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## NEWSLETTER INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the Prince Edward Island Woodlot Owner Association (PEIWOA) 2017 newsletter. The intent of these quarterly newsletters are to provide PEIWOA members with a summary of forestry and forest-related issues, opportunities, and happenings throughout PEI and the Atlantic region.

The PEIWOA is a new organization developed for Woodlot owners on Prince Edward Island. The Association is an inclusive group of woodlot owners that encourages Islanders to create a more sustainable forest ecosystem and forest resource on PEI. We thank all members for supporting this new initiative and hope that together we can continue to grow this group with a goal of enhancing the forest economy and forest industry of the Island. PEI woodlot owners have a large role to play on the Island and we are committed to being a voice for all concerns of members at a provincial and regional level.

Sincerely,  
PEIWOA

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### **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Greetings from the Board of Directors of the PEIWOA. Welcome to the first e-letter/ newsletter of this fiscal year 2017. We hope to continue this effort periodically to better inform our members of on-going activities of the PEI Woodlot Owners' Association.

Our year started off with great promise as we partnered with the Organic Horticultural Association and applied to Skills PEI for an individual to help us with some administrative work and develop projects for the coming year. All that work finally succeeded and we have acquired part-time employee, Hanna Hameline, until the end of June. She will be working on newsletters and other projects during that time.

We have a number of committees hard at work, mostly meeting with government departments, to better explain our mandate of developing a sustainable woodlot industry on PEI and presenting educational workshops. We met with the Minister of Communities, Land, and Environment and the Minister of Agriculture early in April -- as well as their deputies -- to further explain our mandate and offer some solutions concerning the woodlot industry on PEI. We hope to have further discussion in the coming months and set up a committee of government representatives, woodlot owners, and representatives of the PEI Watershed Alliance to reach that end.

In January we again partnered with the Dep't of Forestry to present a Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance Course in the Queens County area. Due to the weather and other circumstances

beyond our control, the course was finally offered in early April to twelve enthusiastic participants. These courses are filled up quickly and we now have a list for others who would like to participate in the next one offered. We will try to have one in each county to accommodate members in the various reaches of the province. It consists of a three to four hour classroom session and the same time in a woodlot where the instructor demonstrates the proper methods of felling trees.

Our website has been in operation for a couple of years but it is not getting a lot of traffic. We do have a Facebook page that we try to keep updated for anyone who is on "social media". We are open to suggestions at any time to try and improve these services.

Our Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, April 1/17 at the Farm Center in Charlottetown. We had an excellent day with some very interesting presenters and over fifty people in attendance. If you have any suggestions, or would like to volunteer to be part of our nine member board or to participate with our committees, please let us know. We have three reps from each county on the board. James MacDonald, Sid Watts, and I are the Kings County reps; John Keuper, Nancy Smith, and Patrick Martens are Queens County reps; and Andre Bellerive, John Arthur Ramsey, and Bruce Craig are Prince County reps. We appreciate all of the help and thank everyone for volunteering their time on the Board of the PEIWOA .

Chairman John J. Rowe.

### **WOODLOT SPOTLIGHT**

#### **John Keuper**

Hello from John Keuper, Wood Islands, Board of director of PEIWOA and treasurer. Why I joined the woodlot owners association is tied to why I love the woods. In a world of uncertainty working in the woods gives me a sense of peace and contentment with results I can benefit from. Walking or skiing in the woods is rejuvenating and where I go to solve problems and think. For a healthy life, cutting my own firewood and thinning the woodlot results in an improved forest as well as heat for my home and family. The Added benefit of several hours a day at times I am not fully engaged in my regular activities clears my mind and strengthens my body. The occasional cash benefits of forest products helps to meet the needs of my family and the products provide a societal benefit. A win win win situation. By joining the association I find others that get similar joys from nature. In a time when it appears that the joys of today center on a technological solution to our problems when all it takes is a walk in the woods to make my life better. I like the new ideas and experiences of others in addressing the problems of my woodlot so I don't create new ones by my actions. In a nutshell it is said that "boys and men got to the woods to find themselves" That is certainly where I go.

- John Keuper



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**MANAGING YOUR WOODLOT**

**Role of the Forest Professional**

Managing a woodlot can become complex. When you take your objectives of management, be it: income? Ruffed grouse habitat? Owl habitat? Firewood? and then consider all of the options available: clearcut, planting, thinning, machines or manual fellers, horses or forwarders, and markets for products, there is a ton to consider.

A forest professional is a person with experience and training in managing forests. Forest professionals are often either Forest Technicians or Foresters, coming from Colleges and Universities. The in-depth education, along with experience of the Islands forest industry, including contractors, markets for woods, and local knowledge of the Islands forests make these professionals a great resource for people looking to get advice and management plans done for managing their woodlots.

*The process of woodlot management:*

- 1) Identify your objectives
- 2) Inventory your forest
- 3) Consider your options
- 4) Develop a plan
- 5) Implement the plan

Identifying your objectives is something the forestry professional should be able to help you with. It comes down to what you have on the woodlot and what you want to get from the woodlot. These don't have to be driven by financial gain, but sometimes this can be a result of other objectives.

An inventory of your forest often requires first delineation of forest stands from aerial photography and a woodlot cruise or walk to quantify what you have on the woodlot. This quantification can be for aspects such as timber volume and percent breakdown of various products, habitat measurements for various types of animals, best placement of walking trails, or whatever you are interested in on your woodlot.

Considering your options is one of the most important thing. This has a lot to do with what you want your woodlot to look like and how quickly you want to benefit from your woodlot and realize your objectives. Options for forest management treatments depend first of all on the type of forest present.

There are two main types of forest management – even-aged and uneven-aged. Even-aged management includes forestry regimes such as shelterwood, seed trees, and clearcut. Uneven-aged management is when you maintain a consistent forest canopy over time with a distribution of all age-classes – this type of forestry is applied in stands with high valued tolerant hardwood species and red spruce.

A shelterwood forest management regime is a successive removal of the overstory in either two or three passes. The purpose of this type of a treatment is to both increase the growing space of remaining trees each entry into the stand as well as leaving the best trees to establish species that grow poorly in full sunlight, such as white pine, red spruce, and tolerant hardwoods like

sugar maple. This management regime in the end results in an even-aged stand after the final overstory is removed with a layer of thick advanced regeneration of well-established seedlings.

Seed trees are used in stand types that are dominated by species that can produce abundant seed, are of good genetic stock, and succeed well in full-sunlight. Stands that this can be successfully applied in includes stands such as red pine or even stands with a high abundance of yellow birch and red maple. This type of forest management treatment can often require a manual maintenance application to both simultaneously remove competition and select crop trees – on occasion an application of chemical herbicide can benefit these stands where they are intended to produce softwood volume into the future, although this is not necessary.

Clearcutting is the most commonly practiced type of forestry as it allows a quick financial gain, and is the most economical type of harvesting particularly where landholding size on PEI is so small. Clearcutting also requires a lot of maintenance in between. On occasion, a clearcut can be considered an overstory removal where there is sufficient advanced regeneration before harvest of desirable species to develop the new stand on that site after harvest. However, clearcut is most often followed by a plantation, which requires maintenance over the course of its life. Planting a stand using includes scarification to

produce a good planting site, planting the seedlings, plantation cleaning and herbicide to control competing vegetation such as ferns, birch, and poplar from taking over the site.

All of these forest management treatments are tools widely applied by forest managers and all may be useful on your woodlot, depending on what your objectives are and what type of a woodlot you want to have.

Once you are educated on your options available, it is important to consider your options and talk them over with your consulting forestry professional. Consider your options, consider the available markets for your products, and everything else it might take to implement a successful management plan, such as funding available for forest management.

Develop the plan in consultation with your chosen forestry professional. At this stage the consultant should be able to help you with finding contractors to implement the type of work you want to do, markets for the forest products that will be produced, lay out the harvest and silviculture sites, help with finding funding for treatments that are eligible, and they may possibly even be able to supervise the operations for you.

Once a plan is developed it is then time to implement the plan. The plan should cover a time period of 5-10 years, and include a plan for all stands on the woodlot that come together to help reach the objectives you have set. All of this may sound like a lot – but it is

important, as it helps you to better manage the important investment that is your woodlot. That is why the forestry professional is such a vital partner for you in this process. The PEI Forestry Division maintains a list of active forest consultants who are eligible to produce management plans under the Provinces Forest Enhancement Program.

Information for private woodlot funding available can be found by contacting the PEI Forests, Fish & Wildlife Division at:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/communities-land-and-environment/forest-enhancement-program-fep-private-forest-land>

### **SPRUCE BUDWORM UPDATE**

Spruce Budworm is a native insect species that feeds, primarily on balsam fir and also on spruce. Normally, natural controls such as predation and disease keep the insect's population in check but when conditions allow, spruce budworm numbers can explode defoliating and often killing spruce and fir over hundreds or even thousands of hectares of forest. Budworm outbreaks are natural phenomena in the Boreal Forest ecosystem and in recent years their populations have been experienced significant growth in large areas of Quebec. Some of this population is now moving into northern New Brunswick. Timber losses could create many challenges for the softwood industry and the people and communities who depend on them.

There are also concerns about impacts on nature tourism and the potential fire threat posed by large areas of dead trees. On the other hand, spruce budworm is an important food source for many migratory bird species including Cape May Warblers, Tennessee Warblers and Bay-breasted Warblers.

Eastern Spruce Budworm populations have increased in 2016 in West Prince County, assisted migration from strong wind currents and storm events may have introduced populations from Quebec and northern New Brunswick. The good news is that the Acadian Forest tends to be more diverse than the Boreal Forest. Western P.E.I. P.E.I. has relatively good tree species distribution and diversity so we may not be susceptible to significant defoliation. Eastern Spruce Budworm populations and potential defoliation is projected to increase on P.E.I. in 2017.

While Natural Resources Canada's Citizen Science program has established designated budworm trapping sites across the Island, they do have a few traps available for interested woodlot owners. Interested PEIWOA members should contact the Association by contacting John Rowe at [rowe@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:rowe@pei.sympatico.ca) to see if traps are still available.

For a complete map on Spruce Budworm distribution on PEI, refer to the following Tree and Insects Diseases: PEI facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/l63w6m5>

**NOVA SCOTIA FOREST  
MANAGEMENT HOME STUDY  
PROGRAM**

In the 1990s, Nova Scotia began to develop a series of home study manuals designed to help woodlot owners understand topics related to owning and managing small private forests. The manual are interesting and easy to understand and include topics such as Introduction to Silviculture, Woodlots and Wildlife, Stand Establishment, Forest Roads and Bridges, Recreation, Forest Finances and many more topics.

At the PEI Woodlot Owners Association's April 2017 annual meeting a proposal was made to offer the program to members beginning later this year. Response was very positive so work has begun to get the program off the ground. Interested PEIWOA members need to contact John Rowe at [rowe@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:rowe@pei.sympatico.ca) or [info@peiwoa.ca](mailto:info@peiwoa.ca) by mid May to register as a participant. A maximum of 15 members will be accepted for each offering based on a first come – first served basis.

Participants will be required to read the first module - Principals of Forest Stewardship before starting the next module. This short manual is a general introduction to the various topics and themes members will cover in the coming months and years and provides everyone a common understanding of many key forest management concepts and terms.

Members will have a few weeks to finish Principals of Forest Stewardship and then work will begin on

Module 1A: Woodlot Management Planning. PEI adapted materials and resources and a field trip workshop will be available to complete this module to support informed land owner who can make the best decisions for themselves and their forests.

**FORESTS AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE**

**How Can I Help My Woodlot?**

Throughout its 4 billion year history, the earth's climate has changed constantly and often these changes had profound and long lasting consequences across the globe. In some ways, the Island is still recovering from the effects of the last great ice age and today our forest contains a mixture of species adapted to northern and/or southern growing conditions. Tree species such as trembling aspen, black spruce, white spruce, jack pine, white birch and larch are considered to be adapted to northern (boreal) conditions while others such as sugar maple, yellow birch, red oak, red spruce, eastern hemlock, white ash and white pine prefer more southerly conditions.

In the coming century, human-related climate change may present significant challenges to Island forests including increased temperatures, periods of drought, fewer but stronger storms with elevated precipitation, introduction of

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new insect and disease pests and the potential loss of some species.

**Adapting Your Forest Management Strategies to a Changing Environment**  
There are no magic bullets which can or will address all of the potential challenges climate change may present but with time, patience and understanding, forest owners can be better prepared if they take adaptable and flexible approaches to forest management.

Adaptation has three key components:

A) Set Priorities by determining which species or stands may be most at risk or most adaptable to the impacts of climate change and place your effort where you think you can have the greatest positive influence.

B) Be Flexible in your response to changes that were not predicted or situations that influenced by factors beyond your control.

C) No Regrets and base your choices on the best available information at the time and on your ability to implement them. No one gets everything right every time but basing your actions on a clear plan can help to avoid some problems.

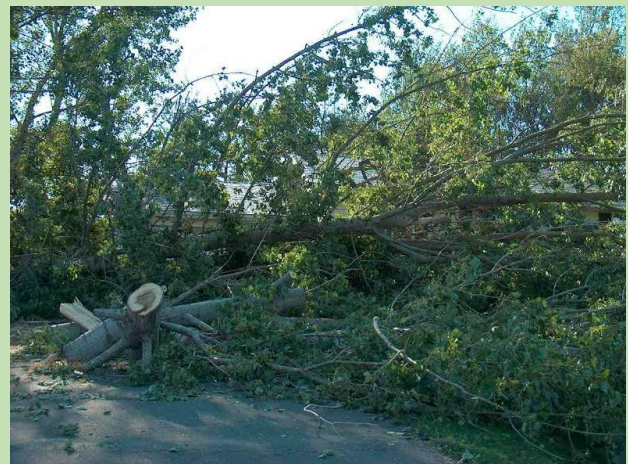
**Resistance, Resilience and Reaction:**  
When setting your forest management priorities, it is best to keep the three R's - Resistance, Resilience and Response in mind.

**Resistance:** Means helping the existing forest to strengthen its natural defenses against anticipated changes

**Resilience:** Means helping the forest to adapt to some degree of change. Encourage the forest to return to natural conditions after a disturbance through natural renewal or planting.

**Reaction:** Means accepting that some things will change regardless of what you do or don't do. In many cases you may have to let nature to take its course while accommodating changes and supporting the ecosystem's ability to adapt.

In the next PEIWOA newsletter we will look at approaches Island forest owners should consider when planning for climate change.





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### **INDUSTRY OUTLOOK**

**\*Note:** The price locations provided below are only a summary and it is recommended that woodlot owners should ensure they are receiving fair prices for any forest products sold from woodlot transactions.

### **PRICES SUMMARY – New Brunswick**

Source:

<http://www.snbwc.ca/snbwood/markets/SPEC001.htm>

### **PRICES SUMMARY – Nova Scotia**

Source:

<http://hchaynesnovascotiaprices.blogspot.ca/>

### **ASSOCIATION HAPPENINGS**

#### **Past Events**

#### PEI Winter Woodlot Tour

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual PEI Winter Woodlot Tour was a success. This event took place on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> on the Clyde Road just off route two between Hunter River and Fredericton. There was an estimated 1400 attendees out on the beautiful day to enjoy examples of falconry, chainsaw maintenance, apple cider, sleigh rides, furbearers display, wildlife displays, scavenger hunts, woodworking, and much more. This Annual event was put on by local watershed groups and the provincial Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division.

To learn more visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/WheatleyRiverImprovementGroup/>

#### Annual General Meeting

The PEIWOA Annual General Meeting was held April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Farm Centre on University Ave. in Charlottetown. The topics covered during this event included Developing a Sustainable woodlot, invasive species, Forest Enhancement Program of PEI, role of trapping in animal conservation, Canadian Forum of Woodlot Owners, and the annual business meeting for the Association. The meeting was well attended by both current members and new members as well as guest speakers and officials from the provincial Forestry Division.

#### **CONTACT**

John Rowe – Chair

Cell Phone: 902-940-1933

[rowe@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:rowe@pei.sympatico.ca)

Website: <http://www.peiwoa.ca/>

Facebook: [PEI Woodlot Owners Association](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/PEI-Woodlot-Owners-Association-245012399166879/>

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**PEI WOA membership cards will be mailed out soon.**

PEI Woodlot Owners Association  
81 Prince Street  
Charlottetown C1A 4R3

April 28, 2017

Hello Woodlot Owner:

Thank you on behalf of the board of the Prince Edward Island Woodlot Owners Association (PEIWOA) for your support. The board continues to represent your interests to the government and Industry to add resources for you to manage your woodlots. Your continued support will enable the PEIWOA to grow and move forward. The simplest way to provide support is to renew your membership. The regular annual fee is \$25.00 or you can opt for a 2 year membership for \$40.00.

Your prompt response will allow the board to plan events to meet your needs in future years. Please also encourage other woodlot owners to join so we can help even more people to add value to their woodlands.

Check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PEI-Woodlot-Owners-Association-245012399166879/>) and our website (<http://www.peiwoa.ca/>) for current and upcoming events.

Sincerely,  
James MacDonald  
Membership Secretary PEIWOA.

YOU CAN SEND YOUR CHEQUE TO:

PEI WOODLOT OWNERS ASSN.  
81 PRINCE STREET,  
CHARLOTTETOWN C1A 4R3

<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>I have Woodlots in Kings County ( )</b>
	<b>Queens County ( )</b>
<b>Address:</b> _____	<b>Prince County ( )</b>
	<b>I am interested in being a director ( )</b>
<b>Phone:</b> _____	<b>PAYMENT \$25 1year ( ) \$40 2 year ( )</b>
<b>Email:</b> _____	
<b>(Office use only date received _____ date receipt issued _____ Date Membership card issued _____)</b>	