



2015 Book of Reports

Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

Book of Reports Presented at the 2016 Annual General Meeting

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Our Mission

Our mission is to promote through public education and outreach the vital role of trees in sustainable resource development and management of our natural and urban environments.

2015 Book of Reports

Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

Our Organization

The **Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA)**, established in 1919, is the oldest forest education group operating in the province. We are a non-profit, registered charity governed by a board of voluntary directors.

Our Mission

Our mission is to promote through public education and outreach the vital role of trees in sustainable resource development and management of our natural and urban environments.

Our Objectives

To provide goods and services to enhance forestry/resource knowledge and understanding through collaboration, current practices and use of technology.

To encourage the planting and maintenance of trees through afforestation and reforestation activities in Manitoba.

To provide technical services to support sustainable forest management, which encourages economic viability/opportunities and long term forest health on private land.

To ensure MFA's long-term financial stability through prudent financial management, marketing, revenue generation and partnerships with key stakeholders.

To create a work environment that promotes team work, respect, innovation for the MFA, its clients and stakeholders.

Our History

The Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) was created in the early 1970's, but our roots reach back to the early 1900's. That is when the Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) was established by a group of foresters, business leaders, legislators, and private citizens who felt Canadians needed to understand the important role forests played in our country's environment and economy. It was a ground-breaking move, as the concept of natural resource conservation was barely understood in those days. However, these forward-thinkers forged ahead, kicking off their programming with a focus on forest fire prevention.

As the initiative expanded to encompass education around the entire forest ecosystem, so too did the CFA, and in 1945 the Canadian Forestry Division – Prairie Provinces Division was created. This evolved into the Prairie Provinces Forestry Association and finally, the three prairie province's established separate associations, and the Manitoba Forestry Association was born.

This successful legacy has since been nurtured by a dedicated and growing group of volunteers, funders, and MFA members who believe strongly in the importance of forest education.

Our Staff

Executive Director

Patricia Pohrebniuk

Education / Envirothon Coordinator

Glenn Peterson

Extension Officers

Tatiana Moroz

Kristen Malec

Admin/Accounting Assistant

Melody Olenick

Our Executive

President

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Past-President

Dr. Christina McDonald

Vice-Presidents

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Treasurer

Valerie Borkowsky

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Our Directors

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Rick Bobby
Wade Cable
Paul Chapman
Brad Epp

Paul Kasper
Rebecca McKay
Ward Perchuk
Serge Scrafield

Our Reports

President's Report

DAVE WOTTON

Dear Members and Supporters,

Manitoba Forestry Association's Book of Reports for 2015 is herein provided for your review, assessment and assistance in guiding the association through the year ahead. This year marks the 97th anniversary of the MFA, the oldest forest education organization in Manitoba. We not only look forward to many more years ahead but we have begun the planning process for celebration of our 100th year in 2019 and we look forward to your participation and continued support.

The 2015 Book of Reports provides details and highlights in the delivery of our diverse array of programs and the variety of people we have served in delivery of our mandate over this past year. We have had another successful year working with our partners in sharing our mutual passion for the natural environment with all Manitobans, from the very young to our seniors. This includes organizations like the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Pembina Valley Conservation District, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (now Manitoba Sustainable Development) and many others. These relationships further enhance our capability to deliver programs and open the door to an array of interested parties, experiences and new opportunities which strengthen our knowledge of the natural environment.

We have had yet another challenging year financially in 2015 which resulted in a significant deficit including lack of funding for summer students at Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre which limited availability. Although in 2014, a number of our board members rose to the occasion and volunteered their time to stay at the centre and keep it open for most of the summer, this did not occur in 2015 and the Sandilands was only open by appointment whenever possible throughout the summer. A motion was passed at our 2015 AGM held on Dec.1, 2015 to

engage in a fundraising strategy which included the hiring of a consultant to assist in the process which began in early 2016 and continues.

The organization was approached by Forestry Branch of Manitoba Conservation and presented with an opportunity to co-locate its operations at the Birds Hill Forest Nursery on the north side of Birds Hill Park. This opportunity was reviewed at the 2015 AGM and a motion passed directing the Executive to continue to explore the opportunity and report back to the Board of Directors. The Executive continues to meet with staff of Forestry Branch and its own staff to explore this significant opportunity. In addition, the MFA staff hosted the 2015 Seedling Distribution program at the Bird's Hill site as an experiment with considerable success. We will be reporting further on this initiative with recommendations during the 2016 AGM.

The successful operation and achievements of the MFA are a reflection of the highly dedicated professional staff, our enthusiastic members, volunteers, partners and stakeholders. In particular, I wish to acknowledge and thank the continued commitment and professional advice of our Executive and our Board of Directors. We greatly appreciate their important contributions throughout 2015 and look forward to another year ahead!

Executive Director's Report

PATRICIA POHREBNIUK

In 2015, staff continued to focus our attention on the priorities set for the organization as part of our strategic planning process. These priorities included our continued effort of integrating forest education into the current provincial curriculum, supporting private land forest management, re-branding the organization and increasing our marketing/fundraising potential for the programs and services we offer.

By focusing our efforts, the association was able to capitalize on many opportunities while paying close attention to our funding dollars.

Our Focus

Focus. Focus. Focus. At a time when resources are tight, organizations alike are looking inward assessing their priorities, determining their needs and focusing their efforts to ensure their sustainability.

As disappointing as it was to have to scale back on many of the programs we've previously delivered, as a collective, we understood it was necessary until our funding situation improves.

With the continued commitment of our board and staff, the introduction of a professional fundraiser and our 100th anniversary in our sights, the organization will persevere despite the funding struggles we're facing.

Please find below a summary of the activities undertaken in 2015 to support the objectives and priorities established for our organization.

A. To provide goods and services to enhance forestry/resource knowledge and understanding through collaboration, current practices and use of technology.

Education and Outreach – Understanding the challenges associated with in-school program delivery, the MFA refocused our efforts to increase our web presence and to enhance our online resources, develop additional training videos and offer live streaming training opportunities.

Manitoba Envirothon – The Manitoba Envirothon is our core educational program and will serve as the foundation for all future program development. This year, 50 teams participated in the program. This program would not be possible without the dedication of over 100 volunteers, 50 organizations offering in-kind support, as well as, our sponsors and regional hosts! Our thanks to all those involved, we very much appreciate your support!



Outdoor Education – Hands-on opportunities are key to promote knowledge and understanding and each of our three forest centres offers a unique first-hand forest experience. This year, the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre operated on an appointment only basis. We've seen a significant shift from school based programming to more group use (both MFA directed/self-directed programming) for this site in the last three years.

Heritage Trees – The objective of the MFA is to work with our partners (Manitoba Sustainable Development and Trees Winnipeg) to provide educational, technical and logistical support for delivering the Manitoba Heritage Trees Program. The program was officially launched on October 1, 2015 at the Argyle Alternative School in Winnipeg with three trees receiving special designation.

B. To encourage the planting and maintenance of trees through afforestation and reforestation activities in Manitoba.

Setting Down New Roots – The MFA continues to build on its partnerships with local nurseries to offer a diverse species selection and array of stock type options to assist

landowners with their planting needs. The use of the Birds Hill Forest Nursery site has helped to facilitate the distribution of seedlings to our customers right across the province, as well as, northern Ontario.

Corporate Tree Plantings – Coordinating tree planting initiatives, both large and small, is a service offered through the MFA. In 2015, Qualico Homes celebrated their 9th year of their “Planting for the Future Program”. To date, the MFA has helped facilitate the planting of 95,000 seedlings throughout central and south-east Manitoba for Qualico Homes.

C. To provide technical services to support sustainable forest management, which encourages economic viability/opportunities and long term forest health on private land.

Private Land Resource Planning (PLPR) – Our Resource Extension Officers continue to provide extension and outreach to private landowners across the province. In addition to the provision of management plans, staff participated in numerous seminars and workshops, completed our three-year commitment on the Sustainable Slopes project and assisted the West Souris River Conservation District on a riparian area management project.

D. To ensure MFA’s long-term financial stability through prudent financial management, marketing, revenue generation and partnerships with key stakeholders.

RE-Branding –With the goal of increasing our marketing potential, the MFA entered into a contract for the development of a new brand for the organization, as well as, increased our social media presence.

Of course, all of this would not be possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff, our board of directors and our many volunteers. To you, I offer my sincerest thanks! To our partners, sponsors and members – Thank You! Contributions like yours provide the financial resources we need to continue our efforts of delivering high quality conservation education programs within our province.

Please find highlighted, in the following pages, additional information on the programs and services delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association in 2015. We thank you for your support as we continue to strive to be your “go-to” forestry organization!

Our Funders

A special thank you to our funders.



Our Programs

Environmental Education/Information Programs

GLENN PETERSON

The goal of the Environmental Education/Information Programs offered by the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) is to provide educational information, resources and programming for both teachers and students on the importance of Manitoba's trees and forests to individuals and communities based on initiatives and activities that can be delivered both in the classroom, as well as, in the natural environment out-of-doors.

Through the use of a time-tested toolbox of programs and services, the MFA provides opportunities for people from all walks of life to learn more about the importance of our forests, and to better understand our natural heritage. The MFA offers a wide variety of programs to students, teachers, landowners and interested citizens.

- **Forest in the Classroom In-School Programs** for kindergarten through grade 12 students incorporated videos, short informative talks and interactive activities focusing on renewable resources: soils, forests, water and wildlife.
- **Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre, Interlake Forestry Centre and the Duck Mountain Forestry Centre** offers students and the public the opportunity to experience first-hand the nature trails, learning opportunities, Museum exhibits and heritage displays and flora and fauna of Manitoba's abundant natural forests.
- **Envirothon** is a hands-on environmental education competition (sometimes called the "environmental Olympics") for high school students
- **Manitoba Heritage Trees Program** encourages the general public to become aware of and interested in special trees here in the province.
- **National Forest Week and National Tree Day** - serve as a celebration for all Canadians to appreciate the great benefits that trees provide us - clean air, wildlife habitat, reducing energy demand and connecting with nature.
- **MFA's Private Land Resource Planning Program** helps landowners maximize the potential of their wooded property and promote sound management and stewardship of their land and resources.

In-School Programs

The MFA has faced a number of major challenges affecting the organization and its ability to provide the level of services we've been accustomed to. Understanding these challenges has helped identify new opportunities which the organization is currently working towards.

In-School Programming

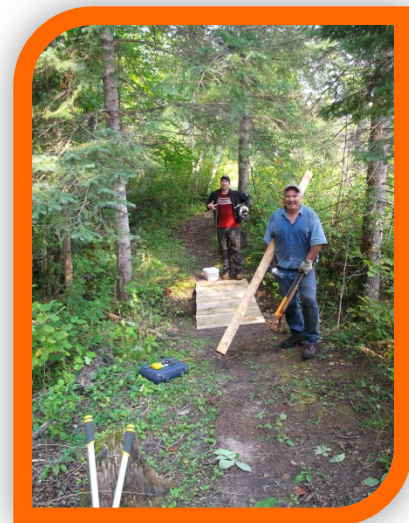
- The costs associated with providing in-school programming is prohibitive.
- The availability of part-time contractors to deliver educational programming is challenging.
 - **Opportunity** – The MFA is in the process of re-developing our website to provide online resources, training videos and e-learning opportunities for students and teachers. The resources previously provided on our website will remain available for teachers to access, ie. Heritage Trees – I Know a Tree Program, Forests in a Classroom lesson plans and our You Tube Training videos.
 - **Opportunity** – Manitoba Envirothon provides a unique hands-on, resourced based learning opportunity. This program has become the core of our educational programming and will be used as a foundation for future program development.

Outdoor Education

a) Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre

- The centre was operated on an appointment only basis from May to October 2015, due to budget constraints.
- Volunteers were critical in providing assistance with educational programming. MFA Board members, CIF members and Pineland seasonal staff provided over 150 hours of in-kind support.
- School programs at the Centre were made available on weekdays from late May to the end of June, for students from kindergarten to grade 12. Daycares or other organizations were encouraged to book a special program for the months of July and August.
- Grade specific programming offered at the Centre supports the current Manitoba curriculum and offers students the opportunity to learn about the forest in a natural setting. Program options include guided hikes, bannock bakes, tours of the interpretive buildings and Pineland Forest Nursery, crafts, games and much more!
- One school program was conducted for Highbury School in June. Fifteen Kindergarten and 28 Grade 5 and 6 students participated in a nature hike and a tour of the facilities on-site.
- Two one-day programs were conducted for McDonald Youth Services , a charitable organization providing support, care, and treatment for children, youth, young adults and their families, in August 2015. The group visited the site on August 13th and August 20th, 2015.

- A family program was conducted on July 3rd, 2015. The very same day, MFA and Pineland Forest summer staff planted 800 trees as part of the Batesville Memorial tree planting program.
- Ongoing maintenance of the site was conducted throughout the summer by MFA staff. A special work day was organized on the 28th of August where MFA, CIF and Woodlot Association of Manitoba members assisted staff with clean-up and major upgrades to the centre to help prepare for the upcoming CIF Pre-Conference Annual General Meeting Tour. Projects included; the rebuilding of footbridges and widening of trails, removal of hazardous trees and debris in public use areas and the tidying up of the buildings on site. Volunteers were treated to a barbeque lunch as a thank-you for all of their hard work.
- The Centre was buzzing with activity on the 14th of September when 40 plus CIF members and guests visited the site as part of their pre-conference tour (<https://www.cif-ifc.org/agm2015/pre-conference-tour/>) . In addition to a tour of the facilities, the SFI/Pine Ridge Forestry Trail was officially launched by the CIF members present (<https://www.facebook.com/Sandilands-Forest-Discovery-Centre-229261507091158/>). This trail was developed for high-school students and show cases climate change impacts on Manitoba's Forests, as well as, introducing concepts for forest sustainability, silviculture, and best management practices.
- An outline of the completed project is highlighted on the SFI Website: <http://www.sfiprogram.org/community-conservation/conservation-community-partnerships-grant-program/active-grants1/manitoba-forestry-association/>
- The Agassiz Chainsaw Sculptors held two chainsaw carving camps at the Centre in 2015 (June 4-6th and October 2-4th). This has been an excellent partnership between the two groups allowing the MFA to diversify the opportunities being offered at the site. A sampling of the artist's work can be viewed on the Sculptors website at <http://www.chainsawcarve.ca/>.
- The Carman Scouts were again guests at the Centre in 2015. The group of 10 Cubs and 3 Scouts, along with parents and leaders, enjoyed a fun filled weekend geocaching and learning more about their natural



environment (<http://carmanbcs.ca/present-events-201415/>).

b) Duck Mountain Forest Centre – Rick Bobby - Chairman

The following is a summary of activities undertaken at the Duck Mountain Forest Centre in 2015.

- The Western Regional Envirothon was hosted by the Duck Mountain Forest Centre, April 23.
- Project Webfoot was held June 8 and 9. 100 grade 4 students participated. Please see Kate Reid-Thorpe's report below.
- Water Days was hosted by the Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District. 130 students participated.
- A Grade 4 tree plant was held June 22.
- The annual Trappers Association meeting was held on September 27.
- Green Team funding (200 hrs) was provided for one person at the centre.
- The summer was spent welcoming visitors, keeping the picnic area and surrounding grounds trimmed and clean.
- Trail C is still the only trail that remains open at this time following the windstorm of 2012.
- Visitor numbers were around 150 during July and August.



D.U. Project Webfoot Field Trips 2015 – Kate-Reid Thorpe, DU Project Webfoot Educator Greetings, Friends in Conservation –

I am pleased to report that the 2015 spring field trips for the students of Ducks Unlimited's Project Webfoot were conducted for the 13th consecutive year on June 8 and 9 at the Duck Mountain Forest Centre (DMFC). Six classes attended this year, representing the following schools:

Taylor School (Swan River) – 2 classes

Heyes School (Swan River)

Benito School

Minitonas Early Years School

Bowsman School

Despite reduced visibility due to forest fire smoke from northern Saskatchewan, about 100 grade 4 students enjoyed exploring the Beaver Island Trail. By observing that the beaver are currently felling trees of over 60 cm in diameter and moving further and further from the water to find trees, the students were able to see the impact of a dwindling food supply on a habitat. With at least 3 active beaver lodges in the field trip area, we couldn't ask for a more interesting area in which to observe wetland wildlife.

Once again, it was the indefatigable Val Reich from LP who found corporate sponsors for all of our Webfoot classes. Val also booked all the field trips and, as an added bonus, was able to come to the Forest Centre and be my co-leader during the field trip days. Her presentations were enthusiastically received by the students and greatly appreciated by everyone involved. Thank you, Val!

The students also benefitted from the expertise of University of Manitoba Environmental Studies student, Edward Shao. Eddie was able to put his duties at the Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District aside for a couple of days to supervise the critter dipping activities on the Webfoot field trips. His enthusiasm was contagious and made the students' favourite part of the field day even better.

For the first time this season, we included a tree i.d. station as part of our Webfoot repertoire. This was made possible by the participation of retired Manitoba Conservation Regional Forester John Thorpe who not only taught the kids how to use an identification key, but also the importance of trees in wetland habitats. This addition to our program got a "thumbs up" from both students and teachers. Thank you, John!

Many thanks to Wade Cable at LP and Merebeth Switzer, DU's National Education Co-ordinator, for their on-going generous support of Project Webfoot in the Swan River area.

As always, Rick Bobby and the entire local Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) chapter, ensured that the DMFC was in top-notch shape for all the visiting students. The new observation deck overlooking one of the active beaver ponds was a huge hit with the students and their teachers. Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to get the tower finished. To have such a high-caliber facility so close to our schools is an incredible asset.

This year's field trips were respectfully and lovingly dedicated to the memory of Dick Walker. Dick was a tireless advocate for conservation education and a driving force behind the Duck Mountain Forest Centre. Despite being over 80 years old, Dick could still be found at the DMFC

prior to field trips, cutting weeds with a hand scythe because he wanted “everything to look nice for the kids”. His spirit lives on in every child who joyfully visits the Centre to enjoy a day in nature’s classroom.

Best wishes to all of you for an enjoyable summer.

c) Interlake Forest Centre – Lynn Huff - Volunteer

2015 was another quiet year for the Interlake Forest Centre, which celebrated its 25th year of operation! Local community members utilized both the site and trails for birding and snowshoeing.

Clean-up and maintenance of the trails continued with the small volunteer workforce in place, as well as, help from the local Green Team.



Manitoba Envirothon

The Manitoba Envirothon is a core education program of the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) run by a Steering Committee, comprised of MFA staff and volunteers representing the many partners of the program who are actively involved in the implementation of the program. Envirothon provides senior year (S1-S4) students across the Manitoba with a hands-on opportunity to learn about current environmental issues.

- For the past 19 years the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA), along with its partners and funders, has been the proud host organization of the Manitoba Envirothon. This program has provided Manitoba’s high school students a unique and fun way to learn about the environment and current issues.
- In 2015, 50 teams competed at the Regional level, with 21 teams advancing to the Provincial level.
- Five (5) regional Envirothon competitions were held throughout the province during the week of April 20 to 24, 2015. The MFA partnered with the following Regional Host organizations:
 - Frontier School Division \ University College of the North (The Pas - April 23 & 24),
 - Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas (Rennie – April 24),
 - Assiniboine Hills Conservation District (Spruce Woods Prov. Park – April 22),
 - Duck Mountain Forest Centre (April 23) and
 - Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre (April 22) to stage events – all with good weather considering the time of year!

- Please see Table 1. 2015 Regional Event and Location Summary for a listing of the Regional events held, the host of each event, the number of students, schools and school divisions which participated and the partners involved.
- The Provincial Envirothon took place at Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) from May 21-23, 2015. The teams were housed and fed at this fine facility and delicious meals were provided by members of the CMU culinary team. The field test took place on the hills, fields, forests and pond in nearby Assiniboine Forest. Opening the event was the Honourable Thomas Nevakshonoff, Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship followed by the creative and memorable Team Introductions. The orals competition was held in the classrooms and gymnasium of the CMU North Campus. The students prepared their orals presentations at the neighboring Shaftesbury High School, Saturday morning, after receiving a presentation on the orals challenge for the finals competition. Once the scores from the field test and the oral competition were tallied the winning team was Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg Manitoba. This team attended the North America Envirothon in Springfield, Missouri where they placed 27th out of 52 teams.
 - Please see Table 2. 2015 Provincial Event Summary for a complete listing of the number of students, schools and school divisions which participated in the Provincial event.



Table 1. 2015 Regional Event and Location Summary

Table 1. 2015 Regional Event and Location Summary			
SouthWest Regional - Spruce Woods Provincial Park, Carberry, Manitoba			
Host - Assiniboine Hills Conservation District			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Students	School Division
Baldur School	3	15	Prairie Spirit School Division
Carman Collegiate	3	15	Prairie Rose School Division
Cartwright School	4	20	Prairie Spirit School Division
Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School	2	10	Brandon School Division
Fairholme Colony School	1	5	Prairie Spirit School Division
Glenboro School	3	15	Prairie Spirit School Division
Nellie McClung Collegiate	5	25	Prairie Spirit School Division
Oak River Colony School	1	5	Rolling River School Division
Prairie Mountain High School	1	5	Prairie Spirit School Division
Virdeon Collegiate Institute	3	15	Fort La Bosse School Division
W. C. Miller Collegiate	1	5	Borderland School Division
11 Schools	27 Teams	135 Students	6 School Divisions
Partner Organizations			
Conservation and Water Stewardship (C&WS)		Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development (MAFRD)	
Winnipeg Regional - Oak Hammock Marsh, Stonewall, Manitoba			
Host - Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Teams	School Division
Elmwood High School	2	10	Winnipeg School Division
Gimli High School	2	10	Evergreen School Division
Shaftesbury High School	1	5	Pembina Trails School Division
St. Boniface Diocesan High School	2	10	Private
St. James Collegiate Institute	1	5	St. James - Assiniboia School Division
Vincent Massey Collegiate	1	5	Pembina Trails School Division
Westwood Collegiate	2	10	St. James - Assiniboia School Division
7 Schools	11 Teams	55 Students	4 School Divisions, 1 Private School
Partner Organizations			
Conservation and Water Stewardship (C&WS)		East Interlake Conservation District (EICD)	
Eastern Regional - Alf Hole and Rennie Community Centre, Rennie, Manitoba			
Host - Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Parks and Natural Areas			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Teams	School Division
Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School	3	15	Lord Selkirk School Division
Pinawa Secondary School	1	5	Whiteshell School Division
Wanipigow School	1	5	Frontier School Division
3 Schools	5 Teams	25 Students	3 School Divisions
Partner Organizations			
Conservation and Water Stewardship (C&WS)		Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development (MAFRD)	
Manitoba Hydro		Manitoba EcoNetwork	
Emerge Knowledge			
Western Regional - Duck Mountain Forest Centre, Minitonas, Manitoba			
Host - Duck Mountain Forest Centre			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Teams	School Division
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School	3	15	Swan Valley School Division
1 School	3 Teams	15 Students	1 School Division
Partner Organizations			
Conservation and Water Stewardship (C&WS)		Louisian Pacific Ltd. (LP Ltd.)	
Northern Regional - University College of the North, The Pas, Manitoba			
Host - Frontier School Division			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Students	School Divisions
Cormorant Lake School	1	5	Frontier School Division
Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute	1	5	Kelsey School Division
Duke of Marlborough School	1	5	Frontier School Division
R. D. Parker Collegiate	1	5	Mystery Lake School Division
4 Schools	4 Teams	20 Students	3 School Divisions
Partner Organizations			
Conservation and Water Stewardship (C&WS)		Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development (MAFRD)	
University College of the North (UCN)		Kelsey Conservation District (KCD)	
Regional Event Summary			
26 Schools	50 Teams	250 Students	16 School Divisions, 1 Private School

Table 2. 2015 Provincial Event Summary**Table 2. 2015 Provincial Event Summary**

SouthWest Region			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Students	School Division
Carman Collegiate	2	10	Prairie Rose School Division
Nellie McClung Collegiate	2	10	Prairie Spirit School Division
Prairie Mountain High School	1	5	Prairie Spirit School Division
Virten Collegiate Institute	1	5	Fort La Bosse School Division
4 Schools	6 Teams	30 Students	2 School Divisions
Winnipeg Regional			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Teams	School Division
Gimli High School	1	5	Evergreen School Division
Shaftesbury High School	1	5	Pembina Trails School Division
St. Boniface Diocesan High School	2	10	Private
St. James Collegiate Institute	1	5	St. James - Assiniboia School Division
Vincent Massey Collegiate	1	5	Pembina Trails School Division
Westwood Collegiate	2	10	St. James - Assiniboia School Division
6 Schools	8 Teams	40 Students	4 School Divisions, 1 Private School
Eastern Regional			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Teams	School Division
Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School	2	10	Lord Selkirk School Division
1 School	2 Teams	10 Students	1 School Division
Western Regional			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Teams	School Division
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School	3	15	Swan Valley School Division
1 School	3 Teams	15 Students	1 School Division
Northern Regional			
Participating Schools	# Teams	# Students	School Divisions
Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute	1	5	Kelsey School Division
R. D. Parker Collegiate	1	5	Mystery Lake School Division
2 Schools	2 Teams	10 Students	2 School Divisions
Provincial Event Summary			
14 Schools	21 Teams	105 Students	10 School Divisions, 1 Private School

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We would like to thank the 2015 Manitoba Envirothon Sponsors, Funders and Partners whose generosity helped us make this youth environmental education program a success.

Partners of the 2015 Manitoba Envirothon

HOST ORGANIZATION

Manitoba Forestry Association

REGIONAL HOSTS

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Frontier School Division &

University College of the North

Assiniboine Hills Conservation District

Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch

Duck Mountain Forest Centre



LEGACY PARTNERS

The Government of Manitoba

Education & Advanced Learning | Conservation and Water Stewardship

Aboriginal and Northern Affairs | Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Manitoba Hydro

SUSTAINING PARTNERS

Red River Cooperative Ltd.

FRIENDS OF ENVIROTHON

Final Standings

First Place: The team from Vincent Massey Collegiate won this year's Manitoba Envirothon. The team includes: Laura Alsip, Alicia Zelenitsky Hill, Karim Sidhom, Lauren Beauchamp, Yesha Subtincic West and advisor Bronwen Davies. The Manitoba Forestry Association, host of the Envirothon will provide the team funds and support as they represent Manitoba at the NCF North American Envirothon in Springfield Missouri, July 27 – Aug 2, 2015.



Second Place: The team from St. Boniface Diocesan High School, again with a good showing, placed second. Natalia Wicislak, Nooh Noga, Hannah Payumo, Damian Dragne and Griffin Swansen (missing advisor Paul Grossman). Great job folks!



Third Place: The Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District Team from Swan River Regional Secondary School placed third. The team, Nicholas Connolly, Tayler Fleming, Jayden Wlasichuk, Victoria Verhoek and Braden Baker again had another strong showing (missing advisor Rick Wowchuk)! Rick (advisor of one of the "original four" teams) will be retiring this year, thanks for 19 great years Rick!



And to all the teams that competed, congratulations on a job well done! We hope you had fun too!

Manitoba representation at North American Envirothon

The 2015 North American Envirothon is scheduled for the Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, July 27- August 2, 2015

The Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee has always helped subsidize the travel cost of our winning team to represent us at the North American championship. Teams that win the Manitoba Envirothon and advance to the NCF North America Envirothon are faced with additional costs for traveling to the competition. The Manitoba Forestry Association, as part of the Manitoba Envirothon Budget, provides up to \$5,000CDN to assist with these travel and event registration costs.

After a weeklong event of learning, socializing and competing, Team Manitoba placed 27th in the 52 team competition – great job folks!

Manitoba Heritage Trees Program

PATRICIA POHREBNIUK

The Manitoba Heritage Trees Program promotes awareness among Manitobans of the environmental, cultural, social and historic importance of trees and forests in Manitoba. The program designates trees with exceptional significance as heritage trees if they are associated with an historic event or have significant cultural importance; are one of the largest, broadest or oldest of its species in Manitoba or is a prime example of a species that is extremely rare in Manitoba; or is located in a unique location, has unique characteristics or features or that has attracted widespread public recognition as a prime example of its species.

All potential heritage tree nominations are reviewed by a committee that makes recommendations to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship (Sustainable Development) for designation.

The objective of the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) is to work with our partners (Manitoba Sustainable Development and Trees Winnipeg) to provide educational, technical and logistical support for delivering the Manitoba Heritage Trees Program.

Through collaborative efforts the Province of Manitoba, Trees Winnipeg and the Manitoba Forestry Association were able to finalize a Provincial nomination and review process for the Heritage Trees Program. This included the development of new nominations forms to enhance information collection; the updating of partner websites to promote and communicate

information on the program (including nominating details); and revisions to the on-line database (The Manitoba Register) were completed to align program needs and deliverables.

The Manitoba Heritage Trees Program was officially launched on October 1, 2015 at the Argyle Alternative School in Winnipeg. The first three trees to receive the special designation under the new Manitoba Heritage Trees Program were:

- the Point Douglas School cottonwood, planted in 1891,
- the Waterloo Street American elm, planted in 1905, and
- the Souris old oak in Souris, which is believed to be approximately 550 years old and is thought to be one of the oldest trees in Manitoba.



Kerienne La France, Trees Winnipeg, Kyla Maslaniec, Sustainable Development, and Patricia Pohrebniuk, Manitoba Forestry Association participated in a joint presentation on the Manitoba Heritage Trees Program to Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) members at a breakfast meeting held in Winnipeg on November 18, 2015. The presentation focused on the history of Heritage Trees Programs in the province, the launch of the new Manitoba Heritage Tree Program, how the new program works, the goals of the program, as well as, current projects the partners are working on.

Private Land Resource Planning

KRISTEN MALEC AND TATIANA MOROZ – RESOURCE EXTENSION OFFICERS

The Private Land Resource Planning program promotes the wise management of private lands, and is the provincial delivery mechanism in ensuring that Manitoba's privately owned woodlots are sustainably managed. This program has been empowering land owners to be stewards of their land by educating them about sustainable forest management through the creation of tailored management plans.



PLRP Management Plans

In 2015, a total of 15 management plans were developed for private woodlot owners in Manitoba. Twelve management plans were delivered for landowners in the western part of the province, and three were delivered in the east. The following plan types were generated in 2015:

- 11 Resource Management Plans
- 3 Timber Assessments*
- 1 Tree Planting Plan

*The Timber Assessments were developed under contract with various companies and organizations. The MFA received payment for these services.

PLRP Highlights

A number of the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) created in 2015 were developed for the following projects/partnerships:



- Sustainable Slopes Program. This program was created through a partnership between the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC), Pembina Valley Conservation District (PVCD), and the MFA. The partnership was successful in receiving three years of funding (2013 to 2016) through Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program. Under this initiative the MFA is providing RMPs to every landowner within the project area who enters into a conservation easement agreement with MHHC during this three year period.
- In partnership with the Western Souris River Conservation District, the MFA developed RMPs for landowners with property along the Pipestone Creek in western Manitoba. Within the past several years, the Pipestone Creek has experienced severe flooding, causing damage to the adjacent riparian forests. These RMPs were developed to educate landowners on the importance of riparian forests and how to sustainably manage them, and how to maintain or restore the health of the riparian forests so that they can better weather future floods.



In addition to developing management plans for private woodlot owners, PLRP staff delivered or took part in the following workshops, presentations, and conferences. Through these events, over 900 people were reached.

Workshops

PLRP staff delivered the following workshops:

- Tree I.D. workshop for university students at the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA) Career Expo at the University of Winnipeg, March 11th, 2015.
- Tree planting workshop for local landowners in partnership with the RM of Piney in Vassar, MB., May 30th, 2015. This was provided for landowners in the area who ordered seedlings from the MFA's Annual Seedling Sales.
- Forestry training workshop for grades 7 & 8 students at the Harvest Moon Eco-Challenge in Clearwater, MB., September 18th, 2015. This annual event brings students from local schools together to participate in outdoor experiential education.

Presentations

PLRP staff provided informational presentations about the PLRP program at the following events:

- The Woodlot Association of Manitoba (WAM) AGM in Winnipeg, MB, March 28th, 2015.
- The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) Manitoba Chapter breakfast meeting in Winnipeg, MB, November 18th, 2015.

Conferences/Expos

PLRP staff attended the following conferences to advance their learning and to network with landowners, students, other forestry professionals, and professionals in the environmental industry.

- MEIA Career Expo at the University of Winnipeg, March 11th, 2015. PLRP staff managed the MFA and CIF's joint booth and spoke to students about the MFA's role in forestry, sustainable forest management, and job opportunities in the field of forestry.
- 8th Annual Biomass Workshop in Steinbach, MB, March 12th, 2015.
- CIF National AGM and Conference in Kenora, ON, September 15-17, 2015.
- Manitoba GIS User Group (MGUG) Annual Conference in Winnipeg, MB, October 7th, 2015.
- Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA) Annual Conference in Brandon, MB., December 7-8, 2015. PLRP staff managed the MFA's booth, attended talks, and took part in conference workshops.

Setting Down New Roots

Setting Down New Roots, a primary fundraiser for the organization, is a multifaceted program offering an array of products and services to a wide variety of audiences. The funds generated through this program help to support the Manitoba Forestry Association and our educational programming.

Annual Seedling Distribution

The 'trunk' of our program is our Annual Seedling Distribution. The primary focus of this program is the sale of seedlings and potted stock to landowners at an annual distribution held each May. Seedlings are purchased for the purposes of establishing shelter and wildlife enhancement, afforestation and reforestation efforts, general aesthetic values, landscaping stock or for Christmas trees.

Through these efforts, over 130,000 seedlings were distributed to landowners across the prairie provinces and east into Ontario in 2015. In addition, over 600 potted trees were purchased by landowners here in Manitoba.



Wedding and Special Event Seedlings

Tree seedlings make a unique and memorable gift for a variety of special occasions. The MFA offers pre-packaged, DIY seedling packages and seedlings to those wishing to provide a green and renewable gift. Just over 7,000 seedlings were marketed through this program in 2015.

“Planting for the Future”

The National Forest Week activities were highlighted by an event supporting the “Planting for the Future” Program. Qualico Homes sponsors this program and is committed to the planting of approximately 100,000 seedlings over a 10 year period as part of their comprehensive environmental stewardship strategy. Qualico is committed to being environmentally friendly and by partnering with the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA); Qualico is demonstrating this commitment through this tree planting initiative. In the ninth year of the program, 10,000 seedlings were planted as an afforestation project on the east side of the St. Andrews Airport. The goal of this particular plant was to help establish a shelterbelt for a walking trail which would connect the community with a proposed recreation centre to be built on site.

In addition to the 10,000 seedlings, 150 one gallon potted white spruce trees were planted in this newly established shelterbelt by the grade 5 and 6 students from Machray School.



Media and Communications

The MFA continues to act as an informational hub for forestry related resources. Students, teachers and members of the general public utilize our website, YouTube channel and social media feeds for educational and training purposes.

MFA staff continue to provide extension services through phone, email, and attendance at workshops, as well as, participating in media interviews.

Manitoba Forestry Association – Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Manitoba-Forestry-Association-142759835841422/>

Manitoba Envirothon – Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ManitobaEnvirothon/>

Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre – Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Sandilands-Forest-Discovery-Centre-229261507091158/>

Manitoba Forestry Association – Website

www.thinktrees.org

Think Trees TV

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt4QkQM39hJFfrxHyru_oQw

