



WOODLAND OWNER

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Woodland Owner of the Year Award 2013

The Nova Scotia Woodland Owner of the Year Award (WOYA), now in its 24th year, recognizes and rewards landowners for outstanding stewardship of their woodlands. It is inspiring to see the leadership that many of Nova Scotia's woodland owners demonstrate in sustainable woodland management.

Without further ado, we are proud to present this year's WOYA winners...



Winners Georgie and Helen Uhlman proudly display their award with their grandson, Foster

PROVINCIAL & WESTERN – GEORGIE & HELEN UHLMAN

Having spent much of his youth in the woods, Georgie Uhlman truly fell in love with the forests of Western Nova Scotia while helping his father and brothers haul logs many moons ago. Since then, he and his wife Helen have set up camp (literally—they usually have about ten guests come and camp in their lot every summer) in Caledonia, just east of Kejimikujik National Park in Queens County. The Uhlman's efforts on their 52 hectare (128 acre) woodland over their short 19 year ownership prove a little work and dedication go a long way, and have made them the 2013 Provincial and Western Region Woodland Owner of the Year!

Having previously worked as a heavy equipment operator, Georgie definitely doesn't take his work home with him. He does all harvesting and maintenance on his land with the aid of horses only. Often he harvests just for furnace wood, but does sell any good hemlock, spruce, and pine logs to a local sawmill; L&S Lumber Ltd. On average he completes about 5 hectares (12 acres) of category 7 selection management each year, and has recently taken advantage

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of Association for Sustainable Forestry silviculture assistance with visible benefits. The Uhlman's had the honour of being the among the first Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified woodlands in the region after implementing a new management plan three years ago.

Georgie and Helen do not rely on their woodland for income, but enjoy its many other values. They estimate over 70% of their woodland use is for recreation! Georgie's motto with his woodland seems to be the more people he can bring the joy of the forest to, the better! Not a month goes by without some sort of community event on their land. From New Year's sleigh rides, outdoor Easter egg hunts, summer barbeques, trail rides on horseback, wood harvesting demos, thanksgiving potlucks, and so much more; it's easy to see why the Uhlman's describe their woodland as "multipurpose".

With so many visitors to his woodland, Georgie continuously improves his knowledge and safety through participating in educational programs and keeping his Wilderness First Aid Training up to date. The Uhlman's are proud of the enjoyment their woodland provides to them and other members of the community, and Georgie's passion for working in the woods is not wavering as he says, *"this is what I dreamed of doing and I wouldn't change my dream no matter what!"* Having attended the regional WOYA event last year, Georgie is eager to welcome people to his woodland for a public field day this fall. His woodland is a great example of all that can be accomplished in just 20 years. **Come have some fun through learning and enjoy the woods on Georgie and Helen's woodland this October 5th!**



Visitors may spot trout swimming past as they walk (or ride) the many trails on the Uhlman's property

PHOTO CREDIT: REG NEWELL, DNR

CENTRAL – KARL & FAYE CRAWFORD



PHOTO CREDIT: SIMON MUTABAZI, DNR

Central region winner Karl and Faye Crawford plan to make a table top out of their winning sign

It's impossible not to fall in love with Karl and Faye Crawford's property in Scotsburn, Pictou County. There is something for everyone to appreciate: the expansive view of Prince Edward island from the hilltop, the beautiful craftsmanship of their 250 year old wood home, and nearly 140 hectares (345 acres) of forest, including mature stands of spruce, pine, and tamarack. The total 187 hectares (463 acres) is an outdoorsman's paradise due to the Crawford's commitment to maintenance over the past 34 years to creating trails, wildlife habitat, and harvestable timber. It is for this commitment that Karl and Faye have been named the 2013 Central Region Woodland Owner of the Year!

Hailing from Abercrombie, Karl achieved financial success as a young adult and was able to realize his dream of owning woodland early on. In the beginning, he and his family produced Christmas trees and used the rest of the land solely for recreation such as cross-country skiing, but Karl saw the economic value of the forest after being approached by a contractor to harvest. He has since implemented several woodland management plans and is actively working to protect forest health and restore Acadian forest characteristics on his woodland. The sheer volume of work that has been completed is impressive and includes pre-commercial and commercial thinning, selection management treatments, as well as flawless hand-saw pruning—a technique Karl has perfected while pruning thousands of crop trees. The Crawford's two sons, Kevin and Kris, are interested in managing the family woodlands in the future, and Karl has proactively set up a family trust and inquired about intergenerational tax transfers to help them with financing.

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Today the Crawford's actively manage their woodland along with 21 head of highland cattle, 7 llamas, and a gorgeous Rottweiler named Jagger. Despite having some regrets about past management choices, they have a clear vision for their woodlands' future. As Karl puts it, *"forestry is such a long process; you can't go back and re-do it, but you can learn from your experience and make positive changes."* With a keen interest in learning about woodlands and forest management, Karl has a wealth of knowledge to share about his experiences and hopes his woodland can serve as an example for others.

Come get a taste of what managing your woodland is like by visiting the Crawford's open public field day on September 28th!



Grey birch are piled alongside one of the Crawford's roads following a commercial thinning

EASTERN – HENRY & ELAINE VAN BERKEL



Henry and Elaine Van Berkel with their award on their property in Antigonish

Sometimes the timing is just right. That's how Henry and Elaine Van Berkel feel about their purchase of 260 hectares (640 acres) of land in the Ashdale area of Antigonish County back in 1984. Having lived in the area for over 30 years, they were searching for woodland to buy when the property came up for sale. They have since sold half of the acreage, but are happily living on and sustainably managing the remaining 130 hectares (320 acres). They produce Christmas trees, harvest wood, and conserve wildlife habitat and historical sites on their land. Their efforts have awarded them the *2013 Eastern Region Woodland Owner of the Year Award!*

Henry had a vision for his woodland early on as both an economic and environmental investment. As recommended in early management plans, he improved access with over 5 kilometers

of well-maintained roads and clearly defined boundary lines, and is moving forward with his latest management plan that promotes the restoration of Acadian forest attributes while maintaining economic return and protecting wildlife habitat. Lucky for them, the Van Berkel family bought more than woodland back in 1984; they bought a piece of local history in the tale of Big Alex McDonald. Born in Nova Scotia, Big Alex made millions during the Klondike gold rush and was later known as a "Klondike King". Years later, he died penniless and many believe he may have stored his fortunes on his former family land – the Van Berkel property. It's hard to believe Henry hasn't found more than he's telling us as he says with a smile, *"Where did all the money go?"*

Now retired, Henry dedicates more of his time to managing his woodland. Ample older stands are ready for harvest within the next 5-10 years, and plans to ease harvest with additional road development and thinning are underway. He may also encourage more community member activity on his woodland by offering a u-pick Christmas tree option next winter. Already a member of the Northeastern Christmas Tree Association, the Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia, and the Association for Sustainable Forestry, he hopes to engage with other provincial and regional woodland owner groups in the future. Henry's dedication and ambition is clear as he says, *"I'm just revving up now, still young yet!"* **Come explore a piece of local history on the Van Berkel woodland on September 21st!**



"Big Alex" pond on the Van Berkel property keeps the woodland and its wildlife healthy

Announcements



PROVINCE MOVES TO BAN WHOLE-TREE HARVESTING

The province plans to ban whole-tree and full-tree harvesting to ensure the forestry sector remains sustainable for the future. Whole-tree harvesting removes the entire tree, including stem, branches, stump and roots, out of a forest site to a landing or roadside. In full-tree harvesting, the stump and roots remain at the forest site, but the stem and branches are removed.

“Nova Scotians clearly told us they were opposed to both of these practices and we are honouring our commitment to ban them,” said Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker. *“These practices were allowed to go on for too long, and we are making the right decision for the health of the forests and the sustainability of the forest industry.”*

To review the changes and provide comments (until August 20th) on the proposed regulation change, visit <http://novascotia.ca/natr>.

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT HOME STUDY SERIES

Want to learn more about woodland management? This free program consists of a series of easy-to-understand modules on topics that relate to woodland stewardship. The modules can be done right in your home at a time convenient to you! By following the principles and ideas in this series, woodland owners can turn their woodland goals into reality. To request a copy of any of the modules please visit <http://woodlot.novascotia.ca> or call 1-866-226-7577.

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS DIRECTORY

We are currently seeking submissions for businesses and organizations to be featured in the upcoming second edition of *From Our Atlantic Woods: Non-Timber Forest Products Directory*. Don't miss this opportunity for free advertising! For your copy of the 2009-2010 directory, or to order several for distribution at your place of business, please contact us at woodlot@gov.ns.ca or phone 1-866-226-7577.

Check out the directory online at www.fromouratlanticwoods.com/



PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WESTERN CROWN LANDS

What do you do with 1.5 million acres of land? The people of Nova Scotia were given the opportunity to respond earlier this year in relation to Crown lands in the western region of the province (including the land purchased from Bowater Mersey Ltd. in December 2012). Over 700 citizens were directly involved at open house and focus group meetings, along with over 200 online and written submissions. The majority of respondents see forestry as important to the local and provincial economy and wish to see forestry that is sustainable both economically and environmentally in the long term. This vision of sustainable forestry includes creating local, viable jobs, promoting woodland certification, encouraging a variety of products (value-added wood products and non-timber forest products like berries and maple syrup), and emphasis on education in sustainable forest harvesting and management practices. For more details please visit our web site at: novascotia.ca/natr/land/western-land/.

NEW EDITIONS – COMING SOON!

Two new modules, “**Working with a Contractor**” and “**Pests of the Acadian Forests**”, will soon be available to provide further guidance to landowners. As well, Module 2, “**Harvesting Systems**”, is in the process of being updated to better reflect policy changes and actions emphasized in the *The Path We Share: A Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia 2011-2020*.





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The DNR Open House is held every few years to improve public and youth understand of what DNR does and its core services and programs; this year the Open House also served to showcase the progress made on the new Natural Resources Strategy! To read more about DNR and the 2013 Open House, go to <http://novascotia.ca/natr/openhouse>.

COMMUNITY FORESTS TAKE ROOT IN NOVA SCOTIA



Community forests don't just happen. In fact, it takes a community of dedicated people from across a forest sector to power the process from the initial idea. The steps include engagement of interested parties, development of approaches, policies and tools, and finally, creation of capacity at the community level, before successful implementation can happen.

On Thursday, June 20th a "Community Forests in Nova Scotia Workshop" was presented, led by the Nova Scotia Community Forests Advisory Group. The Advisory Group is a collective of individuals from across the spectrum of the Nova Scotia forests sector, including representation from government, industry, research institutions, educational organizations and conservation groups. This workshop built on the results of the forum held in June of 2012, which planted a seed by opening the discussion and presenting a challenge to Nova Scotians to explore the concept of community forests. The workshop was attended by 28 participants, representing key groups in the province, and was one more step in advancing the development of community forests in the province into an implementation phase. The

main topic was the initial draft of the "Guide to Community Forests in Nova Scotia", a document that will provide relevant information required to help citizens develop a successful community forest. It was, in the words of workshop moderator Kris MacLellan, "a milestone in the development of a community forests system in this province."

Terry Stanislow
 Nova Forest Alliance
 902-639-2921
info@novaforestalliance.com

Important Numbers

- To report fires, poaching, or wildlife: 1-800-565-2224
- Woodland Management: 1-866-226-7577
- or email woodlot@gov.ns.ca
- Wildlife Resource Card: 1-900-565-7418
- Parks Reservation: 1-888-544-3434
- Hunters' Education: 1-866-639-3949

Trivia (answers on front page)

1. The current Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Charlie Parker, is also the Minister of what?

2. The Woodlot Owner of the Year award first began in what year?

3. Who was the Woodlot Owner of the Year provincial winner in 2012?

4. How much does a 2-week domestic burning permit cost?

5. When is National Forest Week this year?

3. Pat and Janet O'Toole

2. 1990

1. Energy

4. \$6.05

5. September 22nd to 29th, 2013

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA: