

Peterborough Old-Growth Forest Project

March – June 2019 News Bulletin



It was only a few months ago that Ancient Forest Exploration & Research (AFER) started a new project to locate and map old-growth forests in Peterborough County with the help of citizen scientists and funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. **From March to June, we did a lot of behind-the-scenes work, such as research, work planning and field survey design, but this month we have been able to start making connections with the community and other like-minded organizations through several outreach events and meetings.** We are excited to continue building relationships with the supportive groups and individuals of Peterborough County. Visit our new website for this project at PeterboroughOldGrowth.ca.

AFER in the News

Citizen scientists sought to help identify old-growth forests in Peterborough County

Peterborough Old-Growth Forest Project is also hosting free public tree identification walks

By **Bruce Head** - Published July 10, 2019



AFER in the Community

Wednesday Forest Walks in Jackson Park

When we think of old-growth forests, we typically visualize the enormous spruce, cedar and redwood trees of the west coast, but Ontario has old-growth forests too! And amazingly, there are old-growth forests right here in Peterborough's Jackson Park, where some trees are over 250 years old. To raise awareness of these incredible ecosystems, we started [Wednesday Forest Walks](#) in Jackson Park at the beginning of May, which will continue every other week until

the end of October from 5:30pm-7:00pm, weather permitting. Stay tuned for special guests!



Carling Dewar (AFER's Forest Ecologist & Public Outreach Coordinator) talks about the old-growth northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) - eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) forest in the background. Photo by Darren Smith.

Collaborations

- Attended the [Kawarthas Naturally Connected](#) Community Meeting
- Worked with the [Kawartha Wildlife Centre](#) to build homes for wildlife at three schools across Peterborough County - [check out the full story here!](#)
- Market Days: attended the 1st Peterborough Downtown Farmer's Market
- Attended GreenUP Ecology Park's Annual Spring Plant Sale
- Learned how to collect lichen with Mireille Martel
- Were interviewed by Trent Radio (92.7 CFFF-FM) - stay tuned for an interview about our walks!

Thanks to everyone who has supported us so far!



AFER staff at the GreenUP Ecology Park's Annual Spring Plant Sale. Left: Carling Dewar (Forest Ecologist & Public Outreach Coordinator); right: Laura Collins (Project Facilitator & Forest Ecologist).



Lichen technician Mireille Martel looks for lichen species on the bark of an eastern hemlock. Some species only grow in mature and old-growth forests, such as the endangered [Pale-bellied Frost Lichen](#).

Recent Forest Visits

- [Kawartha Land Trust's Jeffrey-Cowan Forest Preserve](#)
- Stewart's Woods (an Otonabee Conservation property)
- several forest stands in the Catchacoma area

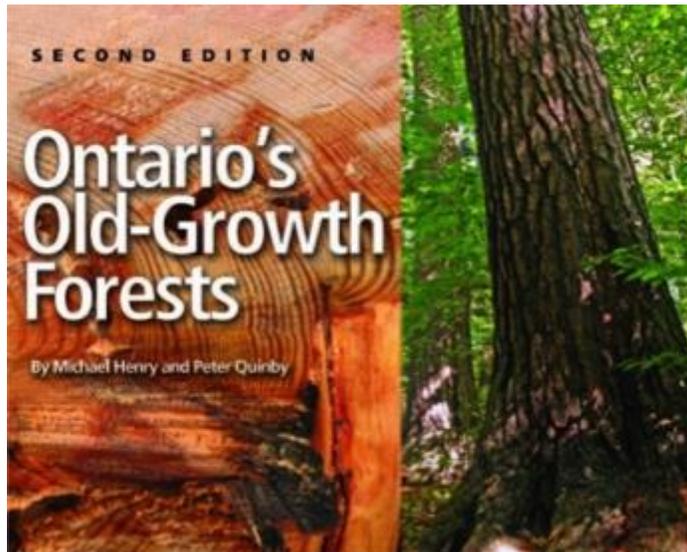


One forest in the Catchacoma area rewarded us with a gorgeous lookout where we spotted a moose!

This was taken near the top. Photo by Dr. Peter Quinby.

Ontario's Old-Growth Forests, 2nd Edition

Interested in exploring old-growth forests? Check out our book, [*Ontario's Old-Growth Forests Second Edition*](#), available for advance order at amazon.ca (release date: late-2019). You can also check your local library for the first edition. In addition to providing maps and directions to old-growth forests across Ontario, this book explains the basic principles of forest ecology, provides interesting facts about different forest species, and discusses past and present threats faced by our native forests.



Volunteer With Us!

Looking to get more involved in the community? Want to explore beautiful forests? Come volunteer with us! **Whether you're interested in assisting with forest walks, outreach event support, research, or helping with forest surveys—we want you!** Contact us today at info@ancientforest.org for details.