


The Professional Forester

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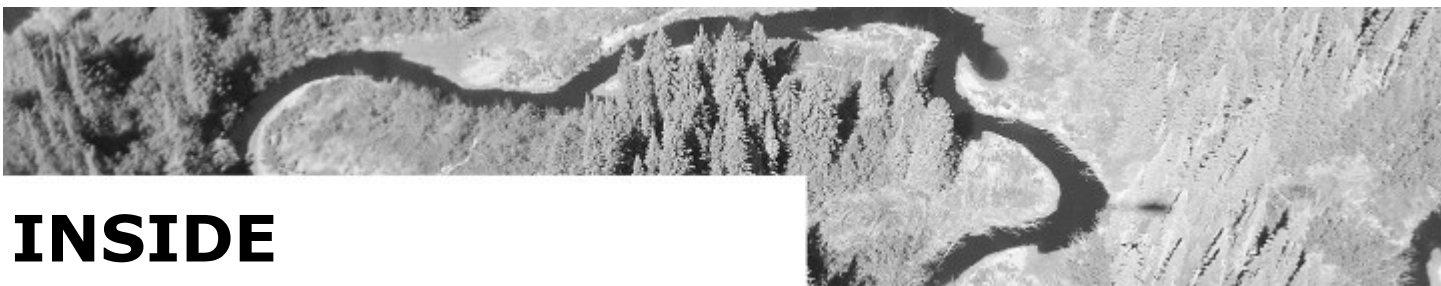


**Forests in transition:
Science, monitoring and
knowledge sharing**

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2025-2026 OPFA Council: Newly elected Councillors and Officers

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The Haliburton Forest Dynamics Plot: Monitoring the impacts of beech bark disease in an unmanaged, old-growth forest

Mark Givelas, PhD Student, Global Environmental Change Lab, University of Toronto Scarborough

The Haliburton Forest Dynamics Plot (HFDP; 45°17'29" N, 78°37'52" W) is a 13.5-hectare (ha) research site along the northwest shore of Havelock Lake, Ontario. It is one of only two Canadian sites (the other situated at Scotty Creek, NWT) in the ForestGEO network—a global consortium of 78 forest dynamics plots across the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, monitoring the growth and survival of roughly 7 million trees representing nearly 13,000 species. Over the past decade, the HFDP has provided a detailed perspective on the impacts of beech bark disease (BBD) in unmanaged, old-growth forests.

The first census at the HFDP was conducted in 2009, before the introduction of BBD to the area. At that time, American beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.) represented 13.9% of all trees ≥ 1 cm diameter at breast height (dbh). By the 2014 census, a few years after the arrival of BBD to the site, the relative abundance of beech increased slightly to 14.4%. By 2022, however, it had declined to 11.6%, a reduction largely attributable to BBD-related mortality among mature trees.

Beech bark disease is an *insect–fungal complex* that begins when scale insects (*Cryptococcus fagisuga* and/or *Xylococculus betulae*) colonize beech trees, feeding on phloem and pheloderm cells (i.e., a layer of living parenchyma cells produced on the inner side of the cork cambium), and create pathways for fungal infection. Subsequent invasion by canker fungi, specifically *Neonectria faginata* and/or *N. ditissima*, necrotizes (causes death of) the tree's vascular cambium and sapwood, leading to bole and stem cankers, progressive structural decline, and eventual mortality.

American beech is a highly shade-tolerant species that co-occurs with other shade-adapted hardwoods and conifers, including sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* L.), black cherry (*Prunus serotina* Ehrh.), and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis* [L.] Carr.). In many northern hardwood forests, particularly in areas affected by beech bark disease outbreaks, beech can form dense regeneration layers and competitively suppress co-occurring species. Specifically, vegetative regeneration through stump sprouts and root suckers may outcompete desirable species, thereby altering long-term stand structure and function. This vegetative reproduction strategy is particularly pronounced in northern latitudes, enabling beech to persist in affected hardwood forests despite high levels of disease-induced mortality.

As of 2021, 65 mature beech trees in the HFDP had died as a result of beech bark disease—equating to 17.3 Mg of carbon (C) (1.3 Mg C ha^{-1}) transitioned from the live to dead C pool. A recent 2025 BBD severity reassessment of the plot by members of the Global Environmental Change Lab at the University of Toronto Scarborough, revealed that 109 trees have since died of BBD—representing an additional 22.4 Mg of C transferred to the dead wood pool.



Photo of an American beech that died as a result of beech bark disease (BBD) at the Haliburton Forest Dynamics Plot.

(Continued from page 3)

The forthcoming 2027 census, along with subsequent surveys at the Haliburton Forest Dynamics Plot, will provide valuable insights into successional trends in unmanaged northern hardwood forests. These data will elucidate the influence of BBD on stand dynamics and assess whether dense beech thickets continue to suppress the establishment of more desirable hardwood species.

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From journals to field tours: Rethinking knowledge sharing in forestry

Samantha M. Chu

As the environmental and social pressures on Canadian forestry continue to grow, it’s increasingly important for research to equip forest professionals with practical tools and relevant knowledge that support their work. How knowledge moves between researchers and practitioners is a process known as knowledge exchange. However, how forest professionals engaged in knowledge exchange, the barriers they experienced, and their preferences for receiving knowledge were unknown; until now.

Between September 2023 to August 2025, I was fortunate to tackle these questions and more, using a combination of a survey and interviews. The results from my research help to provide researchers and others working in knowledge-sharing positions with tangible advice about how to improve knowledge exchange practices.

Results

My research revealed clear patterns: forest professionals strongly prefer in-person events to engage with new knowledge, and generally dislike academic journals—despite journals being one of the most traditional ways researchers share their work. While there was some overlap between current and preferred methods, the findings suggest room for improvement in how research is communicated.



How professionals <i>currently</i> receive knowledge	How professionals would <i>prefer</i> to receive knowledge
1. Online presentations and webinars	1. Field visits/tours
2. Forestry magazines	2. On the job training
3. On the job training	3. In-person conferences/workshops
11. Academic journals	19. Academic journals
20. Long learning course (4+ hours)	20. Social media
21. Participate in research	21. Long learning course (4+ hours)
22. Hiring an intern or third party	22. Hiring an intern or third party

Table description: This table presents the top three and bottom three methods, along with results for academic journals (the most traditional form of knowledge sharing), based on survey responses comparing how forest professionals currently obtain knowledge and how they would prefer to.

Forest professionals identified several major barriers to engaging in knowledge exchange. These included concerns about the relevance of research—such as work that feels “siloe” or lacks practical guidance—along with the overuse of academic jargon, a lack of established processes for connecting with researchers, and limited time. Time constraints often worsened other knowledge exchange barriers – for example, not having the time to interpret and translate research findings into on-the-ground applications.

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Trust was found to be essential in making knowledge exchange effective. The status of trust that forest professionals have in research and researchers is moderately strong. Trust was not determined by a single factor, but rather shaped by a variety of influences that interact in complex ways. Some of these include perceptions of bias, communication and respect, expectations and processes, and apathy towards research.

Recommendations for researchers and others in knowledge-sharing positions

First: Improve knowledge exchange

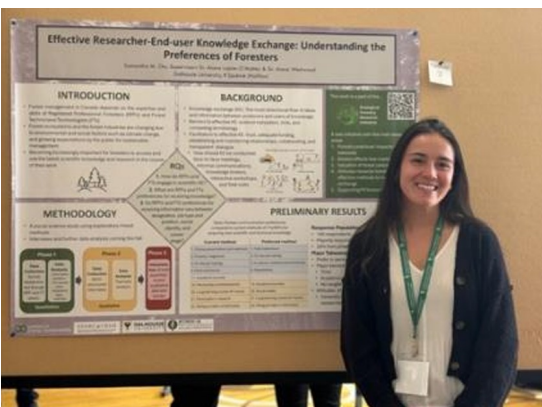
- Start early. Consider your target audience and plan for knowledge exchange from the very beginning—build it into your research design, budget, and timelines.
- Share regular updates throughout the project, not just at the end.
- Timing matters, avoid the summer field season—winter and spring are often better for engagement.
- Use formats forest professionals prefer—field tours, in-person talks, newsletters.
- Avoid academic jargon and focus on clear, accessible communication.
- Make your findings accessible—avoid publishing them behind journal paywalls.

Second: Make research more relevant and actionable

- Involve forest professionals in the design phase. Learn what matters to their operations, and co-develop questions that address real-world challenges.

Third: Collaborate with a range of people to reduce bias

- When researchers stay in academic silos, they can miss key perspectives, or seem biased.
- Working with diverse professionals—across sectors, roles, and backgrounds—can help produce research that is perceived as more balanced.



*Samantha M. Chu is a recent graduate from Dalhousie University where she completed a Master's in Environmental Studies. Supervised by Dr. Alana Westwood and Dr. Alana Lajoie-O'Malley, her thesis is titled *Planting the Seeds for Knowledge Exchange in Canadian Forestry: Perspectives from Forest Professionals on Trust, Barriers, and Preferences*. While she works on a publishable version of her research, more information can be found at <https://hdl.handle.net/10222/85410>. Samantha can be contacted at sm.chu@dal.ca.*

Developing expertise: A collaborative project to build resilience in Ontario's hemlock forests

Ken A. Elliott, R.P.F., FSmith Consulting

Eastern hemlock is one of Ontario's most ecologically valuable tree species - cooling stream corridors, sheltering diverse wildlife, and contributing to the character of many of our oldest forests. But across eastern North America, this foundational species is being threatened by a tiny but destructive invasive insect: the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). With the insect now present in parts of Ontario and continuing to spread, forest managers are being mobilized to safeguard hemlock stands before irreversible losses occur.

FSmith Consulting is leading this effort through a Regional Forest Health Network (RFHN) project supported by the Invasive Species Action Fund. This multi-year effort is focused on training, operational treatments, and the development of practitioner-ready demonstration sites, the project will help develop sector capacity which is needed to build resilience in hemlock across southern and central Ontario.

Why hemlock matters

Historically more prevalent, hemlock still contributes to a wide range of ecological, cultural, and recreational values. Its dense, shade-tolerant canopy creates cool, shaded, low-snow understories essential for several bird and mammal species, including species that rely on hemlock stands for critical habitat. These forests also support unique aquatic, terrestrial and old-growth communities and are often managed specifically to retain these special values.

The species' ecology makes it both resilient and vulnerable: hemlock is extremely shade-tolerant and thrives on cool, moist sites, but its shallow roots and drought intolerance leave it susceptible to environmental stress—conditions that HWA exploits.

The growing threat of hemlock woolly adelgid

Accidentally introduced from Japan to Richmond, Virginia (1951), HWA has spread across the eastern United States and is now established in parts of Nova Scotia and Ontario. Dispersing an average of 12 km per year - sometimes hitchhiking on birds, wildlife, or nursery stock - the insect can kill more than 90% of hemlock trees within 4 -15 years.

With no natural predators here, HWA populations grow rapidly: all individuals are female, reproduce asexually, and can produce tens of thousands of offspring annually. The insect feeds on the tree's stored nutrients, causing needle loss, bud death, crown decline, and, eventually, mortality.



Typical dense hemlock forest.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid waxy, white "woolly" deposits at base of hemlock needles.

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A combined approach: Silviculture + insecticides

To address the threat, the project promotes integrated pest management using two key tools:

Silviculture for resilience

Research shows that stands with healthier crowns, optimal density, and consistent moisture are better able to tolerate HWA. Thinning to maintain approximately 70% crown closure, removing suppressed/unhealthy trees, increasing light around dominant hemlock, and promoting long-term vigour can help degrade HWA habitat while supporting growth of remaining trees.

Insecticide Protection for High-Value Trees

Several insecticides - such as TreeAzin (azadirachtin), and imidacloprid formulations, can be stem injected. The project is planning to develop training for a basal bark spray application that uses a tank-mix of the fast-acting (2-3 weeks) Starkle (dinotefuran), combined with the longer-term efficacy of Xytect in order to get 4 -7 years of protection. These two tools are currently under emergency use registration in Ontario but this approach appears to be the most efficient and cost effective and may become essential for short to medium-term defense of priority trees.

Training Ontario’s forest practitioners



Group of training participants, Orleans, City of Ottawa hemlock stand April 17, 2025.

Following on the leadership of the HWA Forest Managers Working Group (established in 2014), the RFHN has already begun building capacity through hands-on training events held in Orleans, Ottawa in April 2024 and 2025. Thanks to the amazing support of the City of Ottawa, these sessions have brought together 50 practitioners from First Nations, municipalities, conservation authorities, forest management companies, consultants and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Modelled after the provincial tree marker training program participants spent the morning in a classroom learning about HWA and eastern hemlock biology, current conditions, control methods and management guidelines. This was followed by afternoon field exercises focused on hemlock health and crown ratio assessment, crown closure measurement, practice tree marking, and instruction on basal bark insecticide application.

This new project expands on that work by creating sites that allow participants to observe before and after conditions and

demonstrations of tree marking and insecticide treatments. While still providing untreated areas where students can practice. We are aiming for at least three long-term training and demonstration sites across the more southern hemlock range. These locations will include:

- **Operational treatment areas** (thinned and insecticide-treated)
- **Practice zones** for tree assessment and marking training
- **Monitoring opportunities** to document forest response over time

Current partners include the City of Ottawa, the Larose Forest (United Counties of Prescott and Russell), Northumberland County Forest, Credit Valley Conservation, and organizations across the Golden Horseshoe, and southern Crown forests as well as the guidance of the Invasive Species Centre and the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency.



Partnership building at Credit Valley Conservation with Fraser Smith R.P.F., Aaron Day R.P.F. and Freyja Whitten.

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Project goals

This initiative is designed to ensure forest managers have the most current knowledge and practical tools to protect hemlock on the ground. Project success will be measured by:

1. Establishing three or more fully equipped training sites
2. Delivering multiple in-field training courses
3. Generating operational or research data on treatment effectiveness
4. Supporting practitioners in applying these techniques on their own forests
5. Ultimately, helping create more resilient hemlock ecosystems across Ontario

A collaborative path forward

With HWA on the horizon for Ontario hemlock forests, proactive management is the key to giving this iconic species a fighting chance. By combining hands-on training using science-based silviculture and targeted insecticide treatments, along with strong partnerships, the new RFHN initiative moves us forward in safeguarding eastern hemlock for future generations.

HWA and forest management reference material:

Learn about the insect: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/hemlock-woolly-adelgid>

To access relevant publications on this insect including management guidelines: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-insects/hemlock-woolly-adelgid/#research>

Forestry Chronicle article: *Applying three decades of research to mitigate the impacts of hemlock woolly adelgid on Ontario's forest* <https://pubs.cif-ifc.org/doi/10.5558/tfc2023-024#:~:text=https%3A//doi.org/10.5558/tfc2023%2D024>

Fact Sheet: *Hemlock woolly adelgid: Management guidelines to increase the resilience of Ontario's eastern hemlock resource to an exotic, invasive insect* <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SRB-TN-09-Parkeretal-final-3.pdf>

Ontario Woodlot Association: *Protecting Ontario's Eastern Hemlock from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA): A Practical Guide for Practitioners and Landowners* (coming soon) <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/>



Tree marking (blue to retain and treat with insecticide and orange to remove) to promote resilience in the Larose Forest hemlock stand.

Assessment of the infrastructure - Inventory and data collection

Kyle McLoughlin, BCMA, ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional ON-1734BM, Supervisor of Forest Planning and Health (City of Burlington); and **Tyler Searls**, R.P.P., R.P.F. (FPBC), Forester, Diamond Head Consulting

This is the second City of Burlington article in a series, see the first article *Forests in transition: Woodland management in Burlington* at https://opfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/issue-258-June-2025_2025-06-18.pdf page 14.

Upon making a plan for an urban forest, it's important to take stock of the forest with foundational assessments that will guide the project. Consider climbing a mountain; before starting the ascent, it's important to draw a map, and to draw a map, it's necessary to look around and *see where you are* relative to the peak. In the case of the Burlington's Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) and Woodland Management Strategy (WMS), it was necessary to communicate this point to staff, and stakeholders to collect their buy in. It worked well. So, what exactly was done?

State of the Urban Forest Report

This was a deliverable centered on getting a baseline of what we have and sharing it with public and internal stakeholders. Not only did it make for a good opportunity to publicize the project, but it also was a great opportunity to engage the community and collect feedback from the outset. Development of the State of the Urban Forest Report was made easier because of the availability of a robust inventory and well-tracked program metrics. Being able to provide quality data to our consultant, Diamond Head, enabled them to take a closer, more in-depth look at our program, and to provide insights and analytics that would have been inaccessible had quality supporting data not been available.

This was a great way to introduce what we were doing to public and stakeholders, get an idea of how we've managed everything up to this point, and begin planning for new methods of management.

Geospatial analysis

Geospatial supports: high-resolution aerial imagery and LiDAR datasets provide the structural and spectral detail needed to differentiate tree types, and often now species, in both urban and forested settings. When combined with machine learning or artificial intelligence, these datasets have for a while been able to produce fairly accurate classification of conifers and deciduous trees. More current is that when trained with field inventory, these sorts of models can support more nuanced insights into species and even health considerations. Together, geospatial datasets and machine-learning/AI models support an increasingly cost-effective and rapid monitoring process, informing any range of management considerations and supporting a highly adaptive approach.

Beware the shortcomings of aging data: Canopy cover analysis was limited by the most recent imagery data available, which was only current as of 2018. The older data was taken prior to the final phases of the emerald ash borer removal process, which had the effect of overreporting canopy cover at project outset in 2022. Quality imagery, LiDAR, and canopy datasets are becoming increasingly available and at reasonable cost. The challenge for us moving forward will be ensuring subsequent canopy measurements are aligned enough with the specifications of our baseline measure, so we, and communities like us, are not introducing significant measurement deviations not related to real canopy change.

Field work: Using existing data (inventory) and actioning woodlot assessments to determine *what we have*. While our inventory management system allowed for excellent data regarding streetside trees, woodlots have never been managed or inventoried on a proactive basis. Historically, trees were captured in the City's inventory if they related to a reactive maintenance concern, otherwise very little was recorded regarding woodlot health, canopy composition, regeneration, or invasive species.

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For woodlands: the City for the first time intentionally collected inventory information as a woodland management support. This consisted of an inventory scheme on transects, made up of prism plots, and supplemented with incidental observations (e.g., encroachment, invasive species).

Where implementation is concerned: as a staff member I find myself often explaining the difference between woodland management and streetside urban forestry/ arboriculture to colleagues and members of the public alike. Why the methods of inventory differ, the values associated, and by extension, why our approach to management is considerably different. More formally, broadening the scope of Burlington’s arboricultural program to provide greater consideration for woodland management has however proven to be mostly manageable. It has meant developing a discrete monitoring system in GIS that gives space for inventory and monitoring schemes appropriate for woodland, such as management by forest type/ecosite rather than individual tree management, and risk management scoring by the woodland, instead of by individual tree. Woodland condition scores established through the WMS help shape management activities and provide us with criteria by which to prioritize woodland operations .

From a municipal perspective, there is intersection in the way we treat data through Arboriculture, Urban Forestry, and Conventional Forest Management (in a municipal context). In all cases, the three major pieces consist of: (i) measurement (how, practically, do we do it), (ii) attributes (what do we measure), and (ii) scoping (how do we ensure consistency). These values need to be clarified early and significantly influence end data collection and design.

After taking all of these pieces into consideration, it becomes easier to draw a roadmap for success. Budgeting and scoping became more straightforward, once we knew the challenges of encroachment, and coverage (how do you approach 300km of boundaries from an operational *and* financial perspective?) we could outline a program that was realistic for the public to grasp, and public servants to implement. Drawing that map (so to speak) led to reasonable requests for funding by executive leadership, which turned into encouraging reality once the plan was outlined and submitted. How the planning process helped support woodland management, budget development and team structure, will be discussed in the next article.



Forest genetic resource management in Ontario: A century of progress, turbulence and future opportunity

Kerry McLaven, R.P.F. in Training, HBSc, MFC, Chief Executive Officer, Forest Gene Conservation Association, President, Canadian Forest Genetics Association

Ontario’s forest sector has long recognized that healthy, diverse, and well-adapted forests depend on careful stewardship of genetic resources. This commitment was on full display during *Forest Genetics 2025* in Ottawa, where the Forest Gene Conservation Association (FGCA) collaborated with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to help shape programming that reflected Ontario’s unique history and future needs. The event brought together a national network of seed and genetics professionals, and the conversations, particularly within the Tree Seed Working Group, offered invaluable context for Ontario’s ongoing efforts to strengthen capacity in this field.

A century of genetic stewardship

Forest genetics work in Ontario extends back more than a century. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Petawawa Research Station began pioneering studies on genetic variation within major tree species, establishing federal leadership that later inspired local breeding initiatives. Around the same time, the province opened the Ontario Tree Seed Plant in Angus, ensuring a reliable supply of seed for both forestry and large-scale afforestation.

Formal tree improvement work at the provincial scale emerged in the late 1950s under the Department of Lands and Forests. This foundational effort led to the establishment of seed collection zones in the early 1960s, an early recognition of the importance of maintaining local adaptation. These zones provided a framework to collect and deploy seed appropriately across the province and supported rapidly expanding reforestation programs.

By the 1970s and 1980s, research on wood quality, growth, and other economically important traits accelerated Ontario’s tree improvement program. The province established numerous orchards for jack pine, black spruce, white spruce, white pine and others. Much of this work was guided by the *Tree Improvement Master Plan for Ontario* (OMNR, 1997), which set a long-term strategy for genetic gain and seed security. Some industry programs were also initiated in the 1960s and 1970s.

In 1985, the Ontario Tree Improvement Council was formed, which later became the Ontario Tree Improvement Board and then Forest Genetics Ontario (FGO).

Shifts in responsibility and regional collaboration

The passage of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) in 1994 fundamentally reshaped forest genetic resource management in Ontario. Responsibility for managing genetic installations shifted to individual forest companies, where requirements for maintaining forest “health and diversity” were embedded within forest management planning. Although seed orchards had the capacity to supply a significant portion of provincial regeneration needs, local knowledge and infrastructure varied widely. In many regions, capacity gaps quickly became evident.

FGO—a partnership among government and three regional genetics organizations: the Superior Woods Tree Improvement Association (SWITIA) in the northwest, the Northeast Seed Management Association (NeSMA) in the northeast, and the Forest Gene Conservation Association in southern Ontario managed the genetic assets in cooperation with Sustainable Forest Licensees. Over time, each association evolved into an independent not-for-profit corporation with membership including sustainable forest licensees, and in some cases research



Ontario Tree Seed Plant worker measuring seed (MNR).

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institutions, and other conservation partners.

Since 1997, the FGCA has continued to focus on seed sourcing, seed quality and supply, climate adaptation, and species-at-risk recovery, while SWITIA and NeSMA have strengthened regional breeding programs, seed supply systems, and research capacity in this space. Collectively, the three associations and their partners, now steward or support the management of Ontario’s genetic assets, including seed orchards, gene banks, genetic field trials, provenance tests and more.

In the early 2000s, funding from Ontario’s Living Legacy Trust supported the establishment of second-generation black spruce and jack pine programs in northwestern and northeastern Ontario.

Delivering on Ontario’s genetic resource mandate

In 2015, FGO was dissolved and the three associations and their members have collaboratively advanced the core goals of the CFSA with support from the Forestry Futures Trust’s Forest Genetic Resource Management Program by supplying improved, well-adapted seed; conserving genetic diversity, and supporting adaptation to a changing environment. Some of the work includes (varies by region):

- Maintaining, monitoring, and rejuvenating more than 50 seed orchards and field trials
- Tracking and distributing seed to meet forest management plan requirements
- Supporting genetic gain calculations for Sustainable Forest License (SFL) holders
- Managing ex-situ conservation seed banks
- Contributing to Species at Risk recovery initiatives
- Partnering with the Ontario Forest Research Institute’s Ontario Genetic Archive
- Partnering with research institutes to advance forest genetic resource management needs
- Testing and applying assisted migration approaches
- Developing climate smart seed production and collection areas
- Facilitating operational trials and adaptation planning
- Continuing the establishment of second generation clonal seed orchards
- Supporting SFLs in integrating vulnerability assessments into silviculture strategies



Glencairn white pine seed orchard managed by the Forest Gene Conservation Association.



Black spruce grafts for Superior Woods Tree Improvement Association project to create a second generation seed orchard.

This shared effort ensures that Ontario’s regeneration programs remain resilient, scientifically grounded, and forward-looking.

It starts with the seed: Growing the forests of New Brunswick

Shona Millican, R.P.F., Tree Improvement Coordinator, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources

As us folk who deal with seed like to say – “it all starts with the seed”. But I must confess that early on in my career when I was a silviculture forester looking after tree planting, I never gave a second thought as to how the seedlings came to be. I took the seed for granted. As my career shifted to tree improvement and managing seed orchards, I quickly learned the importance and value of the seed that grows the future forests of New Brunswick.

New Brunswick’s forests are part of the Acadian Forest region and host a varied mix of conifer and deciduous trees. The crown land forest area is approximately 3.1 million hectares; less than 2% is harvested annually and about 30% of area harvested is planted yearly, the rest is left to regenerate naturally. This equates to about 15,000 hectares planted which requires about 27 million seedlings each year. The Kingsclear Provincial Forest Nursery, located just outside of Fredericton, provides 65% of the seedlings that are planted on crown land. In recent years, the species grown here include white spruce, black spruce, red spruce, jack pine, and small amounts of white pine and red pine. White spruce however is the most in demand and today comprises 73% of the seedlings grown.



Red spruce cones.

Orchard Site	Species	Generation	Hectares
Kingsclear	balsam fir	1	1.7
Kingsclear	black spruce	2	5.7
Kingsclear	black spruce	3	1.0
Kingsclear	jack pine	3	1.2
Kingsclear	red spruce (north)	1	3.5
Kingsclear	white pine	1	3.1
Kingsclear	white spruce	2	7.9
Queensbury	balsam fir	1	1.2
Queensbury	Norway spruce	1	1.9
Queensbury	red spruce (south)	1	0.9
Queensbury	tamarack	1	8.2
Queensbury	white spruce	1	6.5
Wheelers Cove	black spruce	2	3.7
Wheelers Cove	jack pine	2	3.1

All the seed used at the Kingsclear tree nursery is genetically improved seed, which is a result of decades of tree improvement reaching back to the late 1970’s. The province has three orchard locations each with differing generations and species of seed orchards.

Species vary in their time of seed maturity, in our orchards white spruce and balsam fir are the first to be ripe for picking, typically early August, followed by the rest of the spruces, and then the pines. We track growing degree days to give an idea of when cones should be ready for collection but always confirm with cut tests. To make cone picking easier we top our trees to about 14 feet, cones are then picked from the tops on the ground and the rest from tripod orchard ladders. Cones are collected in buckets and then put into burlap bags where they are hung in open air cone drying sheds until processing.

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The cones are processed at the Atlantic Forest Seed Centre (AFSC), which is owned and managed by the province. This facility was opened in 1978 and provides clean, high-quality seed for seedling production at the Kingsclear Forest Nursery. It also offers seed extraction, cleaning and storage services for other government and forest industry clients. There are many steps to get from cones to clean seed and each species has its own special recipe. Most species start in the kilns where heat is used to encourage the cones to open and release their seed. The next step is seed cleaning to remove wings, debris, and pitch; this requires a whole host of different seed cleaning equipment including dewingers, clippers, liquid and vacuum separators. Once the seed has been cleaned it has to be dried back to a moisture content of between 4 and 8% so that it is ready for long term storage in the onsite seed freezer. The purity of the seed, percent germination and seeds per gram for each seed lot are determined.

On average the AFSC extracts around 30,000 litres of cones per year – depending on the yearly cone crops there may be no cones to extract or in a bumper crop year over 75,000 litres. Currently there are over 500 different seedlots in storage, to keep track of the seed, the province uses a web-based inventory system to track each seedlot and all information associated with it.

While having seed orchards and seed processing capability are important aspects to providing sustainable seed sources, they do not guarantee seed at the end of the day. While we do have a few tools to help encourage a cone crop we are at the mercy of mother nature to provide, and in our neck of the woods, she has been a little stingy the past few years and one thing is for certain, I no longer take these precious seeds for granted.



White pine seed orchard.



White spruce seeds.

Update on the state of Ontario's mills

Ministry of Natural Resources response to a question from the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) editorial board: Can you provide an update on the state of Ontario's mills for our December 2025 newsletter?

Navigating Challenges and Supporting Ontario's Forest Sector

Ontario's forest industry is facing a period of significant pressure. From rising tariffs and duties to stagnant North American lumber prices and declining housing starts, and pulp mill closures, the challenges are varied and complex. These issues are not isolated to Ontario—they're being felt across Canada, impacting communities, businesses, and workers who rely on the forest sector.

Despite these headwinds, the forest industry is steadfast in its collective resolve to weather the storm and remain resilient. Companies are working hard to maintain operations while managing costs in an increasingly uncertain environment. Many are making difficult business decisions, including curtailing production or extending traditional shutdown periods.

In response to these challenges, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is actively working with Ontario's forest sector to provide support and identify solutions. In addition to ongoing program support—such as the \$10 million per year Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Program and the \$20 million per year Forest Biomass Program—the Ontario government has announced a further \$30 million investment this fall to support forest-dependent businesses, workers, and communities.

A key component of that announcement includes an additional \$20 million investment through the Provincial Forest Access Roads Funding Program, bringing total funding for the program to over \$79 million in 2025-2026. The Crown forest road network is essential infrastructure—it enables safe and reliable access for harvesting and transporting wood, while also serving local residents, hunters, anglers, and tourists. These roads support recreation and contribute to the economic vitality of northern communities.

As part of the \$30 million investment, the government is also investing \$10 million in the Ontario Sawmill Chip Support Program in 2025-2026. This initiative provides immediate financial relief to sawmills as they explore alternate and potentially innovative markets for their woodchips, such as bioenergy production or sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics. This support will help protect jobs and help to keep Ontario's sawmills competitive in a rapidly evolving global market.

These investments are part of the government's broader plan to protect Ontario's economy and natural resources. By strengthening the forest sector, the province aims to create jobs, enhance competitiveness, and help the industry adapt to increased U.S. softwood lumber duties and the ongoing threat of tariffs.

Ontario's forest sector remains a global leader in sustainable forest management and the production of high-quality forest products. Our forests are responsibly managed, and the province is a preferred destination for investment in both traditional and innovative forest product manufacturing. From commodity lumber to advanced bioproducts, Ontario continues to demonstrate leadership in forest sector innovation. Through strategic investments, collaborative partnerships, and a commitment to innovation, we are working together to build a stronger, more resilient forest industry for all Ontarians.

NRCan’s Open Science and Technology Repository

The federal government, through its commitment to “Open Science and Technology” launched the Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Open Science and Technology Repository (OSTR) (<https://ostrnrcan-dostrncan.canada.ca/>) website in 2024. It replaced GEOSCAN and the Canadian Forest Service Publications Database. The OSTR enables researchers, academics, industry, citizen scientists and students to benefit from NRCan’s science and research. To date, the OSTR holds over 140,000 publications, including maps, reports, articles, and book chapters! The NRCan photo collection, including 60,000 photos, will be migrated to the OSTR soon.



[Canada.ca](#) > [Natural Resources Canada](#) > [Maps, Tools and Publications](#)

NRCan Open S&T Repository (OSTR)

The NRCan Open S&T Repository provides free and open access to publications, science and research published by Natural Resources Canada.

Search for CFS and GEOSCAN publications

OWA appoints Glen Prevost, R.P.F. as Executive Director

The Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Glen Prevost, R.P.F. as Executive Director.

“Our Board is proud to appoint Glen as Executive Director after four years of outstanding contributions to the OWA and private land forestry,” said Colleen Drew Baehre, President of the OWA. “Since joining the organization in 2021 Glen has increased the certified lands in the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) forest certification program by 25%. We are confident in his ability to lead the OWA.”

Glen brings nine years of experience in the forestry sector, including leading the EOMF forest certification program and advising forest operations and wood products at FPInnovations. Prior to joining the forest sector, he worked in energy engineering research and consulting for four years.

Glen has a Master of Forest Conservation from the University of Toronto and a Master of Applied Science in Civil Engineering from McMaster University. He is a member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA), and of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Algonquin Section.

Glen and his wife Ali, a physiotherapist, live in North Bay, and spend much time outdoors with their two young boys Malcolm and Jude.

“Being able to show our sons things in the forest and also knowing that I am working to help solve important issues that will affect them, is a big motivator,” said Glen.

In his new role, Glen will guide the OWA in advancing active forest management, supporting landowners, and generating sustainable economic opportunities.

“The OWA has made incredible progress in supporting private forest owners under the previous Executive Director, and my close friend and mentor, John Pineau,” said Glen. “While much has been achieved, more work lies ahead. I am committed to strengthening support for Ontario’s woodlot owners, forestry professionals, and the communities that depend on healthy forests.”

The OWA looks forward to advancing its mission under Glen’s leadership and extends its sincere gratitude to outgoing Executive Director John Pineau for his leadership over the past five years.



Council corner

Chris McDonell, R.P.F.

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

It was during the summer of 2019, that past-president Greg Pawson R.P.F., gave me a call out of the blue, to discuss the OPFA. He regaled me with stories of OPFA Council, a new strategic plan, of challenges and opportunities ahead. He asked if I'd ever thought about being on Council. "No", I said, "I've got my hands full trying to be useful in my day job". He pressed me a little more and told me to think about it.

Since becoming an R.P.F. in the early nineties, I had not contributed much to the OPFA. Sure, I'd attended a few conferences, read the newsletters and completed my annual renewal tasks on time. But what had I really contributed to the organization that is legislatively mandated to protect the public interest in the practice of forestry? Following a few days of reflection, I accepted a nomination to Council. Six years and a few dozen meetings later, I have a strong appreciation for the role of OPFA and pride in the diversity and commitment of our members and the positive cumulative impact of forestry professionals across the province.



In my professional and personal life, I have been on a variety of boards, councils, working groups and cross-sectoral committees. Being part of the governance of a professional regulatory body is unique and profound, focused on ensuring ethical and competent service to the public. Other regulatory bodies and professions are all around us. In Ontario in health care alone, there are 31 distinct health professions. Architects, engineers, teachers and accountants are other prominent examples. While OPFA is unique, as an Ontario-based regulatory body in the natural resource space, the expectations for effective governance and oversight of registrants are on par with all regulated bodies in Canada.

The on-boarding process for Council was meaningful and detailed, covering legislation, bylaws, regulated committee activity, practitioner standards, registration processes, organizational policies and finance. Council meetings blend the participation of registrant (R.P.F.) councillors and public members, appointed by Ontario. I enjoyed the energy around the Council table. At no point did we encounter a situation or opportunity where we lacked ideas or solutions. Whether it be a forester or a public councillor - with experience from another regulated profession, public and private sector, academia and non-government organizations - the pool of lived experience and organizational wisdom is deep.

Staff and Council are always seeking to streamline processes to support new registrants, enhance professional development and ensure the resiliency of the OPFA. From a professional development perspective, Council governance is an excellent training opportunity. I had the opportunity to participate in the development of a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan, and support priorities such as migration to a virtual service delivery model, the acquisition of financial, membership management, cyber security services and the launch of the Indigenous Peoples, Lands and Resources Standard.

There is no 'best time' to contribute to the profession. All age classes have something to contribute, whether for a year or two, as a councillor or on a committee. Give it a shot, you'll be happy you did. You'll sign your name with the R.P.F. and wield your seal in a whole new light.

2025-2026 OPFA Council: Newly elected Councillors and Officers

This year brings new faces to the OPFA Council table. We asked our newly elected Councillors and Officers to provide a bio so that you can learn more about their background and experience, and the perspective they bring to OPFA Council.

President: Brandon Williamson, Associate R.P.F.



Brandon has served on Council as Councillor Southwest for the past 4 years and has stepped up to take on the role of President for the coming fiscal year. Brandon is the Land Management Coordinator for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), responsible for managing over 4000 hectares of land in rural and urban environments. Brandon has over 25 years of experience administering and delivering programs in forest management, tree health, ecological restoration, invasive species management, risk management and enforcement. As an Associate Registered Professional Forester and ISA Certified Arborist, he understands the importance of balancing the management of natural heritage features while fostering strong relationships between the UTRCA, partner municipalities, Indigenous communities, community groups, interest holders and all levels of government.

Vice President: Emmett Snyder, R.P.F.



Emmett is a Registered Professional Forester and certified drone pilot based in Northwestern Ontario. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Molecular Genetics and a Master's degree in Forestry, and brings over six years of experience in natural resource management across academia, private equity, Indigenous partnerships, and Far North land-use planning. Since joining the Whitefeather Forest Initiative, Emmett has: Established a drone operations program to support forest monitoring and stewardship, Facilitated training for over 50 Indigenous forest firefighters and coordinated crew deployment, Secured seven-figure government investments to drive strategic growth and skill transfer within the Initiative. He lives in Thunder Bay.

Councillor Northeast: Chad Anderson, R.P.F.



Chad is a graduate from the University of New Brunswick (1999) with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry. Following graduation, Chad moved to Ontario where he has held various forestry-related positions in both government and the private sector.

Chad is currently the MNR District Supervisor in Timmins / Kirkland Lake District where he provides oversight for the preparation, review, and implementation of annual operational and compliance plans in various natural resource programs. Chad has also led provincial programs as the Supervisor of the Forest Pest Management Unit, responsible for leading the annual Insect Pest Management Program on behalf of MNR.

Prior to Chad's Supervisory roles with MNR, he was the Senior Forestry Advisor with MNR Forest Industry Division where he was responsible for

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providing strategic advice and leadership in policy decision-making and implementation to advance the growth and profitability of Ontario's forestry sector. Prior to this role he was the MNR Northeast Regional Forest Program Specialist where he provided expert forest program advice with respect to the direction on the development, implementation, and improvement of forest-based legislation, regulations, and policies. Chad has also spent over 6 years with the private forest industry sector in the Timmins area, in various planning, forest operations, and silviculture roles. Outside of work, Chad enjoys carpentry, camping and traveling with his family and is an active 'Dance-Dad' to his 13- and 15-year-old daughters.

Councillor Southwest: Alex MacLeod, R.P.F.



Alex is a Registered Professional Forester (R.P.F.), an ISA Certified Arborist and a Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) Senior Consulting Arborist and Forester with over 13 years of experience in the arboriculture and forestry industries, which is inclusive of 10 years in the urban forestry arena since moving to Canada in 2015. At home in Scotland, Alex began his journey in forestry in 2006 at Inverness College where he undertook a practical-based access course as a forestry technician, which was then followed by a Diploma in Forestry. He then progressed to university studying B.Sc. Forestry at Bangor University and thereafter M.Sc. Forestry at the University of Aberdeen. He left the UK having worked seasonally for several years during his studies as a Forestry Technician on a local Christmas Tree Farm and a Water Bailiff and Biologist on his local fishery in the Scottish Highlands, whilst also gaining valuable experience in the forest industry completing a mandatory one-year work placement during his studies in Northern Ireland with the Northern Irish Forest Service. Alex also worked as Forestry Surveyor in South Wales, while there at weekends he

worked with a tree surgery company as a groundsperson.

After moving to Canada, Alex has worked full-time in arboriculture and urban forestry. He initially worked in the tree care industry with the Davey Tree Expert as a plant healthcare technician, groundsperson and climbing arborist. This included a Lead Arborist role for two crews on a large-scale ash tree removal contract for a municipality, after he gained his ISA Certified Arborist credential in 2016. Alex then transferred into a more consultative role with Davey Resource Group, providing arborist reports and tree preservation plans on residential-scale projects. Alex then moved to AECOM where he conducted tree inventories on engineering projects (transportation, civil and utility) and prepared their respective arborist reports and tree preservation plans, whilst also growing AECOM's Arboriculture team during a two-year stint as their Acting Lead Arborist. His growth continued at AECOM where he gained his R.P.F. designation with the OPFA in 2023 and got promoted to Senior Arborist and Registered Professional Forester, becoming a client-facing project manager for some large-scale municipal tree and woodland inventory projects. After seven years at AECOM, Alex was hired by GEI as a Senior Arborist and Registered Professional Forester. Alex's current role at GEI focuses on providing tree and woodland inventory and impact analyses services for a range of small- to large-scale development projects in the GTA, whilst also providing senior guidance, leadership and mentorship to an expanding Arboriculture and Forestry team within the realm of urban forestry.

Councillor Southeast: Natalie Dulude, R.P.F.

Natalie is a Registered Professional Forester with the Ontario Professional Foresters Association and a graduate from Lakehead University's Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry program. Captivated by the world of forestry, Natalie has sought experiences across Canada, and the province of Ontario. She began her professional career with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Timmins District office where she gained a strong foundation in provincial forest management planning and implementation. In 2021, she took on an exciting new role as Planning Forester with Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve where she has expanded her knowledge, insights, and skills within the private sector. In her day-to-day, Natalie enjoys the dynamic and interesting work of forestry; she approaches new challenges with curiosity and creativity. Natalie loves to spend her spare time outdoors, whether it be on a lake, a hiking trail, or a ski hill. Natalie is greatly looking forward to the opportunity to serve on OPFA Council, to continue learning from her peers, and to share her enthusiasm for the forest sector.

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We are pleased to welcome our newly elected Councillors and Officers and wish to extend our gratitude to those elected Councillors and Officers whose term has ended as of December 1st, 2025 for their valued contributions: Chris McDonell, R.P.F., Lacey Rose, R.P.F., Malcolm Cockwell, R.P.F., and Wendy LeClair, R.P.F. (Ret.).

OPFA Council for 2025-2026 is:

Brandon Williamson, Associate R.P.F., President
Emmett Snyder, R.P.F., Vice President
Peter Nitschke, R.P.F., Past President
Dayna Griffiths, R.P.F., Councillor Northwest
Chad Anderson, R.P.F., Councillor Northeast
Mark Lockhart, R.P.F., Councillor Central West
Liz Cobb, R.P.F., Councillor Central East
Alex MacLeod, R.P.F., Councillor Southwest
Natalie Dulude, R.P.F., Councillor Southeast
Douglas Reynolds, Public Councillor
David Goldsmith, Public Councillor
Sally Krigstin, Public Councillor
Janice Tiedje, Public Councillor

Strengthening awareness of Professional Forestry in Ontario

As registrants of the OPFA, you are aware that our primary mandate is to regulate professional foresters in Ontario in order to serve and protect the public interest. What may be less well known is that the *Professional Foresters Act, 2000* also assigns us additional responsibilities: raising awareness of the OPFA's role and offering career guidance to those considering entry into the profession.

Historically, communications have not always been a central focus as a small regulator with limited resources. However, the 2021–2026 Strategic Plan identified improved outreach as a key priority. Since then, we have been working diligently to develop targeted communication materials and expand their distribution. To date, resources have been created for students and allied professionals, with materials for landowners and employers now nearing completion. In 2026, we will turn our attention to resources designed for the general public.

Across all audiences, our communications aim to highlight:

- That professional forestry is a regulated profession in Ontario and the role of the OPFA
- What regulation means for professionals and those who hire them
- The scope of professional forestry and the career opportunities it offers
- Pathways to becoming an R.P.F. or Associate R.P.F.

Outreach in 2025

This year has been especially active for OPFA staff, who have been on the road regularly to advance these initiatives:

- **May:** Ontario Woodlot Association Conference in Kemptville: engaging landowners on the benefits of hiring regulated foresters and providing information on the registration process to students in allied occupations.
- **August:** Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Conference in Ottawa: raising awareness among municipal leaders and staff that professional forestry is a regulated profession, and the ways that R.P.F.s and Associate R.P.F.s can assist them in meeting their forestry objectives, while protecting the public interest.
- **September:** Lakehead University Forestry Career Fair in Thunder Bay: talking to LU students from a variety of environmental and forestry programs about career paths and licensing.
- **October:** Canadian Institute of Forestry Conference in Thunder Bay: connecting with professionals and students about the profession and the role of the OPFA.



Brittany and Louise with Hon. Kevin Holland, Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products at the AMO conference.



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- **November:** Student Life Expo in Toronto — speaking with high school students and parents about forestry careers and licensing pathways. A special thank you to Fraser Smith, who kindly volunteered his time to join us at this event and offered participants meaningful insights and real-world perspectives from his work as a Registered Professional Forester.

Additional student-focused outreach included:

- An R.P.F. meet-and-greet during the Master of Forest Conservation (MFC) winter field tour in Mattawa
- Participation in the MFC orientation session in the fall
- Multiple in-person classroom visits at Fleming College and Lakehead University
- A virtual panel on urban forestry careers hosted by Project Learning Tree

At each of these events, staff were encouraged by the enthusiasm and thoughtful questions from students and recent graduates exploring professional forestry.

Looking ahead

While it is a challenging time for the forestry sector in many ways, there is also good news. We are seeing steady growth in the number of R.P.F.s and Associate R.P.F.s in Ontario, alongside rising interest in joining the profession reflected by consistently high numbers of R.P.F.s in Training. Continued efforts are needed to build public understanding of forestry as a regulated profession and the vital role foresters play, and to encourage youth to explore professional forestry as a career path. With your support, we can counter misinformation and strengthen recognition of the profession together. Stay tuned for updates later in 2026 on how you can participate!

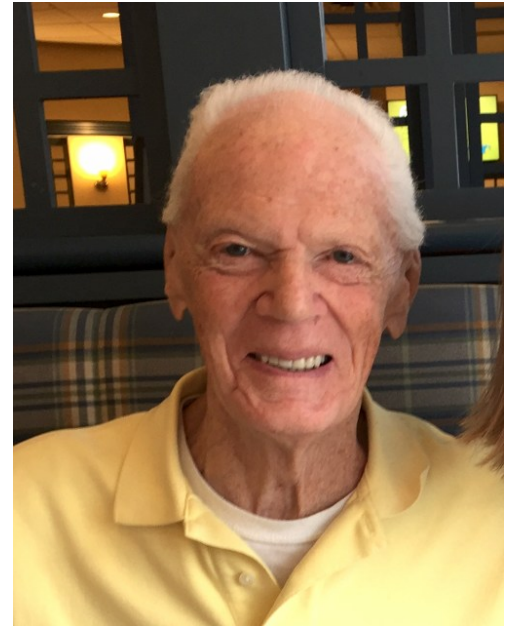


In Memoriam

Paul W. Secker

November 8, 2025

Paul Winston Secker, proud father and grandfather, professional forester, and life-long fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs, passed away peacefully November 08, 2025, at the Saint-Vincent Hospital in Ottawa, Ontario. Paul was born in Toronto, Ontario, on December 23, 1933, to Walter Ernest Secker and Florence Mable (Mae) Spiller, younger brother of Ronald Walter Secker (1927-1993) and Allan Ernest Secker (1931-1994). Paul loved nature, and being at the family cottage on Little Hawk Lake in Haliburton, where he spent time canoeing and hiking. As an undergraduate student, he spent his summers as a timber cruiser in northern Ontario, mapping tree type and density for a pulp and paper company. Paul graduated from the University of Toronto (1956) with a degree in Forestry. After graduation and some time with the pulp and paper company, he joined the Department of Lands and Forests within the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources where he spent his career as a professional forester. He was a proud member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association for almost 70 years. Paul was father to Lori Ellen Secker Riker (Greg Wichlacz), Jeffrey Alan Secker (Julie Lefebvre), Susan Leah Secker Young (George Young), and Barbara Lynn Secker (Keith Foster). Paul lived and worked across Ontario including Dog River, Chapleau, Parry Sound, Barrie, St. Catherines, Guelph, Toronto, and Ottawa. Paul loved hiking, backpacking, and canoeing. After he retired, he hiked the Bruce Trail in Ontario, part of the Appalachian Trail through the eastern USA, and he canoed part of the Dumoine River river in western Quebec. He studied languages, including French, German, and Italian. He enjoyed physical fitness, and regularly worked out at the YMCA and other gyms. He took karate lessons in his seventies, and was awarded a green belt with a black stripe. He was a life-long fan of the National Hockey League and the Toronto Maple Leafs. Paul also loved some of the finer things in life, including tailored clothes, wine, fine Italian restaurants, and classical music. Paul was preceded in death by his father, mother, and brothers. He is survived by his four children; his grandchildren Kaitlyn Young (Alam), Michèle Lefebvre (Miles), James Alec Young (Catrina), Lauriane Lefebvre, Thomas Riker, Pascale Lefebvre, Aidan Riker; his cousins Martin Secker (Cathy), Robert Secker, John Secker (Judith), Brad Secker (Betty); and his nephew Stephen Secker. Paul will be interred with his parents at the Mount Pleasant cemetery in Toronto, Ontario. His family would like to thank the staff and residents at the Brookside Retirement for their friendship, love, and care; doctors, nurses, and staff at the Ottawa Hospital (Queensway Carleton and Civic locations) for their care; Dr. Adriani Bruni at the Queensway Carleton Hospital, for her guidance and exceptional care as Paul's palliative care doctor in the last week of his life; and doctors, nurses, and staff at the Bruyère Health's Saint-Vincent Hospital, palliative care unit, for their care. The family will honour the life of their father privately, without holding a public service or gathering. In lieu of flowers, Paul's family would appreciate donations to the Canadian Mental Health Association or the National Arts Centre (NAC) Foundation





GREY AREAS NEWSLETTER

A COMMENTARY ON LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

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:

[October 2025, Issue No. 307 – Researching Rapid Remediation](#)

Most regulators use remediation as a tool for addressing competence concerns. Typically, or conduct remediation is negotiated or directed by the regulator at the end of a complaint investigation or at a discipline hearing. This summer the regulator for the oral health professions in the UK released research it commissioned on using remediation early in the complaints and investigations processes to better protect the public.

[November 2025, Issue No. 308 – Report on Barriers and Enablers to Making a Complaint](#)

While regulators sometimes must deal with frivolous and vexatious complaints, the opposite is also true: meritorious and important complaints sometimes do not get filed. The UK's oversight body, the Professional Standards Authority (PSA), has published a research report that analyzes this issue: Barriers and enablers to making a complaint to a health or social care professional regulator: a qualitative study.

[December 2025, Issue No. 309 – The Use of Published Guidelines for Discipline Tribunals](#)

While many Canadian discipline tribunals have rules of procedure, few publish guidelines on how they make substantive decisions. Such guidelines are common in the UK, with those for the medical tribunal being quite comprehensive.

Member News

New Full Member-R.P.F.:

Hannah Adair
 Annabella Aoshana
 Aliya Bein
 Jayme Caron
 Amy Chadwick
 Evan Fiorito
 Carly Jackson
 Tess James
 Dustin Kinzett
 Trent MacAulay
 Yaroslaw Medwidzky
 Dawson Meecham (from Associate Membership)
 Jack Newell
 Kamala Rupakheti
 Marian Scaffeo
 Ron Vautour (readmitted)

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

Christian Lachapelle

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)

Jordan Cordone
 Mahendra Doraisami
 Taryn Drover
 Colleen Eames
 Jamshid Eslamdoust
 Timothy Gamey
 Damien Gilberds
 Ty Golden-Duval
 Gabriela Nicolau Maia
 Yogendra Singh
 Pamela Teddy
 Evelin Tom

New Student Members:

Emmanuel Akainyah
 Louisa Appiah
 Tristan Atherton
 Maximilian Biezenski
 Adam Blazino
 Zhu Chen
 Tabitha Fokuo

Ranjan Hamal
 Grace Harris
 Sooyeon Kim
 Justin Kundrat
 Surendra Nepali
 Emmanuel Nkrumah
 Corey Ouellette
 Alexander Petrynka
 Gazal Rani
 Jacob Rasmussen MacIennan
 Natalie Svolo

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

Heather Barns
 Carol Walker

Resigned:

Brian Callaghan
 Derian Caron
 Thomas Crowell
 Scott Davis
 Kelly Ellis
 Kirk Ellis
 Nikola Gligorevic
 Virginia Gordon
 Dean Hample
 Edward Hoffman
 David Holmes
 Samuel Lalonde
 Jordan MacMillan
 Steven Pang
 Todd Pye
 Ian Pyke
 Niall Scarr
 Bruce Summerby
 Helen Turner
 Shelley Vescio
 Cory Wiseman

Deceased:

Doug Drysdale, R.P.F. (Ret.)
 Paul Secker, R.P.F. (Ret.)

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
- 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-78A83oQMbcIIZKbH5uHqHtP7xLfEJ8l8mNJE7U4iGx2nZuFp.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).
<https://www.canadawildfire.org/>
- Invasive Species Centre webinar series
<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/learn/webinar-series/>
- PlanIt Geo Urban Forestry Webinars
<https://planitgeo.com/urban-forestry-webinars/>

Coming Events

ForestSAT 2026 Pre-Conference Virtual Workshops

October 2025 to April 2026

<https://carlos-alberto-silva.github.io/silvalab/ForestSAT2026/pre-conference-virtual-workshops.html>

Forest Climate Resilience: A Practical Course for Landowners and Practitioners

January 9, February 2 and 23, March 19, 2026

<https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/event-6072800?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=1/30/2026>

Forests Canada: Student-Employer Engagement Day (SEED)

February 12, 2026

<https://forestsCanada.ca/en/event/student-employer-engagement-day-seed>

Ontario Woodlot Association: 33rd Annual Woodlot Tour and Conference - Passing It On: Succession and Knowledge Transfer

April 11 to 12, 2026

Lindsay, ON

<https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/event-6456409?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=3/28/2026>

Please send any upcoming events to opfanewsletter@gmail.com