

Greenleaves

ISSUE #4, 2025

Member Newsletter of **Bruce Grey Woodlands Association**



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BGWA.CA

Upcoming BGWA Events:

BGWA Annual General Meeting February 28

Chainsaw Safety course
March 21

Chainsaw Certification course April 11-12

Women's Only Chainsaw Safety course April 18

Chainsaw Maintenance course April 25

Geology Hike at Woodford late April / early May

Would you like to host a member tour of your woodland property?

Contact Lloyd Holbrook
holbrooklloyd3@gmail.com

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 13 @ 6 PM via Zoom

Members Welcome!

Contact secretary@bgwa.ca to confirm format (virtual, in-person, hybrid) and location or zoom link.

BGWA's vision: Promoting healthy forests and ecosystems in Bruce and Grey Counties through education, recreation and sustainable management practices.

bgwa.ca
info@bgwa.ca

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BGWA, Box 45, Neustadt
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President's Message

By Jim White

Dear BGWA members

Thanks to a very productive team of BGWA director's we have had a very busy fall. I trust that many of you have taken the opportunity to join us for one of our events. Our member volunteers truly make the association vibrant with activity.

Lloyd Holbrook, Chair of the BGWA Events and Education Committee, organized three opportunities this fall to learn and experience local events within our two counties. He has prepared more detailed event overviews you can read in this edition of Greenleaves.

A few highlights to whet your appetite for more.

1. The Thanksgiving walk focusing on geology on the Escarpment was super interesting as we covered 400 million years of geology in a morning hiking up and down the Escarpment face near Woodford.
2. About a month ago, Kevin Predon, Dufferin County Forester and a BGWA director, led a group through the forested hills near Mansfield to learn about mature red pine plantation and oak stand management as well a chestnut nursery and an old growth forest tract.
3. Susan McGowan and Donna Lacey led a Tree ID hike and blended in how to use a prism for calculating basal area of the forest around the campground at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area. We saw a collection of native species that adapt to the various soil and moisture available as well evidence of some new tree species that are flourishing outside of their normal growing zones due to a warming climate. This event was in conjunction with the annual BGWA BBQ.
4. Thanks to Jim Penner and Donna Lacey for ensuring the burgers, sausages and condiments were prepared so we could enjoy the sunshine in the Conservation Area at our annual BGWA BBQ. We have a good turnout of new members to learn and network with seasoned members.
5. Gerald Guenkel conducted two courses, a Chainsaw Safety Awareness Course in November and Chainsaw Safety Certification Course in early December. The groups were a mix of members, members children, and even grandchildren as well as new members. The courses require a couple of critical criteria. Member Paul Kruis has the ideal situation to meet the critical

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President's Message (cont'd)

criteria with his workshop that he transforms into the classroom with heat and hydro. Across the parking lot from Paul's shop is the entrance to his red pine plantation in which Gerald leads the hands-on sessions. A sincere thank-you to Paul for so generously hosting us this fall. Hope with the eager learning hands and chainsaws his trail system is improving. I want to share a few pictures of the students practicing their skills. Tyler purchased his chainsaw just prior to the Awareness Course and decided he wanted to learn more, so he returned for the Certification Course. His comment about the course sums it up wonderfully. *It was great! Last time I felt like I understood how it's done.... Now, I feel like I know what I'm doing!* Judging by the smile on Gerald and the participants faces, the snow was not a deterrent from a day in the forest with saws.



April McBay's thoughts on her experience, *'I had a great time in the course! It strengthened my on-paper knowledge of chainsaws and operations, as well as boosting my confidence on the more practical/hands on side of things. Gerald really knows how to inspire confidence and make you feel capable.'*

Six excellent learning opportunities in the fall is a full schedule. We have accomplished a total of 10 learning events so far in 2025, a first for BGWA activities. A very productive Events and Education team effort from our BGWA volunteers. Thanks to each of our tireless Directors who make it happen and most importantly, thank you to our members that joined for a learning experience.

President's Message (cont'd)

We are not finished yet apparently, Lloyd is planning a winter Tree ID – Bark and Buds, on snowshoes if the current weather holds. Watch your emails from BGWA!

We struck a sub-committee, Membership Retention, who met and created some initiatives to help us bring value to members as well as retain membership. Our premise is thinking about member retention is much easier when we are growing our membership rather than being reactive. A couple of the recommendations that we created and acted on were:

- i) President to call all new members before the BGWA BBQ to personally invite them to the tree ID and walk about.
- ii) Invite members to volunteer to host a walk of their property with shared responsibilities of the property owner and a forestry professional to discuss what they see and options to consider.

The response from our membership to host a walking tour is rewarding. We have a roster of potential hosts for property tours that will take us well through 2026 and then some.

At our November Directors meeting we had even more creative ideas which result in the invitation to members to consider 'stocking stuffer' gift BGWA memberships for family and friends.

With a little nudging from a member's partner we got organized and now have a schedule of Chainsaw Safety Training Courses for Spring of 2026. Sounds like some lucky guy is getting a Course registration for Christmas. He'll be able to clean up after the next ice storm.

You might want to circle the dates on your 2026 calendar for:

Chainsaw Safety Awareness – March 21

Chainsaw Safety Certification – April 11-12

Chainsaw Safety Awareness Women's Only – April 18

And a new addition:

Chainsaw Sharpening and Maintenance – April 25

Consistent with our Vision Statement: *Promoting healthy forests and ecosystems in Bruce and Grey Counties through education, recreation and sustainable management practices.* We have started conversations with Zoomer Radio and On The Bay publication to participate in public service awareness and understanding of forest diseases and management in 2026. Time will tell if this initiative materializes.

We are anticipating fielding another membership attitude study this winter. When you get the email

invitation, please take a few minutes to help us. For us to maintain an engaged membership we need your input in these short surveys. The BGWA emphasis is very focused on Bruce and Grey Counties.

Communication functions much better with two-way dialogue. 😊



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President's Message (cont'd)

Please mark your calendar for the BGWA AGM. **February 28** at Grey Roots Museum and Archives, Owen Sound. Agenda to follow. We have selected our topic and speaker who is a current BGWA member. The subject matter is an event that likely each of us has had some experience. Our speaker will be Tony Fleischmann. Here is a little overview of the topic and Tony's bio.

Gypsy Moth Control Program in Mississauga

As a result of a number of climatic, environmental and insect related factors, increased gypsy moth (spongy moth - *Lymantria dispar*) caterpillar populations survived into adulthood resulting in an unprecedented number of egg masses. This outbreak population was predicted to cause severe tree defoliation resulting in extensive tree decline and mortality in several areas of the City of Mississauga in 2006. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs were employed to reduce the gypsy moth densities in the highly infested areas including an aerial application of Foray 48B - *Bacillus thuringiensis* sub-species kurstaki (Btk). The program's success was attributed to a large group of team members from various organizations including resident associations, City Councilors, staff members, technical stakeholders and regulatory agencies which significantly controlled populations in a responsible manner and save thousands of trees throughout the city.

Tony Fleischmann has worked in the forestry industry for over 30 years with experience as a Timber Technician with Domtar Forest Products, an Arborist, Tree Inspector and Forestry Manager with the Cities of Toronto and Mississauga as well as Forestry Territory Manager with Hydro One. He is also a past president of the Ontario Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and was the Project Coordinator for the Gypsy Moth Control Program in Mississauga.

If it has been a while since you joined us for an event, I encourage you to come along, learn, and make new friends. Better yet, bring a friend and join us for an event. Watch our bgwa.ca website and your email for more details of upcoming events.

I truly hope that you enjoy reading this edition and some memorable pictures of the fall of 2025.

Every aspect of this production hinges on the skills and capabilities of volunteers. The number of articles and photographs and variety of topics rely on our local members for contributions. Longer newsletters reflect more contributions received from you, our members. We continue to add new contributors to the "authors" list this year.

We hope you will find time to contribute this year. For our regular contributors – simply thank you for taking the time and energy to share your knowledge and perspectives with us. Please send your contributions to: newsletter@bgwa.ca.

I hope to see you out enjoying the learning experiences offered with our BGWA-sponsored events – 100% locally grown!

Warm regards

Growing Shiitake Mushrooms

By Jim White, BGWA member, President

Previously I wrote about growing shiitake mushrooms. I've had a few questions from readers so here is a step by step with some references from the company that I sourced my shitake spawn to start growing mushrooms.

What do you need to get started?

You will need some manageable size logs to grow the mushrooms. I use maple logs 4 feet long and about 6' diameter. Red or white oak logs are also good. Don't damage the bark on the bolts/logs.

Shiitakes grow in shade, where the logs can dry and get a good soaking periodically during the growing season. I keep my logs well inside the forest. Protect the logs from prolonged exposure to sun and wind in all seasons.

I cut my logs in February before the sap starts to move in the spring from living trees and stack them lying on the ground. The bark will stay in place on the logs longer if you cut the tree before the sap moves. If the bark falls off the logs the shiitake mycelium will dry and die - mushroom production will stop. I am on my 6th year of production from the same logs.

Locate your source of spawn and order it for pick up by March 15th preferably. Spawn is the living mycelium that you will inoculate the logs. I ordered my spawn from Mycosource, a Canadian family-operated business specialized in mushroom production. [Mycosource](https://mycosource.org/about-us/) is located near Goodwood, south-east of Newmarket. (Mycosource website link - <https://mycosource.org/about-us/>)

Their website is full of excellent information with lots of science-based reference materials.

You will need a few tools for inoculation of the spawn in the logs:

- i. Portable drill with ½" wood bit, ii) a collar for the bit to control the depth of the hole you drill, an inoculation tool (purchase this from Mycosource) iii) paraffin or bees wax to seal the holes where you inoculate the logs, iv) old pot to melt the wax and keep it liquid, v) Coleman stove to melt the wax and make a hot drink when you are working in March in the forest, vi) saw horses to rest the logs off the ground while you inoculate the logs, vi) small paint brush to apply the liquid wax over the holes where you inoculated the spawn.

Inoculation Procedure

This section is quoted from Mycosource. Lots of details and easy to follow.

When you receive your spawn examine it carefully. The bag should be completely sealed. The spawn itself should be a relatively uniform mixture of brownish sawdust with whitish mycelium growing through it. There should be no green, grey, black or other unusual areas on the spawn. The spawn you have received is at its peak for use as an inoculant. If you do not intend to use it within the next 5 days refrigerate it at 25°C. The spawn will keep for a few months, however immediate use is recommended because as the spawn matures/ages it becomes more and 'bound' by the mycelial hyphae. It will become very difficult to handle and use. Cold temperature will inhibit the development of the mycelial hyphae. When the hyphal development progresses too far it can be

Growing Shiitake Mushrooms (cont'd)

difficult to break the spawn apart so that it is loose and friable and with a small enough particle size to work your inoculation tool and to insert the spawn into the holes in your logs; 'bound' spawn can be processed in a blender or food processor if necessary. However, we recommend that the spawn be used as soon as possible – within 5 days of receipt is best. If the spawn has been stored refrigerated, bring it to room temperature for a few days before using it.

Handle the spawn to minimize exposure to ubiquitous contaminants such as bacteria and especially mould spores and to prevent dehydration. Use the following rules to protect the spawn:

- before opening, wipe the outside of the bag with a dilute bleach solution and carry the bag to your inoculation site in a clean bucket; keep the bag in a cool, shaded location.
- wash your hands and periodically rinse tools coming in contact with the spawn.
- before opening and immediately before inoculation gently break the spawn up through the bag. by manipulating the bag with your fingers; you can also shake/agitate the bag so spawn is loose and friable; the 'grain' size of the spawn should be quite small and it should break up fairly easily and not form clumps that are difficult to break apart; it should be moist but not wet; 'bound' or 'clumped' spawn can be pulsed in a food processor.
- schedule inoculation sessions to allow enough time to completely use the spawn in a particular bag in a single session and/or remove spawn from the bag in small batches as you use it, perhaps in a clean plastic container; keep the bag closed after each removal and never put any spawn back in the bag for use later.

This spawn is used to inoculate hardwood logs that were cut when dormant – after leaf fall and before leaf bud and that have rested for at least 1 month. The method described here is 'drill & fill' method. You need a drill with a 12.5 or a 13.5 mm (or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch) bit and an inoculation tool. A depth stop on the drill bit is helpful in order to drill holes to a depth of 1 and $\frac{1}{8}$ th inches or 28.5 mm. The holes MUST be sealed with cheese or bees wax to prevent spawn from drying out. Drill holes 10-15 cm (4-6 inches) apart, in 'offset' rows that are 5 – 7.5 cm (2 – 3 inches) apart. The holes should form a diamond pattern as in the diagram below. Extra holes can be drilled around knots or similar irregularities in the log.

Push the inoculation tool into the bag of broken up and friable spawn to fill the hollow tube up to the mark on the tube (which is 1-1/8' and corresponds to the depth of the hole. You can place the broken up and friable spawn on a clean, flat tray (cookie sheet) to the depth of the 1- 1/8" so when you push the inoculator tool into the spawn it fills the tube to the mark on the tube. Each hole will need the right amount of spawn to fill the inoculation hole. Then plunge the spawn into the inoculation hole. Aim to fill the inoculation holes so that the spawn is just below the level of the bark. Do not overfill the holes and do not pack the spawn down. Ideally the spawn will lightly fill the hole with enough room on top to seal the hole with wax. You want the cap to be flush with the top of the bark. If the cap is above the bark as this will lead to contaminants getting into the hole or the cap falling off. Holes must be sealed to keep the spawn from drying out and / or the cap falling off.

You must seal the holes once drilled and filled as quickly as possible. Working with a partner will make the process easier. One person drills holes fills the holes with spawn. One person seals the holes. Whatever practical division of labour works. Drilling holes is easy and quick. Filling and sealing is slow. Using a workstation or sawhorses to roll the logs as you fill and seal will make the process easier and saves your back.

Post inoculation and log management

Following inoculation, the mycelium will colonize the sapwood. During this “spawn run” stack your logs off the ground in a shaded area in a log cabin style/crib arrangement with space around each log to allow ventilation.

The ideal location for your logs during incubation/spawn run is under the forest canopy in a well-drained area with good air movement. For the first 4 weeks of the spawn run you may have to water/soak the logs once a week unless there is sufficient rainfall and/or the logs were quite moist (inside) when inoculated. Sprinkle logs for 18 to 24 hours and then let them dry out. The objective during the spawn run is to keep the moisture level inside the logs high but allow the outside to dry so as not to rot the bark off. Logs should not be exposed to full sun during the spawn run/incubation phase. During winter months keep logs shaded. Even if logs are under the forest canopy they may need to be covered with shade cloth or with some form of breathable covering (cedar boughs) so that they are not exposed to full/direct sun for hours at a time, especially during the late afternoon.

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Logs stacked for incubation/spawn run under forest canopy.



Mycelium showing at the ends of logs on the sapwood ring.

Growing Shiitake Mushrooms (cont'd)

Harvesting Shiitakes

The logs will “fruit” 6 months to 1 year following inoculation depending on factors such as when logs were cut, how hard the wood is, how moist the sapwood is, and temperature and rainfall patterns during the spawn run. Fruiting generally starts the spring following inoculation (1 year later). You should be able to see mycelium showing at the end of the log in the sapwood ring – as in the picture above.

Before the logs begin fruiting they must be stood on end to allow the mushrooms to form and emerge and to facilitate harvesting.

I find that my shiitakes will fruit in the early summer after a week of heat and rainfall and again in late August- early September. A great reason for a walk in your woodland with an empty bag and a pocket knife.

Slugs have an appetite for shiitakes, otherwise I have not found other competitors for my forest grown delicacies.

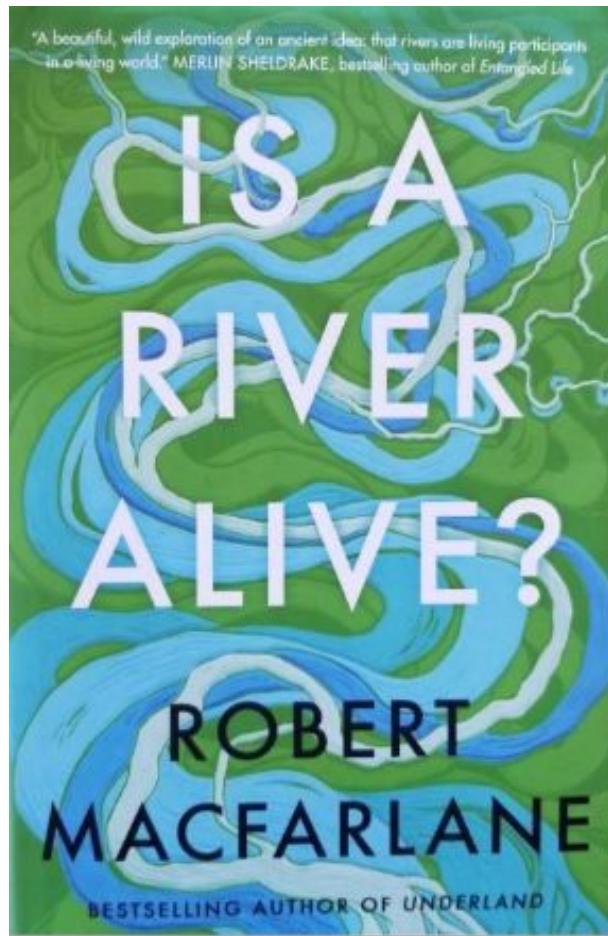
Interested in more information, [Sources and Resources - Mycosource](#)

Below is a picture of my grow-op.



Book Review - Is A River Alive?

By Pamela and Howard Newman, BGWA members



“If you find it hard to think of a river as alive, try picturing a dying river or a dead river.”

Robert Macfarlane (2025)

“The British author Robert Macfarlane taught me that words are key to our ability to imagine our world and to embrace its possibilities.”

(Quotation from the Introduction to *At A Loss For Words* by Carol Off.)

Macfarlane is a ‘word collector’ and he puts this interest and knowledge to great effect in crafting his latest ecological treatise. If you read this book, and we very much hope that you will, we are confident that you will encounter several ‘new-to-you’ words.

Although the concept of granting legal status and rights to rivers did not originate with Macfarlane, he is an early adopter and promoter of the idea. The Introduction to the book, just twenty pages, presents the objectives of the Rights of Nature movement and the progress already made, in some jurisdictions, in establishing the legal rights of rivers.

The main body of the book is divided into three parts; each covering, in travelogue form, specific rivers and their watersheds. Part I - THE RIVER OF THE CEDARS (Ecuador), Part II - GHOSTS, MONSTERS AND ANGELS (India), Part III - THE LIVING RIVER (Nitassinan/Canada).

As “Everyone lives in a watershed” (R.M.), this book is for you – enjoy!

Epiphytes in Your Woodlands

By Kevin Predon, BGWA member, director

Epiphytes are organisms, such as bryophytes (nonvascular plants that include mosses and liverworts), lichens (symbiotic associations of fungi and algae), slime molds, and free-living algae that inhabit the surfaces of live plants. Epiphytes are not parasitic to their host plant. Instead, they receive all necessary water and mineral nutrients from the environment on and around the tree surface¹. It is also possible for woody and other types of vascular plants to exist as epiphytes; however, they aren't as common in our temperate deciduous forests as they are in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. A reason for that is our humid climate, which is characterized by maximum rainfall in the growing season followed by an intensely cold dry season, that typically creates an environment where higher plants growing as epiphytes cannot survive².



Therefore, it is the scarcity of epiphytes to be found in our local woodlands which makes them special, because to be found in any abundance requires a rare ecosite condition, such as an old-growth forest. The previously referenced source material cites studies which found that species richness (the number of different species present in a specific area) of basal bryophytes on sugar maple increases two-fold as trees increase in diameter, and that percent-cover of epiphytic macrolichens increases from 12 percent on smaller sugar maple trees to 25 percent on larger ones¹. Yes, I know that those facts are as dull as dishwater, but as someone who was once a professional “plot-monkey” (and was often required to quantify the amount of lichen growing on a tree), I feel including that information somewhat validates those efforts (in case I ever asked “Why am I doing this?”).

According to Maycock, whose research occurred almost sixty years ago, the incidence of vascular plant epiphytism is even more of a rare phenomenon to be observed in

our forest communities, as they are more of an anomalous occurrence dependent on an alignment of both biotic and abiotic factors. Oh, and I consider myself an epiphytic organism as I currently live in my in-laws basement, but in true epiphyte fashion, all sustenance is procured independent from the main lifeforms.



1 - McGee, G.G. (2018). Biological Diversity in Eastern Old Growth. In A.M. Barton & W.S. Keeton (Eds.), *Ecology and Recovery of Eastern Old-Growth Forests* (pp 197-216). Island Press.

2 - Maycock, P.F. (1975). Vascular epiphytes in the southern deciduous forests of Ontario. *Canadian Journal of Botany*. 53: 988-1015.

Conservation Authorities' Change Will Influence You.

By Gerald Guenkel RPF, BGWA member

The Ontario government plans to merge the province's 36 existing Conservation Authorities into just 7 large regional agencies, under a newly created provincial body called Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The government argues this would streamline and standardize permitting and approvals, reduce overlapping jurisdictions, bring consistency to flood-risk management and natural-hazard oversight, and make services more efficient and predictable across municipalities.

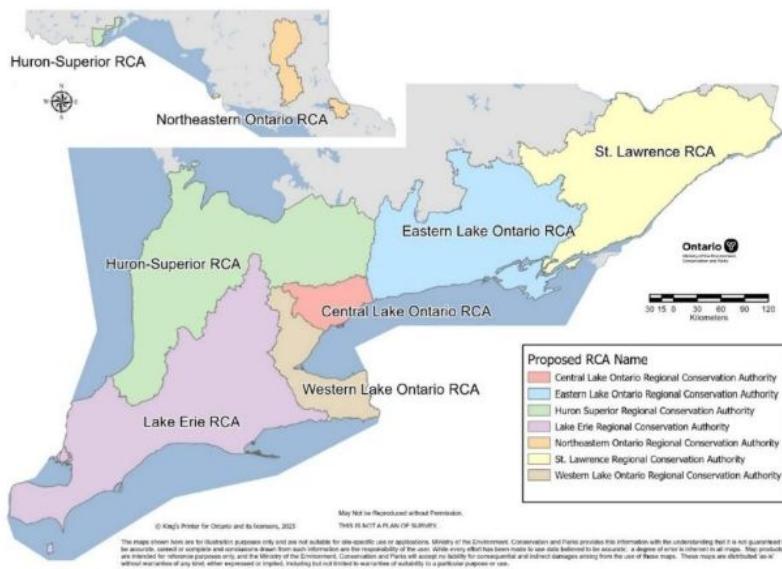
However, many officials and conservation-authority staff are deeply skeptical. They warn that losing 36 locally-grounded authorities in favour of a handful of regional ones risks diluting "localized expertise" – local knowledge of specific watersheds, flood risks and land characteristics. As one critic told The Narwhal News, a consolidation of that scope could create a "larger, more distant bureaucracy that is less responsive to local municipalities, developers and farmers." There are concerns the consolidation could end up slowing approvals, sowing confusion, and ultimately undermining the ability to respond to local environmental and safety needs.

Moreover – while the government promises there will be no job losses, with some management roles being "redeployed" into front-line staff – many fear the consolidation will nonetheless erode the long-standing municipal oversight and local representation that have historically guided conservation efforts.

Municipalities currently fund and govern these authorities, and stakeholders worry that a shift to centralized oversight under the OPCPA will weaken local control and make resource allocation less accountable to local communities.



PROPOSED 7 REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (RCA)



Source:

<https://thenarwhal.ca/ontario-conservation-authorities-consolidation/>

Cont'd

Conservation Authorities' Change Will Influence You. (cont'd)

Do you have concerns about this centralization of Conservation Authorities?

Here are practical, effective ways to express concerns about Ontario's Conservation Authority consolidation plan (Bill 68 and the OPCA proposal). These steps follow the formal channels that do influence the process, plus strategies to make your input stronger. The public consultation on the proposed consolidation – Environmental Registry of Ontario Notice 025-1257 – closes at **11:59 p.m. on December 22, 2025**.

1. Submit a public comment to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO):

This is the most direct and official way to influence the proposal.

Direct Link: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257>

The consolidation plan is posted as **ERO Notice #025-1257**.

The consultation is open until **December 22, 2025**.

Anyone in Ontario can submit comments—residents, groups, municipalities.

How to write an effective ERO comment:

- Be specific about local impacts (your watershed, flood risks, conservation areas, species, agriculture, development pressures, etc.).
- Give concrete examples: “Our community experienced X flood in 20XX; local conservation authority responders understood the terrain and responded quickly.”

Ask direct questions:

How will local expertise be preserved?

Will services be delayed with larger regions?

How will municipal decision-making be represented under the OPCA?

Request evidence:

“Please provide impact assessments on flood-risk response times under larger regional authorities.”

Short, clear points are highly effective.

2. Contact your local MPP and municipal council

This issue affects municipal governance, so both levels matter.

When contacting:

Mention how the consolidation may affect local flooding, development decisions, conservation lands, jobs, or watershed monitoring.

Ask your MPP how they will ensure local representation isn't lost.

Ask your municipality whether they plan to submit an official comment to the ERO (many are doing this).

Personal stories of how your local conservation authority has helped your community carry weight.

Tip: Phone calls and handwritten letters are more influential than email, but email still works.

Scat in the Woods

While walking through his property Ben Sharpe, BGWA member and director, came across some scat he did not recognize. The photos below show the scat and for reference one of his gloves.



Ben reached out to MNR staff to help identify what 'produced' these specimens. The MNR staff's response is the scat is from a coyote and provided the following description "Coyote scat is typically tubular and rope like measuring 3-5 inches long and 1 inch in diameter. Often with tapered and pointed ends. It also frequently contains hair, which is all being depicted here. Cougar scat is larger, denser, and more segmented with blunt ends."

In regards to the presence (or absence) of large cats in Grey and Bruce, and more broadly in Southern Ontario, they had to say "Large cats, such as cougars, are believed to most likely live in Northern Ontario because of the remoteness of the habitat. We have had no confirmed sightings or signs of cougars in this area of Southern Ontario. Cougars found in Ontario may be escaped or released pets. The population size is unknown." For more information about cougars, the following website - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/cougar> - has some good information.

What animals have you found on your property? Send us your photos of the different wildlife you find.

BGWA Member BBQ Recap

By Dave Fritz, BGWA member

On October 4, 2025 there was a tree identification workshop and a member BBQ that was held at the Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area. Although it was advertised as a 2 km walk on somewhat rugged terrain, the leads on the walk found plenty of different tree species without needing to leave the campground. A nice casual walk was enjoyed and many interesting facts and tree ID tricks were explained by Susan McGowan and Donna Lacy. A hearty Thank You goes to the organizers and all who helped to put on this workshop and BBQ.



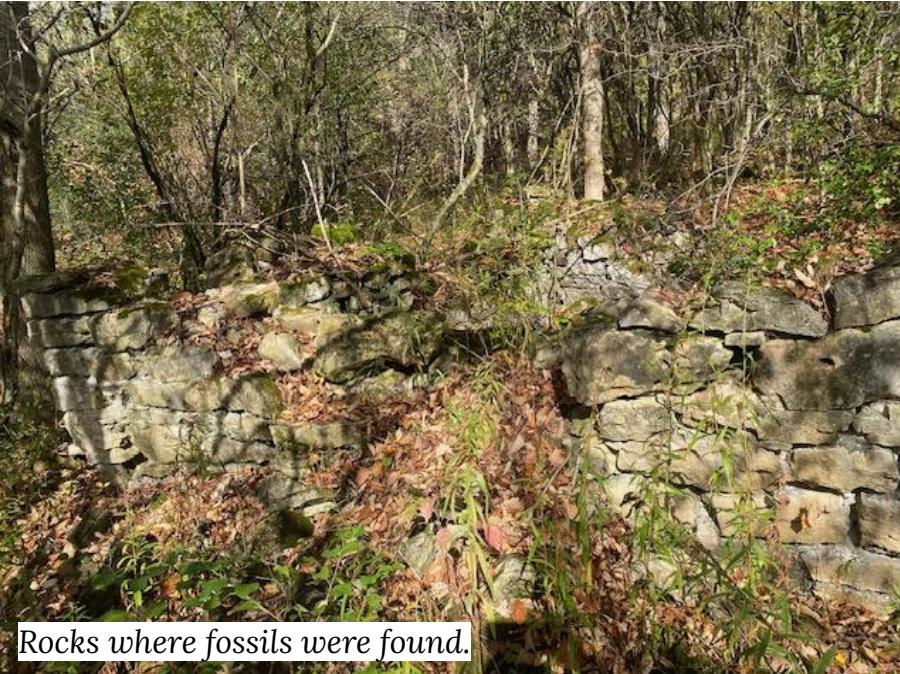
Woodford Geology Hike Recap

By Lloyd Holbrook, BGWA member, director

Carol Mullin is a volunteer hike leader on the Bruce Trail - Sydenham section. She is a self-taught geologist and has been leading a series of Geology hikes each year with Bruce Trail Assoc. Our group of eight hiked east from Woodford Community Centre for about 2 Km. We found rock faces with many types of fossils that Carol could show us and name them all. Carol explained the type of rock and rock formations formed over millions of years. There were deep and narrow crevices we walked through.

On the way in and out we saw many differing forest and plant communities including several large butternut trees, and many types of ferns. There was an old homestead site with only the foundations left. We had good discussions from the very knowledgeable group about the trees, plants, and rocks and fossils. Carol was very knowledgeable. The weather was very sunny, so a very pleasant and very educational outing. Thanks to all attending and especially to Carol.

At the end some people purchased Beth Gilhespies book "Walking Through Time"



Dufferin County Forest Tract Recap

By Lloyd Holbrook, BGWA member, director

The group met at the Dufferin County Museum and drove to a Dufferin County forest (Main Tract). Our guide - Kevin Predon - explained the complicated trail system and all the uses (horses, bicycles, walkers, etc). There are a lot of red pine plantations from the 1960's that some have not been thinned, some every third row taken out, and some thinned more. The more and better thinning resulted in better growth and a healthier stand of remaining trees (as compared to in-thinned or low thinning). The soil is very sandy and the dominant tree in the hardwood sections is red oak which reaches large size there and would be high value. Kevin explained the differing ideas/thoughts about thinning the hardwood in order to have enough light for oak and pine regeneration. They will probably do small, scattered areas of thinning. There is an open area for horse trailers, and shade trees are important as many horse groups use the trails. The chestnut nursery is newly planted American chestnut trees (from the Canadian chestnut council) they plan to tend it to give the chestnuts the best chance for survival. Possibly these trees are far enough from the original chestnut growing areas in southern Ontario that the disease may not come here. We drove to a second property to see old growth forest that also had a few medium sized chestnut trees. This tour was very informative and very educational. And a very beautiful area. We thank Kevin for taking his time to lead us and host such a great tour.



BGWA Leadership & Support

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Secretary
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Ben Sharpe

Events & Education
Lloyd Holbrook

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