

*Hello Niagara Woodlot Association Member & Family,*

2019 was an awakening year to many across the world as the words 'climate emergency' were on pretty well every news headline you could imagine. A year ago, around this very time, there were many climate strikes happening all over the world. People were gathering in hundreds to stand together and promote the changes our climate needs to see from government officials.

These past six months and the remaining of 2020 will be quite different from last year due to COVID-19. We will not be able to convene or interact in the same way or in the same numbers. However, there have been some positives and that is what I like to think about the most. People took a large interest in getting out in nature, growing their own food, the interest in canning and preserving food has gone up astronomically and many have appreciated the slower pace of everything.

Governments, educational institutions, and even department stores all have to function differently to accommodate our new everyday life to what has been phrased 'our new normal.' The new normal for the Niagara Woodlot Association will be no different. Last year the OWA had planned to have the Annual General Meeting here in Niagara, however due to COVID-19 had to cancel. We hope to be able to host this event in the future for you and gain interest from other local residents. We are still working to deliver resources to you and have some initiatives that we hope you will enjoy for the upcoming fall and winter.

We are welcoming this year some new members from the Haldimand Chapter, as their chapter has temporarily dissolved. Let us continue to support each other, learn and grow together as a membership of the Niagara and Haldimand area. We welcome you to renew your membership and continue to be an active, committed group of growing members.

On behalf of the board- thank you for your continued support,

Olivia Groff  
President

### **Niagara College Student Feasibility Study Update**

In a partnership developed between the Niagara Woodlot Association and Niagara College, a Student Membership Feasibility study was launched during the spring of 2018. Ongoing efforts have continued engagement with the students and we aim to persist this fall as well. In the past, students have attended our board meetings and AGM, as well as present at our AGMs. We hope to engage the new 2020 class this year as we have in the past.

## 2020 & 2021 Events

This year, due to the uncertainty of gatherings and planning events, the NWA will not be producing a brochure. In order to provide you the most relevant and up to date information you will receive email updates. For those of you without email, we will notify you via phone or standard mail.

### Things to do, watch and enjoy!

- The Invasive Species Centre delivered a [Gypsy Moth webinar](#) that has been recorded to watch at your leisure. Learn more about this species to help protect your woodlots.
- If you want to enhance your ID skills in your woodlot and need a helping hand, consider using the iNaturalist app called '[Seek](#)'. This app will help identify wildlife, plants and fungi all in one place.

### Upcoming online, virtual events- from the comfort of your own home

- The Niagara Parks Commission and Brock University have put together an **Environmental Speaker Series** for October, where four speakers will present every Wednesday evening on issues such as climate change, sustainability, and our impact on the natural environment. Registration is required for these free events and can be accessed over a computer, tablet or mobile device. To learn more about the topics, speakers and to sign up follow [this link](#).
  - Adam Shoalts, who we invited to the NWA AGM in the past, is speaking on his journey across the Arctic alone.
- October 27 to 29 is the **Ontario Woodlot Association Virtual Conference** 7:00 - 9:00 pm each evening. You can [register online](#) and view the whole agenda on the OWA events webpage. Topics change every evening and range from the State of the OWA report, Forest Health Network, the findings from the Economics Study (Phase 1), Fleetwood Plantation Study Update, Community Bioheat Guide, Ontario's New Cross-Laminated-Timber Producer, Forest Bird Migration.
- On October 29 the Invasive Species Centre is hosting a webinar on the '[Update on Beech Leaf Disease in Ontario](#)' at 1:00 - 2:00pm. Registration is required.

### Future Events

- Save the dates! We are confirming the details of this year's virtual Niagara Woodlot Association Annual General Meeting for either the evening of Tuesday November 17 or Wednesday November 18. This will be delivered online over a Zoom call. For those without email or internet, a call in option will be provided. More details to follow.
- Pending covid restrictions we hope to still be able to deliver a winter and spring outdoor event. Any ideas, locations of interest or topics please let us know- we would love your input!

*Interested in more events to participate in? Go to the [OWA website](#) to stay up to date on the latest events.*

*Did you know the NWA and the OWA are on social media?*

*Please follow us [@niagarawoodlot](#) or [@ontariowoodlot](#) and like the OWA on Facebook*