



Comrade Russ Thompson receives a well deserved life membership in Branch 491 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Seeley's Bay, Ont. Standing from left to right are Deputy Zone Commander Bill Nolan, Zone Commander Marg Moule, Comrades Roy Talboys, Russ Thompson and Ted Smith.

**SEELEY'S BAY LEGION**

With the hot weather just about behind us, it is time to start thinking Legion activities again. I hope by now that all members have received their latest bulletin. I also hope many of you can make it to the monkey golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 30. Meet at the Legion Hall at 11:00 a.m. - all you have to bring with you is a putter (if you have one). Golfing experience is not necessary.

Our annual Community Family Day will be held Sept. 12th at 2:30 p.m. - races for kids up to 12 years old - free corn on the cob - free fish pond - prizes. There will be a charge of 25¢ for a can of pop and a hotdog.

All Zone G2 branches are invited to join us for a day of golf, dinner and dance on Sept. 26th. Please watch for a flier on your notice board. Information fliers will also be posted for the Casino Night (Oct. 17) and Halloween Dance (Oct 31). More details to follow.

The missing name in the last issue was of Comrade Russ Thompson. General Meeting Sept. 9th and 23rd at 8:30 p.m.

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**A VIEW FROM THE WOODS**  
**Plantation tending or... would Bugs Bunny make a good forester?** What if you planted a garden in May and then went on vacation for the rest of the summer? Would you expect to come home to a bumper crop? Most people realize that nature, in the form of weeds, insects, and rodents would take a heavy toll on your harvest. Obviously, to produce a good crop the garden must not only be tended frequently, but protected when necessary from destructive pests. Well, trees are a crop too! This fact is often overlooked by people because of the long time frame involved. It may take more than a human lifetime, but the process is the same. A crop is planted in the soil, tended as required, and harvested when mature. Consider the carrot patch. In tending carrots, your objectives change as the season progresses. Initially, you weed to keep the germinating seeds from being overtopped by undesirable species. Later, as they begin to grow, you remove weeds to reduce the competition for moisture and nutrients held in the soil. As the carrots continue to grow, they begin to crowd and compete with each other. Since a few large carrots are usually preferred to hundreds of tiny ones, you begin to judiciously thin the patch. By harvest time, there may only be one good quality carrot where more than ten shoots originally germinated, although the last couple of thinnings probably yielded edible carrots too. If disease or destructive pests had threatened your carrot patch at any time, appropriate action probably would have been taken to protect it. It takes a lot of work to produce a good crop.

Managing a forest plantation is very similar to growing carrots, only the scale is different. The level of management you practise may depend on many factors, economic and personal as well as biological, but the basic principles are the same. Forest plantations require: tending, to reduce competition until trees are free to grow; thinning, to concentrate growth on the highest quality "crop" trees; and protection from destructive agents if required, be they insects, disease, livestock, or fire. Proper management will yield benefits in any crop be it small scale carrots in 80 days or large scale trees in 80 years.

The similarities don't end there. Have you ever seen the pride of ownership that a gardener exhibits when showing off his well-kept garden as it matures? Well, just take a stroll with a plantation owner through his forest some time, as he waits for his crop to mature. This article was presented by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Brockville. For more information in this or any forestry topic, please contact the District office nearest you.

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