

2025 ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN RENFREW COUNTY FOREST

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HARVEST

Timber sales for 2025 harvest activities were advertised in fall 2024. Successful bids were received for all three sales. A summary is provided in Table 1.

Harvesting activities took place in all seasons in 2025. Ruby, a two-year contract tendered in 2024, finished in early 2025 with 20% of the revenue incurred in the second year of the contract. Approximately 16 local residents were employed on the RCF in 2025¹, on tendered harvest operations, cutting and skidding or forwarding wood, building roads, processing timber on site, supervising operations, and hauling logs to mills. Most wood is delivered to local mills, which are an important employer in many communities.

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



Figure 1. A fourth thinning took place in some Beachburg Tract plantations. Natural white pine regeneration was well-protected during the operation.

Table 1. Summary of 2025 Harvest Activities in RCF

Tract (DPF)	Harvest Type and Details	Area (ha)	Volume (m3)	Revenue (\$)
Ruby (05-24)	Natural Mixedwood	64*	1,216	\$ 14,313.35
Beachburg (01-25)	Red Pine Plantation	42	3,472	\$ 218,867.74
Douglas (02-25)	Natural Mixedwood	21	2,181	\$ 19,500.54
Mask (03-25)	Red Pine Plantation	22	1,560	\$ 98,777.69
Total for 2025				\$ 351,459.32

*This was a two-year contract. Most area was harvested and \$54,496.62 of additional revenue occurred in 2024.

¹ During active operations, employed by successful bidders.

RENEWAL & MAINTENANCE

In 2025, invasive species control measures occurred, and progress was made towards renewing pine in the Beachburg Tract. \$34,661.05 was spent on these activities, in addition to several in-house initiatives. A micro-grant of \$3,500 was received from the Invasive Species Centre which offset some of the wild parsnip control, educational signage about invasive plants for Beachburg Tract, and equipment and supplies to be used for in-house spot-spraying of invasive plants.

Students from Opeongo High School and Algonquin College assisted with tree planting at the Beachburg Tract.

Table 2. Summary of 2025 Renewal and Maintenance Activities

Activity	Tract Name	# Unit	Cost (\$)
Tending of butternut seedlings grown from seed of trees tolerant of butternut canker	Kennelly	<0.5 ha	In-house
Garlic mustard control by hand-pulling	Centennial Lake	<0.1 ha	In-house
Dumped garden plant control	Deacon Tract	<0.1 ha	In-house
Wild parsnip, garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed control with herbicide	Ruby, Kennelly, Pershick, Golden Lake	<0.5 ha	\$3,051.00
45,800 trees planted at Beachburg Tract	Beachburg	25 ha	\$31,610.05

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.

- Staff contributed to an updated report about the forest sector in Central Ontario. It can be viewed online [HERE](#).
- Staff delivered several presentations about Renfrew County Forests and the importance of the forest sector to our area, including at the International Model



Figure 2. Elected officials tour RCF

Forest Network (IMFN) Global Forum in Kemptville, ON, the [Canadian Council of Forest Ministers](#) annual meeting in St. John's, NL and the Alberta Forest Products Association annual conference in Jasper, AB.

- Elected Officials attended a tour organized by Forestry and Economic Development divisions that gave them a glimpse at the local forest sector: from carefully managed forests, to lumber products, to sawdust and everything in between. This included a visit to the active harvest operation at Beachburg Tract, Lavern Heideman & Son's sawmill and Pembroke MDF.
- Elected Officials supported the local forest industry at delegation with Provincial Ministries during AMO, ROMA and Queen's Park day on the following topics: advocating for local biomass projects, communicating impacts of black ash protection measures on private land forest management, and highlighting the importance of continued use of glyphosate on future local wood supply.
- Local outreach activities included:
 - o 3 classroom visits

- Presentations to Whitewater Region Council, Laurentian Valley 50+ group, the Renfrew County Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association, the Round Lake Property Owners Association, the Whitewater Senior's group, and the Women's Institute Network of Renfrew County.
- A bus tour brought 30 local high school students to managed forest areas and mills, learning about forestry and related careers. Partners for this tour included NRCan (Petawawa Research Forest), Shaw Lumber, and Lavern Heideman & Sons. Funds were provided by Forests Canada.

OTHER

A Request for Quotes (RFQ) was distributed and awarded for contract by-law enforcement of the [By-Law to Prohibit Certain Activities on County of Renfrew-Owned Forests](#) (By-law 79-24). Three investigations occurred but no charges were laid. These services amounted to \$711.90 for 2025.

A RFQ was distributed and awarded for surveys of two RCF property lines with encroachment issues. These were completed at a cost of \$19,500 +HST and work continues to resolve the issues.

A cell tower was constructed and is now operational at Ireland South Tract.

The County of Renfrew hosted the annual meeting of the Community Forest Managers and Tree By-law Officers network, with 55 county and conservation authority staff from Central and Southern Ontario in attendance.

Advocacy continued on major issues facing forest sector, particularly species at risk and markets for low-end materials.

There were no new major forest health issues in 2025, however a 7ha fire did occur at Crow's Nest Tract in October. High levels of infestation and significant mortality are now visible from Emerald Ash in most parts of the County, particularly along major roadways from Pembroke, south. Staff treated some healthy ash trees at the County Administration Building and Miramichi Lodge with TreeAzin in hopes of protecting them for the second year.



Figure 3. Wetland at Crow's Nest Tract where October fire was most intense.