# Eastern Ontario Model Forest 2018 Annual Report



Our vision of forests for seven generation is a sustainable landscape valued by all communities

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# **Message From the President**

I will mention one big challenge outlined this year that affects us all.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report on the International Panel on Climate Change was frank in its description of what is likely in the coming decades, even with the best collective will to reduce harmful emissions. Seas constantly rising; glaciers in continual retreat; impact on river flows and on people around the world. Natural environments feeling the effects and will continue to be challenged.

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest, in its programs of education, forest health and forest certification is doing its bit to help meet this challenge. Its Christmas Forest Lecture focusing on urban forest cover pointed out the climate benefits of good forest cover in reducing the need for air conditioning, for instance. The Winter Woodlot Conference had a presentation by John Gulland about how to heat your home in an environmentally responsible way using wood, instead of fossil fuels.

Well managed forests are carbon sinks; quite apart from the environmental and economic benefits of them. The EOMF FSC program involving over 80 thousand ha. of southern Ontario forest land provides these benefits. In the face of political challenges on the carbon front, the EOMF has been able to announce, with Bruce County Forest the first carbon offset project by our partners.

The Forest Health Network is continuing its work in bringing together stakeholders to meet one of our greatest environmental challenges; how to combat non-native invasive species that threaten our natural landscapes. It has joined forces with our neighbours to the south; Cornell University Cooperative Extension in northern New York State. By means of seminars, network meetings and our website, we are getting the word out.

I have been fortunate to be present at many meetings and events where people of good will work together in an entirely collegial manner to meet these challenges. Be they are our staff, or our partners, or our tireless and talented volunteers, they all demonstrate a focus on results in a climate of constant good cheer. Bravo everybody!

**Board of Directors** 

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Jim Hendry, RPF, Forest Certification Coordinator

Joanne Dudka Administrative Assistant

Tony Bull President, Eastern Ontario Model Forest

# **Year in Retrospect**

#### Forest Certification

Over the past 16 years the Model Forest has been honoured to work with private and community forest owners, throughout Ontario, to offer an affordable, efficient and supportive system to achieve forest certification. In January 2003, the Model Forest received a Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Group certification (FSC® C018800). This certificate is managed by the Model Forest on behalf of private and community forest members. It allows for many forest owners to share in the benefits and costs of FSC® certification, under one umbrella.

During this time, we have partnered and worked with many private forest owners, indigenous people, communities, forest industry representatives, educators, government and the public to advance sustainable forest management through certification. This diverse group of people and organizations bring together many interests and objectives in achieving forest certification for their forests. As a result, they view the value of forest certification in different ways. Here are some of the benefits we have heard from our members:

- Provides a framework for sustainable forest management that is internationally recognized,
- Provides for meaningful and respectful First Nations engagement and cultural awareness opportunities,
- Provides a ready-to-use template to guide sustainable and verifiable forest management,
- Provides for a high level of public acceptance, through third party verification,
- Provides an affordable, efficient and supportive system to achieve forest certification,
- Provides a credible tool to implement active management, while enhancing the environmental, social and economic benefits from the forest for the community,

# Eastern Ontario Certification Working Group

Martin Streit, Co-chair. Steve Hunter, Co-chair Brian Anderson Nicolas Gauthier Jean-Claude Havard Bernard Filion Geoff McVev Lacey Rose Tony Bull Gaelen Murray Mike Johns Pat Piitz Elaine Kennedy **Dorothy Hamilton** Fred Huszarik Pieter Leenhouts

Jim Hendry, Staff

# Southwestern Ontario Certification Working Group

Curtis Marcoux, Chair Cam Bennett Lee Thurston Jessie Henrich Debbie Thain Dave Pridham Peter McElwain Ron Reinholt Donna Lacey Kevin Predon Todd Farrell Ryan Adams

Jim Hendry, Staff

- Provides a framework for market ready carbon offset initiatives,
- Forest certification protects forest ecosystems and helps fight climate change, and
- Forest Certification raises industry standards.

Our efforts are making a difference locally and contributing to the growth of forest certification across Canada. The EOMF Forest Certification Program now boasts over 82,000 hectares of certified forests, represented by 14 community forest owners, 110 private forest owners, 2 commercial forest owners, 3 independent forest managers and 5 maple syrup producers. Canada ranks first in certified forests at 168 million hectares. This represents over 37% of all certified forest in the world.

Each year a forest management audit is undertaken on the EOMF Forest Certification Program to verify sustainable forestry practices. The 2018 annual audit took place between December 3rd and 6th on several community forest and private forest properties throughout eastern and southern Ontario. The audit, conducted by NEPCon, evaluated the Model Forest's systems and performance against the Forest Stewardship Council® (FCS®) forest management standards and policies. The auditors found the Forest Certification Program to be in full compliance with the FSC® standards, great news for all our forests!

In 2018 we received interest from Quinte Conservation to become certified under our Group certificate. Quinte Conservation is the second largest community forest in Ontario at 12,145 hectares. We will be working with them during the coming year to address any gaps in their forest management operation and anticipate entry in the Forest Certification Program in late 2019. We also welcome the Kemptville Campus Hub, formerly the Agroforest Centre, as the latest forest and maple syrup operation to receive FSC® with the Model Forest.

To help guide the Forest Certification Program the EOMF works closely with participating forest owners in two organized Certification Working Groups (CWG), one in eastern Ontario and the other in southern Ontario. The CWG's provide an opportunity to share information, knowledge and experiences with individuals from various backgrounds and levels of expertise.

Membership includes Model Forest staff and Board members and representatives for private landowner groups, forest industry,

community forest owners, and maple syrup producers. The meetings are also open to anyone interested in learning more about the Model Forest - Forest Certification Program.

# Forestry Carbon Offset Project for Community Forests

In early 2018, the EOMF partnered with Bluesource Canada to develop a program to generate carbon offsets for community forests that are part of the EOMF Certification Program. The new partnership with Bluesource Canada, a leading developer of forest carbon and other Greenhouse Gas (GHG) offsets, supports EOMF's vision to promote sustainable forest management practices on private forest lands across Ontario. Aside from reducing GHG emissions through a long-term commitment of sustainable forest management, the development of carbon offsets will also result in a host of other ecosystem service benefits such as clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, and recreation. These benefits will be realized while maintaining a vibrant forest economy by continuing to provide the local mills with a supply of certified wood.

In early 2019, we were excited to announce that Bruce County was our first community forest to sign up for the program! Bruce County has a long history of sustainable forest management. In the early to mid-1900's, the County began purchasing privately owned lands that were devastated by over harvesting or land clearing. These marginal lands were replanted mainly with conifers (evergreens) and managed to promote a natural forest condition, consisting of both hardwoods and conifers. In 2017 Bruce County achieved Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification (FSC® C01880) through the EOMF. We hope that other community forests take Bruce County's lead and commit to maintaining healthy forest cover over the long term while realizing benefits from the sale of carbon offsets.

In the partnership, EOMF and Bluesource Canada will provide guidance to those community forests that are interested in pursuing the opportunity. They will also provide a framework for the development of forest carbon offset projects that generate economies of scale. Through the aggregation of multiple community forests, this framework will reduce project costs such as inventory and verification, allowing more money to be re-invested back into the forest.

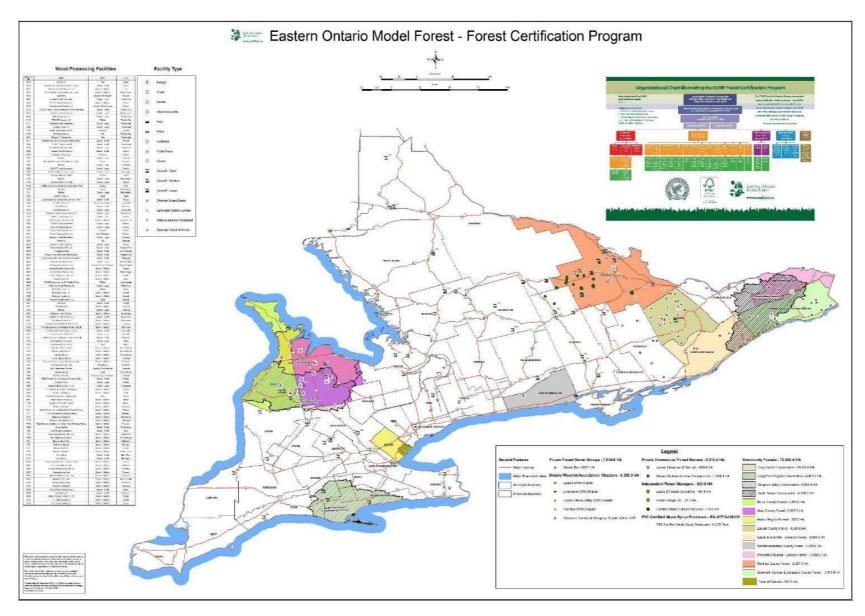


Figure 1: Map showing area certified under Eastern Ontario Model Forest Certification Program

# Regional Forest Health Network

Together with its partners, the EOMF continues to chair and facilitate efforts of the Regional Forest Health Network (RFHN). In 2018, the RFHN continued its efforts to facilitate information sharing, support and expertise to: municipalities; private landowners; homeowners; property owners, and forest practitioners.

We have also been working closely with the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Provincial Working Group. They contribute and share information on this insect, which we pass on to our members. This Woolly Adelgid is of the more serious, recent threats to our forests that is heading our way from New York State.

This year we have been working closely with Paul Hetzler, an Educator for Cornell Cooperative for St. Lawrence County, New York. We have had representatives attend their sessions which are more accessible for our members than sessions that are held in the GTA. We have attended training on: Oak Wilt, Spotted Lantern Fly, and the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

We have also been working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency who coordinates our Asian Long-horned Beetle demonstration site at Britannia Park in Ottawa. This training at this site is coordinated in cooperation with the City of Ottawa.

After 41 years, it was disappointing that the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry Annual Provincial Forest Health Review did not take place in Orillia. Instead it was a webinar presentation from Sault Saint Marie. Fortunately, Terrestrial Monitoring Technicians were still allowed to travel from Peterborough and contribute to our Annual Forest Health Review held on November 23, 2018.

The Regional Forest Health Network is on the EOMF website and has many excellent links and information on the current forest health challenges we are facing.

Visit the EOMF website <a href="www.eomf.on.ca">www.eomf.on.ca</a> to download copies of the landowner extensions note and/or to view the EAB videos.

#### Members of the Regional Forest Health Network

Agence regionale de mise en valeur des privees outaouaises

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Arboretum)

Canada Food Inspection Agency

Canadian Forest Service (SS Marie, Ottawa)

City of Cornwall

City of Gatineau

City of Kingston

City of Ottawa

Conservation Authorities (5-Eastern Region)

Cornell University, NY

County of Renfrew

Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (Kemptville & Pembroke Districts, Southern Region)

National Capital Commission

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Ontario Parks

St Lawrence County, NY

St. Lawrence Islands National Park

Town of Carleton Place

Town of Smiths Falls

Tree Canada

United Counties of Leeds & Grenville

#### Communications

It was a busy year for communications at the EOMF. The most exciting news was the launch of the new website in February <a href="https://www.eomf.on.ca">www.eomf.on.ca</a>. This new site is simpler, and easier to navigate than the old one while providing more information that is relevant to the user.

This year, the EOMF became part of the social media world! With some funding from partners as part of the outreach for our forest documentary, we joined both Twitter and Facebook. Through these social media channels, we have reached a new audience, many who have not heard of the EOMF before. It has allowed us to spread important news, particularly about our events, to many people for free. Please follow us at <a href="mailto:@OntModelForest">@OntModelForest</a>.

Our monthly electronic e-letter continues to provide our members, partners, supporters and friends of the EOMF with an array of news and information on current forest topics and issues both nationally and internationally. To subscribe to the e-letter send us your contact information to modelforest@eomf.on.ca.

#### Provincial Parks Emerald Ash Borer Assessments

This year, the EOMF continued to assist staff in planning for Emerald Ash Borer management at the following provincial parks: Charleston Lake; Rideau River; Voyageur; and Murphy's Point Provincial Parks. These reports will help guide the park staff on how to deal with the invasive pest as it moves through their respective areas.

# Forestry Documentary: Trees, Youth, our Future

In 2016, the EOMF partnered with Pinegrove Productions, a filming studio based out of Almonte, to develop a three-part documentary on forest stewardship in Eastern Ontario. Funding for this project was made possible through the **Ontario150 Partnership Program** and thirteen partners across the region. The project, titled *Trees, Youth, Our Future*, was completed in the spring of 2018 and tells the story of forest stewardship in eastern Ontario – yesterday, today and tomorrow. It can be viewed on YouTube (via eomf.on.ca) or by contacting the EOMF for DVDs.

Through 2018 and into 2019, the EOMF invested resources into getting the message out to the public and youth about the film. We contacted schools, other members organizations, and hosted a viewing in Pembroke in November 2019 (see description of event under Education & Outreach). We also developed short snippets for viewing on social media, and developed chapters to facilitate viewing, particularly for educational institutions, that will be rolled out over the next year. Funding for this additional outreach was provided by our partners Forest Products Association of Canada, Forests Ontario, and Grenville Community Futures Development Corporation.

# **Akwesasne Partnership**

As a founding partner to the EOMF, the Mohawk community of Akwesasne has shaped the very essence of our governance structure and the way in which we work with partners – embracing Naturalized Knowledge Systems principles and the Great Way of Peace (respect, equity, and empowerment as key ingredients for effective and lasting partnerships). Nurturing this partnership and friendship is something the EOMF values highly and it is central to the objective of continuing to develop enduring partnerships that enable the organization to flourish in the long-term.

# Education & Community Outreach

#### **Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference**

The 32nd edition of the Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at the North Grenville Municipal Complex. This year's event attracted a *record* 253 participants! This informal conference has become an important annual educational and networking event for private woodlot owners, farmers, rural landowners, and community forest managers in eastern Ontario.

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Christian Messier, Professor of Forest Ecology and Urban Forestry at the University of Quebec. Christian spoke about how we, as forest managers, can increase the resiliency of our woodlots in the face of climate change and invasive species. Other topics included: managing buckthorn and other invasive plants in your woodlot, wood burning techniques and tips, small-scale maple production, wildlife in your woodlot, and program updates from various organizations and agencies. For the third year in a row the 'Ask an Expert' feature offered participants an opportunity to speak one-on-one

# Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference Committee

Elizabeth Holmes, Chair Cheyene Brunet Scott Danford Achille Drouin Dorothy Hamilton Pieter Leenhouts Geoff McVey Jeff Ward

Astrid Nielsen, Staff

with natural resource experts. Many thanks to our exhibitors and sponsors.

#### **Christmas Forest Seminar**

Whereas historically, for the last 10 thousand years, the people of this land lived "on the land", amongst the trees, rivers and lakes, and increasingly on farms too, with the growth of towns and cities following the influx of immigrants over the last 400 years, people increasingly moved off the land. According to Statistics Canada's 1861 census 14% of Canadians lived in cities. Now more than 80% live in cities. Removed from forested land; many largely ignorant about these environments.

However. They still live in treed environments; the "urban forests" that are a feature of every community across the land, except for those in areas north of the tree line. For much of the history of treed urban areas, there was little attention paid to them. They were "just there".

More recently there has been a developing interest in urban forests. Mike Rosen of Tree Canada described several approaches that selected communities across the country have taken. Halifax, for instance was "built into the forest" he said, and today has 43% tree cover. Their website describes the benefits of urban tree cover which include air purification, storm water absorption, shade and evaporation to ameliorate the "heat island" effect of urban areas. The benefits in dollar terms are, for Halifax, \$8 in return for every \$1 spent in urban forest expenditures. And big trees are exponentially more beneficial than small trees.

James Lane, Program Manager, Green Infrastructure at the Regional Municipality of York, spoke of the York Regional forest, north of Toronto. The area includes several municipalities. The forest made up of several separate tracts totals 2,200 ha in size. It is Forest Stewardship Council certified, since the year 2000. As pointed out in the forest management plan "FSC certification through its rigorous principles and criteria/regional standard combined with an independent, third party audit allow the Region to demonstrate to the public that the forest is being managed in a responsible and sustainable manner."

Genevieve Mercier, Senior Environmental Strategy and Programs Officer at the National Capital Commission (NCC) and Martha Copestake, a planning forester at the City of Ottawa spoke of what is happening in Ottawa/Gatineau.

There is a large area involved in the larger amalgamated Ottawa. There is the "urban forest", but also in the larger outlying areas several forests such as Torbolton that has the characteristics of a county forest. In addition, the NCC has both a large natural park, Gatineau Park; over 36

thousand ha and the Green Belt around the south border of urban Ottawa; almost 6 thousand ha. This comprises forest land, wetlands and farmland.

Similar to the other urban areas described, there is full recognition of the multiple values and benefits of the urban treed environment. The Ottawa/Gatineau area is especially forest "rich" by having the NCC as holder and manager of Gatineau Park and the Green Belt. These areas provide huge recreational benefits to citizens and visitors alike, while also being a rich biodiverse environment.

Both the NCC and the City of Ottawa have recently completed strategic plans. The NCC "Sustainable Development Strategy" covers all of the NCC's extensive operations, but also includes "sustainable forestry" for part of its holdings. It is a protection-oriented strategy covering the cultural and natural heritage of the region. It is the product of very wide public participation, involving 30 stakeholders and hundreds of members of the public. Long term goals include sustainably managed lands and forests, healthy wildlife populations, and pristine lakes and rivers. Similarly, Ottawa has developed a strategic plan, which also featured a very large number of stakeholder and citizens in its preparation.

There are multiple challenges to urban trees. Difficult growing conditions for one. Environmental threats for another. Witness the huge loss of trees due to the emerald ash borer. The recent cluster of tornadoes destroyed many trees, completely changing the look of some neighbourhoods, even if some houses survived. These kinds of events can skew urban tree planting and management activities by changing the focus of management and funds to deal with such unforeseen emergencies.

But in spite of this Ottawa, Gatineau and the NCC are cooperating in moving forward with urban tree improvements. For instance, the communities are conducting a tree canopy assessment working with the University of Vermont's Spatial Analysis Laboratory.

In conclusion, what we heard during this seminar was:

- A huge increase in institutional, both political and expert staff interest in urban forests
- A well-developed understanding of the many ways that urban tree cover benefits citizen health and well-being, as well as providing several economic benefits to communities
- Good messaging to help urban dwellers understand how trees contribute to their well-being and how to personally take advantage of these opportunities.

#### Documentary showing in Pembroke "Trees, Youth, our Future"

On November 28, 2019, the EOMF hosted a viewing of both parts of the documentary, "Trees, Youth, our Future" at the Pembroke Festival Hall. Free popcorn was supplied to help encourage a younger audience to attend. There were over 70 people in attendance, and the feedback was very positive. Thanks to all the following sponsors who helped make this event happen: Ben Hokum and Sons, Cat Forest Products, Forests Ontario, Forest Products Association of Canada, Heideman Forest Services, Herb Shaw and Sons, Murray Brothers Lumber Company, Ontario Woodlot Association, and Grenville Community Futures Development Corporation.

# **Ross Silversides Award**

# **Honourary Members & Recipients of the Ross Silversides Forestry Award**

Honourary members and recipients of the Ross Silversides Forestry Award are identified by the Board of Directors for their outstanding contribution to forestry in eastern Ontario or as past or present residents who have made a major contribution to forestry elsewhere in the world.

1993	C. Ross Silversides, Maitland, Ontario (Honourary)
1994	Bess Silversides, Maitland, Ontario (Honourary)
1994	Ernest M. Kaientaronkwen Benedict, Akwesasne
1995	Teharonianeken, Chief Jake Swamp, Akwesasne
1996	Ewan Caldwell, Rockcliffe Park, Ontario
1996	Ferdinand LaRose, Bourget, Ontario
1996	Françoise LaBelle, St. Bruno Quebec (Honourary)
1998	Sandra S. Lawn, Prescott, Ontario
1999	William K. "Old Bill" Fullerton, Manotick, Ontario
2000	Jim Cayford, Barrhaven, Ontario
2001	George Fowler, Iroquois, Ontario
2001	Henry Atsienhanonne Arquette, Akwesasne
2002	John Kerr-Wilson, Ompah, Ontario
2003	Ray & Ruth Fortune, Almonte, Ontario
2004	Wayne D. Young, Cornwall, Ontario
2005	Peter M. Murray, Gananoque, Ontario
2006	F. Henry Lickers, Akwesasne
2007	Edwin H. White, Marcellus, New York
2007	Brian A. Barkley, Elma, Ontario
2008	Richard David, Akwesasne
2009	Dave Chapeskie, Spencerville, Ontario
2010	Dave Neave, Nepean, Ontario
2011	William (Bill) Hall, Renfrew, Ontario
2012	Jim Hendry, South Stormont, Ontario
2012	Martin Streit, Morrisburg, Ontario
2013	Jim McCready, Carleton Place, Ontario
2014	Laird Nelson, Codrington, Ontario
2015	Eric Boysen, Maberly, Ontario
2015	Cathy Nielsen, Peterborough, Ontario
2016	Margaret George, Akwesasne
2017	Wade Knight, Ashton, Ontario
2017	Tom Richardson, Perth, Ontario
2018	Scott Davis, Peterborough, Ontario
2019	

#### The Heartwood Award

#### **Recipients of the Heartwood Award include:**

The Heartwood Award is presented in recognition of an individual or group who has made an exceptional volunteer contribution to the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

2005

Sally Hamilton, Kemptville, Ontario

2006

John P. Wilson, Kemptville, Ontario

2007

Tony Bull, Ottawa, Ontario

2008

Alf Campbell, Kemptville, Ontario

2008

Jim Gilmour, Watson's Corners, Ontario

2009

Hans Ottens, Maberly, Ontario

Achille Drouin, Casselman, Ontario

2011

Don Schell, Tatlock, Ontario

2012

Kerry Coleman, Oxford Mills, Ontario

2013

J. Peter Hall, Gloucester, Ontario

2014

Dorothy Hamilton, Cornwall, Ontario

2015

Pieter Leenhouts, Kars, Ontario

2016 Fred Huszarik, Almonte, Ontario

2017

Jean-Claude Havard, Plantagenet, Ontario

2018

Karen Brown, Delta, Ontario

2019

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Boisés Est Bruce County

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Forest Gene Conservation Association Forest Stewardship Council of Canada

**Forests Ontario** 

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Frontenac Arch Biosphere ReserveGrenville Community Futures Development Corp.

**Grey County** 

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**International Model Forest Network** 

ITS - International Truck Load Services Inc.

Lands & Forests Consulting

Lanark & District Maple Syrup Producer's

Association

Lavern Heideman & Sons Ltd

Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council

Long Point Region Conservation Authority

Lower Ottawa Valley Chapter of the OWA

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. McCann's Forest Products

McCready Tree & Forestry Consulting

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Environment

**Program** 

Murray Brothers Lumber

**NEPCon** 

Norampac Inc., Trenton Division

North Grenville Chamber of Commerce

Northumberland County

Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources &

**Forestry** 

Ontario Parks, Ministry of the Environment,

**Conservation and Parks** 

Ontario Professional Foresters Association

**Ontario Woodlot Association** 

Ontario Woodlot Association, LOV Chapter Ontario Woodlot Association, SD&G Chapter Ontario Woodlot Association, Lanark Chapter Ontario Woodlot Association, Renfrew Chapter

Ottawa Valley Section - CIF

Ottawa Valley Forest Sustainable Forest Licence

Queen's University

Raisin Region Conservation Authority

**Renfrew County** 

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority St. Lawrence Islands National Park Sandra S. Lawn & Associates Inc.

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South Nation Conservation

State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry Regional Municipality of Halton Stewardship Council of Lanark County

TD Graham + Associates

Thousand Island National Park

Town of Carleton Place

Town of Oakville

Tree Canada Foundation

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville United Counties of Prescott and Russell United Counties of Stormont, Dundas &

Glengarry

Ville de Gatineau

Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.

# Our vision of forests for seven generation is a sustainable landscape valued by all communities,

# **Acknowledgement**

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest gratefully acknowledges the support we have received from our many members, supporters and partners. With your support it has allowed the Eastern Ontario Model Forest to continue its work to champion sustainable forests and healthy, vibrant forest communities.

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