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NEWSLETTER INTRODUCTION

Welcome to fourth edition of the Prince Edward Island Woodlot Owners Association (PEIWOA) 2018 Newsletter. The intent of these newsletters is 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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the Board of the PEIWOA. "Welcome" to our third newsletter this year.

We would like you to consider volunteering for the Board of the PEIWOA as we have a yearly turnover of members. It is only for a two year term as we want to provide continuity for the Board. We have three representatives from each County. We learn something new at every meeting. We are always looking for suggestions and feedback from our members any time.

You may contact myself at rowe@pei.sympatico.ca or call 902-940-1933. You may also reach us through the website at www.peiwoa.ca or the email or Facebook contact

Thanks.

John J. Rowe; Chairman - PEIWOA

I Plant for Life Association

Contributed by: Sid Watts, PEI Woodlot Owner member)

It is encouraging to know that we are not alone in our efforts to see the forests of PEI, and of the world for that matter, be cared for in a manner in which many uses can be considered at one time. I, along with a couple of other members of the PEI Woodlot Owners Association, had the pleasure of spending a bit of time, in late September, with members of the Taiwan based group, I Plant for Life Association.

To say that this is an enthusiastic group who love trees would be an understatement. I had first met some of these members two years ago. At that time, I had gone with them to plant some trees and also had many of them visit my woodlot in Kilmuir. I had the initial impression that they wanted only to plant and let the trees grow. This time we are learning that their interests go much deeper and the discussions centered on "Management" of the forest. They want very much to learn about the forests of PEI and how our trees grow. They understand that simply planting and not tending to the forest will not bring them to the result they, or any of us, want. In general they are interested in planting and tending long lived species. The group was excited to see how well white pine and red oak will grow in PEI, whether they be planted or encouraged to regenerate and grow naturally.

Dan Dupont took the group to see one of the sites he has been working on in the Belle River area. He explained that some species in our area, such as balsam fir, do not live for a long time and at some point must be harvested or be lost. However, Dan showed the group how the next generation of longer lived species is already established. With careful and more frequent tending, the longer lived species of sugar maple, red oak, white pine, red spruces and hemlock can be nurtured to grow for perhaps hundreds of years, if there is occasional interventions to give the desired trees room to grow. In the meantime, the occasional interventions give harvestable products that will provide employment and add to the economy.

Jesse Argent has been working with one of the local members of the association to help them establish a plantation of nut trees. Growing trees for food as another topic that came up a couple of times. Having Jessie here as our own resident expert in this field is a great benefit. Jesse presented a walnut tree to the Chairman of the I Plant for Life Association, Mr. Aric Lin. This tree was later planted by Mr. Lin and two of his sons, who I understand are studying in PEI.

There is so much we can learn and share with others. We do this in our own group with the PEI Woodlot Owners Association. It is so refreshing and encouraging to know that we have a lot in common with this association on the far side of the planet. When they return next year, perhaps we can all come together to meet and greet, as well as share in a common goal of healthy and productive forests.

Self employment in forest management can be a great career choice by Heidi Riley

Reprinted with permission from Employment Journey PEI

Dan Dupont has created his own employment, and is very happy with his choice. Since May of this year, he has worked with woodlot owners to manage their forests sustainably while making a profit.

Based on the reception from landowners, the Island could easily support the work of 12 more people doing what I do.

“This is the most peaceful way to make a living there is, and it pays the bills very well. I am able to make my own decisions and make my own hours. There is a lot of joy in being in this environment while running my own business.



“In the four months since I started, I have been offered more work than I can get done in my lifetime. I have been approached to manage almost 6,000 acres of woodland. Up until now, landowners had only two options: conserve the forest or clear cut. Clear cutting is an overused forest management practice that removes all the biological and economic value at once, and it will not return to what it was for 80 to 100 years. I am offering the landowner another option.”

“I cut down about 30 to 60 percent of the trees, and what is left is a functioning forest that can continue to provide income.” In certain woodlots, when Dan sells the wood he harvests, the landowners get 30 percent as a “stumpage fee.”

Dan manages the forest based on its age, the soil, and the tree species. He cuts out trees that are entering the end of their life cycle and/or are of poor quality. He does not cut down big, longer-lived trees, because they hold more value biologically and as a source of seeds for forest regeneration. The branches are left behind to decompose and build the organic layer in the soil.

“If you work with the forest rather than against it, and harvest the wood in an environmentally sensitive manner, there can be a long-term market for wood here on PEI. This is forestry done properly.”

More potential for careers in forestry on PEI

Dan is not hiring at present, but he does encourage more people to consider self employment in this field. “If you are a woodsy type of person, this is a good way to make a living, financially, mentally, and ecologically. You don’t need to have a degree in forestry. You need a mechanical aptitude, and you need to be willing to work alone and unsupervised.”

Beginnings

Dan is originally from northern Ontario, and is a fourth generation logger. He started working in the woods with his father when he was 13. Thanks to his parents, he learned English. He went on to earn two diplomas as a forestry technician and technologist and then graduated in 1996 with a BSc in Forestry from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

For 25 years, Dan worked for large forestry companies throughout the country. Dan was working on PEI in 1997 where he met his wife. In 2013, Dan and his wife decided to settle on PEI.

“PEI has one of the best government subsidized forestry management programs I have ever seen in my career,” says Dan.

Last winter, he visited Finland and Sweden to find the best forestry equipment to suit the Island’s needs. He purchased a small, light harvester on rubber tracks built in Finland. The harvester cuts down the trees, strips the branches, and cuts the logs into lengths.

Logging can take place year-round. “Winter is the best time to work, because when the ground is frozen, much less damage is caused to the forest floor. In winter, branches snap off easily, and the machine stays cool. The only time you could take off is a few weeks in spring when the ground has just thawed and is too soft. This is an 11-month per year career.”

Forestry could be a bigger resource on PEI

The wood he cuts goes for lumber, pulpwood, or firewood. The pulp/chipper wood goes to the Wood4Heating biomass plant in Ten Mile House on PEI, which produces wood chips that heat many government buildings and schools. Some logs are purchased by Koke’s sawmill in Wood Islands, and studs go to Scotsburn Lumber in Nova Scotia.

“It is too bad we can’t keep our wood on PEI. It would be nice to have a facility to supply our own lumber. Every time we export a load of logs to Nova Scotia, we are exporting jobs as well.

“We have an opportunity and a responsibility to manage our forests properly. A lot of income could be derived responsibly and sustainably. If we respect our forest and understand the positive attributes it can give the local economy, we could become self sustaining and independent in supplying our own wood products and heat demands.

“It would be nice if I could play a role in the way we view the forest and how it’s managed on PEI. The Acadian Forest, which is our forest, has a unique ecosystem specific to our region. Not only can it provide hundreds of careers for a long time, but performed properly, it can continue to function biologically.”

It’s not a minimum wage job; it’s a good paying career. My father raised us on that career. The work you do in the forest very rarely pays less than \$20 an hour. If you have the work ethic and you don’t mind being alone in the woods, this is a great place to be.”

Community support

Dan approached Martina MacDonald, General Manager of the CBDC Montague Rural Action Centre (RAC), and received a loan to help purchase his logging equipment.

Some services provided by RAC:

- Business loans and guidance for small & medium-size entrepreneurs
- Government programs for community & business development
- Entrepreneur education & management development to assist business start-ups
- Support for expansion and diversification of existing businesses
- Tourism product development & marketing

For more information on the Rural Action Centres, visit www.ruralactioncentres.ca

To contact Dan Dupont, call 902-969-2845 or email dan@workingforestpei.ca

Visit www.workingforestpei.ca

Sustainable Forestry Practices for PEI: Compatible Ideas from Europe

Forestry has been a significant industry on PEI for centuries. The vast majority of woodland on PEI is owned by thousands of private small landowners (unlike vast tracts of Crown land on mainland Canada), making it comparable to European style forestry. To foster greater awareness of sustainable forestry practices, deepen understanding of how climate change could affect forestry management, and encourage more woodlot owners to become engaged with their association, the PEI Woodlot Owners Association (PEIWOA) and the UPEI Climate Research Lab will host a public talk on November 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the University of Prince Edward Island, McDougall Hall Lecture Theatre 242. Dutch expert Gert-Jan Nabuurs will highlight his comparison of European style forestry to the situation in PEI with ideas about using wood chips for our local heating market. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

For more information, visit the PEI Woodlot Owners Association website at www.peiwoa.ca and the UPEI Climate Research Lab website at www.upei.ca/climate

Dr. Gert-Jan Nabuurs is currently professor European forest resources at Wageningen University in the Netherlands and senior researcher at Wageningen Environmental Research, WUR. His background is in European-scale forest resource analyses, and management under climate change. He is currently Coordinating Lead Author in Good Practice Guidance for IPCC and will lead the Agriculture and Forestry chapter in the IPCC 6AR, starting 2019. Formerly Assistant Director of the European Forest Institute in Finland from 2009-2012, Prof Nabuurs is member of Ministerial Advisory Committee Sustainability of Biomass for Energy Purposes, advising on certification schemes and their applicability to Dutch biomass sustainability criteria.

Although this event is important for woodlot owners and silviculture workers, Prof Nabuurs' ideas and broad experience will also be of interest to forestry contractors, environment and watershed groups, climate scientists, resource managers, local governments and Chambers of Commerce. All are welcome.

For further information, visit the PEI Woodlot Owners Association website at www.peiwoa.ca and the UPEI Climate Research Lab website at www.upei.ca/climate .

Kathy Stuart Thu, Oct 11, 4:06 PM

to John, me, Ron

A drone workshop held at UPEI this past July was geared mainly for academic research and mapping. Ron MacKay attended as an amateur photographer for technical interest. He reports that current drone technology is of limited usefulness for the average woodlot owner or watershed volunteer in PEI, given current regulation and restrictions. Anyone using a drone for purposes other than a limited hobby require registration, expensive equipment and very expensive insurance. Drones require considerable skill to operate that would parallel aspects of pilot training.

For more information:

3 Reasons Drone Technology is Good for Forest Management

<https://www.pfla.bc.ca/forest-management-tips/3-reasons-drone-technology-is-good-for-forest-management/>

Using Drones for Better Forest Access and Management

<https://www.woodbusiness.ca/harvesting/forestry-management/drone-opportunities-and-challenges-in-forestry-2884>

Drone Based Forest and Landscape Mapping

<https://openforests.com/drone-mapper/>

[Unmanned aerial systems for precision forest inventory purposes: A review and case study http://pubs.cif-ifc.org/doi/abs/10.5558/tfc2017-012](http://pubs.cif-ifc.org/doi/abs/10.5558/tfc2017-012)

Facebook: PEI Woodlot Owners Association

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

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.

PEI Federation of Agriculture members can join for 2 years for \$20.00

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 (PEI Woodlot Owners Association) 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**

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