

Good Forestry Practice

Good forestry practices may include many management objectives including:

- maximum quality trees, grown in as short a time as possible
- maximum landowner return on investment

Good forestry practices utilize appropriate forest harvesting techniques to protect the following:

- important ecosystems
- fish and wildlife habitat
- water quality and quantity
- forest productivity and health
- aesthetics and recreational opportunities

A properly managed woodlot can be harvested more often allowing greater economic potential now and in the future as opposed to diameter limit cutting. Diameter limit cuts also reduce genetic quality and structural diversity in woodlots.

Contemporary forest science, consideration of diverse forest values, and landowner objectives play a crucial role in determining good forestry practices.

The benchmark for good forestry practices in southern Ontario is the **“Silvicultural Guide to Managing Southern Ontario Forests” (OMNR 2000)**.

In most cases trees must be marked prior to harvesting. Some foresters, technicians and others are qualified to mark trees in accordance with good forestry practices. Contact the Forest Conservation by-law officer for more information.



Relief

Landowners who want to clear forests or otherwise cut trees outside of the other provisions of the by-law may apply for relief using a **“Schedule B” Application** form. County council may grant a relief permit with conditions, or deny a relief application.

Violations

Every person who contravenes a provision of the Forest Conservation By-law is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than **\$100,000** for a single offence, and may be ordered to replant trees.

Resources

Contact the following organizations for lists of forestry contractors, forestry publications, and other information:

www.ontariowoodlot.com

Northumberland Stewardship Council
705 755 3298

Ontario Woodlot Association
1 888 791 1103 www.ont-woodlot-assoc.org

Ontario Forestry Association
1 800 387 0790 www.oforest.on.ca

Landowner Resource Centre
613 692 2390 www.lrconline.com



Contact Information for Forest Conservation By-law inquiries:

James Rogers, Forest Conservation By-law Officer
Phone: 1 866 966 3389
Fax: 905 372 1696
Email: jas@sympatico.ca

County of Northumberland
555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, Ontario
K9A 5J6
1 800 354 7050 or 905 372 3329

FOREST CONSERVATION BY-LAW

A Resource Guide for Woodland Owners and Forest Operators




**Northumberland
county**

www.northumberlandcounty.ca

This brochure is intended to be used for general information only. Please refer to By-law 54-09 for additional information

What is the Forest Conservation By-law?

The Northumberland County Forest Conservation By-law came into effect in 2001 and was updated in 2009.

The purpose of the by-law is to promote good forestry practices and the maintenance of woodlands within Northumberland County.



The by-law regulates the harvesting, burning, damage, and destruction of trees.

If you are going to do any type of harvesting of trees within woodlands greater than 1 hectare (2.5 acres) you must comply with the Forest Conservation By-law.

The County has appointed a Forest Conservation By-law Officer to ensure that the harvesting of trees within woodlands of Northumberland County is consistent with the by-law.

The by-law is one of many measures taken to promote the maintenance of healthy woodlands within the county, and a sustainable local forest industry.

Make Informed Decisions

Harvesting timber can affect your land for many decades, even centuries! Use the resources listed in this brochure to help make the wisest decision on how to manage your woodlot. The by-law does not necessarily protect your woodlot from over harvesting or poor forestry practices.

Know Your Woods

Good forest management starts with a good understanding of the diversity of tree sizes and species, wildlife, and understory vegetation in your woodlot. Walk your land and make a record of what's there. Note areas of special concern. What do you like the most? What do you want to enhance?

Know Your Objectives

What do you want from your forest? Consider investment, income, wildlife habitat, recreation, environmental protection and others. Also consider how you would rank your objectives for your forest. Contact other woodlot owners and associations for ideas. Working with a forestry expert and preparing a forest management plan will help you achieve your objectives.

Know Your Alternatives

Forests can offer income opportunities from more than just timber sales. Non-timber products such as maple syrup, recreation, medicinal plants, and mushrooms offer stable sources of income.



Thinking of Harvesting Trees?

One of the options under the by-law allows landowners to selectively cut trees for personal use. Personal use does not include any form of sale, barter, exchange, or other disposition of the trees. Examples of personal use are fence posts and fuelwood to be used directly by the landowner.

Harvesting Options - By-law 54-09

Which one of the following options applies to you?

- **Trees for personal use only**
- **Good forestry practices** i.e. trees are marked by a qualified tree marker in accordance with a prescription detailing good forestry practices
- **Diameter limit cutting** - in accordance with the tables listed in section 4 of the by-law. Cutting under this section is widely considered to be poor forestry practice and is often detrimental to the economic and ecological values of the forest. **Note:** Residual basal area must be $\geq 15\text{m}^2$ per hectare
- **Exemptions**- e.g. A person licensed under the Surveyors Act may cut trees while engaged in the practice of cadastral surveying. See section 3 of the by-law for other exemptions

Please refer to the by-law for more details and contact the Forest Conservation By-law Officer for assistance with harvesting options

Permits

If you intend to harvest or destroy trees, and you are not exempted under section 3, you must complete and submit a "[Schedule A](#)" Permit [Application](#) form. Applications are reviewed promptly and there are no fees for the permits.