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NEWSLETTER INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the Prince Edward Island Woodlot Owner Association (PEIWOA) 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

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue # 2016-1

December 2016

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Season's greetings from the Board of the PEI Woodlot Owners Association. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and "Welcome" to the first e-letter/newsletter of 2016. We hope to develop a quarterly newsletter to better inform our members of on-going activities of the PEIWOA.

Our year started off with great promise as we were partnering with a couple of other organizations and applied to Skills PEI for an individual to help us out with some administrative work and develop projects for the coming year. All that fell through when the regulations changed and we were unable to acquire any hired help. We are presently in discussion with the Work Experience Division of Skills PEI and hope for something positive in the next year.

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 to further our vision. We made a presentation to the committee developing the new Municipal Amalgamation Act and to the Dep't of Forestry and Dep't of Finance concerning taxation of managed woodlots. We hope to have further discussion in the coming months.

In September we were part of the Open Farm Day activities that have been running for a number of years on PEI. We had five sites in the three counties where members volunteered to open their woodlots and we really appreciate their participation. The weather was very wet and cool but there were still a lot of people who ventured out to tour the woodlots. We hope to expand the program next year and hope for better weather.

In October we partnered with the Dep't of Forestry to present a Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance Course in the Queens County area. The course 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.

In November we partnered with the Island Nature Trust and the Dep't of Forestry to present a very interesting workshop on "Invasive Species on PEI". This is a very timely topic right now and we all need to do more to prevent our natural environment from being overrun by unwanted and difficult to control invasive plants and insects. We hope to have more workshops in the coming months and would really appreciate your input on topics that you would like to hear discussed. Please contact us anytime with your ideas.

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 is set for Saturday, April 1/17 at the Farm Center in Charlottetown. Please put it on your calendar and try to attend. Also, if you have any suggestions, or would like to volunteer to be part of our nine member board, please let us know. We have three reps from each county on the board. Hope you have a great winter. Enjoy the snow.

Chairman, John J. Rowe.

REQUESTS

1. We would like to begin a “*Woodlot Spotlight*” section for the newsletter. Woodlot owners are encouraged to send a favourite photo or two from their woodlot or another owner’s woodlot who is active in the Association. We would like to spotlight woodlots that provide good examples of sustainable woodlot management. Please provide a short summary with details such as woodlot location, length of ownership, management objectives, management activities, and any other interesting uses for the land.
2. Date, location, and time of activities such as meetings or gatherings that would be of interest to PEIWOA membership.
3. Topics that might be of interest to members in the Association to see covered in future newsletters

Please forward all information to:

rowe@pei.sympatico.ca

SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE

The softwood lumber dispute is one of the most long-standing trade disputes between Canada and the United States, dating back to 1982. The dispute is over the general structure of the forestry sector and the trends of land ownership between the two countries. In Canada, with the exception of the Maritime provinces, the majority (90%) of land is

owned by the provincial governments – often being termed either Crown or Public Land. Therefore most timber harvested in Canada comes from Crown Land, with different provinces setting stumpage prices in different ways. On the other hand, in the United States, the majority (>70%) of land is privately owned.

The argument often cited by US lobby groups, such as the U.S. Lumber coalition is that they cannot compete with Canadian producers. The U.S. Lumber Coalition states that they are “seeking to compete on a level playing field against subsidized and unfairly traded Canadian lumber imports”, by which they claim, Canadian provincial government’s sell wood to producers at unfair stumpage prices. To avoid injury to the American softwood lumber industry, the coalition has on numerous occasions requested that various duties and tariffs be placed on lumber coming into the United States from Canada.

Stumpage fees for wood from Crown Land are determined by different methods in each Canadian province, as natural resources are considered a provincial matter. Also, there are other types of subsidies that American opponents to Canadian lumber propose, such as subsidies for forest management activities such as infrastructure development and silviculture. American lobby groups state that wood prices need to be set on an open market, by ways such as auction-based timber sales. Many

provincial governments include this into stumpage fee calculations, as a way to strengthen the argument for why they should not have any penalties applied at the border. This can be tough for western provinces with vast resources and few producers. However, the Maritime Provinces, which are in a much different situation than the rest of Canada are often exempt from penalties when sending wood over the border. This fact is because the Maritime Provinces have substantially more open markets where much of the wood does in fact come from private land. Nova Scotia in particular has a large forest industry which is required to source much of its wood from private woodlots.

It is estimated that Canada ships a value of ~\$10 billion of softwood lumber to the United States annually – so this is a very important trade topic for both nations. There are many jobs counting on thriving mills throughout Canada, be it harvesting contractors, forestry professionals, consulting firms, silviculture workers, lumber traders, mill workers, and etc. With the 2006 agreement having expired in October 2015, and a required 1-year grace period for negotiation between the two countries now being passed before any action can be taken by the US to impose duties, we are now simply waiting to see what happens. There was hopes that Justin Trudeau and Barack Obama would be able to reach an agreement due to close relations between these two leaders, but that has not prevailed. A new American president is set to take

over very soon, with what some call an economically protectionist view. This could leave Canadian lumber producers in a ugly situation if an agreement cannot be reached and substantial fees are applied on lumber when sending to our major markets in the USA.

So how will this impact private woodlot owners on PEI? It is likely too early to tell. With margins already being so small in the forest industry – mills being required to pay something like a 10-20\$ Tariff at the border would likely mean much less of the share of profits going to woodlot owners. If a deal cannot be reached between Canada the USA that ensures both forest industries are successful and not harmed by one another, then there may be a period of turmoil and tough economic measures for Canadian lumber producers. Let us only hope that our federal government can defend the interest of Canadian forest industry to ensure fair trade with the American market. One point to consider that this raises is that we should be diversifying our markets for both forest products and locations for these products. There must certainly be many markets that are willing to pay a fair price for the top quality forest products produced in Canada.

Forest Pests Update:

Spruce Budworm

Spruce budworm is a forest insect native to northeastern North America. This forest pest follows population cycles where it reaches epidemics levels every 30-40 years. The spruce budworm is a heavy feeder on fir and spruce trees throughout its range, and can cause intense damage to large swaths of coniferous forests. The cause for the rise and fall of outbreaks where populations are extremely high are generally debated – however, it appears to be consistently repeated throughout history.

The current spruce budworm outbreak was detected in Quebec in 2006, and up to 2013 had defoliated over 3.2 million hectares (7.9 million acres). With the current outbreak being just north of New Brunswick across the St. Lawrence River, and with moths being found in high numbers in New Brunswick, it is only a matter of time before New Brunswick forests being seeing the impact. Softwood plantations in particular are at the highest risk for extensive damage to this insect, with this having both major economic and ecological impacts for the New Brunswick and Maritime forests and industries as it continues to move throughout our region.

It takes roughly 2-4 years of successive defoliation for a tree to die from spruce budworm defoliation, however, damage can be noted earlier by paying close attention to your trees. Larval damage

begins to show generally in May, depending on the species of tree due to variability of the time that new foliage is flushed. Damage throughout a forest will generally be quite consistent. There is much belief that by maintaining diversity of tree species in a forest is a good way to combat destruction of entire forest stands and plantations. It is believed that this diversity allows for the maintenance of all parts of the food chain that ultimately feed on and attack the budworm to try and push it back down to lower population levels during an outbreak. With New Brunswick currently bracing for an epidemic – we can only suspect that PEI is not far behind from expecting the budworm to arrive. Spruce budworm is able to fly over long distance, and has hit PEI before with outbreaks occurring most recently throughout the 1980's. Large combat against the budworm will likely occur in New Brunswick in some fashion to protect the vast forest resources and financial investment from being destroyed. However, this probably will not be the case for PEI. The best bet to ensure your woodlot will not be too heavily impacted by the impending attack would be to diversity your stands with heavy amounts of fir and spruce, and to possibly considering harvesting or other forms of management of over-mature coniferous stands.

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/>

WILDFIRE SUMMARY

2016 Wildfire Statistics

Total Number: 7

Hectares: 19.65

Acres: 48.56 acres

Source:

<http://www.cifc.ca/firewire/current.php?lang=en&date=20160921>

ASSOCIATION HAPPENINGS

Past Events

Workshop on Invasive Species

Emyvale Community Centre, November 26, 2016. The workshop focused on how to identify, prevent establishment and control invasive species. This workshop was organized to raise awareness of invasive species to allow landowners to take a preventative approach to avoid issues with invasive species on their land.

Presenters included:

Megan Harris – Island Nature Trust

David Carmichael – PEI Department of Communities, Land and Environment

To learn more visit:

www.peiinvasives.ca

CONTACTS

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PEI Woodlot Owners Association
81 Prince Street
Charlottetown C1A 4R3

December 19, 2016

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,
Lawrence Millar,
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 _____)		