



Message from the Chair

It has been a busy few months for the Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest, and I am pleased to provide you with a brief preamble to this - our spring newsletter.

Firstly, I want to thank all members of the Friends and my fellow Board members for their volunteer spirit and their active engagement in promoting and supporting the Petawawa Research Forest. Whether it is through fund-raising efforts, planning, delivering and sponsoring special events, or just taking the time to attend our meetings; it is truly wonderful that we have such interest and the passion within our group. We are all proud to promote the continued successful operation and use, as well as to preserve the important legacy of the Petawawa Research Forest.

Secondly, the Friends organization was

successful in filing for a continuance with the Canada Revenue Agency, a requirement under the new not for profits legislation that was introduced by the current government two years ago. Our non-profit charitable status is maintained without interruption, our bylaws have been updated as required, and I am pleased to say that we were able to accomplish this task at minimal cost.

Finally, we are looking forward to another busy year ahead in 2015, and we already got things started with another great visit from the University of Toronto - Faculty of Forestry in February; I will let you read about the details below. And much more is planned for the coming year!

I ask that you please share this newsletter with your friends, family and colleagues, and also invite them to join us in the valuable work we are doing. There is a donation form at the conclusion of the newsletter that I hope everyone will put to good use!



Robin Cunningham

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Annual General Meeting

The Friends annual general meeting (AGM) took place on the evening of Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at the W.B. Lewis Public Library in Deep River. Nineteen people were present for the

event, including most of the current Board of Directors.

PRF Forestry Technician Leighton Winter provided an update on activities during the past year. Projects he discussed included the Biomass Study, the AECL Red Pine Study, enhanced forest inventory using LIDAR imagery - which is allowing for much more accurate volume estimates, and two

ongoing harvesting operations. PRF staff also installed several road signs with the help of Friends funding, including a sign indicating no access to Algonquin Park.

During the meeting, the existing Board of Directors was dissolved. Current Directors that indicated their willingness to let their names stand to return to serve again included Robin Cunningham, Frank Knaapen, Susan Yatabe, Joan

Kalechstein, Tom Moore, John Pineau, and John Muff. Three new members were nominated and voted on to the Board – Meagan Southward, Stephanie Parzei, and Hilary Veen.

To close out the meeting, Fred Pinto R.P.F. gave a very interesting presentation on the charitable organization “Forests without Borders”. Fred discussed projects they have

initiated in several third world countries, helping poor communities develop economically viable enterprises that relate to growing trees.



Members of the Board of the Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest at the 2014 AGM

Print Raffle Results

Christine Summers, Financial Aid Officer at Algonquin College in Pembroke was the lucky winner of the Neil Vokes print “Blue Heron on James Lake”, generously donated to the Friends by Mr. Vokes for fund-raising. The draw took place during the Friends AGM on November 18, 2014



Friends Board member Frank Knaapen with Christine Summers, winner of the Neil Vokes print

Ticket sales for the raffle totaled \$1321.00. After expenses that including framing, printing, and bank fees - net profit of this fund raising initiative was \$927.78 for the Friends.

Friends Help with Ski Trail Maintenance

This past fall - Stuart Craig, Meagan Southward, Randy Corcoran and Frank Knaapen spent three days working to make the ski trails within the PRF usable for the winter; other individuals that helped out for one day included Phil and Diane Davis, George Doubt

and Ray Metcalfe. We thank this group for their time and effort in bringing the opportunity for great fun and exercise for so many, here at the PRF!

PRF Operations Update – the year ahead

PRF staff are planning to release three timber sales this coming year, which will include harvest of Permanent Sample Plot 1 (PSP1) – Canada's oldest permanent sample research plot. PSP1 formed the genesis of the Petawawa Research Forest in 1918, and was established to investigate the effects of thinning natural red and white pine on wood quality, value, and regeneration. It has been thinned six times since its establishment and data from this and

other PSPs has contributed to the knowledge base for pine management in Canada. This year will mark the seventh thinning of PSP1, with lower quality trees being removed to provide ample light to reach the forest floor and encourage regeneration.

Permanent Sample Plot 2 (PSP2), which acts as a control plot for PSP1, will remain un-harvested, so that the comparison between thinning activities and no management can continue to be made. All harvests planned at the PRF are working to promote regeneration of a healthy forest.

Other operations planned for the PRF in the coming year include: chemical tending of the ongoing biomass study;

continued work surrounding Enhanced Forest Inventory to benefit the forest industry; school tours of the PRF sugar bush; planting of over 20,000 seedlings, partly in partnership with Trees Ontario; and continued use of PRF's two fire towers for forest fire surveillance by several summer students.

Maple Syrup Program

For several years now, Ian Miller and his daughter Michelle Stein have voluntarily run a special school maple syrup program each spring, at the PRF. As a result, many students have had the opportunity to participate in this wonderful learning experience. There have also been many positive comments on the natural teaching skills of both Ian and Michelle. During the event, each visiting class taps one tree and



A PRF Maple tapped by a visiting class

places a tag and ribbon on it - to uniquely identify their class. Ian then boils some sap down for sampling,

supplementing with some extra syrup if needed. Last year the program hosted some groups of disabled adults as well. The Friends are proud to make another donation this year - to help support this excellent educational program, and we thank Ian and Michelle for their outstanding volunteer spirit!

Maplefest
At the Petawawa Research Forest Sugarbush
Sunday, April 19, 2015
10am to 1pm
Cost - \$6.00 per person
Come and enjoy Pancakes and Sausages with real Maple Syrup in the outdoors.
Sponsored by Chalk River & Area Lions Club
For more Info please call Eileen at 613-589-2546

University of Toronto Visit

In February the Canadian Institute of Forestry welcomed a group of university students for their annual Winter Forestry Field Tour - based at the Canadian Ecology Centre near Mattawa. The group, consisting of the University of Toronto's Master of Forest Conservation class and faculty enjoyed a four-day snow-filled tour of Nipissing Forest sites and the Petawawa Research Forest. The PRF component



University of Toronto Masters of Forest Conservation Tour of the PRF – late February 2015

of the tour included a visit to historic Permanent Sample Plot (PSP) One, and a review of fire ecology research with Katalijn MacAfee, Robin Cunningham, Fred Pinto and Steph Parzei, as well as visits to the biomass study site. The students also enjoyed some delicious baked beans, homemade soup, maple lunchtime campfire at the PRF's sugar

taffy and hot chocolate around a shack courtesy of stalwart volunteer Ian Miller. The Friends provided funding to help pay for the ingredients for this delicious lunch. The U of T Tour to the PRF has become a much-anticipated annual tradition that we hope will continue into the future.

Algonquin College and the PRF

Mycorrhizae: a symbiotic association between a fungus and the roots of a vascular plant.

Now it could be that I have been staring at my textbooks for too long, but as a student of Algonquin College's Forestry Technician program in Pembroke, I would say that the relationship of the College to the outstanding resources in the communities that surround the school is kind of like -- well, the association of mycorrhizae to trees. A symbiotic relationship. While I admit I might be flattering myself and my fellow students to compare us to this awesome fungus, the analogy sort of works: the students benefit from access to a wide variety of managed forested areas and parks in which to hone their field skills and deepen their knowledge, and in turn, the College feeds the demand for well-trained forestry professionals in a region that has a long tradition of logging. One of these places in the Ottawa Valley that I feel extremely lucky to benefit from access to is the Petawawa Research Forest (PRF).

The PRF certainly occupies an important place in the annals of student collective memory. Since the Forestry Technician program first started in 1971 - with the support of key people at the PRF - countless graduates have learned to read maps, compass, identify trees, and apply their technical skills in the research forest. For the 2013/14 class, it was where we took our first field trip one sunny day in September. We were dropped off at the PRF in a bright yellow school bus and instructed to orient our way through the forest,

armed only with our shiny new compasses, aerial maps of the PRF, and our recently acquired skills in chaining and scale conversion. As I diligently followed my compass and tallied my steps to various landmarks, I marveled at the diversity of stands that I crossed, including incredibly tall Red Pine trees all growing remarkably close together. Just being there could not but help to feed a desire to learn more about trees and forest dynamics. When I found my way to a tree marked with 'PSP1' as per instructions, I felt great relief at making it through one of my first exercises without getting lost; little did I know that I was standing by a marker of research on tree growth that had begun as far back as 1918.

The learning acquired in the Petawawa Research Forest through the field-intensive Algonquin program has come to be defined in my mind through the vicissitudes of the seasons. On a beautiful fall day, we students laid out Areas of Concern (AOCs) around the picturesque Lake Corry, measuring the slope to the water and marking a boundary. On a wet November day, we identified some amazing raptor nests, including those of a broad-winged hawk and a northern goshawk. My best memory was breaking for a quick lunch across from a lovely beaver pond, where we recorded information on great blue heron nests against the backdrop of dark foreboding skies. During the winter, when it was 30 degrees below, we students were out in the PRF timber cruising: marking plots, measuring trees and doing prism swings. Indeed, the PRF was our second school this winter; when I asked one of the students about how they would describe the PRF, they unhesitatingly replied 'cold'.

So the PRF has given us much over the

toes. Not only does the PRF and its experimental sites provide a rich body of research that serves Canada's important forestry sector, but it nurtures the next generation of forestry technicians. In only a small way, perhaps, have we students paid this back; the dedicated Algonquin Forestry Program Coordinator and student volunteers cleared paths so that the public can also enjoy the great cross-country skiing that the PRF has to offer and hung signs on trees to help people identify where they are (we figured members of the public might not carry aerial maps and a compass like we do!). Recently this spring, we planted trees in a new arboretum being set up by the Friends of the PRF, in what will one day be another amazing learning resource.

As we graduate at the end of the summer, the 2013/2014 class will have succeeded in not getting lost, and in acquiring a rich skill-base and love of the forest. We will have come full circle in the one-year intensive course, and the PRF will be awaiting the next bus-full of fresh and eager students!



Algonquin Forestry Technician Class of 2014 at the PRF. Picture taken by Erroll Downey, professor at Algonquin College.

By: Lara Griffiths

Changes at the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre

In October 2014, George Bruemmer, Executive Director of the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre (CWFC) - the government agency that manages the PRF, took on a special assignment

within the Canadian Forest Service in a two-year transition towards his retirement. George's enthusiasm, unparalleled ability to think outside the box and his strong track record in building relationships will be missed.

The Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest sincerely wish to thank George for his dedication and professionalism in building and leading the CWFC, and

for his valued contributions to and support of the Petawawa Research Forest. We also welcome Glenn Hargrove as the new Executive Director

of the CWFC, and we look forward to working together with him in the future.

Featured Research Project

The biomass study established several years ago at the Petawawa Research Forest has garnered much attention nationally and internationally. One of

its main goals is to provide data relating to the economic viability of biomass harvest for bio-energy

[Click here](#) to read about the latest analysis of available data... Although highly technical, this article provides the reader with an excellent indication of the depth and complexity of the study.

Petawawa National Forestry Institute (PNFI) Former Employee Social Media (Facebook) Group

Former employees at PNFI are invited to catch up on what is going on with your friends and colleagues and to share what you have been doing, where you are, how your family is... Pass this group link on to others that you are still in touch with, so they can join our little group too.

Click here for the PFNI Alumni Group Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/292142120895394/>

And here for the Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPNFI>

Donations to the Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest

The Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest welcome your donations. We will be able to continue to lead and support many projects, activities and events - through your generosity.

Please print and detach this form if you would like to make a donation and become a member of the Friends.

Name

Postal Address

Postal Address

Telephone

Email Address

Please make your cheque payable to:

Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest

And mail to:

Treasurer - Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest,
PO Box 2000
Chalk River, ON
K0J 1J0

A charitable tax receipt will be provided for all donations...

Want more information of any of the above-mentioned articles?

Interested in submitting an article in the next FPRF Newsletter?

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