

## Timeline for Activities of the Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee: January 2019 to April 2021

(reports & press link: <https://www.peterborougholdgrowth.ca/reports-press-coverage-1>)

**January 2019** – first rapid assessment (half day) of a small portion of the Catchacoma Forest to evaluate OGF characteristics; determined that the portion of the Forest assessed was indeed “old growth”.

### Summer-Fall 2019

- More detailed OGF surveys were conducted by AFER with some participation by the high school *Youth Leadership in Sustainability* class.
- Tree marking for logging was first noticed at this time.
- See *Site Visit Report* here: <https://www.peterborougholdgrowth.ca/site-visit-reports>
- Produced a report comparing the monetary value of timber vs. the monetary value of non-timber values (see AFER report)

### December 2019

- Wilderness Committee/AFER letter describing the multiple non-timber values of the Catchacoma Forest and requesting a “moratorium” on logging was sent to MNRF and MECP
- An “action page” directed to the Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC), MNRF and MECP asking for a moratorium on logging was added to the Wilderness Committee website for individuals to fill out and send
- A logging access road and landing were built
- Outreach to local First Nations Groups, cottagers, Kawartha Land Trust, ratepayers associations, snowmobile groups, other community groups was conducted
- The first public hike to raise awareness was a success (60 attendees - see video from event here: <https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/news/video-catchacoma-forest-fight>)

### January 2020

- AFER produced an inventory of species and habitat types in the Catchacoma Forest
- Logging commenced in about 20% of the Forest

### February 2020

- An article prepared by the Wilderness Committee and AFER describing the non-timber values of the Catchacoma Forest appeared in the *Peterborough Examiner*.
- A response to our article prepared by BMFC appeared in the *Peterborough Examiner*
- Met with BMFC and MNRF in Bancroft to present AFER studies and make the case for a logging moratorium
- A second public hike was held with about 60 attendees
- CFSC produced a review document on the “*Long-Term Management Direction*” for the Bancroft Minden Forest planning process

### March 2020

- The Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee (CFSC) was formed to pursue conservation status for the Forest; members include the Wilderness Committee, AFER, local residents, local cottagers, and Youth Leadership in Sustainability
- Initial outreach to MECP regarding avenues to explore conservation status through provincial policies; a response from MECP was never received
- BMFC produced the document: “*Approved Operations for 2020-21*”, which showed continued logging in the Forest

### **April-July 2020**

- CFSC documented logging in the Forest with photos and videos
- Letters in support of a logging moratorium were written by the Municipality of Trent Lakes, Catchacoma Cottagers Association, and sent to MNRF and MECP
- AFER contracted two professional biologists to conduct a more detailed and extensive assessment of OGF characteristics in the Catchacoma Forest

### **August 2020**

- AFER published a summary report of the OGF assessment done by the two biologists
- A third public hike was held

### **September-November 2020**

- Submitted a BMFC review document to and met with the Forest Stewardship Council (third party) sustainability auditor responsible for the BMFC region
- Submitted a review document addressing the first phase of the "*10-year Forest Management Plan (2021-2031)*" to MNRF
- Met with the forest management planning team, which included members of BMFC and MNRF
- Did outreach to the public to use our action tool to request a moratorium on logging from MNRF and MECP

### **December 2020**

- Second year of logging begins
- Second CFSC editorial published in the *Peterborough Examiner*
- A response to our editorial written by the logger who has the licence to cut the Catchacoma Forest
- CFSC met with MPP Dave Smith
- Conducted a hike with MPP Dave Smith, the new YLS class, and Gary Pritchard, who is a member of the Curve Lake First Nation

### **January-February 2021**

- Submitted a review document to second phase of the public consultation process for the "*2021-2031 Forest Management Plan*", which addresses proposed operations
- Letters in support of a pause in logging to allow ongoing study of conservation possibilities for the Forest were written by the Municipality of Trent Lakes, the Catchacoma Cottagers Association, and the Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association and sent to MNRF and MECP.
- Met with the Bancroft MNRF biologist and forest manager

### **March-April 2021**

- Some areas of the Catchacoma Forest were removed from "regular harvest" as stated in the newly released draft forest management plan (FMP); about 20% of the Forest remains allocated for logging
- Led a field event to train a small group of volunteers to use increment borers to collect core samples to age trees
- Developing our review document for the "*Final Draft FMP*" due May 17, 2021
- Developing a public outreach plan for the final submission/consultation period
- Developing a "*Land Use Change Application*" to protect the Catchacoma Forest
- Planning to collect tree cores from hemlock trees on April 24 – cancelled due to covid
- A frog call survey event is planned for the evening of April 24 with Gary Pritchard – cancelled due to covid