



2018 Book of Reports

Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

Book of Reports Presented at the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Table of Contents

Our Organization.....	2
Our Mission.....	2
Our Objectives.....	2
Our History.....	3
Our Staff.....	3
Our Executive.....	3
Our Directors.....	3
Our Reports.....	4
President’s Report.....	4
Executive Director’s Report	6
Forest Resource Education - <i>Increasing Our Knowledge and Understanding of Trees</i>	6
Private Land and Community Support - <i>Building Local Capacity</i>	7
Tree Planting and Forest Health – <i>Growing Healthy Forests</i>	7
Partnerships – <i>Extending our Reach</i>	8
Our Programs.....	9
Manitoba Envirothon.....	9
Outdoor Education.....	20
Manitoba Heritage Trees Program	21
Community Engagement.....	22
Private Land Resource Planning.....	24
Setting Down New Roots	25
Media and Communications	31

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Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

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 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

Admin/Accounting Assistant

Melody Olenick

Extension Officer

Kristen Malec

Our Executive

President

John Dojack

Vice-Presidents

Trevor Stanley, Greg Carlson

Treasurer

Valerie Borkowsky

Secretary

Wendy Creed

Directors At Large

Byrnes Benoit, Barry Waito

Our Directors

Wayne Arseny

Rick Bobby

Wendy Creed

Michael Doig

David Flight

Rebecca McKay

Ward Perchuk

Dave Wotton

Our Reports

President's Report

JOHN DOJACK

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of the Manitoba Forestry Association's Executive and staff, I want to welcome you to our 2019 Annual General Meeting. This is a special year for the Association, marking its 100 Year Anniversary.

The 2018 Book of Reports and the 2019 Budget are attached and describe not only our achievements this past year but also our current challenges and opportunities. Over the past year the Executive and staff have worked on securing new funding for our programs. We revised our Private Land Resource Program and submitted it for funding under the Climate Change component of Manitoba's Green Plan. Our new proposal focused on the role that private woodlot management and shelterbelt establishment could play in addressing climate change through increased carbon capture. Unfortunately, our proposal did not receive funding. However, the Association, in partnership with the Pembina Valley, La Salle Redboine and Whitemud Watershed Conservation Districts, was successful in securing funding for a Sustainable Slopes initiative under Manitoba's new Conservation Trust.

The Association suffered another significant setback this year with the closing of the Pineland Provincial Forest Nursery. Our long-term partnership with Pineland has been critical to the operation of the Sandilands Forest Centre, our National Forest Week activities and our various revenue generation programs related to seedling sales.

This year also represents the 23rd year that the Association has hosted the Manitoba Envirothon. The Steering Committee and all of the volunteers that assisted with the Regional and Provincial competitions once again did an outstanding job. Last year the Envirothon Steering Committees requested to have a representative on the Association's Executive and Brynes Benoit was elected to do so. This has been very beneficial to the Executive and has helped strengthen our relationship with the volunteer Steering Committee.

On behalf of the Executive and Association staff we want to congratulate Kristen Malec, our Resource Technician with the Private Land Resource Program, on her new position with the Green Action Centre. I would also like to acknowledge all of the hard work that our Executive



Director, Patricia Pohrebniuk and Melody Olenick have done for the Association over this particularly difficult past year.

When one reflects back on the history of this great Association during the past 100 years you are left with incredible pride over what the staff and membership have achieved. Many times, there have been huge challenges but the fundamental need to educate the public about the importance of our forests to our environment and future has always driven us forward. Think back to the challenges that the Association's founder, Dr. Alan Beaven, faced travelling across the prairies in a railway car during the Great Depression to educate landowners about the importance of planting trees. With the current state of the environment and our planets changing climate our Association's mandate to educate the public about the importance of the trees is more critical than ever.

This will be a critical meeting for the Association. Several hard decisions may need to be made but I am confident that together we can set a strong and clear course for the Association's future.

John Dojack
President, MFA



Executive Director's Report

PATRICIA POHREBNIUK

The Association's strategic plan provided the foundation and focus for us to continue to serve our audiences through a variety of programs and services in 2018. Our vision is to raise the awareness of the important role of trees in our environment and to help inspire Manitobans to better care for the trees and forests in our communities and right across our province.

Please find below a summary of the activities undertaken in 2018 to support the objectives and priorities established by our organization.

Forest Resource Education - Increasing Our Knowledge and Understanding of Trees

Manitoba Envirothon – The Manitoba Envirothon is the core educational program of the Manitoba Forestry Association. The Manitoba Envirothon takes an interdisciplinary perspective in its approach to inspiring Manitoba youth to develop the skills needed to become involved in their community's environmental issues. Students are exposed to a variety of views and concepts relating to environmental issues and are also given the opportunity to experience a range of ideas, environmental conditions, geography, and cultures throughout Manitoba and North America.

2018 marked the first year, in the 22-year history of the program, that the provincial competition was hosted in a northern community, Churchill, Manitoba. One of the main goals of this initiative was to help promote our northern communities in terms of land-based learning, science education, entrepreneurship, travel opportunities, and career opportunities.

In 2018, 47 teams registered to compete at 5 Regional Events held across Manitoba, with 16 teams competing at the Provincial level.



Hosting this event in Churchill, would not have been possible without the financial support of the Government of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, University of Manitoba, Travel Manitoba, the Frontier School Division, Churchill Region Economic Development Fund, Community Futures Manitoba, Science Teachers Association of Manitoba and Titan Environmental Containment. Tremendous in-kind support was received by the community of Churchill and the many

businesses and organizations operating within the region. Our sincere thanks to the Frontier School Division and the Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee for overseeing the coordination of this event, without whom, this would not be possible. A complete list of supporters has been highlighted on page 14 of this report.

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. Facing funding constraints, the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre once again 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.



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

Community Engagement – MFA staff participated in seven educational outreach opportunities in the form of informational booths in different venues in both Winnipeg and in western Manitoba. In addition to social media activities, it is extremely important to maintain ties to the communities we offer our services in. The MFA continues to act as an informational hub for forestry related resources.

Private Land Resource Planning (PLPR) – Funding for our Private Land Resource Planning Program concluded in March 2017. Our Resource Extension Officer continued to provide extension and outreach services to private landowners across the province in a limited capacity.

Tree Planting and Forest Health – Growing Healthy Forests

Setting Down New Roots – The increased variety of species and stock types being offered through this program has greatly assisted landowners with their tree planting projects here in the province. The partnership with the Pineland Forest Nursery and other nurseries within Manitoba are key to the successful delivery of this program. The Birds Hill Forest Nursery

continues to provide a key distribution site, as well as, an accessible location for our customers right across the province, as well as, northern Ontario.

Corporate Tree Plantings – The MFA continues to work with several corporate sponsors on the coordination of tree planting initiatives within the province. These planting initiatives are tailor-made to meet the goals/objectives of the sponsor. Projects range from a staff-initiated planting to a full scale coordinated professional plant. We would like to thank the staff of Cummings Small Engine Services and RBC Dominion Securities for their volunteer efforts. We would also like to acknowledge the funding support received by the Batesville Living Memorial Program, RBC Dominion Securities, as well as, Carly Koppers, David Wood and Beth Thrall, through our Nature’s Real Estate partnership program!



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.

Our Thanks

The delivery of the programs and services of the Manitoba Forestry Association throughout the year would not be possible without the dedicated support of our board, staff, partners and our many volunteers. The time, knowledge and expertise of these individuals and organizations is absolutely critical to help us ensure we are continuing to meet our commitments as an organization.

To our funders, sponsors and members, your financial contributions allows our organization the ability to continue to meet the educational needs of students, educators, landowners, communities and members of the general public in Manitoba.

We offer congratulations to Kristen Malec, our Resource Extension Office, who accepted a new position with the Green Action Centre and to Glenn Peterson who retired from the organization in April 2018! We wish you both well in your new endeavors!

Please find highlighted, in our report, additional information on the programs and services delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association in 2018. We thank you for your support as we continue to strive to be your “go-to” forestry organization!

Our Programs

The goal of 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.

Manitoba Envirothon

For the past 22 years the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA), along with its partners and funders, have been the proud host organization for the Manitoba Envirothon. The Manitoba Envirothon, a core education program of the MFA is run by a Steering Committee, comprised of MFA staff and volunteers representing the many partners who are actively involved in the implementation of the program.

The Manitoba Envirothon provides high school students (Grades 9-12) from across Manitoba with a hands-on opportunity to learn about current environmental issues. The Manitoba Envirothon takes an interdisciplinary perspective in its approach to inspiring Manitoba youth to develop the skills needed to become involved in their community's environmental issues. This is done in a way that enhances existing curriculum for teachers and is based in experiential learning. Students are exposed to a variety of views and concepts relating to environmental issues and are also given the opportunity to experience a range of ideas, environmental conditions, geography, and cultures throughout Manitoba and North America.

2018 Theme

The theme topic for 2018: Climate Change in the North. This theme allowed students to explore general trends, scientific principles and issues surrounding climate change in the North. Topics of study included, guiding principles for informed climate decisions, complex climate interactions, and implications of a changing climate for the Arctic environment and its impacts. In addition to the theme resources developed, each school participating in Churchill received a copy of Lorraine Branson's book, Churchill Hudson Bay: A Guide to Natural and Cultural Heritage to study.



Regionals

In 2018, 47 teams registered to compete at 5 Regional Envirothon competitions that were held throughout the province during the weeks of April 16 to 20, 2018.

The MFA would like to express our sincere thanks to our regional partners for coordinating these very successful events and for their continued dedication to the program:

- Frontier School Division
- Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
- Manitoba Parks and Protected Spaces
- Riverbank Discovery Centre

In addition, two teams from Luther College High School in Saskatchewan participated in the Western Regional in Brandon, MB. Saskatchewan currently does not have a provincial Envirothon program, so in order to qualify to attend the NCF – Envirothon, the teams needed to participate in a regional or provincial event. NCF- Envirothon approved the participation of the Saskatchewan teams at the Manitoba Regional event. The Saskatchewan teams used the Manitoba Envirothon study materials and completed the same regional test as did the rest of the Manitoba teams. The Saskatchewan teams placed 9th and 11th overall.

Provincials

This year, for the first time in our 21-year history, the Manitoba Envirothon hosted our Provincial Competition in the northern community of Churchill, Manitoba. The goal was to offer teams, from across Manitoba, the opportunity to travel to Churchill to participate in a 4-day educational based life-changing experience in the sub-Arctic. In total, 16 teams competed in the competition which was hosted at the Duke of Marlborough School from May 24th-27th.



The intent of bringing the Envirothon to the North was multi-faceted. The main reasons for spearheading this event were:

- To showcase the beauty and uniqueness of the North.
- To show our northern youth that their regions are valued and worthy of hosting such an event.
- To promote our northern communities in terms of land-based learning, science education, entrepreneurship, travel opportunities, and career opportunities.

The coordination of this event would not have been possible without the leadership and commitment of the Frontier School Division (FSD) and the Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee.

Schedule of Events

Below is a schedule of events organized for the four-day event.

	Thursday May 24, 2018	Friday May 25, 2018	Saturday May 26, 2018	Sunday May 27, 2018
Morning	Travel from Winnipeg to Churchill (Charter)	Break-out Training Sessions (Duke of Marlborough School) Travel to Field Test site	Orals Preparation (Duke of Marlborough School)	Choose Your Own Adventure! (Venues throughout Churchill)
Afternoon	Tour of Everything In-depth, lengthy tour of Churchill and surrounding area. (Nature 1st Tours)	Field Test (Churchill Northern Studies Centre)	Orals Presentations/ Wind Up & Awards (Duke of Marlborough School)	Choose Your Own Adventure! (Venues throughout Churchill)
Evening	Official Welcome ceremony and Team Skits (Duke of Marlborough School)	Orals Training Session (Duke of Marlborough School)	Bonfire on the Bay (Outside of Duke of Marlborough School)	Travel from Churchill to Winnipeg (Charter)

Event Highlights

Competition Highlights

- Two planes were chartered to transport students and volunteers to Churchill. All ground transportation to and from the Churchill Airport, for all tours and transport to the trail test was provided by Nature 1st Tours.
- A total of 35 volunteers, from right across Manitoba, accompanied the teams and flew into Churchill for the event. An addition, 25 individuals from Churchill participated and volunteered at the event.



- Meals for the event were prepared by volunteers. All meal preparations were overseen and lead by two local teachers, Joanne Stover and Matthew Bunka, who volunteered their time for the event. All volunteers were required to take a turn in assisting with either meal preparation, serving and clean-up. Daily schedules were developed for the volunteers.
- Safety was the number one priority for all participants of the event. All students, advisors and volunteers participated in a Polar Bear Safety presentation when they arrived.
- A Tour of Everything was offered providing all participants and opportunity to view sights of interest included the Port of Churchill, Miss Piggy, the Polar Bear Holding Facility, local museums and gift shops, as well as, numerous local points of interest. One tour bus was even offered an opportunity to tour inside the Polar Bear Holding Facility, which is a very rare opportunity.



- The Churchill Northern Studies Centre very graciously hosted the 2018 Field Test. The Centre provided space to set up a command centre within the facility and provided access to their site to conduct the outdoor field test. Test stops were located both on the tundra and near access roads.
- The trail stop attendants were volunteers. Local volunteers were paired up with Envirothon volunteers where possible along the trail. This allowed for additional networking and knowledge exchange.
- Advisors acted as trail buddies and accompanied another team of students from a school other than their own around the field test. This



provided the advisors an opportunity to observe the field test in real-time, interact with volunteers and other advisors and share in the excitement of the competition.

- Highlights of the field test included:
 - Two Tundra Buggies were on-site, one was used as a field test stop the other, was used as a greeting/first-aid station for the day.
 - Carl, the Artic Hair, provided a visit to one of the test stops. Carl is a resident at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.
 - Local specimens were used for testing.
 - The field test was conducted under the close watch of armed Bear Guards, an in-kind service provided by the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.



- Friday evening, the students participated in orals training. A presentation on the topic of Citizen Science was provided by Leanne Fishback and Stephen Petersen from the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.
- Preliminary oral presentations were conducted in classrooms within the Duke of Marlborough School.
- In addition to the Envirothon participants, members of the local community were invited to attend the closing ceremonies for the program. A great response was received, as the auditorium was full. Closing remarks were given, sponsors and funders were acknowledged, team prizes were awarded, and the winner for the fundraising raffle was drawn. In addition, the audience was treated to a special performance by Rob Knaggs, a beluga cellist.
- A local student, Jillian Wokes, designed the event t-shirts. Jillian and her family were invited to the awards ceremony to receive a gift of t-shirts for her family. Jillian was invited on stage to look at the 'sea of blue' with her t-shirt design filling the theater. It was amazing, and incredible to honour a local artist in such a way.



- After the ceremonies concluded, Envirothon participants along with community members were invited to participate in a bonfire out on the bay, located behind the school. Local volunteers hosted the bonfire, as well as providing bear guard security.
- With the competition all completed, students, teacher and volunteers were offered the opportunity to participate in several pre-arranged activities which included: a tundra hike, an opportunity to be a scientist for a day at the Northern Research Centre, dog-sledding, a hike with Parks Canada, or making crafts (beading/making a dream catcher).



Northern Perspective

Many aspects of northern perspective and tradition were incorporated into this event.

- Inclusion of local youth performances
- Incorporation of traditional values: teachers/elders eat first
- Offered traditional food tasting at every supper meal: goose soup, caribou cubes, caribou jerky, baked bannock, fried bannock, muskox cubes, muskox jerky, Arctic char pipsi sticks, candied char
- Bannock made by local volunteers
- Involvement of local experts in student training sessions and testing
- Focus on local career awareness and opportunities

Event by Numbers

- Approximately 1500 volunteer hours given by the core planning committee
- Approximately 3500 volunteer hours given by additional volunteers (including local volunteers)
- Approximately \$150,000 in volunteer hours contributed to the event
- 16 communities from across Manitoba were represented
- 30 volunteers attended the event from across the province
- 25 volunteers participated from Churchill
- 80 high school students from across the province participated in the event
- 32 teachers from across the province participated in the event
- Charter costs totaled \$100,000
- 130 people participated in the Tour of Everything with Nature First Tours
- 166 books were purchased from Lorraine Branson, local author
- \$16,000 spent on local activities
- \$4500 given in local honourariums and facility costs
- \$6000 spent locally on event prizes and giveaways
- \$2500 spent in local restaurant
- \$10,000 spent locally on food costs
- 130 participants spent at least \$100 each = \$13,000 spent in local shops

- Approximately \$40,000 donated to our event from local partners (facilities, discounts, and promotional materials)

Additional Highlights

- Goose stew made by Junior Rangers
- Performance by Rob Knaggs- beluga cellist
- Locally made career bags for every student
- 2 Tundra Buggies on site for the field test- one used as a test stop
- 3 seals playing on the ice outside of the complex
- Carl the Arctic hare playing at the field test
- Training presentation by Leanne Fishback and Stephen Petersen on Citizen Science
- Career chomp meal invitations for 4 meals. Students had the opportunity to meet and converse with local Churchill professionals.
- Bonfire on the Bay hosted by local community members

Career Chomp Meals

Career opportunities in the North are incredibly varied and stand out as unique in many ways. Funding was received by Community Futures Manitoba Inc. to help showcase northern career exploration, particularly in the Churchill town and area. The activities proposed were designed so youth were exposed to northern career information multiple times throughout this event. Students had both formal and informal opportunities to engage with a large variety of local individuals, entrepreneurs, and organizations, allowing them to gain a much better perspective on what Northern Manitoba has to offer.

These activities included the Bonfire on the Bay, as well as, Career Chomp Meals where local entrepreneurs were invited to dine with the students.

Local businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs were invited to participate, including:

- Town of Churchill
- Churchill Northern Studies Centre
- Parks Canada
- Churchill Chamber of Commerce

Career bags were donated by the Town of Churchill. Many of the partners and local organizations donated career information and promotional items to the career bags for the students. Some additional items were purchased from local businesses. Every student also received a book by Lorraine Brandson, curator of the Eskimo Museum. The career bags were very much appreciated by the youth.

The Town of Churchill also gifted every one of our volunteers with backpacks. Teachers and volunteers were also gifted with Lorraine's book.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We would like to thank the 2018 Manitoba Envirothon Sponsors, Funders and Partners whose generosity helped us make this youth environmental education program a success.

LEGACY SPONSORS

The Government of Manitoba

- *Agriculture*
- *Sustainable Development*
- *Education and Training*

Manitoba Hydro

University of Manitoba

- *Clayton Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources*
- *Dr. David Barber Research Centre for Earth Observation Science*

Travel Manitoba

Frontier School Division

Churchill Region Economic Development Fund

Community Futures Manitoba

SUSTAINING PARTNERS

Lewis Instruments Ltd.

VIA Rail Canada Inc.

Science Teachers Association of Manitoba (STAM)

ENCOURAGING PARTNERS

Polar Bears International

Churchill Northern Studies Centre

Parks Canada

Nature First Tours

Town of Churchill

Junior Rangers of Churchill

Duke of Marlborough School

Assiniboine Park Zoo

Titan Environmental Containment

Partners of the 2018 Manitoba Envirothon

We would like to thank the 2018 Manitoba Envirothon Sponsors, Funders and Partners whose generosity helped us make this youth environmental education program a success

REGIONAL HOSTS

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Frontier School Division \ University College of the North
LaSalle Redboine Conservation District
Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch
Riverbank Discovery Centre



Final Standings

First Place Team

The team from **Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School** won this year’s Manitoba Envirothon. This was the first time this team had won a provincial event. The team included members: Deirdre Rooney, Andrea Baeza, Stephanie Atkins, Kinnon Lycan and Melissa Viera, along with advisors: Magda Kuber and Jamie Shuhyta.



Second Place Team

The team from **St. Boniface Diocesan High School** placed second at the event. The team included members: Michael Hughes, Andre Bancolita, Julian Bertazzo-Lambert, Danielle Mendoza, Matthew Wertepney along with advisors: Paul Grossman and Geoff Richardson.

Third Place Team

The team from **Swan Valley Regional Secondary School - Clean Pollution Team** placed third at the event. The team included members: Tiana Liske, Benjamin Logan, Hannah Thiessen, Amelia Riehl, Jessica Kovachik along with advisors: Jim Turner and Kari Goethe.



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 2018 NCF Envirothon was held at the Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho, July 22-28, 2018. The theme for this year's event was Western Rangeland Management: Balancing Diverse Views. The Manitoba Envirothon helps 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.



Although Manitoba did not clench one of the top spots, they competed well and made new friends during the weeklong competition! Thanks for being such wonderful ambassadors for our program and Province!

Thank you

In April 2018, Glenn Peterson retired from the MFA. Glenn joined the MFA as a full-time employee in 2012 following his retirement from the Manitoba Forestry Branch where he served as a professional forester. The Envirothon program had always been a career favorite of Glenn and his record as a dedicated volunteer began over 20 years ago with our beloved Jim Potton, the founder of the MFA's Envirothon program. He became the Envirothon's Coordinator in 2014 and we are most appreciative of his dedicated service and organizing skills for coordinating both Regional and Provincial competitions.

The MFA greatly appreciated the dedication and commitment of Glenn in the Envirothon over these past years. The MFA and Envirothon Steering Committee will miss Glenn in our future programming but sincerely wishes him all the best for a long and happy retirement!



Outdoor Education

Operation of our Forest Centres offers schools and Manitobans of all ages an opportunity to experience hands-on forest-based learning in the out-of-doors from historical resource management to identification of trees and forest ecosystems.

Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre

The Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre was operated on an appointment only basis from May to October 2018.

Volunteers were critical in providing assistance with educational programming. Many thanks to the MFA Board members, CIF members and Pineland seasonal staff who assisted in 2018!

Typically, 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. Unfortunately, due to budget and staffing constraints, no school programs were offered in the spring of 2018.

Scouts Canada (Kenke and Manitoba Council) utilized the site from June 22 to 25th, 2018 to host a training session for their leaders. A core leadership group remained on-site for the entire weekend and group leaders were encouraged to attend the day sessions scheduled on site. The Scouts are very interested in the use of the site for future programming.

A one-day program was conducted for McDonald Youth Services, a charitable organization providing support, care, and treatment for children, youth, young adults and their families, in August 2018. The group visited the site on August 1st and took part in a bannock bake and a guided tour of the trails and buildings.

The University of Winnipeg hosted their Forest Ecosystem Field Course at the site from August 20-23, 2018. Approximately 30 students and professors took part in the course.

Ongoing maintenance of the site was conducted throughout the summer by MFA staff and volunteers. An area in the old cedar bog along the Sagimay trail was cleaned up by staff and eastern white cedar were underplanted to renew the forest in this area.



Manitoba Heritage Trees Program

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.

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.

All potential heritage tree nominations are reviewed by the partners organizations and recommendations are forwarded to the Director of Sustainable Development for designation.

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.



The Morden Cottonwood

The following trees were designated as Heritage trees within this reporting period.

- **The Morden Cottonwood** (Record Category), Morden, Manitoba
- **The St. Francois Xavier Cottonwood** (Record Category), St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba
- **The Halfway Willow** (Historic or Culturally Significant Category), North of Trans-Canada Highway, 18.6 km West of Portage la Prairie
- **The Middle Gate Cottonwood** (Record Category), Armstrong Point, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- **Riverbend Crescent Crabapple Trees** (grove of 23 trees) (Historic or Culturally Significant Category), St. James (Bruce Park), Winnipeg, Manitoba

Community Engagement

Community engagement is achieved through educational and training opportunities for landowners, communities, and members of the general public. Through the celebration of forest related events and activities, such as National Forest Week and National Tree Day we're able to help increase the awareness of the many benefits that forests and trees provide.

MFA staff participated in seven educational outreach opportunities in the form of informational booths in different venues in both Winnipeg and in western Manitoba.

1. Woodlot Tour – August 29th, 2019
The MFA was invited to attend a University of Winnipeg Field Tour at the woodlot of Bob Austman in Piney, MB. Kristen Malec was invited to attend to showcase the woodlot management plan developed for Bob's property and the activities undertaken as part of the plan. She was also available to answer any woodlot/insect and disease related questions.



2. Informational Booths -Informational booths were set up at the following locations in 2018/19. Staff were on hand to promote our education programs, answer questions about tree planting and tree health, as well as, hand out seedlings:

- Cottage Country Lake and Cabin Show – March 23-25th, 2018
 - In addition to a booth, Patricia Pohrebniuk was asked to deliver 4 presentations on “How to Manage your Cottage Forest”, which included discussions on tree planting and maintenance, forest insects and diseases, as well as, how to be fire smart.
- National Forest Week Celebrations:
 - Richer, MB – September 23rd, 2018
 - Farmer’s Market in Steinbach – September 27th, 2018 and
 - Pineridge Hollow Farmer’s Market – September 29, 2018



- Association of Manitoba Municipalities – November 27 and 28, 2018
 - As a partnership with the Woodlot Association of Manitoba and the MFA, a booth was hosted at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. Focus of this booth was insect and disease control, safe handling and use of firewood, as well as, tree planting information.



- Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Meeting – December 10-11th, 2018
 - Focus of the display was to promote our Manitoba Envirothon program, as well as to provide information on forest health, insects and diseases, tree planting and seedling sales.

3. CIF Breakfast Meeting – November 28, 2018.

Kristen Malec provided a brief update on the program and activities of the MFA to members and guests in attendance at the morning breakfast meeting.

Private Land Resource Planning

The Private Land Resource Planning program promotes the wise management of private lands. This program has been empowering landowners to be stewards of their land by educating them about sustainable forest management through the creation of tailored management plans.

Though funding for this program ended in March 2017, PLRP staff continued 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

PLRP staff continued to provide support to Manitoba Christmas Tree Growers Association and Woodlot Association of Manitoba.

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

- North Central Forest Pest Workshop – September 25-27, 2019
Kristen Malec attended the symposium, which was held at the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, MB. The symposium focused on forest health issues facing the North Central portion of North America and attracted a number of professionals in the urban and commercial forest industry sectors, as well as, students, private landowners and other interest groups. Highlights of this conference include:
 - Forest Health Provincial and State Updates
 - Mountain Pine Beetle TRIA-Net
 - Climate Change and Forest Health
 - Elm Resistance to Dutch Elm Disease
 - Update in Oak Wilt Management
 - Drones in Forestry



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 landowners, 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, landscape stock or for Christmas trees.

The MFA's Setting Down New Roots program again delivered a successful 3-day seedling distribution at the Birds Hill Forest Nursery – May 10-12th, 2018, where approximately 90,000 plus seedlings were distributed to landowners across Manitoba and North Western Ontario. Approximately 300 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. 9,250 seedlings were marketed through this program in 2018.



Corporate Tree Plantings

Cummings Small Engine Service

Tree Planting Assiniboine Park – July 7th, 2018

The MFA teamed up with Cummings Small Engine Service to conduct a tree plant in Assiniboine Park on the 7th of July. Eleven Cummings employees assisted with the planting of 400 seedlings within the park.



Nature's Real Estate Program

Our goal through the **Nature's Real Estate** program is to plant trees here in Manitoba for every home sold. These efforts will help to raise awareness of the important role trees and forests play within our environment and within our province. In addition to the benefits new forests will have on air quality, they will also help reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, restore wildlife habitat and beautify denuded areas.

The trees planted through the **Nature's Real Estate** program will be established on both public and private lands. The species of trees planted will be determined by the goals of the planting project and the site conditions to ensure long-term success. A scale has been determined to identify the number of trees to be plant per square footage of home.

This program was co-created by our partner and local real estate agent – Carly Koppers.



June 16, 2018 – Little Mountain Sportsplex

June 2018 was the inaugural planting of the Nature's Real Estate program! Approximately 30 volunteers came to out to support Carly and the Nature's Real Estate Program and assist with the planting of 500 white spruce seedlings. Purpose of the plant was to provide shelter around the ball diamonds at this facility.



September 22, 2018 – Fort Whyte Alive

Approximately 25 volunteers were involved in morning plant at Fort Whyte Alive. 600 white spruce seedlings were planted on site. Purpose of the plant was to enhance a natural forest belt by underplanting and widening the existing forest cover.



We truly value our ongoing partnership with Carly Koppers ([@inspiringrealestate](https://www.instagram.com/inspiringrealestate)) and look forward to growing the Nature's Real Estate Program in the many years to come! Many thanks to all the volunteers who offered their time and to our dedicated sponsors – David Wood and Beth Thrall!

Batesville Living Memorial Program

Is coordinated through the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Since 1976, over 14 million seedlings have been planted through this legacy program.

September 22, 2019 – Selkirk, Manitoba

Fourteen staff from the RBC Dominion Securities planted 400 white spruce trees at the future home of Pawed Pals Animal Rescue just north of Selkirk. These trees will act as a shelterbelt around the future building and grounds of the centre. Kristen was responsible for coordinating the plant, delivering the trees and post-plant follow up.

The goal of this year's planting was to aid in aesthetically developing PPAR's new property. The intent is to use this development of the property to raise additional funds and volunteers for their new shelter facility. The trees will also provide shelter for the future facility, which will include a shelter building, outdoor exercise space, community gardens, picnic area, and walking trails for volunteer dog walkers. Planting lines were pre-determined, measured and marked. The planting area was ploughed and tilled prior to planting the trees. Trees were spaced 12 feet apart within rows and were planted in multiple rows to create a multi-row shelterbelt. In total, 10 rows of white spruce were planted.



October 3rd, 2019 – St. Andrews Airport

The remaining 1,253 seedlings were planted at the St. Andrews Airport by professional tree planters.

The goal of this year's planting was to provide shelter for a future walking path and baseball diamonds along the east edge of the airport. Due to the proximity of the airport to the community of St. Andrews, the walking path and sports areas will be well used. Once the trees are large enough and are well established, construction of the walking path and baseball diamonds will commence. The RM of St. Andrews and St. Andrews airport have been planting trees in this area since 2015. This year's tree plant was a combination of infill planting and planting of new shelterbelt rows.



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 – Website

www.thinktrees.org

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 Twitter Page:

@MBForestryAssoc

<https://twitter.com/mbforestryassoc>

Manitoba Forestry Association Instagram

@manitobaforestryassociation

Think Trees TV

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