



Forest Operation Review Committee Agenda

Thursday, June 25, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room (2nd floor)

1. Introductions

Welcome and introduction of the Chair and Committee.

2. Orientation Presentation

Staff to provide an overview of the Background Report on the Forest Operation Review Committee.

3. Discussion

The Chair will lead the Committee in a discussion of the following:

- a. Identification of needs for additional information
- b. Process moving forward

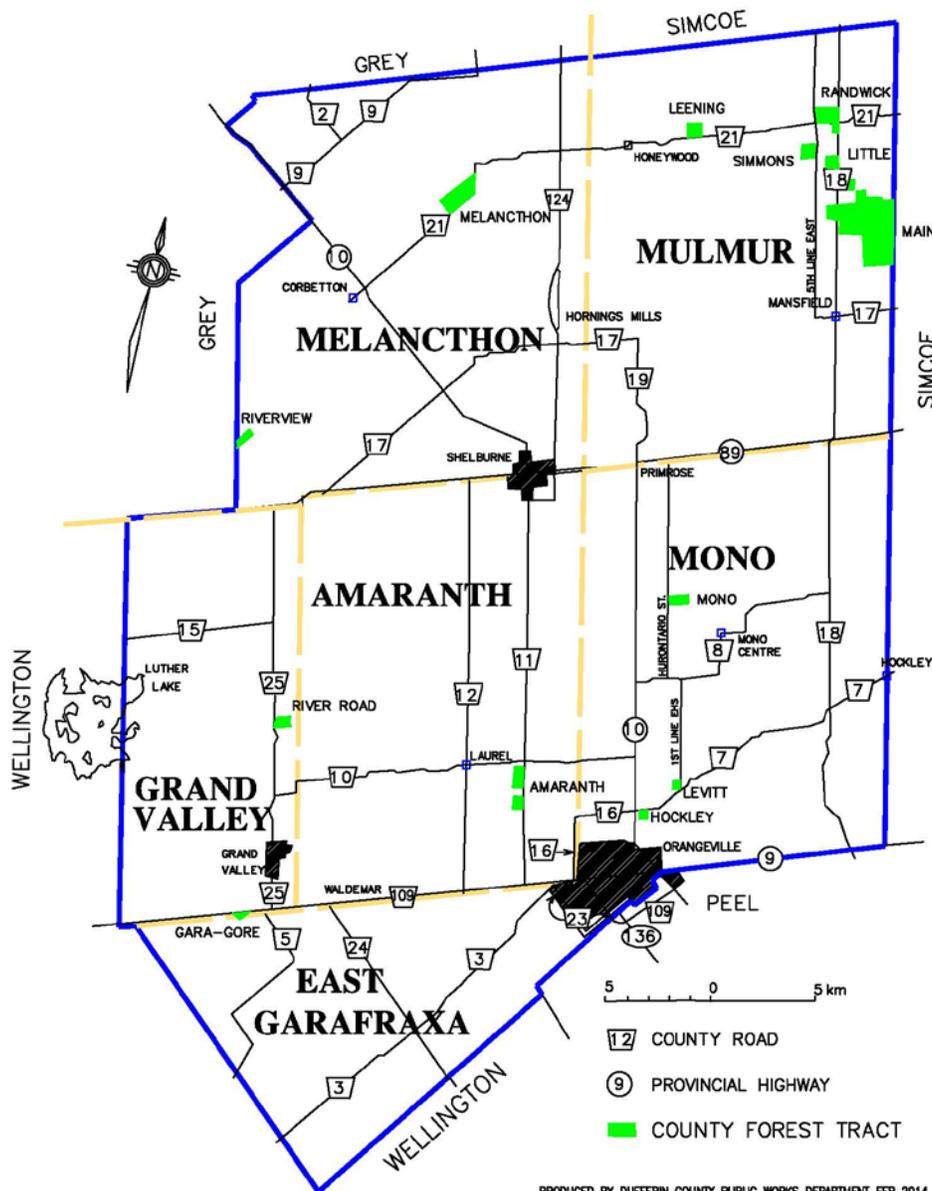
4. Next Steps



Forest Operation Review Committee - Background

The Dufferin County Forest is a 1,054 hectare (2,606 acre) multi-tract forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin. The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities.

DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST TRACTS



PRODUCED BY DUFFERIN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FEB 2014

Tract	Municipality	Area (ha/acres)	Year(s) Acquired	Cover Type(s)	Other Notes
Amaranth	Amaranth	24/59	1940	Laurel Wetland Complex, hardwoods, white spruce plantation	
Gara Gore	East Garafraxa	15/37	1934	white spruce plantation	
Hockley	Mono	20/51	1976 ¹	Orangeville Wetland Complex	adjacent to Island Lake Conservation Area with official trail linkage
Leening	Mulmur	8/20	1976 ¹	white spruce plantation, white pine plantation	Niagara Escarpment Rural Area; no vegetation removal or site alteration as stipulated by donor, but tree planting is allowed; no apparent restrictions on sale of property
Levitt	Mono	4/10	2010	white cedar, hard maple	Niagara Escarpment Natural Area; as a condition of donation agreement, transfer limited to 2% of the property area for municipal purposes such as road widening, sale not permitted; only low impact activities and little or no promotion of the area
Little	Mulmur	44/109	1972-1973	Mixedwood	self-guided interpretive trail; developing old growth
Main	Mulmur	607/1,501	1930-1963	red pine plantations, red oak, hardwoods	large area of forest in combination with adjacent private woodlands and Simcoe County Forest (over 2,500 acres)
Melancthon	Melancthon	59/146	1945	Melancthon 1 Wetland Complex, white spruce plantation	
Mono	Mono	71/175	1942, 1963	red pine plantations, hardwoods	adjacent to Mono Cliffs Park with unofficial trail linkage
Randwick	Mulmur	117/289	1940-1944	red pine plantations, white pine plantations, hardwoods	
River Road	Grand Valley	5/12	1963	red pine plantation	
Riverview	Melancthon	40/99	1949	Melancthon 2 Wetland Complex, white pine plantation	
Simmons	Mulmur	40/99	1967-1968	red pine plantations, hardwoods	

¹Did not become part of the County Forest until 1995.

Since the County took over management of the Forest from the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1995, the focus has been on balancing the environmental, economic and social values of the Forest, with the environmental values taking precedence over the other two.

The goal of County Forest management has remained the same since 1995: *To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.*

Some strategies to enable the County to achieve this goal have included:

Environmental Sustainability

- ❖ maintaining sustainable levels of timber harvesting throughout the planning period;
- ❖ maintaining natural forest characteristics as much as possible and;
- ❖ seek to protect the Forest from threats of invasive species and climate change by maintaining, and, where possible, increasing, biodiversity.

Economic Sustainability

- ❖ seek forest certification to increase the demand for timber products from the County Forest and;
- ❖ continue to develop alternative revenue streams that will not compromise environmental sustainability.

Social Sustainability

- ❖ develop a separate detailed recreation policy to manage increasing recreational use, in particular in the Main Tract;
- ❖ maintain an active relationship with users and other stakeholders and;
- ❖ continue to inform residents of Dufferin County about the County Forest.

On a broader scale, the County Forest contributes positively to the green infrastructure of the County, in particular in Mono and Mulmur where the County Forest tracts are almost always part of larger forested areas, including public lands owned by Credit Valley Conservation (Island Lake Conservation Area), the County of Simcoe (Tosorontio Tract) and Ontario Parks (Mono Cliffs Park).

Why Have a County Forest?

- ❖ ecological benefits: clean air/pollution reduction, water cleaning and flow control especially during storm events, erosion reduction/soil protection, habitat for wildlife, biodiversity maintenance
- ❖ economic benefits: forest products of numerous kinds – timber and non-timber, primary and secondary economic benefits of recreational use
- ❖ social benefits: recreation/active living, tranquil environment to reduce stress, hunting and fishing, traditional edibles and medicines, aesthetics, existence value

It is worth noting that ecological benefits are provided by all well-managed forests, but recreational use and other economic benefits more commonly flow from public land i.e. private land is not broadly accessible to the public, especially for free or at a low rate.

Do we have to have a County Forest?

The short answer is no. If the County of Dufferin wanted to sell any properties to which grants were applied we would require approval of sale by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, any grants used to buy those properties would have to be paid back to the province, and the province could claim up to 50% of the proceeds of any sale of property. The Simmons Tract, the Little Tract and parts of the Main and Mono Tracts were bought with grants. The properties that were not bought with grants do not have these stipulations on them. A condition of the donation of the Levitt Tract was that transfer limited to 2% of the property area for municipal purposes such as road widening; sale of any part of the property is not permitted.

Do we have to manage it?

There is nothing to say that the County has to manage the properties as actively as we are doing, as long as they are used for "forestry purposes" ("forestry purposes" includes the production of wood and wood products, provision of proper environmental conditions for wild life, protection against floods and erosion, recreation, and protection and production of water supplies). The main consequences of not actively managing would be a loss of revenue-generating activities such as selective harvesting (about \$50,000 per year), hunting and special event permits (about \$6000 per year), and an overall lack of control over recreational use of the properties.

Do we have to manage it this way?

If desired, the County is able to develop a different goal or mission for the management and operation of the County Forest.

There are other models used by municipalities for managing their County Forests, the two most common being:

1. Retaining consultants and contractors to perform any or all aspects of forest management;
and
2. Entering into an agreement with a conservation authority for their staff to do management.