

Profiles of Certified Community Forests in Eastern Ontario



In a landscape dominated and fragmented by private ownership, the community forests of Eastern Ontario are an integral part of a network of publicly owned lands that contribute to the health and prosperity of the local communities in which they reside, and the region as a whole. Together they cover approximately 52,000 ha of forest in a landscape dominated by agriculture in the south and east, Crown forests in the northwest, and a mixture of water bodies, parks, urban areas, municipal, federal, and private lands throughout.

History: Community forests all share common historical roots. Most were part of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) Agreement Forest Program (AFP) which operated throughout the 1900's. The program was very successful in protecting and restoring forest cover on fragile lands, including abandoned farmlands cleared by early settlers. When the program was terminated at the turn of the century, ownership and forest management responsibility reverted to the municipalities or conservation areas in which they reside.

Benefits: Community or County Forests provide many social, economic and environmental benefits to a range of users ranging from outdoor recreationalists, artists and naturalists – to loggers and local sawmills – to the array of flora and fauna that make the forest home. Sustainable forest management practices ensure wildlife species, habitat and migration passages are protected as well as significant wetlands and other features of environmental significance. Forest cover also combats climate change and fosters good health by absorbing carbon in our atmosphere and making our air cleaner.

Challenges: These forests also share common management issues, threats and opportunities:

- negative economic impacts of shrinking markets for forest products
- balancing demands of a broad range of user groups and resisting development pressures
- capital to subsidize ongoing reforestation, monitoring, and other forest management initiatives
- managing trail access for fire and emergency response vehicles
- forest health issues posed by disease, invasive plants and invasive pests
- forest damage from unauthorised use, trail damage, and pollution such as garbage dumping
- protection and conservation of significant woodlands, ecosystems, rare species and wildlife habitat

Seven of the community forests in the region are Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified through the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) Certification Program, and are featured here.



EASTERN ONTARIO
MODEL FOREST

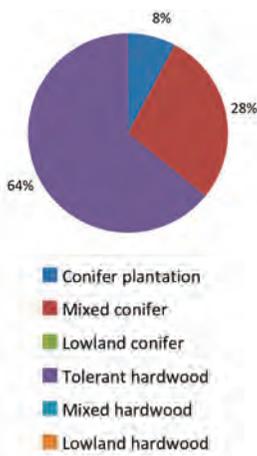
www.eomf.on.ca



Lanark County Forest

Lanark County is situated in the western part of the EOMF's core area at the base of the Canadian Shield, south of the Madawaska Highlands. There is a large component of Crown land in this area managed by the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Resources Inc. Sustainable Forest License (SFL). The Lanark County Forest is comprised of 4,638 ha of forest divided into 38 properties across the county. Those in the north part of the county are contiguous, with those in the south being more fragmented. FSC certification through EOMF was achieved in 2007.

Forest Composition for Lanark County Forest



Managing the Forest for the Community

The Lanark County Forest is managed in accordance with several strategic and prescriptive documents. The vision from the Forest Management Plan (FMP) recognises the Community Forest as a rich, healthy, mosaic of woodlands, wetlands, streams and lakes, plants and animals, geological and heritage features, situated within a landscape of contiguous Crown and privately owned properties. It will be managed sustainably to provide social, recreational, economic, scientific, cultural and spiritual benefits to the people of Lanark County.

The objectives in the FMP are comprehensive and integrated with the activities of other partners and municipal departments, the management and ecology of neighbouring forests, and all different users. They aim to maintain natural diversity and public accessibility where compatible with forest health and sustainable management, as well as to seek out a variety of partnerships and new revenue sources to reinvest in forest management.

The County of Lanark Community Development Committee is advised on the management, monitoring, and sustainability of the community forest by the Community Forests Working Group, comprised of members of Lanark County Council and Public Works, Lanark County Stewardship Council, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. Public input is also solicited at information sessions and open houses during FMP updates.

The Community in the Forest

The Lanark County Forest is surrounded by both Crown and private forests which contribute to a larger contiguous forest base than many of the other community forests. The contiguous nature of the forest across the landscape is highly valuable for wildlife habitat, source water protection, and other environmental benefits. Forestry, hunting, and snowmobiling are the most popular uses of the Lanark County Forest, with general trail use, ATVing, skiing, biking, education, and tours secondary.

For more information:
**Mississippi Valley
Conservation Authority**

Phone:
613-259-2421

Address:
**4175 Highway 511,
Lanark, ON, K0G 1K0**

Website:
www.county.lanark.on.ca/Page268.aspx



Larose Forest (United Counties of Prescott and Russell)

The 10,540 ha Larose Forest is the largest of the community forests and was established in 1919 by Ferdinand Larose, who initiated the planting of the first trees. Eighteen million trees later, the forest is still growing strong! Larose is a mix of contiguous and fragmented patches of forest and wetland in the eastern portion of Ontario. Management responsibility for the Larose Forest was taken on by the United Counties of Prescott and Russell from OMNR in 2000 and FSC certification through EOMF was achieved in 2007.

Managing the Forest for the Community

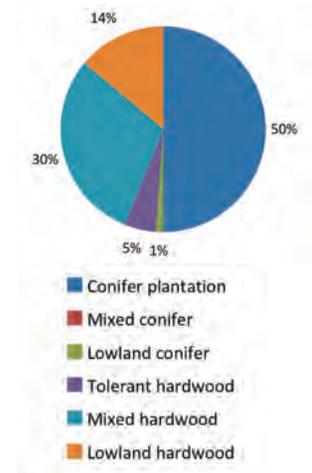
The Larose Forest is managed in accordance with several procedures and guiding documents. Its vision: “The Larose Forest is a restored natural habitat of regional importance, dedicated to the conservation and promotion of natural and cultural heritage, as well as to the promotion of sustainable activities in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.”

The management objectives of the Larose Forest are determined through consultation with the County Forest Lands Advisory Committee and annual user group meetings, along with input from the public during open houses and information sessions during FMP development. The primary objective of forest management in Larose is to conserve a natural environment and its economical, environmental and tourist development.

The Community in the Forest

The Larose Forest has been identified as a ‘significant woodland’ by the municipality. It is a large contiguous block of forest in public ownership that provides natural habitat to many species of flora and fauna, recreational opportunities for formal club use (snowmobile, ATV, equestrian, and other clubs) and informal use (by individuals for hiking, harvesting of non-timber forest products and more).

Forest Composition for Larose Forest



For more information:
**South Nation
Conservation**

Phone:
1-877-984-2948 ext 235

Address:
**38 Victoria St, P.O. Box
29, Finch, ON, K0C 1K0**

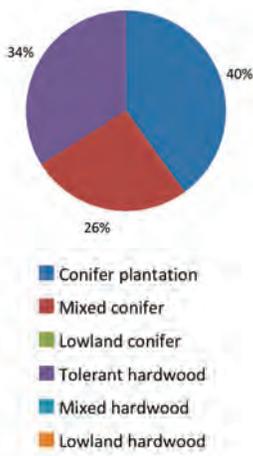
Website:
**[www.prescott-russell.on.ca/
en/larose-forest](http://www.prescott-russell.on.ca/en/larose-forest)**



Limerick Forest

The 5,770 ha Limerick Forest has been owned since 1940 and managed since 2001 by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG). Limerick Forest is a grouping of seven primarily contiguous tracts of forest spread across the UCLG. It has primarily flat, agricultural land to the south and east, and more forested and topographically variable land to the northwest. Some overlap of municipal, private woodlot and Crown ownership has created a slightly more contiguous forest cover than in the other community forests. Since 1940, nearly 8.8 million trees have been planted in this forest. FSC certification under the EOMF's umbrella certificate was obtained in July of 2008.

Forest Composition for Limerick Forest



Managing the Forest for the Community

The Limerick Forest is managed in accordance with several procedures and guiding documents. The Limerick Forest Advisory Committee (now Friends of the Limerick Forest) was initiated in 2001 for the purpose of advising the managers on objectives for the forest throughout the planning process. It now engages members and other volunteers in stewardship activities and projects within the forest. The goal of the Forest Management Plan is “to enhance the economic and social welfare of the residents of the UCLG through the improvement, sustainable use, development and protection of Limerick Forest’s timber, wildlife, non-timber and recreational resources”.

The Community in the Forest

Limerick is a combination of natural forest, plantation, and wetland, including several Provincially Significant Wetlands and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest. It is successfully managed with a multi-use philosophy so that all user groups can enjoy and learn while at the same time enhancing the health, vigour, and biodiversity of the forest for the future. Limerick Forest also has a well-established and very well-used trail system that is popular with a wide variety of users ranging from ATV, snowmobile, and dirt-bike clubs to hikers, skiers, snowshoers, equestrians and more. Hunting and trapping are also allowed within the forest tracts for people licensed through OMNR.

A brand-new log facility was built on site in 2010 and is regularly rented out for the purpose of community recreational and educational use, providing a true outdoor classroom for the public. This is the first FSC-certified facility to be built under EOMF's group Chain of Custody Certificate – from the logs cut from the Limerick Forest all the way to the builders in Barry's Bay.

For more information:
**United Counties of
Leeds and Grenville**

Phone:
613-342-3840 ext 2416

Address:
**25 Central Ave,
Brockville, ON, K6V 4N6**

Website:
www.limerickforest.ca



Northumberland County Forest

The Northumberland County Forest is approximately 2,200 ha in size; 96% of which is forested, with the remainder being wetland and hydro or road corridors. The county forest is contiguous, in three main tracts, while the overall forest cover is fragmented across the county lands. The initial purchase of land by Northumberland County took place in 1910. Over 4 million trees were planted in the County over the next 40 years. Northumberland County took over full responsibility for forest management from OMNR in 2001 when the Agreement Forest Program was terminated. It achieved FSC certification under EOMF's certificate in 2011.



Managing the Forest for the Community

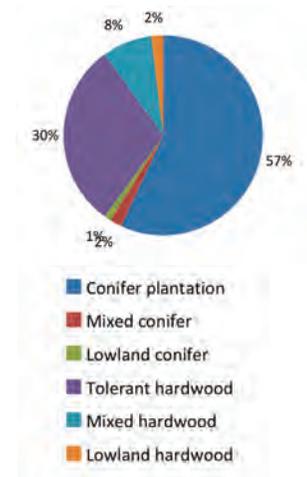
The Northumberland County Forest is managed in accordance with several procedures and guiding documents. The Forest Management Plan vision is “to be provincially renowned as the most ecologically diverse and significant natural area on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Northumberland County Forest sets the golden standard for sustainable use, management and community cooperation, providing a large range of social and economic benefits while maintaining the unique ecological identity of the Forest.”

The objectives laid out in the FMP are focused on: general land use, nature and water conservation, fire and emergency, recreational use, volunteers, general operation and maintenance of trails, silviculture, outdoor education, cultural heritage, buildings and facilities, hunting, tourism, and monitoring and research. The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) and trail committee help to direct the management of the county's forests and trails, acting as a sounding board for staff and providing physical assistance with maintenance projects. Public input is also invited during FMP updates.

The Community in the Forest

Situated on the Oak Ridges Moraine, the pre-settlement ecosystems in Northumberland were a mix of tolerant upland hardwood forest, tall grass prairies, and rare black oak savannah. The Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative is now working to bring the prairie and savannah ecosystems back to the area with a great deal of input and partnerships with local First Nations and educational efforts. The trails in the community forest are very well used for skiing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and ATVing with some forestry and hunting activity.

Forest Composition for Northumberland County Forest



For more information:
Northumberland County

Phone:
905-372-3329 ext 2303

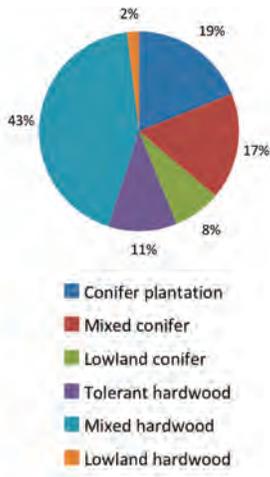
Address:
**555 Courthouse Rd,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6**

Website:
**www.northumberland
county.ca**





Forest Composition for Renfrew County Forest



Renfrew County Forest

The County of Renfrew, Ontario's largest county at 8,000 km², is situated in the heart of the Ottawa Valley and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region, to the south and east of Algonquin Park. Several active (primarily family-owned and operated) sawmills and processing facilities still exist in the county and process the majority of the wood harvested from the Renfrew County Forest. The Agreement Forest was established in 1951 with subsequent land acquisitions throughout the 1960s, culminating in the ownership of 51 properties concentrated in the southern portion of the county. The county resumed management responsibility for the community forest in 2000. The Renfrew County Community Forest (6,428 ha) was certified under EOMF's group FSC certificate in 2009.

Managing the Forest for the Community

The Renfrew County Forest is managed in accordance with several procedures and guiding documents. The County forest is managed according to the following vision: "the primary focus is to improve the quality of the forests and the products harvested from it through sustainable management; recreation and education are also encouraged."

The Community in the Forest

What sets this forest apart is its strong set of guiding principles, which clearly define the Renfrew County Forest as a working forest with all other uses being secondary. This philosophy is heartily endorsed by the community itself as a stalwart supporter of the forest industry. Another thing that makes this forest unique is that it is entirely self-sustaining, operating on product revenues alone. It is one of the few community forests with several operating mills, traditional transportation corridors and a very active forestry culture within its bounds. This forest is also home to a large and diverse wildlife population – many species of which are rare within Ontario and considered to be Species at Risk (SAR) and protected by provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA; 2007). It is recognized in the FMP that the forest is open for multiple uses; the most popular being forestry, hunting and trapping. Trail use (ATVs and snowmobiles) and education are secondary.

For more information:
County of Renfrew

Phone:
613-735-3204

Address:
**9 International Drive,
Pembroke, ON,
K8A 6W5**

Website:
**www.countyof
renfrew.on.ca**



Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Community Forest

Situated to the north of the St. Lawrence Seaway, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SD&G) are highly accessible for trade and tourism with Highway 417, rail service, a bridge to the USA, and seaway access all within its bounds. The SD&G Community Forest is a fragmented mass of 3,407 ha of forest and wetland interspersed with mostly agricultural lands. Although the Community Forest itself is 90% forested, with the counties' overall forest cover of roughly 26%, there is a great deal of pressure on these municipal forests. The forest has been certified under the EOMF FSC certificate since 2007.



The forest is highly mixed with roughly 40% lowland hardwood, 20% each of conifer plantation and tolerant hardwood, and 10% each of lowland conifer and mixed hardwood. The silvicultural methods employed in this forest are primarily thinning of plantations (80%), single-tree selection (15%), and a small amount of group selection. Annual harvests are processed into roughly 60% pulp and 20% each go to firewood and sawlogs. The majority of the products are shipped to Thurso, Eganville, Quebec City, Windsor, and Masson.

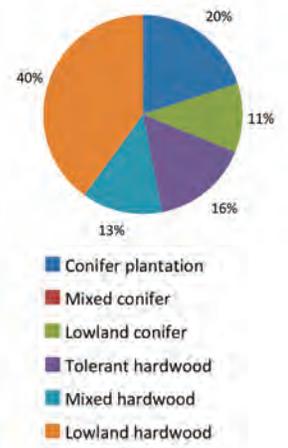
Managing the Forest for the Community

The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Forest is managed in accordance with several procedures and guiding documents. The Forest Management Plan and Operational plans are developed with advice from the Friends of the Summerstown Trails and also through public information sessions and open houses during plan development and updates. The FMP objectives include sustainable wood production, recreation, education, ecosystem protection, being a responsible landowner and good neighbour, safety promotion, and financial responsibility.

The Community in the Forest

The SD&G Community Forest parcels are highly accessible and open to the public for most outdoor activities; however, forest management is the primary function and may restrict other forest uses.

Forest Composition for Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Community Forest



For more information:
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry

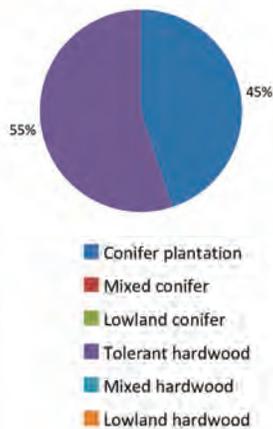
Phone:
1-877-984-2948 ext 235

Address:
38 Victoria St, P.O. Box 29, Finch, ON, K0C 1K0

Website:
www.sdgcountries.ca/Library/UCSDG_Forest_Policy_Plan.pdf



Forest Composition for South Nation Conservation Forest



South Nation Conservation Forest

As a watershed, the South Nation forest overlays the municipal boundaries of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry and the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. South Nation Conservation was formed in 1947 and entered into the Agreement Forest program with OMNR in 1961, gradually acquiring a total of 4,200 hectares of land for reforestation. SNC assumed full management responsibility for the forest in 2001, and also manages the SD&G and UCPR Community Forests on behalf of those communities. In 2007, South Nation Conservation obtained FSC Certification under the EOMF's certificate.

Managing the Forest for the Community

The South Nation Conservation Forest is managed in accordance with several procedures and guiding documents. The mission for the forest was derived with input from the public, the Forestry Committee and the SNC Board of Directors: "to ensure that the management of natural occurrences, natural resources and human activities results in the protection or improvement of our water resources".

The Community in the Forest

The South Nation Conservation Forest is instrumental in protecting the catchment area for the South Nation River from flooding, erosion, and to filter pollution. The South Nation Conservation Forest parcels are highly accessible and open to the public for most outdoor activities.

About Community Forests and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest

The EOMF Forest Certification Program provides an opportunity for community forests and private woodlot owners to become certified to the internationally recognized standards for responsible forest management developed by the Forest Stewardship Council.

The EOMF has become a leader in small-scale forest certification in Canada. The EOMF manages an FSC group certificate on behalf of private woodlot owners and community forests in Eastern Ontario. Our collaborative program makes the whole certification process easier and allows for numerous landowners and community forests to share the benefits and costs of FSC certification by certifying their lands under our group certificate. Check out EOMF's YouTube video *Forest Certification: Community Forests*.

For more information on the EOMF and our Forest Certification Program please visit:
eomf.on.ca/certification

For more information:
South Nation Conservation

Phone:
1-877-984-2948 ext 235

Address:
38 Victoria St, P.O. Box 29, Finch, ON, K0C 1K0

Website:
www.nation.on.ca

