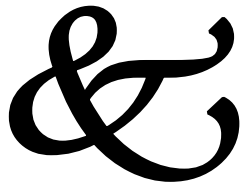




## **Annual Report**

**January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009**



## **Annual Work Schedule**

**January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010**

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**Caroline Mach, R.P.F.**  
**County Forest Manager**  
January 15, 2010



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dufferin County Forest is a 1,050 hectare (2,596 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin. The Forest has many important functions, including erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production.

From the first purchase of land in 1930 until 1991 the Forest was managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through agreements made under the *Forestry Act*. In 1995, the County completed a long-term, comprehensive management plan for the Forest properties, the first County in Ontario to do so. Following completion of the plan, a County Forest Manager was hired to implement it.

On March 13, 1997, the County signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This Memorandum, which expired in 2002, outlined the County's and the Ministry's responsibilities in the management of the Dufferin County Forest. Since the expiration of that agreement, the County has been responsible for all aspects of the management of the Dufferin County Forest.

The following are some highlights from the past year within each of the objective streams outlined in the management and operating plans: Public Use and Relations, Environmental and Resource Management, and Administration.

### Public Use and Relations

- i. ongoing repair and replacement of gates and signs in the Forest;
- ii. six larger-scale recreational events;
- iii. two forest walks (wildflower identification and tree identification);
- iv. enforcement of the County Forest by-law (2003-50) by off-duty OPP officers from September to November in the Main Tract and;
- v. continued cooperation on programs and events with the Dufferin County Museum and Archives and the Dufferin South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network

### Environmental and Resource Management

- i. four public tenders of red pine and hardwoods generating a total revenue of over \$150,000
- ii. the County participated in a research project to commercialize a naturally-occurring virus against gypsy moth;
- iii. a prescribed burn to control competing vegetation was conducted on the 25 ha in the Main Tract that are being intensively managed for red oak and;
- iv. marking of 58 hectares of conifer plantations and hardwood stands.

### Administration

- i. no property was acquired or disposed of in 2009.

During 2009, a new operating plan for the period 2010-2015 was developed and approved by County Council.

Next year, 2010, will see the continuation of various activities. There will be signs posted, forest walks, tendered timber sales, monitoring of harvesting operations, enforcement of the County Forest by-law (2003-50), several larger-scale recreational events, and a land use agreement with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Dufferin County Forest is a 1,050 hectare (2,596 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin. The Forest has many important functions including erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production.

From the first purchase of property in 1930 until 1991, the Forest was managed on behalf of the County by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This relationship was governed by twenty-year agreements made under the *Forestry Act*. In 1991, the most recent of these agreements expired. This fact, combined with changes to the MNR's private land forestry policy, resulted in the development of a new management plan for the Forest in which the County took the lead role, assisted by MNR. Dufferin was the first County in Ontario to take the lead in developing a management plan for its forest properties. The process to develop the plan started in earnest in July, 1994 with the hiring of a Forest Management Plan Author. Less than one year later, on June 8, 1995, Dufferin County Council approved the final draft of the plan. Throughout the process, there was participation from the MNR, a Forest Advisory Team, and the general public, all of whom provided valuable input and comments.

In 1995, the County took over the control and co-ordination of all activities having to do with the Dufferin County Forest. In order to fulfill this new role, Dufferin hired a County Forest Manager, the first County in Ontario to do so.

On March 13, 1997, the County signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This Memorandum, which expired in 2002, outlined the County's and the Ministry's responsibilities in the management of the Dufferin County Forest. A new Memorandum will not be signed, thus terminating the formal relationship between the MNR and the County in the management of the Dufferin County Forest.

In 2005, the Dufferin County Forest celebrated its 75th anniversary.

In 2009, County Council approved a new five-year operating plan (2010-2015) for the Forest.

This annual report is divided into sections that correspond with those in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 1995-2015* and the operating plan (2005-2010) and coincides with the County's fiscal year, January 1 to December 31.

## 2.0 PUBLIC USE AND RELATIONS

In 2009, public use and relations continued to be an important part of the management of the Dufferin County Forest. A number of the public relations activities were conducted in co-operation with the Dufferin County Museum and Archives and/or the Dufferin South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network.

### 2.1 Partnerships

An important element in the County's taking over the management of the Dufferin County Forest was the creation of partnerships that would enable the County to achieve the goal and objectives of the long-term forest management plan (1995-2015), which were reiterated in the operating plan for 2005-2010. The potential relationships were outlined in section 8.0 (pgs. 34-36) of the management plan. In accordance with

the general intent of that section, the County Forest has developed two very important partnerships; with the Dufferin County Museum and Archives and with the Dufferin South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network. These partnerships have enabled the County to achieve some of the objectives of the management plan that do not necessarily involve work on the ground in the Forest.

In the long-term forest management plan and in the new operating plan, the County made a significant commitment to inform and educate the public about the Dufferin County Forest and forests and forestry in general. The specific objectives can be found on pgs. 43 and 44 of the management plan and pgs. 15 to 18 of the operating plan. They include all ages and sectors of the population. The activities that the County partners on with the Museum and the Land Stewardship Network are chosen to achieve these public use and relations objectives. Generally speaking, they include regular contributions to the Museum's *Museletter* and *Calendar of Events*, forest walks, and participation in the provincial *Envirothon* program for high school students.

The County Forest Manager has been a member of the Dufferin South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network since its formation in 1995; the Dufferin County Museum and Archives hosts the meetings of the Land Stewardship Network.

By partnering with the Dufferin County Museum and Archives and the Land Stewardship Network in seeking to achieve its public use and relations objectives for the County Forest, the County is able to make more efficient use of its resources in this area.

## 2.2 Signs

In the past year, fewer than ten metal "No motorized vehicles" signs had to be replaced due to vandalism/theft. "No motorized vehicle" signs are used to supplement the County Forest by-law signs at several locations where there are ongoing issues with entry by motorized vehicles.

The local Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) member clubs (Dufferin, Orangeville, and Alliston & District) posted signs indicating the location of the OFSC trails through the Main, Randwick, Simmons, Riverview, and Mono Tracts of the Dufferin County Forest.

Temporary signs were posted at a number of the tracts showing the dates of the spring wild turkey hunt, the fall wild turkey hunt and the two five-day periods of the fall deer shotgun hunt. This was done to inform users that there would be a concentration of hunters in the Forest during those periods. Additional signs urging hunters to "Exercise Extreme Caution" were posted around the southern section of the Randwick Tract prior to the spring wild turkey hunt, the fall wild turkey hunt and the two five-day periods of the deer shotgun hunt. The "No hunting" signs that were posted along the boundary between the southern section of the Randwick Tract and the private land to the west in 1999 were monitored and new signs were posted where necessary.

Signs were posted at the Main Tract showing the dates of the six larger-scale recreational events. As with the signs indicating the primary hunting seasons, this was done to alert the users of the Forest.

## 2.3 Advertising and Promotion

In order to make non-hunting users of the Dufferin County Forest aware of the hunting seasons, a series of three notices was placed in the Orangeville, Shelburne, Creemore, and Alliston newspapers in conjunction

with the fall deer hunt. Notices were placed prior to the beginning of the bow hunt, prior to the first five-day period of the shotgun hunt, and prior to the second five-day period of the shotgun hunt. These choices were made based on the fact that the two five-day periods of shotgun hunt (as opposed to the bow hunt) draw more hunters in a shorter period of time. Similar notices were also placed prior to the start of the spring wild turkey hunt and the fall wild turkey hunt.

The "Hunting in the Dufferin County Forest" information package was distributed to the 161 hunters who purchased forest use permits, as well as on a request basis. Email inquiries were first directed to the website for information.

Numerous phone and e-mail requests for information on the Dufferin County Forest and forests and forestry in general were answered. The information that was distributed consisted mostly of Dufferin County Forest pamphlets, maps of the Main Tract, executive summaries of the operating plan, and information on various aspects of managing your woodland.

A news release was produced and distributed in conjunction with the release of the annual report for 2008.

The County Forest website ([www.dufferinmuseum.com/forest](http://www.dufferinmuseum.com/forest)) was updated throughout the year to provide forest users and other interested members of the public with timely information about events and activities. Information about the County Forest was also on the County of Dufferin's website at [www.dufferincounty.on.ca](http://www.dufferincounty.on.ca).

The County Forest was part of the County of Dufferin's displays at the spring Home Show, the fall Home Show and the Eco-Energy Show, all held at the Orangeville Fairgrounds.

## **2.4 Forest Walks**

The County held two guided forest walks in the Little Tract in co-operation with the Dufferin South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network. On May 23, a wildflower identification walk was held with about 7 participants. On July 4, a tree identification walk was held with about 25 participants.

## **2.5 Demonstration Area**

To assist in public education, a conifer plantation thinning demonstration area was established adjacent to the Main Tract parking lot in 1997. The area (2.5 hectares) was planted with red pine and some spruce in 1967. It has been divided into four sections that were thinned in 1998 as follows: 50% removal, 25% removal, 33% removal, and 0% removal. This will enable landowners and others to observe the impact of various thinning regimes on the growth of the trees and on the development of regeneration and understorey plants. The second thinning in half of each of the original four sections took place in 2009; this will further demonstrate the effect of one as opposed to two thinnings. Disks were collected from the trees at the time of both thinnings so that comparisons in annual ring growth can be made. The demonstration area will be an invaluable tool in the education of landowners and the general public on the effects of conifer plantation thinning.

## **2.6 Hunting**

Table 1 shows the number of Forest Use Permits (Hunting) that have been issued over the past five years. In 2009, these permits generated revenue of \$4,830 for the County. Monitoring of hunting will continue, particularly during the fall deer shotgun hunts, which are traditionally of most concern because they attract a large number of hunters in a short space of time.

**Table 1: Forest Use Permits (Hunting) Issued for the Dufferin County Forest 2005-2009**

Year	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Number of Permits	161	164	161	170	153

## 2.7 Recreational Events

Besides recreational use by individuals, the Main Tract of the County Forest hosted six larger-scale recreational events in 2009. The Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association (OCTRA) held three horseback rides, in May, June, and October. Each event attracted between 60 and 80 riders, generating revenue of \$580 for the County. Two mountain biking events were held in June and September, attracting a total of over 150 participants, and generating revenue of \$430 for the County. An orienteering event at the end of October had over 100 participants, and generated revenue of \$318 for the County. The events progressed without problems.

## 2.8 Mansfield Outdoor Centre

In 2009, the Mansfield Outdoor Centre once again leased cross-country ski trails in the south portion of the Main Tract, generating revenue of \$700 for the County.

## 2.9 Access Maintenance

The Mansfield Outdoor Centre placed, at its own expense, orange plastic snow fencing at several strategic locations in the Main Tract. This was done to prevent snowmobiles from accessing the cross-country ski trails leased by the Mansfield Outdoor Centre.

In 2009, gates were repaired and replaced at the Main Tract. This work was done at a cost of \$950. Gate repair and replacement is, unfortunately, a regular budget item, as there is ongoing damage being done to the gates by the public.

## 2.10 Garbage Removal

The amount of garbage in most areas of the Forest has not reached a critical state, but it is important to be proactive so that members of the public do not begin to feel that the Forest is a free landfill. Litter is collected by the County Forest Manager, as time permits. Large pieces of garbage, such as appliances and tires, are removed by staff from the County Operations Centre.

## 2.11 Research

### Gypsy Moth

It was observed during the spring and summer of 2008 that gypsy moth populations in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest were significantly higher than in previous years. Many of the stands in the Main Tract, particularly in the southern half, have a significant component of oak, the favourite food of the gypsy moth caterpillars. It was clear that some type of control measure was going to be necessary in order to minimize defoliation and mortality of red oak. Initially, the County developed a plan to aeri ally spray *B.t.*, a commercial formulation of a naturally-occurring bacteria.

Subsequently, the County was contacted by the Canadian Forest Service and asked to participate in a research project to develop an approved commercial formulation of the gypsy moth nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV). The virus occurs naturally in gypsy moth populations, especially when populations are high and is species-specific to gypsy moth.

The research project consisted of three different treatments (morning spray with a UV screen included in the formulation, evening spray with a UV screen included in the formulation, morning spray with no UV screen included in the formulation) and a control area that was not sprayed. These treatment areas were in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest and the adjacent Tosorontio Tract of the Simcoe County Forest. All of the treatments were done between May 22 and 24, 2009.

During June and July, staff from Simcoe County and Dufferin County emptied frass traps and collected larvae on a twice-weekly basis to support the data collection portion of the research project.

Egg mass surveys were conducted in the fall of 2009 to assess the size of the population and the potential for defoliation and mortality of red oak in 2010 and beyond. As a result of these surveys, it was found that there were almost no live egg masses remaining in either the treated or control areas. Therefore, the risk of extensive gypsy moth defoliation in the Main Tract in the next year is very low.

### **Red Oak Management**

The area in the Main Tract (Compartment 27, 25 ha) that was established as a red oak research project in 1994 will not be continued as a formal research project. However, management activities will continue in such a way as to promote the establishment and growth of red oak on the site.

In the spring of 2009 the area underwent a prescribed burn to control vegetation that was competing with the small red oak seedlings on the site. Unfortunately, due largely to a change in the predicted weather, the burn did not control as much of the competing vegetation as was hoped. A detailed plan on how to proceed with management of this site is being developed.

### **Biodiversity Plots**

In 2000, the County established its first research plot, the Beaton Plot. This plot was established in Compartment 25 of the Main Tract on part of the former site of Camp Dufferin. The protocol used to establish the plot was developed through the Smithsonian Institute and is recognized and used around the world. This will allow for data comparisons (e.g. number of plant species present) between the Beaton Plot and other local, national, and international plots. The purpose of the Beaton Plot is to study the natural succession on the site. In 2001, a sign was placed at the site to inform forest users about the history and purpose of the plot.

A second plot, using the same international protocol, was established at the Mono Tract. This plot is a "twin" to a plot that was established at the Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre. While the plot at the outdoor education centre is accessible to students and the general public, the plot at the Mono Tract will be accessible to scientists only. This will allow for future assessments of how the activity of measuring impacts on the plot.

### 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In accordance with the long-term forest management plan and the new operating plan, the County manages the biological components of the Forest using an ecosystem management approach. Table 2 shows a summary of resource management activities undertaken in the Dufferin County Forest over the last five years.

**Table 2: Environmental and Resource Mgmt Activities for the Dufferin County Forest 2005-2009**

Activity	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Site preparation (hectares)	0	0	0	0	0
Reforestation (hectares)	0	0	0	0	0
Marking (hectares)	58	60.0	44.0	35.0	28.0
Non-commercial tending (hectares)	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial harvesting (hectares)	58	60.0	47.0	35.0	28.0
Commercial harvesting (m <sup>3</sup> )	2,436	2,235	1,911	972	1,409
Borax application (hectares)	0	0	0	0	0

#### 3.1 Site Preparation

Site preparation is a mechanical, fire, chemical, or hand treatment that modifies a site to provide favourable conditions for natural or artificial regeneration. There was no site preparation necessary in 2009.

#### 3.2 Reforestation

Reforestation refers to the establishment of a forest through artificial means, usually by planting or direct seeding. There was no reforestation necessary in 2009.

#### 3.3 Marking

Marking is the operation that designates the trees within a stand that are to be commercially harvested. The marking follows a silvicultural prescription written specifically for the stand. The prescription and the marking that follows it are the most important functions in determining the future structure and composition of any forest stand. The number, size, and species of trees that are removed has a significant impact on the growth and development of the remaining trees. Since all harvesting in the Dufferin County Forest is done by some variation of the selection cutting system, all stands must be marked prior to harvesting. The marking is done by a crew hired on contract.

The stands that were tendered in 2009 were marked on contract at a cost of just over \$4,000. This modest

investment ensured the healthy growth and development of the forest stands that were thinned and generated timber sale revenue of over \$150,000.

### 3.4 Non-Commercial Tending

In order to achieve forest management objectives, it is sometimes necessary to conduct non-commercial tending operations such as pruning, thinning (removal of trees in an immature stand to accelerate diameter growth and improve form of remaining trees), improvement cutting (removal of less desirable trees to improve the composition and quality of a stand), or cleaning (removal of less desirable species of the same age to free the favoured trees in a stand not past the sapling stage). As the name implies, this type of tending does not produce revenue; it is done at some cost to the County. In general, non-commercial tending operations are associated with young plantations or with stands that are of low commercial quality. Currently, the Dufferin County Forest does not have many of either of these types of stands. There was no non-commercial tending necessary in 2009.

### 3.5 Commercial Harvesting

Annually, wood is harvested on a sustainable basis from the Dufferin County Forest. The majority of the wood is sold by open public tender. Occasionally, a small amount of wood is sold to the public for personal use or as a negotiated sale. Table 3 summarizes the tendered timber sales for 2009 for the Dufferin County Forest.

**Table 3: Tendered Timber Sales for the Dufferin County Forest 2009**

Tender Number	Tract and Compartments	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Number of Trees	Species	Area (ha)	Value
DCF 09-08-001	Main (22a & 28c)	1,071	1,660	red pine and white pine	17.0	\$78,100.00
DCF 09-08-002	Main (27a, 27b & 27c)	350	473	mixed hardwoods	25.0	\$38,100.00
DCF 09-08-003	Mono (40b & 40c)	1,015	1,715	red pine and white pine	16.0	\$40,310.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,436</b>	<b>3,848</b>		<b>58.0</b>	<b>\$156,510.00</b>

In 2009, all three tenders were awarded to Miller Lumber of Barrie, Ontario, who was the highest bidder in all cases. Tenders may not be awarded to the highest bidder in situations where the highest bidder's reputation is poor or unknown.

### 3.6 Pests and Diseases

Outbreaks of insects and diseases in the Dufferin County Forest are managed using an integrated pest management approach. If levels of pests and/or diseases reach intolerable levels, integrated pest management techniques may include the use of natural predators and parasites, genetically resistant hosts,

environmental modifications and, when necessary and appropriate, chemical pesticides and herbicides.

Information on insect and disease populations is provided by the Canadian Forest Service, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and other partners.

Although there has been much in the media about both Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer, these insects are not an immediate threat to the Dufferin County Forest. To promote awareness in the community, articles on the two insects were published in the *Museletter* and information was distributed at the County's fall Household Hazardous Waste days and at other public events.

Following the research project to control gypsy moth described in section 2.11, egg mass surveys were conducted in the fall of 2009 to assess the size of the population and the potential for defoliation and mortality of red oak in 2010 and beyond. As a result of these surveys, it was found that there were almost no live egg masses remaining in either the treated or control areas. Therefore, the risk of extensive gypsy moth defoliation in the Main Tract in the next year is very low.

### **3.7 Forest Fire Management**

Forest fire management involves the maintenance of fire roads, trimming of brush to provide access for fire suppression, and the actual suppression of forest fires. The County is responsible for the maintenance of fire roads and the trimming of brush, while fire suppression is conducted by the local fire departments. In co-operation with emergency management services and public works, a forest fire management plan for the County Forest is being developed.

## **4.0 ADMINISTRATION**

### **4.1 Budget Summary - 2009**

Besides staff, the majority of expenses in 2009 included contract enforcement, advertising and promotion, tree marking, signs, and access maintenance. The majority of revenues were generated from timber sales. These were supplemented by land use, forest use, and special event permits. In 2009, timber sales were over \$150,000. There are many factors that affect the value of the timber sold from the Dufferin County Forest, some of which are difficult to predict from year to year. These factors include the price of wood locally and regionally, the location, size and species of trees offered for sale, and the supply of wood of various species and sizes in a given year. For details of the budget, please refer to the County of Dufferin's Financial Operating Statement for 2009.

### **4.2 Grants Under the *Forestry Act***

In the past, the provincial government provided grants for the purchase of Dufferin County Forest properties. Since the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the County and the Ministry of Natural Resources has expired, the re-payment of the grants is governed by the following excerpts from the *Forestry Act*:

"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; ("fins forestières")

2. (1) The Minister may enter into agreements with owners of land suitable for forestry purposes that provide for the

management or improvement of the land for these purposes upon such conditions as the Minister considers proper. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 20.

**Grants**

(2) The Minister may make grants of the sums provided for in the agreement, on such conditions as the Minister considers appropriate, out of the money appropriated by the Legislature to any conservation authority or municipality for the purpose of assisting it in the acquisition of land that is suitable for forestry purposes and that is to be managed under an agreement. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 20.

**Forestry purposes only**

(3) A conservation authority or municipality that has entered into an agreement under subsection (1) or a predecessor provision shall not, without the approval of the Minister, use any land in respect of which grants have been made under subsection (2) or a predecessor provision for any purpose that is inconsistent with forestry purposes at any time during or after the term of the agreement. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 20.

**Repayment**

(4) A conservation authority or municipality that uses land covered by an agreement authorized under subsection (1) or a predecessor provision for a purpose that is inconsistent with forestry purposes shall repay to the Province of Ontario all grants that it received under the agreement to acquire the land unless the Minister provides that the grants need not be repaid. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 20.

**Sale of land**

(5) Land in respect of which grants have been made under subsection (2) or a predecessor provision shall not, without the approval of the Minister, be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of during or after the term of the agreement. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 20.

**Proceeds shared**

(6) The proceeds from any sale, lease or other disposition of land in respect of which grants have been made under subsection (2) or a predecessor provision shall be divided as the Minister directs between the conservation authority or municipality, as the case may be, and the Province of Ontario, with the conservation authority or municipality receiving not less than 50 per cent of the proceeds. 2000, c. 26, Sched. L, s. 4 (2).

**Exception**

(7) Subsection (6) does not apply to a sale, lease or other disposition for the use of the Province of Ontario. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 20.

These provisions are not substantially different from those under previous *Forestry Act* agreements or the Memorandum of Understanding.

The following Dufferin County Forest properties were bought partially with grants from the province (the amount of the grant is shown in brackets):

- i. compartments 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Main Tract (\$4,603.67); purchased in 1963
- ii. the south half of compartment 25 of the Main Tract (\$468.80); purchased in 1961
- iii. compartment 46 of the Mono Tract (\$327.25); purchased in 1960
- iv. Simmons Tract (\$3,884.83); purchased in 1967
- v. Little Tract (\$19,012.65); purchased in 1971

Due to the size and location of these properties, it is unlikely that the County will be disposing of any of them or using them for other than "forestry purposes".

### 4.3 Property Acquisition and Disposal

There was no property acquisition or disposal during 2009.

### 5.0 MONITORING

In 2009, the primary monitoring activities were cut inspections conducted during commercial harvesting operations, monitoring of hunting activity (particularly during the two five-day deer shotgun hunt periods),

and enforcement of the County Forest by-law (2003-50). To improve enforcement of the County Forest by-law, off-duty OPP officers were hired to patrol the Main Tract from September to November. For the first time since the OPP patrols were started in 2003, there were no charges laid.

Cut inspections were done to ensure that the loggers complied with the terms and conditions of the Agreement for the Sale of Timber. There were no significant violations of timber sale agreements in 2009.

Other monitoring activities included:

- i. general observation of, and communication with, users of the Forest and;
- ii. surveying signs and gates at the forest properties and arranging for replacement when and where necessary.

## **6.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN**

While the management plan (*Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 1995-2015*) continues to provide the overall goal and objectives for the management of the County Forest, the operating plan (2005-2010) provides more details on current management activities.

During 2009 a new operating plan, for the period 2010-2015, was developed. As part of the development of the new operating plan, there was extensive public consultation on all aspects of the management of the Dufferin County Forest in the form of mailings, advertisements, press releases, open houses, and information on the [www.dufferinmuseum.com/forest](http://www.dufferinmuseum.com/forest) and [www.dufferincounty.on.ca](http://www.dufferincounty.on.ca) websites. The new operating plan was approved by County Council at its October meeting.

## **7.0 STAFF**

The Forest is included in the activities of the Dufferin County Museum and Archives and Heritage Lands Department headed by Director/Curator Wayne Townsend. The day-to-day activities involving the Forest are conducted and co-ordinated by the County Forest Manager, Caroline Mach and supervised by Darrell Keenie, Assistant Director/General Manager. Activities and issues dealing with the Forest are presented to the Dufferin County Museum and Archives and Heritage Lands Board, and subsequently to Dufferin County Council.

County Operations Supervisor Scott Martin and his staff must also be acknowledged for their work in posting signs, cutting hazard trees, and cleaning up garbage.

## **8.0 ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULE - 2010**

The annual work schedule for the Dufferin County Forest will follow the outline in the new operating plan (2010-2015). The specific activities for 2010 are described in the following sections.

### **8.1 Public Use and Relations**

Although no new signs are planned, sign replacement will continue to be a part of public use and relations in 2010.

In 2010, it is anticipated that the Mansfield Outdoor Centre will lease cross-country ski trails in the Main Tract as they have done in the past.

It is expected that the Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association will hold three horseback riding events in the Main Tract in 2010.

Public relations activities will continue to be conducted in partnership with the Dufferin County Museum and Archives and the Dufferin South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network. These will include two educational walks (tree identification and wildflower identification).

## 8.2 Environmental and Resource Management

It is anticipated that there will be 30 hectares of conifer plantations and natural hardwoods marked to be tendered for sale in 2010. The breakdown of the areas is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Areas Planned to be Marked in the Dufferin County Forest 2010**

Tract (Compartment)	Species	Area (hectares)
Main (21c)	red oak, tolerant hardwoods	20
Mono (41a)	white pine, red pine	10
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>30</b>

As in the past, the number of trees and the volume to be harvested will be known in the spring of 2010 once the tree marking is completed. The stands will be publicly tendered in August, 2010.

## 8.3 Administration

For details of the budget, refer to the County of Dufferin's Operating Budget for 2010.

## 8.4 Monitoring

In 2010, the monitoring program will continue to focus on three broad areas:

- i. conducting regular cut inspections of ongoing logging operations;
- ii. enforcing the County Forest by-law (2003-50) through the hiring of off-duty OPP officers and;
- iii. monitoring of hunting activity, particularly during the two five-day deer shotgun hunts.

## 8.5 Management Plan

The existing management plan (*Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 1995-2015*) and the new operating plan (2010-2015) will continue to be monitored to ensure that they are relevant to the management of the Forest.

**For more information:**

Caroline Mach, R.P.F., County Forest Manager  
c/o Dufferin County Museum and Archives  
PO Box 120 (Airport Rd. and Highway 89)  
Rosemont, ON L0N 1R0

Phone: 705-435-1881 or 877-941-7787  
Fax: 705-435-9876  
forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com  
www.dufferinmuseum.com/forest