

2015 ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACTIVITIES IN RENFREW COUNTY FOREST

COMPLETE BY L. ROSE, RPF ON JANUARY 26, 2016

HARVEST

Timber sales for 2015 harvest activities were advertised in December 2014. Successful bids were received for all sales but one (Sernoskie, cedar). Most harvesting was complete from May to November, with no significant operational issues.

Approximately 25 people worked on the Renfrew County Forest (RCF) in 2015¹, as a result of tendered harvest operations, cutting and skidding or forwarding wood, building roads, processing timber on site, supervising operations, and hauling logs to mills. These workers go above and beyond on many occasions, to ensure that Renfrew County Forests are managed sustainably and forest values are protected.

Two County of Renfrew staff completed all planning (timber cruising, analysis, prescription writing), tree marking, layout, tendering, wood measurement and operations monitoring activities.

Table 1. Summary of Harvest Activities for 2015

Tract	Harvest Type	Harvest Area (ha)	Harvest Volume (m3)	Revenue (\$)
Byer's Creek	Shelterwood/ Selection	36.5	3,329	45,136
Ireland North and South Plantations	Red pine thinning	15	1,326	34,470
Ireland North	Poplar Clearcut	57	6,483	49,161
Round Lake Complex	Red pine thinning	11	800	22,763
Ruby	Red pine thinning	21	1,508	53,161
Total for 2015		140.5	13,445	204,690



Figure 1. Father-Son cut and skid team, working at Ireland North Tract.



Figure 2. Operations at Byer's Creek Tract

SILVICULTURE

A number of multi-year silviculture projects are currently underway in the RCF, to sustain the long-term profitability and diversity of the landbase.

23,900 trees were planted at Sperberg Tract in May, partially funded through the provincial Trees Ontario reforestation² program. Only non-forested land is eligible for this program, and since the Sperberg tract was previously used for agricultural purposes, it fit the program requirements. This 16ha area will require monitoring for survival and pests in coming years, specifically red-headed pine sawfly. It is unlikely to require tending.

Mechanical site preparation occurred on 15ha of RCF, where natural red and white pine had been harvested in previous years at Sernoskie and Crooked Fence Tracts. This is to prepare the ground for tree planting in coming years, and to ensure a future pine component on the RCF landbase.

Mechanical tending was carried out at the 150th Anniversary Tract, to remove hawthorn competing with red pine planted in 2011.

¹ During active operations, employed by successful bidders.

² Reforestation is defined as restoring and recreating areas of forests that may have existed long ago but were deforested or otherwise removed at some point in the past. This is different than the *regeneration* of a natural forest, following forest management activities or natural disturbance.

Table 2. Summary of Silviculture Activities in 2015

Silvicultural Activity	Tract Name	Area (ha)	Cost (\$)
Tree Plant	Sperberg	16	3,331
Mechanical Site Preparation	Crooked Fence	4.1	1,862
	Sernoskie	11.5	5,175
Mechanical Tending	150th Anniversary	4	0*
Total		35.6	10,368

*Work was carried out by County of Renfrew Staff

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. This year, a number of activities took place to spread the word about forestry in Renfrew County.

- Forestry and Economic Development staff partnered with Ontario Wood to talk about forestry and potential careers in the industry to local high school students at the Options Skilled Trades Fair in May.
- Forestry staff and other local forest industry volunteers led a number of student groups through forestry-based learning experiences at Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre.
- Forestry Connects in Renfrew County took place during National Forest Week in September. County forestry staff co-organized the event with Forests Ontario, and reached over 40 students and teachers for in-depth learning about forestry. This event was made possible by several local sponsors.
- Also during National Forest Week, there was a public “Walk in the Woods with a Forester” at the Beachburg Tract.
- Forestry staff were invited to talk to all Specialist High School Major students in Renfrew County as part of a professionals panel, highlighting forestry as a green industry. There were upwards of 500 students present.

OTHER

Invasive species continue to be a concern for forest health in Renfrew County. Beech bark disease was confirmed in Ireland North Tract, and the scale insect has since been observed in several others. Emerald ash borer (EAB) has not yet been found in any RCF Tracts, but was confirmed to be travelling further up the Highway 17 corridor, now in Renfrew.

Support was provided to municipalities upon request. A tree health assessment was complete for the Township of Greater Madawaska, a refresher presentation was given to the Town of Deep River on the Town’s 2013-2023 Forest Management Plan, and a forest operation prescription/layout/tree marking was complete for a property owned by the Township of Whitewater Region.

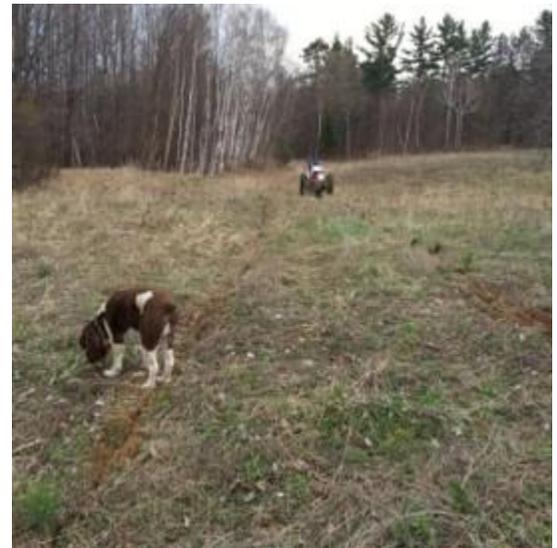


Figure 3. Machine Plant at Sperberg Tract



Figure 4. Forestry Connects at the Beachburg Tract



Figure 5. EAB exit hole on ash in Renfrew