



ONTARIO
WOODLOT
ASSOCIATION



2024 Algoma Chapter Annual General Meeting

March 16, 2024

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

AGENDA

10:00 am – Coffee and social time

10:15 am – Business meeting:

Meeting Opening and Welcome

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes

Chapter Update

Financial Report

Election of Directors

New Business

11:00 am – Forest Health presentation, Dan Rowlinson

12:00 noon – Complimentary lunch

12:30 pm – OWA Provincial Projects presentation, John Pineau

1:30 pm - Adjournment

Chapter Update

Board Activities

With the disruption of the pandemic for the most part in the past, 2023 was a year of adjustment of our Chapter Board activities to the new realities. We had 5 Board meetings in 2023, where our focus was on reestablishment of our event program after the COVID restrictions on gathering were lifted. With the great organizational skills of our Events Coordinator, Laurie Thompson, and input from all Board members, we held four very successful events for our membership.

It has also been our first full year under our new Chapter Constitution that was approved at our last AGM. We invite everyone to keep a copy of this important document to refer to whenever you have questions about how our chapter operates. If you don't have a copy and would like one, please don't hesitate to ask and we will send you a copy. (jbcodes52@gmail.com).

An important change to Board operations now defined in our Constitution is with regard to Director authority and responsibility. Now all directors have a more equal role in initiating and carrying out Board activities without the narrow definition under executive titles. This structure allows more flexibility and balance in sharing of responsibilities.

In 2023 we added two new Directors to the Board, Liz Heale and Phil Riley, who bring our Director count to 9. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both of them for stepping up and for their active participation in our activities this past year.

Also under our Constitution, we are now committed to appointing one of our Directors to sit on the Provincial OWA Board. Phil Riley has graciously accepted this appointment and has done an excellent job of supporting our Chapter in Provincial activities.

Chapter Membership

Chapter Membership has grown once again in 2023 from 55 to 58.

As we noted at the AGM last year, the annual membership renewal date is September 15. The Provincial bylaws define a 90 day grace period following this date to renew your membership. December 15 is then the final deadline for you to renew and maintain your active membership status.

During the grace period, the Board is committed to contacting Chapter members who have not renewed on time with a reminder. Liz Heale did a great job of reaching out during this time this past fall. We do though ask that you recognize the September 15 renewal date each year in order to minimize this ongoing effort.

Chapter Events

In 2023, the local Algoma OWA chapter held tours on 4 separate days and covered 7 different topics. We had great attendance at all events; turnout ranged from 12-30 people on each date. Active participation came from young children all the way up to those with 60+ years in the forest industry.

The 2023 year began with an **active harvest tour at member Brent Atwell's property** on Leighs Bay Road. We were hiked around the property viewing areas where spruce budworm infected timber had been harvested, saw a selection cut of a mixed hardwood, and a unique shelterwood cutting of a Scots pine plantation. The goal with leaving some Scots pine was to protect the young white pine planted underneath. The topic of Scots pine always generates lots of discussion and strong opinions! During lunch around a campfire, the cable skidder and farm tractor being used on site were discussed. We then viewed an onsite demonstration of bandsaw milling of some pine and spruce.

The Algoma OWA chapter annual general meeting was on March 11 at the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority Sugar Shack building where following the business meeting Art Groot shared some of his research on **The North Shore of Lake Huron: Ontario's Last Great White Pine Lumbering Area**. Following lunch, a large group went for a tour of the local Arauco mill with Wood Procurement Manager Shaun Meakin. **Arauco is a global manufacturer of forest products** and offers the industry's most comprehensive selection of composite panels. At the Sault mill they produce Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) and Thermally Fused Laminate (TFL).

On June 3, our tour was focussed on the Goulais River area. John Pineau, OWA Executive Director, made the trip north to join us for the day. We first visited **Black Bird Management Ltd's maple syrup operation**. Here we toured their production facility where they boil sap from over 100,000 taps. We learned about the year-round management of the operation and how they care for their sugar maple forest.

Following the maple syrup operation tour, we headed to the home of Laurier Jacques. Laurier is the father of our association member Jaime Jacques, and he worked in forest operations in the past. Laurier toured us around his **carpentry workshop**. He showed us the rocking chairs he known for making and many other projects he had been working on.

Our final tour of the year was in the Mile Hill area. We toured a **wind farm managed by Capstone**. Nathan, one of their representatives, explained why the windmills are in this location, their contribution to the power supply, how they work, maintenance, and anticipated life span. It was a great opportunity to gain understanding of this power generation option.

Next, we continued in the road system to access an area of Crown land. The **black cherry** in this stand recently received some stand improvement work to promote the health and survival of this rare species on the Algoma Forest. Jason McLelland, Clergue Forest Management, joined us to talk about the funding that they were able to receive for this project. We learned about the silvics of black cherry and how the recent spacing treatment will improve the stand by providing more light for black cherry growth. After the tour a few people stayed to survey another area close by to see if any more mature black cherry could be located.

Financial Report

We began the year with an opening balance of \$8,149.48. Our income from membership dues was \$719.75 and expenses were \$1333.52 related to the 2023 AGM, renewal of the ZOOM membership for Board meetings and a one-time purchase of A/V equipment for presentations. We finished the year with a closing balance of \$7,535.71. (See attached report).

Election of Directors

The following Members in good standing have indicated they will stand for election for a 2 year position on the Board:

Brent Attwell

Laing Bennett

Bryan Code

David de Geus

Geoff Meakin

Laurie Thompson

Peetrylia Wreggitt

Remaining on the Board for the second year of their term:

Liz Heale

Phil Riley

The minimum number of Directors on our Board for efficient operation is set at 7. We have no set maximum, so we welcome any member would like to join us. If you would like to be nominated for a position as a Director, please let us know by email prior to the AGM on March 16, 2024. (jbcode52@gmail.com)

Guest Speaker

Following the business part of the meeting, we will have Dan Rowlinson, Forest Health Field Coordinator, MNRF, speak about insect and disease concerns with trees both at provincial and local area level. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion.

OWA Provincial Programs and Initiatives

Following lunch, John Pineau, Executive Director, Ontario Woodlot Association, will give an update on 2023 Provincial activities and share details of the OWA's current large-scale projects. This will include the Farm Woodlot Management Program, Private Land Forest Inventory Project, Community Forest Owners Cooperatives, Municipal Bylaw Project and the Silviculture History Library Project.