

2022 ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACTIVITIES IN RENFREW COUNTY FOREST

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HARVEST

Timber sales for 2022 harvest activities were advertised in November 2021. Successful bids were received for four out of five sales. One bid was received for Ruby Tract (natural mixedwood) but was not accepted due to below-market pricing. In addition, revenue was incurred from one carry-over operation (Brudenell red pine) and one unplanned salvage operation (Centennial Lake blowdown). A summary is provided in Table 1.

Harvesting activities took place in almost all seasons of 2021, with the exception of spring melt, species at risk and recreational timing restrictions. The derecho storm of May 2022 resulted in several extensions granted to 2022 harvest tenders, because of operator unavailability. Salvage is time-sensitive work, as timber must be picked up before staining occurs in warm months. As a result, revenues for 2022 are below forecast but additional revenue will be generated in 2023. A significant amount of staff time was spent looking for blowdown in the months following the storm.

Approximately 18 local residents were employed on the Renfrew County Forest (RCF) in 2022¹, on tendered harvest operations, cutting and skidding or forwarding wood, building roads, processing timber on site, supervising operations, and hauling logs to mills.

One County of Renfrew staff completed all planning (timber cruising, analysis, prescription writing), layout, tendering, wood measurement and operations monitoring activities. Tree marking was carried out mostly by contractors in 2022 (in preparation for 2023 operations), while some was done in-house.



Figure 1. Dominic and David Burchat of Wilno, operating at the Lorwall Lake Tract.

Table 1. Summary of 2022 Harvest Activities in RCF

| Tract (DPF) | Harvest Type and Details | Area (ha) | Volume (m3) | Revenue (\$) |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Brudenell (02-21) | Red pine and spruce thinning. Most revenue occurred in 2021 (\$66,305.56). | 4 ² | 264 | \$8,483.95 |
| Lorwall Lake (01-22) | Red pine thinning. | 38 | 2,183 | \$113,505.39 |
| Brudenell (02-22) | Cedar and poplar. Extension granted into 2023, requires frozen conditions. | 12 ³ | 896 | \$24,586.10 |
| Beachburg (03-22) | White pine shelterwood. Extension granted into 2023, due to salvage pressures. | 4 ⁴ | 228 | \$11,800.00 |
| Round Lake East (04-22) | Red pine thinning. Extension granted until Dec. 31, 2023 due to salvage pressures. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Centennial Lake (Salvage-01) | Unplanned salvage. Mainly red and white pine. Scattered patches, not definable area. | n/a | 478 | \$4,775.79 |
| Total for 2022 | | 58 | 4,049 | \$163,151.23 |

¹ During active operations, employed by successful bidders.

² Approximate. Most of total allocated area (26ha) was harvested in 2021.

³ Approximate. The total area for this tender is 16ha, the remainder will be cut in 2023.

⁴ Approximate. The total area for this tender is 43ha, the remainder will be cut in 2023.

RENEWAL & MAINTENANCE

No renewal work occurred in 2022, aside from monitoring. Control of invasive species took place at Centennial Lake (garlic mustard, manual), Pershick, Ruby and Kennelly Tracts (wild parsnip, chemical).

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Opportunities are taken to positively promote sustainable forest management that occurs on RCF, as well as in Renfrew County as a whole, when staff time permits.

- The County Forester was sponsored to attend and [present](#) as a keynote at the World Forestry Congress in Seoul, South Korea.
- Forestry presentations were delivered to two colleges and four school classrooms.
- The County Forester was interviewed for TimberConnect [Podcast](#).
- A public information tour was held at Beachburg Tract on August 4 to discuss the planned forest management activities, forest health and invasive species. There was a good turnout of about 20 participants.
- Staff hosted a forest operations tour for participants in Algonquin College's [Job Seekers - Pembroke Campus \(algonquincollege.com\)](#) 4-week program.
- A Facebook page was created for [Renfrew County Forest](#), in advance of harvest operations at Beachburg Tract, to increase public awareness in a well-used area. It has since been used to communicate with and educate the public about forestry in Renfrew County. The most-viewed post was about cedar leafminer, which reached more than 31,000 people.

OTHER

Forestry staff purchased a small drone to assist with fieldwork, including operations monitoring and scouting for natural disturbance damage. It has already proved helpful during the mapping and salvage of blowdown at Centennial Lake Tract.

Issues related to public use of RCF are on the rise: fires, dumping and encroachment issues occupied significant staff time in 2022, in collaboration with law enforcement officers.

Several letters were sent to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in response to Black Ash being listed as Endangered. This is an ongoing consultation, but could have dramatic impacts to forestry, public works and economic development.

Two wells were filled at Lorwall Lake Tract. Old wells associated with homestead areas are filled on an ongoing basis as they are discovered and become accessible through improved access created by forest management activities.

On the forest health front, Spongy Moth, which was a major concern in 2020 and 2021, experienced a population collapse with very limited damage in 2022. The spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues, with damage and decline becoming more visible in most areas of the County. Cedar leafminer was the major cause of public inquiries in 2022. This native pest causes browning of cedar leaves, but most do reflush later in the season. A forest health update is prepared by County staff to summarize the major events of the year. The report will be made available to the public on the [County of Renfrew Website](#).

