

LOGGING AROUND RIL LAKE

Logging is part of the heritage of this area. Forests are a renewable resource. We all love and use wood every day. Canada and Ontario have resource based economies, so logging is very important to the economy of Ontario. Healthy forests are more resilient and fend off pests and disease and stand up better to strong winds, and also are able to absorb more carbon (to mitigate the effects of climate change) than old decadent forests. In order for forests to regenerate and continue to be healthy, they need disturbance – whether it is forest fire, wind throw or logging. A managed forest is a healthy forest with one of the primary objectives being the conservation of biodiversity. Logging is very important in this area to many local businesses, brings local jobs, wood products store carbon, which again mitigates the impacts of climate change. Although the forest looks terrible during and immediately after logging, within a very short time, the area greens up, regeneration starts to really take off, and the tops of trees start to break down providing nutrients for the soil.

Crown Land – down the Forest Access Road

- All operations are conducted in accordance with the 10-year forest management plan for the French Severn Forest (2009-2019). Several people on the lake are on the mailing list and receive notices of public meetings or opportunities for review and comment.
- Legislation, regulations, and policies must be followed. A principle of sustainability is mandated.
- MNR conducts compliance inspections to ensure that all rules have been followed: penalties are given to loggers who break the rules.
- Only partial cutting systems are used (selection or shelterwood) depending on the predominant species and quality of the trees so there will always be a continuous forest cover.
- Trees are marked by certified tree markers in accordance with prescriptions certified by a registered professional forester. Ontario's tree marking guide (see the link to the Ontario Tree Marking Guide below) outlines what tree markers are looking for when marking a stand of trees for harvest. Prescription will be about improving the health of the remaining stand, protection of values (stick nests, streams, wildlife trees, etc. Improving health means removing declining trees that are not providing wildlife habitat, retaining healthy trees that will provide seed source and live for another 25 years, removing diseased trees, and removing trees that might be over shadowing healthy regeneration.
- Large open areas next to road are "landings" and are used by loggers to pile, sort, cut to length, and load logging trucks.
- Once they are finished, although it looks bad, it does not take long for area to green up.

Logging on private land – North Ril Lake Road and Browns Brae Road

- Long-time landowner – property has been in the family since the late 1800's.
- Property has been logged many times, with the last time being in the 1960's with horse logging.
- There is no clear-cutting going on. As on Crown land, the trees are harvested under the "selection silvicultural system", where individual trees are marked for removal by certified tree markers in order to maintain or improve the health of a forest.

- The landing at the intersection of North Ril and Browns Brae roads is located in a terrible location from an aesthetics point of view – it caused a lot of unnecessary concern from lake residents. The contractor, when selecting the location for the landing, considered safety only and not what lake residents would think. He admitted they should have thought about the visual concern. The landing has since been planted with 200 Red Pine.
- The property has a Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (see link below) forest management plan, which means sustainability and healthy forest ecosystem are important, protection of values and the environment is important, trees have been marked for removal by certified tree markers), etc.

Here are a few links for reference:

MNR's public website

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/index.html>

Forest Management Plan, Annual Work Schedules, etc., for French Severn Forest

<http://www.appefmp.mnr.gov.on.ca/eFMP/home.do?language=en>

Ontario Tree Marking Guide:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/Publication/MNR_E000526P.html

Silviculture Guide to Tolerant Hardwood Forest

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/Publication/MNR_E000396P.html

Information on the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program for private landowners

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_166335.html