



New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners
Fédération des propriétaires de lots boisés du Nouveau-Brunswick

Member Newsletter - August 21, 2025

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month's
issue:***

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Wildfire updates and resources

www.GNB.ca/FireWatch

"The provincial fire ban will remain in place until we get steady, soaking rain across affected areas. Please respect the restrictions, stay informed and help prevent wildfires." - DNRED

The wildfires currently burning in the province are a concern to all of us. The province is bone-dry and no significant rainfall is expected within the foreseeable future.

Yes, there has been some rain in the past week, but not enough to reduce the risk of starting new fires by being in the woods without the proper precautions in place.

Since August 10th, "**Crown land closed** due to an extreme wildfire hazard - As per Section 71.5 of the *Crown Lands and Forests Act*, all recreational activities are prohibited on Crown Land until further notice. "

The restrictions provided by the Department of Natural Resources & Energy Development (DNR), and "Private property owners are also strongly encouraged to follow the same approach", include;

- hiking, camping, fishing and the use of vehicles in the woods are not permitted
- trail systems through woods are off limits
- camping is allowed only in campgrounds

information updates

GNB.ca/FireWatch
for details



(Continued on page 2)

On Tuesday, August 19, DNR announced that “Some businesses are allowed to resume operations on Crown lands under strict conditions.”

On Wednesday, DNR held a meeting with the Federation and other stakeholders to clarify what is and what is not permitted in the woods at this time - **for both Crown and Private land**. We have updated our [website](#) with that information, and will continue to update it as new details are received, but for the latest updates, check www.GNB.ca/FireWatch.

Clarification on restrictions and permitted activities on Crown and Private land from DNR (Aug 20):

Many forestry operations, including the following, are currently **prohibited on both Crown and Private land**

- harvesting / forwarding / skidding
- site preparation, such as scarification
- chipping
- all pre-commercial thinning and cleaning
- vegetation management, including spraying herbicides

To ensure ongoing operations of the forestry sector, **specific activities with appropriate conditions to mitigate fire and safety risks** will be permitted. **All work in the forest requires a permit (on both Crown and Private land)** and must adhere to rules regarding work location, operating conditions, hours of operation, fire equipment and fire-watch activity.

No activity will be allowed in an active fire zone.

Some examples:

- using a chainsaw on a private woodlot would currently require a permit
- tree planting could be allowed, and still require a permit
- some nighttime harvesting and trucking could be allowed, and require a permit

All permits will indicate what conditions must be met (e.g. specific location, required fire fighting equipment to have, if someone is required to monitor the work area for 3 hours afterwards, etc.)

Contact the Department of Natural Resources (1-833-301-0334) should you have questions, or want to apply for a permit. (Note - they have a backlog of people to contact already, so please be patient.)

Be smart. Be responsible. Be safe.

This time of restrictions for being in the woods **WILL** end once the risk of starting new fires is significantly reduced. It may still be a few weeks, but please be patient. Rain will happen.

Stay out of the woods if you can. If you have to work, you **MUST** contact DNR and get a permit!

From the Desk of the Executive Director

This year continues to be eventful! With tariffs and wildfires raging, 2025 is challenging to say the least.

To date (August 21), there has been no loss of life or infrastructure due to the fires, and for that we can be thankful. We hope you remain safe from the fires and that rain happens soon.

The Federation continues to move forward with the **carbon** file. A committee has been struck, and we are moving toward determining what the agreements might look like. The committee will also work toward determining a timeline for the establishment of such a project, the costs involved, and try to forecast what returns could be for the parties involved. There are a great number of decisions to be made.

The establishment of a [Private Protected Areas](#) program received a boost from the **Department of Natural Resources**. The department may have some Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) money that could be used by the Federation and the Nature Trust to work out the details of such a program and work with the department to determine the requirements for such properties to meet the Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) criteria. Essentially, OECMs are areas where conservation is happening as a positive side effect of other activities, even though the primary purpose is not conservation. An example would be a park. We will also work with the department to examine the potential for incentives for woodlot owners to participate in such a program.

There were meetings with Service New Brunswick, Department of Environment and Local Government and others from the government as part of the government promise to **review the property tax system** as part of their election platform. We raised the fact that forests provide many ecological goods and services and as such deserve to have a low tax rate, that takes these social benefits into account. We are relatively happy with the assessment of woodlots and hope to see them remain as they are.

The Federation is looking to **hire an administrative assistant/bookkeeper** to increase our human resources and better allow us to free up time to work on the new initiatives, such as Private Protected Areas and carbon.

The **AGM will be on October 8th** at the Ramada Fredericton, and Minister John Herron and David Coon, leader of the Green Party of NB, have both indicated that they will be in attendance. We continue to work on the speakers for the meeting. Should anyone have any topics that you would like us to explore, please let me know.

As part of the annual meeting, we will have elections for 3 board positions as well as the position of Federation president. These are three-year terms. Any member of the Federation is eligible to sit on the board of directors, and the nominating committee will search for members respecting geographic, linguistic and woodlot size diversity. They are also looking for diversity in gender and age. Should you be interested in sitting on the Federation board or know of someone whom you think would be a good board member, please let us know.

[Registration](#) for the annual meeting is open. Please go to our website to register. We look forward to seeing you there.

Federally, we continue to work toward group insurance rates in a number of areas. We hope to have this program up and running by 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Banks

Executive Director, NBFWO
ED@nbwoodlotowners.ca
506-459-2990



News & Events

A round up of news from all over and upcoming events

Check out some news you may have missed this month

- *Canada Invests in Wildfire Innovation and Resilience Through New Centre of Excellence*
- *How Nova Scotia fell short of getting a new \$3.7-billion pulp mill in Liverpool*
- *(Nova Scotia) Government Promotes Wood for Construction, Heating*
- *A look at megafires as an Oregon wildfire approaches the 100,000-acre mark*
- *Increase in softwood lumber tariffs unwarranted, unfair: N.B. government*
- *New Brunswick premier pens letter to prime minister on softwood lumber tariffs*
- *Prime Minister Carney announces new measures to transform Canada's softwood lumber industry*
- *N.B.'s warming climate could mean more frequent fires*
- *Replanting forests after wildfires comes with complex challenges, but there are opportunities in the ashes*
- *CBC Radio Maritime Connection - What are your thoughts on fire restrictions in your province?*
- *Summer fires in N.B. increasingly likely because of climate change*

Calendar of Events

[August 22:](#) Canadian Lumberjack Championships

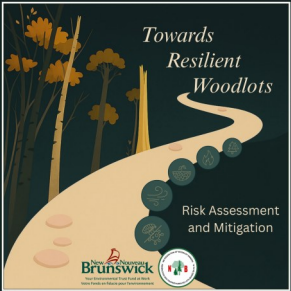
[September 5:](#) Nature Trust: Forested Wetlands Workshop– Fredericton

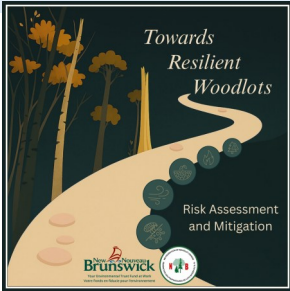
[September 12:](#) Nature Trust: Forested Wetlands Workshop– Woodstock

[September 19:](#) Nature Trust: Forested Wetlands Workshop– St. Stephen

September 21 - 27: National Forest Week

[September 23:](#) Wood Pellet Association of Canada Conference

 <i>Towards Resilient Woodlots</i> Risk Assessment and Mitigation Brunswick		October 18 Mactaquac Provincial Park
		October 19 Ganong Nature Park
		With Anne MacKnight Chris Higgins
November 1 Bathurst	Sponsored by 	With Patrick Doucet
SERIES OF ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS		

 <i>Towards Resilient Woodlots</i> Risk Assessment and Mitigation Brunswick		September 22 7 p.m. Introduction Anthony Taylor
		October 1 7 p.m. Tree Species at Risk Megan de Graaf Drought Loïc d'Orangeville
		October 14 - 7 p.m. Wildfires Roger Collet Conclusion NBFWO
October 6 - 7 p.m. Wind Anthony Taylor Pests and Diseases Sarah Weatherby	SERIES OF ONE-HOUR WEBINARS	

Keep an eye on the [News](#), [Ads Board](#), and [Calendar of Events](#) on the website for additional events and details.

The NBFWO Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Time: Doors open at 9 am, the meeting is from 9:30 am to 3 pm

Location: Ramada Fredericton, located on the northside of Fredericton at 480 Riverside Drive

[Registration](#) is now open, and you MUST register to attend.

Register today and receive *Early Bird Pricing* (prices go up September 10th):

- *Members \$20 + tax*
- *Non-members \$40 + tax*

Morning coffee/tea and Lunch will be provided, and simultaneous translation of French / English will be available.

In the morning, after the President welcomes everyone, Minister John Herron will have some remarks, along with other political representatives. David Coon, leader of the Green Party of NB has confirmed his attendance, and we are awaiting further replies. The agenda on the [website](#) will be updated as we confirm more details.



Elections

- Elections will be held for **3 Director positions and the President**. Terms are for 3 years.
- The **Nominating Committee** serves to lead the election process and to ensure that the process is conducted fairly and efficiently. If you are interested in being on the Nominating Committee, please email ED@nbwoodlotowners.ca

Our membership consists of diverse people and we want the Board to reflect that variety!

If you are interested in putting your name forward for the election to join the Board of Directors and guiding the Federation into the future, please contact the nominating committee at BD_nominations@nbwoodlotowners.ca.

We are seeking Directors from throughout the province, of all genders and ages.

The Annual General Meeting is a great opportunity for members to meet each other, have your voice heard and vote on issues that matter to you.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Carbon Committee

The Board of Directors is looking for members who would be interested in joining the Carbon Committee.

As you know, the topic of carbon credits is complicated - the buying and selling of carbon credits is still relatively new territory, and there are many factors to consider.

If carbon is a topic of interest to you, and you would like to be a part of moving the Federation into a position where we can help woodlot owners join a group effort towards receiving compensation for sequestering carbon on their woodlots, please contact Susannah at ed@nbwoodlotowners.ca.

Anyone with experience in legal matters (creating contracts, etc.), financial forecasting, or other carbon related topics would be especially welcome!



An advertisement for Perkopolis. It features the text "SHOP. TICKETS. TRAVEL." at the top left, followed by "Explore Canada one perk at a time" in large, bold letters. Below this is "Enjoy 200+ local Canadian perks!". A central illustration shows a family (a man, a woman, and a child) with luggage. To the right, it says "Get access to 5,000+ exclusive perks on Perkopolis. Save on your summer travel, activities, shopping and more!". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various Canadian businesses and organizations, including Sea to Sky, Banff Gondola, Sea Bears, WestJet, Bass, LaRonde, Harbourfront, Capilano, Edmonton Riverboat, Spark, Cirque du Soleil, Canada's Wonderland, MTL, and Adventure Canada.

Perkopolis

Have you have signed up to receive FREE perks just for being a Federation member?

By signing up to Perkopolis with an email address and your NBFWO Member Number, you can receive offers and discounts for all sorts of purchases. You can choose to receive emails from Perkopolis with their latest offers, or not - it is up to you!

Registration is easy, but you will need your NBFWO Member Number to signup. You can find instructions on how to signup (and how to find your member number) when you sign into the website and go to the Member Home page. Scroll down to the MEMBER PERKS and select the 'Perkopolis - how to sign up' tab.

If you have any questions you can contact [Perkopolis customer service](#) through live chat, phone, or email.



Writers wanted

Do you have an interest in writing? We are looking for volunteer members who would like to write about forest-related topics for the Newsletter.

If you are interested, please get in touch with the topic(s) you would like to write about.

Email info@nbwoodlotowners.ca



Towards Resilient Woodlots: Risk Assessment and Mitigation

A project to understand the challenges of the Wabanaki-Acadian forest

By Diane Fargialla, NBFWO Outreach Coordinator

Take a moment and look at the first tree that catches your eye. What do you see? Most likely a peaceful silhouette, a source of tranquility that passes through the seasons with serenity...

Yet, behind this calmness lies a complex forest dynamic. Countless interactions between species and their environment take place to maintain the natural balance of the ecosystem, whether they are beneficial, neutral, or even stressful!

Environmental stresses thus play a role in this dynamic. However, with current climate change, they are becoming more frequent and intense, disrupting the balance of forest ecosystems.

The Wabanaki-Acadian forest is no exception! It is facing increasingly difficult challenges that are significantly weakening it. Recent events in New Brunswick are a striking illustration of these climatic conditions: an unprecedented drought, marked by large-scale wildfires! Strengthening the resilience of this forest ecosystem is therefore essential to mitigate risks and help it adapt to future changes.

The project *“Towards Resilient Woodlots: Risk Assessment and Mitigation”* will help you better understand the risks threatening the Wabanaki-Acadian forest in a changing climate. You will learn how to assess these risks and discover strategies to mitigate their impact on your woodlot.

Below are the topics we will be discussing:

- Tree species at risk
- Drought
- Wind
- Pests and diseases
- Wildfires

We look forward to seeing you to learn, discuss and take action together!

Registration will open soon...

		September 22 7 p.m. Introduction Anthony Taylor	
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Support from Service Canada - Correction to link in email

On August 20 we emailed all members regarding "Support from Service Canada for Employers and Employees Affected by Wildfires". While the link in the email worked when we first tested it, the link was broken by later in the day. Below is the email from Service Canada, with the updated correct link to find further information, along with the flyer.

Hello,

During times of crisis, staying connected to support systems is more important than ever. That's why Service Canada's Community Outreach and Liaison Services team is reaching out — to ensure you and your employees have access to the federal programs and services you may need during the ongoing wildfires.

Attached to this email is a document you can share with impacted employees. It provides guidance on how to access Employment Insurance (EI) and other Service Canada resources they may need during this challenging time.

For employers, assistance is available through the Employer Contact Centre at 1-800-367-5693 (TTY: 1-855-881-9874).

Should the situation change and additional support be needed, our Community Outreach team can provide to your employees, information sessions on Service Canada programs and services, including Employment insurance. We can also work with you to organize clinics to assist individuals with in-person applications. If this would be helpful, please don't hesitate to reach out.

You can learn more or request services from our team here:

[Community Outreach and Liaison Service - Support for employers - Canada.ca](https://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/service-support-for-employers)

Thank you for your continued commitment to your employees and community.

Sincerely,

Émmanuelle Proud-Thomson

emmanuelle.proudtomson
@servicecanada.gc.ca
/ Tel: (506) 343-6459

Senior Citizen Services Specialist,
Citizen Services Branch — Atlantic
Region
Service Canada / Government of
Canada

Have you been impacted by wildfires?

Apply for Employment Insurance (EI) as soon as you stop working, even if you don't have your record of employment (ROE) yet

If you can't work because of the wildfires, apply for EI online by going to: www.canada.ca/ei

For questions or assistance on any of the programs listed below, or if you do not have access to the internet, please call 1-877-631-2657.

Access help or information on federal government programs:

- Employment Insurance (EI)
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Old Age Security (OAS)
- Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Passport
- My Service Canada Account



Scan for more details

You can also submit a service request online at eservices.canada.ca/en/service/. A representative will call you within 2 business days. Please identify if you have been impacted by wildfires.

Direct deposit is the best way to avoid payment delays, if you receive federal benefits such as EI, CPP or OAS.

To find a local Service Canada Centre: canada.ca/service-canada-office

Connect with us:



facebook.com/servicecanadaen



@ServiceCanada_E

Service
Canada

TREES AROUND THE WORLD

Monkey Puzzle Tree (*Araucaria araucana*)

Yes, you read that right: it's really called "Monkey Puzzle Tree"!

This nickname is said to come from an amusing remark made around 1850 by a man named Charles Austin: "it would puzzle a monkey to climb that".

It is even more amusing given that no monkeys live in the natural habitat of this tree, a region of the Andes between Chile and Argentina.

That said, this conifer lives up to its name with its unique silhouette and thick, sharp, scale-like leaves that densely overlap along the branches, giving them a reptilian appearance. No wonder it is Chile's national tree!



Monkey Puzzle Tree, Chile (by Andrea Vargas, iNaturalist)



Share your pictures!

We would love to see your woodlot pictures! Send us your pictures and they could be showcased in the newsletter, on social media or on the website.

Email them to: info@nbwoodlotowners.ca



If you would like to submit an article or pictures for the newsletter, please email Patricia at info@nbwoodlotowners.ca

Thanks for reading - Until next time!

www.nbwoodlotowners.ca