

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association



Annual General Meeting 2026

May 12, 2026

Meeting Logistics



Meeting will be recorded

Please, keep your microphone muted to reduce background noise



If you're having issues with your audio or visual:

- Exit Zoom and re-enter with the same link you were provided to join

OR

- Exit Zoom and call in using the phone number provided in the email
- Slides are posted on the BCLSA website for your reference



If you have a question:

- Type it into the Chatbox, we will address in the meeting, or follow up

OR

- Raise your hand. We will unmute, time permitting



Agenda

- Welcome & New Logo
- Election of Directors
- Financials
- Forest Management Plan
- Healthy Lake Update
- Community Updates & Fire Prevention
- Call for Volunteers
- Open Discussion & Close




BCLSA Election of Directors

- **Nominations for Board Membership (new terms)**

- Brian Stock (President)
- Diane Trauzzi (Vice President)
- Michael Stone (Treasurer)
- OPEN (Secretary)
- Doug Colmer
- Chris Graham

- **Continuing into 2nd Year of Term**

- Laura Jean Brand
- Leo DeSorcy
- John Graham
- Mike Mulgrew



Nominations
acclaimed if not more
than 10 Board
Members nominated

Election of Officers at
first Board of Directors
meeting

Financial Statements

- Financial Statements can be accessed on the BCLSA website in the AGM tab
- Excess contribution at the end of 2025 of \$10,430 which will be carried into 2026

- **Audit Process**

- Atum Financial submits taxes to CRA
- Tax statement and NOA sent to BCLSA Treasurer
- All 2025 BCLSA statements/NOA sent for Audit
- Auditors provide BCLSA Treasurer and Board report

Financial Statements

INCOME	2025 Actuals
Membership contributions	\$6,400.00
Web advertisers	\$800.00
Unearned Contributions from 2024	\$11,024.24
Total Contributions	\$18,301.07

Total Net Contribution	2026 Actuals
Total Contributions - Total Expense	\$10,430.97

EXPENSES	2025 Actuals
BCLSA Administrative Expenses	\$2,536.25
Income tax, postage, bank, etc.	\$520.54
Memberships	\$603.05
BCLSA Insurance	\$1,033.56
Meetings & Social Activities	\$379.10
Healthy Lake Program Expense	\$5,333.85
Kawartha Lake Monitoring Program	\$175.00
KSLA water quality eColi	\$525.00
Management of Invasive weeds	\$4,633.85
Total BCLSA Expenses	\$7,870.10

2026 Membership Renewal

- Please, **renew or join the BCLSA in 2026 for only \$100**
- Find the link to easily renew the membership form online:

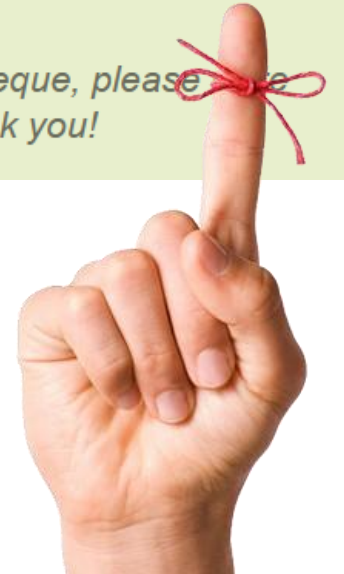
<https://www.bclsa.ca/membership/>

Thanks to all of you that support the health and well-being of our wonderful lake

Payment Options for \$100 Annual Fee for 2026 *

- PREFERRED: I will send \$100 via internet banking e-transfer to: BCLSATreasurer@gmail.com with reference to your name/address (including Fire Route and Lot Number) in the comment field
- I will send a cheque to: Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association and mail to: Michael Stone, BCLSA Treasurer, 2119 Redstone Cres, Oakville, Ontario, L6M 5B2

E-transfer is strongly preferred. If you send a cheque, please write your fire route and lot number on the back. Thank you!



Speaker: Julie Edwards, Planning Forester

2021-2031 Forest Management Plan for the Bancroft Minden Forest
- Big Cedar Lake activity between Sunset Bay and Hungry Bay.

Julie Edwards, R.P.F

Planning Forester

C: 613-334-0889 O: 613-332-6890

Email: julie@bmfci.ca

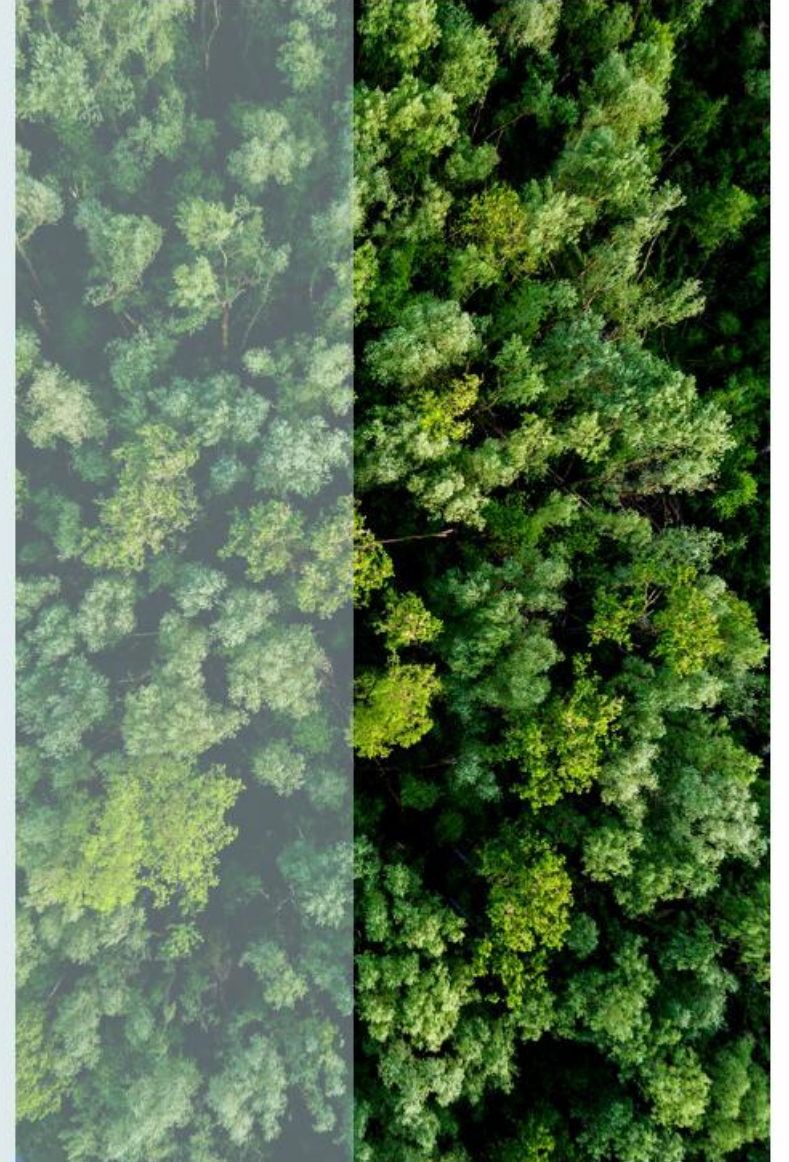
Web : www.bmfci.ca



BIG CEDAR LAKE COTTAGE ASSOC. AGM
Tuesday May 12th

BANCROFT MINDEN FOREST

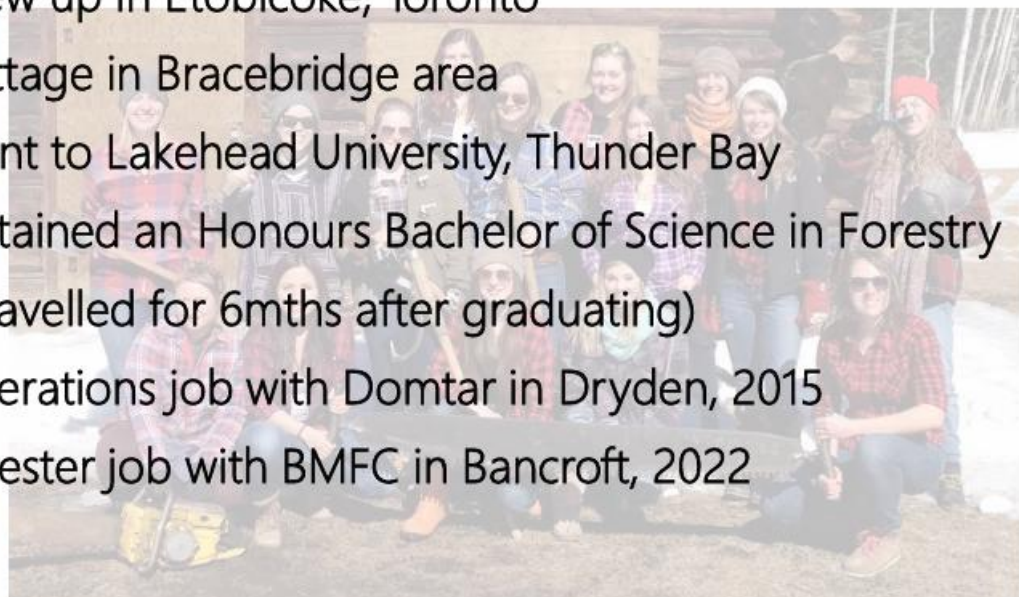
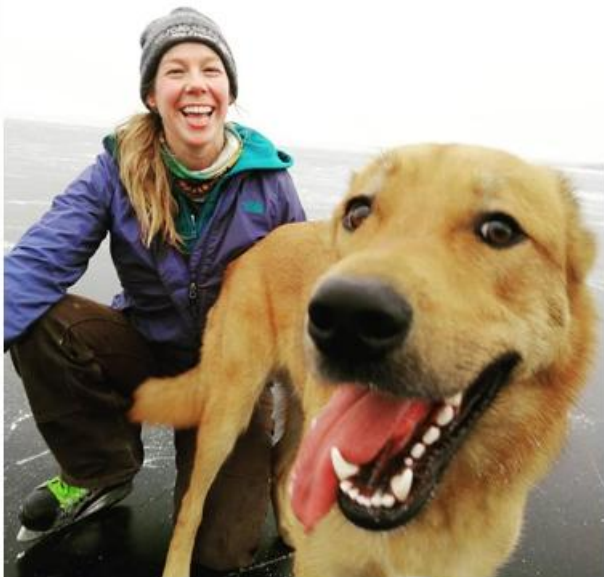
Julie Edwards, RPF – Planning Forester





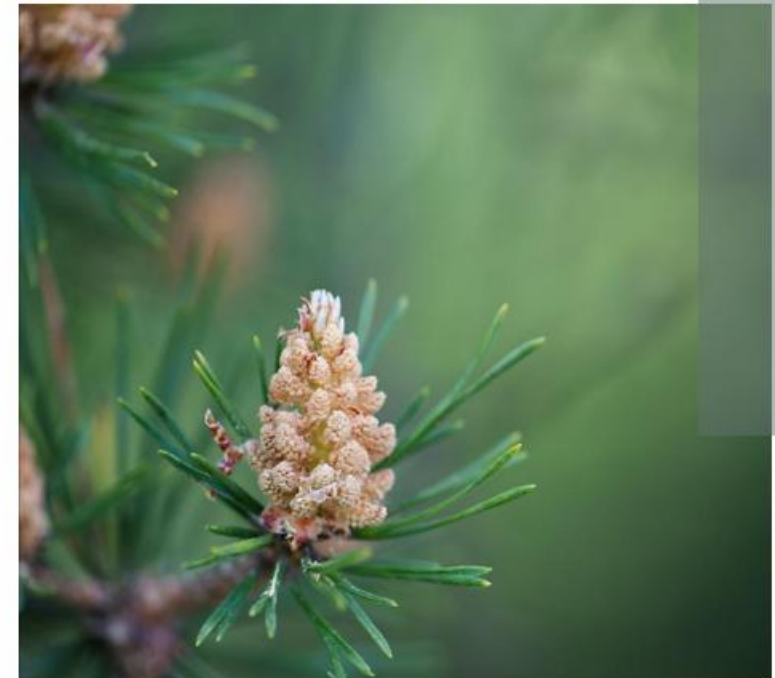
About me

- Grew up in Etobicoke, Toronto
- Cottage in Bracebridge area
- Went to Lakehead University, Thunder Bay
- Obtained an Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry (travelled for 6mths after graduating)
- Operations job with Domtar in Dryden, 2015
- Forester job with BMFC in Bancroft, 2022



AGENDA

- ❖ Forestry in Ontario
- ❖ Bancroft Minden Forest
- ❖ Regulating the Industry
- ❖ Sustainable Forest Management
- ❖ Management around Big Cedar Lake



Ontario is divided into several management zones for the purposes of administration and management programs



NORTHERN BOREAL (FAR NORTH)

is essentially all land north of the AOU and is largely inaccessible with some isolated communities scattered across the landscape

AREA OF THE UNDERTAKING

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has approvals under the *Environmental Assessment Act* to conduct forest management on Crown lands. The planning area parks are part of Ontario's Living Legacy and was coupled with the AOU as part of a planning program in the late 1990s designed to expand parks and protected areas within the managed forest

GREAT LAKES

is a summary of the lakes themselves, and the islands that occur within them (ie. Manitoulin)

SOUTHERN ONTARIO

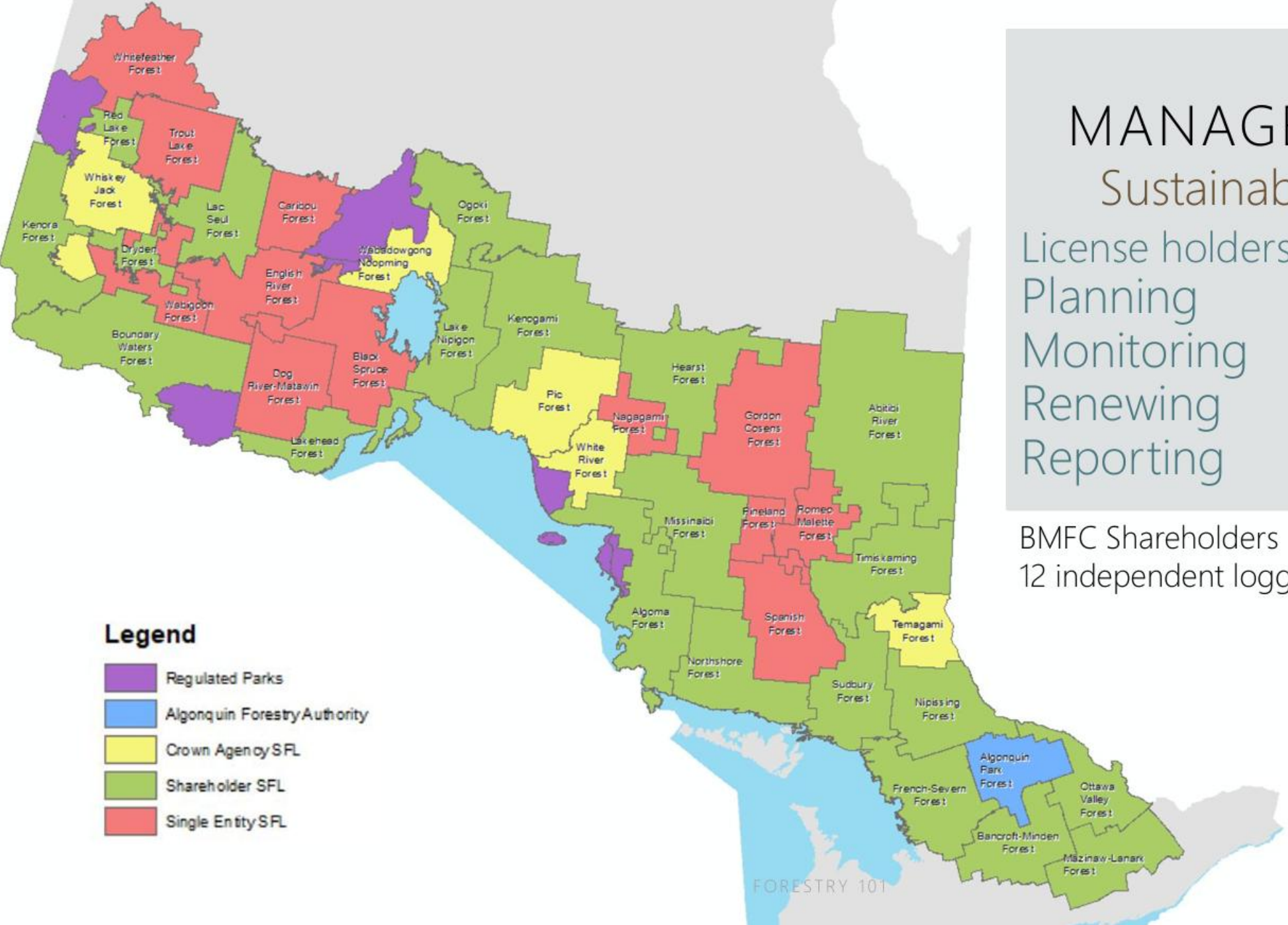
is where most of the population in the province lives, and is dominated by private land.

ONTARIO MANAGEMENT UNITS

Sustainable Forest Licenses

License holders are responsible for:
Planning
Monitoring
Renewing
Reporting

BMFC Shareholders include 9 sawmills and 12 independent logging companies.



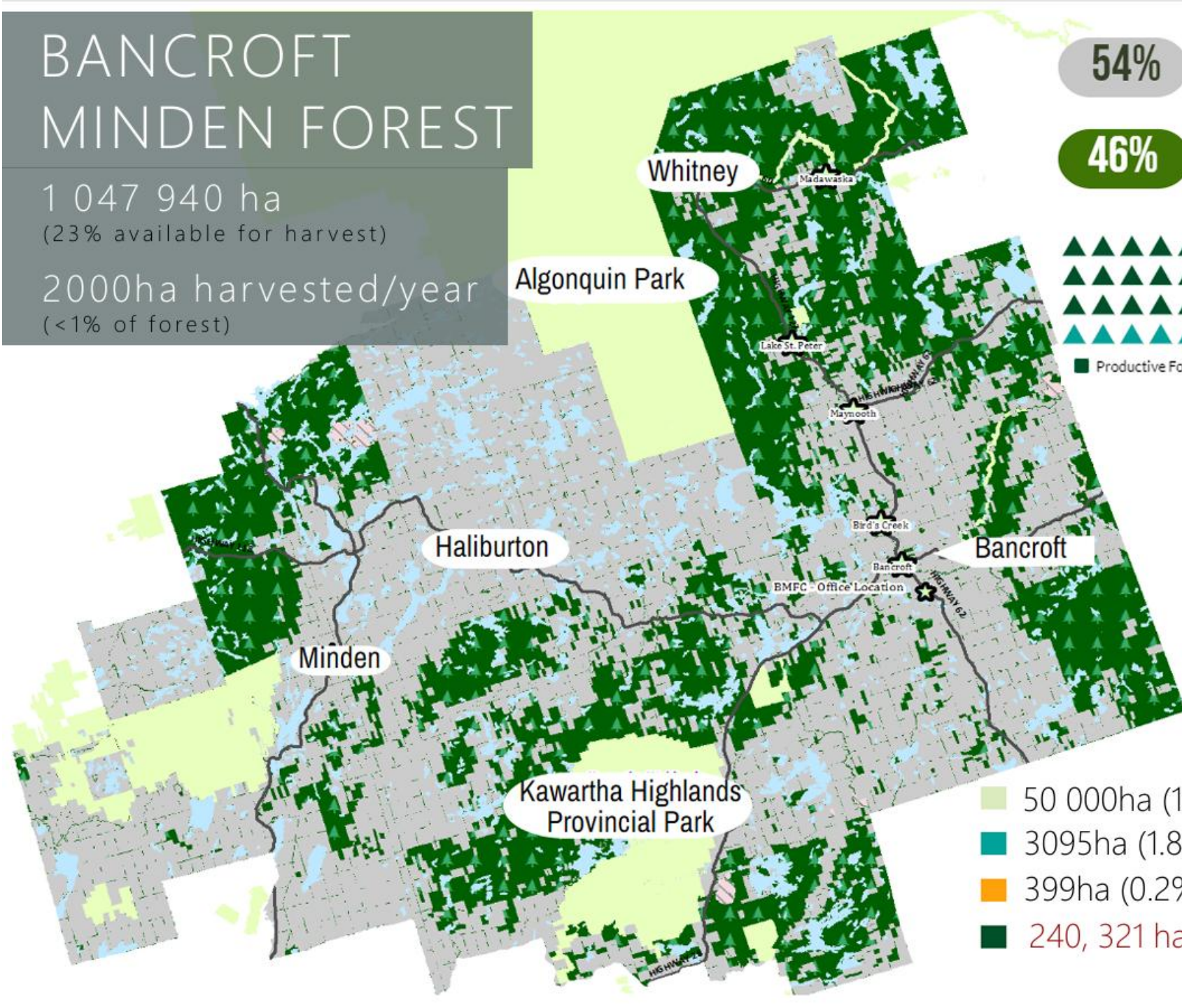
Legend

- Regulated Parks
- Algonquin Forestry Authority
- Crown Agency SFL
- Shareholder SFL
- Single Entity SFL

BANCROFT MINDEN FOREST

1 047 940 ha
(23% available for harvest)

2000ha harvested/year
(<1% of forest)

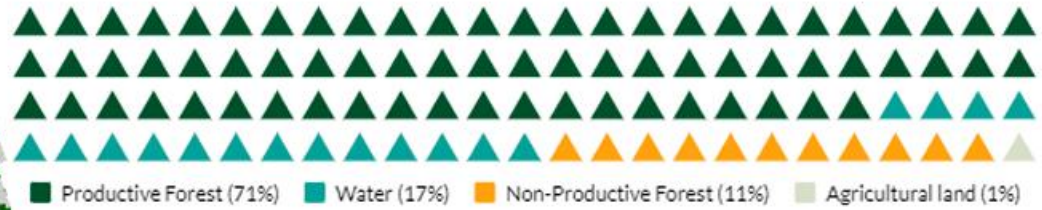


54%

Private land (586 846ha)

46%

Crown land (461,094ha) - public



312 000 ha Productive Crown Land



- 50 000ha (17%) is in Parks & Conservation Areas
- 3095ha (1.8%) is below regeneration age
- 399ha (0.2%) is protection forest due to inaccessibility
- 240, 321 ha** available for timber production

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LICENSEE

PLANNING

- Forest Management Plan must be approved prior to any forestry activities (MNRF, LCC, Indigenous)
- Annual Work Schedule details where annual operations are planned
- Forest Operations Prescriptions details site-specific management for each harvest block



Conduct field work and write prescriptions for each operation that outline in detail what will take place.

MONITORING

- Compliance Inspections
- Silviculture Effectiveness (SEM, FTG, Establishment surveys, post-cut assessment, tree marking audit, tending assessment)
- Roads/pits/water crossings monitored on appropriate timelines



Ensure all our operations comply with the FMP & other legislated requirements.

RENEWING

NATURAL

- Tree marking
- Commercial thinning
- Tending

ARTIFICIAL

- Site preparation
- Tree planting
- Follow up tending



All harvest areas are regenerated to standards described in the approved FMP to ensure the future of the forest.

REPORTING

- Annual reports summarize harvest, renewal, tending, SEM, road construction and maintenance.
- Factors affecting FMP implementation (Natural disturbances, markets, labour disruptions)
- Instances of non-compliance and remedies applied



Prepare annual reports for approval by the MNRF, which describe our progress to achieving goals in our FMP.

LEGISLATION

CROWN FOREST SUSTAINABILITY ACT (CFSA)

Principles:

- 1) Conservation of large, healthy, diverse and productive Crown forests, ecological processes and biological diversity.
- 2) Emulation of natural disturbances and landscape patterns that provide for long term health of Crown forests while protecting plant and animal life, water and soils, social and economic values.

ONTARIO'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT (CLASS EA)

- Approval of the planning process for forest management under the Environmental Assessment Act was initially granted in 1994.
- The approval is based on the understanding that the system will sustain a healthy forest and that forest management "is accountable to the public, not to private interests".
- The management of Crown forests is bound by the conditions of the Class EA Approval.

ONTARIO'S SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

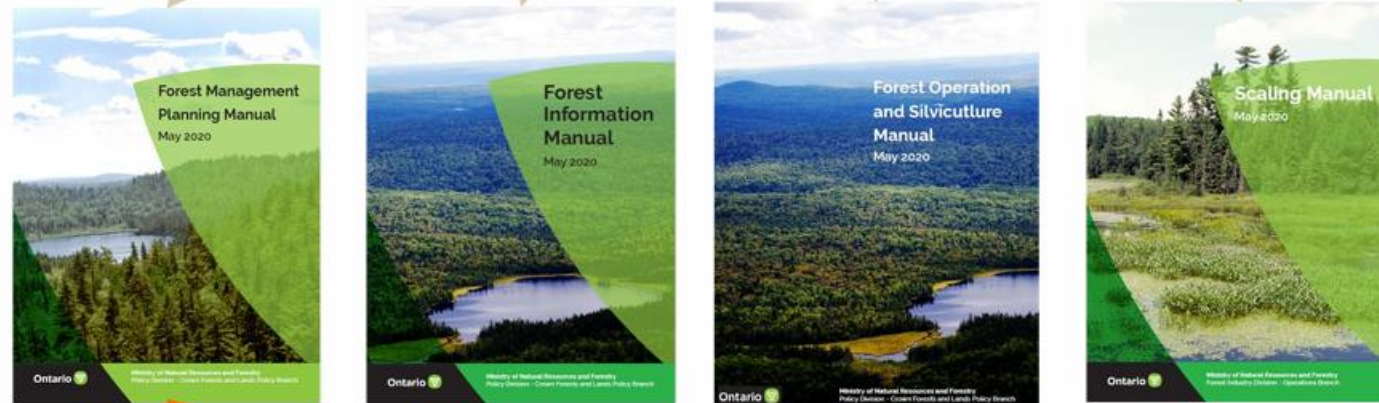
LEGISLATION

- prescribes the development and use of the manuals

MANUALS

- Provides direction for standards in forest management

Crown Forest Sustainability Act - 1994  Ontario

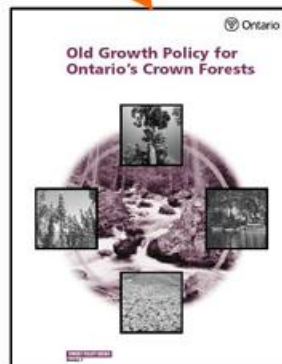


GUIDES & POLICY

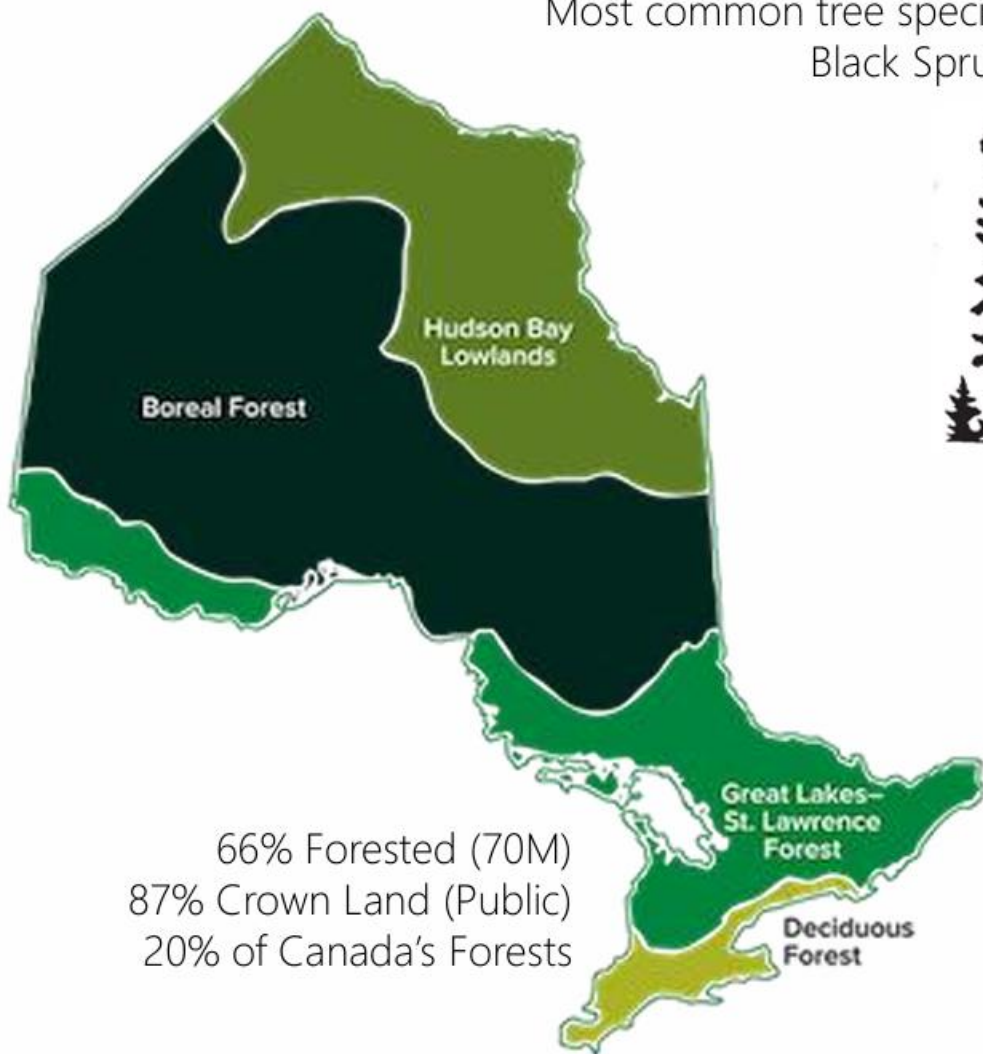
- Provides direction:
 - Standards
 - Guidelines
 - Best Practices



- Landscape
- Stand and Site
- Silviculture
- Cultural Heritage
- Tourism



Ontario's Forests



Most common tree species:
Black Spruce

26%
26M



50%
50M

Hudson Bay Lowlands

- Bogs and fens with sparse, slow growing forest and tundra.
- Stunted tamarack and black spruce. White birch, dwarf birch and willow are the common deciduous trees.



Boreal

- Coniferous and mixed-wood forests dominate.
- Black and white spruce, jack pine, balsam fir, tamarack and eastern white cedar. The predominant deciduous (hardwood) species are poplar and white birch.

Great Lakes St. Lawrence (GLSL)

- Dominated by uneven aged hardwood forests, with some conifer trees mixed in.
- Hardwood species include maple, oak, birch, ash, basswood, beech and ironwood. Coniferous trees include white pine, red pine, hemlock and white cedar



21%
21M

Deciduous

- Has the most diverse forest life in Ontario
- Has the species found in the GLSL forest, but also contains black walnut, butternut, tulip, magnolia, black gum, many types of oaks, hickories, sassafras and red bud.



3%
3M

66% Forested (70M)
87% Crown Land (Public)
20% of Canada's Forests

Hectare (ha) = 100 metre x 100 metre, 10 000 m²

Types of Disturbances



Insects (9.2M)



Fire (774,279)



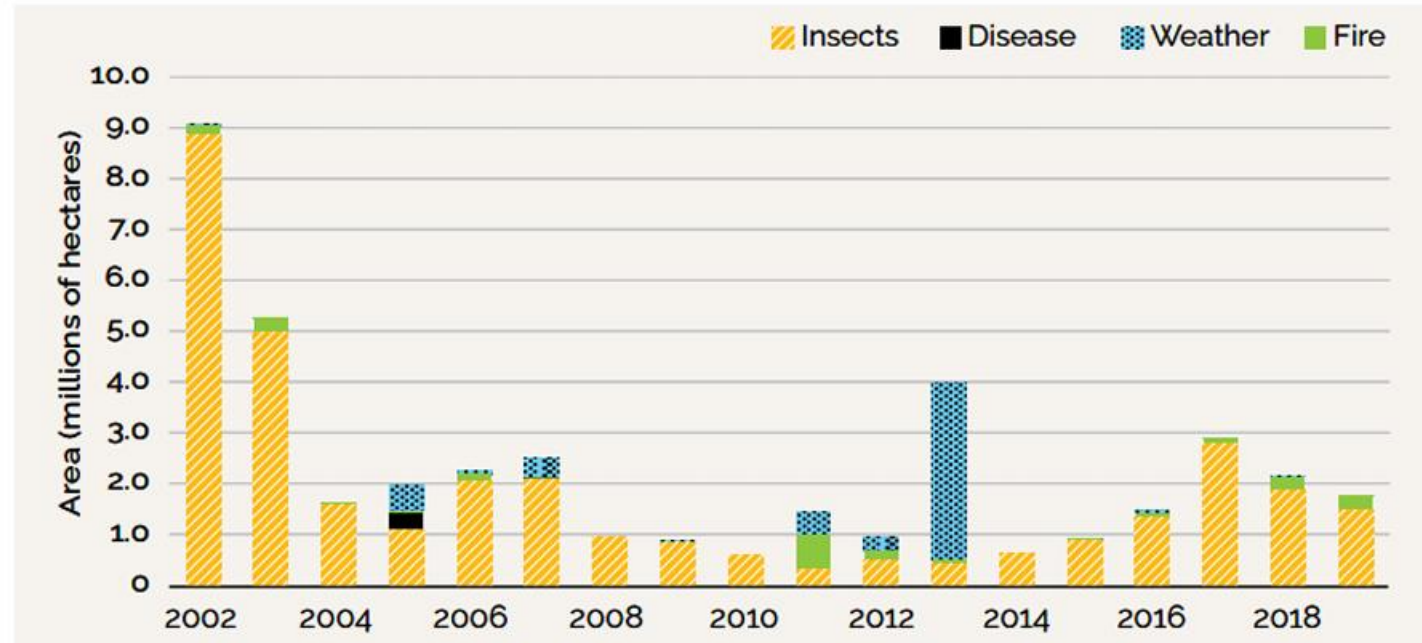
Disease



Wind



Harvesting (121,000)



Sustainable Management
is an emulation of natural
disturbances



TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

SELECTION SYSTEM

Natural Disturbance Emulation

Mimics small canopy openings from trees dying from:



Storms Disease Insects Old age

Where it works

Uneven-aged forests with shade tolerant species.

E.g. sugar maple, hemlock, beech

How it works

Concentrates on the removal of:

- Single trees or small groups of trees at 10-25 year intervals
- Defective or diseased trees
- Trees interfering with the growth of others with better structure and health

Regeneration occurs naturally

SHELTERWOOD SYSTEM

Natural Disturbance Emulation

Mimics fire, an important component of white & red pine & red oak forests

- Low level fires are frequent (60yrs)
- Lethal fires every 150-300yrs 

Where it works

Forests with mid-shade tolerant species.

Eg. white pine and red oak, hardwoods with yellow birch, ash


How it works

Trees are removed in a series of partial cuts at 10-20 year intervals that slowly removes the canopy.

Regeneration occurs naturally under a protective canopy & can be assisted by planting or seeding.

CLEARCUT SYSTEM

Natural Disturbance Emulation

Mimics lethal fires or weather events that are as common as  150-300 years

Where it works

Even-aged forests with shade intolerant species (e.g. white birch and poplar) or species reliant on fire to regenerate (e.g. jack pine)

How it works

Most trees in an area are removed to allow the full light conditions necessary for shade-intolerant trees to regenerate.

Trees are either regenerated naturally or are manually planted or seeded.

TREE MARKING

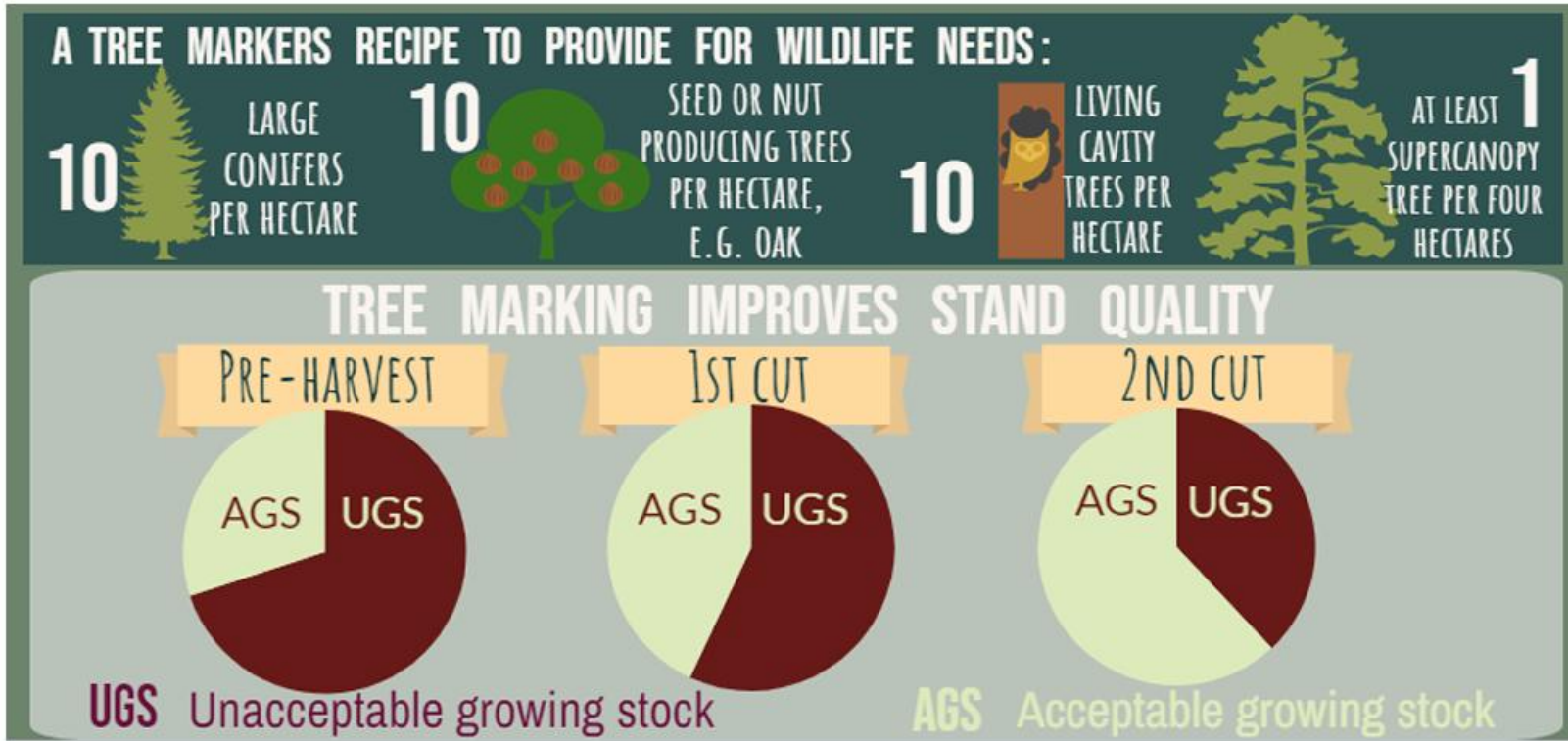
- ❖ Practiced in both partial harvest systems: selection and shelterwood
- ❖ Before any harvesting is done, a forester will develop tree marking direction and a certified tree marker will mark trees to retain for wildlife value and trees to remove based on healthy and quality



Orange Marking
Tree to be removed
(unhealthy, crowded)



Blue Marking
Tree to be retained
(healthiest)



COMMON HARVEST VIEWS



FORWARDER



SKIDDER AT A LANDING



FORWARDER/SKID TRAIL



POST HARVEST



SKIDDER WITH A HITCH

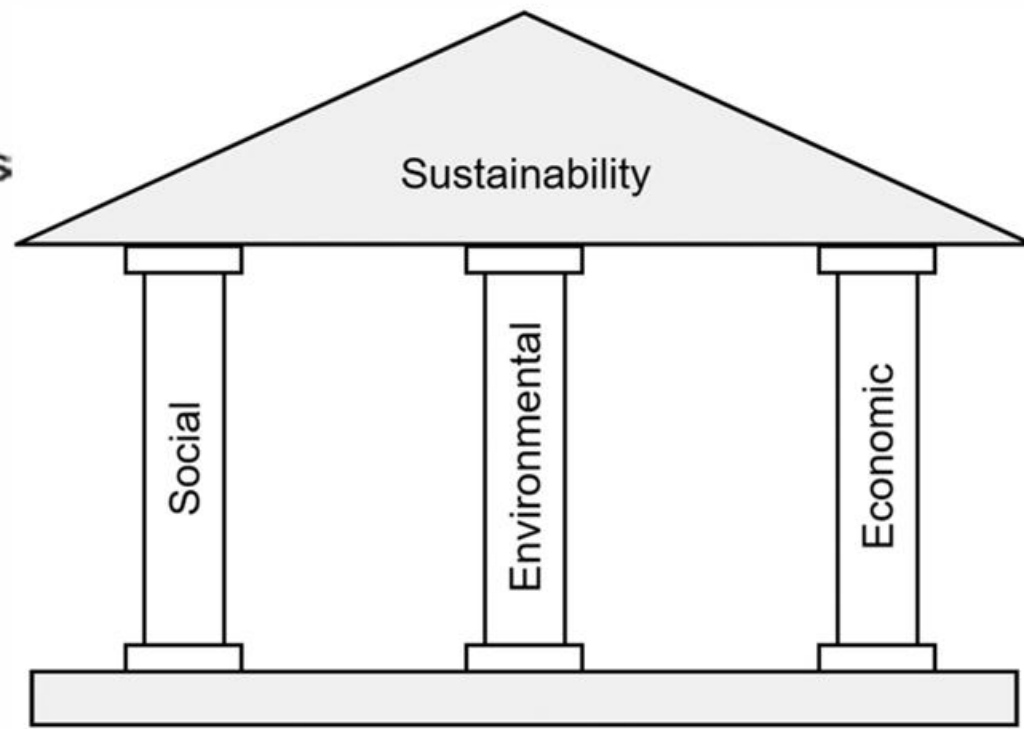


STOCKPILE OF LOGS



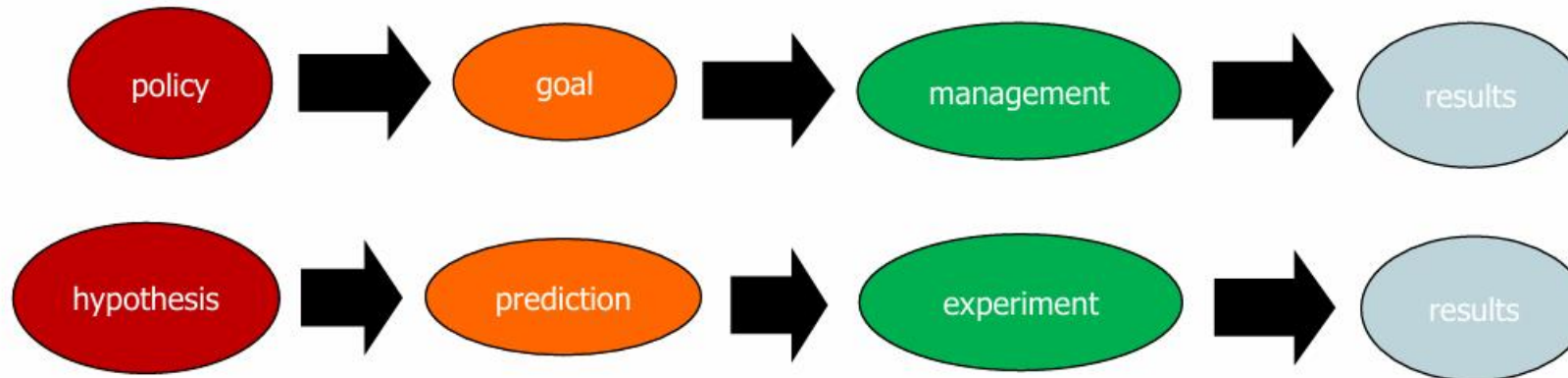
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Enhances the functionality of the forest to a changing environment



CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICY

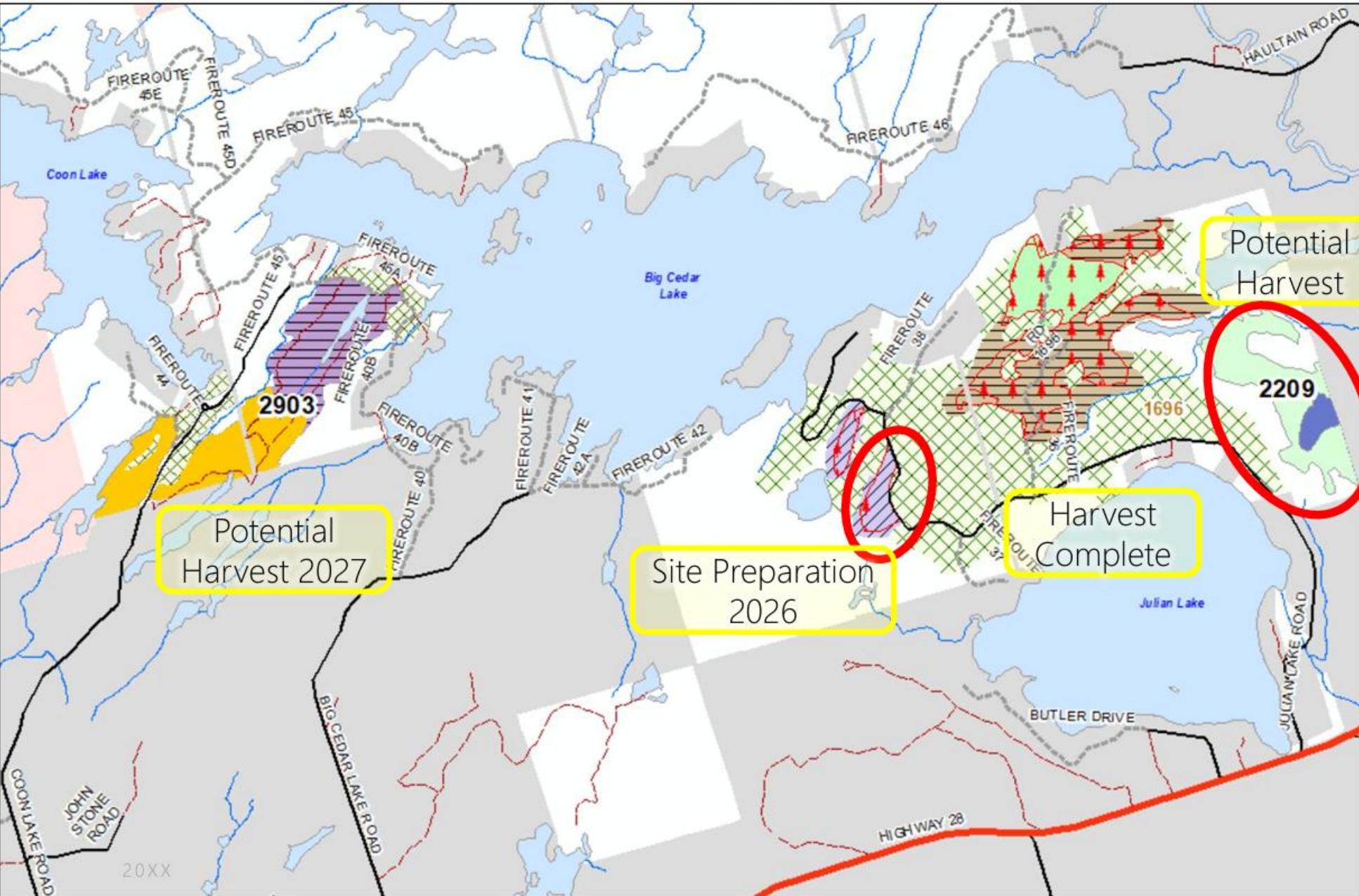
- Political uncertainty
- Market conditions and variability
- Science/policy interface
- Capacity within the government and industry
- Geographic disconnect
- Complex forest policy issues and non-technical audiences
- Low public awareness



"Policy as Hypothesis; Management by Experiment"

-- R. A. Lancia et al. 1993. *Wild. Soc. Bull.* 24:436

BIG CEDAR LAKE & SURROUNDING AREA



White Pine Seedtree (16ha)

- Specific trees identified to be a seed source for new understory regeneration
- Area will be site prepared and planted in the future (blue marking)

Intolerant Clearcut (18ha)

- Even-aged poplar stand requiring more light to naturally regenerate
- Red and White Oak/Pine retained
- 25 trees per hectare MINIMUM will be retained (no marking)

Exclusion

- Will be bypassed during harvest operations

Harvest

- Area harvested in 2023



RESOURCES



**Natural Resources
Information Portal**



Forestry



Aggregates



Petroleum



Lands and Waters

The Natural Resource Information Portal is a website maintained by the government to allow public access to draft and approved forest management plans, approved Annual Work Schedules, Annual Reports and associated information prepared for Crown forests in all management units in Ontario.

https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/?language=en_US



Bancroft Minden Forest Company has a comprehensive website designed to help stakeholders understand more about our business and the practice of sustainable forestry on the management unit. <https://bmfc.ca/>





THANK YOU

Julie Edwards, RPF

julie@bmfc.ca

www.bmfc.ca



Healthy Lake Program 2026

- Invasive species:
 - Starry Stonewort
- Water Quality Testing
- Environmental Stewardship:
 - Spring Cleanup
 - Tire Disposal

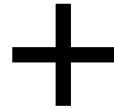


Starry Stonewort 2026

- Status: uncontrolled spread. Confirmed 7 new sites in 2025
Monitoring continuing in 2026
- Containment work will continue at public boat ramp, led by the BCLSA and conducted by Doug Colmer
- Challenge to impress on boaters importance of raising motors, avoiding weeded areas, and slowing speeds
- Aggressive harvesting most summer days is planned to keep public boat launch channel as clear of Starry as possible



2026 Starry Stonewort Communication Plans



1. Detailed protocol signs posted on shore
2. Addition of **simplified signage** primarily targeted towards visiting fishing boats at public boat launch
3. Addition of **colourful buoys/markers** to indicate confirmed Starry Stonewort sites
4. Ongoing BCLSA communications to members

Boater Protocol available (especially for contractors)

<https://www.bclsa.ca/documents/PublicBoatLaunchProtocol.pdf>

**Please, minimize use of channel near boat ramp – less traffic lowers risk of Starry Stonewort spreading faster and further.
Avoid areas marked as infested sites to prevent drag and spread to your own waterfront**

Starry Stonewort Support



Any amount of time or help is appreciated

Contact: bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com



Any new weeds you would like to have checked out?

Contact: bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com

BCLSA Thanks Our Sponsors

All local businesses servicing our area

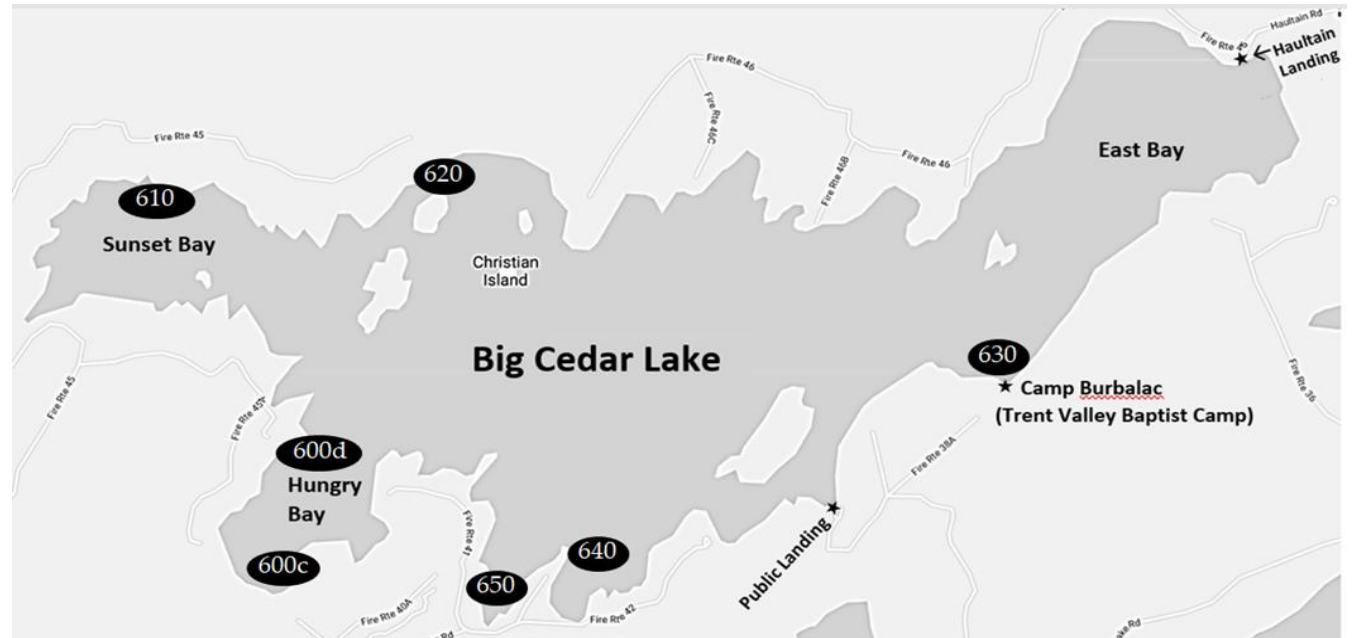


- **Joanne Graham:** lifelong resident of Lakefield, realtor since 2012
- **BK Tree Service:** Qualified arborists, >10yrs experience
- **Geco Industries:** Generators, service/maintenance, diagnostics, warranty work
- **Treeworks:** Brennan & Conrad, qualified arborists & BCL cottagers
- **Miller Pest Control:** Animal & insect control, largest in our area
- **ECCO:** Lakefield gallery, exhibits, art for purchase, & workshops

Water Quality Testing – Plans for 2026

- Continues as a key BCLSA initiative
- Overall, results show lake is healthy
- In addition to regular testing, the BCLSA will continue to participate in three other water quality programs:

1. **Lake Partner Program** measuring water clarity, phosphorus, calcium and nitrogen
2. **Trent University Study**
3. **Climate Change Project** coordinated by the Kawartha Lake Stewards Association (KLSA)



Find results at BCLSA website. <https://www.bclsa.ca/lake-data/>

Other BCLSA Water Quality Publications available on website:

Water Quality Testing Primer

Trent Aquatic Research Program, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

What's in the water at the lake?

A brief review of water quality and limnology



You should not be surprised that there is an entire world to study just below the lake's surface. Whether it's whitecaps breaking during a stiff breeze on a warm summer afternoon or the water getting colder as you dive deep into your lake, there are complex physical processes at play in the water. Not only that, there are a myriad of chemical processes that clarity and allow algae and other subsurface life to survive and grow. This subsurface foodweb lurking under the lake's surface that includes a diversity of bacteria, algae, zooplankton, insects, aquatic plants, and fish. The study of chemistry, and biology of lakes, is the main focus of a scientific field called limnology. This booklet, we will give you a brief overview of limnology and show you quality of water in your lake.

Trent University has an active lake monitoring program that collects and Kawartha-Haliburton region. As part of these efforts, the Frost Lab (frostlab.ca) began monitoring water quality of lakes in the Kawartha off, they collected samples yearly since 2017 and plan to continue a foreseeable future.

This sampling program is now completed as part of the Trent Aquatic Research Program, which monitors lake health as part of its aquatic research and educational activities. The monitoring of health for selected lakes on an annual basis. Even more information on water quality that is necessary for detecting and Having long-term information puts the data collected each year identification of current or emerging problems in lake health.

This booklet provides a short review of the primary water monitoring program and of interest to lake stewards, cottage owners and reported in our water quality reports on your lake.

Trent Aquatic Research Program

Kawartha Highlands Water Quality Report 2026

We have much to report from our research and monitoring of the Kawartha Highland lakes from the past year. Before doing that, we would like to thank all of the cottage associations and groups that helped support us financially this year. These funds are invaluable as they help cover costs of travel, sampling equipment, student salaries, and lab analyses. Support from the Kawartha Highland Provincial Park has once again been tremendous. They assist us with sampling effort park lakes, many of which are quite difficult to access for sampling purposes. assistance in deploying and retrieving monitoring buoys this past summer was invaluable. A final word of thanks to our own group: Shirina Begum, Emilie Han, Sen Han, Ella Honey, Joanna Gauthier, Vedanti Ghatwala, Kendra Fayers, Emily McCormack, Abbey McGuire, Jack Millar, Sherryann Proulx, Claire Stevens. These are the folks who make it all happen whether it's in the field, processing samples in the lab, or completing the extensive analyses in the laboratory. Our program is built on teamwork and couldn't have been possible without the contributions of you all.

Our research activities this past year (2025) included the normal lake sampling and a number of other sampling efforts. With a project led by Sherryann Proulx, we installed two buoys, one in Bottle Lake and one in Bottom Lake, to track changes in lake oxygen and dissolved organic matter in bottom waters. Shirina Begum contributed with her project sampling for carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide in many of our locations (close to shore, deepwater). A new member of our team, Emily McCormack, took samples for analysis of lake fungal communities. These efforts are on-going but we will share results in the future water quality reports.

We would like to hear back from you. Email us if you have any questions or quality related to discuss whether that's a concern or if you are happy to share our knowledge of water in the Kawartha. Please reach us by emailing the Trent Aquatic Research Program at paulfro@frostlab.ca.

This report is produced by the Trent Aquatic Research Program, Trent University. Please direct all questions and inquiries about this report to Dr. Paul Frost. Email: paulfro@frostlab.ca.



Lake Partner Program

Report Overview

Lake Data Report for Big Cedar Lake STN 363

General Information

Big Cedar Lake has been monitored by Lake Partners from 2004 to 2023. During this time, water samples were collected in the spring for total phosphorus levels. Water clarity is sampled monthly using a Secchi disk. Calcium and chloride were included in the Lake Partner Program (LPP) in 2008 and 2015, respectively, and were sampled along with total phosphorus in the spring.

Scope of the Lake Report

This report provides background information on Ontario's LPP, summarizes and provides analysis for each of the four water quality indicators monitored as part of the program (total phosphorus, calcium, chloride, and water clarity), and provides information on how anyone can act as a steward for their lake.

A note on statistical significance and figure scales

Throughout this report, we use Mann-Kendall trend tests to determine if changes in certain measurements are statistically significant. This means we check if the changes are due to chance or if they show a real trend. We use a 95% confidence interval, meaning we're 95% sure the changes are real.

When viewing the figures in this report, please check the scales on the x-axis (horizontal axis) and y-axis (vertical axis) to understand the extent of the changes over time. Due to formatting difficulties, not all scales start at 0, which would have been preferable. Keep this in mind when viewing the figures.

How to navigate the Lake Data Report

Please note this digital report is best viewed in a "full screen" layout, using a Chrome or Edge browser. This report consists of 5 sub-reports, which you can access from tabs at the top of this page (Total Phosphorus, Calcium, Chloride, Water Clarity). This report also includes Background Information on the LPP as well as a Best Practices for using or living on a lake.

Navigate between other tabs by clicking their labels. The indicator-specific tabs (Total Phosphorus, Calcium, Chloride, Water Clarity) contain basic information and data visualizations for each indicator. The Background Information tab provides links to further reading and the References Tab is where you can find all the literature we used to inform the report.

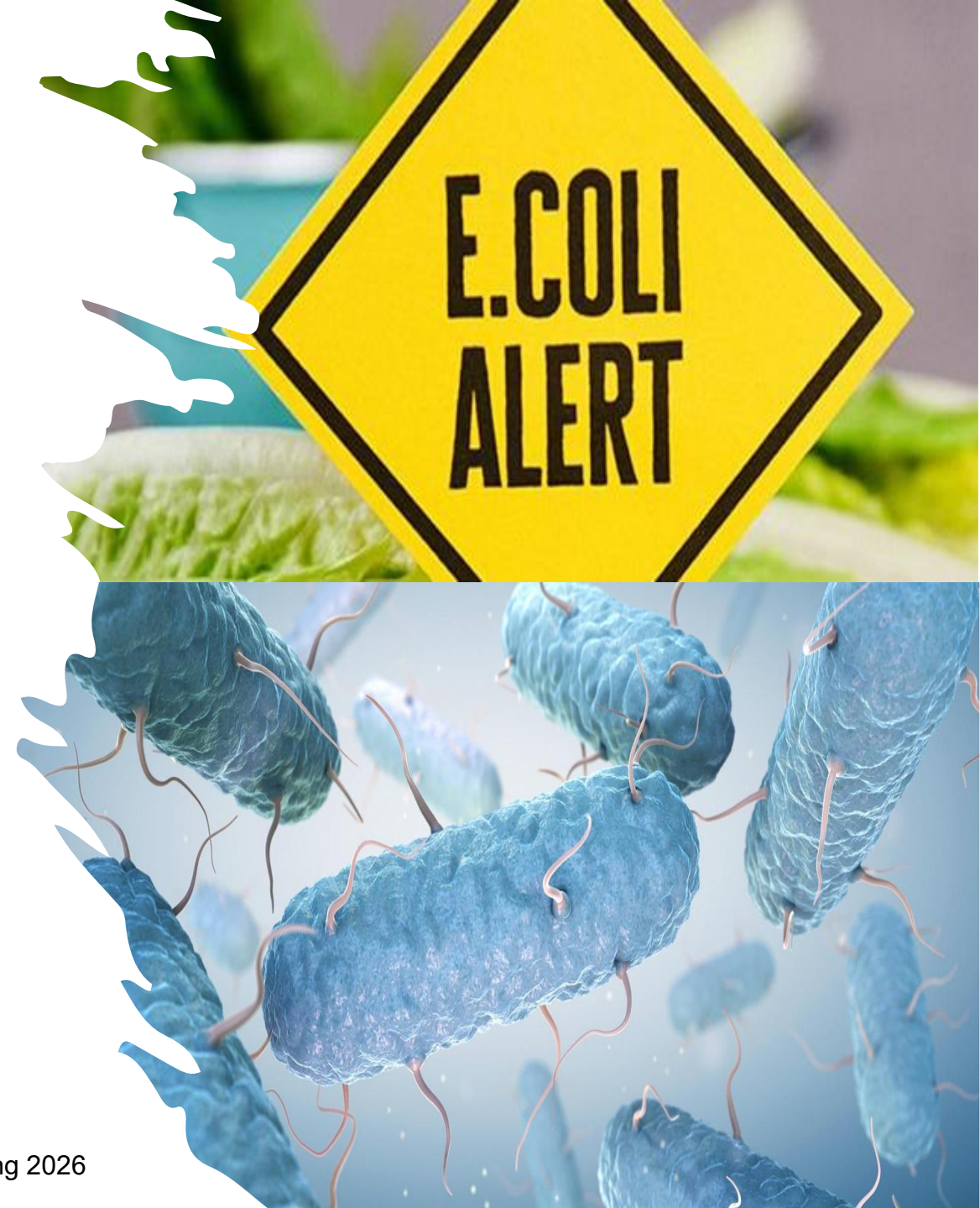
This report also contains two maps. These maps show your lake, sampling locations, and information about the LPP data collected. To access lake-specific information, click anywhere on the lake. To access site-specific information, click on the site indicator. (Note: only sites with at least five years of consistent data were included in these maps)

E.Coli Guidance

- eColi is a “biological indicator”
- At risk: children, elderly, compromised immunity
- Bacteria levels change quickly

- To reduce risk:
 - Wait 24 hours after heavy rain to swim
 - Don't swallow lake water

- If concerned, you may do your own localized testing



Lake Stewardship 2026: Spring Cleanup

- **Saturday June 20 (rain day June 21)**
- Volunteer, everyone welcome
- Enjoy a “Thank You BBQ Lunch” on Island 5 (Leo’s Place) afterwards

Look for notices on the BCLSA website or contact Leo DeSorcy at ldesorcy@aol.com



Polystyrene dock floats in or on the lake release non-biodegradable microplastics – dangerous for people and aquatic life

Saturday June 20th
(rain day June 21st)



Lake Stewardship 2026: Tire Disposal Program

Old tires leach harmful chemicals into the ground water and lake with negative effects on natural habitat and humans

- If you would like help with removal and dump runs for safe disposal, please reach out to Leo DeSorcy at ldesorcy@aol.com
- If you have neighbours who have tires and may not be members of BCLSA please reach out to them and let them know of our offer

Volunteers welcome 😊



Fire Prevention Initiative

Heightened risk of fires in 2026 due to ice storm debris, dead trees from Spongy Moth devastation and lack of fire prevention awareness across the community

Volunteers needed to work hand in hand with the BCLSA Board to co-ordinate/organize:

- Short educational event in collaboration with the Fire Department/Fire Chief
- Sharing resources from FireSmart Canada
- Budget provided by BCLSA



OR TWO...😊

Canada Day 2026 Boat Parade: July 1st at 2pm



Gather at Clam Bay to parade your decorated boat

OR

Cheer on your dock!

Prizes for:

1. Best decorated boat
2. Most patriotic costume
3. Most enthusiastic 'Cheermeisters'

BCLSA Thanks Our Sponsors

All local businesses serving our area



- **R&J Machine:** Docks, boat lifts, railways. Family business, over 25yrs, Lakefield
- **Brook's Brushwork:** Brook, 10+ years, WSIB insured, interior/exterior, kitchens, decking, drywall
- **Paris Marine:** Family owned, 80yrs, sales, service, indoor/outdoor storage, canvas/upholstery department
- **Big Cedar Lake Store: NEW.** Our closest store, LCBO & large Beer selection. Ice cream bar and cottage supplies.
- **Allen's Electrical Contracting: NEW.** Experienced local, independent electrician
- **Haultain: NEW.** Comprehensive marine service facility offering sales, service, parts, and storage. Boat launch on Big Cedar Lake

Requests:

Board Secretary Position

Fire Prevention Program Lead

Volunteers for:

Spring Cleanup

Tire Disposal

Starry Stonewort Clearing



Become a Volunteer

Make a difference to your lake and your community

+ studies show volunteering makes you happier and healthier 😊

- Volunteer as much or as little time as you would like
- Reach out attention Diane Trauzzi:
bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com

Open Discussion & Close

