

Canadian Ecology Centre Hosts University Students

By John Pineau

Between February 24th to 27th, 25 students and faculty from both the Sustainable Forest Management Network and the University of Toronto's (U of T) Masters of Forest Conservation program, along with members of the Canadian Institute of Forestry visited the Nipissing Forest for a comprehensive forestry field tour. Members of the Sustainable Forest Management Network are graduate students from universities across Canada. The tour based out of the Canadian Ecology Centre, included visits to local sites, a series of presentations, and special Ecology Centre programs.



“This was the ninth annual forestry tour for the University of Toronto, and the second for the Sustainable Forest Management Network,” said Fred Pinto, Conifer Program Leader with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Southern Science and Information Section. “It was a great idea to combine the groups and allow them to interact and learn about some of the forestry research that is taking place across the country and to see the application of some of this research locally.”

The Network students arrived on Thursday, and enjoyed an afternoon of canoe paddle making, and evening presentations from research scientist Sylvie Gauthier of the Laurentian Forestry Centre covering forest fire cycles on the Clay belt, and Ben Kuttner of the University of Toronto, who described research on new ways to harvest black spruce in the Great Clay belt of Northern Ontario. On Friday morning, the Network students toured a Yellow Birch thinning and research sites that are attempting to quantify the growth response to different types of regeneration treatments in Orlig Township. The U of T students arrived for lunch, and the combined group then took part in a tour of the Columbia veneer mill near Rutherglen. Evening sessions included a GPS Treasure Hunt, and presentations on the Nipissing Forest by Peter Street, and on the Forestry Research Partnership by George Bruemmer. Several students also made additional poster presentations focusing on their own research projects. The evening was capped off with ‘the History of Mattawa in song and story by Bill Steer and John Pineau.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Southern Science and Information section was out in full force on Saturday to explain to the students the ecology of local forests and the reasons and methods used to select certain trees for harvest. Al Stinson, Fred Pinto, Brian Naylor, and Andrée Morneault of OMNR, along with Kandyd Szuba of Domtar, and Annie Morin of the Forestry Research Partnership led the session. Saturday evening included a special presentation of a computer model used to project harvest and regeneration many years into the future. This computer model called,



Patchworks, has been developed by Tom Moore from Deep River. The U of T students departed early Sunday for a visit to a rare red spruce (Ontario's third native spruce) stand just north of North Bay, while the Network students stayed on for an accredited GPS course with Bill Steer.

"I think everyone was very pleased with the tour," said Fred. I have already heard

from some of the participants that this has been one of the best field tours that they ever participated. With the cooperation of the all of the organizations involved in this event we were able to more effectively use our limited resources "