

Volume 7 - Issue 4

January / February / March

Winter 2024

Woodland PEI

Newsletter of the PEI Woodlot Owners Association

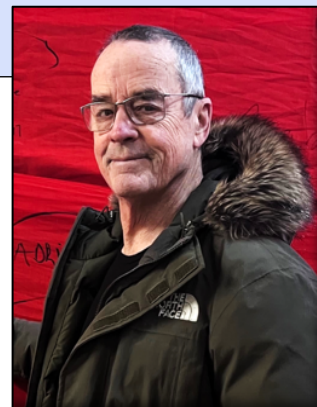
*SOTF and
Forestry
Commission
Reports*

Features in this Issue:

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Editor's Message . . .

As the incoming editor of the PEIWOA Newsletter, I have to say that outgoing editor Kathy Stuart is a tough act to follow. Since 2019, Kathy's editorial expertise has guided this publication with imagination, determination and intelligence. Anecdotal feedback on a regular basis confirms the respect and credibility with which each issue is received, a fitting legacy for Kathy's relentless efforts at improving the quality of the publication.



Stepping into the editor's role, I am comforted by the assurance that Kathy will still be available for consultation on any and all newsletter issues, and am so relieved that the 'look' of the publication will continue to benefit from her imaginative formatting and layout skills.

Onward. . . ever onward! In this issue you will find:

- A statement from incoming PEIWOA Board Chair John-Arthur Ramsay;
- Program Manager Barry Murray announces a new WOA workshop;
- A summary of the ongoing update to the 2020 State of the Forest Report (SOTF);
- A frank personal assessment of the state of PEI's forest resources from a PEI forest scientist and woodlot consultant;
- Barry M brings you up to date on three excellent reports issued by PEI's Forestry Commission plus Part 1 of a new series on earning income from your woodlot;
- PEIWOA board member Wanson Hemphill offers a heartfelt tribute to the mighty pine tree.

-- Doug Millington

Cover photo: "Good Skating" by Wanson Hemphill, taken at his woodlot in Covehead.

PEIWOA Board of Directors 2023-24

Kings County: **Kevin Carver, John Keuper** (*Treasurer*), **Trudy White**

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Ex-Officio: **Barry Murray** (*Program Manager*), **Kathy Stuart** (*Past President*)

Message from the President . . .

Hello WOA Members,

I recently assumed the role of Interim Chair, due to the resignation of Thomas Baglole. He found he had to reduce some of his commitments, being extra busy with a new business and a young family. I am finding the work interesting, as the WOA increases its ability to represent members and work for Island forests. I hope that those of you who have had losses and extra work from hurricane Fiona are coping well.

We're pleased to announce that we have negotiated a contribution agreement with the Government of PEI for a part-time position for the following year to assist us with running the organization. We will be advertising this position sometime in the near future.

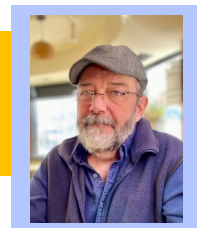
There are many different issues that we are addressing and hope to address. This is a tough stretch for woodlot owners as we recover from hurricane damage, poor stumpage prices, and many of the points being discussed by the Forestry Commission. The need of a strong association for woodlot owners has never been more urgent. Thank you for your support!

John-Arthur Ramsay

Poplar Grove, Prince County

Upcoming Workshop . . .

-- Barry Murray, Program Manager



You are invited to register for this next PEIWOA workshop:

HARVESTING FOR THE FUTURE: SUSTAINABLE SEED COLLECTION AND PREPARATION FROM YOUR OWN FOREST

Saturday, March 9th - 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

Spring Valley Community Hall

1234 Rte. 102, Spring Valley (5 km north of Kensington)

The instructor of the workshop is Becky Lyons who has been with MacPhail Woods for 30 years and manager of the nursery there for the past 10 years.

This will be interesting and valuable for those who may want to grow a small number of trees or shrubs for their own woodlots, and also to those who may not want to grow their own, but who would like to appreciate the complexity involved the and effort required to produce seedlings.

>>>> Please respond to peiwoodlotowners@gmail.com to register. Light refreshments will be available.

The plan is to follow up this workshop with a second one later this summer that will concentrate on growing tree and shrub seeds to the planting stage.

SOTF Report: Down but Not Out --- By Doug Millington



PEI's **State of the Forest Report (SOTF)** has had a rough ride since its public release last December. The report is a stock-taking of PEI's forested lands done every 10 years, as mandated by the *Forest Management Act* of 1988. The latest edition is based on data gathered from 2010 to 2020. The report is a detailed, comprehensive and thoroughly readable summary of the Island's various forest resources.

The public release of the report, originally scheduled for spring of 2022 and delayed for various reasons until that fall, was delayed again by that September's Hurricane Fiona and finally released this past December. After Fiona's arrival, and with the report's findings now in question, the entire document is in the process of being significantly updated with new satellite imagery taken since Fiona's devastating impact.

The 2020 State of the Forest Report (SOTF) provides a detailed overview of PEI's pre-Fiona 245,919 hectares (ha) of forest area, comprising just over 43% of our Island landscape. As the report proudly notes, while PEI is best known for its iconic beaches and red dirt fields, it has more forest than anything else. Our blanket of forest covers a notably larger share of the PEI land mass than its nearest rival, agriculture (37.6%). In addition to details on forest inventory and speciation, the report surveys wildfire management, forest management modelling scenarios, forest carbon sequestration and an overview of planned forestry programs.

Some selected SOTF highlights:

- As of 2020, PEI's forests were 60% hardwood-dominated and 40% softwood-dominated.
- 85% of PEI forest land is privately owned. This compares with a national average of 6% privately owned.
- Red maple is the predominant hardwood at 28% of merchantable volume. White spruce is no longer the leading softwood, falling 4% to 14.4% of merchantable volume, just behind balsam fir at 15%.
- Hardwood production at the provincial nursery has climbed to 8.7% of total output, up from just 3.9% in the last report. But softwoods still play first fiddle at 91% of total nursery production. Since the last report, white spruce production has risen 11% to 58.6% of total softwood nursery output.
- Our forests are young on average, with three-quarters being younger than 61 years.
- Between 2010 and 2020 there was a net decrease of 4,000 ha of PEI forest (5350 created, 9350 lost).
- During the decade leading to 2020, the volume of wood harvested on PEI ranged from a low of 342,000 m³ to a high of 449,000 m³.
- It is estimated that PEI's forests contain 59 megatonnes (millions of tonnes) of carbon, equivalent to 217 megatonnes of carbon dioxide.
- The largest landowner is the provincial government (35,716 ha, 14% of total).
- 46% of PEI forest is on small parcels (<=25 ha).
- Total above-ground tree volume (alive and dead) of PEI's 2020 forest was 41,294,078 m³. Of that volume, 5,917,612 m³ was standing deadwood.
- Standing volume of merchantable wood was estimated to be 31 million m³. Only 7.1% of that total was high-value hardwood sawlogs.
- The difference between tree volume and merchantable wood, 10 million m³, is classified as *biomass*.

SOTF 2024 Update

A great report. Then Fiona hit before it had even been released. As noted above, efforts are underway to update the report with post-Fiona satellite imagery using image analysis software and modelling. Initial results have been posted as a **Wind Affected Areas webmap**, available for viewing and/or download:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e25ff39b4b484bae861d6e860232db33>

In Fiona's aftermath, with trees, even entire stands of trees, blown away seemingly at every turn, PEI's forests seemed to have been dealt a near-mortal blow. Yet the province's update indicates that only about 13% of total forest area was affected by the storm. In fact, this initial 13% figure may be an overestimate, according to Matt Angus, an inventory analyst/modeler leading the Fiona reassessment for PEI's Forestry, Fish & Wildlife Division:

"Hardwood stands without leaves being falsely identified, actual harvest activities between 2020 (our land use inventory date) and the satellite acquisition in 2022-identified as wind affected, forests with existing downed trees identified (e.g. Dorian blowdown), and some very young forests were identified when the trees were only a few meters tall."

Matt Angus says data on forest area, forest ownership, stand origin (natural vs planted) and nursery production is not likely to change and the effect on different species sizes and community types appears to be well distributed.

"Effects on the carbon modelling are not obvious. There will be a lot more decomposition occurring but that is a slow carbon release, and the stands are regenerating quite quickly, albeit with various levels of "quality" or sequestration effectiveness (i.e., raspberries and pin cherry don't have the same carbon storage potential as larger long lived species)."

"Fuel loading in a wildfire sense has increased but this fuel is becoming less flammable the longer it sits. This also means that the fallen wood will only be salvageable for a short time as well. Age class distribution will see an increase in the youngest age class (0-20 years). Available forest product volume will have decreased, and that volume mostly all [has been] moved into the coarse woody debris category (of decay class 1), except what has been salvaged."

Matt Angus is hoping to have the updated SOTF analysis written and released before the summer.

Biomass... Fiona's PEI Legacy?

While the SOTF update shows less overall damage than many feared, it still confirms there's a lot more 'coarse woody debris' on the ground that will soon be commercially worthless for anything but biomass. The data shows PEI forests had 10 million cubic meters of the stuff even before Fiona.

Biomass has recently been in the news, with a company called SustainAgro planning a \$150-million biomass-to-diesel project in Kensington. The initiative was moved to Thunder Bay, Ontario after concerns were raised about PEI's ability to supply the needed biomass from the project's required sustainable sources.

The stumbling block was that word "sustainable". A recent study by the PEI Forestry Commission found numerous troubling aspects of the SustainAgro proposal. Among them, it would entail doubling current biomass consumption. As well, the Commission discovered that none of PEI's biomass, including what's currently supplied to other Island biomass companies, can accurately be identified as sustainable. That's because the terms "biomass", "mixed residue", "sustainability" and "sustainable harvest" are not defined in any

provincial legislation, in any existing PEI biomass fuel supply contracts, or in the manual used to explain the government's own forest management programs.

With the demise of the Kensington project, the search continues for markets for PEI's ongoing glut of biomass-grade forest material.

One Forester's Perspective

According to Island forestry consultant Jon Schurman, PEI's biomass situation is a symptom of a forest sector that is in deep trouble, deeper than the SOTF report would seem to indicate. While the technical definition of biomass from the SOTF report stands at 10 million m³, according to Jon Schurman, the biomass definition used every day by Island harvesters pushes that figure much higher.

"When you talk to a forester, biomass refers to a grade of standing timber. There's sawlogs grade, stud diameter grade, below that is pulpwood, below that is biomass... 'not really good for anything'. Now that the biomass market is growing, 'biomass' is now considered by harvesters to be all of the timber that is not suitable for milling. The 2020 state of the forest report [is] out now. Lo & behold, none of the ratios [biomass versus timber stock] have changed since the 2010 report... i.e., 60-75% of PEI standing timber is not suitable for milling. After all the expected cleanup and resulting conversion of forest to farmland/development/lawns, it's still safe to say we have half a million acres of forest where most of the wood is biomass grade, timber that would really benefit from maintenance style forestry that improves productivity and thins out material that is not suitable for milling. Problem is, most of the applications for biomass don't pay enough to get people fired up to go out & cut trees for a living."

So, in the biomass world of PEI, there's a serious supply side issue. We have, by the government's conservative estimate, 10,000,000 m³ of biomass with a current annual demand of around 80,000 m³. And it's really not paying foresters much to gather that biomass, even though they usually get it for free for 'cleaning up' someone's woodlot mess.



Unharvested blowdown on the author's PEI woodlot...soon to be good for nothing but biomass (or humus).

Schurman believes part of the answer to the problem might involve a substance called *biochar*. When biomass is exposed to high temperatures without oxygen, a process called *pyrolysis*, it breaks down, releasing energy-rich gases and liquids and retaining carbon-rich, dusty black granules known as biochar. So far, experimental results indicate that as well as sequestering carbon, biochar enhances soil microbial activity and nutrient retention, and may enhance compost activity:

"We have too much biomass and we don't have enough soil carbon. Biochar marries those problems, but we need investments and we need cost-effective applications for biochar. So, there's a needle to be threaded. There're some trials with biochar going on, at class and large scales. But to get to the point we're adding biochar to fields, we need large scale facilities... pyrolysis facilities... so that's the chicken-egg question."

While biochar holds promise, it's a long way from fixing the hard economic reality faced by PEI woodlot owners,

the stewards of 85% of the Island's forest growth. The hard reality is that our woodlands generate a small fraction of the income enjoyed by woodlot owners elsewhere in Canada.

"I saw a 2021 spreadsheet of contributions to PEI's GDP by sector. PEI forests contribute \$5 million to GDP. So, \$5 million divided by our acreage leads to a figure of \$20/ha per year. Elsewhere in Canada, that same analysis generates revenue of \$150/ha per year. So, owning forest on PEI is about 15% as good an investment as it is just about anywhere else in Canada. 40% of our land is forested and it's generating 15% of the revenue that's being generated everywhere else in Canada.

"Sustainable forestry is not just reducing your harvesting rate for the sake of making our forests better wildlife habitat. It's also about making sure your forest, as a land use, is something that it's reasonably sane to sink money into... to be worth owning it."

Mobilize for War

Schurman believes PEI needs to think big and think long-term about monetizing the huge percentage of our forest asset that will otherwise decay into a chaotic mess of liability and inertia.

"We kind of need to mobilize for war. Prince Edward Island's forestry situation is bleak. It's bad. It's worth 15% of any other forestry industry out there in Canada. There's like 20 million tons of biomass out there across PEI which needs to be chewed through so that our forests are what we want them to be. If we set that up on a sustainable 50-year rotation where we're cutting 2% of that a year... right now we're using 50 to (maybe) 70 thousand tons of wood chips per year. I think comfortably we can triple that. The challenge is that [it needs to be] coming from something that feels like a rotation... you know what's getting cut this year, next year, 10 years from now."

Schurman sees some form of co-op system, along the lines of the recently formed Sustainable Forestry Alliance (SFA),

as the best management model for our mostly small-parcel, privately-owned forest resource.

"SFA is kind of like 'the vision'. I look at Queens County and you might have 300-400 acres and there might be 12-16 landowners. You'd need someone to be the contact point for developing one management plan for those 300 acres. That's where it kind of shuffles into district management plans where we're lumping private woodlots together into something like your friendly neighbourhood timber corporation. For the landowners, there would be less management to do, a dividend for being a member, just partial harvesting [on any given lot] instead of once-in-a-lifetime devastation. It might also be possible for the timber co-op to have or share ownership in a biochar production facility, with resulting dividends for the landowner for the biomass that used to be given away for free."

The emerging carbon economy also holds promise as a revenue source if enough acreage can be corralled as a source for carbon credits.

"Fiona is a real gut punch, a big frustrating thing that has made the situation worse, but we still have hundreds and hundreds of thousands of acres that need improvement-style forestry. There's a lot of red maple out there that's gotta go through a wood chipper, so that 50 years down the road we can be proud of our tolerant hardwoods."

"Where do we want to be? We want to be managing all of our woodlots with single tree selection. [We want] every tree that's cut to be a 24-inch sugar maple or red oak that someone could make a \$5,000 dining room table out of. That's the forestry sector that we want."

--Doug Millington

Forestry Commission Produces Three Informative Documents

Hurricane Fiona ripped through eastern PEI and its North Shore in September of 2022. In all, 31,720 hectares, or 78,000 acres of woodland blew down, with 70% of these trees lost. The province has approximately 248,500 ha of wooded area.

In January 2023, Government appointed a Forestry Commission to review PEI's Forest policy, programs and legislation in the wake of Fiona, and develop a Forest Recovery Plan for Prince Edward Island.

Membership of the Commission includes woodlot owners, forest management practitioners who use both traditional and eco-based approaches, a public policy expert, a research scientist, a climate change researcher, an Indigenous representative, members of the watershed community, and members of the forestry profession.

The Commission has published three interim reports prior to its final report. The first report, ISSUE ANALYSIS - SUSTAINABILITY OF BIOMASS UTILISATION, addressed non-compliance and inconsistencies on sustainability issues, singling out for criticism government departments and those contractors supplying wood to provide heat from biomass to forty-four provincially owned buildings. A series of recommendations was made based on renegotiation of contracts for supplying biomass to heat government buildings, toward the goal of improving sustainable management of the biomass harvest.

A second interim report titled IMPROVING THE SUCCESS OF HARDWOOD SEEDLING PRODUCTION AND ESTABLISHMENT was issued in September of last year. The Commission determined that the significant shortage of hardwood seedlings needed in helping establish a more climate-resilient Wabanaki-Acadian Forest requires further analysis. Recommendations referred to increasing the supply of hardwood seedlings, creating best practices for establishing hardwood seedlings, and more.

In January 2024, the Forestry Commission released a discussion paper, TOWARDS A NEW FOREST POLICY for PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. The paper lists thirteen issues that the Commission believes are critical to the development of a new forest policy.



The Chair of the Forestry Commission, J-P Arsenault, stated, *"I'm pleased that government has chosen to involve this group of people and the general public in setting the course for the forestry sector. I will be surrounded by a very strong slate of Commission members with a broad range of backgrounds and knowledge."*

The issues and associated questions are laid out with clarity, helping to further understand the challenges we are facing.

There are no further interim reports planned before the release of the final report from the Forestry Commission, which Chair Jean-Paul Arsenault expects will be released before December 31 this year.

These interim documents are eye-opening, to say the least. The state of PEI's forests, the outdated, weak policies and legislation that governs the forests, the reduction of investment into the forestry sector, the market conditions for forest products, and future threats of climate change and invasive species describe a natural resources sector and ecosystem in peril.

PEIWOA looks forward to further involvement with the Commission, and the release of its highly anticipated report.

-- Barry Murray

EARNING INCOME FROM YOUR WOODLOT:

Part 1: Selling Standing Trees (Stumpage)

[Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles laying out the very basics of how to earn income from your woodlot. Selling Standing Trees (Stumpage) was researched and written by Barry Murray and John-Arthur Ramsay, with help from Scott MacDonald (Private Forest Supervisor, Forests, Fish & Wildlife Field Services).]

Selling wood from a woodlot is a task that requires good preparation in order to maximize potential income and minimize the environmental impact on the woodlot. Woodlots with older, even-aged stands, extensive wind-damaged trees, and an abundance of mature trees are strong candidates for removing timber.

Forestry practices have changed in recent years. Today, increased awareness of sustainable forest practices has resulted in more woodlot owners choosing to do partial cuts, strip cuts, patch cuts, or selective harvesting. The extra time taken for these cutting methods can result in lower returns in exchange for a reduced impact on the woodlot.

There are several forest contractors with a wide range of equipment sizes, with varying efficiencies and forest impacts. Small-sized equipment exists for woodlot owners that would like to harvest their own wood, which will increase the sale value compared to hiring a contractor. The work is hard and the cost of owning and operating your own equipment can be significant. Even a small log trailer with a lift can cost over \$20,000 on top of the cost of a tractor or a substantial ATV.

Woodlot owners benefit greatly from the advice of our provincial Forest Technicians and the private Professional Forest Consultants (PFCs). The creation of a Forest Management Plan and enrolment in the Forest Enhancement Program (FEP) are crucial first steps. A management plan identifies how much wood and what species are in a woodlot, which is important information to have when negotiating with a contractor for a cut.

Woodlot owners can sign up for the program through the FEP website or with the help of their local Forest Technician or PFC.

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/forest-enhancement-program-fep-forestry-services-for-private-forest-land-owners>

Between 20 – 30% of PEI woodlot owners are enrolled in the FEP. One critical reason why there are not more woodlot owners participating in the FEP is that many woodlot owners are not aware it exists, or of the benefits it has to offer.

A Forest Technician can assist with connecting the woodlot owner with provincial programs that will assist in woodlot management. They are a good first contact for woodlot owners. PFCs vary in the services they offer. All seventeen of PEI's PFC's write forest management plans, and a few make themselves available for other on-site advice and guidance.

The plans must follow the guidance in the Eco-based Forest Management Standards Manual, which lays out the size of cuts, directions for leaving snag trees for wildlife, and much more. Forest Techs (provincial employees) assist woodlot owners in an advisory role, helping owners follow their forest management plans. They will suggest a few local forest contractors for owners to contact, will mark the area to be cut, and will visit the woodlot during the cut to verify that the contractor is following the forest management plan prepared by the PFC.

The Forest Enhancement Plan page on the provincial website offers articles on selling wood and harvesting choices. There are also descriptions

Selling Standing Trees (Stumpage) . . . (cont'd)

of how the FEP can assist woodlot owners in a variety of treatments such as planting, pre-commercial thinning, commercial thinning, and more.

Depending on the wood harvested, cut trees are usually sorted by the contractor into saw logs, pulp, chip wood, and firewood, and sold to different wood processors. Prices vary greatly from one grade of wood to the next, chip wood being the least valuable, and hardwood saw logs the most.

Wood is often purchased by the acre, referred to as “stumpage”. Contractors can be invited to bid on a stand by the owner. Specialty markets exist for fence posts (cedar, black spruce) and veneer logs (hardwood, poplar). Stumpage and wood prices fluctuate according to supply & demand, tariffs, fuel costs, hauling costs, pests & disease, and storm damage, to name the most influential factors.

With careful planning you can maximize your standing wood harvest’s profitability.

— Barry Murray

Coming up next in this series (Spring Issue): Part 2: The Carbon Economy

More Workshops and Webinars . . . (cont'd from page 3)

On **TUESDAY, March 12th**, at **2:00 pm**, Island Nature Trust will be hosting a free **Sustainable Forest Stewardship Webinar** in collaboration with Sean Rudd from Korotu Technology, Thomas Baglolle from Eastern Forest Solutions, and Lance Moore from Island Nature Trust. This webinar will be directed toward private landowners, woodlot owners, and people working in conservation. The focus is on using technology such as remote sensing to monitor forests, conservation theory, and modern forestry practices to sustain PEI’s privately owned forests for the next seven generations.

Follow this link to register: <https://islandnaturetrust.ca/events/>

There will be a **Technical Workshop** for *hemlock woolly adelgid* put on by the PEI Invasive Species Council on **TUESDAY, March 19th**, from **10:00 am - 1:00 pm** at the **Farm Centre**, 420 University Ave, Charlottetown.

This nasty threat to our hemlock trees has already killed many trees in Nova Scotia and beyond.

Please visit the following link and complete the form to confirm your participation:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKoeGcy9edFwRuQ4QyPqtKUoCaiykIAgzT8tnAsqbb4T9eZg/viewform?usp=sf_link

On **WEDNESDAY, March 20th**, from **7:00 - 8:30 pm**, there will be a City Cinema Screening of ***In the Quiet and the Dark***, a documentary on the *hemlock woolly adelgid*, followed by a brief informal presentation. At **City Cinema**, 64 King St, Charlottetown.

The Wonders of White Pine

-- Wanson Hemphill

Eastern White Pine is a beautiful, fast-growing, long-lived softwood species that grows well in many soil conditions in Eastern North America. It can live 300 years and reach heights of 40 metres and 1.2 metres diameter. The soft, long needles grow in groups of five and are green year-round. The bark is smooth when young but rough when mature. White Pine produces both male and female cones in three- to five-year cycles.

COMMERCIAL USES:

Today, the common use of White pine is in furniture, woodworking, and window and door trim. The soft wood is easy to work with and takes finishes well. Although lumber grades are stamped SPF, Atlantic sawmills resist purchasing white pine, preferring the Spruces and Firs, perhaps because Spruces have a higher strength-to-weight ratio, smaller knots and less resin for uniform kiln drying mixed lumber.

This has not always been the practice as White Pine was the wood of choice in the 18th and 19th centuries for homes, barns, bridges and shipbuilding. Large White Pine masts 24-inch and above were reserved for English sailing ships and became a valuable export product from New England States.



Pines were a bit bigger “back in the day”.

You can find an interesting history of White Pine at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQs7novlvtA>



A white pine in Kings County, PEI.

WILDLIFE USES:

Many songbirds and mammals eat white pine seeds and nest in the branches. Eagles and ospreys like the strong upper branch forks for nests, with the same pair returning each year. Rabbits like to eat the tender young pine branches especially in winter when food is more limited. This is a challenge for landowners until the branches are out of reach. Pileated woodpeckers may drill holes in older trees which become homes for cavity nesting birds. The loose bark of mature trees may provide spaces for brown bats and many beetles and grubs.

DISEASES:

White Pine is vulnerable to several diseases when young, and especially in plantations and near Currant bushes. White Pine Blister Rust spores can blow from nearby Currant bushes which host the disease. Young White Pine should be inspected each spring from 3-12 years of age for signs of blisters on branches or stem. Affected branches can be pruned and left on the ground as the disease only lives in living plants.

White Pine Weevil is a bug which lays eggs in young White Pine tops (leaders). The larvae eat a hole down the leader, pupate and emerge through a little hole, then drop to the ground where more trees are attacked each year. Inspecting leaders each summer between ages 3-12 with your shears and a container can reduce infections and future tree impact. Cut the infected leader below the larvae as well as all the branches right below (the whorl) except one which will be the new leader, resulting in only a slight curve in the future trunk. It is important to remove the larva-infected portion of the leader, because leaving it intact will result in forked trees with many branches trying to become leaders and poor lumber quality.

White Pine Needle disease causes the needles to turn brown and die which may kill the tree unless the base of the needles remain green. The tree may recover the following year and grow new needles.

HEALTH BENEFITS:

Japanese people have a term that means forest bathing, which is simply the effect of relaxing under a mature forest to reduce stress and increase health and well-being. A tea can be made from fresh or dried White Pine needles from which the internet sites claim many health benefits.

PRUNING:

Pruning of White Pine can begin when the tree diameter is greater than 10 cm (4 inches). Using sharp shears or a pruning saw, cut the bottom branches just outside the branch collar and never more than half the tree crown. The best time is fall and winter when the tree is dormant and sap is not running. This will heal over leaving a tight knot in the lumber. Pruning can be done as high as safely possible to leave a branch-free lower log.

The Forest Enhancement Program provides an incentive for landowners to prune for straight trees. Trees with forks should be thinned to make room for growth of straight, healthy trees. The pine below was not trimmed in time and future growth will suffer. The branches of the whorl were all allowed to grow after the leader was damaged by the weevil.



Young white pine left untreated after pine weevil damage.

Wanson Hemphill is a retired forest consultant with a woodlot in Covehead.

Membership in PEIWOA

To join as a new member of PEIWOA, or to simply renew if your current membership has expired, just **do two things**: (1) fill out membership form online at www.peiwoa.ca;

(2) **INTERAC etransfer** from your bank to etransfer@peiwoa.ca (NO HYPHEN!) where it will be auto-deposited securely into our account.

If you prefer to mail your cheque, include your **current civic address, e-mail address & phone number**.
Send to: PEI Woodlot Owners Association, 81 Prince Street, Charlottetown PE C1A 4R3

2023-25 Membership Rates

One-year PEIWOA membership*, ending March 31, 2024 \$ 25.00

Two-year membership, ending March 31, 2025 40.00

50% discounted rate for members of PEIFA or NFU, ending March 31, 2025 20.00

*You may be asked for your number of acres (kept confidential) and the **County** where your woodlot is located to become an **Active** (voting) member. **Associate** (non-voting) members pay the same rates but are not required to own a woodlot.

PEIWOA very much appreciates the support of members and advertisers.

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