

2018 ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACTIVITIES IN RENFREW COUNTY FOREST

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HARVEST

Timber sales for 2018 harvest activities were advertised in October 2017. Successful bids were received for all three sales. An additional two-year tender area (Maves) issued in 2017, due to access and forest value protection, was almost entirely harvested in 2018.

Harvesting activities took place in almost every season in 2018. A sudden melt in the spring presented some challenges. Periods of hot, dry weather in the summer led to short-shifts being implemented at times. No major operational issues occurred.

Approximately 20 people worked on the Renfrew County Forest (RCF) in 2018¹, 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 frequently go above and beyond, 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 2018

Tract	Harvest Type	Harvest Area (ha)	Harvest Volume (m3)	Revenue (\$)
Maves	Poplar/mixedwood Clearcut	51	5,315	54,723.35
Golden Lake	Red pine thinning	27	2,029	70,601.77
Round Lake	Red pine thinning	41	3,389	116,466.40
Chippior's Corner	Red Pine thinning/salvage	6	456	13,501.22
Total for 2018		125	11,189	255,292.74

RENEWAL

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 2018, 6,300 red and white pine seedlings were planted at Byer's Creek and Crooked Fence Tracts of the Renfrew County Forest to finish plant areas started in 2017. Heritage Reforestation planted the trees at the end of April. County forest staff will continue to seek out and identify areas where pine regeneration can be encouraged through tree planting.

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, Byer's Creek	6,300	5,979.95



Figure 1. 2 of 3 generations of Rumleskie's at Maves Tract



Figure 2. Operations underway at Round Lake Tract



Figure 3. Checking 2017's tree plant success

¹ During active operations, employed by successful bidders.

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 Career Fair in May.
- The Renfrew County Forestry Education & Outreach group of local industry and stakeholders met for the 4th year in a row. Significant actions have been taken to promote forestry in a positive way by this group since its inception.
- A presentation was given to a Fellowes High School class about forestry, and careers in the forest sector.
- Let's Talk Science/CurioCity visited Renfrew County in May 2017, to gather content for the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers to grades 8-12. They produced a career [profile](#) and [video](#) of the County Forester, and a [360 video](#) and [career profile](#) of Andrew Newman of Heideman's harvesting operation. These were released in 2018 to promote careers in the forest sector.
- Staff presented to Algonquin College's Forestry Technician program about Community Forestry and Renfrew County Forests.

OTHER

Invasive species continue to be a concern for forest health in Renfrew County. Beech Bark Disease has been confirmed in several RCF Tracts and Shaw Woods. For the 3rd year in a row, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) traps were set in partnership with the Petawawa Research Forest. None of the traps were positive this year, although EAB continues to spread in Renfrew County. For the second year in a row, staff assisted in Natural Resources Canada research by releasing parasitic wasps in a trial for biocontrol of EAB.

With assistance from Chief Paramedic Mike Nolan, two County Forest Tracts in the Calabogie tornado area were surveyed for damage, via drone footage. This was an excellent partnership, and the reduced the time required to survey these areas significantly. No damage was found in these two tracts (Springtown and Bagot Creek). Interestingly, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) staff were on site the same day at Springtown Tract completing surveys for black-legged ticks. Black-legged ticks carrying Lyme disease are a growing concern and were confirmed in Chippior's Corner and Springtown tracts of the RCF, by data staff provided to the RCDHU.

Support was provided to the Town of Deep River in the tender and implementation of a plantation thinning, as outlined in their 2013-2023 Forest Management Plan. This harvest was successfully completed in the fall, with no issues.

Forestry staff assisted Public Works with hazard tree assessment in Arnprior, particularly on ash trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer.



Figure 4. Emerald Ash Borer Trap



Figure 5. Heavy infestation of Beech Bark Disease at Carswell's Mountain Tract



Figure 6. Paramedic Services, RCDHU and Forestry staff all at Springtown Tract