

2017 ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACTIVITIES IN RENFREW COUNTY FOREST

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HARVEST

Timber sales for 2017 harvest activities were advertised in September 2016. Successful bids were received for three out of six sales. Areas where no bids were received had access challenges or were dominated by spruce plantations. An additional tender was advertised and awarded in December, 2016. Harvesting activities took place mostly in winter, with one in the summer/fall. The wet weather was a challenge but all operations were completed on time. No major operational issues occurred. One operation was permitted two years to complete harvest, due to access and forest value protection. This operation was only active for 1 week, at the end of 2017. It will finish in 2018.

Approximately 14 people worked on the Renfrew County Forest (RCF) in 2017¹, 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 2017

Tract	Harvest Type	Harvest Area (ha)	Harvest Volume (m3)	Revenue (\$)
Bielaskie	Red pine thinning	29	2,288	80,075.73
Steps	Red pine thinning	32	2,751	101,593.46
Crooked Fence	Red pine thinning	13	741	20,755.92
Maves (1 week of harvest/haul only)	Mixedwood clearcut/seeding cut	2	269	3,506.52
Total for 2016		76	6,049	205,931.63

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.

In 2017, 30,000 red and white pine seedlings were planted in Crooked Fence, Sernoskie and Byer's Creek Tracts of the Renfrew County Forest. These trees were planted after harvest activities took place in natural forest areas with a red or white pine component. Tree planting was done by students from Opeongo High School and Heritage Reforestation, with logistical assistance from Ottawa Valley Forest Inc.

A handful (10) of butternut seedlings grown by the [Forest Gene Conservation Association](#), with seed from vigorously growing butternut trees, were planted in a RCF Tract, surrounding the only documented occurrence of butternut in our forest

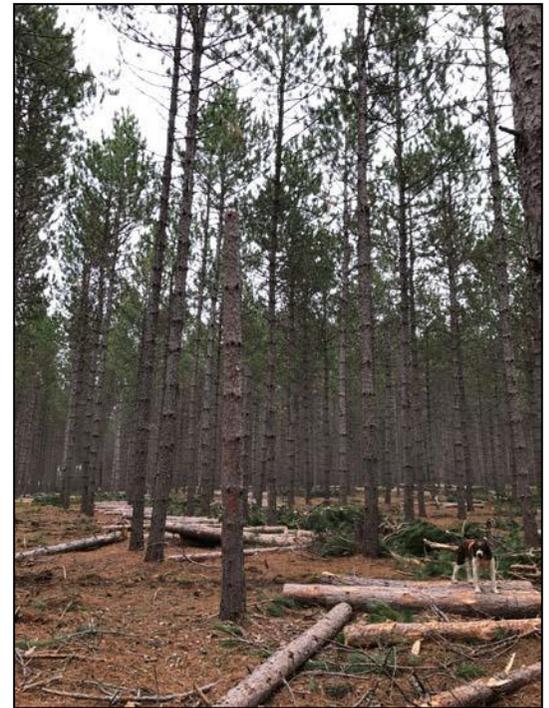


Figure 1. Best Management Practice by Operator, creating wildlife stubs from dead trees.

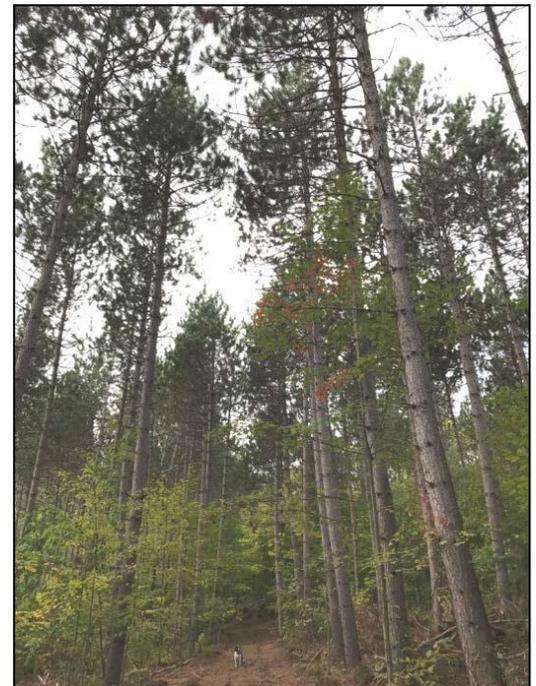


Figure 2. Taken immediately after a harvest, sugar maple and white pine regeneration were carefully protected during operations.

¹ During active operations, employed by successful bidders.

inventory in a recently harvested area. Butternut trees are a species at risk, due to a non-native fungus that has infected and is killing most butternut in Ontario. The seedlings were planting in hopes of retaining butternut as a species on the RCF landbase.

Table 2. Summary of Silviculture Activities in 2017

Silvicultural Activity	Tract Name	# of trees	Cost (\$)
Planting of red and white pine seedlings (tree + plant cost)	Crooked Fence, Sernoskie, Byer's Creek	30,000	17,004.10
Planting of Butternut Seedlings	Little Lakes	10	25.00
Total		30,010	17,029.10

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.

- Forestry and Ec. Dev staff partnered with Ontario Wood to talk about forestry careers with local high school students at the Options Skilled Trades Fair in May.
- Forestry Connects took place during National Forest Week in September. County forestry staff co-organized the event with Forests Ontario, and reached over 45 students and teachers for in-depth learning about forestry.
- Staff was profiled by Let's Talk Science's, as part of raising awareness about STEM career possibilities for high school students (unreleased). A [local mill and forest operation](#) were also profiled as a result.
- Footage was obtained on County forests and of staff as part of an educational documentary being produced on Eastern Ontario's forests – Trees, Youth, Our Future (unreleased).
- Staff gave guided forest tours and worked booth with Ec. Dev. staff at Sawtech in Renfrew in June.
- Staff was interviewed for a Podcast (unreleased) produced by [Walk in the Woods](#) and as a result, attended [North American Forest Partnership's](#) annual event in Portland, OR.
- The Forestry/GIS Division hosted a 2-week placement for an Algonquin College Forestry Technician Student and an exchange student from the UK for a day.

OTHER

The Final 2017-2026 Forest Management Plan for the Renfrew County Forest was presented to and accepted by the Development & Property Committee and County Council. This annual report is the first under the new plan.

Invasive species continue to be a concern for forest health in Renfrew County. Beech bark scale (the precursor to Beech Bark Disease) was observed in several new tracts. Emerald ash borer (EAB) traps were set in partnership with the Petawawa Research Forest this year, and as a result, EAB was confirmed in Cobden. Staff assisted in NRCan research in releasing parasitic wasps in a trial for biocontrol of EAB. Black-legged ticks carrying Lyme disease are a growing concern and were confirmed in Chippoir's Corner tract of the RCF.

Support was provided to municipalities upon request. Work was done for the Town of Deep River to review their 2013-2023 Forest Management Plan, update necessary information and facilitate planned harvest activities.

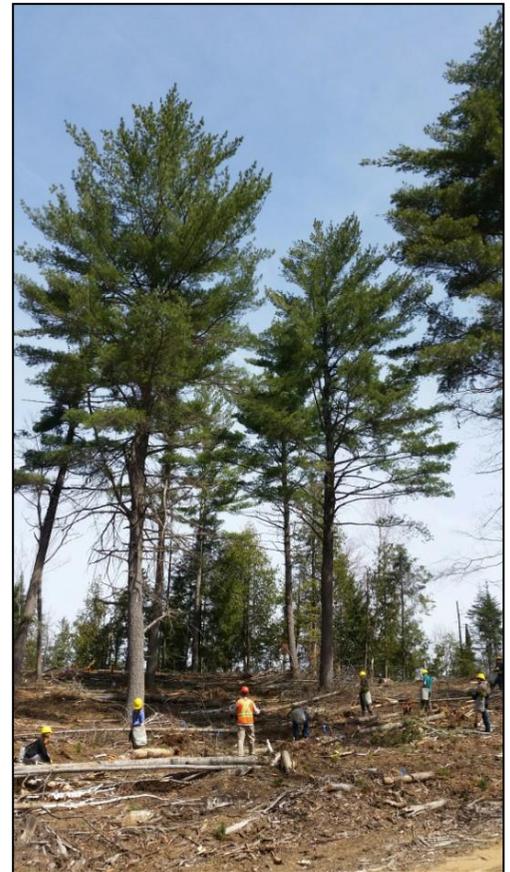


Figure 3. Opeongo HS Students planting white pine at Byer's Creek Tract.



Figure 4. EAB parasitoid release in Renfrew.