



Mississippi Valley Conservation

MVC AND LANARK COUNTY WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE FORESTS

Mississippi Valley Conservation (MVC) and Lanark County in partnership with Upper Canada Forestry Service (UCFS) have completed the first year of forest management services and activities on the Lanark County Community Forests. These properties, owned by Lanark County, were purchased through the Agreement Forest program between 1938 and 1987 and consist of marginal farmland that has since been reforested. The two year pilot project will provide the County of Lanark with a five year operating plan outlining harvest, renewal and management activities for each property.

The pilot project provides the County with detailed forest inspections. MVC and UCFS regularly inspect the properties and the harvesting operations as a reporting mechanism to the County. The forest inspection process involves walking the property and observing the sites for signage, fencing, public use, garbage and hazards.

The project also involves timber sales administration and in 2006 the Bowes property, one of forty two properties that form part of the 4600 hectare Lanark County Community Forest, was harvested. The commercial thinning of the red pine plantation reduced the density of the trees which will promote the growth and health of the remaining trees. This forest management operation was conducted by Ben Hokum and Son of Killaloe Ontario, after being chosen by the County through the timber sale tender process.

A Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) is another component of the project. The FRI will provide the County with an extensive survey of its community forest resources. This valuable document will assist the County in its forest resource planning and policy decisions. Work on the FRI is underway and is scheduled for a summer 2007 completion.

With the FRI complete the five year operating plan can be drafted. The comprehensive plan will outline the goals and objectives for the forests and make recommendations for their management. It will also include detailed property descriptions and propose an activity schedule for forest management activities.

The partnership hopes to lead by example. The Lanark County Community Forests will serve as a model of sustainable forest management and harvesting practices.

For more information on the program please contact Brian Anderson at 613-259-2421 ext. 228 or by email at banderson@mvc.on.ca or Jamie Dickey jdickey@county.lanark.on.ca.



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An effective way to manage forest resource is through timber harvesting. Harvesting can result in more diverse, beautiful and resilient forests. A good timber harvest begins with an overall forest management plan and involves qualified professionals.

Forests are critical to the overall health and functioning of a watershed. Healthy, well managed forests equal clean water. Trees and forests reduce runoff, reduce flooding, provide habitat, filter pollutants from our air and water, refill groundwater aquifers, provide recreation and yield wood and wood by-products we use everyday. Through the proper management of the Lanark County Community Forests, the County and MVC can ensure these properties remain healthy and viable for generations to come.