



# 2019 Book of Reports

Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

Book of Reports Presented at the 2020 Annual General Meeting

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# 2019 Book of Reports

Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated

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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.

## 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

### Extension Officer

Kristen Malec

### Admin/Accounting Assistant

Melody Olenick

## 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

Michael Doig

David Flight

Christina McDonald

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 2020 Annual General Meeting.

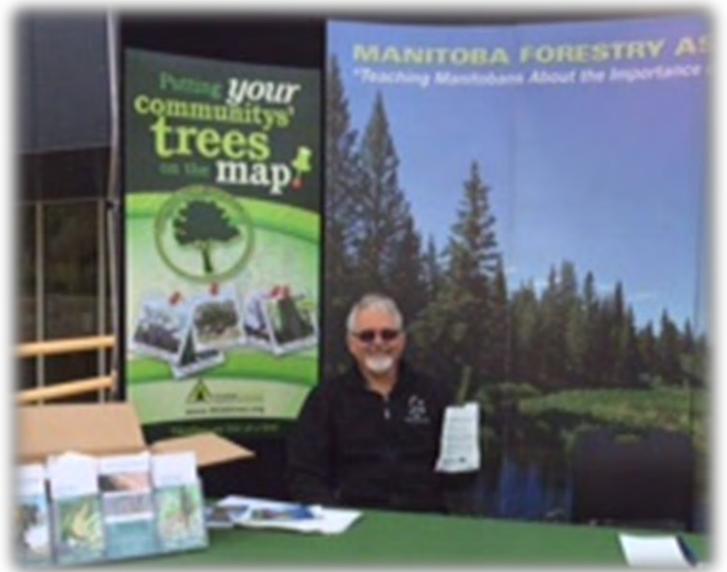
The 2019 Book of Reports and the 2020 Budget are attached and describe our activities this past year as well as our challenges.

This year the association in partnership with the Pembina Valley, La Salle Redboine and Whitemud Watershed Districts hosted several skills-based training workshops as a result of funding provided by the Sustainable Slopes Initiative under Manitoba's New Conservation Trust.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the cancellation of the Manitoba Envirothon program this year. However, I am very happy with the excellent work that the Envirothon Steering Committee has been doing to develop a new virtual Envirothon competition for 2021.

Over the past year, the Executive and Staff have worked on the association's ongoing challenges, as several difficult decisions and actions were required. Early in the year we reluctantly had to layoff our hard-working administrative assistant Melody Olenick. On behalf of the Executive and Executive Director I would like to thank Melody once again for all her excellent work over the years. You are dearly missed.

Other difficult decisions that were made included the sale of the association's office at 900 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, MB which has been completed. I would personally like to thank our Executive Director and the other members of the Executive for all their hard work and long hours emptying and cleaning out the office prior to the sale.



Other cost saving measures have included steps to divest the association's Interlake and Duck Mountain Forest Centres to local organizations.

With current funding constraints the association is facing additional difficult decisions which will be required during this next year. A critical part of our 2020 Annual General Meeting will be to discuss these next steps and chart a future course for the association.

Thank you all for joining us in this meeting we look forward to your participation and constructive input.

John Dojack  
President, MFA



## Executive Director's Report

PATRICIA POHREBNIUK

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In 2019, the Association reached a special milestone, our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To celebrate, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo featured on the front of our report was developed.

As one looks back on our history, the organization has been instrumental in the delivery of several programs and services over the years that have had positive impacts on our natural landscapes and the audiences served in the province.

In 2019, we remain committed to our vision 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 2019 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.

The 2019 Provincial Envirothon was hosted at Camp Assiniboia in Cartier, Manitoba from May 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This was the first time a provincial competition was hosted at this location. The site proved to be an excellent fit for the competition. The food, accommodation and facilities were all top-notch and based on the feed back received, those in attendance really enjoyed their stay.



In 2019, 42 teams registered to compete at 5 Regional Events held across Manitoba, with 13 teams competing at the Provincial level.

Hosting this event would not have been possible without the financial support of the Government of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, Canadian Kraft Paper Industries Ltd., GFL Environmental Inc., and the Science Teachers Association of Manitoba (STAM). Our sincere thanks to 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 13 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 several 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 several educational outreach opportunities in the form of informational booths, workshops and field days in different venues in both Winnipeg and across 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.

**Extension and outreach** continues to be one of the most important services provided by the association. Daily, MFA staff respond to phone, email and drop-in inquiries from educators, municipal representatives, members of the general public, private landowners, other non-profit organizations, etc. Requests for information range from insect and disease identification and control, sustainable forest management, species selection and tree planting, cutting and processing of firewood, contact information for arborists and other forestry related contractors, etc. Considerable staff time is dedicated to following-up and working with our audiences to ensure they have the information they require (in the form of informational brochures, links to resources and contact information, etc.) based on their needs.

### **Tree Planting and Forest Health – Growing Healthy Forests**

**Setting Down New Roots** – 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 acknowledge the funding support received by the Batesville Living Memorial Program, 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.

Please find highlighted, in our report, additional information on the programs and services delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association in 2019. 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.

## **Manitoba Envirothon**

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For the past 23 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.

### 2019 Theme

The theme topic for 2019 was *Environmental Awareness*. This theme allowed students to study how the environment, sustainability, conservation, and biodiversity are crucial to understanding how humans and our development may impact, shape and change the world around us. Topics of study included, biodiversity, biodiversity crisis and extinction, conservation and sustainability, conservation planning and protected area, as well as, local initiatives and case studies.

### Regionals

In 2019, 42 teams registered to compete at 5 Regional Envirothon competitions that were held throughout the province during the weeks of April 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. These 42 teams participated from 26 different schools. 19 school divisions and 1 private school were represented.

The MFA and Steering Committee 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:

- Brandon Riverbank Inc.
- Frontier School Division
- Manitoba Parks and Protected Spaces
- Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
- Pembina Valley Conservation District and La Salle Redboine Conservation District

Each regional organization was able to draw on a large pool of volunteers from local organizations and the surrounding community. In addition, many long-time volunteers representing dozens of organizations, associations and businesses within Manitoba also volunteered at the Regional events. A special thank you to the over 90 volunteers who assisted with this year's events.



### Provincials

The 2019 Provincial Envirothon was hosted at Camp Assiniboia in Cartier, Manitoba from May 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This was the first time a provincial competition was hosted at this location. The site proved to be an excellent fit for the competition. The food, accommodation and facilities were all top-notch and based on the feed back received, those in attendance really enjoyed their stay.

The coordination of this event would not have been possible without the leadership and commitment of the Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee.

### *Participants*

A total of 13 teams, representing 12 schools participated in the 2019 Provincial Envirothon Competition. These schools represented 10 school divisions and 1 private school.

### *Schedule of Events*

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

	<b>Thursday May 23, 2019</b>	<b>Friday May 24, 2019</b>	<b>Saturday May 25, 2019</b>
<b>Morning</b>	Committee Members arrive on-site for set-up	Break-out Training Sessions	Oral Presentation Preparation
<b>Afternoon</b>	Teams arrive at Camp Assiniboia	Field Test	Orals Presentations/ Wind Up & Awards Teams Depart
<b>Evening</b>	Supper, Official Welcome Ceremony and Team Skits	Orals Training Session	

### *Event Highlights*

#### *Registration/Opening Ceremonies*

- Team registration and opening ceremonies for the 2019 Provincial event were held in the Main Lodge. A welcome was extended by Manitoba Envirothon Co-Chair Byrnes Benoit. An acknowledgement of territory statement was provided, and a local Indigenous drummer was invited to perform for the group. Special recognitions were provided to the students, advisors, Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee members, volunteers, as well as partners and sponsors. Team introductions and skits capped off the formal portion of the evening. All were invited to participate in a trading session out by the bonfire in the main courtyard.



- Special recognition was provided to Jennifer Brooks, Program Manager with NCF-Envirothon, who was in attendance. Jennifer addressed the group and thanked the students and advisors for participating at this local level competition. She encouraged all teams to do well, with the goal of earning the opportunity to represent Manitoba at the upcoming international event, which was being held in Raleigh, North Carolina from July 28th to August 2nd, 2019. Being new to the national program, Jennifer was attending several state and provincial competitions to gain a better understanding of the various delivery models for these events and how these could assist in enhancing the national event. Jennifer had the opportunity to speak to many of the Steering Committee Members, oversee the coordination of the training, testing and orals components at the event and was provided with additional resource materials on the Manitoba Competition to take home.



### *Field Test Training*

- Training for the field test was conducted outdoors in the various shelters located around the property. Trainers are typically test writing committee members who are responsible for generating questions for both the regional and provincial events.

### *Field Test*

- The field test trail was located on the east side of the property, outside of the dike, along a forest trail the Camp uses for educational purposes. The field test configuration was a single trail of 15 stops, with two teams per stop.
- 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.
- The trail stop attendants were volunteers. Local volunteers were paired up with Envirothon Steering Committee Members where possible along the trail. This allowed for additional networking and knowledge exchange.



### *Orals Training Session*

- Friday evening, the students participated in orals training. A presentation on the usage of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems - Drones was presented by Jacqueline Monteith, Science Consultant with the Frontier School Division.

### *Orals Preparation*

- Students were provided two and a half hours to prepare their oral presentations. The orals format reverted to the previous preparation method of students receiving the orals presentation question at the event and having to prepare their presentations on poster paper provided. Teams prepared their orals presentations in locations (both indoor and outdoor) around the camp.



### *Orals Presentation*

- Preliminary oral presentations were conducted in outdoor shelters around the camp. Local volunteers were invited to act as judges.

### *Closing Ceremonies*

- Closing ceremonies for the program were held in the Main Lodge, right after the students had presented their formal presentations. Closing remarks were given, sponsors and funders were acknowledged, and team prizes were awarded. A special thank you was provided to Jennifer Brooks for attending our event. Jennifer encouraged all participants to follow the various NCF social media accounts and asked if the alumni in the crowd could provide a testimonial to NCF-Envirothon for their use to help promote the program.

### *Depart*

- After the conclusion of the Closing Ceremonies, schools were free to return home.

### *Volunteers*

- A special thanks to the over 40 volunteers who also commit time and energy to help make the Provincial event a huge success. These volunteers come from many areas: the local area, all levels of government, industry, different interest groups, retired teachers and professionals, Envirothon alumni, etc. They perform many duties, big and small and all contributed to the overall success of the 2019 event!



## *Thank You to Our Sponsors!*

We would like to thank the 2019 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

### **SUSTAINING PARTNERS**

Canadian Kraft Paper Industries Ltd.  
GFL Environmental Inc.  
Science Teachers Association of Manitoba

### **ENCOURAGING PARTNERS**

Vale

## *Partners of the 2019 Manitoba Envirothon*

We would like to thank the 2019 Manitoba Envirothon Sponsors, Funders and Partners whose generosity helped us make this youth environmental education program a success

### **REGIONAL HOSTS**

Pembina Valley Conservation District/La Salle Redboine Conservation District  
Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch  
Frontier School Division  
University College of the North  
Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre  
Brandon Riverbank Inc.



## *Final Standings*

### *First Place Team*

The team from **Westwood Collegiate** won this year's Manitoba Envirothon. This was the second time this team had won a provincial event. The team included members: Josh Bond, Bentley Turner, Brayden Lee, Nick Gamayao and Megan Smith, along with advisor: Dave Shoesmith.



### *Second Place Team*

The team from **Swan Valley Regional Secondary School** placed second at the event. The team included members: Aiden Maksymchuk, Callie Immerkar, Katie Smith and Brittan Yaschyshyn, along with advisors: Jim Turner and Kari Goethe.



**And to all the teams that competed, congratulations on a job well done!**

### ***Manitoba representation at North American Envirothon***

The 2019 NCF Envirothon was held at the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina from July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. The theme for this year's event was Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World. 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.

Manitoba placed 23rd at the event with a total of 54 teams participating. A big thank you to the team for being such wonderful ambassadors for our program and Province!



## **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 June to October 2019. The primary focus for the site, in 2019, was the delivery of tours and maintenance of the site

On August 21st, the MFA hosted a bus tour at the Centre which was coordinated by the University of Manitoba (U of M). This tour was part of a Sea Ice Symposium the University was hosting in Winnipeg that month. Approximately 100 delegates from around the world were in attendance for this one-day event. Forestry Branch was extremely supportive of the event and provided 5 volunteers, to assist MFA staff, and lead guided tours of the site that day. Topics of discussion included species identification, sustainable forest management, as well as, insect and disease control. A brief history of the site was also included. This was a great opportunity to encourage networking with U of M staff.



On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the MFA hosted a tour for employees of MB Infrastructure. Approximately 12 participants took part in the morning tour of the site. Topics of discussion included species identification, sustainable forest management, as well as, insect and disease control. A brief history of the site was also included. For the majority of the participants, this was their first time visiting the site. They were very interested in the site as a potential site for future training events.



To kick off National Forest Week, the SFDC hosted an Open-House on September 21st. Guests were invited to visit the site that day to walk the trails, explore the buildings on site and to learn more about the history of the site. The theme for 2019 National Forest Week was Diverse Outdoor Classrooms. In addition, Forestry Branch staff were invited to attend to set up a booth focused on insect and disease control.

The following weekend, September 28<sup>th</sup>, approximately 15 Nature Real Estate volunteers were on-site to plant 1,000 seedlings as part of a renewal plant.

Ongoing maintenance of the site was conducted throughout the summer by MFA staff and volunteers. Trails were brushed and widened, pruning of the trees along trails and around the site was undertaken to address potential risk. Ongoing mowing was also conducted. Six hundred red pine seedlings were planted in early July. These seedlings were part of both the Commemorative Tree Program and the Special Event Wedding Seedlings Program where couples purchased trees to be planted on behalf of their guests.

Volunteers were critical in aiding with education and outreach at the Centre. Many thanks to the MFA board, members, and Forestry Branch Staff who assisted in 2019!



## 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 Forestry for designation.

Program specific information relating to the Manitoba Heritage Trees Program was maintained on the MFA website at [www.thinktrees.org](http://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.

## Community Engagement

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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 six educational outreach opportunities in the form of informational booths in different venues in both Winnipeg and in western Manitoba.

MFA staff had participated in the following outreach opportunities:

### *Informational Booths*

Informational booths were set up at the following locations in 2019. Staff were on hand to promote our education programs, as well as provide information on and answer inquiries regarding forest health, insect and disease issues, tree planting options and sourcing of planting stock:

#### **Cottage Country Lake and Cabin Show – March 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

- Staff had taken part in the Cottage Country Lake and Cabin Show in March 2019. This continues to be a partnership between the Woodlot Association of Manitoba, Firewood Manitoba and the Manitoba Forestry Association.
- In addition to a booth, staff was again asked to deliver four 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.
- An Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) display was again a part of our booth. This display featured information on EAB, traps and samples which was of great interest to those attending the show.

### **Seedling Sales Event – June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Richer, MB**

- The MFA was invited to set up a booth in the town of Richer to sell seedlings and to provide information on insects and diseases. The event was advertised locally and the response was well received.

### **Manitoba Watersheds Conference – December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**

- This conference is typically hosted annually by the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association in Brandon, MB. This year, the conference and associated trade show was held in Winnipeg at the Canad Inns Polo Park. The MFA's booth provided a variety of information on insects and diseases, tree planting information, and information on the Manitoba Envirothon as there is a strong connection with the Conservation Districts and this program.

### ***Field Days***

#### **Spring Seedling Sales Event and Field Day – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

- This event was held in partnership with the Manitoba Christmas Tree Growers Association (MCTGA) and was held at the CD Tree Farm in Steinbach, MB. This event was open to both members of the MCTGA, as well as the general public. The morning focused on general question and answer discussions on species selection, spacing, shearing, marketing, and ongoing maintenance of a Christmas tree plantation/landscape nursery, including insect and disease control. The afternoon featured a tour of the farm highlighting the understory plantings of spruce in over mature stands and elevated plantings in low areas which typically would not be considered productive for a Christmas tree plantation. Options to purchase seedlings throughout the day were provided.



## Workshops

### Chainsaw Safety Workshop – October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- One skills-based training workshop was delivered in October 2019 at the Pumpkin Creek Ski Shelter in Roseisle, Manitoba. This was a partnership between the La Salle Redboine, Pembina Valley and Whitemouth Watershed Districts, and the MFA. A local arborist, Jake Goertzen, delivered the training for the day's session. The workshop focused on safe chainsaw use and maintenance. There was an indoor classroom session, as well as, an outdoor safe handling demonstration provided. Information packages were developed and included a variety of pamphlets on common insects and diseases, tree planting information and general woodlot management. A total of 17 people attended the event. Certificates of achievement were provided to the participants. As a result, two additional requests to host chainsaw safety training workshops have been received. Funding for the instructor, food, facilities, advertising, printing and staff mileage was provided through the Conservation Trust - Sustainable Slopes project.
- This workshop was advertised through the following websites: Pembina Valley Online, Portage Online, MFA/Pembina Valley Watershed District/Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Facebook pages. Newspaper ads were taken out in the Neepawa Banner and The Carberry News Express. The Manitoba Conservation District Association had also forwarded the posting to the CD managers, technicians, and administrators here in the province.



## Meetings

### CIF Breakfast Meeting – November 27, 2019

- Melody Olenick provided a brief update on the program and activities of the MFA to members and guests in attendance at the morning breakfast meeting. The event was held at the Qualico Family Centre in Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg.

## 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, 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

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

## 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 program, 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.

MFA staff continues to provide educational support 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 program, submission of information articles in partner newsletters and local papers, as well as, and working closely on joint initiatives with other like-minded organizations.

The MFA's Setting Down New Roots program again delivered a successful 2-day seedling distribution at the Birds Hill Forest Nursery – May 10-11th, 2019, where approximately 75,000 plus seedlings were distributed to landowners across Manitoba and North Western Ontario. Approximately 250 landowners purchased their planting stock through the MFA. MFA staff, board members and volunteers were on hand at this two-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.





### 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 Kupperts.

#### September 21, 2019 – Royal Canadian Mint, Winnipeg

- This year, Nature's Real Estate partnered with the Royal Canadian Mint to establish two shelterbelts on the north side of their property.
- MFA staff worked with the Royal Canadian Mint's Environmental Coordinator, Meghan Skorodenski, on acquiring the proper approvals for this initiative. The shelterbelts were spaced and marked by MFA staff. All planting holes were pre-drilled by a private contractor.
- Approximately 20 volunteers were involved in the morning plant on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. Fortunately, the volunteers did not mind planting in the rain and approximately 100 spruce and deciduous seedlings were planted that morning.
- Below is a link to the Instagram post for the event.  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/B2sLgLpAmf4/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/B2sLgLpAmf4/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
- A big thank you to the Mountain Forest Renewal Corporation in Swan River for the donation of the white spruce seedlings for this event!



**September 28, 2019 – Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre, Hadashville, Manitoba**

- The remainder of the trees committed through the Nature's Real Estate Program were planted at the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre, the Saturday of National Forest Week.
- Approximately 15 volunteers were on-site to plant 1,000 white spruce seedlings that morning. The seedlings were planted in an area which was harvest approximately 6 year ago. Due to heavy browse and ongoing drought conditions, very few of the seedlings previously planted survived. The goal was in to increase stocking levels in this area.
- Lunch was provided and the remainder of the day was open for volunteers and guests to explore the rest of the site and walk the trails.
- A big thank you to the Mountain Forest Renewal Corporation in Swan River for the donation of the white spruce seedlings for this event!



We truly value our ongoing partnership with Carly Kupperts (@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!

## 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](http://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/Uct4QkQM39hJFfrxHyr\\_uoQw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uct4QkQM39hJFfrxHyr_uoQw)