



Spring Newsletter 2016

ISSUE #24

Message from our Chair

The Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest have had a great start to 2016, we have been directly involved in and supported quite a number of new initiatives and projects since the activities that we reported in our last newsletter in the fall.

This spring newsletter highlights many things including past and upcoming tours, Maplefest 2016, information on PRF clothing for sale, a new PRF history section, and a research and operations update. I hope that you find it to be informative and interesting.

The Friends also have a number of project opportunities on the horizon, and we are looking forward to a busy summer and to supporting more good work at the Research Forest. If you are interested in helping out or joining our Board, please contact me directly. We always welcome new Friends to our small, but enthusiastic group!

I am looking forward to the Annual Teacher's Forestry Tour this August. This is an excellent opportunity for us to showcase the sustainability of forestry in Ontario. If you or any teachers that you know are interested, I encourage them to register for this amazing event.

As always, I ask that you please share this newsletter with your friends, family and colleagues, and also invite them to join us in the important 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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Maplefest 2016

On Saturday April 17, the annual Maplefest event took place at the Petawawa Forestry Sugarbush located in the PRF. People of all ages came out and enjoyed the spring weather, delicious pancakes and sausages, and of course fresh maple syrup! The event is sponsored by the Chalk River & Area Lions Club and is always well attended. This year's attendance exceeded 600 people.



PRF Gear

PRF gear is now available for order. Items include t-shirts, hooded sweaters, and ball caps. All gear include PRF logos, and come in a wide range of colour options. Orders are due by Friday June 17.

Contact Melissa at melissa.vekeman@canada.ca for more information.



The 20th Annual Winter Forestry Tour with the University of Toronto

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Top: U of T Master of Forest Conservation Class in front of the PRF sugar shack.



Earlier this year, the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) and the Canadian Ecology Centre welcomed a new group of students for the 20th annual winter forestry tour. The tour was held over three days, February 18- 20, 2016, with students from the University of Toronto's Masters in Forest Conservation program in attendance.

The tour began with the students visiting an active harvest block in the French Severn Forest facilitated by Tom Bryson, a Forest Technician with Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. Here, a discussion on the principles of the Single Tree Selection system, AGS and UGS qualities, and wildlife considerations took place. In the evening at the Canadian Ecology Centre, the students learned about how a Forest Management Unit is managed from Mark Lockhart, the Planning Forester at Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. Following that, Al Thorne, the Chief Forester with Tembec, shared some of his insights on Tembec's FSC Certification experiences. After a busy first day, everyone drew around a warm campfire to cap off the night.

The next day, the students travelled to Chalk River to visit the Petawawa Research Forest (PRF). The tour was led by Al Stinson, the CIF's Past President and current member of the CIF Executive, and Katalijn Macafee, a Knowledge Exchange Specialist with the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre. Throughout the day, the students were led on foot and on snowshoes to learn about the historic PSP1 and PSP2 sister sites, fire ecology research, biomass research from an ongoing study, and about White Pine regeneration under the Uniform Shelterwood system from a recent harvest. A hot lunch was served at the PRF, followed by the students participating in the traditional Canadian experience of rolling their own maple taffy! Later in the afternoon, Steve Bursey, Manager of Operations with the Algonquin Forestry Authority, gave a presentation detailing some of the forestry practices in Algonquin Park. That evening, the group travelled to Myrt's Restaurant in Mattawa for a delicious, traditional lumberjack sea-pie dinner. With full bellies, the students were introduced to the CIF by Dana Collins, the organization's Executive Director, before rounding out the evening gathered around a roaring campfire.

Early on the last day of the tour, the students packed up to visit a harvest block in Nipissing Forest, just north of North Bay. Andrée Morneau, a Silviculture Forester with Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc., and Daryl Sebesta, the Operational Planning Forester of the same organization, facilitated the day. These two led the students on an excursion highlighting the Uniform Shelterwood system and the Clear Cut with Seed Tree system. With that, the students piled into their vans, and despite having to persuade one particularly stubborn van that it was time to leave the weekend behind, they were back on the road to Toronto! This winter tour would not have been the success it was without the support of generous sponsors! A big thank you goes out to (in alphabetical order): the Canadian Ecology Centre, the Canadian Forestry Association, the Canadian Institute of Forestry's Algonquin and Southern Ontario sections, EACOM Timber Corporation, FP Innovations, Friends of the PRF, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Tembec!

By: **Melissa Vekeman**

(Article courtesy of the Canadian Institute of Forestry)

Annual Teachers' Forestry Tour



The 16th Annual Teachers' Forestry Tour, hosted by the Canadian Institute of Forestry will take place from August 2nd to August 5th 2016. The tour will visit the Petawawa Research Forest for a full-day.

This exciting field tour provides 30 teachers with the opportunity to see on-the-ground forestry and important forest research, giving them a new appreciation and understanding of the forest sector, which they can now bring directly to their classrooms.

To register visit
<http://www.canadianecology.ca/professional-development/forestrytour/>

PRF History



This is a photo of the Ranger's Cabin along the Petawawa River circa 1950. The photo was taken by Gordon Rochester.

Photo submitted by Dave Lemkay.

Research & Operations Update



November 2015 saw the completion of approximately 1000 intensive stand assessment plots by dedicated Petawawa Research Forest (PRF) staff. The data from these stand assessments have been valuable in ground-truthing PRF-specific LiDAR results and furthering Enhanced Forest Inventory work.

This past winter, three harvests happened at the Petawawa Research Forest (PRF), including one at the Moosegrove Red Pine Silvicultural Area. This area was harvested under an array of treatments in order to see their effects on understorey regeneration. Field measurements this summer will be compared to data collected last summer in order to quantify the effects of harvesting on regeneration. Representatives from nearby Sustainable Forest License holders have been visiting this site since its completion as an example of Best Management Practices for harvesting.

Another harvest happened in areas close to and along Clouthier and Meridian Roads. Most notably, the seventh thinning of PSP1 since its 1918 establishment was included in this harvest, while its associated control PSP2 remained unharvested. The comparisons that can be drawn between these two plots have shaped forest management practices and continue to be a source of scientific interest. In fact, this year a student of the Masters in Forest Conservation will be writing a report comparing PSP1 and PSP2's timber revenue since their inception. This block was harvested primarily in order to encourage desirable regeneration and to promote healthy forest stand dynamics in these stands, as everywhere at the PRF.

In May, 17,000 White Pine and 25,000 Red Pine seedlings were planted by contracted tree planters in recently harvested areas to supplement natural regeneration efforts.

This summer, upwards of 15 permanent sample plots will be measured and this information added to each of their respective data sets, some of which are almost 100 years old. These data sets are used in growth and yield and silvicultural research at the provincial and national level. Other planned activities include stand assessments in future potential harvest areas.

There are many ongoing research projects happening at the PRF in 2016. The bioindicators initiative will happen again this year, which compares LiDAR-based measurements and ground-based measurements of vegetative density at various levels to evaluate their appropriateness at determining available wildlife habitat areas. The biomass trial in areas along Cartier Lake Road and Moosegrove Road will be re-measured this year – this study looks at the applicability of utilization of low quality wood and biofibre sustainability. Moreover, select genetics trials, which consider the suitability of genetically-varied trees along a geographical gradient, and silvicultural studies, which consider the effects of a range of silvicultural treatments along forest types and ages, will be re-visited this year as well.

Five blocks have been identified as potential harvest sites to begin in the fall of 2016, however only 2-3 of these harvests will begin in the fall while the others will remain available for future harvests. These blocks were chosen based on the PRF's strategic plan, which allocates stands on the property for harvest based on the values and goals of the PRF. This strategic plan will be updated this year with PRF-specific Enhanced Forest Inventory research outputs (as verified in 2015), and revised to take into account the more detailed information.

As ever, it plans to be another busy year at the PRF with many in-house and collaborative research and operations plans lined up.

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

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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.



SEARCH

PFNI Alumni Group

Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest

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 _____

Telephone _____

E-mail 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...

FEEDBACK

Want more information on any of the above articles? Interested in submitting an article in the next FPRF Newsletter?

Please contact:

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Institut forestier du Canada



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