, an unproductive stance that deepens the problem.

Dentists get a bad rap because they charge a lot and it hurts when they drill your teeth. Foresters take a pounding because, well, if we cut all the trees we all die. In a perfect world, public will grant foresters the social license to guide forest harvests for the benefit of Canada, and people will trust that, just as dentists want your teeth to endure and engineers want bridges to last, foresters want the bush to thrive in perpetuity.

I worked for more than 30 years as a journalist. Then a few years ago I quit my job at the National Post and enrolled in the Master of Forest Conservation program at U of T.

People imagine that foresters are men; whip-smart women in their 20s made up most of my cohort. The number of women foresters has doubled in ten years, and women now make up over a third of Ontario's 1,000 foresters.

I learned what foresters actually do: in the words of Dr. Sandy Smith, director of forestry programs at U of T, "Nobody imagines that what foresters are planning is to make sure forests grow."

Dr. Sean Thomas showed his students reforestation in the Durham Regional Forest.

While learning all this good forest news, my class also witnessed the bitterness with which some foresters view the environmental movement, when we attended an Ontario Forest Industry Association conference at the One King West hotel. Over beer at the evening reception several students said the conference dissuaded them from work in the forest products industry.

Canadian media perpetuates foresters' us-vs-them attitude in its reporting on forest topics. The National Observer wrote last year that Ontario, by permitting logging in Algonquin Provincial Park, was "failing to protect nature." But the forest industry has cut trees in Algonquin since 1830 – nearly two centuries. And yet when I go there, I meet moose, turtles, beavers and loons. Recently a bear broke into our cooler and drank our beer. Thanks to forest management, wilderness endures – not a good headline, but good news.

These are the stories that foresters need to tell – by bringing journalists into the bush to see logging operations, and forests that have regenerated. At the same time, the forest products sector can improve its image with the media by hiring from the diverse pool of students who graduate from forest schools.



**Photo of me in my sugar bush in Madoc, Ontario, with our dog, Coco**

# Young Registered Professional Forester at XV World Forestry Congress: Ritikaa's lessons and experiences

Ritikaa Gupta, R.P.F.



I attended the XV World Forestry Congress (XV WFC) in Seoul, South Korea as a youth delegate supported by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the Korea Forest Service.

As a young forest professional it was an incredible opportunity to take part in and contribute my perspectives to the most influential forest-related event in the world. I witnessed high-level dialogues on the most important issues concerning forests, the products and services they provide and the livelihoods they support.

As a youth delegate I took part in several youth activities related to XV WFC including: actively participating in a series of pre-congress youth and young professional webinars; informed the development of the [Youth Call to Action](#) by taking part in regional consultation sessions; reporting on sessions throughout the congress by authoring social media posts and blogs on [#WorldForestVoices](#); moderating the Poster sessions and Speakers Corner where authors presented on their forestry related research and; supporting planning and implementation of a side-event.

A session that piqued my interest was a special event titled [The future is now: investing in young forestry professionals and career development](#). Panelists spoke about their journeys and experiences through their careers in forestry as a young professional. I connected to their stories as I had similar experiences in my own forest career journey.

There was consensus that young forest professionals need to be provided with more support and guidance at the start of their forest careers. There also needs to be better inclusion of women and ethnic minorities and their promotions to senior levels. Growing up, forestry was not on my list of career options. As a forestry student and intern, and often the only woman of color and Asian heritage, I felt lost and unsure about my place in the sector.

However, as I gained a better understanding of forests and the forest sector I was confident this is where I wanted to work. I met colleagues and mentors who provided guidance and the support I needed to advance within the sector. Meeting other women foresters is really inspiring and encouraging. In Seoul, I had the opportunity to meet RPF Lacey Rose in-person and reconnect with my university classmate Theri Reichlin and teaching instructor, Dana Collins. I also met young women forestry professionals from Lebanon, Argentina, Ecuador, Kenya, Jamaica, Kenya and South Korea. They all are empowering and have made a mark in the forest sector in their own ways.



**Youth and young professionals attending a pre-congress workshop. Left to right: Sanghyun Kim, Jaya Setiawan Gullö, Ritikaa Gupta.**



**Left to right: Ritikaa Gupta, Theri Reichlin, Dana Collins, Lacey Rose.**

*(Continued on page 19)*

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However, I wish to see more women of color and other ethnic minorities succeeding in the sector. An important issue recognized by the [Youth Call for Action](#) released at XV WFC is the need for more work to achieve gender equality and empower young women in the forest sector. The Canadian forest sector has lots of work to do in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion. I have come across only a handful of women and even fewer ethnic minorities during my professional work experiences. I hope that I can lead by example and encourage women like myself to consider working in the forest sector. I look forward to becoming a part of the Global Network of Forestry Professionals ([ForYP](#)) that was launched at XV WFC.

A session titled [Strengthening communication and education](#) provided a summary of the Global Forest Education Project led by FAO, ITTO, and IUFRO. A key finding of the project was the need to address the barriers to enrollment of women and ethnic minorities in forest education and eliminating the negative perceptions of forestry. As someone who did not know forestry existed nor what it was when starting my forestry graduate program, I couldn't agree more.

Forest education needs to communicate that forestry goes beyond the harvesting of trees and illustrate the diversity of jobs that exist within the sector that interact with biodiversity, finance, health, aviation, policy and much more. Raising awareness and interest in forestry is important to get youth to consider a career in forestry.



**Youth and young forest professionals at XV WFC. Left to right: Otuo-akyampong boakye, Phahledi Tshego, Pablo Fernández, Lelia Rossa, Theri Reichlin, Sarah Namiro, Mavic Conde, Hubert Dale Riña.**



**Heunginjimun Gate in Seoul**

As someone who loves to watch Korean-dramas, traveling to Korea was a dreamy experience. Seoul is welcoming and a city where nature, history and modern day beautifully converge. Seoul is one of the greenest cities I've seen and Korea did a remarkable job in reforesting the country after World War II and Korean War.

I made new connections with other young forestry professionals like myself from different forest regions of the world. It was inspiring to see the different ways they are contributing to the sustainability of forests and livelihoods of forest communities across global forest landscapes.

XV WFC gave me the opportunity to hear different perspectives on global forestry issues impacting everyday global citizens. I realized that forest, trees and sustainable forest management take on different meanings from region to region. Forests are used for multiple purposes and managed differently around the world. For this reason, when it comes to finding solutions for forest issues such as illegal deforestation, it is challenging to find an all-in-one solution.

Lately, the global forest agenda is receiving lots of attention as there is increasing realization that climate change cannot be solved without forests in the equation. Forestry has come to the forefront of the climate change discussion as forests are critical to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I am excited to be working in forestry and am proud to contribute to solutions for global forest and climate goals.



**Youth and young forest professionals at XV WFC. Left to right: Theri Reichlin, Ritikaa Gupta, Ceci, Anali Bustos, Apsana Kafle.**

# New global network empowers young professionals across the forest sector

**Lacey Rose**, R.P.F., Co-Vice Chair, ForYP

Calling all OPFA members under 40! Have you found it difficult to meet your peers and build your professional network? The Global Network for Forestry Young Professionals (ForYP) was launched at the World Forestry Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea on Thursday, May 5, 2022 and is a place for you to do just that.

ForYP is a network for and led by young professionals in the forest sector, including professionals up to 40 years of age and/or with less than 15 years of experience in the sector. It provides services that are tailored to the unique needs of young professionals including networking and career development opportunities for early to mid-level professionals in the forest sector. ForYP is a global community for young professionals to network, to develop their professional skills and confidence, and to gain empowerment. The network aims to collaborate with the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) and other forestry networks and associations to increase the visibility, engagement and career development of young professionals.

Young professionals are both the present and future of the forest sector – we're here and we recognize that we need to prepare to lead as our predecessors retire. Some of you are already leading! ForYP aims to increase the visibility of young professionals, providing an inclusive space to share ideas, learn, and showcase the contributions of young professionals to the forest sector.

Over the last year, the inaugural board has been working behind the scenes to create this space and we're excited to see it grow. You can check out the launch and a session of the World Forestry Congress featuring the stories of young forestry professionals from around the world online here: [Special Event on young professionals and career development](#).

For more information on ForYP, visit [ForYP.org](https://ForYP.org) or follow @ForYPorg on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Make sure to [join the Facebook group](#) to stay in the loop about events, training, tips, and job postings from around the world.



# Summary of OPFA enforcement actions from 2016 to April 2022

## Registrar’s Report

### Introduction to OPFA enforcement

There have been a total of 100 concerns, complaints and inquiries since 2016.

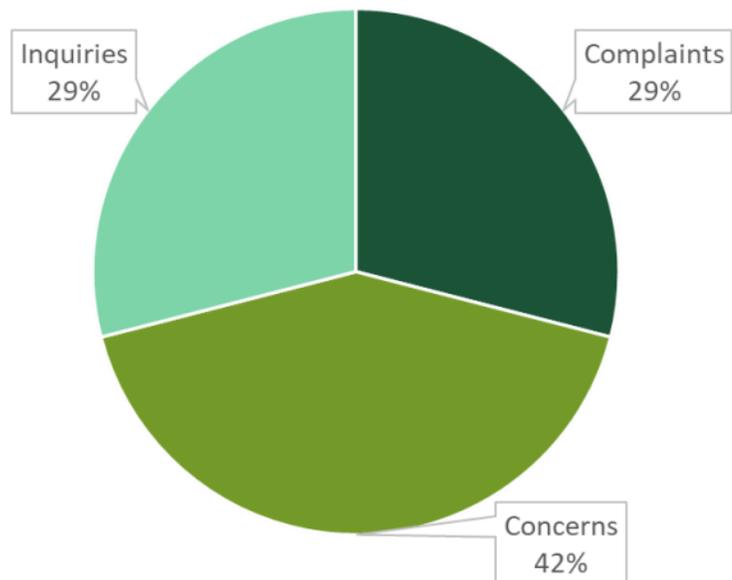


### What is the difference between a complaint, a concern and an inquiry?

- Complaint – Formal submission is filed
- Concern – Informal, nothing is filed
- Inquiry – Asking for information

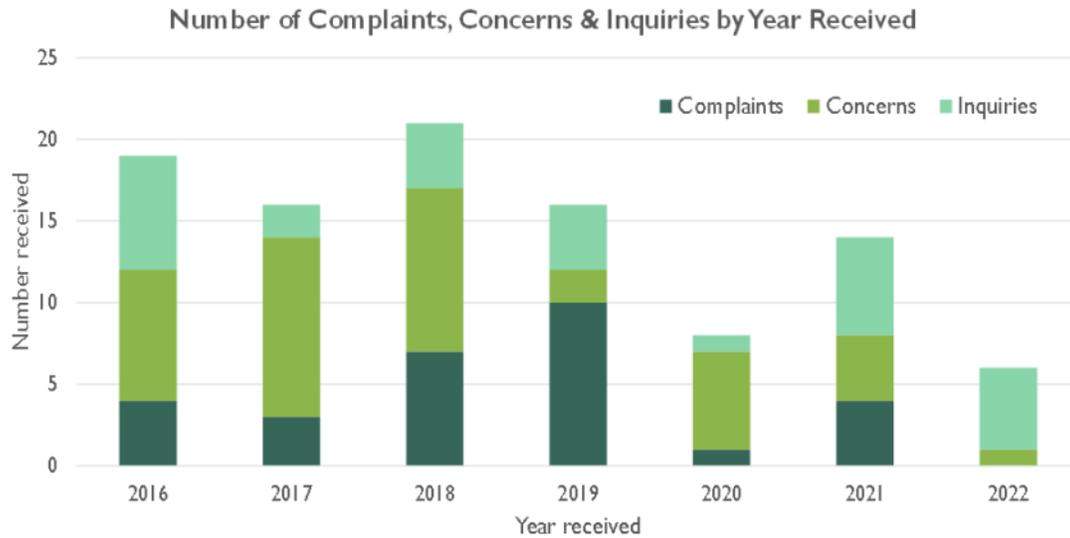
The majority of enforcement activities are dealing with concerns.

**Total Number of Complaints, Concerns & Inquiries Received 2016-April 2022**



(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)



To date in 2022 there has been 1 concern and 5 inquiries.

#### Who is making the complaints, concerns and inquiries?

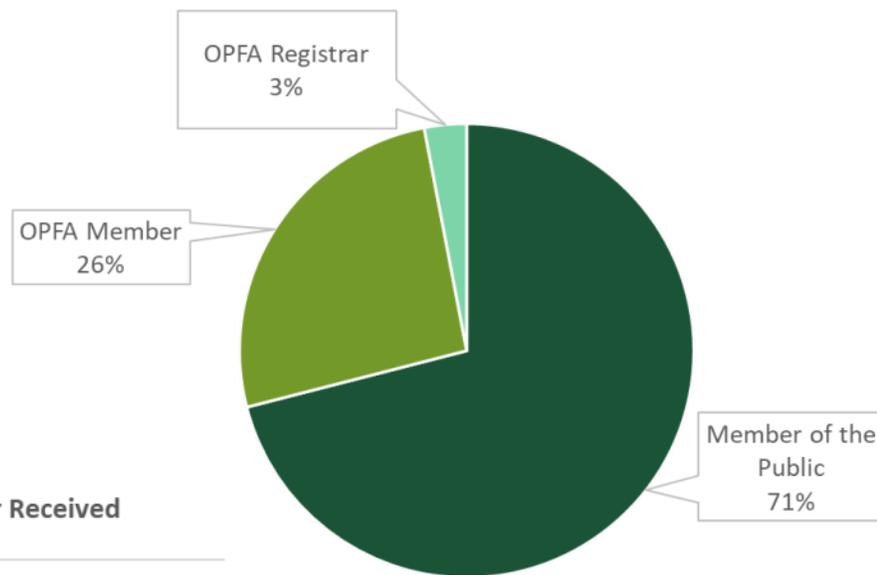
The majority (71 of 100) have been made by **the public**. However, in 2020 this was not the case when OPFA members submitted slightly more.

#### What is the origin of the complaints, concerns and inquiries?

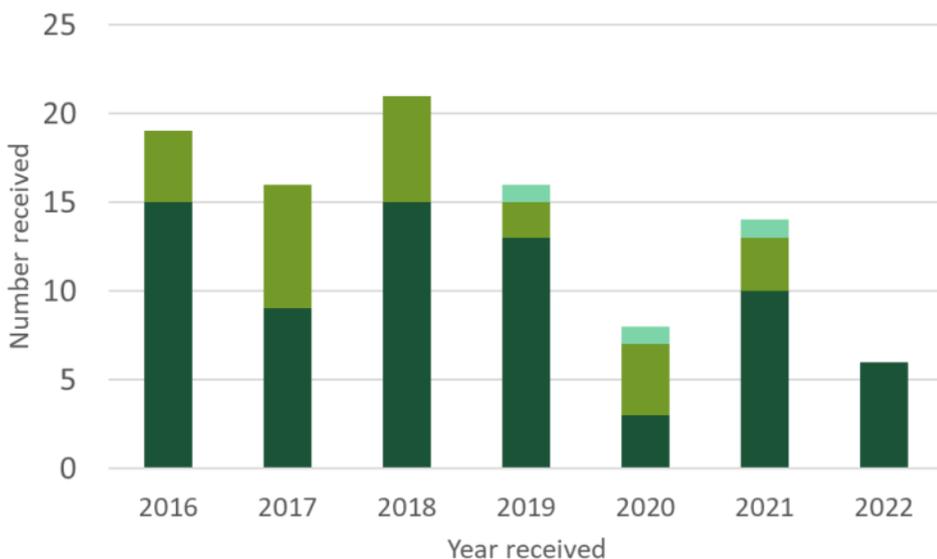
**73%** of the complaints, concerns and inquiries received have been regarding **private land forestry**.

**69%** of the complaints, concerns and inquiries received have been based in **Southern Ontario**.

Origin of Complaints, Concerns & Inquiries 2016 – April 2022



Origin of Complaints, Concerns & Inquiries by Year Received



(Continued on page 23)

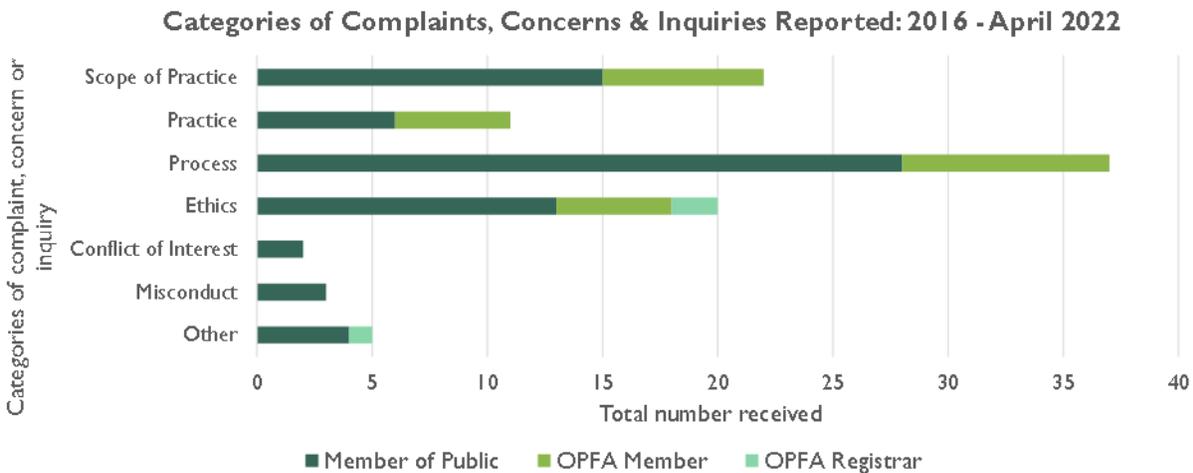
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### What categories of complaints, concerns and inquiries are reported?

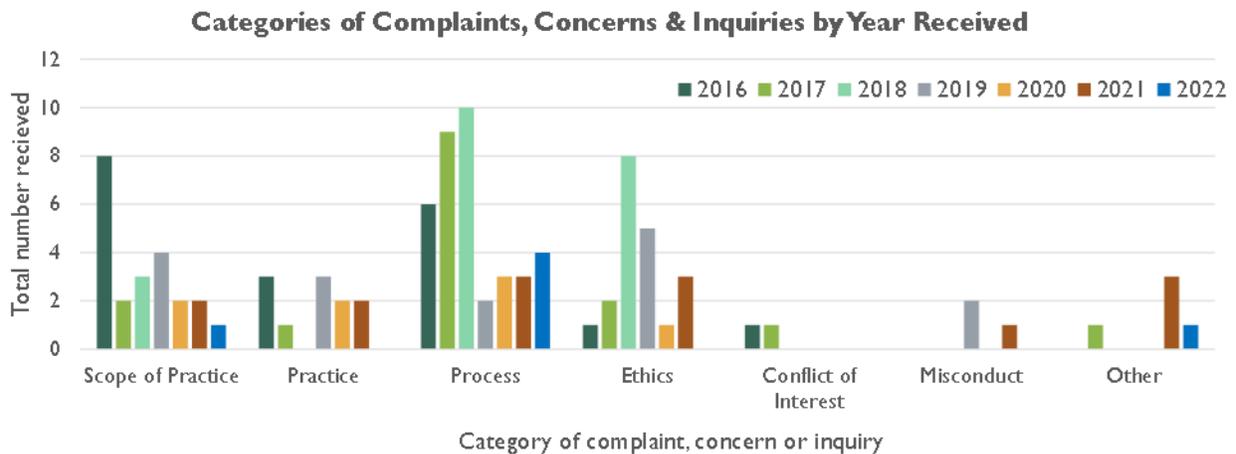
The next two graphs show the categories of complaints, concerns and inquiries received.

Definitions of these categories are:

- **Scope of Practice:** An issue or action by a member outside of their approved designation
- **Practice:** Any issue or action taken by a member that is inconsistent with approved forestry practices
- **Process:** An issue, action or inquiry that involves direction or guidelines put in place by the OPFA
- **Ethics:** A situation or action where a member failed to comply with O/Reg 145/01 Part 1
- **Conflict of Interest:** A situation in which a member derived personal benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity
- **Misconduct:** A situation or action where a member fails to comply with O/Reg 145/01 Part 2
- **Other:** A complaint, concern or inquiry which does not fit into any of the above categories



71 of the 100 complaints have been received from members of the public. Most of the public complaints are related to process (39%), followed by scope of practice (21%) and ethics (18%).



### Continuing Action

The statistics in this summary will continue to be updated over time to give the OPFA Council and members a regular report on OPFA enforcement actions and trends.

# IMPORTANT - BYLAW AND FEE SCHEDULE CHANGES

Fee Schedule and Bylaw changes have been made that may affect your annual membership renewal and your pathway to practising membership. They are:

## Fee Schedule (effective December 1, 2022)

- The Late Payment Fee, applied after December 1 each year, has been increased from \$50 to \$75 for Provisional Members and to \$100 for Full, Associate, Inactive and Non-Resident membership categories;
- Provisional Membership annual fees will increase from \$100 to \$310 after 6 years as a Provisional Member;
- A \$250 Limited Competency Assessment Fee has been added for those working towards Associate Membership.

## Bylaw Changes (effective April 14, 2022)

- Article 18.3-Competency Support Reporting is now due at the same time as membership fees, or by December 1 and is subject to a \$50 Late Reporting Fee.

You can access the full [Fee Schedule](#) and [Bylaw](#) on the OPFA website <http://opfa.ca/members-area>.

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## Executive Director updates

**Fred Pinto**, R.P.F., Executive Director, OPFA

### Ontario's State of Natural Resources Forest 2021 Report and Forest Biomass Action Plan

Both of the above named reports prepared by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry identify the value of Registered Professional Foresters. Several sections of the State of Natural Resources Forest 2021 report describe the role of Registered Professional Foresters in forestry in Ontario and on page 10 identify Registered Professional Foresters as a key component of sustainable forest management.

A Decision Notice was recently posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) regarding the finalization of the province's Forest Biomass Action Plan. The OPFA had commented on the document when it was posted for public review in 2021. The OPFA is pleased that the Forest Biomass Action Plan recognizes the role of professional foresters and specifies that "when a landowner is preparing for a commercial harvest, to ensure it follows good forestry practices, they should have a prescription prepared by a qualified member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association such as a Registered Professional Forester (R.P.F.) or a qualified Associate R.P.F."

### Adopting an outward-looking approach

The OPFA is one of around 40 regulators of professions in Ontario. The object of all regulators of professions in Ontario are to protect the public interest. How well we protect the public interest is under constant scrutiny by the regulators themselves, governments, the media, courts and oversight agencies such as the Office of the Auditor General. The OPFA can learn from the actions undertaken by other regulators as well as from the decisions and findings of external parties that evaluate the operations of regulators.

The Professional Engineers of Ontario have undertaken a review of their operations and are in the process of implementing their findings so that they can position themselves as a modern regulator that meets the expectation that their primary goal is the protection of the public interest. The article that follows describes some of the changes that the PEO is undertaking. These changes are similar to changes that the OPFA is also undertaking.

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engineeringdimensions.ca

CEO/REGISTRAR'S REPORT

## ADOPTING AN OUTWARD-LOOKING APPROACH

By Johnny Zuccon, P.Eng., FEC



When I was appointed CEO/registrar in February 2019, I was handed a mandate of delivering change unprecedented in PEO's history. At that time, the regulatory landscape was already witnessing change. Calls for greater transparency and accountability of regulators—from government, the public and the media—were commonplace. It was no longer a threat for governments to intrude on the affairs of regulators—it was becoming the new reality.

Recognizing the rising temperature and the urgent need for risk mitigation strategies, PEO took a bold step forward and voluntarily subjected itself to an independent regulatory performance review to determine if we were effectively doing the job set out for us under the *Professional Engineers Act* (PEA). The external review examined how well PEO was performing its regulatory functions of standard setting, licensing, discipline and enforcement when measured against international regulatory best practices. The report concluded that "PEO does not fulfil its mandate with the steadfast focus on regulation in the public interest." Council accepted the report in its entirety and committed to making the changes necessary to address its 15 recommendations.

On the eve of my retirement, PEO is now well into a multi-year, enterprise-wide transformation to address these recommendations and achieve our change vision of becoming "a professional, modern regulator that delivers on its statutory mandate and

is supported by a governance culture that consistently makes decisions that serve and protect the public interest."

### INCREASING PUBLIC TRUST

As we strive to achieve this vision, we are improving our ability to regulate, using principles of right-touch regulation and adopting an outward-looking approach to guide our decisions that impact our public interest mandate.

Key to any self-regulating profession is an unwavering level of public trust. This includes a commitment to continuing professional development (CPD), and PEO has taken a big step forward in this regard. Beginning in January 2023, all PEO licence holders will be required to participate in a mandatory CPD program to annually maintain their licence. Last month, both Council and the Ontario Cabinet approved a regulation under the PEA that requires all licence holders to participate in a continuing education and professional development program and complete the annual requirements as a condition of renewing their licence with PEO. The new mandatory program will be based on the Practice Evaluation and Knowledge program that has been piloted on a voluntary basis for the past five years. Once implemented, the program will provide further assurance to the public that Ontario engineers are committed to continuing education to enhance their practice.

### MODERNIZING LICENSING

Our transformation also includes a commitment to reviewing, simplifying and modernizing the P.Eng. licensing process. Our efforts have been accelerated with the proclamation in December 2021 of the *Working for Workers Act*, which includes significant amendments to the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* and the filing of O.Reg. 261/22. The government has set the bar for regulators on several licensing-related fronts, and PEO is now obligated to meet these requirements, as well as the government-imposed timelines related to Canadian work experience, licensing decision-making timeframes, language proficiency tests and emergency registration planning.

As part of our modernization efforts, we are also committed to incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion best practices into all PEO systems and operations. PEO's Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Exploratory Working Group, for example, was formed to develop recommendations on how best to prevent issues of racism and discrimination, including systemic discrimination, in all aspects of PEO's work as a regulator, an organization and an employer. This group has done tremendous work, and I'm proud that at its April 8 meeting Council approved a policy code that aims to prevent issues of systemic racism and discrimination in all aspects of PEO's work (see p. 60).

Implementing an outward-looking perspective is at the heart of our modernization effort. Our public interest mandate requires us to make decisions that primarily consider the perspective or interests of the public above all else. And our ongoing relevance as a regulator requires us to constantly reflect on our role, measure our effectiveness and make course corrections where necessary. The public expects and deserves no less. **e**



**100 Registration Cases Over Three Years  
Part 1: Burden of Proof**

by Julie Maciura  
April 2022 - No. 265

The Health Professions Appeal and Review Board (HPARB) renders a lot of decisions. Many, of course, have similar issues and reviewing them can become repetitive. Few people have the luxury of reading all of the decisions. As an experiment, we reviewed 100 recent registration decisions of HPARB decided over the past three years. Our goal was to see if we could identify principles and concepts underlying HPARB’s approach to recurring registration issues, especially those that might be different from approaches taken in the past.

The following summarizes our analysis, which may be instructive both to regulators appearing before HPARB and regulators who deal with registration issues scrutinized by other tribunals and the courts. This is the first of a four-part series.

Of the 100 cases, HPARB upheld the regulator’s decision 80% of the time and returned the matter for reconsideration 20% of the time. In only one case did HPARB require the regulator to register the applicant. Having said that, many of the cases returned to the regulator had very strong recommendations to register the applicant. In about half of the returned cases HPARB based the referral back on the basis that it had significant new information that had not been available to the regulator at the time.

HPARB conducts both paper reviews and oral hearings, with the choice belonging to the applicant. In 87% of the cases the applicant chose a paper review. However, the applicant was successful in obtaining a decision returning the matter to the regulator for reconsideration in 30% of the cases where an oral hearing was held (compared to 20% for paper reviews).

**Burden of Proof**

HPARB continues to uphold the fundamental principle that applicants for registration must demonstrate that they meet the registration requirements: *J.H. v College of Psychologists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 121575 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j480j>. This burden on the applicant is supported by the need to ensure that the applicant can practise safely and ethically:

Public protection is a central feature of the public interest in the context of the registration of health professionals. As gatekeepers to registration, the College’s application procedure ensures that practitioners who are registered as health professionals meet professional standards. Once registered, a health professional represents to the public at large that their practice meets the standards of the profession and is endorsed by the regulating body and that they can be trusted to practise safely. (*C. R. v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 45638 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jg55j>.)

HPARB has also said:

A college, in accepting an applicant as a member, is verifying to the public that the individual has demonstrated that he or she meets the standards of the profession as set by the college. *A.H-A.O. v Ontario (College of Physicians and Surgeons)*, 2019 CanLII 50927 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j0tm9>.

For example, where there are circumstances that create suspicion as to the authenticity of a document, it is the applicant’s duty to demonstrate its legitimacy: *Zhang v College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 141813 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j8t30>.

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**WANT TO REPRINT AN ARTICLE**

A number of readers have asked to reprint articles in their own newsletters. Our policy is that readers may reprint an article as long as credit is given to both the newsletter and the firm. Please send us a copy of the issue of the newsletter which contains a reprint from Grey Areas.

# Grey Areas

A COMMENTARY ON LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

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Even in cases where the concern is the suitability of the applicant's conduct, there is no presumption of "good character" or requirement that the regulator prove the allegations. The applicant must demonstrate that they meet the requirement: *F.E. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 29058 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hznht>; *W.-S. (V.) W. v College of Optometrists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 35335 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hzzfl>.

While HPARB has expressed sympathy where the passage of time has made the obtaining of documents difficult (e.g., for establishing details of the applicant's education) the onus remains on the applicant to demonstrate that the requirement has been met: *B.W.P. v College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 31824 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j6x0v>.

To meet the onus the applicant must provide "reasonable and relevant specificity and verification as to their qualifications in relation to professional standards and registration requirements": *A.R. v Ontario (College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists)*, 2019 CanLII 50278 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j0srq>.

However, HPARB sees that this onus on the applicant is balanced by competing considerations:

The Board notes that in considering an application for registration, the public interest also includes the ability of individuals to practise in their chosen profession. The courts have long held that the right to earn a livelihood is an interest of fundamental importance to an individual affected and should not be lightly overridden. (*C. R. v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 45638 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jg55j>.)

In other cases, the dual aspects of the public interest principle were described as follows:

Registration requirements exist to protect the public by ensuring that individuals permitted to work in the profession can be expected to practice to the standard of the profession. Individuals who have demonstrated their competence and ability by successfully completing the requisite or substantially similar education programs, are to be reasonably assessed for their qualifications to safely practice the profession. (*Breton v College of Psychologists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 90815 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jbqk3>; *Mahboob v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 5500 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jcwkj>.)

HPARB has also said that the burden of proof of establishing evidence of meeting a registration requirement should not be confused with taking a narrow or strict interpretation of the legislation. HPARB quoted previous cases stating: "when considering an application for professional registration, unless there is a public interest that warrants a restrictive interpretation of provisions regulating entry into a profession in Ontario, the interest of an individual to practice a profession should prevail." *A.M. v College of Psychologists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 27935 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j6g17>; *Santhirasegaram v College of Psychologists of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 802 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jckf5>.

## Unsuitable Conduct

One area in which the burden of proof can be significant is where there is a concern as to whether the applicant will behave appropriately. Sometimes this concern is called a "good character" or "professional suitability" requirement even though the relevant provision is usually worded in terms of future

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behaviour. As noted above, there is no “presumption of good character”.

Ten percent of HPARB’s cases involved issues of unsuitable conduct.

In assessing such cases, HPARB is reluctant to rely only on allegations that have not been objectively established by a court or tribunal finding, at least in the absence of a hearing before it: *L.A. v The College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 154 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j4fdg> (decline to consider serious allegations of sexual abuse where the complainant refused to testify and no hearing was held); *Mahboob v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 5500 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jcwkj> (concerns still before the complaints screening committee); *College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario v K.A.R.*, 2019 CanLII 63885 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j1gcx> (evidence of dishonesty must not be vague or ambiguous).

However, once established at a hearing, HPARB is reluctant to accept assertions that the hearing leading to the finding was unfair: *F.E. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 29058 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hznht> (HPARB is not in a position to assess the merits of the US criminal justice system).

Where there are a number and pattern of concerns, HPARB is prepared to support a conclusion that the applicant has not established that they will practise professionally in the future. For example, an applicant with eight recent complaints in another province, many of which resulted in advice and reminders and one of which resulted in a remediation program and where the underlying facts of the most serious of them were not in dispute, did not demonstrate suitability: *Rahman v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 122204 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jkz5m>.

Where some of the allegations have been proven, even in the distant past, recent concerns that were dealt with remedially can reinforce the older finding, especially if there seems to be a lack of insight and remediation: *College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario v R.R.*, 2019 CanLII 18858 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hz13w>.

Likewise, where the conduct is based on a particular belief system (e.g., that satanic ritual abuse is prevalent in the world and patients do not recognize that they have experienced it) with little insight about the potential for those beliefs to impact the applicant’s approach to practice in a possibly harmful way, the suitability concern can be established without a formal finding: *S.F. v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 92678 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j2q3s>.

Of particular concern is where the applicant is not completely candid in their application for registration:

The Board recognizes that professional regulation is predicated upon self-disclosure. Registered health professionals have an ongoing duty to disclose information to their governing regulating body. It follows that any hesitation or reluctance on the part of an applicant to disclose information during the application process is not reassuring and reasonably calls into question whether the applicant can be trusted to accurately, completely, openly and honestly deal with all of those situations which will arise both in practice and in an applicant’s dealings with the College once registered. That honesty and integrity must exist both when it is easy but also when there may be consequences for the regulated professional. (*Yavari v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 212 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jcgl>.)

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Where there is a suitability concern, HPARB considers all of the relevant circumstances including the nature and seriousness of the conduct, the insight of the applicant, the remedial steps undertaken, and whether the applicant failed to disclose the concern or otherwise demonstrates a lack of appreciation for their professional obligations: *C.C.U. v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 91555 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j2nn2> (failure to disclose proceedings for breaching a patient's privacy by using their records to initiate a boundary-crossing relationship); *College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario v K.A.R.*, 2019 CanLII 63885 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j1gcx> (duty to be forthcoming on application for registration); *W.-S. (V.) W. v College of Optometrists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 35335 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hzzfl> (applicant still in process of fulfilling monitoring requirements for billing infractions); *Pelavendran v College of Physiotherapists of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 119348 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jkrm8> (lack of insight and remorse significant for criminal findings that involved violence and sexual assault); *R.Y. v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 91588 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j2npc> (lack of insight into sexual contact while working as a clergy person towards a congregant; improper use of titles).

While HPARB does consider character references and reports of counselling or insight programs, these are given less weight than actual past conduct and applicant insight, at least where the writers do not demonstrate awareness of the details of past findings or expert opinions of likely future behaviour: *L.A. v The College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 154 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j4fdg>; *Rahman v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 122204 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jkz5m>; *F.E. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 29058 (ON HPARB),

<https://canlii.ca/t/hznht>; *Pelavendran v College of Physiotherapists of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 119348 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jkrm8>; *College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario v R.R.*, 2019 CanLII 18858 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hz13w> (references were older and did not seem to be exposed to the full scope of the applicant's practice).

HPARB is concerned about the importance of honesty and integrity in the health care context:

However, as emphasized by the *Code* which applies to regulated health professionals in Ontario, public trust in the nursing profession is fundamental to the public interest. Often, patients are vulnerable, a reality that emphasizes the importance of honesty and professional integrity for the members of self-regulated professions. (*F.E. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 29058 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hznht>.)

Refusal of registration on the grounds of unsuitable conduct is not governed by the principles of a disciplinary punishment in which the least restrictive order should be imposed. Since the applicant is not a registrant, the refusal is protective of the public of Ontario even though the applicant is registered elsewhere: *Rahman v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 122204 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jkz5m>.

In the next issue of Grey Areas we will examine how HPARB approaches education and examination requirements for registration.



## 100 Registration Cases Over Three Years Part 2: Education and Examination Requirements

by Bernie LeBlanc  
May 2022 - No. 266

The Health Professions Appeal and Review Board (HPARB) renders a lot of decisions. Many, of course, have similar issues and reviewing them can become repetitive. Few people have the luxury of reading all of the decisions. As an experiment, we reviewed 100 recent registration decisions of HPARB decided over the past three years. Our goal was to see if we could identify principles and concepts underlying HPARB's approach to recurring registration issues, especially those that might be different from approaches taken in the past.

The following summarizes our analysis, which may be instructive both to regulators appearing before HPARB and regulators who deal with registration issues scrutinized by other tribunals and the courts. This is the second of a four-part series.

### Educational Equivalency

Many regulators recognize specific programs, or accredited programs, and then accept graduates of programs that are substantially equivalent. HPARB seems open to various approaches for assessing substantial equivalency including:

- Course hours comparisons: *O.V. v College of Psychologists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 51677 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j8zsv>; *M.R. v College of Psychologists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 27793 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hzm7f> (however, to be substantially equivalent, course hours do not necessarily have to be mathematically equivalent); *D. E. S. v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental*

*Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 10757 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j57cs> (the comparison should not be a mathematical exercise);

- Mapping core competencies achieved through various courses: *C.F. v College of Registered Psychotherapists*, 2019 CanLII 115465 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j3scb>; *Firka v College of Registered Psychotherapists*, 2021 CanLII 36971 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jfq18>;
- Successful completion of a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process: *B.W.P. v College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 31824 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j6x0v>; and
- Comparison of the academic level and accreditation of the educational institution: *R.S.M. v College of Psychologists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 92280 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j2pkx>.

While HPARB will look at the cumulative educational achievements of an applicant, there must be some level of cohesion, structure and evaluation to constitute substantial equivalency to a single, comprehensive program: *Sloss v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 88746 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jj5vt>. Workshops and other additional educational experiences typically do not have the breadth, scope and academic rigor to constitute substantial equivalency: *E.H. v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 85405 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j2dnm>.

However, HPARB is not opposed to reaching a different conclusion than that reached by the regulator: *E.M. v Ontario (College of Registered Kinesiologists)*, 2019 CanLII 75371 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j1zb9> (two inadequate educational

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programs can be combined into one substantially equivalent program).

Clinical experience is generally not considered to be a substitute for an educational requirement. The two are substantively different: *Andrews v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 120892 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jkw15>.

## Examination Requirements

HPARB has generally upheld the value of examinations as a registration requirement. They provide objective, external, and verifiable evidence of sufficient knowledge, skill and judgment to practise the profession. *A.H.A.O. v Ontario (College of Physicians and Surgeons)*, 2019 CanLII 50927 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j0tm9>.

## Examination Attempts

A frequent issue is whether an applicant should be permitted to have more than the usual maximum number of attempts of a required examination. 15% of the 100 cases related to requests to permit another examination attempt.

HPARB has upheld the principle that there can be a specified maximum number of attempts and that an annulment of a previous attempt should be made only in exceptional circumstances: *Charkhandeh v Ontario (College of Psychologists)*, 2021 CanLII 38507 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jft3p>. Only two of the fifteen cases (13%) resulted in an annulment of an examination attempt.

There is a concern that after repeated attempts at an examination, passing it may reflect knowledge (i.e., memorization) of the examination rather than the applicant truly possessing the required competencies: *Ciurleo v Ontario (College of Chiropractors)*, 2021 CanLII 85583 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jhsrq>.

In considering whether an examination attempt should be annulled, HPARB considers whether the applicant chose to proceed with an examination attempt despite knowing in advance of a troubling circumstance, such as the death of a family member: *College of Nurses of Ontario v M. D.*, 2020 CanLII 7785 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j524j>; *N.D. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 114725 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j3rb5> (family circumstances should have been raised in advance, illness on examination date should have been disclosed then and not after unsuccessful results were conveyed); *College of Nurses of Ontario v D. C.*, 2020 CanLII 7786 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j524j>; *S.R. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 18859 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hz13v>; *L.O.G. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 73247 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j1vd6> (personal circumstances raised for the first time before HPARB).

HPARB also said:

The Board finds that it is the responsibility of each applicant to assess his or her own ability to write the examination and to decide whether and when to attempt the examination. (*A.O. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 98018 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jc311>).

Where the applicant has anxiety concerns, the proper course is to request an accommodation and not to seek an annulment of the attempt afterwards: *E. B. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 24532 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j63rx>.

However, where the circumstances may have affected the applicant's ability to assess whether they were able to attempt the examination, an attempt of the examination might be annulled even though the applicant chose to proceed with it:

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The Board recognizes that applicants facing an examination are responsible for assessing their own personal circumstances to determine whether to attempt the examination and when to do so. However, there can be extraordinary circumstances that override an applicant's ability to make such an assessment. The Applicant's further explanation of her circumstances when she attempted the examination the first time, when considered alongside the totality of the information that was already available to the Committee, suggest that the Applicant was compromised in her ability to make a decision to proceed and to effectively write the examination. (*A.T. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 73283 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j1vdq>.)

An example of where an examination attempt might be annulled is where there were administrative issues such as excessive noise, which can be compounded if the applicant has an anxiety disorder, especially if the concern is raised before the examination results are received. This would be an example of a circumstance that could not have been predicted. See: *M. K. P. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 101091 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jc6v5>.

However, examination administrative issues, such as computer problems, must be supported by sufficient evidence to meet the onus of proof (*A.B. v College of Nurses of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 15547 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/hxy20>) and be such as to have affected the outcome of the examination to be considered: *C.G.D. v College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario*, 2020 CanLII 39017 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/j85tm>.

Some examination provisions require the applicant to attempt the examination at the earliest available opportunity. HPARB treats such requirements seriously and while exceptional circumstances will

sometimes be entertained, workload and stress will not generally constitute an exceptional circumstance: *Mahboob v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 5500 (ON HPARB), <https://canlii.ca/t/jcwkj>.

In the next issue of Grey Areas we will examine how HPARB approaches various policy issues related to registration.

# In Memoriam

## Edward Ray Townsend, R.P.F.

September 15, 1925 - November 12, 2021



Edward Ray Townsend, beloved husband of Barbara Townsend (nee Geddes), passed away peacefully on Friday, November 12, 2021, at the amazing age of 96 after experiencing some health complications. Loving father to Howard Townsend (Val), Roselyn Knox (Bill), Deborah Fraser (David), Gary Townsend (Vera), and Martin Townsend. Affectionate stepfather to Robert Orr (Jen), Stephen Orr (Lindsay), and Wendy Wygergangs (David). Favourite grandpa to Jeremiah Townsend (Trina), Brent Fraser, Breanne Robertson, Laurie Fraser (Jordan), Jamie Robertson (Megumi), Madelaine Townsend (Mirnes), Sam Townsend, Angus Townsend, and Emma Townsend. Special great-grandpa to Griffin, Lyle, Trent, Myles, Portia, Emery, Adler, Alice, Julia, and Ella. Cherished big brother to Jean Uzumeri. Predeceased by parents Wilbert and Margaret (nee Colbeck), siblings Edith, Arden, and Gordon, grandson Gordon Fraser, and the late Leone Townsend (nee Waugh). Admired by many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Ray was born at home in Monticello, Ontario on September 15, 1925, during the Great Depression. He spent his early years on the family farm with his parents and siblings. After graduating high school in 1943, Ray enlisted in the Canadian Army and was sent overseas where he became a member of the Royal Regiment of Canada. Private E.R. Townsend was wounded at the Twente Canal during the liberation of Holland. Upon returning home, Ray attended and graduated the University of New Brunswick, where he earned a

Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry. In 1946 Ray married his first wife Leone Lillian Waugh in Douglas, New Brunswick. They were married for 57 years until Leone's passing in 2003.

During his early working years, Ray worked as a Forest Engineer; he spent 20 years with the Canadian International Paper Company in Maniwaki, Quebec. During this time his five children were born. In 1975, he accepted a position as Operations Superintendent with the Algonquin Forestry Authority in Algonquin Park which Ray claimed was the best job of his career. After 15 years, he retired at the age of 65. In 2006, Ray married his wife Barb in Port Sydney, Ontario. He enjoyed attending Knox United Church, gardening, walking the dog, trekking through Algonquin Park, spending time with his grandchildren, volunteering with Meals on Wheels and the Canadian Cancer Society, singing in a barbershop choir, travelling, dancing, and writing three books. Ray was a proud long-time member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

# In Memoriam

## Robert Spaulding Moore-Bunney, R.P.F.

September 10, 1927 - February 13, 2012

DAUGHTER OF A FORESTER

By Laura Kokocinski

He walks ahead of me, my protector in the woods  
 carrying his compass, notebook and pen  
 stopping now and again to measure tree girths and  
 check bark, needles and leaves.

He glances back at me and smiles, as I stroll  
 oblivious along the pine laden path  
 under the cool protection of the trees around me.

We stop for a water break and he points out and names  
 the various trees that surround us, beams of light  
 passing through their branches, their thickness  
 almost overwhelming.

He tells me to touch the bark of the various pines  
 and report what I feel and hear.

"Hear" I say and he explains the language of the trees  
 and I feel the surge of life under the bark.

"Touch the leaves and needles, smell their incense", he says  
 and I do - and wonder at their magnificence.

We have been walking for miles, but time  
 seems to stand still in the quietness of these woods.

He moves to the side of the path and says  
 "That's where Duffy is buried" - our dog who  
 passed away almost a year ago. I wander over  
 to the site and marvel at the perfect place  
 my dad has found for our beloved pet.

Then I run to catch up to my dad - he is in his element  
 - a lumberjack, a naturalist a forester  
 - my protector.

We stop for lunch and sit under a 50 foot white pine.  
 "Can you feel the life here?" he asks.  
 "Close your eyes and see the peace that the forest gives us"  
 he says.

I close my eyes, listening to the voices of the wind,  
 grass and the trees. It is a gift that I appreciate.

As we leave the hushed quiet of the trees, I embrace  
 one of the trees and say thank you.

My dad smiles and I give him a hug,  
 it has been a great day.

I cherish the gift that he gave me that day.

# Member News

## New Full (R.P.F.) Members:

Owen Bott  
 Maegan Ciurko  
 Ian Cochrane  
 Alexandra Farkas  
 Anna Ketchum  
 Madison Postma  
 Emmett Snyder  
 David Stevenson-transfer from out of province  
 Alaina Vandervoort

## New Associate (Associate R.P.F.) Members:

Lee Thurston

Please welcome and support the following people who have been admitted into the OPFA but are not yet entitled to practice professional forestry in Ontario:

## New Provisional Members (R.P.F. in Training):

(may practice if under the direct supervision of a qualified member)

Dylan Alcock  
 David Baehre  
 Zoe Bedford  
 Jake Chalmers  
 Katia Charlebois  
 Monique Dosanjh  
 Francdenia Epeni-tombo  
 Danielle Gnoyke  
 Benjamin Gwilliam  
 Erin Knight  
 Taylor Mongston-Murray  
 Joshua Quattrociocchi  
 Julia Reale  
 Douglas Reid  
 Sara Ross  
 David Scott  
 Scott Seaman  
 Elina Shahmirian  
 Shan Shukla  
 Lylalee Soley  
 Jordan Swayze  
 James Thordarson  
 Bridget Trerise  
 Helen Turner  
 Karlene Zurbrigg

## New Provisional Member (R.P.F. in Training with Scope):

(may practice within their prescribed scope of practice or under the direct supervision of a qualified member)

Jordan MacMillan

## New Student Members:

Tibebe Biru  
 Eli Drummond  
 Dele Idowu  
 Wing Kei Kwong  
 Alexandra Lalande  
 Jesse Milani  
 Bronwyn Riddoch  
 Steven Ueberschaer  
 Braedon Witt

## Resigned, Provisional Member:

John Bols

The following registrant is not entitled to practice professional forestry in Ontario but remains a registrant of the OPFA:

## New Inactive Member-R.P.F. (Non-Practising):

Steve Osawa

## Membership Suspension (for administrative reasons) Lifted:

Nick Courtney

# Continuing Education

## Webinars and Other Resources

Websites that offer free webinars to earn CEUs for your membership maintenance.

- Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF-IFC) - Offers considerable resources and ongoing lecture series  
<https://www.cif-ifc.org/e-lectures/>
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. MNR Science Insights, contact Kristy McKay, Science Transfer Specialist at [Kristy.McKay@ontario.ca](mailto:Kristy.McKay@ontario.ca)
- Forestry and Natural Resources Webinars  
<http://www.forestrywebinars.net/>
- Conservation Webinars  
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/>
- Urban Forestry Today  
<http://www.urbanforestrytoday.org/>
- Climate Webinars  
<http://www.climatewebinars.net/>
- Cornell University  
<http://blogs.cornell.edu/cceforestconnect/subscribe/>
- Forestry Chronicle  
<http://pubs.cif-ifc.org/journal/tfc>
- Canadian Journal of Forest Research  
<http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/journal/cjfr>
- FPInnovations  
<https://web.fpinnovations.ca/blog/>  
<https://wildfire.fpinnovations.ca/index.aspx>
- Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund)  
<https://treefund.org/webinars>
- Eastern Ontario Model Forest LDD Moth Webinar  
Link to the recording on YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/U4BZOM8GtyU>
- Ontario Woodlot Association Oak Wilt Webinar  
Link and passcode to the recording: [https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/1xAH8qHGgwVV9ki-78A83oQMbcIlZKbH5uHqHtP7xLfEJ8l8mNJE7U4iGx2nZuFp.3LYLtY\\_SIGeCzRor](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/1xAH8qHGgwVV9ki-78A83oQMbcIlZKbH5uHqHtP7xLfEJ8l8mNJE7U4iGx2nZuFp.3LYLtY_SIGeCzRor)  
Passcode: 8Mnwb+@J

- Ontario's Centre for Research & Innovation in the Bio-economy (CRIBE) - Forest EDGE. Decision support tools, projects and case studies.  
<https://www.nextfor-forestedge.ca/>
- Canadian Partnership for Wildland Fire Science (Canada Wildfire). Partnership members include: the Canadian Forest Service, Alberta, BC, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and the University of Alberta. Originally focused on western Canada, it has expanded and includes information and research of interest to forest managers elsewhere in Canada.  
<https://www.canadawildfire.org/>
- Invasive Species Centre webinar series  
<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/learn/webinar-series/>

## Coming Events

CIF-IFC 2022 National Conference and 114th Annual General Meeting - Connecting Research, Policy and Practice - Making It Work  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario  
September 10 - 15, 2022  
<https://www.cif-ifc.org/2022-conference-agm/>

Community Forest Managers and Tree-Bylaw Officers Annual General Meeting  
October 2022  
More information to come. For questions and registration information, contact [nheyblom@forestsontario.ca](mailto:nheyblom@forestsontario.ca)

*Please send any upcoming events to [opfanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:opfanewsletter@gmail.com)*