

Woodland in Grey an Important Factor in Water and Timber Supply

(Owen Sound Sun-Times)

An adequate supply of pure spring water is absolutely necessary in every municipality if the health of the people is to be preserved. The water problem is one requiring careful thought on the part of trained experts, and more attention is being given at the present time by governments, municipal, provincial and federal to this question than at any other time in the history of the country. The preservation of available woodlands and the reforestation of waste lands are two of the most important factors to be considered in a matter of this kind, and it is well that a study of the situation as it affects the counties of Grey and Bruce be made in order to ascertain exactly what has taken place in years gone by and what is the best means of remedying the situation. The following article expressly prepared for The Daily Sun-Times by Mr. I. C. Marritt, of the Ontario Forests Branch, deals with the woodlands in the counties of Grey and Bruce, and is based on the 1934 assessment of these two counties. It will no doubt be read with great interest:

(I. C. Marritt, Ontario Forests Branch)

The 1934 assessment returns for Grey County as printed here gives the percentage of land classified cleared, woodland, slash, swamp, waste or barren. The conditions in a county as large as Grey vary considerably and to procure a true picture of conditions in a section it is necessary to consider a township separately.

Has sufficient woodland been preserved in the various townships? To answer this question we should know approximately the percentage that is sufficient for optimum living conditions. The answer to this depends on the value of woodland to the individual farmer and the country.

Value of Woodland

1. Fuelwood and lumber.—All farms should have sufficient land in woodland in order to supply the owners with cheap fuel and lumber for their own use. 5-12 acres is usually sufficient for this purpose. If the farmer owns a larger average the surplus may be marketed as logs for wood-using plants and fuelwood for sale in neighboring villages and towns.

2. Maple syrup.

3. Labour in the winter.

The cutting of logs and fuelwood gives work to men and teams in the winter months when many other outside activities are stopped on account of the severe weather.

4. Windbreaks.—Woodland has a beneficial effect on adjacent agricultural crops, protecting them from the winter winds that blow the protecting snow off the wheat and clover fields, and the drying winds of summer. Many sections of Ontario in 1934 and 1935 had examples of wheat and clover crops that were saved by the protection given by woodland, while other fields not protected were partially, and sometimes, completely ruined.

A woodlot on the northwest side of the farm buildings has a very beneficial effect on living conditions on the farm during the winter months.

5. Flood control.—Wooded land helps to control floods in the spring, summer and winter. Snow does not melt as rapidly in the shaded wood-

land as on the cleared land, and a large percentage of the water does not leave the woods as surface runoff, but percolates into the ground. Both these features help to reduce the danger of floods. The preservation of wooded areas in Grey county is important to Western Ontario as the Grand and Saugeen rivers have their headwaters in Grey.

6. Reservoir.—Forests are reservoirs and this helps to keep a steady supply of water in the springs, creeks, rivers and farm wells.

7. Crop for inferior soil. Land not suitable for cultivation ought to be kept in timber and made to contribute to the farm income, because idle land is a liability to its owner and a drag on the community.

8. Beautifies.—A countryside is far more attractive if there are tracts of woodland scattered throughout.

Slash Land

Slash land is potential woodland and by wise management could be developed into valuable stands of timber. A too common practice in Ontario is to clean out these stands for fuelwood when they are in the polewood stage. A much better policy would be to secure the fuelwood from beneficial thinnings in these stands.

Swamp, Waste or Barren Land

Much of the area classified as swamp, waste and barren will never be valuable woodland, but sections have produced and will continue to grow valuable timber and fuelwood if they are wisely managed. Areas of sandy and rocky sites that have been cleared can be made productive by planting.

Pasturing of Woodlots

The cheapest and most satisfactory method to procure small trees is to work with nature; that is, to depend largely on natural reproduction to provide a new crop of trees. Many woodlots in Grey have very few small trees. The stock are allowed to pasture in the woods and they rowse the seedlings, and if this practice continues extensively there will be many rocky areas in Grey completely cleared of trees within the next 25 years. All stock damage woodland, but sheep are especially bad.

Farm Land Clearings

Sydenham is the only township in Grey with over 90% cleared. Other townships have a lower percentage classified as woodland, but their actual and potential woodland is increased by the acres in slash and swamp.

Wise management in the next fifty years would reverse these figures in many cases.

Better Management Needed

Insufficient attention has been given to the preservation and the better management of farm woodland. They require care in handling in order that the maximum amount of valuable timber and fuelwood may be grown. In the absence of treatment a large proportion of the woodlots are not nearly as valuable and the owners have not received, nor will they receive in the future, the financial returns that are possible.

The farmer should carefully consider the advisability of preserving some of his holdings in woodland, and of planning to practice intensive forestry in the woodlot, as this will give him, over a period of years, much higher financial returns.

School Fair Dates for Grey County Arranged

Arrangements have been completed and the dates set for the annual school fairs to be held throughout Grey county this year. The fairs will start almost immediately after the re-opening of the schools, and will continue all during the month and into October. It is expected that there will be a number of new features introduced this year which will add very materially to the interest in these school fairs. One of these is a baseball tournament at each centre, but the details of this have not yet been worked out.

There are 20 school centres, with a large number of schools to be represented, and the Public School Inspectors whose schools are included are Messrs. J. M. Game, Walkerton; Frank Smith, Collingwood; S. A. Morrison, Meaford; J. J. Wilson, Owen Sound; Geo. A. Pentland, Hanover. Following is the complete list of school fairs:

Hanover, at Hanover, Friday, September 6.
Sullivan at Desboro, Monday, September 9.
Normanby, at Ayton, Tuesday, Sept. 10th.
Collingwood, at Ravenna, Wednesday, September 11.
Bentlck, at Lamlash, Friday, September 13.
Derby, at Kilsyth, Saturday, September 14.
Euphrasia, at Rocklyn, Monday, Sept. 16.
St. Vincent, at Meaford, Tuesday, September 17.
Holland, at Holland Centre, Friday, September 20.
Osprey, at Maxwell, Saturday, September 21.
North Keppel, at Wolsey, Monday, September 23.
South Keppel, at Shallow Lake, Tuesday, September 24.
Sarawak, at Balm Beach, Wednesday, September 25.
Egremont, at Holstein, Thursday, September 26.
Artemesia, at Flesherton, Friday, September 27.
Glensig, at Edge Hill, Saturday, September 28.
South Proton, at Cedarville, Mon-

day, September 30.
North Proton, at Ventry, Tuesday, October 1.
Sydenham, at Annan, Wednesday, October 2.
Markdale, at Markdale, Friday, October 4.

EUPHRASIA COUNCIL

Council met at the Township Hall, July 2nd with H. Dawn, Reeve, J. J. Miller, H. E. Parker and L. S. Pottage, Councillors, present. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Parker - Pottage—That the Reeve and Clerk be authorized to forward a recommendation to the Department of Highways recommending Carol Cook for C. license.—Carried.

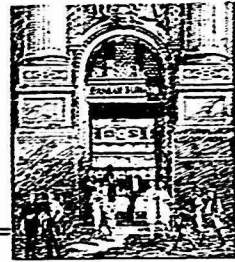
Parker - Pottage—That this Council order from the County Supply Co. assessor and collector's rolls of 500 sheets at a cost of \$70.00, divided in three equal payments spread over three years without interest.—Carried.

The following accounts were ordered to be paid: Ed. Wilcox, error in assessment, \$6; Geo. Taylor, error in assessment, \$2.24; Hartman & Co., road insurance, \$165.25; Kimberley Police Village, \$140.30; N. L. Curry, license for hall, \$3.12; Dr. Moore, medical attendance to Mrs. Bovair, \$4; Municipal World, stationery, \$17.46; R. Reid, sheep killed by dogs, \$12.50; John Yeaddell, sheep killed by dogs, \$6.18; Pay sheets for road work, No. 36, \$250.60; No. 37, \$135.64; No. 38, \$62.60; No. 39, \$127.75; No. 40, \$25; No. 41, \$29.30; No. 42, \$49.60; No. 43, \$48.70; No. 44, \$68.35; No. 45, \$25.90; No. 46, \$81.30; No. 47, \$68.80; No. 48, \$60.00; No. 49, \$51.00; No. 50, \$108.40; No. 51, \$58.40; No. 52, \$161.45; No. 53, \$71.20; No. 54, \$84.90; No. 55, \$241.25; No. 56, \$57.90; No. 57, \$23.20; No. 58, \$70.70; No. 59, \$108; No. 60, \$77.56; No. 61, \$59.65; No. 62, \$67.95; No. 63, \$2.20; No. 64, \$128.40; No. 65, \$126.67; No. 66, \$183.98; No. 67, \$192.20.

The Council adjourned until August 1st.

N. L. Curry, Clerk.

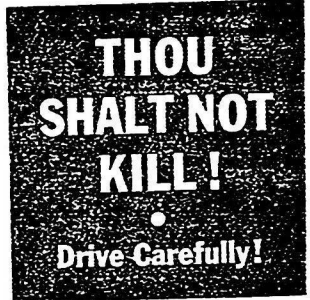
SHOP IN MARKDALE.



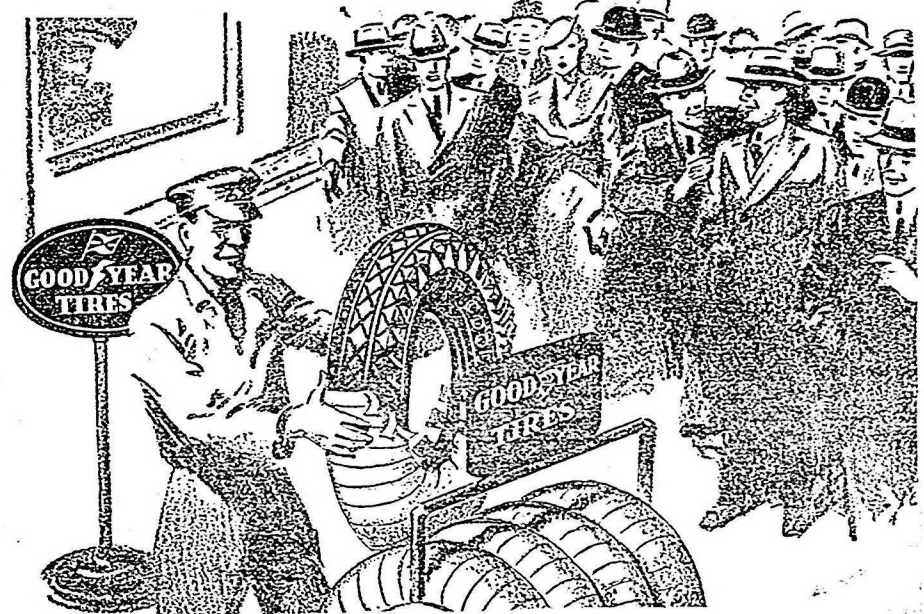
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GREY COUNTY ASSESSMENT RETURNS — 1934

Showing Assessed Acreage and Percentage of Cleared Land, Woodland, Slash Land, Swamp, Waste or Barren Land.

Township	Assessed		Percentage Swamp Waste		
	Acreage	Cleared	Woodland	Slash	or Barren
Artemesia	67,498	62.5	15.6	1.1	20.5
Bentlck	74,887	59.0	6.8	22.	11.7
Collingwood	66,921	68.9	1.9	29.0	
Derby	40,138	75.9	6.2	3.1	14.7
Egremont	72,543	68.7	5.0	1.0	25.3
Euphrasia	72,017	72.8	5.7	15.3	5.9
Glensig	67,398	53.9	8.4	4.6	32.9
Holland	68,653	66.1	11.7	12.5	9.6
Keppel	92,465	45.1	21.0	3.4	30.4
Normanby	70,512	72.6	8.6	.05	18.1
Osprey	70,800	55.9	4.3	16.0	23.6
Proton	81,069	64.3	2.3	5.1	28.2
St. Vincent	63,514	73.8	9.8	5.8	10.4
Sarawak	10,413	73.7	6.3	18.6	.8
Sullivan	73,643	62.5	8.8	11.8	18.0
Sydenham	64,844	90.8	6.4	1.8	.8
County, 1934	1,054,386	65.4	8.5	9.1	17.4
County, 1901			17.09		20.5