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"TOMORROW'S FORESTS... TODAY'S CHALLENGE"

by Gary Nielsen



What happens to a nail put into a young tree several feet above the ground? Do you expect to come back in 20 years and find that it is now 40' in the air?

When a tree seed germinates under favourable conditions, it sends up a shoot which forms a layer of wood around a soft central core or pith. From this point onward, as long as the tree remains alive, it continues to extend its crown and root system and increase the diameter of its stem by the addition of new layers of wood around the old. It can be best pictured as though an entire tree grows around the old one each year.

The measurement of this growth in terms of height and diameter is one of the most valuable tools in forest management. By comparing a tree's growth performance with others of the same species and age, it is possible to determine the relative health and vigour of the tree. Factors that affect the growth rate of trees are related to the growing site, the proximity of the tree compared to its competing neighbours, and the stand's past history of use and disturbance. Trained foresters and technicians manipulate all of these influencing factors to achieve the maximum potential for each tree on each site. This is called forest management and with a little help, you can do it too.

Meanwhile what happened to your nail?

Is it being pushed up into the air by the growing tree? No, what is happening is that it is being slowly enveloped by the stem as successive growth rings add to its diameter.

If your tree was growing in the open and the soil was deep, with good drainage and adequate moisture, the growth rings would be rather large. If, on the other hand, your tree was forest grown, it would be locked into a life and death struggle for existence with all of the other trees around it. Its energies would be directed toward maximum height growth to capture more sunlight. It would forego the luxury of adding to its diameter beyond its need for structural support. The growth rings would be smaller and your nail would be visible for many years longer.

These tall, straight, branch free trees are usually the type most sought after for the production of lumber and other wood products. The open grown, full crowned trees are more bountiful sap producers for a product such as maple syrup. A management system can be designed to get the most from your woodlot with either goal in mind and better growth indicators than rusty nails can be employed.

If you would like further information on this or any other forestry matter, you can contact the private land forestry staff at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Brockville 342-8524.

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THE BAY MOTEL "under new management"

The Bay Motel, at the junction of Hwy.#15 and 32, has recently changed hands. The new owner is Mark Chojecki, who, with his wife Hanna and two young daughters, hopes to make the "Bay" home for many years to come.

Mark holds a University degree in hotel management and had worked in this field in his native land of Poland. Circumstances led to his family immigrating to Canada, settling for some four years in Toronto. Mark established himself in hotel work in his new country, rapidly advancing to manager of an active motel complex in the Toronto area.

His desire was to operate his own establishment, and with the support of a friend, he began looking for a suitable property. After seeing more than twenty different motel/hotel businesses in various locations across the Province, the Bay was selected. Mark feels the area offers a great setting to raise his family and the motel has potential for further development.

Since taking over the Bay four months ago, the Chojecki's have introduced some changes. The operation will be all year providing reasonable accomodation for travellers and visitors alike. This will be an advantage to the area as most of the hotel operations close during the winter months. The Bay has also received a two star rating from Tourism Ontario and Mark hopes to continue upgrading so that visitors will be assured of top quality accomodations and services.

Mark and his family are happy to be in Canada and

are looking forward to becoming Canadian citizens, an event which should take place before the end of the year.

Having only been in the area four months and operating an active business, the Chojecki's are still in the throes of unpacking and settling in however, once they have unpacked the last box, they hope to contribute to their new community in an active way.

The Chojecki's are a delightful family and look forward to meeting their neighbours in the community. Drop in and welcome them...Mark makes a great cup of coffee.

Francis E. Leidenberger
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