



# Through The Knothole

*a quarterly newsletter of the*

**HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**

Issue # 83

[www.huron Woodwardowners.ca](http://www.huron Woodwardowners.ca)

Winter 2020

## Upcoming Event: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Simcoe County Museum - Room B

1151 Highway 26, Minesing, ON L9X 0Z7

(across from the Simcoe County District School Board offices)

**Saturday February 29th, 2020 at 1pm**

As well as the usual items of an AGM, the Scholarship Award Winner will be announced. We will also have a presentation by a guest speaker from the OWA. Hope to see you all there.

### MESSAGE FROM GERRY BEAUCHAMP 2019 WHITE PINE AWARD RECIPIENT



*Photo L to R: Jim Marchand, David DeVillers presenting the White Pine Award to Gerry Beauchamp*

If you are a fan of country music you will no doubt know a singer named Mel Tillis. What some people don't know however is that Mel had a lifetime affliction with severe stuttering. The unusual thing was that he could sing beautifully and not be affected by it. Some years ago, on a television talk show, I heard him painfully explain how

he had been awakened one night by the sound of an intruder in his home. Attempting to shout a warning, the words would not come out and he was forced to sing a stern threat and the confused would-be burglar quickly vacated the premises. Now you might be wondering what this has to do with the 2019 White Pine Award, - let me explain.

This year I had the honour of being presented with the White Pine Award at our November meeting in Elmvale. You may have noticed that my acceptance speech was brief and finished well before the orchestra began to play. Like Mel, I also have a speech affliction. I do not stammer, however I have always been plagued with a thought process that could be perceived as somewhat unruly. That is to say that when I am in a situation where I should be concentrating on making a point, my mind tends to wander and I am at a loss for words. Fortunately this does not spill over to my ability with the written word. Given some time, and a concentrated effort, I can usually put forth my true heartfelt feelings on paper. As Mel had to sing his thoughts I have to write them. So the following is what I wish I could have said at the acceptance of the award.

When I received the phone call that I was nominated to be the recipient of this year's White Pine Award, my first reaction was disbelief. I really haven't contributed anything exceptional to our group, and after looking at the names of the past recipients my feelings were somewhat reinforced. In the past, so many recipients have been completely immersed in serving the H.W.O.A. Names that immediately come to mind are Bruce Keeling, who organized the Maple Tree program for many years, Jim Laking, whose time contribution and development of 'The Knothole' newsletter was unsurpassed, Max Wagg, who organized so many summer tours, Earl Dertinger and Peter DeVillers, who were the liaisons with the County of Simcoe and offered so much expertise to the organization, and of course Neil Craig, whose natural abilities as a leader and organizer can't be overstated. These people, and so many others, are truly the lifeblood of our group. I am basically commenting on involvements since I became a member in 2000, but I know that there are people that came before and initiated the group many years ago that I did not have the honour of knowing. One of those original members I had known however, and Jack

O'Hara's commitment to the cause will be remembered annually with the presentation of monetary support to a qualified forestry student. In addition to these people, there are many hands involved in running the operation today that should be, and hopefully soon will be, recognized for their tremendous efforts.

All this being said, I do not wish to detract from my great appreciation at being named the recipient for 2019. I consider it an honour and a privilege to be recognized as a member. My years as a member have been both enlightening and rewarding and having the ability to discuss forestry matters with a like minded group of individuals, who truly want to care for our forests and environment is so gratifying to me.

In conclusion, if I tend to sing the praises of the Huronia Woodland Owners to anyone who will listen, I guess I may be forgiven since I am sure that is the way Mel Tillis would have done it as well.

-by Gerry Beauchamp



L to R Jim Marchand, Cathy Johnson Walton, Neil Craig

## WHITE PINE AWARD SPEAKER by Neil Craig

The speaker at our November 2019 White Pine Award meeting was Cathy Johnston Walton. She is the author of a recently published book entitled "Vanishing Barns". The book, and her presentation, uses photographs, stories, diaries and genealogy to remember the "Gentle Giants." The old barns which are disappearing around the country side tell an interesting story of early days and the pioneer



forests of Simcoe County. Massive timbers were skillfully cut, squared and joined to form the skeleton of these barns. These frame sections were called bents, and the names of the pieces such as plates, rafters, purlins, sleepers and mud sills were explained by Cathy with photos and stories during her talk. We learned that while the favourite material for barns was white pine, other local species such as hemlock, tamarack, cedar and even hardwoods like elm, ash and oak were also used. Cathy and her husband Terry even had some antique scale barn frame models to demonstrate the construction and skill of the early barn framers.

It was a fascinating subject complimented with Cathy's wonderful photography and oral history.

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## 2022 HURONIA CHAPTER IS HOSTING THE OWA AGM AND CONFERENCE

**Be part of the organizing team.** This is a great opportunity to present our chapter and what we do to the whole province. The date of the AGM will be late April in 2022.

Half day Forestry Tour and next day is the Conference.

**Contact Jim Marchand to become part of the organizing team. Telephone: 705-835-0094  
Email: jimmarchand5@gmail.com**

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## Through the Knothole, Jim Marchand, editor

We need articles from our members. Our membership has repeatedly requested to have articles about our members and their properties and projects. Please consider sending me an article, from you or a friend.

**Submission deadlines for articles:**

**Winter: Jan 10 - Spring: April 10 - Summer: Aug. 10 - Fall: Oct 10**

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## DIRECTORS (in alphabetical order)

**President/Chairman:** rotating among Directors

**Craig, Neil:** Forest Health (705-726-1334)  
neil@greylands.ca

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**Marchand, Jim:** (705-835-0094) Communications,  
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OWA Director, HWOA Chapter Rep.

Directors Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month except June, July and December.