



County Forestry Services Update



Agenda

1. County Forest Management
2. Woodlands Conservation By-law
3. Weed Control Act



County Forest Management Sustainable Timber Harvest

- Select conifer (white pine) harvests have been completed in several tracts.
- Planned conifer thinning harvest in the McMaster and Bayne Tracts with additional tracts ready to be tendered in 2025.
- 20-year management plan underway.



County Forest Management Public Use

Updated Signage



Interactive trail mapping project



County Forest Management Public Use

- Hunting season without major issues.
- Trail use (horseback, hiking, mountain biking) popular during summer months.
- Garbage cleanup and installation of barriers continues to be required.
- The boardwalks and trail system in the Banks tract have been repaired.
- Select new signs have been installed, more to follow with QR code link to website.



County Forest Management Research

- Hydro One are conducting an ecological study of the Lockwood Tract where one of the proposed new transmission line routes would bisect the woodland.
- A private crossing agreement has been signed with CPR for the crossing which connects the Steele and Robinson Tracts
- Birds Canada continue with their annual nesting and breeding bird study.
- OMNR will be refreshing their growth and yield plots this year to continue research into forest productivity in a changing climate.

County Forest Management Phragmites Control





Forest Ecology

35.15 EDT
77.4° (±15.7ft)

1209mils True (±12°)

Forest Research and Invasive Pests

- Liaise and cooperate with senior government agencies NRCAN, CFIA, OMNRF and provide landowners with options for implementing control strategies and BMP's and continually updating web resources.
- In 2024 we participated in a trapping project to detect for Oak wilt vector beetles. This research will continue annually to ensure early detection.



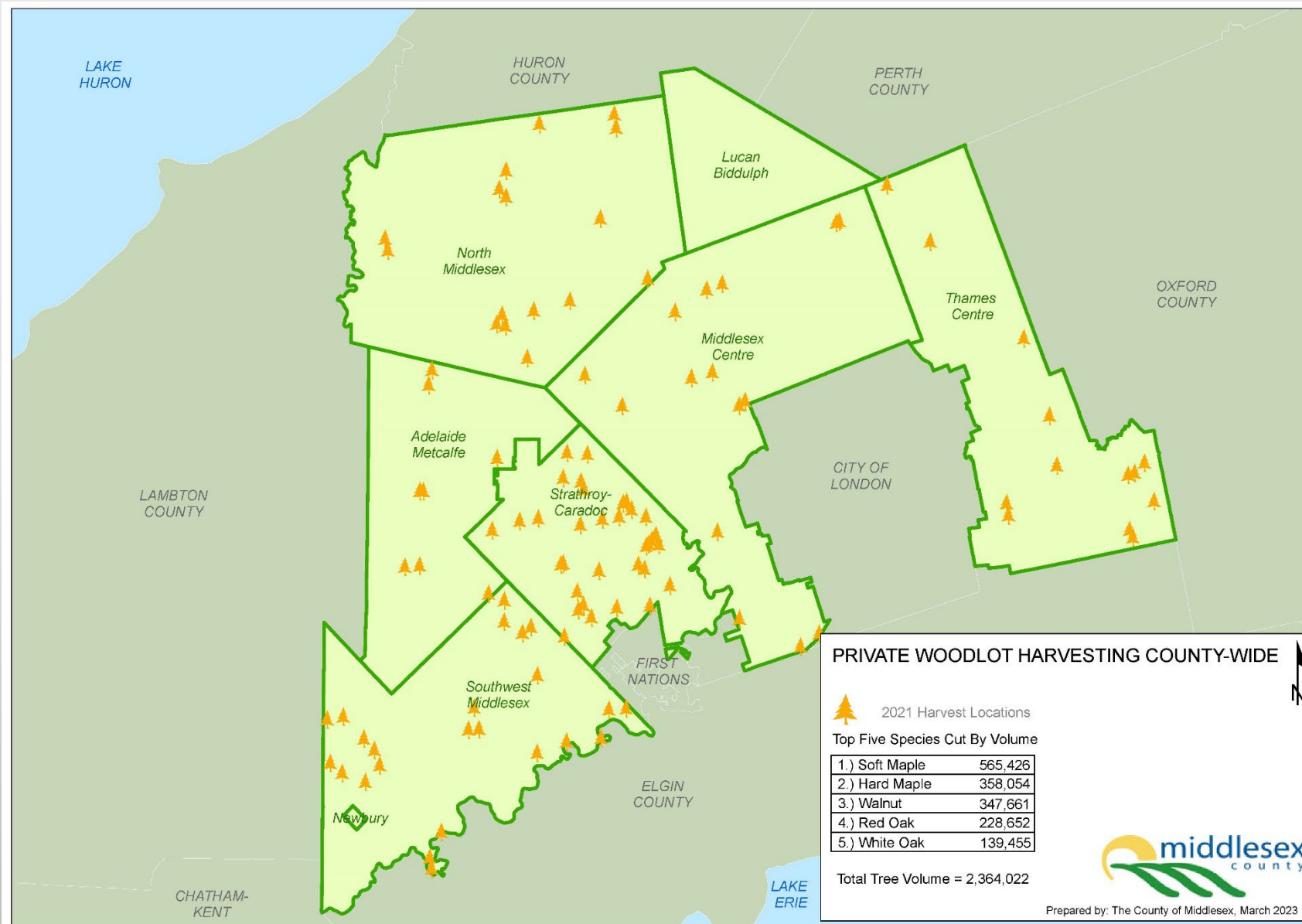
Woodlands Conservation By-law

- Public consultation, best practices, multi-departmental review and new By-law passed.
- Continue to enforce the By-law as necessary working with the County Solicitor.
- Private logging activity (Notice of Intent) has been regularly audited and with very few exceptions continues to be in compliance.

Nov 29, 2024 at 14:53:59 EST
0501° / -081.846533° (±15.6ft)
(±11.0ft)
-84
earing: 065° N65E 1156mils True (±11°)
Angle: +00.1°
Angle: -00.6°
OX

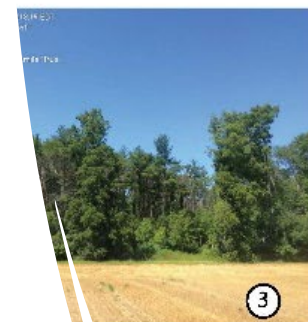
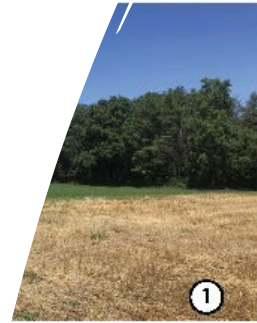


Notice of Intent 2024 Summary



Woodlands Conservation By-law Exemptions

- Landowners may apply for County Council exemptions to clear small areas of woodland such as to improve cash cropping operational efficiencies.
- Replanting an equivalent area is required and usually contracted to the local CA.
- The first exemptions that I administered when I joined the county are now becoming “free to grow”.



Weed Control Act

- Medium volume of complaints in 2024 with all complaints resolved.
- Ongoing liaison with 60+ landowners in upper Thames river corridor to control Giant Hogweed population.
- County initiated Phragmites treatments were very successful, County Woodlands treatments are now complete.
- Infestations along rail corridors can prove challenging however CN and CPR have responded adequately to complaints.





Questions

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