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Sustaining the future: Innovative forestry in action

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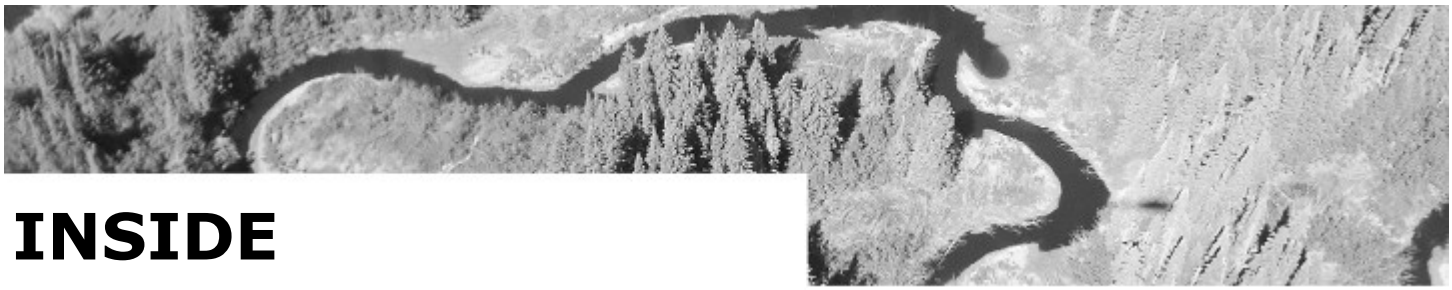

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Lanark County Community Forest Red Pine Management

Martin Streit, R.P.F.

Red pine thinning is a significant source of revenue for Ontario's Community Forests, but it hasn't always been that way. This article explores the history and current state of red pine management on the Lanark County Community Forest (LCCF).

Origins

In 1921, Ontario passed the Reforestation Act, which enabled the Minister of Lands and Forests (L+F - now Ministry of Natural Resources - MNR) to enter into agreements for reforesting, developing, and managing lands held by Counties. This was the start of one of Ontario's finest forestry legacies: the Agreement Forest program. Today these lands are generally referred to as Community Forests.

On June 17, 1938 Lanark County entered into the program. Under the terms of the Agreement, Lanark County would purchase land to be managed for forestry purposes and L+F would manage the lands. Forestry purposes were broadly defined as the production of wood and wood products, provision of proper environmental conditions for wildlife, protection against floods and erosion, recreation, and protection and production of water supplies.

The lands available for purchase in Lanark County were predominantly on the Canadian Shield. Most purchased parcels consisted of abandoned farm or forest land with more or less depleted rocky and shallow soil, and understocked, high-graded woodlots. The open areas were rough pasture or hayfields suitable for afforestation, and in most instances red pine was chosen for planting because of its fast growth rate, suitability to the harsh conditions of afforestation, and potential timber value.

Most red pine were planted on the LLCF between 1955 and 1987 (now aged 38 to 70). The plantations ranged in size from 4 to 30 hectares and resulted in 358.5 hectares (885 acres) of red pine forests. This represents only 7.5% of the total area of the LCCF, which is predominantly composed of hardwood and white pine.

Red Pine Thinning

Red pine is planted at close spacing to optimize plantation survival and to maintain high stocking densities to produce high value lumber and poles. Red pine's excellent ability to grow straight and self-prune allows it to take advantage of this environment. However, by about age 25 this high stand density limits the growth rate of the crop trees, necessitating a regular thinning regime.

As the red pine plantations developed, thinning was initially an arduous task with few commercial opportunities in eastern Ontario. The main market for small diameter red pine, a pulp mill in Hawkesbury, closed in the early 1980s. Forest managers went to great lengths to hire seasonal workers to thin the plantations and much of the harvested material went to waste. However, in the early 1990s two enterprising sawmills (L Heideman & Sons, B Hokum and Son) in the Ottawa Valley seized the opportunity to use small diameter red pine (boltwood) in their mills, and a new market was born.

Red Pine Thinning on the LCCF

Since 2006 the LCCF has been managed for Lanark County by a partnership with Mississippi Valley Conservation and Upper Canada Forestry Service. The LCCF is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) under the Eastern Ontario Model Forest's (EOMF) group certificate (RA-COC-000232) and continues to be managed for the forestry purposes as described in the 1938 Agreement. Management standards are based on approved silviculture and wildlife guidelines and good forestry practices consistent with the Lanark County Forest Conservation By-law.

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Stumpage from red pine thinning provides 70-80% of the revenue on the LCCF, which helps to support property and trail maintenance. About 85% of the plantations (305 hectares) have sufficient stocking and access to be operable and these forests are thinned on a regular harvest cycle. The stands are marked and harvested to the residual stocking levels following MNR's density management diagrams (DMD) (Smith and Woods, 1997). The goals are to optimize the production of high-quality sawlogs and poles and to develop desirable regeneration. Typical post-harvest basal areas on good quality stands on the LCCF are 30 - 34 M2/ Ha. All plantations are marked by the forest managers, who are members of the OPFA and have MNR tree marking certification. To maintain a consistent high standard of stocking of plantations across the LCCF, smaller stands are grouped with plantations on nearby properties to create commercial harvest opportunities. All first thinnings have been completed on the LCCF, and a recently harvested 3rd thinning provides an excellent example of the long-term financial benefits of red pine tree planting and management.

Brian Anderson and Martin Streit: 2024 Tree Marking at the Bowes Property

The Bowes Property

Acquired in 1960, the Bowes property was a typical Canadian Shield farm. This picture, which hung behind the desk of Les Billings in the MNR District Office in Carleton Place (closed in 1996), shows the property just after planting in 1961. The plantation is good sized, comprising 28 net hectares. The table below provides results from the first three thinnings.

Bowes Property Lanark Community Forest: 1961

The site quality is variable, with approximately 2/3 of the area suitable for production of high-quality sawlogs and poles. First thinning of this property was completed through an employment project prior to the advent of the boltwood market, and records are limited. Information from a nearby 1st thinning on the LCCF is provided as a proxy. The information provided for the 2nd and 3rd thinnings are actuals. The volumes per hectare are reflective of the site quality and have declined slightly from thinning one to three as tree quality has improved. However, with each thinning the number of trees to be cut has dropped dramatically, decreasing the harvesting time. Meanwhile, because of the increase in tree diameter at breast height (DBH) and tree height the average merchantable volume per cut tree has increased by 3.6 times since 1985. Value (as stumpage) has increased from $2.10 to $28.50 per cut tree, or almost 14 times. Bear in mind that with each thinning, the poorest quality trees (unacceptable growing stock-UGS) were marked for removal. In the 2006-07 harvest this included a significant number of trees damaged by the 1998 eastern Ontario ice storm.

Year of Thinning	Harvest Volume (m^3/ha)	Trees/ Ha Harvested	Avg DBH (cm) Per Cut Tree	Avg Volume (m^3) Per Cut Tree	Avg Value/ Cut Tree to LCCF
1985	76.2	483	18.0	0.16	$2.10
2006-07	73.3	200	21.6	0.37	$10.80
2024-25	58.8	103	27.1	0.57	$28.50

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The Future Forest

The goal of afforestation is to initiate forest cover, with the long-term goal of enhancing forest diversity and the Bowes property is well on its way. The forest was never a monoculture; pockets of cedar and hardwood were retained and a small amount of white pine and white spruce were planted in 1961. These trees provide a source of seed for natural regeneration which is largely balsam fir, white pine, sugar maple, and white spruce, with minor components of cedar, black cherry, and oak. The tree markers consider the regeneration requirements in their marking decisions, and the loggers take care to minimize regeneration damage. On hilltops with shallow soils and in small pockets of wind damage or disease mortality, stocking has declined and the rate of development of the regeneration has been accelerated, creating additional structural diversity.

Bowes Property Lanark Community Forest: 2025

Despite the impressive returns to date, in the eyes of the forest managers the plantation is just entering its prime phase of value production. While about 5% of the harvest was poles in 2024-25, to quote Forest Manager Brian Anderson, "it's now a forest of poles". The following table describes the forest in 2025 based on a post-harvest cruise for potential product at the next thinning. Pole values increase with size, a range of values has been provided based on Larose Forest figures (Hunter, 2025).

Residual Stand (2025) BA = 31.2 m²/ha, Avg DBH = 32 cm	Current Volume (m³/ Ha)	Potential Poles or Sawlogs/ha	Average DBH (cm) Per Tree	Avg Current Volume Per Tree (m³)	Projected Value Per Tree (2025 prices)
Poles	214.9	253	33.3 cm	0.85	$75 to $150
Sawlogs/Boltwood	98.7	149	29.1 cm	0.66	$28.50

When compared to the MNR DMD, the 2025 stand data is a close match (Stinson, 2025). The stand is now at the bottom of the maximum stand productivity zone, with a basal area of 31.2 M2/ Ha, an average DBH of 32 cm and volume of 313.6 M3/Ha. The next thinning will be scheduled at the top of the maximum production zone before it enters the mortality zone. At that time the stand is projected to have a basal area of 44 m2/ ha, an average DBH of 37.5 cm and a volume of 563 M3/Ha. While the volume projection seems extraordinary, the projected increase in average DBH of 5.5 cm is the same as the increase in DBH per cut tree from 2006 to 2024. It is a projection; time will tell.

The better stocked areas of the forest clearly have the potential for three to four more harvests of poles and sawlogs, with the final goal of a mixed forest of white pine, sugar maple, and white spruce, with large supercanopy red pine. Balsam fir is typically short-lived in Lanark County and is expected to decrease with time. The number of cuts and return period will be based on the health of the forest, as decline can become an issue for mature red pine in Lanark County, which has areas of marble-based (calcareous) bedrock and soils. In the meantime, in this hardwood dominated landscape, well-stocked mature red pine plantations are important habitat for conifer dependent birds like hermit thrushes and northern goshawks.

The Bowes property is just one example of the enormous legacy created by the MNR's tree planting and Agreement Forest programs and carried on today by the owners of the Community Forests and the red pine-based forest industry. In 2025, Forests Canada continues to help private landowners with tree planting. If you are planning to plant trees, or considering a thinning of your existing plantation, consider that if properly planned and managed your forest can be an important future source of wood, revenue and wildlife habitat.

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Hunter, Steve. 2025 Personal Communication. Registered Professional Forester, Larose Forest and Ontario Tree Marking Program Instructor.

Smith, David J and Murray E Woods. 1997. Red pine and white pine density management diagrams for Ontario. MNR SCSS Technical Report No. 48.

Stinson, Al. 2025 Personal Communication. Consulting Forest Technician and Ontario Tree Marking Program Instructor.

Thanks also to Brian Anderson (LCCF Forest Manager), Jim Hendry, and John Shaw for their advice in preparing this article.

Forest inventory change detection aka *hot spot mapping*

Ian Smyth, Provincial Remote Sensing Specialist, **Angus Carr**, R.P.F., Inventory Development Specialist and **Ian Sinclair**, R.P.F. in Training, Terrestrial Specialist, Science and Research Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario's forest resources inventory (FRI) provides information to support a range of resource management and land use decisions and to meet provincial, national, and international reporting commitments. As information needs change and technology advances, Ontario's 10-year FRI production cycle has continued to evolve. The ministry's Term 1 inventory (T1, 2008–2017) was digital imagery-based, whereas the Term 2 inventory (T2, 2018–2027) is being enhanced with light detection and ranging (lidar) (for details, see article in OPFA newsletter issue 255).

What is hot spot mapping: As MNR's FRI team develops T2 forest inventories, T1 and T2 information are merged to map forest cover changes since T1 is related to disturbance and forest composition. This process is referred to as hot spot mapping. Once identified, these areas can be assessed, and the inventory adjusted if needed.

What do we learn from hot spot mapping: Over time, the composition of forest stands can change as a result of natural disturbance, harvesting and succession. The hot spot mapping process integrates satellite spectral information and airborne elevation data to identify previously unreported forest change between the T1 and T2 inventories. These clusters (or "hot spots") of change are then used to guide more intensive interpretive analysis and consultation in an efficient manner.

Elevation-based Change Detection

Examples of the elevation-based change detection process: (from left to right) a. T1 imagery (false colour), b. T2 imagery (true colour), c. classified elevation change image.

The images below show areas of blowdown

The images below show unreported cuts (not reported in annual reports)

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The images below show previously dead standing stems that are now down

The images below show overstory breaking up and will likely require photo-interpretation to adjust species composition

The images below show a new trail/road

The images below show a new hydro corridor and dam

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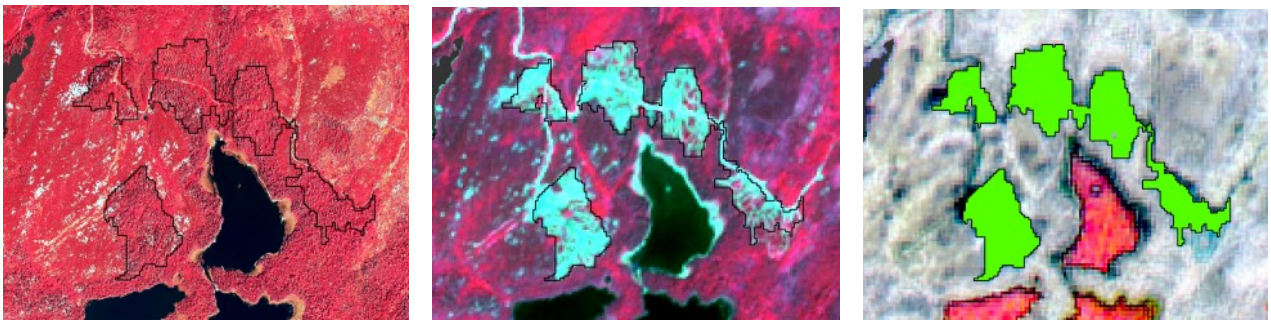
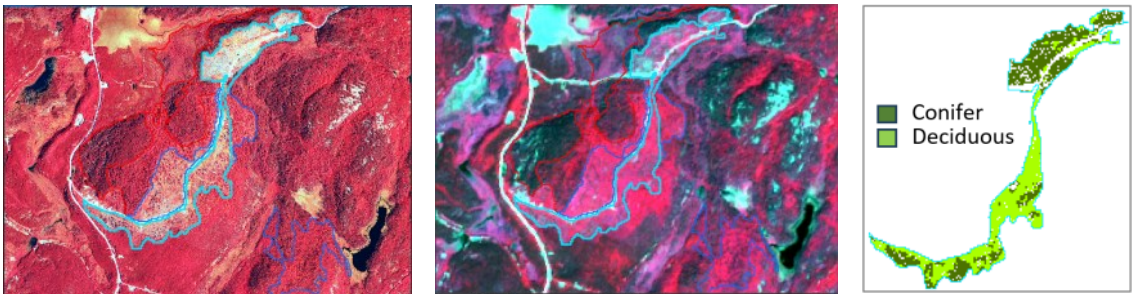
Spectral-based Change Detection

Examples of the spectral change detection process: (from left to right) a. T1 imagery (false colour), b. Sentinel-2 satellite imagery (false colour bands B8-B4-B3), c. classified spectral change objects

Images below show unreported disturbances



Images below show changes in forest composition



The data from these processes are used to create hot spot targets which are shared with SFLs for discussion as part of the second of three touchpoints (lidar/remote sensing modelling results review) during inventory development.

Hot spot mapping process (technical description): Change mapping is undertaken through processes based upon airborne elevation derivatives and spectral satellite imagery indices. In the first case, a comparison of Digital Surface Models (DSM) from T1 (stereo photography Semi-Global Matching (SGM)) and T2 (LiDAR) is undertaken to calculate canopy height differences. In the latter approach, an object-based, machine learning classification of a data stack of satellite imagery, thematic layers, classified rasters, and lidar derivatives is employed to assess spectral change.

The elevation approach involves the calculation of the difference in canopy height between the T1 DSM and T2 DSM to produce a Modified DSM product (MDSM). This derivative product is further classified through a thresholding approach to identify clusters of significant change while at the same time removing noise. The resulting classified elevation product indicates post-T1 forest disturbances up to the time of lidar acquisition.

The spectral-based approach involves an object-based segmentation and classification methodology. A multi-level object hierarchy establishes relationships between the object statistics of each level to allow forest type and disturbance statistics to be summarized at the stand level. The hierarchy of object levels cascade from forest stands as objects (top level), through forest stands sub-segmented by sentinel-2 time series imagery for classifying disturbances (middle level), to objects at the pixel level for classifying forest type (bottom level).

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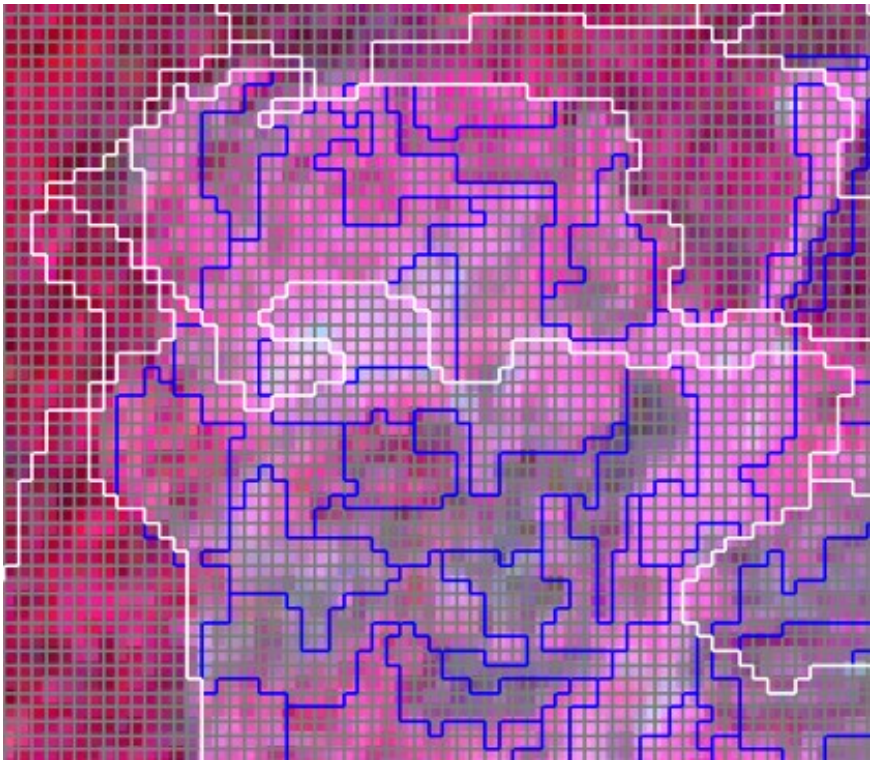

Object hierarchy: Top level objects (white), Middle level objects (blue), Bottom level objects (pixel-level) (grey)

Disturbance segmentation and classification is primarily informed by 3-year change composites of normalized burn ratio (NBR) and 5 time periods (years) of peak vegetation NBR from Sentinel-2 imagery (from year of lidar acquisition to most recent acquisition year) and classified through a random forest model. This process indicates forest disturbances occurring in the period following lidar acquisition.

The forest type composition process assesses the percent deciduous and coniferous forest composition change between T1 interpreted and T2 classified data. For T1, the stand level overstory species composition is separated into per cent deciduous and per cent conifer to provide the baseline. For T2, composition is estimated using a random forest classifier for forest type that is informed by multi-seasonal Sentinel-2 vegetation indices (pre-leaf period (early May) through to senescence period (late September-early October)). Classification is constrained to exclude stand-replacing disturbance over the 5-year period and by the lidar canopy height model (to exclude non-forested pixels).

Summary: This analysis leverages aerial lidar and satellite-based remote sensing data sources to effectively and efficiently determine change over time to support forest inventory, planning, and resource management decision making.

Want access to FRI data products? Visit Ontario GeoHub. You can download leaf on lidar tiles or stream via Ontario Web Image Services.

Questions? Contact FRI@ontario.ca

Exploring the potential of Live inventory (Li) in forest management and spatial planning

Etienne Green, R.P.F., Forest Carbon Manager and **Nader Naderializadeh**, PhD, Optimization Modeller, First Resource Management Group (FRMG)

Transition to an Li concept represents a significant, yet necessary step forward in forest estate modeling and forest management planning in Ontario. Information derived from Earth Observation (EO) data (i.e., satellites, drones, airplanes) is expanding rapidly. The demand for forest-based products and biomass has an optimistic future and with that bright horizon comes investment opportunities. However, along with the optimism of the future comes greater scrutiny of forestry practices, which will continue to increase. Disruptions from wildfires, catastrophic wind events, pest infestations, or fluctuating market conditions are only a few reasons we should be excited about enhancing our planning capabilities to support the sustainability of our forest, along with the new demands and investment in the forest sector.

FRMG explored this concept by testing a method of keeping the modeling inventory up to date using satellite data. Our land base was an 85,000-hectare area containing a mixture of age classes and forest units identified using the T1 Forest Resource Inventory (FRI, photo-interpreted from 2007-11 imagery). Forest units, yield curves, and natural succession pathways were all defined using the FRI species composition string and classification rules.

The modeling horizon was 15 ten-year terms, enabling a comprehensive evaluation of the impact of the live inventory on both strategic and operational planning, mirroring the context of Ontario's Crown land management. Harvest areas, wood supply, and landscape target levels determined by the model were saved for later comparison.

The T1 inventory was then refreshed using 2023 SkyForest satellite information, which detects the Percent Conifer Basal Area (PCBA) at a 20m resolution across Canada and is updated annually. Incorporating EO data enabled the detection of changes in forest conditions, particularly in stands over 60 years old. We developed a method to relate the PCBA values to the T1 inventory's species composition and reweighted the species composition string based on the 2023 PCBA information. This method was used to update 28,000 hectares. forest units and natural succession pathway classifications were re-applied, and yield curves were re-calculated. These resulted in changes to approximately 2,400 polygons, moderate adjustments in the timing of peak volume for some yield curves and shifts in natural succession assignments: all key components for strategic modeling. This dynamic approach underscores the importance of using updated data or Li to inform decisions in forest management.

At this point, the model can be re-run, and the results for harvest areas, wood supply, and landscape targets from each model run are compared, highlighting the dynamic nature of the Li. Harvest area boundaries shifted due to forest unit changes, which affected the initial areas while still maintaining the future requirements for meeting wood supply and landscape targets in the model. The model selected different stands for harvest and renewal to achieve the same outcomes.

We further tested the effects of the Li by enforcing the harvest of stands identified for harvest using the T1 inventory (first period only) and resolving the model with the Li stand attributes. This scenario resulted in lower harvest wood volumes (specifically in poplar volume) in the first period and slower achievement of landscape targets.

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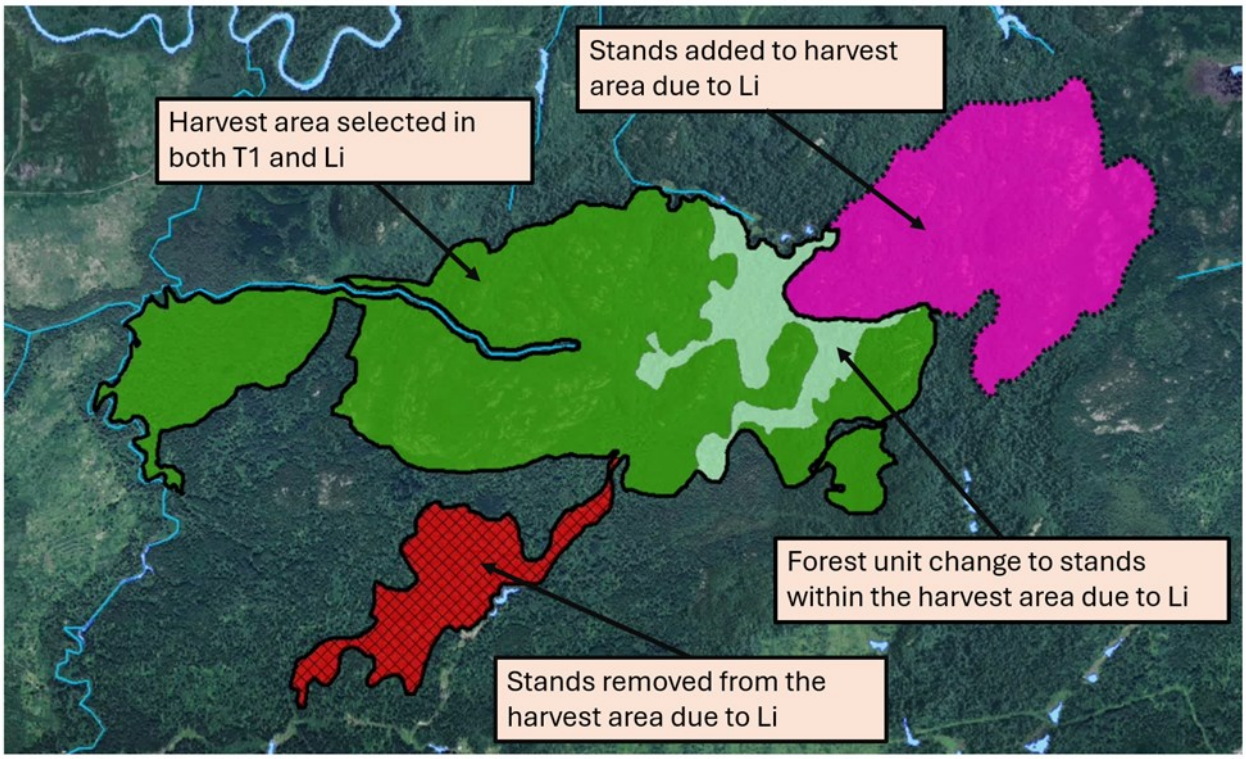

Figure 1. Harvest area change between T1 and Li model re-runs.

By leveraging annual updates from satellite imagery to develop an Li and efficiently integrating that information into spatial models, we demonstrated the feasibility of creating a modeling approach responsive to changes in forest conditions caused by pest infestations, catastrophic wind events, wildfires and natural succession. This approach enhances the accuracy of forest planning while supporting the industry's efforts to optimize resource use, especially in fluctuating market conditions.

The implications of this work are profound. A Li offers a pathway toward a digital twin for forestry, enabling forest practitioners to move towards relevant, and adaptive forest management and business planning rather than static 10-year plans, focusing on adaptive strategies as the forest evolves. We predict that Li methods, along with our digital twin concept, will finally unlock a logjam of investors eager to confirm the potential economic opportunity from forest mass in Ontario. By incorporating EO data and leveraging operational research (i.e., spatial planning tools), this approach ensures that forest management practices remain relevant, sustainable, and aligned with evolving environmental and societal demands.

FPInnovations' autonomous transportation initiative

Aisha Manderson, Eng., M.Eng., Senior Research Engineer, FPInnovations

FPInnovations' autonomous transportation initiative aims to accelerate the use of advanced autonomous truck technology to support the natural resource sector through use of platooning and alternative autonomous transportation solutions to address the Canadian forest sector's critical truck driver shortage.

In support of this, FPInnovations is collaborating with various forestry companies, technology providers and is engaging with regulatory bodies across the country.

Recently, in collaboration with Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, successfully completed three weeks of leader-follower transportation demonstrations in Québec in the fall of 2024. The goal of the trial was to assess Kratos' leader-follower platooning system's ability to navigate in a Canadian natural resource operational environment, identify the system's limitations, and work towards constructing a plan for implementation.

Kratos' leader-follower system uses a combination of Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication, sensors, navigation and automated systems. The trial consisted of two class-8 trucks, the first one being manually driven and the second one highly automated, following the path of the first truck. At this stage of development, a safety driver is always present and ready to take control when prompted. However, the eventual operational application would not have a driver in the follower vehicle.

These demonstrations showcased the system's ability to operate in environments with steep grades, limited GPS, extreme weather, and heavy dust. During the demonstration, FPInnovations welcomed visitors from regulatory agencies and the forest industry who had the opportunity to see the Kratos' platooning technology in action on class 1 forest roads with both unloaded and partially loaded trailers. Additional highlights from this trial included:

- Over 2,000 kms driven autonomously on Canadian class 1 forest roads.
- Speeds of up to 70 km/h were attained on forest roads, and 113 km/h on paved high-speed test track.

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- Demonstrated the follower truck's ability to mirror the lead vehicle during complex scenarios, including lane changes, speed adjustments, varying gap distances, and handling vehicle intrusions between the leader and follower trucks.
- Demonstrated ability to operate under severe dust, variable lighting (day, night, and twilight), rain, and temperatures as low as -6°C on forestry gravel roads.

This demonstration follows FPInnovations' assessment of Forterra's autonomous platooning trucks, which were tested in 2023 on primary and secondary roads in winter conditions (snow and freezing temperatures), further details of which can be found on FPInnovations' Autonomous Transportation on Resource Roads website (https://web.fpinnovations.ca/autonomous-transportation-on-resource-roads/).

Both trials have highlighted the importance of fine-tuning a given autonomous technology for specific routes. To this end, FPInnovations sees the benefit in working with industry, regulators and technology providers on establishing autonomous truck corridors on select routes throughout Canada. By working with all parties involved, FPInnovations is looking to establish a common regulatory framework facilitating the broad adoption of autonomous transportation technologies, creating long term benefits for the forest sector. FPInnovations is looking forward to continuing its work on corridor creation, eco-system development and technology assessments by inviting various suppliers to showcase their technologies on the proposed corridors.

Ontario's forest sector

Preamble

The following article was written by Peter Street, R.P.F., Edge Forestry Consulting Ltd., Callander, Ontario and featured in May 2024 in Northern Ontario Business - https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/forestry/opinion-ripple-effect-of-northern-mill-closures-felt-far-and-wide-says-forestry-consultant-8755977. It is shared with the permission of the author and Northern Ontario Business.

In the intervening time subsequent to the publication of this May 2024 article there have been additional negative and positive developments.

Mills are continuing to be impacted and some are closing. For example, Midway Lumber Mills Ltd., in Thessalon closed its sawmill in December 2024 after more than seventy years in business. It continues to operate its plywood and veneer mill. It is unclear if the sawmill shutdown is temporary or permanent.

The ongoing threat of additional tariffs on the sector creates an additional climate of uncertainty. There is some uncertainty around how local sawmills in northwestern Ontario and elsewhere will be able to weather the doubling of countervailing duties (and now the threat of additional countervailing and anti-dumping tariffs). The health of the sawmills directly impacts the health of the pulp mills and hardwood mills.

Northwestern Ontario has seen some increased capacity in terms of contractor workforce as some northeastern Ontario contractors have moved further west for the time being.

On the positive side, the Ontario government's investment in innovation, modernization, efficiency and skills training is continuing to support a stronger sector, see the December 2024 issue of the OPFA's newsletter — **Current state of Ontario's pulp mills**. For example, a recent announcement highlighted a $10 million loan to Kap Paper Inc., https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1005643/ontario-protecting-jobs-in-kapuskasing.

OPINION: Ripple effect of Northern mill closures felt far and wide, says forestry consultant

Peter Street, R.P.F.

Shutdowns mean lost harvesting jobs, revenues for management units, disruption to silviculture programs, greater forest fire risks. I would like to comment on your article titled "Ontario needs to press reset on the forestry sector" https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/forestry/opinion-ontario-needs-to-press-reset-on-the-forestry-sector-8488149 and add some additional information from my research on the impacts of pulp mill closures in Espanola and Terrace Bay, Ont.

First, I thought the article was well written and right on target with their statement, "Sustainably produced forest products are climate-friendly, in demand, and can provide a much greater contribution to Ontario's economy than they do now."

I also want to applaud the government's recent announcements on their investments into developing a bioeconomy from forest products. It would be great if the mills in Espanola and Terrace Bay could somehow be retooled to utilize this new technology.

I know most people in Ontario don't fully understand the full impacts that the closing of these two mills will have. Usually only the direct job losses are reported. This is what I have been able to determine (from government published reports) and the costs and labour using local harvesting experience.

The market loss with Domtar Espanola, announced Sept. 6, 2023, amounts to 450 direct jobs:

- Domtar's mill in Espanola used approximately 308,193 cubic metres per year (2018-2019).
- This works out to 43 jobs per year to harvest, process, and haul this volume and a loss of $4.28 million in wages annually.
- The Nipissing Forest will average an 18 per cent market loss based on the volumes delivered to Espanola over the last 10 years.

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- The Sudbury Forest will average a 15 per cent market loss based on the 2020-2021 annual report.
- The North Shore Forest will average a 23 per cent market loss based on the 2020-2021 annual report.

The market loss with AV Terrace Bay, announced Jan. 5, 2024, amounts to 400 direct jobs

- AV's mill in Terrace Bay used approximately 757,924 cubic metres per year (2019-2020).
- This works out to 105 jobs per year to harvest, process, and haul this volume and a loss of $10.53 million in wages annually.
- The Pic Forest will average a 43 per cent market loss based on the 2020-2021 annual report.
- The Kenogami Forest will average a 44 per market loss based on the 2020-2021 annual report.
- Excess wood chips from local sawmills, in both areas, will also threaten their financial sustainability.

As to the forest impacts:

- Stands with a high percentage of pulpwood will need to be bypassed by the harvesters as there would be insufficient profit from the low percentage of sawlog material to cover the harvesting and road construction costs.
- Many management objectives in the applicable forest management plans will not be met, such as the creation of younger stands to support those species that require that type of habitat (white-throated sparrows, beavers, etc.). Also, many of the economic objectives to provide employment will also not be achieved. The sustainability of the forest will be questioned.
- The loss of renewal trust dollars from the pulpwood volumes will limit silvicultural treatment options — there will be less planting and more reliance on natural regeneration. Many planned silvicultural objectives will not be achieved.
- As stands are left unharvested, they will grow older and there will be a greater risk of forest fires.
- Harvested areas where the pulp has been left on site will be more expensive to site-prepare and there will be few plantable sites in the area.

Dealing with a surplus of pulp wood and sawmill residuals in Eastern Ontario

Jared Wiles, Ontario Woodlot Association

The use and consumption of pulp wood and sawmill residuals is important to effective forest management and economic viability for many companies within Ontario's forest sector. Pulp wood harvest and use is important in forest management plans so that the quality and value of timber extracted is varied, and high-grading does not occur. In this way, all silvicultural treatments in the forest work towards improved forest health and productivity and improved economic return over the long-term. Sawmill residuals sale and use is an essential revenue stream that many mills rely on for economic viability, and in the recent past ensured that pulp mills had a consistent supply of raw material for making pulp and paper products.

The closure of most of Ontario's pulp mills over the past two decades has directly impacted the economies of forest-based communities and regions in terms of jobs, local business support, public services and general forest management services and contractors. At present, Ontario has only three operating pulp mills. These closures have resulted in sawmill residuals sitting stagnant at sawmill sites, rather than being purchased for use in ancillary products. The residuals buildup over time causing space and storage issues at millsites and create an existential threat to the sawmill itself. The negative impacts of this situation reach further back in the supply chain than mill-to-mill dependency. During harvesting, low-quality hardwoods become less desirable to both sawmills and harvesting contractors for obvious reasons. This can impact harvesting plans and operations, leaving areas unharvested or avoided for higher quality tree harvests that generate revenue.

Within Renfrew County in Eastern Ontario, there is a high percentage of over mature hardwood stands, many of which are overlooked because of the state of the market. There is no interest in harvesting pulpwood as it is not economically feasible. Avoiding lower quality and lower value trees causes the forest fuel load to increase, exacerbating future fire risk. Underutilized areas can also impact forest management plans with respect to reforestation efforts that keep the forest sustainable and safe. On private lands with a high-grading history, being unable to take lower-quality wood through a stand improvement harvest causes the stagnation and perpetuation of poor-quality forest conditions, impaired forest health, and decreased economic opportunities for decades into the future.

There is however new and growing hope for using sawmill residuals and pulp biomass that are no longer consumed by pulp mills. Innovation in Ontario's burgeoning bioeconomy and new markets for biomass are showing real potential, but progress has been slow. Sawmills can be updated to support biomass and bioenergy production, allowing for forestry jobs to still remain in the communities. The expansion of this market has been talked about in recent years. The creation of a successful bioproduct economy would increase jobs in forestry and generate revenue from materials that currently sit in mill yards or left unharvested in the forest. There is an array of existing and potential bioproducts that show potential for expanded use including various fuels, compost, mulch, biochar, and wood pellets to name just a few. The harvest of low-quality timber would increase and support the removal of such timber from the landings and mill yards which keep forest management plans and reforestation sustainable.

Lacey Rose, R.P.F., Forester with the County of Renfrew says, *"We need innovation, government support and willingness to take risks to move biomass initiatives forward, or the local forest sector will not survive without economic destinations for low-end material."*

Solutions to the surplus of pulp wood and sawmill residual issues must reach beyond the forest sector. There are well-known alternatives to petro-chemicals and fossil fuel energy through the use of biomass and wood-based alternatives derived from lignin and cellulosic sugars. Forestry must better integrate with other sectors and specific industries in new and innovative ways that encourage the use of these alternative products.

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The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources implemented a multi-year Forest Biomass Program in 2022 with a *"five-year action plan to encourage the use of forest biomass to secure jobs, support economic development, and encourage sustainability in Ontario's forest sector."* This program is providing $60M to expand biomass operations and incorporate them into the forest product cycle to eliminate the issues related to the surplus of lower-quality wood fibre and sawmill residuals.

Finding economically viable uses for low quality wood fibre and biomass is critical for both forest health and the economic future of many communities throughout Ontario. The future of our forest sector urgently depends on innovative solutions.

Biomass harvest of a privately owned woodlot... part of silviculture restoration leading to the planting of more suitable indigenous tree species. The biomass was sent to CHAR Technologies in Thorold, Ontario.

Council corner: Membership in the OPFA from a non-accredited program

Brandon Williamson, Associate R.P.F., Councillor Southwest

Council Corner provides members with insight into the happenings of the OPFA Council and Committees.

As long as I can remember I knew I wanted to spend most of my time in a forest. It wasn't long before I began my journey to learn about forest management and how my work could impact forests in the future. So off I went to Sir Sandford Fleming College for Parks and Recreation and Forestry Technician Diplomas. As a naïve 19-year old from Southwestern Ontario, I had no idea where my chosen path would lead. Maybe it was the lack of information available, some ill-informed advice or the fact the internet for research was barely a thing, I wasn't as prepared as I could have been. While I wouldn't change my path, it hasn't come without some thoughts of "what ifs".

Years later after 1000's of trees planted, forest health research data collected and acres of woodland marked, I began a second journey. As a forestry technician, tree marker and certified arborist among many other certifications, I wanted to take another step. The step I hadn't taken years earlier, and become a Registered Professional Forester. While I am not quite there and not sure if I'll achieve that goal this late in my career, as an Associate R.P.F. I am proud of the work I've put in.

Becoming a member of the OPFA is incredibly satisfying, knowing what the organization stands for and the commitment of staff and council to the members and the public. The OPFA is a regulatory body which regulates the practice of professional forestry and governs the members according to the Professional Foresters Act, regulations, bylaws and ultimately serves the public interest. It wasn't easy becoming a member with a post-secondary education considered non-accredited by the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board. As some of you begin your journey into the forestry profession from non-accredited educational institutions, you may find some barriers. However the OPFA has worked extremely hard to provide opportunities for you to become members. Whether it's the Shadow a Forester program, member mentor program or working through the various membership categories, there are plenty of opportunities if you are willing to apply yourself. In my mind the Credential Assessment Process (CAP) is the key to moving forward, in the most efficient manner possible. The CAP identifies the competencies you have been given credit for from your education and training, and any gaps where you require additional training. From there, I recommend the Bridge Training for Foresters program which provides professional development in forestry competencies to work towards your goal of R.P.F. You can work through the bridge training courses while holding down a full-time job and active life. The cost of the CAP, bridge training and time it takes to embark on this journey are well worth it.

Staff work tirelessly to ensure the resources available to you are current and relatable to the ever-changing industry we work in. Resources include new member orientation webinars, bridge training programs, newsletters, industry connections and the annual conference. Your responsibility in this commitment is not very onerous at all; sign and adhere to the code of ethics, complete your personal practice focus and learning plan annually and pay your membership dues on time. This last part is critical to the overall success of the OPFA. The less time staff spend on securing overdue membership fees, the more time they have to regulate and advance the professional practice of forestry in the public interest and build more robust resources for your ongoing development. Lastly, a great way to get involved in this community is to attend the conference and volunteer with the OPFA. Volunteers are critical to the success of the conference and the organization as a whole. Whether it's volunteering on Council, one of the committees or at the conference, you are sure to connect with an amazing group of dedicated individuals with the same goal in mind. To provide the people and forest ecosystems of Ontario with accountability and a strong ethical approach to forest management.

A comprehensive journey: Navigating through Ontario's forestry sector from a young professional's perspective

Ying Hong, R.P.F.

It’s been six years since I first started working in natural resources management in Ontario. During this time, I’ve held various positions that focus on forest management planning and its implementation, gaining invaluable experience across Northwestern and Northeastern Ontario.

After recently moving to another position, I now have the opportunity to view forestry from a different perspective. My colleagues and I primarily work on wood supply, mill and forest licensing and export exemption requests. In the past, I looked at forestry more from a forest management perspective: focusing on regeneration, management planning and the impact of forestry on other resource users. Now, I also view it from a manufacturing perspective, considering questions like: Do we have enough wood supply? Is there a market for Ontario’s roundwood or other fibre?

Every year, when my colleagues and I visited various types of mills, I learned about manufacturing processes and what mill owners care about most. I realized that the alignment between field operations, mill demands, and the demand for wood products on the customer side contributes to a healthy forestry sector. This means that it is essential to adopt a comprehensive understanding of the sector.

A comprehensive view of the sector can help understand the challenges we are facing now. For example, we have, unfortunately, witnessed the closure of major pulp mills across the province since September of 2023: first Domtar’s Espanola mill, followed by AV Terrace Bay, and then Cascades in Trenton. We lost markets for pulp-quality fibre and sawmill chips in the northeastern and southern parts of the province, and everyone is eager to find a new home for that lower-quality fibre. The loss of a pulpwood market not only has a huge impact on the other mills but also affects field operations and forest management. The government continues to support the search for alternative markets and innovative solutions as finding new markets is critical for forestry in Ontario. Several solutions have been proposed, such as biochar, co-generation; however, each comes with its own limitations. Moreover, at this stage, these proposed solutions are not yet able to compensate for the markets we lost due to the closure of our major pulp mills. I anticipate that this challenge will stay with us until alternatives become more feasible. There might be a big change in pulpwood markets in Northeastern and Southern Ontario, and what’s exciting about this is the potential it holds as a great opportunity for those who are ready to lead new changes.

As we step into 2025, we now face a new challenge posed by Donald Trump’s tariff proposals. I am uncertain about how exactly our forestry industry will react, but I am interested to understand the impacts this will have across the forestry supply chain in Ontario.

Having benefited greatly from seeing forestry from different perspectives, I encourage young foresters and those just starting their career in forestry to seek out diverse roles within forestry and learn from different positions. I believe that a comprehensive understanding of forestry will support everyone to go further in their career journeys.

68th OPFA Conference and Annual General Meeting, April 8-10, 2025 Hamilton, Ontario

Arben Pustina, R.P.F. (Chair of the Conference Working Group)

In January 2024, 10 members from various regions and employers in Ontario prepared a proposal to hold the upcoming 68th OPFA Conference and Annual General Meeting at the City of Hamilton in April 2025. The Association aims to hold annual conferences and AGMs in various places throughout the province of Ontario on a rotating basis.

During the 2024 Annual General meeting, it was announced that the 68th OPFA Conference and Annual General Meeting for all members and non-members will be held in the City of Hamilton in April 2025.

The City of Hamilton is in the Deciduous forest region of Ontario. It is 78% in the Greenbelt (agriculture and forests). Important natural features include Niagara Escarpment (World Biosphere Reserve), provincially recognized Bruce trail, Lake Ontario, beautiful Red Hill Valley, several waterfalls, one river and several creeks, Beverly swamp, mineral springs, Royal Botanical Gardens, Cootes Paradise Sanctuary, 100s of other provincially significant natural features and four Conservation Authorities.

The Conference Working Group composed of 15 members and non members from the cities of Burlington, Guelph, Hamilton and Ottawa; the counties of Wellington and Norfolk; Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, private forestry consultants and OPFA staff started planning the Conference in May 2024.

Different task teams were created for registration, bookings, conference program, facilities, audio visual technology, publication, gifts, field trip, transportation, social events, sponsorship and exhibitors, media and finance. The draft Conference program started taking shape in November 2024 under Conference theme:

"Navigating Change: The Role of Professional Foresters in Modern Forestry"

The working group reviewed all recommendations from the post 2024 conference survey. OPFA members suggested several new topics and requested a broader coverage of all aspects of Ontario forestry in the 2025 Conference. With this in mind, the working group agreed on several topics for the Conference program such as Urban Forestry and Watershed forests, provincially managed forests, Artificial intelligence and forest disturbances (invasive species, forest fires), forest industry, education, climate change, and forest genetics.

As part of the Association's schedule, the registration committee and OPFA Council will meet on April 7th at the Conference venue (Sheraton Hotel) in downtown Hamilton for their regular meetings.

The April 8th field trip will be in Flamborough (Hamilton) and Brant County and is focused on promoting Good Forestry Practices on private and conservation authority lands, plantation management and ecological restoration. On the field trip day, lunch will be at Westfield Village, one of the best facilities and conservation areas of the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

The Evening Social, on the field trip day, is set for the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope (Hamilton). The museum maintains a complete collection of aircraft that were flown by Canadians and the Canadian military services from the beginning of World War II to the present. The collection of almost 50 aircraft, many of which are flown regularly, is housed at the Hamilton International Airport.

Plenary sessions will be held on April 9 and 10, 2025 at the Sheraton Hotel. One area of the hotel will host exhibitors and trade show. Exhibitors and sponsors are recognized for their contribution prior, during and post Conference. Speakers of the Conference are from Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, USA and Europe. Some presentations will be available in the virtual platform of the Conference.

Conference working group and OPFA staff welcome all members and non-members to join this wonderful conference in the great City of Hamilton, Ontario. The Annual Conference is a great opportunity for members to maintain and enhance their professional forestry education and promote the importance of professional forestry in the province of Ontario for non members as well. Wishing to see all of you from April 8-10, 2025. Please check the OPFA website for updates on the conference registration and other useful information.

68th OPFA Conference and AGM, Hamilton Ontario

April 8 - 10, 2025

Sheraton Hotel (Second Floor)

CONFERENCE THEME

"Navigating Change: The Role of Professional Foresters in Modern Forestry"

DRAFT CONFERENCE AGENDA

APRIL 8, 2025 (Virtual Program for this day is below)

Registration Open 7:00 AM – 7:30 AM

FIELD TRIP

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Stop1: 426 McLean School Rd, Brant County, Little Family Woodland, GOOD FORESTRY PRACTICES on Private Lands, – Leader – Bruce Zavitz, Associate R.P.F., Arbor land Forestry Consulting BUS 1

BUSES switch

Stop 2: 0 Highway 6, Flamborough, Wright – Rea Woodland (across from 1056 Gore Rd), RED PINE PLANTATION MANAGEMENT – Leader – Dan Root, R.P.F., Regional Forester, Niagara Region BUS 2

12:00 – 1:30 PM **LUNCH – Hamilton Conservation Area (Westfield Village, 1049 Kirkwall Rd, Rockton) Ironwood Hall,** Presentation from Conservation Hamilton during lunch

Stop 3: Creek Restoration Project, Carlisle Conservation Area, 1441 Centre Rd, Carlisle, Conservation Halton – Leader – Lindsay Campbell, Project Manager, BUS 2

BUSES Switch

Stop 4: 1895 King Road, Waterdown, GOOD FORESTRY PRACTICES in HARDWOODS, Conservation Halton property - Leader - Greg Greer, Associate R.P.F., G.W.G. Resources Services, BUS 1

5:00 PM Buses back at Sheraton

6:30 PM-9:30 PM **EVENING SOCIAL** Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, 9280 Airport Rd, Mount Hope Presentation from the museum during the event

10:00 PM Buses back at Sheraton

APRIL 9, 2025

Registration Open: 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

7:30-8:30 **OPFA BREAKFAST**

8:30 – 9:00 AM **CONFERENCE OPENING**

Reciting of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address, Rick Hill of Six Nations

Welcome to Conference participants, City Manager Marnie Cluckie, CAO, City of Hamilton

9:00 – 10:35 AM **Growing Together: Collaborative Initiatives in Urban Forestry**

- Collaboration for a Greener Future (City of Hamilton), Robyn Pollard, Manager of Forestry & Horticulture, Lauren Vraets, RPP, Cathrin Winkelmann, PhD
- Managing Urban Woodlands as Assets: Where to Start, (Tree City of the World), Steve Robinson, OALA, City of Burlington and Tyler Searls, R.P.F., RPP, Diamond Head Consulting
- Infrastructure and Restoration in Urban Forestry Setting, Christen Dschankilic, R.P.F., Dillon Consulting
- A New Standard for Urban Forests and Career Pathways – Meagan Hanna, Director of Urban Forestry, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

10:35 – 10:50 AM **MORNING BREAK**

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10:50 – 11:45 AM **From Backyard to Biosphere: The Power of Private Land Forestry**

- The County of Wellington's Green Legacy Programme, Rob Johnson, Wellington County
- Watershed Forests (Grand River Conservation Authority), Ron Wu-Winter, R.P.F. Glass Half Full? What gives me hope as a forester in a forest full of bad news

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM **LUNCH and VISIT EXHIBITORS**

12:45 – 01:45 PM **Building Trust Through Accountable Processes**

- Municipal auditing: How Forestry fits in? Brigitte Minard, CPA, City of Hamilton, deputy auditor.
- Forest Certification for Community Forests: Effective, Proven, Trusted, Glen Prevost, R.P.F., P.Eng.

01:45 – 2:15 PM Powering Operational Excellence in Forestry with Intelligent Planning, Pablo Asiron, Remsoft

02:15 – 2:30 PM **AFTERNOON BREAK**

2:30 – 3:30 PM OPFA Initiatives: From Change to Opportunity

3:30 – 5:00 PM OPFA Annual General Meeting

Registration Open 5:00 – 5:30 PM

6:30 – 10:00 PM **OPFA Banquet Dinner**

APRIL 10, 2025

Registration Open: 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

7:30-8:30 **OPFA BREAKFAST and LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY ALUMNI BREAKFAST**

8:30 – 10:00 AM

- Transformation in Ontario’s Forest Industry, Ian Dunn, R.P.F., OFIA
- Mapping the Past to Shape Our Future: The Ontario Silvicultural Mapping Project, Greg Pawson, R.P.F.
- Forest Management and Silviculture: Assessing Growth Performance Using LIDAR, Doug Reid, R.P.F. in Training, MNR

10:00 – 10:15 AM **MORNING BREAK**

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM **Unwelcome Guests: Battling Invasive Species in Our Forests**

- What’s Bugging Ontario’s Forest Sector: Invasive threats, pathways, and solutions, Invasive Species Centre, Mackenzie DiGasparro
- Overview of CFIA’s Forest Pest Surveillance Program in Ontario, Julie Holmes, CFIA, Hamilton
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, CFS - NRC, Alison Grant, A\Forest Health Biologist
- Oak Wilt Prevention and Management in Michigan, USA, Simeon Wright, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, (virtual)

12:00 AM – 1:00 PM **LUNCH and VISIT EXHIBITORS**

1:00 – 1:30 PM AI Creating efficiency and new insights in forestry (Forsite), Craig Robinson, R.P.F.

1:30 – 2:30 PM **Resilient Roots: Harnessing Genetics to Create the Forests of the Future**

- Taking steps to improve the genetic quality of our forests, FGCA, Kerry McLaven, R.P.F. in Training
- Genes in Motion: Harnessing Forest Genetics for Climate Change Adaptation and Assisted Migration, Lakehead University, Dr. Ashley Thomson, R.P.F.

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2:30 – 2:45 PM **AFTERNOON BREAK**

2:45 – 4:00 PM **Data-Driven Decisions: Modelling for a Changing Climate**

- Simulating Boreal to Temperate Forest transitions using a dynamic vegetation model. Hiromitsu Sato, PhD, OFRI
- Carbon Sequestration in Managed Forests for Nature Based Climate Solutions, Professor Altaf Arain, PhD, McMaster University
- Accessing and utilizing climate data to inform forest management practices, Amy Wotherspoon, Ph.D., University of British Columbia, Silva 21

4:00 – 4:30 PM **CLOSING CEREMONIES**

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS (on the day of field trip April 8, 2025)

- AI in Forestry and Forest Migration Research: Associate Professor, JINGJING LIANG, PhD, Purdue University, USA
- The Space Between the Lines of the Two Row Wampum, Henry Lickers
- Adaptation to climate change under risk and uncertainty (with examples from Europe). Assistant Professor, Rasoul Yousefpour, PhD, University of Toronto

https://sites.google.com/fgca.net/forestgenetics25/home

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Members of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association for the 2024 fiscal year to be held virtually and in-person in Hamilton, Ontario, using hybrid video conference technology at 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (EDT) Wednesday, April 9, 2025, to conduct the affairs of the Association, including:

Agenda Items (may be subject to change):

1. Call to order
    - Notices, Members, and proxies
    - Voting procedures
    - Eligibility to vote
2. Agenda approval
3. President's remarks
    - Welcome & introductions
    - Notice of meeting
    - Accessing the 2024 Annual Report
4. In memoriam
5. Recognition of new Full & Associate Members
6. Approving the minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the 2023 fiscal year.
7. Receive Annual Reports
    - Receive and consider reports of the President, Executive Director & Registrar, Auditor, and Committee Chairs for the fiscal year December 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024.
8. Auditor's Report and Financial Statements
    - Receive the audited Financial Statements as of November 30, 2024.
9. Appointment of Association Auditor
    - Report Council's appointment of the Auditor for the fiscal year ending November 30, 2025.
10. Concluding the Annual Report
11. Bylaw changes
12. Confirming and approving the acts and procedures of Officers and Councillors
13. Business highlights in 2024.
14. Thank you to the 2025 Annual Conference Working Group and sponsors and exhibitors of the 2025 Annual Conference.
15. 2026 Annual Conference
    - Location
10. Termination of the Annual General Meeting

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If you are eligible to vote and are unable to attend this meeting, please complete the Instrument of Proxy (below) and return it to the OPFA office.

Louise Simpson, CAE, Executive Director & Associate Registrar

INSTRUMENT OF PROXY

I, _____

(Name of Member) (Member number)

of _____

(Address of Member)

Being a Member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association hereby appoint:

Peter Nitschke, R.P.F., of Stirling, Ontario

WHOM FAILING

Lacey Rose, R.P.F., of Pembroke, Ontario

OR

_____, (_____) of _____
designation

as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the

Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Association

to be held virtually and in person at 3:30 p.m. (EDT) Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

Dated this _____day of_____, 2025, at

_____

_____

(Signature of Member)

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, PLEASE RETURN THIS PROXY TO THE OPFA OFFICE by 5:00 p.m. (EDT) Friday, April 4, 2025.

Email: opfa@opfa.ca, Mail: PO Box 30038 Georgetown RPO Mountainview, Ontario L7G 6J8

sml-law.com/resources/grey-areas/

SML's Grey Areas newsletter has been in publication since July 1992 and discusses the latest developments in professional regulation. New issues are published monthly.

Recent articles:

January 2025, Issue No. 298 – The Importance of Briefing Notes

Policy makers have long relied upon briefing notes to assist in making good decisions. Boards, councils and even committees of regulators have often used briefing notes to enable staff and preparatory teams to concisely convey the information that decision-makers need.

February 2025, Issue No. 299 – The Impact of Delay on Disciplinary Sanctions

There is general agreement that, even where delay in investigating and prosecuting misconduct allegations does not amount to an abuse of process, delay during the proceeding can have an impact on the appropriate disciplinary sanctions that should be imposed. However, there is less agreement on how that impact should be assessed.

March 2025, Issue No. 300 – When Regulated Persons Are Suspected of Committing CrimesAs discussed in the July edition of From a public policy perspective, there is little consensus on how regulators of professions and law enforcement agencies should coordinate their efforts when a registrant is suspected of committing a crime. Despite some media articles in the past (e.g., related to lawyers and physicians), few regulators even have a published policy on the topic. The policies that do exist tend to be brief and do not address the coordination of efforts.

Member News

New Full Member-R.P.F.:

Dylan Alcock
Thomas Hojniak
Kevin Myers
Lauren Quist (readmitted)
Edie Russell

New Associate Member-Associate R.P.F.:

Philip Duncan
Dawson Meecham
Debbie Thain

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)

Kaylen Foley
Piumi Godakanda
Chris Helmeste
Kyle Meister
John Ogbu
Matt Park
Brandon Pinter
Meg Quigley
Hunter Roberts
Reid Robertson
Joseph Tetteh

New Student Members:

Manoj Ban
Ajeet Basyal
Kishor Humagain
Jephin Mathew
Odunayo Omotosho
Dishesh Satyal
Surumi Subair
Samuel Young

The following registrants are not entitled to practise professional forestry in Ontario:

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

Scott Boone
Ethan Brandt
Virginia Gordon
Matthew Shakespeare

New Life Members-R.P.F. (Ret.):

John Enright
Vishnu Kowlessar
Paule Leale
Boris Michelussi
Greg Pawson
Mark Ryans

The following people are no longer registrants of the OPFA and are not entitled to practice in Ontario:

Resigned, Associate Member:

Jeff Muzzi

Resigned, Full Member:

Doug Maki
Paul Weedon

Resigned, Provisional Members:

Shari Hoggart
Tom Huitema
Shawna MacLean
Udeshika Wedamesthrige

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. MNRF Science Insights, contact Kristy Mckay, Science Transfer Specialist at 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
  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/
- PlaniIt Geo Urban Forestry Webinars

  https://planitgeo.com/urban-forestry-webinars/
- Our beautiful forests of Ontario, were featured in an interview from full member, Arben Pustina, R.P.F., by multicultural TV Channel OMNI 1. Topics such as, how to become an R.P.F. in Ontario, forests of Canada and Ontario's forest regions, acts and by laws that regulate forest land use and forest conservation in Ontario, as one of the best in the world, are part of this segment. See Interview with Mr. Arben Pustina, a R.P.F. in Ontario - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6Eq2KsKd2U

Coming Events

2025 OPFA Annual Conference and AGM
Navigating Change: The Role of Professional Foresters in Modern Forestry
April 8-10, 2025
Hamilton, ON
https://opfa.ca/about-us/event-list/#!event/2025/4/8/2025-annual-conference-agm

Canadian Forest Genetic Association: Forest Genetics 2025 - Building resilience through forest genetic resource management and collaborative action
August 11-15, 2025
Ottawa, ON
https://sites.google.com/fgca.net/forestgenetics25/home

Please send any upcoming events to opfanewsletter@gmail.com