



2016 Book of Reports

Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

Book of Reports Presented at the 2017 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.

2016 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
Dave Wotton

Vice-Presidents
Trevor Stanley
Greg Carlson

Treasurer
Valerie Borkowsky

Secretary
John Dojack

Director At Large
Barry Waito

Our Directors

Wayne Arseny
Byrnes Benoit
Rick Bobby

Wade Cable
Rebecca McKay
Ward Perchuk

Our Reports

President's Report

DAVE WOTTON

Dear Members and Supporters,

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting, please find herein Manitoba Forestry Association's Book of Reports for 2016 provided for your review, assessment and assistance in guiding the association through the year ahead. This year marks the 98th anniversary of the MFA, the oldest forest education organization in Manitoba. In addition it was the 20th anniversary of the Manitoba Envirothon initiated in 2006 by the late Jim Potton, one of our most cherished members. We are rapidly moving toward celebration of our 100th year in 2019 and we look forward to your participation and continued support.

The 2016 Book of Reports provides details and highlights in the delivery of our education programs and the variety of people we have served in addressing our mandate over this past year. We have had a challenging year working within the constraints of our operational capacity but have enjoyed continued positive relationships with our partners in sharing our mutual passion for the natural environment. This includes organizations like Manitoba Sustainable Development, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh, Ducks Unlimited, Pembina Valley Conservation District, the Nature Conservancy and many others. These relationships are critical to the delivery of our programs and strengthen our staff in their knowledge and capacity to promote environmental education across Manitoba.



In 2015 we reported our concerns for financial stability and those concerns continued throughout 2016 and into 2017. We continue to struggle with a significant deficit including lack of funding for summer students at Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre which limited availability again in both 2016 and 2017. A motion was passed at our 2014 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. This is not an easy process in the current climate of fiscal restraint and our success has been limited. The reality is that we have in the past positioned ourselves to rely on only a few funding streams. In response we have initiated a strategic review of our programs to incorporate the emerging issues of carbon & climate change as a focus attraction for funding opportunities through 2017 & 2018. We will be reporting on this initiative in detail at our 2017 AGM.

I am pleased to report that your Executive has been diligent in meeting and addressing the financial and operational issues of the MFA in both 2016 and continuing through 2017. Following our last AGM they have met on 7 occasions in 2016 plus conference calls and three Board meetings as well as kept current through communications by e-mail. We continue to meet and interact with the Forestry and Peatland Management Branch of the Manitoba Sustainable Development Department on a regular basis and are very appreciative of their continued support. The opportunity to co-locate our operation at the Birds Hill Nursery on the north side of Birds Hill Park is still in the exploration stage as agreed at the 2015 AGM. In both 2016 & 2017 MFA staff successfully hosted our Seedling Distribution program at the Bird's Hill site.

I would like to sincerely thank our dedicated Executive Director, and our professional staff for the successful delivery of our programs and achievements again this fiscal year. In addition I greatly appreciate the contribution of our enthusiastic members, volunteers, partners and stakeholders. Further I wish to thank those members of our Executive and Board for their dedicated commitment, professional advice and continued contribution to the MFA throughout 2016 and their ongoing commitment in 2017.

Dave Wotton,
President, MFA



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.

Executive Director's Report

PATRICIA POHREBNIUK



In 2016, 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.

Please find below a summary of the activities undertaken in 2016 to support the objectives and priorities established or our organization.

Forest Resource Education - *Increasing Our Knowledge and Understanding of Trees*

MFA staff continued to provide extension services to students, teachers and members of the general public through phone, email, and attendance at workshops. In addition, the organization continues to support a variety of programs and initiatives which allows us to be flexible and adaptable to meet the demands of educators, landowners, communities and members of the general public.

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, 53 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! Many 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 four years. The Duck Mountain Forest Centre experience another successful year with 225 students and 175 visitors visiting the site for educational programs, meetings and general visits.



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 MFA continues to promote the Manitoba Heritage Trees program through workshop and presentations, ongoing program delivery, and networking opportunities with board members, partners and sponsors.

Private Land and Community Support - Building Local Capacity

The MFA continues to work with communities, municipal officials and landowners across the province providing educational and training opportunities. Healthy and sustainable forests contribute to healthy and sustainable communities and by supporting private land and community based forestry activities, the MFA strives to build local capacity, diversify the local economy and increase our response to emerging forest health issues. Though no skills-based training was provided during this reporting period, MFA staff participated in 13 educational outreach opportunities in the form of informational booths at 12 different venues in both Winnipeg and in South East Manitoba. In addition to social media activities, it is extremely important to maintain ties to the communities we offer our services in.

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 and attended seven professional development training courses.

Tree Planting and Forest Health – Growing Healthy Forests

MFA staff continues to provide educational support to land owners, communities and school groups on the proper handling, planting, maintenance, and selection of trees, as well as insect/disease control measures. This support is provided through workshops, events and displays, responding to inquiries, information and reference/resource materials provided on our website and through social media, coordination of school/community/corporate sponsored tree planting events, promotion of the MFA’s Setting Down New Roots Seedling Sales and Private Land Resource Planning programs, submission of information articles in partner newsletters and local papers, as well as, and working closely on joint initiatives with other like-minded organizations.

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 2016, Qualico Homes celebrated their 10th and final year of their “Planting for the Future Program”. To date, the MFA has helped facilitate the planting of 100,000 seedlings throughout central and south-east Manitoba for Qualico Homes. We congratulate Qualico for reaching this special milestone goal!

Partnerships – Extending our Reach

The MFA continues to develop and maintain partnerships with educational institutions, private industry, governments and community organizations locally, nationally and internationally to cross promote programs and services.

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 2016. 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 2016, due to budget constraints.
- Volunteers were critical in providing assistance with educational programming. MFA Board members, CIF members and Pineland seasonal staff provided over 120 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!
- 6 one-day programs were offered at the Centre this year. A total of 164 students and 23 advisors from Kindergarten to Grade 12 participated in the outdoor programming this summer/fall.
- 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 July/August 2016. The group visited the site on July 28th and August 4th, 2016 and took part in a bannock bake and a guided tour of the trails and buildings. A total of 10 students and 4 advisors participated.
- The Agassiz Chainsaw Sculptors held a chainsaw carving camp at the Centre June 3-5th. 9 participants were involved in this course. 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/>.
- Three researchers from the University of Winnipeg called the centre home from May 23rd to June 8th, 2016. The Centre was home base for the research of native bat populations conducted during this time.
- The University of Winnipeg rented the facility from August 17-21st, 2016. Ten students participated in the Botany field course offered through the university.
- A Manitoba Hydro - Junior Forest Ranger camp was conducted at the site from August 29th through to September 3rd. Manitoba Model Forest Staff coordinated the 5 day training session, MFA staff assisted with logistics. A total of 12 students participated in the training.
- Site tours were provided to two groups in the fall of 2016. Twenty delegates from The International Union of Forestry Resource Organization (IUFRO) and 30 representatives from the National Forest Inventory visited the site on September 30th and October 5th respectfully.

- Ongoing maintenance of the site was conducted throughout the summer by MFA staff and volunteers. A local quota holder and his family stayed at the Centre this June and volunteered their time to complete the repairs to our swinging bridge and brushed around both sets of stairs down the bridge deck. Many thanks to the Frechette family for their continued support!



b) Duck Mountain Forest Centre – Rick Bobby - Chairman

The following is a summary of activities undertaken at the Duck Mountain Forest Centre in 2016.

- Water Days held June 8 and 9 was hosted by the Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District. 180 grades 4 and 5 students participated.
- 50 Swan Valley Regional grades 9 and 10 students spent a wet, snowy Oct 5 at the centre.
- 25 grades 10 and 12 students as well as 25 Quebec exchange students spent the morning of Oct 12 hiking Trail C and visiting the Frank Marvin Interpretive Centre. Lunch was provided by Louisiana Pacific Ltd. and Spruce Products Limited.
- The annual Trappers Association meeting was held on Oct 16.
- Green Team funding (200 hrs) was provided for one person at the centre.
- Visitor numbers were around 175 during July and August.



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 20 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 2016, 53 teams competed at the Regional level, with 18 teams advancing to the Provincial level.
- The topic theme for 2016, Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society, allowed the students and advisors to explore the roles and responsibilities needed to successfully manage resources and situations related to each core topic. Learning centered on the "three pillars of sustainability" and the importance of research, planning, surveillance and rapid response to hopefully mitigate the negative consequences of establishment of invasive pests in our society.

Regionals

There were five Regional Envirothon competitions that were held throughout the province during the week of April 18 to 22, 2016. The MFA partnered with the following Regional Host organizations:

- Frontier School Division (Thompson - April 20 & 21),
- Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas (Alf Hole, Rennie – April 22),
- Pembina Valley Conservation District (Clearwater – April 20),
- and Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre (West and Winnipeg Regions combined, April 21) to stage events – all with good weather considering the time of year!
- All teams were required to qualify at the Regional level in order to advance to the Provincial Envirothon.

Provincials

The Provincial Envirothon took place at Wilderness Edge Retreat & Conference Centre (WE), Pinawa from May 26-28, 2016. The teams were housed and fed at this fine facility, delicious meals were provided by members of the WE culinary team. The event was kicked off by words of welcome from Mary Gerber (on behalf of Wayne Ewasko (MLA for Lac du Bonnet) followed by Dave Wotton, President of the Manitoba Forestry Association, finished off by the creative

and memorable Team Introductions! Friday, the field test took place on the Ironwood Trail along the Winnipeg River. It consisted of 15 stops with typically two teams per stop, and it took place under hot, sunny conditions – much better than Regionals!

The Saturday orals competition was held in the Agassiz and Manitoba Rooms at WE and Gymnasium of Pinawa High School. Orals prep was done all in advance with the students for the first time allowed to create and bring with them a digital (without audio) presentation if they so choose, or they could of course use a poster as before. All reference material was required to be cited as well as a Statement of Authorship. (Please see Appendix C). We feel these changes will better prepare the students for the current challenges, standards and technology available to help them! The scores from the field test and the oral competition were tallied to identify the winning team which was a first time winner, Grant Park High School, Winnipeg Manitoba. The winning team then advanced to compete in the North America Envirothon in late July at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario!

- Please see Table 1. 2016 Provincial Event Summary for a complete listing of the number of students, schools and school divisions which participated in both the Regional and Provincial events in 2016.

All student participants experienced hands-on learning opportunities and possibly stimulated future careers as resource managers, scientists or future leaders as empowered citizens!

There will again be the ongoing reviews of the program - incorporating feedback we get from the event participants – students, advisors, volunteers and partners, to ensure that the MFA is providing the best Envirothon program possible!

Jim Potton Environmental Responsibilities Scholarship

The MB Envirothon Steering Committee would also like to announce that Angie Liu of Shaftesbury High School has been awarded the first “Jim Potton Environmental Responsibilities Scholarship”, to continue her education.



Table 2. 2016 Regional and Provincial Event Summary

Event	School	# Teams	School Division
Northern	Cormorant Lake School	1	Frontier School Division (FSD)
	Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute	1	Kelsey School Division (KSD)
	Mel Johnson School*	1	FSD
	Frontier Mosakahiken School*	1	FSD
	Helen Betty Osborne Ininuw Ed. Re. Centre	1	FSD
	R. D. Parker Collegiate	1	Mystery Lake School Division (MLSD)
SouthWest	Baldur School	4	Prairie Spirit School Division (PSSD)
	Cartwright School	4	PSSD
	Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School	3	Brandon School Division (BSD)
	Fairholme Colony School	1	PSSD
	Glenboro School	4	PSSD
	Nellie McClung Collegiate	3	PSSD
	Oak River Colony School	1	Rolling River School Division (RRSD)
	Prairie Mountain High School	1	PSSD
	St. Claude School Complex*	1	PSSD
	Miami School	2	Prairie Rose School Division (PRSD)
Virden Collegiate Institute	2	Fort La Bosse School Division (FLBSD)	
Winnipeg	Elmwood High School	2	Winnipeg School Division (WSD)
	Gimli High School	1	Evergreen School Division (ESD)
	Shaftesbury High School	2	Pembina Trails School Division (PTSD)
	St. Boniface Diocesan High School	1	Private
	St. James Collegiate Institute	1	St. James - Assiniboia School Division (SJSD)
	Fort Richmond Collegiate	1	PTSD
	Vincent Massey Collegiate	2	PTSD
	Sisler High School *	1	WSD
	Grant Park High School	1	WSD
	Westwood Collegiate	2	SJSD
Eastern	Lord Selkirk Regional Secondary School	3	Lord Selkirk School Division (LSSD)
	Pinawa Secondary School	1	Whiteshell School Division (WhiteshellSD)
Western@OHM	Swan Valley Regional Secondary School	3	Swan Valley School Division (SVSD)
5 Events	30 schools	53 teams	15 Divisions, 1 private
Provincial	Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute	1	KSD
	R. D. Parker Collegiate	1	MLSD
	Vincent Massey Collegiate	1	PTSD
	Virden Collegiate Institute	1	FLBSD
	Swan Valley Regional Secondary School	2	SVSD
	Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School	1	LSSD
	St. James Collegiate Institute	1	SJSD
	Pinawa Secondary School	1	WhiteshellSD
	Grant Park High School	1	WSD
	Fort Richmond Collegiate	1	PTSD
	Fairholme Colony School	1	PSSD
	Helen Betty Osborne Ininuw Ed. Res. Centre	1	FSD
	Westwood Collegiate	2	SJSD
	Carman Collegiate	1	PRSD
	Shaftesbury High School	1	PTSD
	Prairie Mountain High School	1	PSSD
16 Schools	18 Teams	12 Divisions	

BOLD* = Rookie Team

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We would like to thank the 2016 Manitoba Envirothon Sponsors, Funders and Partners whose generosity helped us make this youth environmental education program a success.

Partners of the 2016 Manitoba Envirothon

HOST ORGANIZATION

Manitoba Forestry Association

REGIONAL HOSTS

Frontier School Division

Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Pembina Valley Conservation District



LEGACY PARTNERS

The Government of Manitoba

Agriculture | Education & Training | Sustainable Development

SUSTAINING PARTNERS

Manitoba Hydro

FRIENDS OF ENVIROTHON

Red River Cooperative Ltd.

The Potton Family

Final Standings

First Place: The team from Grant Park High School won this year's Manitoba Envirothon. The team includes: Fiona Lebar, Brett Macfarlane, Clair Schon, Jack Osiowy, Katherine Gledson and Advisor: Mike Patenaude. 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 Peterborough, Ontario from July 24 – 29, 2016.



Second Place: The team from Shaftesbury High School, again with a good showing, placed second. Back Row: Angie Liu, Sarah Steidl, Front Row: Advisor: Christine Johnston, Navjot Garcha, Brian Kim, Mitchell Green, and Advisor: Kim Stovel. Great job folks!



Third Place: The Westwood Collegiate Grade 11 Team placed a strong third. The team, Alison Matwick, Chase Hornby, Sam Novak, Luke Roffey, Sean Thain and Advisor: Dave Shoemith Good work folks!



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 2016 North American Envirothon is scheduled for the Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario July 24 - 29, 2016. The Manitoba Envirothon 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 week of learning, socializing, training and testing in Peterborough, Ontario, Team Manitoba placed 15th out of 52 Teams – way to go 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.

Program specific information relating to the Manitoba Heritage Trees Program was maintained on the MFA website at www.thinktrees.org. This included information on the general program, what trees were eligible for nomination, how to nominate a tree, nomination process, nomination forms, as well as, contact information for further assistance.

MFA staff continue to update the Manitoba Tree Register with all nominations received in person, by fax or through the mail. Staff have also been working on managing the nominations received through previous initiatives and gaining the proper approvals to highlight these trees in the Manitoba Tree Register.

In 2016, MFA staff worked with a volunteer – Irina Znamirovski, a Grade Nine student from Balmoral Hall, on updating the Manitoba Tree Register with those trees identified in the Heritage Trees of Manitoba Book. After receiving an orientation to the Manitoba Tree Register, Irina was tasked with entering nomination information in the register on her own time either at school or at home. Irina received credit for the volunteer work completed. The volunteer time was



recognized as a Community Service Project through the Balmoral High School. 115 records were uploaded to the on-line database through this process.

In addition to completing the on-line entry, Irina was also tasked to complete a survey with her fellow peers from Grades 6-8 on the perception of Heritage Trees. Students were asked to complete a 10 question survey which gauged their knowledge and understanding of Heritage trees in the province. Irina presented her findings to the membership at the MFA's Annual General Meeting on September 20, 2016. A summary of her report was submitted to the MFA.

MFA Staff attending the following events in which the Heritage Trees Program was promoted:

- National Forest Week Activities – In partnership with the Sustainable Development – Forestry and Peatlands Management Branch – MFA staff set up a booth outside the Manitoba Children's Museum at the Forks on September 21st, 2016 and outside the MFA office on September 22nd and 23rd. In addition, the MFA was also attended the Assiniboine Park's Tree Day, on September 23rd, 2016. In addition to the free tree give-away being promoted, information regarding the Heritage Program was also distributed. It was an excellent opportunity to highlight the program during a week which dedicated to the celebration of trees.
- Glenn Peterson, gave a presentation to members of the CIF – Manitoba Chapter on November 15th, 2016. Manitoba Heritage Tree Program highlights were provided to an audience of approximately 50.
- The MFA had registered to both attend and have a booth at the Manitoba Conservation District Association Conference – December 6-7th, 2016. Unfortunately due to a severe winter storm, staff were unable to attend. The intention was to provide informational materials on all of the programs being offered through the MFA.



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 2016, a total of 8 management plans were developed for private woodlot owners in Manitoba. Two of those management plans were delivered for landowners in the western part of the province, and three were delivered outside of Manitoba under a fee- for- service agreement. The following plan types were generated in 2015:

- 5 Resource Management Plans
- 2 Tree planting plans
- 1 Timber Assessment (Fee for service)

*In 2016 the organization decided it was no longer sustainable to continue offering management plans for free.

PLRP Highlights

Four of the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) created in 2016 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. 2016 was the final year for the Sustainable slopes program. The MFA achieved their requirements and all landowners received a management plan.
- In the fall, MFA partnered up with Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) to deliver RMP's to landowners in Alberta. AWES currently do not have the capacity to develop management plans – so PRLP staff were contracted to deliver the plans on their behalf. The visit to Alberta was also an educational opportunity for PLRP staff as they were able to tour some sites in the area and discuss management options with various landowners.



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.

PLRP staff delivered the following workshops:

- Provided forestry training for high school participants at the Regional Envirothon event in Clearwater, Manitoba – April 20, 2016
- Taught grade 4 students about tree biology and the importance of forests and sustainable forest management during the Binney Water Festival at the Binney Siding Nature Preserve, Manitoba - June 10, 2016
- Organized and led a woodlot education field day for University of Winnipeg forestry students at a woodlot that received a PLRP Resource Management Plan in Vassar, Manitoba – August 26, 2016

- Led the forestry training workshops for grade 7 & 8 students at the Harvest Moon Eco-challenge in Clearwater, Manitoba – September 15, 2016
- Taught grades 4 to 6 students at Machray School in Winnipeg about tree biology and the importance of trees in preparation for the Qualico tree planting day – September 16, 2016
- Planted 150 white spruce trees with Machray School students during National Forestry Week in Rosenort, Manitoba – September 21, 2016



Extension

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

- PLRP staff continue to answer phone calls and respond to emails from private landowners requesting information pertaining to the following:
 - Forest health and pest inquiries
 - Market information
 - Tree Planting (species selection, site prep, planting, maintenance etc.)
 - Forest Management

- Approximately 30-40 inquiries are received on a monthly basis.
- Contribute articles to the Woodlot Association of Manitoba's newsletter:
 - <http://woodlotmanitoba.com/newsletter/issue-114-marchapril-2016/>
 - <http://woodlotmanitoba.com/newsletter/issue-115-mayjune-2016/>
 - <http://woodlotmanitoba.com/newsletter/issue-116-julyaugust-2016/>
 - <http://woodlotmanitoba.com/newsletter/issue-117-fall-2016/>
 - <http://woodlotmanitoba.com/newsletter/issue-118-januaryfebruary-2017/>
- Provided a PLRP update at The Woodlot Association of Manitoba's (WAM) AGM in Winnipeg, Manitoba – April 9, 2016
- Provided input about woodlots and their importance in water management at the Roseau River Integrated Watershed Management Planning Meeting in Dominion City, Manitoba – September 22, 2016
- Coordinated the 5,000 tree plant in partnership with Qualico homes in Morden, Manitoba – September 22, 2016

Presentations

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

- Manitoba GIS User Group (MGUG) Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba – October 12, 2016,
 - The conference focused on current GIS developments. This provided MFA Staff with information on new apps and new software that could potentially be utilized in the PLRP program. The conference was also very useful in learning about the new technologies that could be adopted to make the surveying process more efficient.
- Both PLRP staff completed the Arborist Certification course and are now certified arborists – April to May, 2016
 - The organization receives numerous inquiries about tree species, pruning, planting and various urban tree questions (especially in the summer). Since our office is located within the city, many requests we receive are urban forestry requests.

Both staff have a better understanding of pruning, planting of larger trees, and relocating trees, which is useful in regards to the PLRP program as some of the landowners are interested in relocating larger trees.
- Tree planting layout training in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba – June 20, 2016
 - Tatiana & Kristen both attended this training. Instruction was provided on how to properly lay out large scale tree planting plans. This training will position the MFA to take on additional large scale planting contracts in the future. This will

also benefit private landowners that wish to engage in large scale planting projects in response to carbon sequestration planning.

- ESRI ArcGIS 2: Essential Workflows online course – July 19 to 21, 2016
 - In this course staff utilized ArcMap to explore, manage, and analyze geographic data and create informative maps. Techniques were provided to allow staff to effectively share their work with decision makers, colleagues, and the public.
- Shelterbelt and agro-forestry research at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre in Brandon, Manitoba – August 31, 2016
 - Kristen and employees of the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) from Edmonton, Alberta travelled to Brandon to meet with Blair English, an agronomy and agroforestry specialist at the Brandon Research and Development Centre. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the agroforestry research that is being carried out at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Research and Development Centre in Brandon. Blair and his technician took the group around to several test sites; an alley cropping test site and a willow riparian buffer test site. Knowledge of agroforestry is very beneficial to the PLRP program, as many woodlot owners are farmers and a majority of their properties are comprised of farm land. Agroforestry can be incorporated into shelterbelt education and can promote more creative and innovative ways to think about land use and shelterbelts. This also was an opportunity to establish a connection to Blair English who is a well experienced and knowledgeable resource for shelterbelts and agroforestry. He will also be able to connect staff to other valuable resources in the agroforestry and riparian research fields.
- Kristen attended the Quality Deer Management Association's Level 1 Deer Steward Course in Cayamant, Quebec – September 8 to 12, 2016
 - The purpose of the course was to gain further knowledge and understanding about deer biology and their habitat requirements in order to learn how to hunt deer in a sustainable manner on your property (this is originally an American course where most people hunt on private land and there are no hunting restrictions), and how to manage your property in a way that will attract deer. This course was very beneficial to the PLRP program for several reasons. This provided Kristen an opportunity to learn more about deer hunting, enabling her to better relate to woodlot owners who hunt and to consider deer habitat requirements in the management of their properties. It also provided resource information about deer biology and behavior, enhancing Kristen and Tatiana's ability to survey woodlots by increasing their skills in detecting and interpreting deer signs.

- Low Impact Logging Workshop in Unity, Maine – November 17 to 20, 2016
 - Kristen & Tatiana both attended the low impact logging course in Maine. Staff received hands on training on chainsaw safety, how to operate small machinery, how to use hand tools, pulleys, winches, and arches to remove trees from a woodlot causing minimal damage. Staff learned about road layout, forestry safety, choosing which trees to remove, and felling trees. This was a critical workshop for staff to participate in, as they are now able to educate landowners on “how” they can remove their trees from the woodlot in a safe and sustainable manner.



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.

MFA staff continues to provide educational support to land owners, communities and school groups on the proper handling, planting, maintenance, and selection of trees, as well as insect/disease control measures. This support is provided through workshops, events and displays, responding to inquiries, information and reference/resource materials provided on our website and through social media, coordination of school/community/corporate sponsored tree planting events, promotion of the MFA's Setting Down New Roots Seedling Sales and Private Land Resource Planning programs, submission of information articles in partner newsletters and local papers, as well as, and working closely on joint initiatives with other like-minded organizations.

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.

The MFA's Setting Down New Roots program culminated in a successful 3 day distribution at the Birds Hill Forest Nursery – May 5th-7th, where over 94,000 seedlings and 1,000 potted trees were distributed to landowners across Manitoba and North Western Ontario.

Approximately 480 landowners purchased their planting stock through the MFA. MFA staff, board members and volunteers were on hand at this three day event to distribute seedlings, sell additional stock, provide planting instructions and answer tree planting and forest health questions our purchasers had. The Birds Hill facility lends itself well to this type of an extension/outreach initiative.

Throughout the reporting period, MFA staff continued to respond to inquiries and requests for information regarding, tree planting, spacing, accessing planting stock, forest insects and diseases, and general woodlot management.

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. 9,820 seedlings were marketed through this program in 2016.



“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 tenth and final year of the program, 5,000 seedlings were planted as shelterbelt project in the community of Morden, Manitoba. MFA staff worked with the community of Morden and coordinated the planting of these seedlings, by professional planters, around the town’s lagoon.



In conjunction with the Planting for the Future Program, MFA staff provided an in-school classroom presentation to over 50 Grade 5-6 students at Macray School on September 16, 2016.

The following week, these same students travelled out to Rosenort, MB to plant 150 potted trees as a greening initiative in this community. In addition to our corporate sponsors – Qualico Homes, seven RM officials attended and addressed the students and media at this planting event.



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