

Farm Tribune

York County forest area totals over 4,700 acres

By J. D. Griffiths, Management Forester Dept. of Lands and Forests, R.R. 2, Maple

YORK CTY. — At the year-end session of York County Council, J. D. Griffiths, the management forester with the Dept. of Lands and Forests presented full report on the history and operation of the reforestation area that now includes close to 5,000 acres. It reads as follows:

York County Forest was started in 1924 by the purchase of the present Headquarters property on Highway 48, two miles north of Ballantrae. The effort of many people on the York County Council were required to bring this about, and we owe a debt of gratitude to them for their foresight, and to other county councillors who over the years have continued to purchase land to enlarge the Forest. The County of York buys and owns the land. The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests pays a 50% grant to assist in the land purchase and manages the Forest for the County.

- Purpose of York County Forest**
- to reforest large areas of blowing sand and abandoned farmland
 - to preserve and improve natural woodlands
 - to produce timber for industry
 - to maintain water levels and stream flows
 - to provide a home for wildlife
 - to demonstrate to private landowners the benefits and methods of reforestation and woodlot management
 - to serve as a nature education area for school students
 - to provide a forested area for a variety of recreational uses.
- Present Size**
- York County Forest now totals 4,755 acres. It consists of 18 separate properties varying from 50 to

1500 acres in size and located as follows:

Whitchurch Twp. (11 properties); 2539 acres; E. Gwillimbury (3 properties), 641 acres; N. Gwillimbury (1 property), 107 acres; Georgina Twp. (3 properties), 1463 acres. Total (18 properties), 4755 acres.

Activities on the Forest

Tree planting — As land is purchased it is planted with tree species suitable to the soil and moisture conditions. Red Pine is the main species being most successful on sandy soils. White Pine and White Spruce are often planted on the heavier or wetter soils, and other species are planted to add variety. Planting is done by machine or hand at a 6 to 8 foot spacing. The 6 foot spacing requires 1210 trees per acre, the 8 foot requires 681.

'Crop Tree' Pruning

Pruning is carried out to produce knot-free logs for clear lumber or veneer. It is only done on a selective basis in the best red pine stands. When the plantation is about 15 years old and four inches in diameter, 150 of the best trees on each acre are selected, marked and pruned by saw, cutting off the limbs on the bottom eight feet. At age 25, additional limbs are pruned off to a height of 17 feet. This results in only the central 4" core of the tree having knots, the outer wood that grows later being knot free. These pruned "Crop Trees" will be left to grow for 80 or more years producing the final crop from the plantation.

Thinning

At about age 25, the trees become too crowded and growth begins to slow down. Every third or fourth row is cut out in a first thinning yielding about eight cords per acre of pulpwood. Thinnings are done about every ten years, the second or third thinnings usually producing some poles.

The Final Harvest

When the plantation is about 80 years old the only trees left will be the 150 pruned crop trees per acre. These will be cut at age 80 or later and the area regenerated naturally or replanted.

Woodlot Management

About one-fifth of the County Forest is covered with natural (not planted) woodlots consisting of a variety of hardwood trees. These woodlots are improved by cutting out the cull trees — those that are too crooked, rotten, limby, or otherwise defective that they would never grow into tall, straight useful trees. Firewood is produced by these improvement cuttings. When the hardwoods become large enough (18-24 inch diameter) they are cut for sawlogs.

Protection From Fire, Insects and Disease

Every year firebreaks are cultivated around the plantations to protect them from grass fires. The plantations are inspected annually for insects and sprayed only when necessary to prevent major damage. The chemicals used are restricted to those least harmful to wildlife and natural controls are used in some cases. The major disease problem is Pines annosus, a root rot of pines. To prevent infection by this disease whenever a tree is cut the stump is saturated with a solution of sodium nitrate.

Education in the Forest

A large number of school pupils from York County and Toronto visit the Forest every year for tours, demonstrations and planting days. This use of the Forest for education will likely increase greatly in the future.

Recreation

The York County Forest properties are open to the public to travel on foot, horseback or snowmobile. They are closed to car traffic or other motorized vehicles. Hunting and fishing are permitted in season and depending on township regulations. Some of the streams and ponds are stocked with speckled trout annually and are quite popular. Recreational use of the Forest is increasing every year and will soon be its major use and value. Multiple use of the forest will continue — the plantations will have to be thinned as they become too dense and other woods work will be done to keep the forest in a good growing condition, and attractive for recreation.

Regulations for Forest Visitors

The public are welcomed to the Forest but are asked to observe the following regulations:

1. No fires of any kind — the hazard is too great and the losses could be catastrophic.
2. No smoking while walking or working — please stop and sit down to smoke.
3. No overnight camping.
4. No litter — please drop nothing on the ground.
5. Please no cutting, damage or removal of



Receives Provincial honors

Kim Brethour, 17, a member of the Bethesda II (Uxbridge) 4-H Homemaking Club, received her Provincial Honors certificate at the 4-H Achievement Day, held in Uxbridge, Dec. 13. Kim is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orvan Brethour, R.R. 3, Uxbridge.

Dairy industry

Best market outlook for 1970

A. A. Wall,
YORK CTY. — The end of the year is a good time to think over the general farm situation and do a little guessing on what's coming up.

All other features of the farm picture are minor, compared to the surpluses of grain in the west. It affects us here in York County. The outlook for wheat, barley and oats as cash crops are not very exciting.

Soybeans still rate as a promising crop, because we are about four hundred thousand acres short of meeting our own needs.

Beef prices are supposed to hold a little above American levels, gaining strength in late summer. Veal is expected to hold firm but hogs will hit the wrong side of the cycle in 1970. With about ten percent more hogs to market, prices will drop.

Production has built up too for both broilers and laying hens so there won't be many chances to get rich quick here.

Dairying, of course, is trees, plants, etc. Enjoy the forest and leave it as you find it.

YOUR OLD Friend A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL

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The big one here in York, and with nearly all of our milk going to the fluid market, our position is quite different from the cheese, milk powder and butter areas. These products are all in surplus supply and exports are very hard to sell.

So, in general, this part of Ontario is in a good position agriculturally. Our livestock base and proximity to markets are big factors when surpluses pile up.

There is still strong pressure on any farmer though, to keep costs low enough to maintain a profit margin. Volume has to keep going up, specializing is a must, and crops and livestock both have to perform at top levels to keep the show on the road.

Up-dating information is a key, and there is a real good opportunity for this next week. Farmers' Week at Guelph runs January 5, 6 and 7. It's a whole new set-up, with many small sessions, on varied topics, running concurrently.

There are topics every day in both crops, livestock, and economics. Starting time is 9 o'clock, and the O.A.C. welcome mat is out for every farmer in York.

Little boy, waking up at 1 a.m.: "Mommy, tell me a story so I can go back to sleep."

Mother: "Just stay awake awhile. Your father will be home soon, then you may listen to the one he will tell both of us."

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS



This is the time of year when we should all add up our assets and count our blessings. Some of these are spelled 'a\$sets' and some are spelled 'assets'. The 'a\$sets', of course, keep a roof over our heads but the other 'assets' of living in a free society and being able to seek happiness in our own way make life under that roof worthwhile.

The 'a\$sets' are apparent on every hand in our booming economy. If the world's population of three and one quarter billion people were compressed to a thousand people, a little over sixty would be North Americans. These sixty would receive HALF of the total income of the world and own FIFTEEN TIMES as much goods as the other 940 combined!

The 'assets' of a free society require just as much work to maintain as the 'a\$sets'. Let us work at keeping them untarnished equally as hard.

A new highway research study shows that half of all fatal accidents involve only one car with alcohol figuring prominently in the main causes: excessive speed and faulty driving. Take heed.

We hope you all reach your individual destinations safely with a minimum of life's carbon and a maximum of life's happy mileage.

A Happy New Year.

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Crop improvement meeting

ONTARIO CTY. — Murray Dunkeld, Claremont, R.R. 2, has been elected president of the Ontario County Soil and Crop Improvement Association for 1970.

The annual meeting was held Dec. 16 at the Legion Hall, Uxbridge. Sixty farmers attended, with the president for 1969, Bill Batty, Brooklin, R.R. 1, in charge.

It was revealed that 184 individual farmers took an active part in one or more crop improvement projects during the year. Tests and demonstrations were carried out on a total of 104 acres.

The guest speaker at the gathering was Professor Tom Lane, Dept. of Soil Science, University of Guelph. He noted that many soils had reached a state of high fertility content and the only requirement now was an average fertilizer application to produce a satisfactory crop.

The list of officers follows: President, Murray Dunkeld, Claremont, R.R. 2; 1st Vice-President, Lloyd Smith, Port Perry, R.R. 2; 2nd Vice-President, Clarence Hewitt, Beaverton, R.R. 3; Secretary-Treasurer, Lynn Fair, Uxbridge; Auditors, Clarence Armstrong and Ted Crossall, Uxbridge. Township directors are — Vernon Powell, Oshawa, R.R. 1; Heber Down, Brooklin, R.R. 1; Murray Dunkeld, Claremont, R.R. 2; Rae Ewen, Uxbridge; Maustyn McKnight, Uxbridge, R.R. 2; Clifford Redman, Port Perry, R.R. 3; Lloyd Smith, Port Perry, R.R. 2; Keith Rynard, Sunderland, R.R. 1; Clarence Hewitt, Beaverton, R.R. 3; John Speedie, Breckin, R.R. 1 and Lawrence Cooper, Washago, R.R. 1.

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8 P.M. — Tues. — Jan. 6th at 22 Church St., Aurora.

Blessings in the New Year

At this time, it is a pleasure to chime in and wish you and your family a Happy New Year! It's been a delight to serve you. Thanks!

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