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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Over the past year and a half, Forests Ontario has focused on growth. It's at the heart of what we do, whether by growing and restoring our forests or improving as an organization. We've made great strides in promoting and supporting the future of healthy forests through our tree planting, educational programs, and awareness campaigns, firmly positioning ourselves as 'the voice of Ontario's forests.'

Forests Ontario commemorated our province's 150th anniversary with the Green Leaf Challenge, an initiative that invited people, partners and communities to count their newly planted trees. These trees will leave a legacy, providing benefits for generations to come. The government of Ontario continues to invest in the future of forests with their continued funding of the 50 Million Tree Program (50MTP), allowing us to plant

more than 22 million trees across the province to date. That work will continue as we strategically work to enhance forest cover where it is needed most to deliver the goods and services we need, while providing essential habitat for forest biodiversity.

This year, Forests Ontario continued to recognize Green Leaders—landowners whose dedication to planting with 50MTP reaped the benefits of increased wildlife and greater tree cover in areas of concern.

We told the story of Ontario's historic trees through our TD Heritage Tree program, and we are honoured to share the remarkable events that these Heritage Trees have witnessed.

We helped bridge the gap between people and nature through community engagement, bringing awareness to the intrinsic value of forests. With the launch of our *It Takes A Forest* (ITAF) initiative in March of 2017, we amplified the voice of Ontario's forests, and they were heard. ITAF provides fact-based, highly-shareable information about forestry and the role that trees play in our day-to-day lives.

With the help of our partners, our voice has projected past Ontario's borders. The need for tree planting is Canada-wide, and we've embraced that challenge, taking our expertise to the national stage with Forest Recovery Canada (FRC). FRC addresses carbon sequestration, enhances biodiversity, builds resilience and benefits both human health and our economy by slowing climate change. Canada, we stand on guard for trees.

Climate change impacts our forests—and our lives—more each passing day. Flooding, drought, shorter planting seasons, insects, fire, invasive species and species migration threaten the integrity of existing forests and also work against us when planting trees. Confronted with these factors, we increased our restoration efforts so that our forests continue supporting us, as we work to enhance their resilience in a future of changing climate.



Robert H. Keen RPF, CEO, Forests Ontario

Forests Ontario's education programs offer content for educators and students alike; Canada's youth will determine the future of our trees and lands. We connect with more than 10,000 students each year, from kindergarten to post-secondary levels. With support from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Forests Ontario has brought the Tree Bee program to a broader audience online. Tree Bee has taught tree identification since 1952, when it was established as a competition for elementary students. In 2017, it was transformed into an interactive website for use in classrooms, houses, backyards and beyond.

Every year we hold the Envirothon competition, bringing together high school students whose work ethic and passion for environmental sciences qualifies them to compete. In 2016, our regional and provincial competitions culminated with the North American Envirothon, an intensive multi-day event, hosted in our backyard at Trent University. This event brought together 260 exceptional students from across North America and China, transcending borders and giving rise to the next generation of environmental leaders. In May of 2017, more than 20 teams competed at Lindsay, Ontario's Fleming College under the theme of "sustainable farming". 2017's Ontario Envirothon Champion was University of Toronto Schools from Toronto, which has continued their winning streak. We were and continue to be inspired by these gifted young people, who will without a doubt be tomorrow's green leaders.

As our membership continues to grow, we pursue ways to engage with our members throughout the year with newsletters, magazines, the annual conference and various events. We are privileged to have sponsors that continue to support our programs, demonstrating their belief in our cause.

We are also fortunate to have a Board of Directors whose talent, experience, and individual expertise guides us. Our board members aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and work together for the future of our organization and our mission.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge our highly professional and passionate staff who form the backbone of our organization. Our talented team of forestry, communications, and business professionals are constantly raising the bar for Forests Ontario. Whether in the office or the field, these skilled individuals go above and beyond the call of duty.

In the face of change we are advancing, building on the momentum we've developed over the past year. We will continue to restore our forests and to plant new ones, holding ourselves to the highest of standards. Forests Ontario has more to accomplish and we will continue to grow, because with change comes new opportunity. We invite you to join us.



Steve Hounsell President, Board of Trustees, Forests Ontario

Robert H. Keen

RPF, CEO, Forests Ontario

Stere Hound

Steve Hounsell

President, Board of Trustees, Forests Ontario

WHO WEARE

No matter where we live, forests play an indispensable role in our lives. Our forests provide an incredible range of environmental, social, and economic benefits. The local parks where we play, the wood products we use, the clean air we breathe and water we drink are just some of the ways that we experience the benefits of well-managed forests.

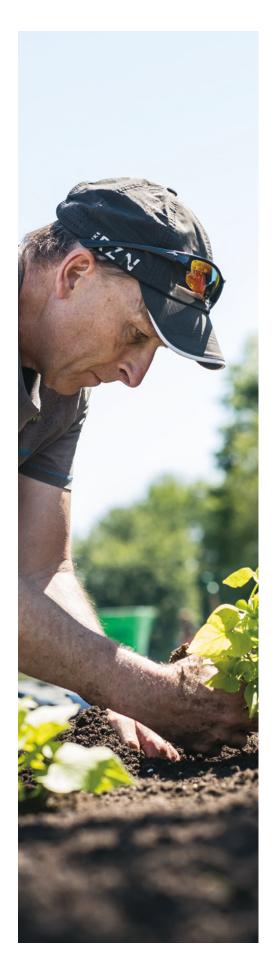
Forests Ontario is the voice of our forests. Our mission is to secure the vital benefits of forests by enhancing forest cover and connect communities to our environment through education and awareness programs.

Throughout our history, forests have been a resource for addressing challenges and creating opportunities by driving economic growth, supporting biodiversity, enabling healthier communities, inspiring great art, and allowing us places to camp, hike, play, and explore. The work we do today will preserve and strengthen that relationship for the future.

Forests have been a source of inspiration for Canadian artists such as Emily Carr, Tom Thompson, and Steve Driscoll.



When our forests thrive, so do we.





Our Vision

Forests Ontario is the voice of our forests. Our work in the areas of **Restoration**, **Education**, and **Awareness** supports our central goal of a future of healthy forests: supporting a strong economy, resilient ecosystem, and healthy people. When our forests thrive, so do we.



Restoration

Our forest restoration efforts support the planting of nearly three million trees every year. With climate change as the defining challenge of our time, a commitment to increasing forest cover is vital.



Education

We need our forests and they need us. Forests Ontario's education programs foster the next generation of skilled professionals to care for those forests.

The core principle of our education programs is to connect students to nature and support them in developing a passion for the outdoors. The Ontario Envirothon and Forestry Connects programs continue to give students opportunities to experience and learn about sustainable forest management first-hand.



Awareness

Forests Ontario's *It Takes A Forest* initiative has given Ontario's diverse forestry community a central and unified voice. With that voice, we're speaking to Ontarians of all backgrounds with the message that our forests, those both near to and distant from us, are essential to our health. We continue to promote and celebrate our forests and the work of forestry professionals through social media, conference presentations, publications, and billboards.

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE

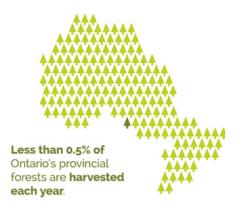
Tree Planting Initiatives

With every passing year, the effects of climate change have become increasingly urgent. From shorter planting periods to increased instances of adverse weather conditions such as flooding, drought, and fire, climate change is directly affecting how and where trees are growing.

Forests play a key role in climate change mitigation. Reducing forest loss through tree planting is one of the best tactics we have to combat the negative effects of climate change. We have worked with more than 60 partners to deliver large-scale forest restoration projects throughout the province. Our tree planting programs are science-based, steering the process from seed collection all the way to follow-up assessments of the planting site, ensuring that the trees we plant today grow into the healthy and abundant forests of tomorrow.

The 50 Million Tree Program

The Government of Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program (50MTP) is an ambitious, province-wide tree-planting initiative facilitated by Forests Ontario. 50MTP offers financial and practical assistance to landowners (with 2.5 acres or more of open land) wishing to increase forest cover on their property. The program strengthens local ecosystems, raises property values, and increases carbon sequestration.



Through our planting programs, more than 28 million trees have taken root since 2007

It takes a forest to— FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Supporting Forest Management

Forests Ontario provides services and resources in support of effective forest management across Ontario.

Forests Ontario delivered several **Seed Forecasting & Collection Workshops** across the province—including in Madoc, Toronto, and Mattawa—in partnership with the *Toronto Trees and Parks Foundation, Nippissing Forest Rescue Management*, and *Cabbage Town ReLeaf*. These workshops focused on seed collection, tracking, development and compiling information about availability, location, type and quantity. Skilled forecasters and collectors ensure that planters have the information needed to plant trees in appropriate locations where they can flourish into healthy forests.

Landowners with woodlots may be eligible for the **Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)**—a voluntary program administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). The program offers a property tax reduction on well-managed forest land in Ontario. Together, the incentives offered by these programs encourage landowners to support healthy, sustainable forests on their property for the benefit of all Ontarians.

Forest Recovery Canada

Forest Recovery Canada (FRC) is the national tree planting division of Forests Ontario, working to strategically plant trees across Canada. FRC works with organizations, municipalities, First Nations, ENGO's and corporate sponsors to address carbon sequestration, enhance biodiversity, and provide for human health and economic benefit by slowing climate change.



TREE PLANTING DELIVERY PARTNERS

We would like to acknowledge and thank our 2016/2017 planting partners

2016-17 Nurseries

Somerville Seedlings
Pineneedle Farms
St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Center
Ferguson Forest Centre
Baker Forestry Services, Nursery & Consulting

Forest Recovery Canada Planting Partners

City of Ajax, ON
Soverdi, QC
Clean Foundation, NS
Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society (AWES), AB
City of Surrey, BC







22,918,913

trees planted under the 50MTP since 2008

552ha

of contributed corridor/core forest connectivity by 50MTP in 2016

213,242

trees planted across Canada in 2016 and 2017 by Forest Recovery Canada

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Forests Ontario's community engagement efforts have focused on telling the story of our forests and forestry as a whole.

It Takes A Forest

As of its launch in 2016, *It Takes A Forest* (ITAF) became FO's central awareness campaign. ITAF communicates the benefits of forests and showcases the forestry sector's more relatable aspects to a broad and potentially untapped audience via videos, billboards, public relations efforts and social media. Utilizing the thematic phrase of "it takes a forest to..." we condense the many facets of forestry into one understandable, memorable and easily online-sharable voice.

TD Heritage Tree Program

The TD Heritage Tree program was launched in 2009, in partnership with the Ontario Urban Forest Council. Through the program, Ontarians nominate historically and culturally significant trees to be recognized for Heritage Tree status. During Canada's sesquicentennial, we proudly exceeded our goal of 150 Heritage Trees nominated by members of the community. We've had the honour of bestowing the Heritage Tree title on 96 trees thus far.





A Maple tree can produce **1 litre** of Maple syrup.

Ontario produces **4,000,000 litres** per year.

#ItTakesAForest



EcoHealth Ontario

EcoHealth Ontario is a collaborative of professionals in the fields of public health, medicine, education, planning and the environment, for which Forests Ontario serves as the backbone organization. Formed in 2015, the collaborative tackles critical questions regarding the environment as it relates to public health and to promote greenspace in the province. By building new partnerships among the human health, social, and environmental sectors, Ecohealth Ontario supports improved health and well-being outcomes for all Ontarians through efforts in research, policy development, and public awareness.



In January of 2017, EcoHealth Ontario published 'Conserving Biodiversity: A Public Health Imperative,' a background paper created to ignite discussion about the impacts of biological diversity, climate and social change on human health and well-being in Ontario.

In February of 2017, EcoHealth Ontario released the 'Greenspace and Ecohealth Toolkit,' a document to provide resources, guidance and assistance to those interested in lasting improvements in community health through greenspace.

EcoHealth Ontario's signature casebook, 'Leveraging the Benefits of Green Space for Environmental and Public Health Benefits,' was also made available at this time. The casebook describes how greenspaces provide both environmental and public health benefits in Ontario, as well as how protecting and expanding greenspaces is central to the integrity of the province's social and ecological determinants of health.

Community Tree Plant

Community Tree Plant is a family-friendly event that offers a chance for volunteers to get their hands dirty planting trees in support of the environment and their local communities. Community Planting Weekends took place on May 7th, 2016 and May 6th, 2017—with support from generous sponsors including Enbridge, TD Friends of the Environment, Ontario Wood, Niagara Parks Commission, and Thompson Emergency—and featured nearly 700 volunteers from Cambridge, Niagara Falls, Windsor, York Region and the Kitchener/Waterloo area. In total, an impressive 3,800 native trees were planted.



Annual Conference

Our 2017 Annual Conference took place on Friday, February 10th in Alliston, Ontario, and was attended by more than 300 guests representing government, forestry, landowners and the public. This year's conference theme was "#ltTakesAForest", exploring how our forests support Ontario's communities by providing jobs, wildlife habitat, health benefits, and fight climate change.

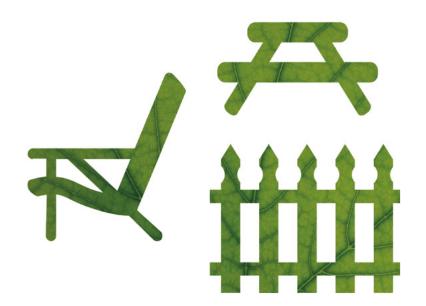
More than 80 different species of native trees have been planted under the 50MTP since 2008

#ItTakes



A wood-framed home stores the same amount of **carbon** that is emitted by running the family car for **five years**

Wood products like **furniture**, store **carbon** for decades



Wood is the material of choice where quality acoustics are important such as **concert halls** and **auditoriums**



AForest

6.2 million Eastern White Pine trees have been planted under 50MTP since 2008 (the provincial tree of Ontario)



Asthma rates in young children are **25% lower** in areas with **trees**

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Forests Ontario connects students to our forests. Through in-class and interactive outdoor learning, our goal is to inspire students to take action and make choices in support of healthy, natural ecosystems. We're proud to work with many different partners to engage 10,000 students every year in learning about our forests.

PLANT

The Program for Local Afforestation Network Training (PLANT) launched in 2012 as a five-year strategy to support new forestry professionals in Ontario.

With a significant number of senior forestry staff approaching retirement, PLANT was established in order to transfer important skills and knowledge to a new generation of forestry program managers.

This mentorship initiative allowed for the knowledge transfer of decades' worth of forestry knowledge; and ensured that the professionals delivering large-scale tree projects across Ontario had the practical skills and competence needed to address forest restoration needs. Under the program, 20 forestry professionals were trained and all graduates are fully employed.

TD Tree Bee

Our oldest education program, dating back to 1956, continues to evolve and adapt. With the same emphasis on celebrating the beauty of our forests and introducing students to tree identification, TD Tree Bee is increasingly accessible with the development of a mobile website https://treebee.ca/.

Forestry Connects

Forestry Connects lives up to its name, connecting high school students to our forests. Forestry Connects is a chance for participants to not only learn about the benefits supported by forests, but how those benefits are realized through the work of professionals in different fields.

In 2016–2017, we partnered with leaders in the forestry sector to deliver six educational field trips in York Region, Renfrew, Toronto and Kenora, engaging more than 221 students in the process.





"Envirothon is one of the best means to introduce students to the concept of human impacts and what can be done to help create a sustainable environment and economy." - Ontario Envirothon Teacher

"I would recommend Envirothon to anyone with a serious interest in forestry or the environment. There are so many people who wouldn't know about Environmental Science and what that career has to offer if it wasn't for Envirothon." - Ontario Envirothon Alumni

Ontario Envirothon

The Ontario Envirothon is celebrating more than 20 years of supporting young leaders in managing and caring for our natural resources and ecosystems.

In 2016–17, more than 1,200 high school students participated in the program across the province.

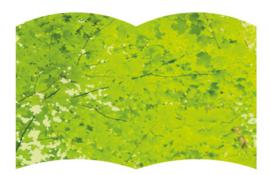
Forests Ontario recently added new components to the Ontario Envirothon beyond regional competitions including:

- An online presentation challenge, in which students outside the competition were invited to participate in the presentation component of Ontario Envirothon. Students were presented with a local, natural resource-related challenge and invited to submit their proposed solution via video for a chance to participate in the Provincial Championship.
- Free webinars on core Envirothon topics delivered by Forests Ontario staff and program partners.

2016 North American Envirothon

In July of 2016, 260 of North America's best and brightest came together at the North American Envirothon. Team Ontario, represented by University of Toronto Schools (UTS), emerged as overall champions. UTS was joined by teams from 56 regions across the continent—and China!—for the competition at Trent University.

Reading and writing on paper improves learning.



NORTH AMERICAN ENVIROTHON



It takes a forest to— GROW TOMORROW'S LEADERS

"I don't mean to sound cliché, but truly and sincerely it elevated my perception of youth and gave me optimistic hope and potential in the future that I did not have to this extent before this event. Words cannot express how profound an effect this group of kids had on me—it dominated my consciousness for days afterwards."



- Sponsor



"Envirothon got us outdoors and gave us the opportunity to be hands-on while connecting us with our surroundings. I can still remember trekking through the forest, identifying trees, taking soil samples and discussing ideas for wildlife habitat restoration. Envirothon sparked my interest in environmental issues and I am so glad I had the opportunity to participate in such a great program."

- Student

30+ years

of Envirothon programming

500,000

students, teachers and volunteers participate each year in North America

70%

of Envirothon students surveyed are exploring education and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

10,000

Ontario Envirothon Alumni

OUR IMPACT

At Forests Ontario, we believe that bringing awareness to our forests will help bridge the gap between people and the environment.

Media Presence

Forests Ontario strives to bring our message to a broad audience by growing our media presence. In 2016 and 2017, Forests Ontario was featured by:





















As the voice of our forests, we use many different platforms to connect with like-minded individuals and organizations to share countless stories and events. This year, we surpassed **10,000 followers** on both our Facebook and Twitter accounts, allowing us to engage with a greater audience in support of the work that we do.

	1,803	Instagram followers
	10,056	followers on Twitter
f	11,581	likes on Facebook
	29,007	minutes of video watched on our YouTube Channel— that's almost 3 weeks!
	455,704	page-views

PARTNERSHIPS

Our Supporting Partners











TD Friends of the Environment Foundation











Supporters

A Greener Future

AET Group

Algoma University

Algonquin Forestry Authority

ALTAN Safe Outdoors

Arbor Day Foundation

Association of Power Producers

of Ontario

Auditing Association of Canada

Baka Communications Inc

bclMC Realty Corporation

Bentall Kennedy

BioForest Technologies Inc.

Brock University

C.H. Robinson

Canada Helps

Canadian Institute of Forestry

Canadian Soil Science Society

Central Park Friends of Carol

Chestnut Park Real Estate

Limited, Brokerage

City of Peterborough

Cleaner NRG

Conservation Ontario

Contrast Heating & Air

Conditioning Ltd.

Corby Spirit and Wine Ltd.

County of Renfrew

Covanta

CropLife Canada

CVC

Del Ridge Homes

Discount Car & Truck Rental

Domtar

Donald Brown Funeral Home

Dundee Recycling

Durham College

Durham Community Foundation

E2 Energy Inc

EACOM

Eastern Ontario Model Forest

Eaton Industries

Ecobee

Electrical Safety Authority

Falcon Lumber Ltd

Fiesta Parcel Service

Foodland Ontario

Forest Products Association

of Canada

Grain Farmers of Ontario

Green Belt Foundation

Green Circle Salons

Haliburton Forest & Wildlife

Reserve Ltd.

Haverman

Heideman Forest Services

Helen McCrea Peacock

Foundation

Hickory Homes Ltd.

HP Canada

Hydro One-Employee and

Pensioners Charity Trust Fund

HydroOne

Interface Canada

Invasive Species Centre

Isobel Jaffray Heritage Fund

Just Energy

Kawartha Credit Union

Kaza Wood Furniture

& Accessories

Kinross

Lavern Heideman & Sons Ltd

LCBO

Loyalty One / Air Miles

Malvern

Maple Leaves Forever

Michael's Hair Body Mind

Ministry of Education

Mobile Giving Foundation

of Canada

Monsanto

National Association

of Interpreters

National Conservation

Foundation

Natural Resources Canada

Northern Ontario Heritage

Fund Corp

Office Bureau

onecedar

Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation

Ontario Forest Industry Association

Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Ontario Power Generation Inc. Employees'

& Pension

Ontario Professional Forestry Foundation (OPFF)

Ontario Water Centre

Ontario Power Generation

Otonabee Region Conservation Authority

Ottawa Community Foundation

Ottawa Valley Forest Inc.

Park Agency Printing Co.

Pastorale

Patagonia

PCL Constructors Canada Inc.

PrinceTree Service

QuadReal

Qualcomm

Quality Hardwoods

Qwick Wick

Raw Materials Company

Region of Durham

Resolute Forest Products

Revolution Recycling

Rotary Club of Leamington

Simcoe County

Sir Sanford Fleming College

Small Change Fund

Smith + Andersen

Somerville Seedlings

St. Williams Nursery

Steenhof Building Services

STIHL

Sudbury Community Foundation

Summitt Energy

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

T.H. Industrial Solutions Inc.

The Mills Team

The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation

Thompson Emergency Freight Systems

Timm Enterprises Ltd.

Topper's Franchising Company Inc.

Toronto Christmas Market

Toronto Public Health/City of Toronto

TransCanada

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA)

Tree Canada

Trent University

United Way

Up Marketing

Votorantium Cimentos/CBM Aggregates

Westin Harbour Castle

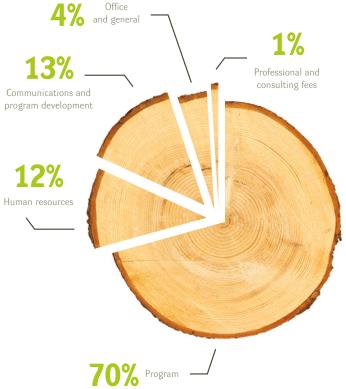
Westin Ottawa

YMCA

York Region

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS





Expenditures

2% Other charities

Investment and other income

	Current Year Net Income (\$ 1,777)	
	\$6,315,270	
Professional and consulting fees	\$ 54,276	
Office and general	\$ 270,827	
Communications and program develo	pment \$ 805,237	
Human resources	\$ 757,611	
Program	\$ 4,427,319	

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Ma	rch	31.	201	7

Assets

Total cash and investments	\$ 5,248,755
Accounts receivable	\$ 264,957
Inventory and prepaid expenses	\$ 270,616
Fixed assets	\$ 97,382
	\$ 5,881,710

Liabilities

Trade payable and program commitments		\$ 1,835,960
Deferred Program Revenue	ALC: USA	\$ 2,895,070

\$ 4,731,030

BOARD OF TRUSTES & STAFF

Board of Trustees

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Tracy Smith, Vice President

Eric Solomon, Treasurer

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Kim Gavine

Peter Johnson

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Steve Munro



Wood products help fight climate change.

#ItTakesAForest

Forests Ontario Staff

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Brooke McClelland Executive Assistant

Patricia Hammond Office Administrator

Ashley Funk Office Administrator

Susan Cummings Consulting Accountant



Al Corlett RPF, Director of Forest Programs

Kerry McLaven Forest Program Manager

Stephanie Burns Forest Operations Coordinator

Toni Ellis Heritage Tree Coordinator



Shelley McKay Director of Communications & Development

Monica Fuda Membership & Donor Relations

Kim Sellers Development Officer

Jeannette Holder Communications Manager

Ravi Singh Outreach Coordinator

Stephanie Prince Communications Coordinator

Chrystal Henning *Events Coordinator*

M.J. Kettleborough Communications Assistant



Jessica Kaknevicius Forest Education and Awareness Manager

Allison Hands Education Coordinator

Chris Wai Education Outreach Coordinator

Andrea Curley Education Outreach Coordinator

Field Advisors

Ron Thayer

Greg Greer, Associate Member OPFA

Peter Gagnon, RPF

Mark McDermid

Tim Gray

Glenn McLeod

Wade Knight

Steve Bowers

