

Summaries of Annual General Meetings

October 3, 2020 - 9th AGM - at Royal Canadian Legion in Kensington.

Directors: Kathy Stuart (Chair), John Keuper, Patrick Martens, James MacDonald, Jesse Argent, Bruce Craig, John Arthur Ramsay, Matt McIver, Elwin Sharpe, Thomas Baglole, Jeanne Maki, Doug Millington. Also John Rowe (*Ex officio*), representative to PEIFA and CWFO/CFFO

2019-2020 Association Highlights (18 months): Postponed usual April AGM to October 2020 due to pandemic; held 14 Board meetings (4 online). Produced and distributed five 8-page quarterly newsletters. Updated membership accounting and added auto deposit capacity for dues. Held well-attended seminar on 'Forest Bird Habitat & Avoiding Tick Bites'. Hired IT specialist to upgrade website with financial assistance from ACOA through a COVID Adaptation Grant. Amended bylaws to allow Associate membership category (non-voting). Presented 2019 Woodlot Owner of the Year Award to Hazel Robinson of Albany. Contributed \$500 to national Peter DeMarsh Memorial Scholarship Fund at CFWO.

Workshop Presentations at AGM: Ron Maynard, PEIFA President, gave overview of its programs relevant to woodlot owners; Kate MacQuarrie and Mike Montigny described mapping activities at Forestry Division using LIDAR and other technologies; Pat Binns and Dan Dupont reported on the evolving development of a Sustainable Forestry Alliance to help woodlot owners and PEI forest industries tap into larger markets; and Connie Zoeller presented what the revised PEIWOA website will look like when it goes live.

April 27, 2019 - 8th AGM - at Milton Community Hall, North Milton.

Directors: John Rowe (Outgoing Chair), Sid Watts, Dan Dupont, John Keuper, Jesse Argent, Patrick Martens, James MacDonald, Kathy Stuart (Incoming Chair), Bruce Craig, John Arthur Ramsay, Matt McIver and Elwin Sharpe.

2018-19 Association Highlights: Board held 7 meetings and a major seminar with Dr. Gert-Jan Nabuurs on 'Sustainable Forestry Practices in Europe' in cooperation with the Climate Lab at UPEI. In collaboration with Skills PEI and Forestry Division, PEIWOA held four intensive 7-day chainsaw courses for silviculture workers and three shorter Weekend Woodsman courses for woodlot owners. The inaugural PEIWOA Woodlot Owner of the Year Award for 2018 was presented at the AGM to Bill and Norma Enman of Vernon.

Concerns: Extensive damage to woodlots from Hurricane Dorian; extreme weather and climate change; closure of Northern Pulp market in NS; shortage of skilled silviculture workers for plantation maintenance and sustainable woodlot management.

Workshop Presentations at AGM: Kate MacQuarrie, Director of Forests, Fish & Wildlife on the State of PEI Forests; Dr. Josh MacFadyen on the environmental history of PEI woodlots and his research on woodlot owner values; Jody Hamper of Savoie Lumber in NB/NS with his overview of forest product markets in the Maritimes; and Rosemary Curley on the extirpation of PEI's large wild animals over time.

April 14, 2018 - 7th AGM - at Tracadie Cross Community Centre.

Directors: John Rowe (Chair), Sid Watts, Dan Dupont and Kathy Stuart for Kings County; Jesse Argent, Patrick Martens, James MacDonald and John Keuper for Queens County; and Bruce Craig and John Arthur Ramsay for Prince County.

2017-18 Association Highlights: a busy year with part-time administrative help for a few weeks. Met regularly with Forestry and Environment officials. Made presentation to the Climate Lab. Organized chainsaw safety courses in cooperation with Forestry Division. Produced a newsletter and exhibited in Winter Woodlot Tour.

Concerns: Members invited to comment on potential impacts of the proposed National Building Code. How deeply would woodlot owners and the local sawmill sector be affected by not having a certified grader in the Province to approve local high quality lumber for use in new buildings to house people or animals? Received little or no response.

Workshop Presentations at AGM: Stephanie Arnold on the Impact of Climate Change on Woodlots on PEI; Derek Bondt on legal aspects of owning forest land on PEI; Derek Ellis on woodlots and watersheds; Dan Dupont on specialized plantation thinning and selection harvesting; and Victor MacLeod on programming to assist private woodlot owners.

April 1, 2017 - 6th AGM - at Farm Centre.

Directors: John Rowe (Chair), Sid Watts and James MacDonald for Kings County; Patrick Martens, Nancy Smith and John Keuper for Queens County; and Bruce Craig, John Arthur Ramsay and Andre Bellerive for Prince County.

2016-17 Association Highlights: Joined the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners (CFWO), now part of national Climate Change Initiative on tree planting. Partnered with Dept. of Communities, Land and Environment to develop pilot project on buffer zone harvesting but very little uptake. Partnered with Dept. of Forestry to put on chainsaw safety and maintenance courses. Participated as exhibitor in Winter Woodlot Tour. Produced a newsletter. Passed motion to make special effort to include more women in membership.

Overriding concern: instability and uncertainty of markets and impact of Canada/US Softwood Lumber dispute.

Workshop Presentations: Mike Montigny and Scott MacDonald from Dept. of Forestry on importance of management plans and sustainable forest harvesting for productive woodland; Meghan Harris on Invasive Species; Ken Mayhew on online short courses for woodlot owners from NS govt; Robert Godfrey on our role as a Commodity Group of PEIFA; and Clarence Ryan on the role of trapping to keep wildlife in balance in the environment.

April 16, 2016 - 5th AGM - at Farm Centre.

Directors: John Rowe (Chair), Bruce Craig, Lawrence Millar, Ira Smith, John Keuper, Andre Bellerive, Pat MacInnis, James MacDonald.

2015-16 Association highlights: developed an ambitious work plan for the next 3 years.

Workshop Presentations: by Scott MacDonald from Dept. of Forestry on FEP; by David Carmichael on Spruce Bud Worm and other insect pests; by Dale Thompson on Pilot Project on Buffer Zone Harvesting; by Mathieu LeBlanc on Biomass Opportunities for PEI; by Tony Koughan and Nick Leger on using Lidar and Smart Phones in the woods; and by John Rowe on Intergenerational Transfer of Woodlands.

April 18, 2015 - 4th AGM - at Farm Center, Charlottetown.

Directors: Bruce Craig (Outgoing Chair), Lawrence Millar, Ira Smith, John Rowe (Incoming Chair), John Keuper, Andre Bellerive, Pat MacInnis, James MacDonald.

2014-15 Association highlights: became Commodity Group under PEIFA.

Overriding concern: growing the membership; no administrative staff.

Workshop Presentations: by Ira Smith on Pilot Project on Buffer Zone Harvesting in Managed Woodlots; by Mathieu LeBlanc on ACFOR, an NB supplier of biomass furnaces in PEI; by Brian Brown from Dept. of Forestry on FEP and how timber economy is changing; and by Sid Watts on good potential for the Value-Added Non-Timber Forest Industry.

April 5, 2014 - 3rd AGM - at Cross Country Chalet, Brookvale.

Directors: Bruce Craig (Chair), Lawrence Millar, Ira Smith, John Rowe, John Keuper, Andre Bellerive, Pat MacInnis, Rick Peters and manager Greg Ridgway.

Association highlights 2012-14: Part-time manager hired, three woodlot tours held, six newsletters issued, new website in development; sleigh rides sponsored at Winter Woodlot Tour, three educational seminars held on PEI's Forest Enhancement Program (FEP). Housekeeping amendments made to Bylaws. Discussions held with govt re changes to buffer zone legislation.

April 6, 2013 - 2nd AGM - at Dutch Inn, North River.

Present: Bruce Craig (Chair), Lawrence Millar, Dave Carragher, Ira Smith, Cyrus Bernard, Richard Davies, Pat MacInnis, John Rowe and Greg Ridgway (acting manager).

Association Highlights 2012-13: Board held regular meetings to develop Association.

Mar 10, 2012 - Inaugural meeting of directors at Hunter River Lions Club, Rennie's Road.

Present: Bruce Craig (elected Chair), Lawrence Millar, Dave Carragher, Delmar Holmstrom, Ira Smith, Cyrus Bernard, Richard Davies, Pat MacInnis, Terrence MacDonald, John Rowe (elected Liaison to PEI Model Forest) and Greg Ridgway (acting manager).

Directives given: education, connection and representation.