About the Association...

From the OWA:

In November of last year, I was invited to speak about the OWA at the Trenton Woodlot Conference. While preparing notes for that presentation, I thought back to when I joined this organization and reflected on why I’ve been a member for two decades. In the end, I was able to distill my thoughts down to three simple conclusions.

First, I joined the OWA because I was asked. I’m not really a “joiner” by nature, but do respond to a personal request. In this case, an acquaintance asked me to attend a meeting of the local Chapter and said, “We need you to become a member.” The rest, as they say, is history.

Second, I remained a member because of the caliber of people I met. My life has been enriched by contact with OWA folk. As a relatively new woodlot owner, I learned much about forest management through Chapter events, but even more importantly, I’ve made deep friendships that I know will remain for the rest of my days.

And third, I expect to remain a member into the future because the OWA is worthy of support. As I said in Trenton, “There are many organizations out there that advocate for trees and the importance of woodlands on our landscape. But the Ontario Woodlot Association represents the owners of that biodiversity; that natural jewel society so often taken for granted. I believe woodlot owners are the stewards of our most important natural resource, and we must always ensure there is an organization that will advocate on their behalf.

Enjoy the year.

Dave Sexsmith
OWA President & Woodlot owner, Limestone Chapter

The Niagara Woodlot Association

Executive Director

Did you know that the NWA has a Twitter handle? Please follow us @niagarawoodlot. Or the OWA, @ontariowoodlot. Twitter offers a lot of forestry information.

Did you know that the Ontario Woodlot Association is on Facebook? If you are a Facebook user please visit and “like” the home page. This Facebook site has several new posts daily.

From your Niagara Board,

Niagara’s woodlands and wetlands are very special places and as owners we should be very proud of our commitment to the land and its inhabitants. We also have to stay diligent and be proactive, not only as landowners, but also as a regional and provincial organization.

Over the last 18 months, the NWA contributed to the updating & modernizing of the OWA’s Strategic Plan. The 6 workshops held across the province identified many benefits we have been providing to our members. It also identified weaknesses and needs. Over the next three years, you can expect to see initiatives, that will be both Provincial and Chapter driven, relating to -

• Membership growth targeted at non-member woodlot owners but also across affiliated organizations and interest groups.
• Increased membership value by providing a wider variety of perks, training courses & an improved S&W Report,
• Greater advocacy and awareness by OWA about woodlands, their contributions to our communities & concerns surrounding their stewardship.
• Grant writing to support an Outreach Coordinator, a membership database, the establishment of a “Legacy Foundation”, student engagement and research opportunities.

As part of a Chapter initiative to make Earth Science Students aware of our organization and to engage them in our activities, the NWA has partnered with Niagara College and a number of sponsors to provide a “student membership” to those 100 students. The initiative will be kicked off in September 2017 during Frosh Week. More information will be forthcoming through the summer.

I am also very excited about the OWA’s 25th Anniversary Commemorative Book that is being published. The 100 page hard cover will feature the history of the OWA, its Chapters, stories and photos. It will be a great conversation piece and each 2017 NWA member will receive a copy. We’ll need your assistance and co-operation in distributing it.

And finally, we have decided to continue with a membership card assistance and co-operation in distributing it.

I invite you to renew your membership or encourage you to do so! Don’t waste it! Use it!

I am also very excited about the OWA’s 25th Anniversary Commemorative Book that is being published. The 100 page hard cover will feature the history of the OWA, its Chapters, stories and photos. It will be a great conversation piece and each 2017 NWA member will receive a copy. We’ll need your assistance and co-operation in distributing it.

And finally, we have decided to continue with a membership card assistance and co-operation in distributing it.

I invite you to renew your membership or encourage you to do so! Don’t waste it! Use it!

I invite you to renew your membership or encourage you to become a member and join the over 140 other woodland, wetland and farmland owners in Niagara. There are challenges ahead, and as an experienced and knowledgeable voice, we can protect as well as benefit from our woodlands.

Thank you for your woodland stewardship and support.

Paul Robertson, President
Saturday, January 28, 2017
Chainsaw Maintenance Clinic
Ag & Turf Power Service, 104 Mud Street, Grassie
10:00 am to 2:00 pm (includes a hot lunch)
For many woodlot owners, a chainsaw is a necessary piece of equipment. But, like any piece of equipment, it needs to be maintained to keep it safe & productive. The NWA is partnering with Ag & Turf Power Service to bring woodlot owners a fantastic Chainsaw Clinic. This program will include both in-class and hands-on elements and is not a toy. It is a valuable piece of equipment that requires professional supervision and instruction to practice being safely & productively. This certification course is based on provincial legislation & is highly recommended for anyone who intends to operate a chainsaw. Again, the NWA is partnering with Ag & Turf Power Service, Husqvarna & Trees Unlimited with Oliver Clee, the licensed trainer. 12 participants will go through 3 days of classroom & hands-on training. Each participant will require a functioning chainsaw & personal protection equipment (PPE) (helmet with face shield & ear protection, chainsaw pants & gloves & work boots). The PPE items are available from Ag & Turf at a discount price. Students will be working in pairs under constant supervision by the certified trainer. Each student will progress from bucking crowns to felling trees. Each successful student receives felling guides, a Certificate of Completion & will be listed in TU’s course registry. Cost for the 3 day course is $340 for members & $400 for non-members (plus $100 on-site course fee). Ag & Turf is on the north side of the road, 16 kms west of Victoria Avenue between Mountain Rd (RR 12) & Wolverton Rd (RR 8).
For info contact Paul Robertson (905) 384-0789 or Loretta Shields (905) 957-0020.

Friday, April 28 & Saturday, April 29, 2017
24th Ontario Woodlot Association’s Conference & AGM in Newmarket: Forests in an Urban Setting
Newmarket Community Centre, Newmarket
York/Durham & Kawartha Chapters have organized a fabulous 2 day event. On Friday there will be 2 tours offered, a full day & a half day tour. The full day tour stops at the York Region’s Holladice Track, in the historic Thompson family 40 year experience of restoring their 25 acre property, the Foster Memorial, lunch at the Lucy Maude Montgomery 25 acre property, a tour of Rodger Inglis Arboretum, a ride through the Oak Ridge Moraines & ending at Walkers Woods. The half day tour starts at noon & includes a visit to the Foothills Greenhouse in Holladice Marsh, a guided tour through the marsh, a visit to the Kortright Centre for Conservation for presentations on the area. The tours will impact urban forests & a tour of an energy efficient house & then end the day with a scenic tour through the Oak Ridge Moraines. The cost is $100 per person.
On Friday evening, our Chapter hosts have organized a causal social at the York Regional HQ’s Great Hall that will include a delicious, meal, forest friends around the province & a relaxing evening of stories & cheers.
Saturday’s Conference Program at the Newmarket Community Centre, will include keynote Speaker Bill Thompson, Secretary, Minister, MNRF, presentations on the Rouge National Urban Park, success stories with the York Region forests, current forest research by the MNRF & City of Markham’s experience with EAB & a personal success story against Lyme Disease. Lunch & the popular silent auction are also included.
Register by March 24, 2017 & be eligible for a prize. For Conference or accommodation info, please visit the OWA’s website - www.ontariowoodlot.com. For car pooling call Louie Madzo (905) 386-0661 or Paul Robertson (905) 384-0789.

Saturday, June 3, 2017
Woodlands Restoration Management & Tending Workshop with Field Tours
Bob & Lynn Oliver Farm & Forest 9801 Regional Road 9, York 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (includes a hot lunch)
This workshop focuses on the management needs of the younger forests; properties that have been participating in tree planting & weedy projects, older meadows, young thickets & even early ash forests impacted by EAB. Forest successional professionals will demonstrate through working examples on how silvicultural techniques are the most beneficial to improve growth & diversity, how to avoid miss-steps & how to prepare for the future that includes invasive & EAB.
You must pre-register by May 29, 2017 with Olivia Groff. Land Care Niagara as lunch & resources will be provided. It is recommended that you visit the property to get re-acquainted with your chainsaw. Safety gloves & glasses must be worn & all necessary PPE’ll be on site. For info call Olivia Groff (905) 384-0789 or Loretta Shields (905) 957-0020 or Adrian Peters (905) 384-1250 or Bob & Lynn Oliver Family Farm & Forest (905) 957-0020 or Loretta Shields (905) 957-0020.

Thursday, November 16, 2017
Rittenhouse Conference Room, MNRF/OMAFRA Office, Vineland 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm
White-tailed Deer are common sight & increasing across Niagara. Kevin Munro of Trent University will describe how human disturbance can impact their feeding & breeding habits. His research tracked deer in two large woodlands under different types of human pressure. The results are enlightening & no doubt will generate discussion. Our second speaker, Pat Moss, a local butterfly & pollinator enthusiast, will explain the benefits of native plants to its diversity & how to attract to your property. For info contact Paul Robertson (905) 384-0789.

*Membership rates are:
1 Year $50.00
2 Years $100.00
3 Years $150.00
(Membership renewal from September 15 to October 14 of the following calendar year. Members joining mid-year will receive a package of past editions of the S&W Report)
To join, complete the form above and return it to:
Ontario Woodlot Association
10 Campus Drive, Unit 4
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
For additional information, please contact:
E-mail: louiemadzo@gmail.com
Website: www.ontariowoodlot.com/theniagara-chapter
OWA Office: (613) 713-1325
For updates check the Ontario Woodlot Association website: www.ontariowoodlot.com