

EVERGREEN CHALLENGE

The Agreement Forest Story



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio
Minister
Mary Mopford
Deputy Minister

Cover:

York Regional Forest as it appears today—reforested but still containing remnant stumps of the once magnificent white pine that grew there. Photo inset shows what this area looked like in the 1920s when the members of York County's Reforestation Committee decided to reforest this area under the Agreement Forest program.

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AGREEMENT FORESTS ARE...

lands on which forests are being managed for the owner by the Ministry of Natural Resources. A forestry agreement between the Ministry and the owner makes this joint venture possible.

The owners of Ontario's Agreement Forests are counties, regional municipalities, townships, Conservation Authorities, Government of Canada and one company. Fifty-four such owners have Agreement Forests totalling 110,939 hectares (274,136 ac.).

These forests are managed for a wide variety of forestry purposes. This includes the production of wood and wood products, the creation of suitable habitat for wildlife, protection against flooding and erosion, recreation, and protection and production of water supplies.

In 1982, Ontario celebrates the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary (60 years) of the Agreement Forests. To get the complete story on this very successful program, read on.

TALL TREES, TOUGH MEN



Pine

Great majestic stands of pine. That was the way it was in the early 1800s.

Men

Lumbermen and settlers. They were a special breed, tough and rugged. They had to be to survive in the wilderness of Upper Canada.

When these tough men came up against the tall trees, the result was inevitable. The trees fell to the axe.

Man Against Nature

The first timber barons saw the forest as an inexhaustible supply of timber. They reckoned there was enough pine to last 700 years. In fact, most of the pine was cut in less than 100 years.

The settlers viewed the forest as an obstacle. It was man against nature. To farm the land, the settlers first had to clear the trees. It was slow, backbreaking work. An early settler trying to establish himself would clear about 2 hectares (5 ac.) of land in a year. Clearing would go faster once several neighbours got together to help each other.

Top

Logging in the pineries of Upper Canada during the 1800s (Archives of Ontario).

Centre

White pine was squared where it was felled. Hewing the timber was done with a broad axe. Skilled lumbermen made all four sides as smooth as a table top.

Bottom

Raft of square timber including smaller waney (rounded) timber. Note the depleted condition of the cut-over forest in the background.



First settler's shanty in Palmerston (Archives of Ontario).

Farming was a difficult task for the early settlers. Oxen were used in plowing rough ground (Archives of Ontario).

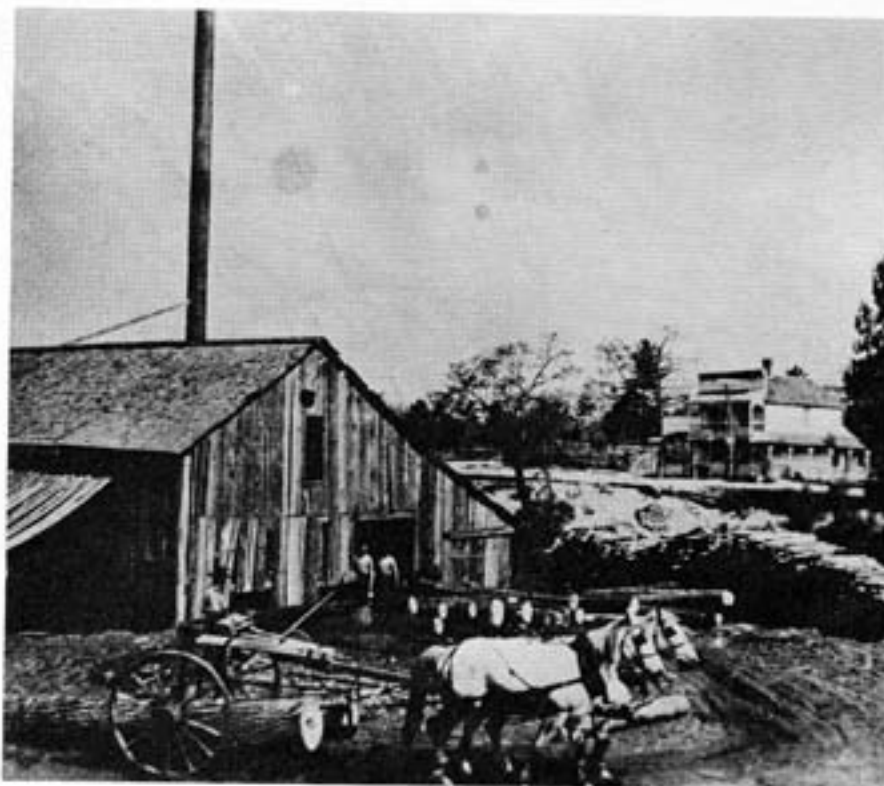
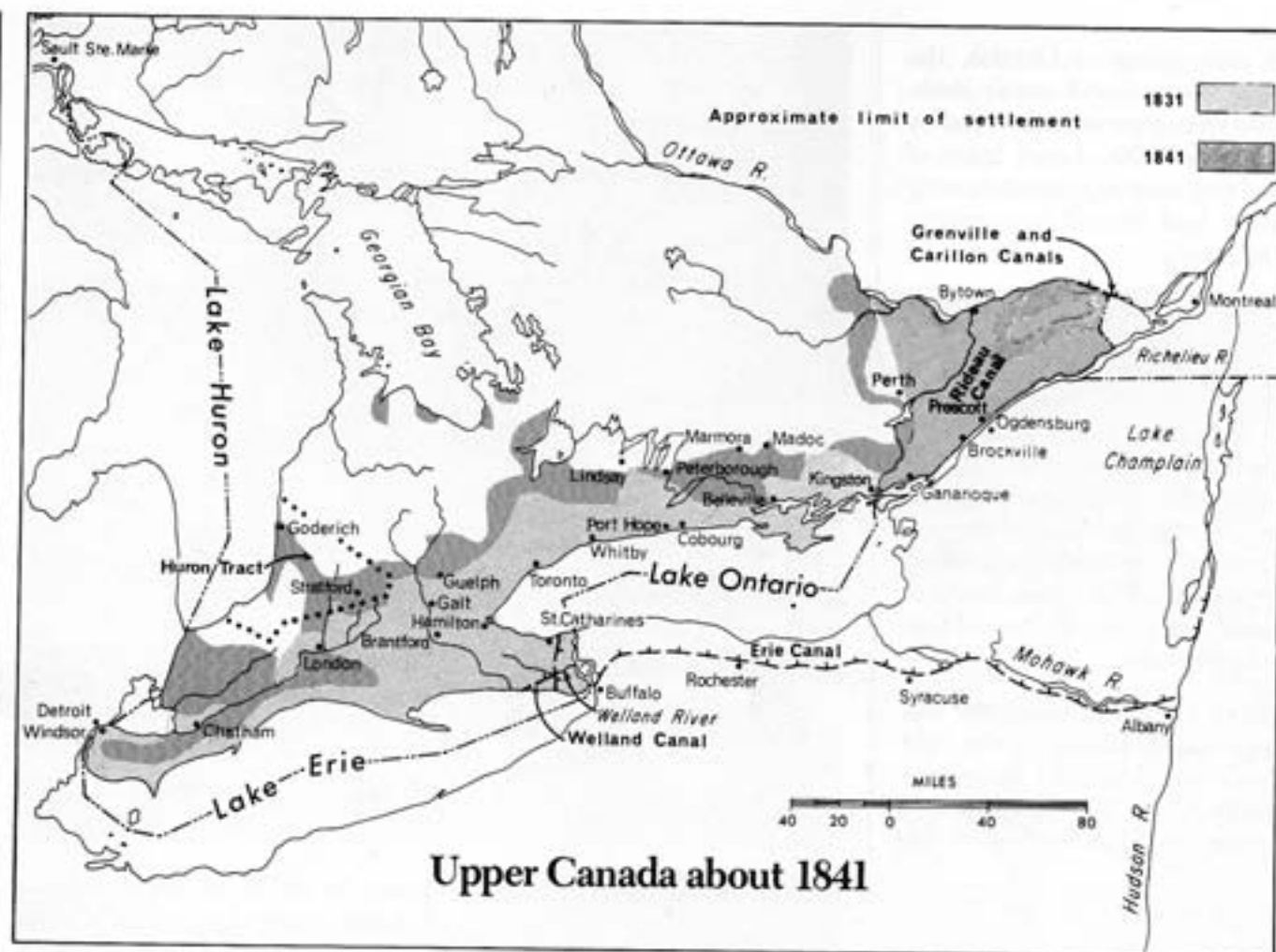


Land clearing often involved drawing stone. Here Willet Ketcheson and his sons use two teams of horses on their farm in Thurlow Township, Hastings County (Archives of Ontario).



The pine cut by the settlers was used to build their homesteads. The rest was cut to be sold, first as squared timber, then as waney timber and, later, as sawlogs for lumber. As the land opened up, hardwoods such as maple and beech were felled, piled and burned, and the ashes of these magnificent trees were used to produce potash to make soap.

Most of the open and cultivated land in southern Ontario that we see today had already been cleared by the late 1800s. The removal of the extensive forest cover through logging and land clearing had brought settlement. It also brought some unforeseen problems.



By the late 1800s, there were over 1500 sawmills in the province. Most of the wood processed into lumber at that time was hardwood rather than pine. Notice the method used to haul logs. This mill was founded in 1832 and was located at Brewster's Dam near Grand Bend. Photo 1871 (Archives of Ontario).

GONE WITH THE WIND AND WATER

In some parts of Ontario, the trees, the soil and man's livelihood were gone with the wind by the early 1900s. Large tracts of land that once supported thriving farms had turned into empty wastelands.

Too much land had been cleared. Areas of sandy soil that previously grew magnificent trees could not sustain the agricultural practices of the day. At first settlers attempted to grow crops, but as large areas of land were cleared and, as the nutrients of the soil became depleted, something happened. The open fields of sandy soil gradually turned into barren deserts.

Winds sweeping across the vast open spaces picked up the light sands and deposited them elsewhere. Great blow pits up to 3 metres (10 ft.) in depth were dug



out by the wind. These shifting sands became large drifts. A bank of sand $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres (8 ft.) in height could be blown out onto a farmer's field over a period of 4 to 5 years. This blowsand might initially cover an area of 3 to 4 hectares (7 to 10 ac.) but, in time, the wind would carry the sand over a much larger area. Some

Top

Desert-like wastelands were a real problem for farmers of Ontario County.

Bottom

Protruding pine stumps reveal that the depth of soil was much greater before the winds eroded such sandy areas. Once the trees were gone, so was the soil. Norfolk County, photo 1907.

Right

Drifting sands made travel difficult on some of the rural roads in Durham County. Photo 1911.

farms had pits and banks of blowsand covering 30 or more hectares (76 ac.).

In certain areas, conditions got so severe that even a light breeze would begin lifting sand into the

air. During strong gusts, dark clouds of sand would move across the horizon like a threatening rain storm.

Along roadways, fences became just rows of stubs sticking out of

sand drifts. Soon farmers had to build new fences on top of the old buried ones. Even roadways at times became impassable for the horse and buggy.





Nature's punishment for clearing too much forest also resulted in another form of soil erosion.

In hilly areas, precious nutrient-rich topsoil exposed by clearing and plowing was washed down the hillsides by the rain. The rain-water also carved out deep gullies. The light topsoil thus made its way down the gullies, streams and rivers to be deposited finally in the lakes, leaving the soil impoverished and fish-spawning areas covered with silt.

The lack of forest cover in the upper reaches of the river valleys, coupled with the loss of topsoil on the farmlands, led to serious problems. Watershed lands lost much of their ability to store water. As a result, many farmlands were stricken with drought and the villages and towns along the rivers suffered from spring flooding.

This loss of the topsoil through wind and water resulted in reduced productivity of many farms, and ultimately in the loss of them. In this way, nature voiced a challenge—manage the land properly or lose it.

Top left

Plowing of hilly areas was difficult and usually resulted in the loss of precious topsoil.

Bottom left

Water erosion was severe in areas such as the Ganaraska.

Top right

Abandoned farm and abandoned hopes on this wasteland near Normandale in 1906.

Bottom right

An impossible grazing situation—Prince Edward County, 1911.



MEN OF FORESIGHT

Foresters, farmers and politicians. It was an odd mix. But over the years, men from these disciplines became engaged, in their own ways, in promoting the belief that trees had to be brought back to cover southern Ontario's denuded landscape, to stabilize the eroding soil and rejuvenate the land. But the return of the trees would take many years as well as

A homestead in the village of McKellar (near Parry Sound) in 1871. The land, which was still being cleared in this area at that time, would be farmed despite the presence of large stumps (Archives of Ontario).

tremendous efforts by these men of foresight.

It became obvious during the latter half of the 1800s that the vast pine timber resource was indeed exhaustible, especially in southern Ontario where land clearing had been going on since the turn of the century.

In 1871, the Ontario Legislature, recognizing the importance of trees, passed an act to encourage the planting of trees on highways. Twelve years later, the government replaced this act with The Ontario Tree Planting Act

and voted a considerable sum of money—\$50,000—as support funding. Municipalities were authorized to pay landowners up to 25 cents a tree for reforestation along highways. The province would reimburse them up to 50 per cent. This first attempt did not stimulate the expected response. The Act was repealed in 1896 because only \$5,000 was spent. The municipalities still had the authorization to pass by-laws for paying the bonus, but now the money had to come from their own pockets.



Even the Ontario Fruit Growers Association, in their 1879 annual report, expressed concern about the vanishing forests and referred to their value in protecting soil from wind and water damage. By the 1880s, others were concerned

Some farmers planted trees along roadways. At "the Maples" (southwest of Orangeville), W. H. Hunter planted over 1,000 maple trees around his entire farm. These houses served as homes for the hired help and had a post office. No doubt this little community derived its name from the planted maples. Photo circa 1890.



as a conservation movement swept across the United States and Canada. Feeling that the timing was right, the Department of Agriculture in 1883 created a new position and appointed R. W. Phipps as "Clerk of Forestry in Ontario". But once again it was a false start. There was a lot of talk about farm forestry, but little action.

In 1902, the Forestry Committee of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union (an organization interested in improvement of crops and agriculture) took up the reforestation challenge. This

organization sent the government a resolution which read:

"The Experimental Union, recognizing the urgent necessity for action in the reforestation of wastelands throughout Old Ontario, would recommend that the Department of Crown Lands be requested to provide material sufficient to reforest areas sufficiently large to provide forest conditions in typical situations

The planted maples as they appear today along the border of Bill Hunter's farm located on Concession XIX, East Garafraxa Township, Dufferin County.



throughout Ontario, the Union undertaking to supervise the distribution.

Two things about this are worth noting. The mover of this resolution was Nelson Monteith of Stratford. He later became Minister of Agriculture in 1904. The seconder was Ernest C. Drury of Crown Hill who became Premier in 1919.

A chain of events now started that would eventually lead to the Agreement Forest program of Ontario.

In 1903, the Director of Forestry in his report to the Ontario government recommended the establishment of forest reserves on land in new surveyed townships and on land acquired at tax sales in old townships.

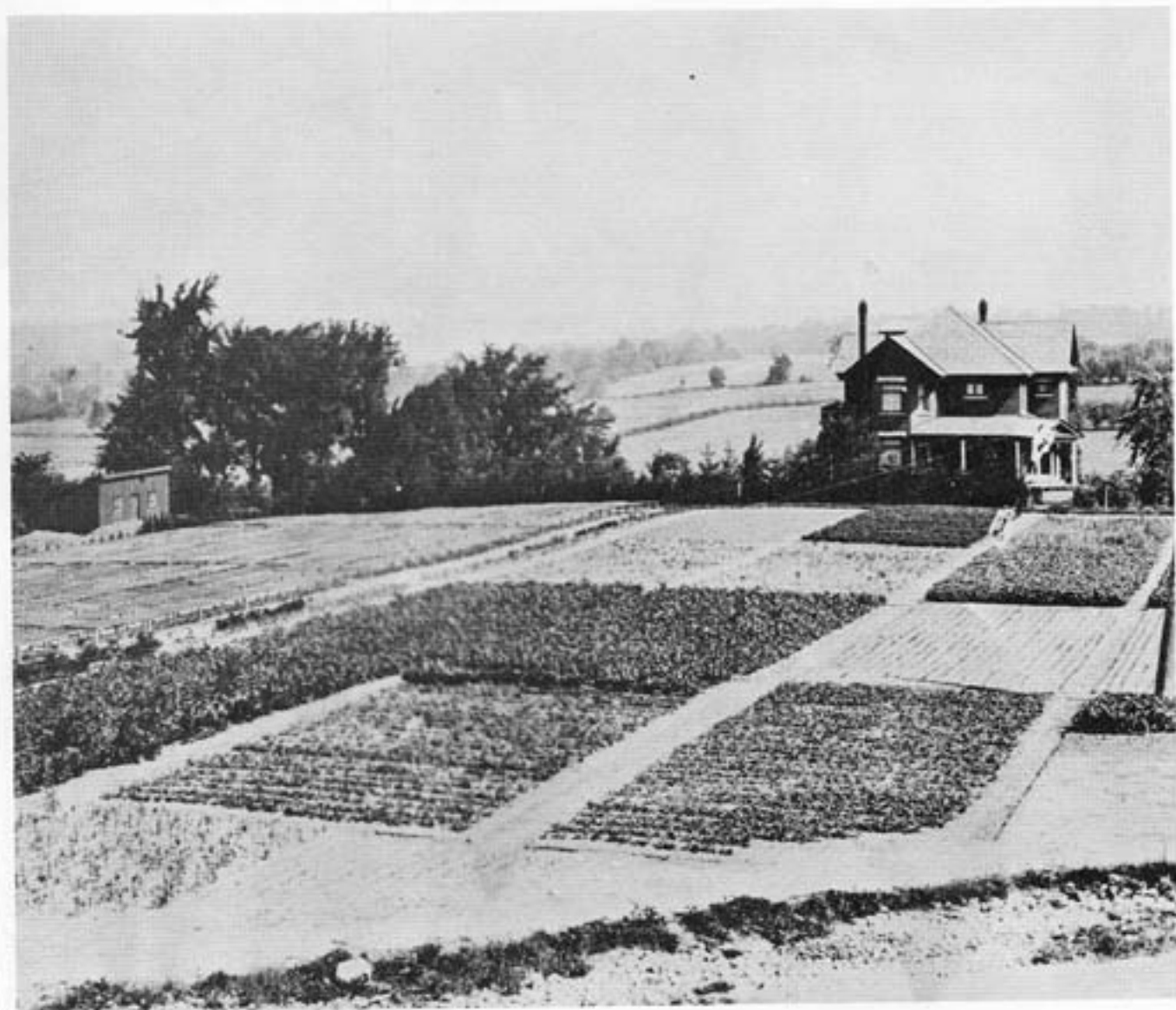
A year later the government established a forest tree nursery at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. The next year, a young forester named E. J. Zavitz was appointed Lecturer in Forestry with responsibilities of giving classes in farm forestry, producing trees from the nursery

and undertaking extension work with landowners.

After years of well-intentioned act-passing, talks, resolutions and other shaky starts, this simple appointment was not particularly noticed.

In 1905, Zavitz began handing out free trees for reforestation. In that one year, he distributed more than 10,000 trees for planting on

The first seed beds at the nursery established at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. Photo 1906.



private lands. It was a modest start, like the first spark that starts a forest fire. Only this was in reverse. E. J. Zavitz was a forester full of ideas and energy. Instead of destroying forests, he created them. During the years 1905-1908, he toured many of the wastelands in southern Ontario, carefully studying the magnitude of the problem and working out the solutions. Many of his inspections were made by horse and buggy. For a while, he even used his bicycle! One such trip involved cycling from Guelph to Toronto, then to Barrie, Midhurst

and Angus. On another trip, he toured Midhurst and Angus by horse and buggy, accompanied by E. C. Drury, who was then farming at nearby Crown Hill. These two men not only shared similar views on the crying need for reforestation, but also a warm friendship. The ideas conceived at this time between this forester and this farmer-politician would eventually make Ontario a showplace for reforestation in Canada.

In 1909, the government published a report prepared by

Zavitz entitled "Reforestation of Waste Lands in Southern Ontario". It concluded as follows:

E. C. Drury on the sand plains of Orr Lake during his buggy ride tour of the wastelands with E. J. Zavitz in 1906.



There is, at present, in the old settled portion of Ontario an aggregate of about 8,500 square miles of farmers' woodlands. It is safe to say that there is, in addition to the assessed woodland, another area of 8,500 square miles which is suited only for forest growth. This means that southern Ontario could eventually have over ten million acres of private woodlands.

It is very important that the private landowner be urged and educated to feel the necessity of protecting existing woodlands, and replanting waste areas. This branch of work can be greatly assisted by demonstrating forestry methods on these larger areas. The influence which this policy must eventually exert is shown by looking at the map in figure 1 and noticing the representative way in which these proposed forest reserves are situated throughout southern Ontario.

Government forest nurseries situated at certain of these points will be able to supply planting material to owners anxious to replant waste land.

In addition to their value as object lessons in forestry methods, these areas should be preserved for the people of Ontario as recreation grounds for all time to come. The need of such areas is demonstrated in the fact that Rondeau Park on Lake Erie has every year thousands of local visitors.

The policy of putting these lands under forest management has many arguments in its favour. It will pay as a financial investment; assist in insuring a wood supply; protect the headwaters of streams; provide breeding ground for wild game; provide object lessons in forestry; and prevent citizens from developing under conditions which can end only in failure.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. Zavitz
Professor of Forestry
Ontario Agricultural College
Guelph, March, 1909

As a result of Zavitz's findings, the small nursery at Guelph was moved to St. Williams and became the first provincial forest station, eventually producing millions of seedlings each year.

By now, in many parts of the province, farmers realized that tree cutting had gone too far. As a result of wood exhaustion, many farmers in southwestern Ontario were burning coal by 1910. On some farms, there was not a single tree that had been spared the woodsman's axe.

The government now thought that the stage was set for farmers to get involved. Zavitz's report had outlined what needed to be done. The government would do its part by giving landowners advice on forestry matters as well as supplying the trees and establishing demonstration areas. But the task of reforesting vast areas of wastelands was too great an undertaking for the farmers to carry out by themselves. Some farmers who had significant areas of blowsand could not even make a living off what was left. How could they possibly rejuvenate their lands when many of them were abandoning their farms altogether?

The rural politicians reacted.

In 1910, a deputation of 14 delegates from the Counties' Council of Northumberland and Durham travelled to Toronto to voice their concerns before the Ontario government. The delegation stated that within their counties there were some 5,600 hectares (14,000 ac.) of wasteland, and this area was spreading rapidly. The situation was becoming increasingly serious. Streams were drying up and farms were experiencing



Waste Lands in Southern Ontario Identified by E. J. Zavitz in 1909 and referred to in his report as figure 1.



droughts. The delegates asked the government to advance them the money required to reforest these problem areas. In return, the counties would pay the government interest until the trees became marketable. At that time the principal would be repaid and a profit made. The government turned down this proposal

but took another look at how the counties' problems might be solved.

The government knew the extent of the wasteland problem from Zavitz's study. The main areas of concern were the sand plains along the north shore of Lake Erie, the sand plains of Simcoe

County, the sands of Prescott and Russell Counties and the interlobate moraine running in an east-

These men from Northumberland and Durham Counties asked the Ontario Government for forestry action in February 1910.

west direction through the Counties of York, Ontario, Durham and Northumberland. In 1911, The Counties Reforestation Act was passed. This Act authorized counties and townships in districts without county organization to pass by-laws for acquiring land suitable for reforestation purposes. The by-law provided for the planting and management of the land and authorized the counties to issue debentures of up to \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing such lands. Individual townships were not given authorization to issue debentures, but were allowed to levy, by special rate, a sum not exceeding \$200 in any year. But unfortunately, no action resulted.

In 1919, E.C. Drury became Premier. By this time the young and energetic Zavitz had become Provincial Forester. That unique mix of forester and farmer-politician finally gelled. Together these two men set the wheels in motion for the beginnings of the Agreement Forest program.

Drury's first move was to make The Counties Reforestation Act of 1911 more attractive. This was done in 1921 with the passing of The Reforestation Act which enabled the Minister of Lands and Forests to enter into agreement for reforesting, developing and managing lands held by the counties. Counties could now call upon the government to do all the work at its expense on lands that were covered by an agreement.

It was Drury's home county—Simcoe—that set the example. In 1922, the county was the first to enter into an agreement. County officials bought the land and the government planted and managed the trees.

Finally, the Agreement Forest program was officially underway.



*E. C. Drury, Premier of Ontario,
1919-1924.*



*E. J. Zavitz, Forestry Pioneer,
1904-1957.*

Of all who plant
And tend a crop
The man of God
And the man of the forest
Dedicate their lives
To a certain faith
In an everlasting harvest
To be enjoyed
In some future time
By others.

Anonymous

GROWTH OF AGREEMENT FORESTS

Following Simcoe's lead, three other counties joined the Agreement Forest family by buying land and signing an agreement with the government which, in turn, planted and managed those lands. By 1926, about 1,600 hectares (4,000 ac.) of land was under agreement. These areas included Hendrie Forest in Simcoe County, Vivian Forest in York County, Northumberland Forest in Northumberland County and Uxbridge Forest in Ontario County.

The Reforestation Act of 1921 was replaced with The Forestry Act of 1927 and the following changes were made:

- "Reforestation purposes" was changed to "Forestry purposes".
- The Minister, as well as controlling, protecting and managing the land under agreement, could now sell and dispose of timber from these lands.
- Lands could now be held by firms, corporations or municipal corporations, as well as by persons.

The program was gradually becoming broader in scope. Further changes would be made as the program matured.

By 1931, Simcoe County as well as Durham and Northumberland Counties were busily expanding their efforts by establishing Orr Lake Forest and Durham Forest. In addition, three more counties had bought wastelands and begun planting—Prescott and Russell Counties (Larose Forest); Victoria County (Victoria Forest); Dufferin County (Dufferin Forest).

The trend continued.



York County Reforestation Committee taken at Vivian Forest in 1924. (Left to right) Morgan Baker, W. G. Scarace, W. C. Gohn, P. W. Pearson, R. Marshall.

Bottom

County officials at Vivian Forest near the same spot in 1938. (Left to right) Morgan Baker, Member of Legislative Assembly; W. C. Gohn; R. Marshall; G. Bayly; P. W. Pearson (seated).

Below

York Regional Forest today.





By 1940, four more counties had purchased land for reforestation and entered into agreements, namely, Bruce County (Sauble Forest); Grey County (Grey Forest); Lanark County (Lanark Forest); Leeds and Grenville County (Limerick Forest). In addition, Simcoe County had created two new forest units—Angus and Tosorontio.

Twelve counties had now signed on the dotted line because they wanted to control blowing sands, put wastelands into forestry use, and protect water supplies.

A growing concern over erosion and flooding problems in southern Ontario resulted in the establishment of the Conservation Branch in the Department of Planning and Development in 1944 with A. H. Richardson as its Head. Two years later, The Conservation Authorities Act was passed enabling individual Conservation Authorities to be formed within the various watersheds primarily in southern Ontario. It was only natural that these soil and water conservationists would look to trees to solve some of their problems. The Conservation Authorities became the second key group to get involved in the Agreement



Top

Selecting the location of the Northumberland Forest in Haldimand Township (north of Cobourg on Highway 45) in 1923 were (left to right) G. M. Linton, Walter Fowlds and Col. Mac Nachtan.

Bottom

Northumberland Forest's three-year-old plantation. Note that pockets of blowsand are still evident. Photo circa 1927.

Forest program when the Ganaraska Conservation Authority signed up in 1947. Its plan was to purchase wastelands within the Ganaraska River watershed as well as wooded areas that happened to be spotted through these barren lands. The Ganaraska's entry into the Agreement Forest program was a welcome event in Durham County, which had difficulties coming up with money for land acquisition after the Depression and following the Second World War. Since the Authority qualified for a provincial grant under the Agreement Forest program, land acquisition by the Ganaraska Authority surged ahead.

The Authority's ultimate goal was to reforest the upper reaches of the watershed. Once these headwaters were reforested, the soil would be stabilized, erosion reduced, water retained and, eventually, spring flooding would be greatly reduced. The principle was simple. The soil of the forest floor would begin to act like a sponge, absorbing water that would otherwise run off rapidly, thus swelling rivers. Rain-water would turn into groundwater rather than floodwater. Droughts on the barren lands would become a thing of the past. The forest cover would also act like an umbrella, shading the snow in the spring. The snow would then melt slowly, releasing water gradually into the rivers. Flooding during spring breakup would be effectively reduced in two ways.

Tree planters at work in eroded gully in the Ganaraska Forest, May 14, 1947.





The Ganaraska Authority set an example for other Authorities to follow. And follow they did. Twenty-two Conservation Authorities eventually joined the Agreement Forest program with 36,796 hectares (93,462 ac.) of land.

Legislative changes in 1945 then made it possible for a third important group—townships—to get involved in Agreement forestry. In 1951, Bonfield Township (District of Nipissing) became the first to sign. Bonfield was eventually joined by nine other townships which also signed agreements.

By 1960, additional legislative changes were made. Now for the first time municipalities could qualify for grants when purchasing land. And finally, the door was opened for towns, cities or townships with a population of 10,000 or more to purchase land for forestry purposes.

The term "forestry purposes" soon came to mean more than just planting trees. It stood for the production of wood and wood products. It also included secondary purposes such as the creation of proper environmental conditions for wildlife, protection against flood and erosion, recreation, and protection and production of water supplies.

Top

By 1950, some of the Agreement Forests planted in the 1920s were old enough to be thinned. Pulp and small posts were cut to make room for the remaining trees.

Bottom

Bruce County Reforestation Committee with Zone Forester looking over land to be purchased for reforestation, Carrick Township, 1957

This new definition stimulated the interest of a fourth organization.

The National Capital Commission, the federal department responsible for beautifying federal lands in and around Ottawa, decided to sign an agreement in 1961. Part of Ottawa's greenbelt was put under the Agreement Forest program. The band of undeveloped land around Ottawa would serve the people well—providing open space, recreation, outdoor education, as well as producing forest products.

In 1970, a major change was made to The Forestry Act. "Forestry purposes" was redefined to give equal status to all elements—that is, wood production and products, environmental conditions for wildlife, protection against flood and erosion, recreation, protection and production of water supplies. The program now became more flexible and broader in scope. Times had changed and the program reflected these changes.

The various forestry purposes were now on an equal footing.

Finally, in 1975, the first corporation entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Domtar Incorporated, interested in securing a wood supply close to their Cornwall mill, signed a 25-year agreement.

Over a 60-year period (1922-1982), the Agreement Forest program has grown to include:



The first private commercial company to enter into an agreement in 1975.

	Area	
19 Counties	57,780 ha	146,760 ac.
6 Regional Municipalities	8,880 ha	22,555 ac.
10 Townships	1,234 ha	3,134 ac.
22 Conservation Authorities	36,796 ha	93,462 ac.
1 Federal Government Agency	1,390 ha	3,532 ac.
1 Corporation	876 ha	2,224 ac.

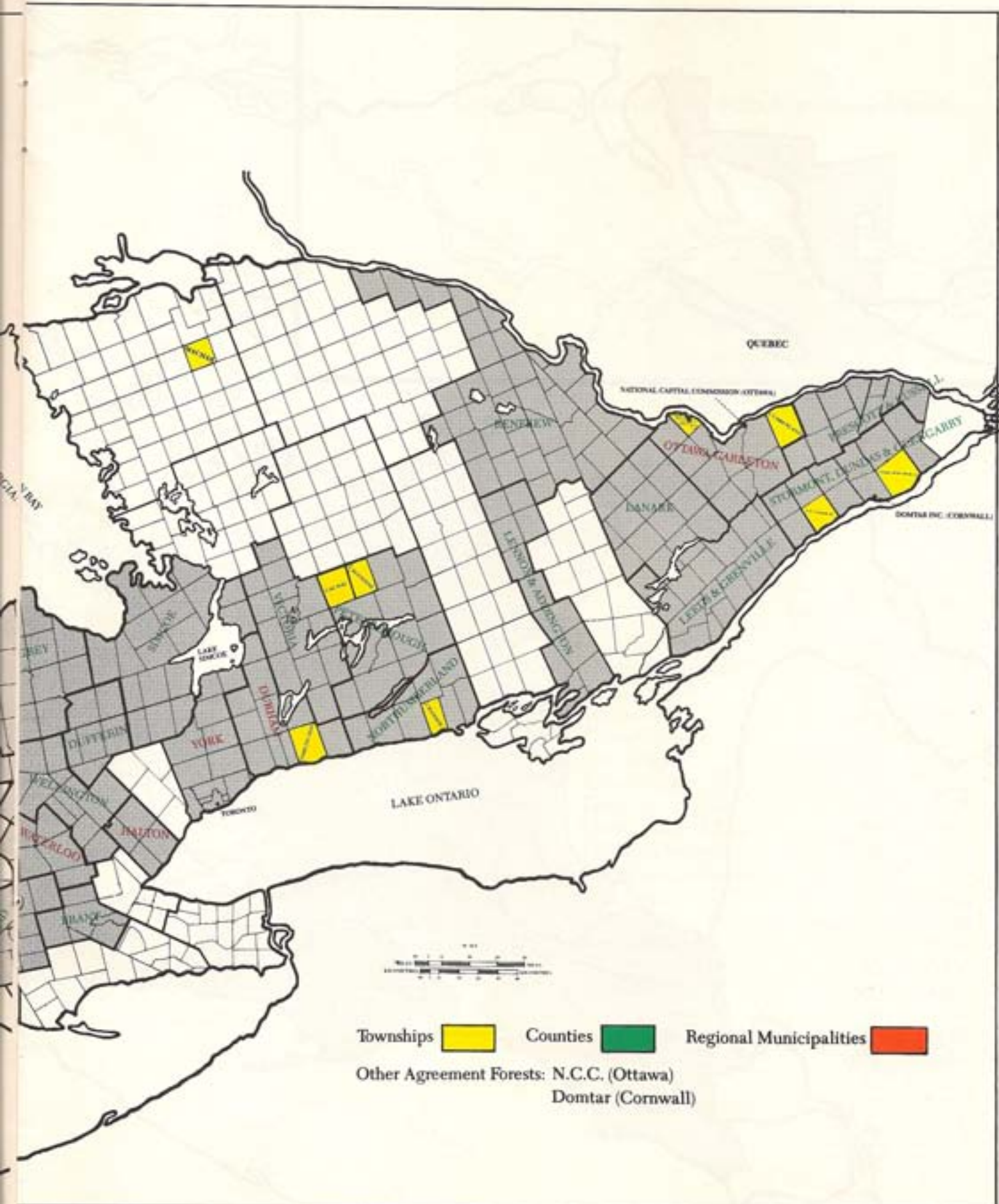
Together, these 59 Agreement owners have 106,956 hectares (271,667 ac.) of land being managed for forestry purposes.

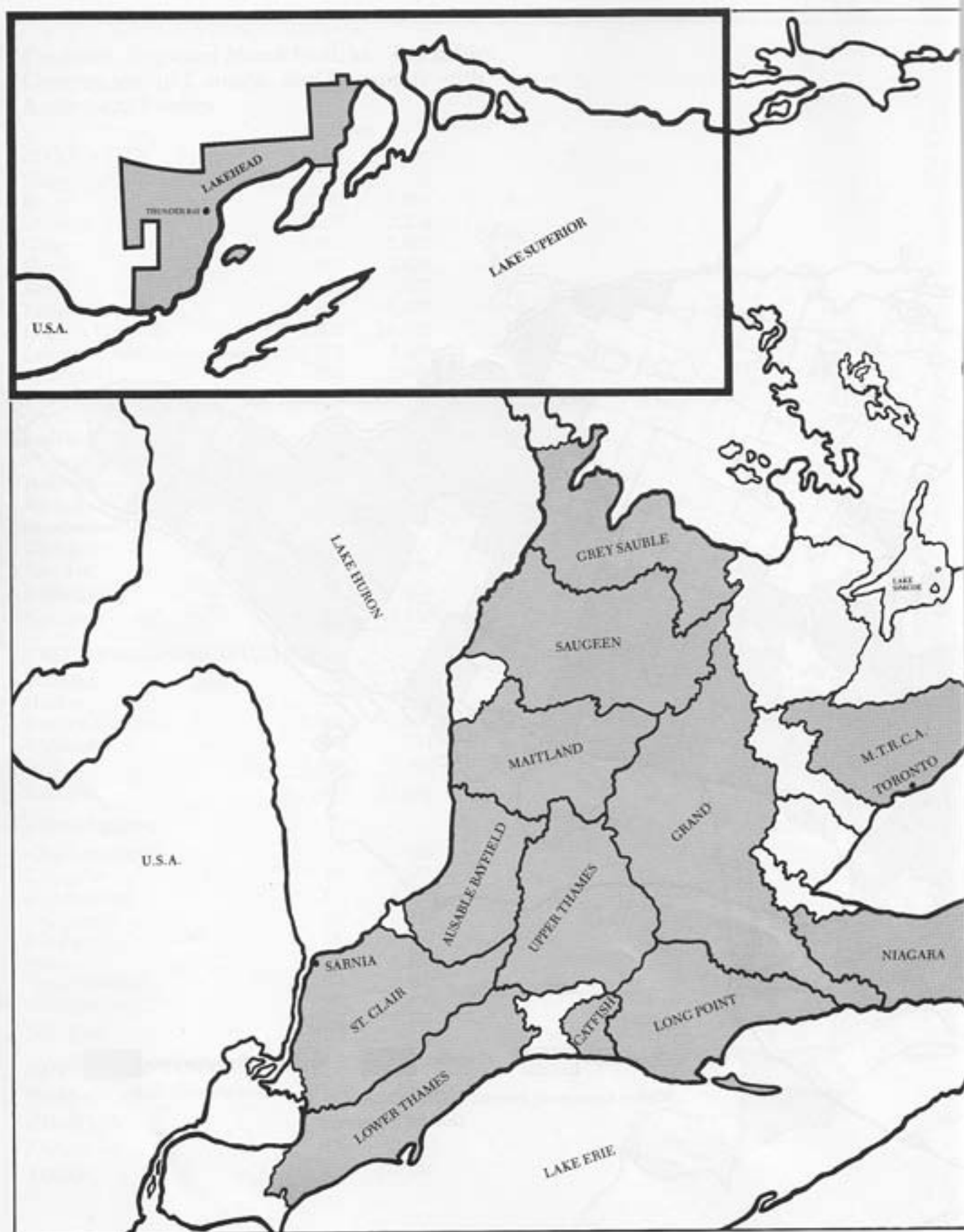
It is one of Canada's most successful forestry programs.

**Counties, Regional Municipalities, Townships,
Government of Canada, and Company with
Agreement Forests**

	Area	
	ha	ac
19 COUNTIES		
Brant	40	99
Bruce	6,106	15,088
Dufferin	1,019	2,518
Grey	3,481	8,602
Huron	662	1,636
Kent	31	77
Lanark	3,807	9,407
Leeds & Grenville	5,802	14,337
Lennox & Addington	473	1,169
Middlesex	981	2,424
Northumberland	2,604	6,435
Oxford	342	845
Peterborough	81	200
Prescott & Russell	10,581	26,146
Renfrew	6,498	16,056
Simcoe	10,588	26,163
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	3,193	7,890
Victoria	3,795	9,378
Wellington	521	1,288
Sub-Total	<u>60,605</u>	<u>149,758</u>
5 REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES		
Durham	591	1,460
Halton	632	1,562
Ottawa-Carleton	5,504	13,600
Waterloo	305	754
York	2,030	5,016
Sub-Total	<u>9,062</u>	<u>22,392</u>
8 TOWNSHIPS		
Charlottenburgh	78	193
Cramahe	65	161
Cumberland	372	919
Darlington	57	141
Machar	36	89
Mosa	58	143
West Carleton	174	430
Williamsburg	162	400
Sub-Total	<u>1,002</u>	<u>2,476</u>
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA		
National Capital Commission	1,704	4,211
COMPANY		
Domtar Inc.	900	2,224
TOTAL	<u>110,939</u>	<u>274,136</u>

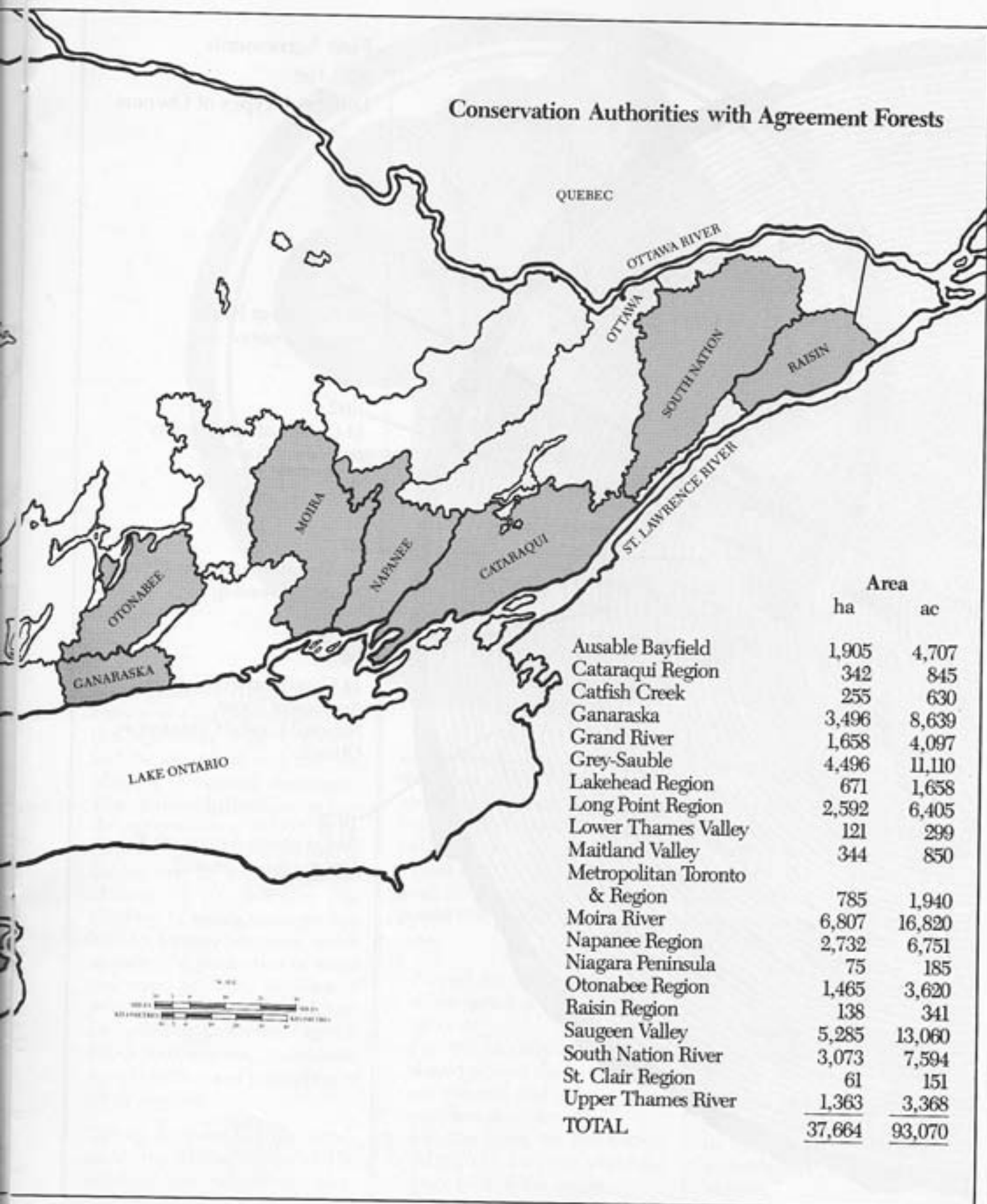






HOW AGREEMENT FORESTS WORK

Conservation Authorities with Agreement Forests



**First Agreements
with the
Different Types of Owners**

1922.
1st Agreement Forest,
Simcoe County.

1947.
1st Conservation Authority
Agreement Forest,
Ganaraska.

1951.
1st Township Agreement Forest,
Bonfield Township.

1961.
1st Government of Canada
Agreement Forest,
National Capital Commission,
Ottawa.

1975.
1st Corporate Agreement Forest,
Domtar Inc., Cornwall.

HOW AGREEMENT FORESTS WORK



The Agreement Forests program consists of a partnership between the landowner (e.g., a county) and the forest land manager (the Ministry of Natural Resources). The partnership begins as soon as the agreement is signed. Basically, the owner leases the land to the Ministry for a specific period of time—20 to 50 years. The Ministry in return manages this land for forestry purposes, which includes the production of wood and wood products, provision of proper environmental conditions for wildlife, protection against floods and erosion, recreation, and protection and production of water supplies.

During the period of the agreement, the Ministry pays all the expenses and collects any reve-

nues. Financial records are updated annually. Provisions are also made for the agreement holder to make annual payments to the Ministry for costs incurred, as well as to receive annual revenues. At the end of the agreement period, the owner has three options:

- Extend the agreement for another period of time (i.e., 20 to 50 years).
- Pay the Ministry all net costs shared against the forests without interest and assume management of the forests.
- Sell the forest to the Crown (Ministry) for the purchase price paid by the owner.

These are the terms for most agreements. Agreement terms with industry do differ and will be explained later.

There are also some other conditions which deserve mention. There is no charge for the trees used for reforestation. And in order to help counties, regional municipalities, townships and conservation authorities acquire land, the Ministry may approve grants for amounts up to 75 per cent of the value of the land, and for a similar percentage of legal fees. However, lands for which a grant is received cannot be sold without Ministry approval and proceeds from such sales must be shared equally between the agreement-holder and the Ministry.

In addition, the amount of land placed under agreement may be changed. Provisions are made for adding land purchases during the agreement period or for withdrawing specific areas. And finally, when an area is managed for recreation purposes, the costs and revenues are not charged against the forest but are treated as current expenditure and revenue either by the Ministry, the agreement-holder, or shared between the two.

Work begins immediately once an agreement is in place. First, a forester prepares a 20-year management plan—a blue-print for the orderly development of the forest. The plan states how the land will be managed for forestry purposes. Once the owner approves the plan, action starts on

the ground. This may involve a number of activities such as tree planting, forest stand improvement, construction of roads, trails, fences, picnic tables and shelters, ponds, erosion control, wildlife habitat improvement, etc. The type of activities will, of course, depend on the specific objectives and the type of the land (i.e., open, forested, flooded, etc.).

The agreement-holder is kept fully informed about what is happening on his land. In addition to the long-term management plan, a short-term operating plan is prepared that details how and where all operations will take place. As well, annual reports are given which include details of work done, expenditure and revenue. Included with this is

a proposed plan for the next year. But plans on paper are not enough. To make sure agreement-holders have an opportunity to see their forests, the Ministry arranges annual field trips.

The agreement signed with industry—Domtar Incorporated—is also for forestry purposes. The

Bottom

Management for forestry purposes involves planting open lands with trees. Machine tree planting on the Moira Conservation Authority Forest, Hastings County, 1955.

Bottom right

Management for erosion control involves tree planting. Here water erosion is so severe that poplar stakes (sharpened ends of poplar stems) are actually driven into the ground so they can take root.



Top

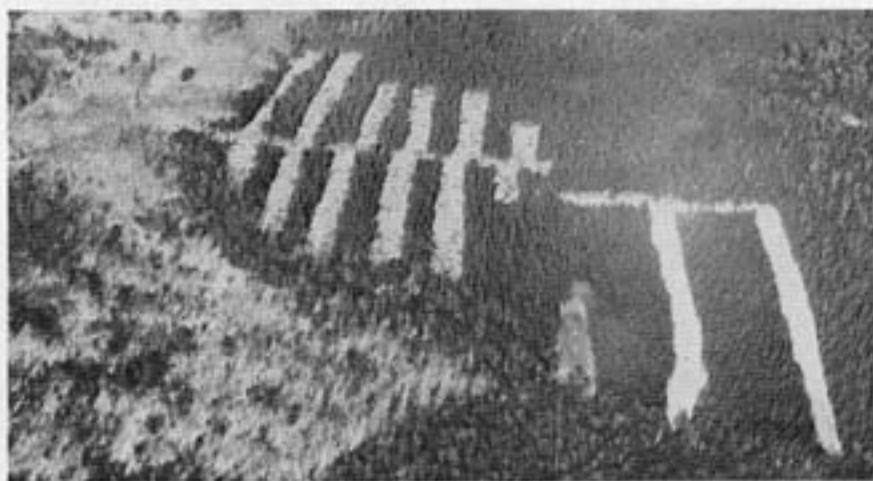
Management for high quality timber production involves thinning woodlots. Stems of poor quality have been cut in the Wildman Forest, Simcoe County, in order to allow the better trees to grow vigorously.

Centre

Management for wildlife habitat can be achieved through modified cutting. Here a cedar forest has been strip cut to improve deer habitat. The tree regeneration in the cut strips provides deer with food. The uncut cedar provides good winter cover. In addition, cedar posts were produced from the cut timber. (Photo: Otonabee Region Conservation Authority.)

Bottom

Foresters and biologists check successful natural tree regeneration within the cut strips of this cedar forest. The young regeneration within the strips, which now provides food for deer, will one day grow to become good cover. Note the uncut cedar strips in the background that now serve as winter cover for wildlife.



main objective is to quickly grow wood close to Domtar's mill in Cornwall. The terms of the agreement, therefore, are different from those in other agreements. The specifics of the agreement are:

- The agreement is for 25 years; however, it may be terminated in specific years (i.e., 1984, 1989 or 1994).
- The company pays for nursery stock.
- The forest products harvested by the company are subject to stumpage (i.e., a specific price charged for standing trees).
- The Ministry may harvest forest products with company approval, but the company is offered the first opportunity to buy the material with proceeds treated as revenue.

Below

Management for recreation may involve pond construction and fish stocking. This pond at York Region's Vivian Forest is stocked with splake.

Right

Part and parcel of management is fire protection. Fire towers are still used in two of the large Agreement Forests (Ganaraska and Larose). An outbreak of fire in a large tract of forested land can be spotted quickly from such towers. (Photo: Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.)

Bottom right

Ministry staff are trained to suppress fires should they occur. Here a fire crew carries out a practice exercise digging a fire line which would be used to stop the spread of a ground fire.



- All logs produced from the area are scaled (measured) by the Ministry and costs of scaling are treated as a management cost.
- All hunting and fishing rights on the lands are transferred to the Ministry, but approval by the company is required if the Crown wishes to allow hunting and fishing.
- Any revenues derived from hunting and fishing are not credited to the forestry account.
- The Ministry provides for the company's approval, at the beginning of each year, a plan outlining the work to be performed and the estimated cost of its undertaking.

As with other agreements, there are three options available at the termination of the agreement. The first is the same as for the other agreements, i.e., the company pays the Ministry all expenditures, less revenues, without interest and assumes management of the property. The second option provides for the renewal of the agreement for a further 20-year period. The third option states that the Ministry may acquire the land at a purchase price equivalent to market value, providing the company pays the Ministry all expenditures, less revenue, without interest.

To date, 876 hectares (2,224 ac.) are under agreement with Domtar with plans for more. The Ministry is managing these lands for the production of wood fibre. Fast-growing hybrid poplar has been planted to ensure a rapid return on the company's investment.

Domtar executives stand proudly in front of a hybrid poplar plantation that will quickly provide wood fibre for the company. (Left to right) J. H. Iverson, R. Hilliker, A. J. Ross and R. Johnson.



SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Simcoe County took the first step. The county signed an agreement as early as 1922 and has continued to set a good example in forest management ever since. The original agreement was renewed in 1949 and, to date, 11,068 hectares (28,114 ac.) are being actively managed.

Let's take a closer look at what took place in Simcoe County during the early years of settlement and why this county has

one of the largest Agreement Forest programs today.

Simcoe County was endowed with a broad carpet of mature green forest dominated by giant pines, maples, beeches and oak. One could easily ride through it on horseback because the heavy shade from the towering trees prevented any growth on the forest floor. Walking through these pine forests was a transcending experience. Footsteps could not be heard because the

thick layer of pine needles cushioned and absorbed the sound. Volumes of 20,000-50,000 board feet per acre were common.

By the mid-1800s, this lumberman's paradise was being exploited for masts needed for Britain's Royal Navy. The harvested material was huge. One pine mast cut in Innisfil Township required fourteen teams of horses to haul it. By 1861, production of timber in the county totalled 200 million board feet yearly, or one

Top

Warden Banting planting the first tree at Simcoe County's Hendrie Forest, May 8, 1922. The infant is J. Patrick Kearns—six weeks old.

Bottom

The same location with J. Patrick Kearns among the pines—16 years later.

The same location with J. Patrick Kearns—60 years later.



third of the total for Upper Canada. White pine was the main timber cut; it was five times more plentiful than red pine. By 1871, there were 114 sawmills in the county, many of them cutting 30 million board feet or more per year.

These sawmills sprang up close to good supplies of timber, usually on a river or lake. Railway lines were soon threaded to major mill centres. The best of the pine was "squared" and then shipped by rail to Toronto where log rafts were built. The rafts were assembled there and floated to Quebec for overseas shipment. During these times, timber provided 95 per cent of the traffic on the Northern Railway.

Roads followed the loggers and their camps. They were originally known as "cache roads" and

later as "tote roads", meaning supply roads. Settlers followed the roads.

Tug boats steamed out of Barrie, Orillia and Midland, pulling and rafting the logs for milling. They also doubled as excursion boats.

Mills were everywhere in the county—Severn Bridge, Hillsdale, Fesserton, New Lowell, Craigvale, Collingwood, Angus—wherever there was water to turn a wheel, it seemed. The lumbermen introduced many improvements—roads, bridges, ditching—and in one mill at Midland, an electric arc light plant was used which enabled the mill to operate all night. As it was so amazing, a special excursion boat operated to show people the lights on the lake at night.

James Playfair's Sawmill, Midland, Ontario (Archives of Ontario).

Out of the forests in those early years came squared timber, dimension timbers for bridges, masts, sleepers, logs for lumber, buildings, laths, barrel staves, shakes, shingles, pail material, tubs, crating, bark for leather tanning, fuels, and some hardwoods for flooring and furniture. Some ships' knees and keels were made from local oaks. Oak, ash, cedar and pine were split by hand for use in fence construction.

Also of great importance at that time was the cutting of fuelwood. Wood heated the buildings and fired locomotives, steamboats and threshers. Many settlers derived part of their income from cutting wood for fuel. Great piles of maple and beech lined the railways in readiness for the hungry steamers. In 1853, wood sold for \$1.75 a cord, delivered.



SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Then came the fires. From 1860 to 1890 thousands of acres of prime forest were devastated. In clearing land for agriculture, many thousands of large, clear logs were heaped in piles and burned. Soon only the stumps were left. But not for long. People next had contracts for removing stumps and roots for the pitch they contained. The wood was transported by wagon train to Collingwood where a factory extracted the gummy juices and converted it to turpentine. The final cleanup came during the depression years when the remaining roots were gathered and sold in towns for firewood at \$1.50 per load.

By 1890, pine logging had declined in the county and so did the large sawmill operations. The smaller mills still flourished as did the communities around them. Now as much hardwood lumber

was cut as pine. As this timber supply dwindled, even the smaller mills disappeared.

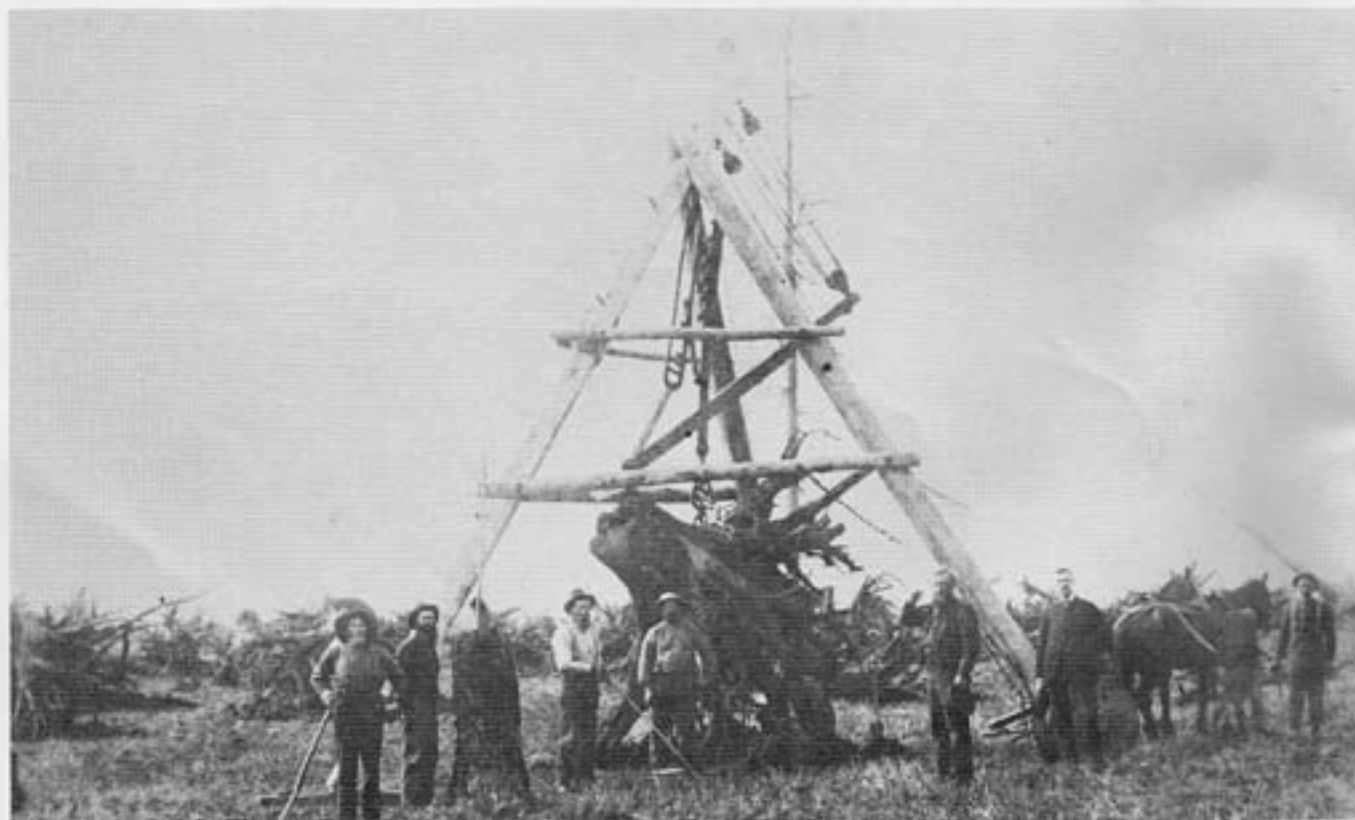
But the sandy soils that once grew pine could not support agricultural crops. The land was just barely usable as pasture. So for a period, the pine plains around Angus became cattle country. Stock was branded, earmarked and released on the open range to roam at will until the big fall round-up took place—the way it was done out west.

About the only other use found for these barren plains was berry production. But this created problems. To keep the area in berries, annual fires had to occur. And occur they did. Careless campers or berry pickers would set parts of the Angus, Midhurst and Orr Lake plains ablaze. This ensured a good berry crop next year, but killed any hope of forest regeneration. According to old-

timers, the burning fires were something to behold. Some nights, the flames turned the skies red over Midhurst, Anten Mills and Orr Lake. Even the Collingwood train rolling into Barrie was affected. On some runs, the paint on the sides of the railway cars was blistered after running through fires on the Angus plain.

Everything seemed to conspire to keep large parts of Simcoe County open and devoid of trees. Before long the light soil began to break up into pockets of blow-sand. Local officials realized something had to be done to restore productivity to the land. Trees once gave life to the county; now it was time to give

Land clearing at Metcalf's farm, Innisfil Township, with the Joseph Reid Stumping Machine, 1882 (Simcoe County Archives).



STATE OF AGREEMENT FORESTS

something back. These men made a commitment to reforestation. They would start with the pine barrens, the wasteland created by overlogging. Next would come the sub-marginal agricultural land, the land that should never have been cleared. Soon after he became Premier of Ontario, E. C. Drury (a resident of Simcoe County) brought in the Reforestation Act of 1921. By the next year, Hendrie Forest, the first Agreement Forest in Ontario, was planted in Simcoe County. It is extremely fitting that the first trees in the first Agreement Forest to be planted in Ontario were just 13 kilometres away from the home of E. C. Drury, the man who started it all.

Simcoe County has never looked back, and continues to take pride in reforestation and forest management. Much of the land put under agreement was originally submarginal farmland either too light, too stony and, in a few cases, too wet to farm. These lands were reforested with over 20 million trees. Many of the woodlots also acquired through the purchase of unproductive farms were improved by means of proper cutting methods. For the first quarter-century, little was produced other than a few sawlogs and fuelwood from improve-



Top

The wide open plains of Angus once grew great stands of pine. In 1906, only scattered pines remained.

Bottom

Repeated ground fires prevented the natural regeneration of red pine on the sand plains. E. C. Drury stands among young pine trees killed by a fire. Note charred stump. Photo 1906.

ment cuts in the existing woodlots. Today, these areas are highly productive plantations and well-managed woodlots, as well as great places for recreation and good habitat for many types of wildlife.

From 1922 to 1948, the forest was becoming established. When the oldest plantations were 26 years of age, a program of thinning began. Thinning is simply the process of removing some of the trees so that the remaining ones can grow taller and faster. These first thinnings were sold mostly for pulpwood, but a few small

Simcoe County's Wildman Forest is growing on land that once supported magnificent pine.

sawlogs and bolts were marketed for other purposes as well. On the whole, the Simcoe plantations were very successful. Annual growth in the early years often averaged from one to one-and-one-half cords per acre. As the plantations got older, second, third and fourth thinnings took place. Also, the size of the timber and variety of product increased with a corresponding increase in value. Recently, forestry operations have been bringing in \$60,000 and more every year. By 1999, the termination date of the agreement, the net operating expenditure of this forest will likely be fully off-set by the revenues.

That's a far cry from the bleak years of 1922—and Simcoe peo-

ple can feel justifiably proud. They put their faith in reforestation, and, in doing so, the future.

In recognition of the role that E. C. Drury played, Simcoe County named one of their forests after him—the E. C. Drury County Forest. Upon being told of this honour, Drury proudly said, "I would rather have this for my monument than a statue in Queen's Park." It's an honour that grows in time.

In 1982, it is Simcoe County's turn to be honoured. The Canadian Forestry Association chose the County as the "Forestry Capital of Canada" for the year. Again, a well-deserved honour.



NATURE OF AGREEMENT FORESTS

The lands under agreement vary tremendously. In southwestern Ontario, the majority of the forests are on shallow soils in Bruce County or on gravelly drumlins and poorly drained lands in Grey County and the Thames watershed. Yet in some of the smaller areas bordering Lake Erie and southern Lake Huron owned by Conservation Authorities, the soil is excellent for producing any number of species.

In south central Ontario, many of the Agreement Forests are situated on sand plains (e.g., Simcoe County) or on the Oak Ridges moraine which stretches from the Regional Municipality of York to Northumberland County. For the most part, these are highly productive sites for pine.

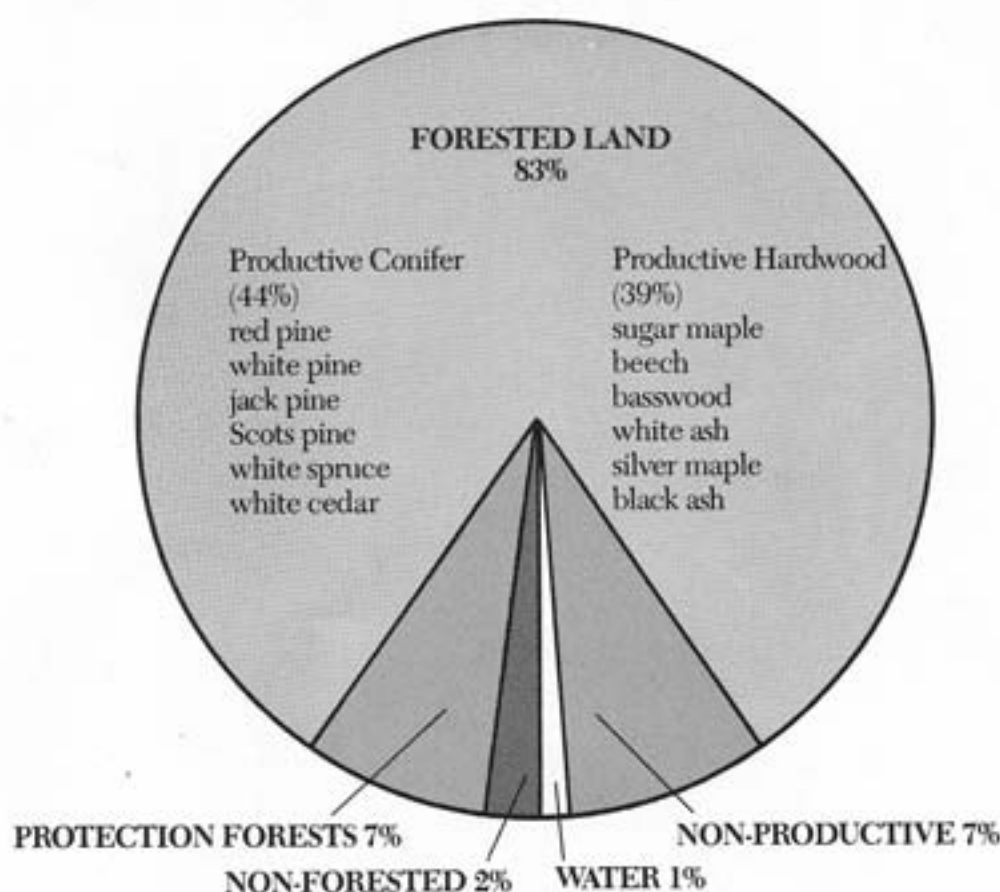
In southeastern Ontario, the sites range from large areas of sand (e.g., Larose Forest) which produce good pine to moderately productive soils of the Canadian

Shield (e.g., Lanark County Forest), as well as very shallow soils over limestone (Limerick Forest and Napanee Region).

In the Algonquin region, the forests are located either on sand plains or on the Canadian Shield.

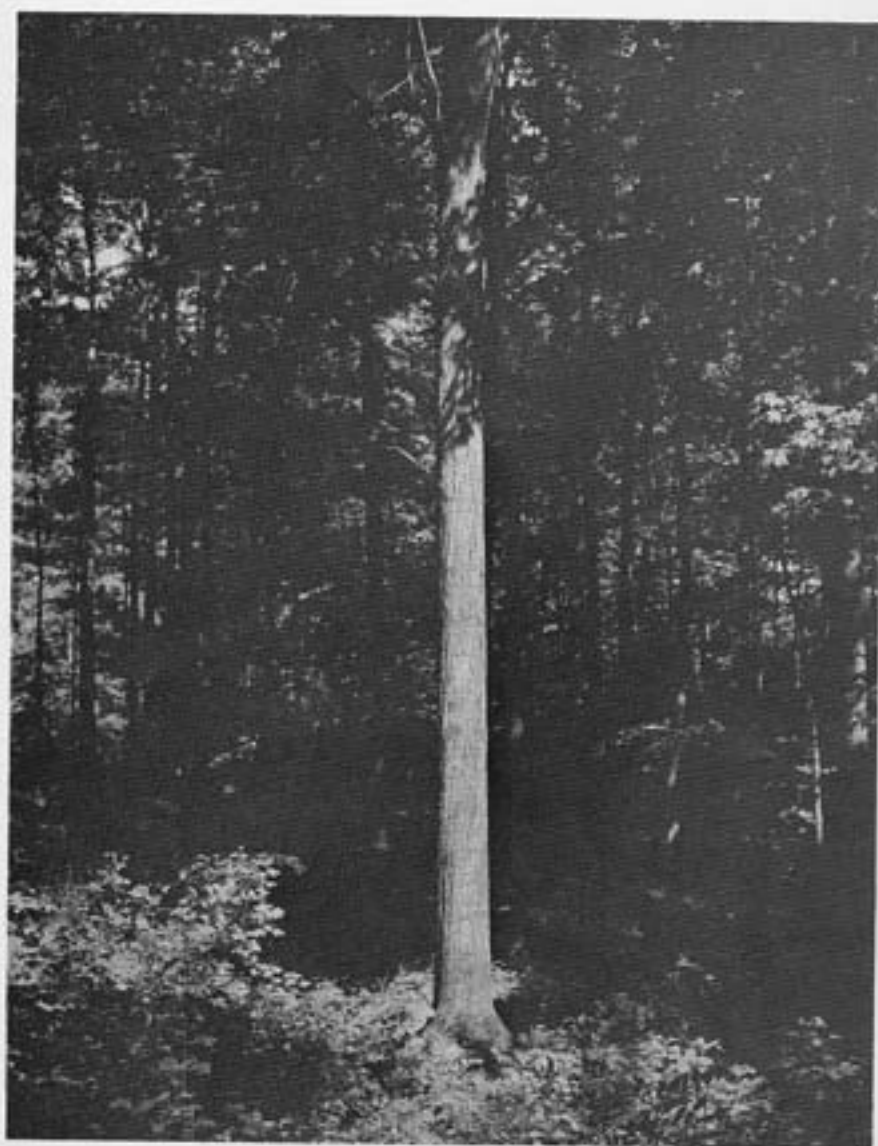
More of the productive forest is in conifer cover rather than hardwood (i.e., deciduous trees). Many of the conifers were planted whereas the hardwoods occupy the naturally wooded areas.

Composition of Agreement Forests



A productive coniferous forest (white pine).





Just over half of the conifers are from the pine family. Their presence is quite noticeable since they occupy one-quarter of the total productive forest. Red pine is king here since it represents 60 per cent of these growing pines. The reason for this is that red pine and sand go well together. Much of sandy wasteland is a good home for red pine.

One-quarter of the productive conifer forest is under spruce cover. This is 10 per cent of the coniferous forest. Spruce mostly grows on the wetter lands as well as on the heavier soils such as clay.

Cedar and other conifers such as balsam fir and hemlock make up the last quarter of the productive conifer forests. Cedar is the dominate species of this group and usually grows naturally in swamps.

Hardwoods which grow on about 39 per cent of the total Agreement Forest area and comprise 47 per cent of the productive forest are about equally divided between maple, poplar, lowland hardwoods (mainly silver maple, black ash) and other hardwoods. The latter category has a high proportion of oak with other upland hardwoods such as ash, basswood, beech, black cherry well represented. These trees, as well as maple, are the most valuable in terms of lumber production.

Top

A productive hardwood forest (maple).

Bottom

Non-productive forest land, open wetlands.



FOREST USES FROM A TO Z

We use Agreement Forests for everything from apiculture to zoology studies. The following are the more important uses:

- Erosion Control
- Forest Research
- Outdoor Education

- Recreation
- Tree Improvement
- Water Supply Protection
- Wildlife Habitat
- Wood Production
- Youth Activities.

Erosion Control

One of the best ways to control soil erosion is with trees, which make great anchors. They stop the soil from being moved by wind or water.

Soil erosion is stopped by trees and also by check dams such as this one in the Ganaraska Forest. Although this little valley becomes a small river each spring, little soil is washed away.



Forest Research

To ensure that the forests are healthy and growing vigorously, researchers monitor and study tree growth. That's why research

Top

A red pine tree is cut and sectioned so that sample tree discs can be taken at various parts of the tree for a stem analysis study.

Bottom

Stem analysis involves studying the growth of the entire tree stem (height and diameter) by counting and measuring annual growth rings. Each stack of tree discs represents an entire tree.

plots are established throughout many of the Agreement Forests.

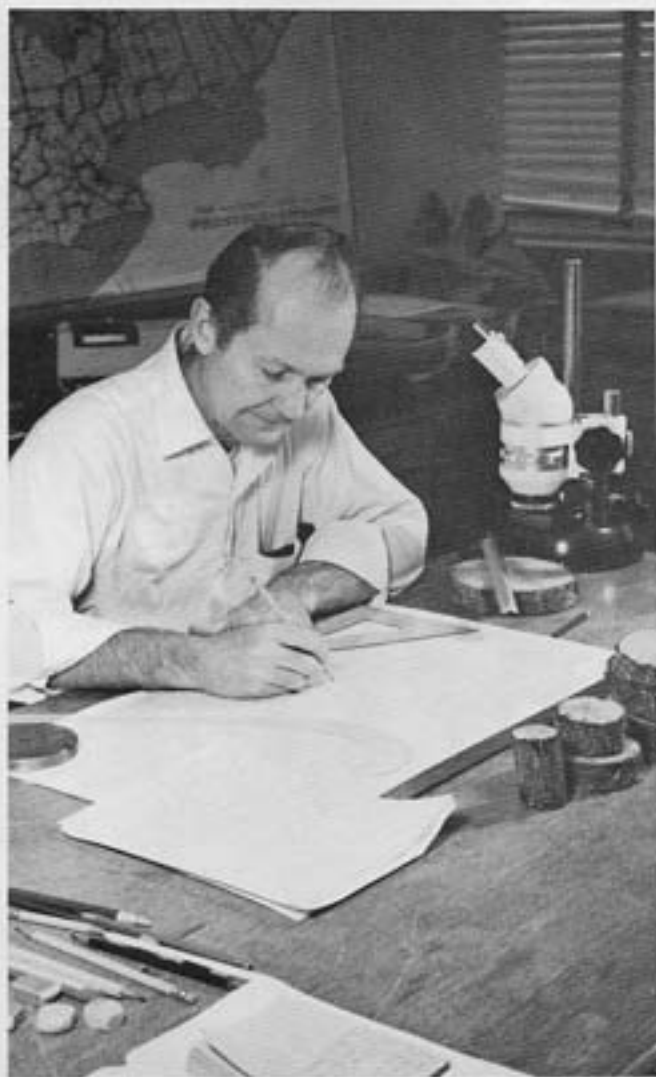
Ministry staff from the Ontario Tree Improvement and Forest Biomass Institute in Maple, Ontario are presently involved in dozens of projects monitoring the growth of conifer plantations and hardwood woodlots. These findings are what foresters use to make management decisions.

Ministry foresters also work closely with staff from Government of Canada's Great Lakes Forest Research Centre. Currently, the major areas of concern are the establishment of hardwood plantations. The research has yielded

new knowledge that is being put into practice almost immediately.

Foresters try to manage Agreement Forests to their full potential. Research makes that potential grow more every day.

A research scientist at the Ontario Tree Improvement and Forest Biomass Institute plots stem analysis data so that the pattern of growth can be analysed. Foresters use this information for management planning.





The growth response of the large maple trees is monitored by means of dendrometer tapes. Growth is faster after thinning. Removing larger trees also stimulates regeneration.



Research into planting hardwoods such as black walnut has been very rewarding. Here eleven-year-old black walnut trees are being measured at the Halton Region Forest. This research is being carried out by researchers from the Canadian Forestry Service at the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre, Sault Ste. Marie.

Outdoor Education

What stimulates a young child's mind more than learning in an outdoor setting? Learning becomes so much more interesting when children can reach out and touch growing things. For the many school boards who would like local children to appreciate their surroundings, Agreement Forests are ideal places for study. Exposing thousands of school children to the world around them is one of the few ways we have to ensure that the resource management mistakes of history are never repeated.



Top

Explaining the construction of snowshoes and how they work (Photo: National Capital Commission).

Bottom

Discovering delicious wild grapes amongst a pine plantation at the Ganaraska Forest.



Recreation

During every season of the year, Agreement Forests are used in some way for recreation. Whether it is walking, jogging, running, skiing, riding, orienteering or picnicking, there is always someone doing something. In one instance, a couple even got married in a cathedral of tall pines.

The Agreement Forests that have the greatest recreational use are usually located close to large urban centres such as Ottawa and Toronto. At York Region's Vivian Forest, over 50,000 people recreate there annually. And the recreational use of the forest is increasing every year.



Top

Hiking along one of Lanark County's forest trails.

Centre

A free wheeling encounter with nature along the Sarsaparilla Trail in Ottawa which can accommodate the handicapped (Photo: National Capital Commission).

Bottom

Trail riding in the Ganaraska Forest (Photo: Ganaraska Conservation Authority).



A big fish for a little guy! (Photo: Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.)





Dog sled races take place in some of the forests (Photo: Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority).

Snowmobiling along trails is enjoyed by many.



Summary of Recreational Uses on Agreement Forests

Boating

on 8 Agreement Forests
2,165 ha (5,500 ac.) of water
annual use—300 boats

Camping

on 3 forest tracts
annual use—140 campers

Fishing

on 31 forest tracts
annual use—5,670 fishermen

Hunting

on 227 forest tracts
annual use—30,500 hunters

Picnicking

on 73 forest tracts
annual use—22,785 picnickers

Trails

(for all uses): open to public on
147 forest tracts

Bicycling

on 35 forest tracts
858 km (530 mi) of road
(not reserved)

Hiking

on 119 forest tracts
89 km (55 mi) of trail
(Bruce, Ganaraska,
Rideau, etc.)
annual use—53,150 hikers

Horseback Riding

on 82 forest tracts
76 km (30 mi) of trails
annual use—15,500 riders

Nature Tours

on 25 forest tracts
19 self-guiding
15 guided
7 literature supplied
465 km (287 mi) of trails
used for nature tours
annual use—29,050 people

Recreational Driving

on 41 forest tracts
810 km (500 mi) of roads
annual use—48,420 vehicles

Cross-Country Skiing

on 92 forest tracts
annual use—31,000 people
on trails; 30,750
people at random
in forest

Downhill Skiing

on 1 forest tract leased to club

Ice Skating

on 1 tract
0.2 ha (0.5 ac) of ice
annual use—200 people

Snowshoeing

on 110 forest tracts
annual use—10,400 people on
trails; 9,000 people at
random in forest

Tobogganing

on 6 forest tracts
1 lift or tow

A.T.V. Operation

on 129 forest tracts
658 km (406 mi) reserved for
snowmobiles
13 km (8 mi) reserved for
motorcycles
13 km (8 mi) reserved for dune
buggies

Cross-country skiing into solitude.



Tree Improvement

Trees are being improved through genetic research. Improved trees will grow faster, taller and have better form. Ministry foresters have already selected some of the better tree specimens growing on Agreement Forests. Some of the best white pine and white spruce have been labelled superior "plus trees." In addition, seed production areas have been established in various Agreement Forests. These areas are being managed for the production of top quality seed. These superior parent trees and quality seed will enable foresters to propagate millions of tree seedlings which will be used to grow whole forests of superior trees.

A white pine "plus" tree is selected for its superior form and growth. This high quality tree will be used to propagate many good quality trees in the future.

A pine plantation is being managed for the production of good quality seed which will be used to grow trees for future forests.



Water Supply Protection

Forested areas have the capacity to capture and hold water. Without trees on the land, the water would run off and the ground-water supply diminish. Large areas of forested wetlands also serve as reservoirs which can

hold back spring floods as well as ensure a regular stream flow the year-round.

The forests, together with the soil, play a key role in water conservation.



Wildlife Habitat

Forests serve wildlife's three basic needs—food, cover and water. All together, these three factors make up the animals' habitat or, simply put, a place where animals live.

Agreement Forests provide such habitats. On many areas, favourable wildlife habitat has been created where nothing but blow-sands once existed.



Grouse are common on many Agreement Forests.

Deer may be found where good habitat is available to them.

Wood Production

Some of the oldest plantations in Ontario's Agreement Forests are becoming quite valuable because Agreement Forests are among the best managed forests in the province. For example, the present value of the growing stock in a

red pine plantation 50 years of age would be approximately

Young plantations are thinned to allow the remaining trees to grow quickly. These trees are cut into pulpwood.





Above

Plantations over forty-years-old produce high quality poles or sawlogs.

Right

High quality hardwood (maple) sawlogs are produced from well-managed stands (Wellington County Forest).

\$5,080 per hectare (\$2,000 per acre). In addition to this, \$760



per hectare (\$300 per acre) in stumpage revenue would have already been produced as a result of three past thinnings. Therefore, the real value of such a plantation is \$5,840 per hectare (\$2,300 per acre). That's quite a return from land that, at one time, was blow-sand.

The total forest management program involves the cutting and harvesting of merchantable

timber, regenerating, tending and the protection of the forest. With careful planning, the forest can be managed for wood production while, at the same time, provide for recreation, erosion control, water supply protection and suitable wildlife habitat.

Trees have always been vital to Ontario's economic well-being. Agreement Forests are a part of that rich tradition.

Youth Activities

Junior rangers were involved in thinning plantations even during the 1950s.

Young people and trees. When both are given attention and care, they grow to their fullest potential. There are several programs that involve these two natural resources. Here are just two such examples.

Junior rangers employed by the Ministry during the summer months to work with Ontario's

Today, junior rangers still carry out stand improvement work such as pruning white pine trees to improve the quality of the wood (i.e., production of knot-free lumber).



Boy Scouts assemble to plant Trees for Canada.



natural resources enjoy and learn from their outdoor experience. Some of their work takes place in Agreement Forests across Ontario.

Boy Scouts have been planting trees on Agreement Forests since 1929. They have been involved in various tree planting programs such as the annual Boy Scout Forestry Camps at Angus (1929-39), the planting of the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Forest in the 1950s and, since the 1970s, in the Trees for Canada program. Under this latest program, one million trees are planted annually, some in Agreement Forests. Truly a great contribution by today's youth.



Planting, at times, can be hard work.

AN EVERGREEN FUTURE

Since 1922, the Agreement Forest program has turned vast wastelands into forests that provide all kinds of wood products. The forests managed under this program became healthy, vigorous and productive. At the same time, the soils of areas suffering wind and water erosion were stabilized with trees. The now-stable soil became a sponge to the rains, thereby enriching the supply of groundwater and relieving droughts. The forests reduced the rate of meltwater each spring, thus reducing spring floods, and the lush green foliage created a new habitat for wildlife. Finally, man found these forests ideal for recreation.

That, basically, is the Agreement Forest story. It is one of daring men who took upon themselves to meet the challenge of renewing and nurturing forest lands. The challenge has been successfully met, but that does not mean it is the end. Not at all. We have to continue managing the forests that are already under agreement. This is our commitment to you. Also, we must ensure that any other lands lying idle or containing forests in a depleted condition become rejuvenated. Any corporate body that wishes to bring such areas back to life can still do so through the Agreement Forest program.

Get in touch with the Ministry of Natural Resources. We want to help.

The challenge is evergreen, forever demanding, forever growing, forever rewarding.



HOW TO GET THERE

In most instances, you will have to drive to an Agreement Forest. The walking will start once you get there. That is because most of these forests are located away from built-up, populated areas. There are a few exceptions, of course. In Ottawa, access to certain parts of the forest is possible even by public transportation—namely, bus.

Where are the forests? To find out, just contact your nearest office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and ask for directions and a map of the forest area. You'll probably be surprised to learn there are several Agreement Forests you never knew existed nearby. Take advantage of them.

The forest in Ottawa has 11 bus stops through it.

Parking lots are available at some Agreement Forests.



District Offices

Southern Ontario

Algonquin Region

Algonquin Park District
P.O. Box 219
Whitney, Ontario
K0J 2M0
Telephone (705) 637-2780

Bancroft District
P.O. Box 500
Bancroft, Ontario
K0L 1C0
Telephone (613) 332-3940

Bracebridge District
Box 1138, Highway 11
Bracebridge, Ontario
P0B 1C0
Telephone (705) 645-8747

Minden District
Minden, Ontario
K0M 2K0
Telephone (705) 286-1521

Parry Sound District
4 Miller Street
Parry Sound, Ontario
P2A 1S8
Telephone (705) 746-4201

Pembroke District
P.O. Box 220
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 6X4
Telephone (613) 732-3661

Central Region

Cambridge District
R.R.1, Beaverville Road
Cambridge, Ontario
N3C 2V3
Telephone (519) 658-9355

Huron District
Midhurst, Ontario
L0L 1X0
Telephone (705) 728-2900

Lindsay District
322 Kent Street West
Lindsay, Ontario
K9V 2Z9
Telephone (705) 324-6121

Maple District
Maple, Ontario
L0J 1E0
Telephone (416) 832-2761

Niagara District
Box 1070, Highway 20
Fonthill, Ontario
L0S 1E0
Telephone (416) 892-2656

Eastern Region

Brockville District
101 Water Street
Brockville, Ontario
K6V 5Y8
Telephone (613) 342-8524

Carleton Place District
10 Findlay Avenue
Carleton Place, Ontario
K7C 3Z6
Telephone (613) 257-5735

Cornwall District
113 Amelia Street
Cornwall, Ontario
K6H 5V7
Telephone (613) 933-1774

Napanee District
1 Richmond Boulevard
Napanee, Ontario
K7R 3S3
Telephone (613) 354-2173

Tweed District
P.O. Box 70
Metcalf Street
Tweed, Ontario
K0K 3J0
Telephone (613) 478-2330

Southwestern Region

Aylmer District
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The Heart of the Tree

What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants cool shade and tender rain,
And seeds and buds of days to be,
And years that fade and flush again;
He plants the glory of the plain,
He plants the forest's heritage;
The harvest of a coming age;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see—
These things he plants who plants a tree.

What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,
In love of home and loyalty
And far-cast thought of civic good—
His blessing on the neighbourhood
Who in the hollow of his hand
Holds all the growth of all our land—
A nation's growth from sea to sea
Stirs in his heart who plants a tree.

H. C. Bunner
in the "Century"



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