Brant County is Updating Its Tree Bylaw

Early in 2020 the BWOA was invited to provide feedback on the proposed revision of the Brant County Tree Bylaw. Thank you to Joe Vansickle, Jim Haley, and Bruce Zavit for representing us. Following is a summary of themes gathered by the County from over 200 survey respondents and local stakeholders.

- The current Tree Conservation By-Law is not providing adequate protection of trees.
- The best way to protect trees is through strong conservation policies and County-led programs to aid with tree planting and education on tree conservation.
- The County should focus on regulating and protecting trees in all areas of the County. There should be a by-law that focuses on protection of trees in natural areas and a separate by-law to regulate individual trees in settlement areas.
- Good forestry practices are supported, which has regard for the long term health of a forest. Clear cutting and circumference limit harvesting are not considered good forestry practices.
- Replacement trees should be required when trees are removed.
- In rural areas, tree removal in hedgerows and young successional fields should be permitted for agricultural uses.

For more, go to www.brant.ca/trees.

Upcoming Events

- The Ontario Woodlot Association Conference has been rescheduled from April 2020 to an online conference to be held Tuesday, October 27th, and Wednesday, October 28th. See page 4 for details.
- Brant Woodlot Owners Association tour, October (date TBA).
- Brant County Council meeting to ratify Tree Bylaw, November (date TBA).
- Workday, New Forest in the City, late March/early April 2021, in support of Brant Tree Coalition.
**Gypsy moth egg masses will stay on bark over the winter and hatch in the spring**

**Gypsy moth in Brant County**

Gypsy moth has been a very difficult pest this year for some woodlot owners in Brant. Municipalities such as Brantford and Brant, and the GRCA are also having to deal with this problem.

Gypsy moth are especially fond of red oak, but will also eat willow, and even white pine and blue spruce. If necessary they will move on to other trees and will not stop until the tree is stripped of leaves. Deciduous trees will often grow new leaves back in the same season, but some conifers are unable to regenerate. Even for deciduous trees this is very expensive for the tree’s energy system.

An option to consider for protecting your investment is aerial spraying of Bacillus thuringiensis (BT). BT is a bacterium found naturally in the soil. It is known to cause illness in many insect larvae, including caterpillars of pest species such as gypsy moth, and spruce budworm.

Aerial spraying can significantly reduce the numbers of living caterpillars in the forest which means less leaf damage in the year of spraying and in the following year. Effectiveness will be further increased if neighbours also participate in spraying. It is important to begin planning for spraying this fall as demand for BT and for aerial spray services in 2021 will be high due to the proliferation of gypsy moth and spruce budworm in 2020.

Locally Zimmer Air services is contracting to provide spray services to address gypsy moth infestations. Please see the included sample contracts from Zimmer Air, or contact your forest professional for more information.

**Membership Renewals**

In the next week OWA / Brant Woodlot members will be receiving a renewal notice for membership. The price remains unchanged for members from last year, $50.00 + $6.50 HST.

Two new membership options have also been added. A spouse may now become a member for $8.85 + hst. Find this option when renewing online or add a note to your mail-in application. Students may now join at a special rate as well, at the very low price of $17.70 + hst. All memberships include membership in the OWA and BWOA.

The Brant Woodlot Owners and the OWA values your membership. We encourage you to renew promptly in September, or to join us if you are not yet a member (woodlot ownership is not a prerequisite, just a value for trees and good forestry practice).
As you will know we had a number of great woodlot events lined up for the spring of 2020 that had to be postponed due to the pandemic. These included the Family Day at Ruthven, a tour of a live edge sawmill in Brant County, not to mention a tour of one of the few remaining coopers shops still operating in Ontario. Hopefully we will be able to revisit some of these opportunities before too long. Looking forward to the fall, any Chapter sponsored events will need to be outdoors where we can remain physically distanced.

Your Brant Woodlot Owners Association Directors met in early September in an outdoor location to plan for the upcoming year. A number of topics were discussed:

**Donations**
For the past few years the BWOA has been donating towards an annual scholarship for a student in each of the Environmental Leadership programs at Pauline Johnson CVS and Paris DHS. This year the donation to each scholarship was raised from $100.00 to $150.00.

It was also decided to support the Ontario Woodlot Association website and data base renewal with a $500.00 donation. Various Chapters have now given almost $4000.00 toward the $10,000.00 cost of this project.

**Events**
A few Chapters have taken tentative steps toward beginning to have woodlot events. In early September the Quinte Chapter held a “socially distanced” woodlot tour. On several weekends through the fall the Lower Ottawa Valley Chapter is continuing with its annual chainsaw training sessions with more limited numbers than would be normal. We are planning for an October woodlot tour in Brant and will announce the date and location once confirmed. If you are able to attend we ask that you bring a mask in case it is needed at the beginning when we gather for an introduction, and remember to keep a two metre distance from those not in your “bubble.”

**Advocacy**
An important function of the OWA is advocacy for woodlot owners and our natural environment. This spring and summer three of our directors provided feedback on the Brant County Tree bylaw revision, and many of you filled out the online survey with further feedback. This effort is strongly appreciated by the Association, and by the County.
Loss of a BWOA Member

In March of this year we lost one of our founding Brant Woodlot members, William (Bill) Bonney. Longer term members of our Association enjoyed going to his property for a tour and meal. This line from Bill’s obituary sums up his love of the outdoors: “Bill lived for 65 years on the family farm. He lived for farming, loved cutting wood and making maple syrup.” Our condolences go to the Bonney family.

Social Media and the Woodlot

The Brant Woodlot Association is represented on Facebook with a “Brant Woodlot Owners Association” page. Thank you to Jolene Vansickle for curating this page. The OWA also has a Facebook page with many posts on a variety of topics. Many other OWA Chapters also have Facebook pages that are well worth a look. When visiting the OWA or a Chapter Facebook page please remember to click the “like” button.

E Letter

The e Letter, News From Around the Woodlot, is a monthly online newsletter of the Ontario Woodlot Association. Read it for news updates on woodlots and forests in Ontario, across Canada, and beyond. Each month a listing of Chapter events across the province, as well as OWA events, is also provided. Subscribe free at https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/publications by clicking on the e Letter button on the left side of the page and entering your email address.

Fuel Wood Photos

The December issue of The Ontario Woodlander will feature articles and photos related to fuelwood from the woodlot. Do you (or someone you know) have an innovative way to stack or dry your wood? Send a photo to john.pineau@ontariowoodlot.com.

OWA Fall Conference, October 27-29, 2020

The postponed 2020 OWA Woodlot Conference will be now be held online each evening of October 27th-29th, 7-9 p.m.

Topics over the three evenings will include forest health, woodlot economics, bioheat, birds in the woodlot and a virtual (recorded) field tour. A special guest on the 27th will be John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources.

Registration details will be online soon at https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/events.

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