

2024 ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN RENFREW COUNTY FOREST

PREPARED BY L. ROSE, R.P.F., ON FEBRUARY 10, 2025

HARVEST

Timber sales for 2024 harvest activities were advertised in October 2023. Successful bids were received for all five sales. A summary is provided in Table 1.

Harvesting activities took place mostly in winter and fall 2024, due to species at risk timing restrictions. One operation occurred in May. Ruby, a two year contract, finished in early 2025 and some revenue will apply to that year. Approximately 20 local residents were employed on the RCF in 2024¹, on tendered harvest operations, cutting and skidding or forwarding wood, building roads, processing timber on site, supervising operations, and hauling logs to mills. Most wood is delivered to local mills, which are an important employer in many communities.

County of Renfrew staff completed all planning (timber cruising, analysis, prescription writing), layout, tree marking, tendering, wood measurement and operations monitoring activities.



Figure 1. 16% of volume harvested from Budd Mills Tract was in red pine poles

Table 1. Summary of 2024 Harvest Activities in RCF

Tract (DPF)	Harvest Type and Details	Area (ha)	Volume (m3)	Revenue (\$)
Budd Mills (01-24)	Red Pine Plantation	50	4,333	\$ 194,985.46
Killaloe (02-24)	Red Pine Plantation/Spruce/Poplar	20	1,745	\$ 37,893.77
LeClaire (03-24)	Red Pine Plantation	7	597	\$ 17,372.22
Petznick Lake (04-24)	Red Pine Plantation	13	1,105	\$ 41,994.26
Ruby (05-24)	Natural Mixedwood	64	5,029	\$ 54,496.62
Total for 2024		154	12,809	\$ 346,742.33

RENEWAL & MAINTENANCE

In 2024, invasive species control measures occurred, and progress was made towards renewing pine in the Beachburg Tract. \$13,350 was spent on these activities, in addition to several in-house initiatives.

¹ During active operations, employed by successful bidders.

Table 2. Summary of 2024 Renewal and Maintenance Activities

Activity	Tract Name	# Unit	Cost (\$)
Tending of natural white pine seedlings	Beachburg	1 ha	In-house
Tending of butternut seedlings grown from seed of trees tolerant of butternut canker	Kennelly	<0.5 ha	In-house
Garlic mustard control by hand-pulling	Centennial Lake, Kennelly	<0.1 ha	In-house
Wild parsnip control with herbicide	Ruby, Kennelly, Pershick, Golden Lake	<0.5 ha	\$2,500 (excludes HST)
Locust control with brushsaw	Pershick, Beachburg	1.5 ha	In-house
Chemical site preparation	Beachburg	25 ha	\$10,850 (excludes HST)

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Opportunities are taken to positively promote sustainable forest management that occurs on RCF, as well as in Renfrew County as a whole, when staff time permits.

- Staff delivered several presentations about Renfrew County Forests and the importance of the forest sector to our area, including to students at the University of New Brunswick (virtual), at the annual Forests Ontario Conference, the Kawartha Lakes Ontario Woodlot Association Expo, and the [Scaling Up](#) conference in Ottawa.
- Brazilian forestry delegates were toured around recent operations on Renfrew County Forest in June.
- Thanks to a donation from local sign producer Precision Textiles and content development assistance from the Algonquins of Ontario, new educational signage was installed on trails at Beachburg Tract.
- Local outreach activities included:
 - o Five classroom visits
 - o A career fair (World of Choices for grades 8-12)
 - o Keynote speech at Jill of all Trades event for 100 high school girls at Algonquin College
 - o An invasive species walk with the Youth Rangers on the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation
 - o Three bus tours brought 115 local high school students to managed forest areas and mills, learning about forestry and related careers. Partners for these tours included NRCan (Petawawa Research Forest), Bancroft Minden Forest Company, Shaw Lumber, Murray Brothers Lumber Co. and Lavern Heideman & Sons. Funds were provided by Forests Ontario.

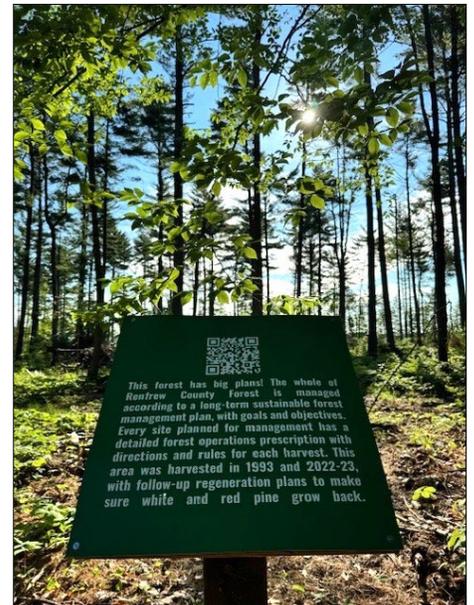


Figure 2. New educational signage at Beachburg Tract



Figure 3. Students from Barry's Bay on a forestry tour

OTHER

In addition to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification that Renfrew County Forest has held since 2009, the County Forests are now Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified.

Ongoing feedback was sent to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in response to final protection measures for Black Ash and the impact these measures will have on private land forestry. Other advocacy efforts included comments on Eastern Wolf federal protection, support for biomass projects in light of more pulpwood mill closures and communications with Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) regarding a campaign to create a park in the northern three townships of Renfrew County.

The [By-Law to Prohibit Certain Activities on County of Renfrew-Owned Forests](#) (previously By-law 02-09, now known as By-law 79-24) was updated.

Issues related to public use of RCF continue to rise: dumping (Beachburg, Pershick), unauthorized tree cutting (Brudenell), out-of-control bonfires (Golden Lake, Pershick) and encroachment issues (Ireland South, Centennial Lake) occupied significant staff time in 2024, in collaboration with law enforcement officers. Other new and unique issues included the discovery of cremated human remains (Douglas) and uncertainty about legal access (Centennial Lake).

There were no new major forest health issues in 2024. Cedar Leafminer, a native pest, continued to cause defoliation in some areas of the County. Emerald Ash Borer is well-established in most parts of the County now, but more visible along major roadways. Staff treated some healthy ash trees at the County Administration Building and Miramichi Lodge with TreeAzin in hopes of protecting them. Needlecast was observed in mature white pine, particularly at the Beachburg Tract. Staff completed informal monitoring for hemlock woolly adelgid (another invasive forest pest present in Ontario but not yet confirmed in Renfrew County) on several RCF Tracts and at Shaw Woods. Staff from the Forest Gene Conservation Society collected scions from butternut trees on RCF that show signs of resistance to butternut canker, a non-native pathogen decimating Ontario's butternut population.



Figure 4. County staff injecting TreeAzin into an ash tree at CAB for protection from Emerald Ash Borer