

Memorandum of Understanding

Between: **Eastern Ontario Model Forest**
 10 Campus Drive
 Kemptville, Ontario
 K0G 1J0
 Tel: 613-258-8241

And: **The Corporation of the Town of Oakville**
 1225 Trafalgar Road
 Oakville, Ontario
 L6H 0H3
 905-845-6601ext 3395

Overview of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) works with government, landowners, industry, community forests, First Nations and other stakeholders to develop new ways to sustain and manage forest resources. In 2000 the EOMF started working with private landowners and community based forests promoting sustainable forest management through Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Participants carefully manage their forests for economic and social benefits while maintaining the ecological integrity of the forest community.

Forest certification is a process designed to encourage the sustainable management of forests throughout the world. Independent auditors evaluate forest stands to determine whether their owners are complying with sound forestry standards. Owners who meet the required standards will have their woodlots certified as "well-managed." This label provides assurance to both the woodlot owners and consumers of wood products that their forests are being well managed. The Forest Certification Program of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest provides private forest owners and community-based forests affordable access to independent third party evaluation and certification of their forests and forest management practices.

To meet the requirement for a legally incorporated body, the Eastern Ontario Model Forest will hold the **Rainforest Alliance issued Type 1 Group Management FSC Certificate (RA-FM/COC 000-232)** on behalf of all partners in the Program. Upon certification, members of the program who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the EOMF will be permitted to use the Forest Stewardship Council logo to market their timber and promote their participation as Forest Stewardship Council Certified.

www.eomf.on.ca

Overview of the Town of Oakville

The Town of Oakville, established in 1857, sits on the north shore of Lake Ontario and is home to over 182,520 residents and close to 8,000 businesses. Covering an area of 138.88 km² (53.62 sq mi), Oakville is committed to practicing and promoting environmental stewardship. The town owns 281 woodland parks (south of Dundas St.) covering 848 hectares (2,095.45 acres). Of these there are 158 woodland parks which are greater than 0.5 ha in size and 123 woodland parks less than 0.5 ha in size comprised of 708 forest compartments. The park properties range in size from 111 hectares at Sixteen Mile Creek Trail to 0.004215 hectares in a woodland property not named, located at the rear of 2455 Deer Run Ave, near Aspen Forest Park.

Throughout these woodlands there are approximately 44,000 ash trees, in addition to the approximate 14,500 ash trees located on the town road allowance and active parks, which are currently being managed for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. Encompassing over 300 km's of trails, the town's woodlands are open to many forms of recreation, including hiking, running, biking, fishing, skiing, and nature appreciation. The woodlands are managed by Town Forester or designate within the Parks and Open Space Department, Forestry Section. The management goal for the Town of Oakville's woodlands is to promote and maintain healthy, diverse forest ecosystems, which will provide environmental, ecological, social and cultural benefits.

'According to the National Ecological Framework of Canada, Oakville is situated in the Lake Erie Lowland Ecoregion of the Mixedwood Plains Ecozone (Environment Canada 2005). This zone is unique to Southern Ontario, and the ecological conditions are similar to other municipalities such as Toronto, Windsor, and Niagara Falls. The mean summer temperature is 18°C and the mean winter temperature is -2.5°C. The mean precipitation ranges from 750 to 900 mm, with no distinct dry period. In the ecoregion, the bedrock is carbonate-rich and the most common soils are Clayey Gleysolic and Gray Brown Luvisolic. East of the Niagara Escarpment, there are many levels, fine-textured lacustrine deposits, with some sandy to loamy till deposits as well. In Oakville, sandy to loamy soils are generally found between the Lakeshore and the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). North of QEW until Dundas Street West, the soil texture changes from silt clay to clay. Common tree species located in woodlands in the region include sugar and silver maple, beech, white and red oak, shagbark hickory, black walnut, butternut, red and black ash, balsam poplar, black cherry, bitternut hickory, and tulip tree. This species composition is often referred to as Carolinian forest and in Canada is only found in Southern Ontario.

Common wildlife species include white-tailed deer, chipmunk, cardinal, screech owl, green heron, and pileated and red-bellied woodpecker. [...] Oakville's southern border is adjacent to Lake Ontario, and the city has two major valleys bisecting it in a north-south direction: Sixteen Mile Creek, which has steep, well-treed walls, and Bronte Creek. There are also several minor valleys and tributaries: Fourteen Mile Creek, Joshua's Creek, McCraney Creek, Taplow Creek, Glen Oak Creek, Osenego Creek, Shannon Creek, Munn's Creek, Morrison Creek, Sheridan Creek, Sheldon Creek, Wedgewood Creek, and both the upper and lower Morrison Creek systems'
- UFSMP et. al. 2008.

The Town of Oakville is divided into 11 Land Use types which consist of: Woodlands, Open Space, Parkway Belt, Public Use, Agriculture, Residential High Density, Residential Medium Density, Residential Low Density Employment, Industrial, and Commercial. The woodlands land use type of 848 ha, has approximately 883,900 trees, having a density of 972 trees per hectare (UFORE Report et. al. 2006).

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest and The Corporation of the Town of Oakville agree with the following:

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest agrees to:

1. Provide the contact person with a current copy of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Standards for forest management.
2. Provide the contact person with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest Policies and Procedures Manual for the purpose of Forest Stewardship Council certification.
3. Provide the contact person with lists of forest workers, sample agreements and contracts for forestry service providers – when requested.
4. Provide the contact person access to educational opportunities through regular workshops on forest related topics.
5. Maintain a binder with a copy of the Forest Management Plan, MOU and Operating Plans for properties included in the certified pool, as required to manage a Forest Stewardship Council certificate. The EOMF will maintain relevant records of individual properties as required to meet FSC certification
6. Schedule annual site visits to all "active" properties with a designated representative for the purpose of ensuring all activities and operations meet the standards for FSC certification.
7. Notify the contact person if there has been non-compliance with this agreement, and outline the steps necessary to re-establish compliance. Designate an Eastern Ontario Model Forest contact person for FSC certification compliance purpose.

8. Invoice for their annual contribution towards the Eastern Ontario Model Forest – Forest Certification Program – Long Point Conservation will be considered a Large Community Forest by category and will pay an annual fee of \$6000. This fee is to offset the annual cost of the Rainforest Alliance audit and administration costs incurred by the Eastern Ontario Model Forest to manage the FSC certificate. This fee is set by the Certification Working Group and reviewed annually.
9. The Eastern Ontario Model Forest will provide access to a confidential report written by Rainforest Alliance outlining conditions to maintain the Eastern Ontario Model Forest FSC certification. This report will be reviewed to assess whether the audit findings meet the Forest Stewardship Councils certification standards.

The Corporation of the Town of Oakville agrees to:

1. Ensure that all forest management activities carried out on the properties under their direction is in compliance with the forest management plan and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest – Policies and Procedures Manual and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Standard.
2. Warrant that the Town is the registered owner of the property, and has the absolute right to enter into this agreement, and that the boundaries of the property are known, not in contention, and that timber harvesting and tree planting is legally permitted.
3. Notify the EOMF contact person if there are scheduled changes with planned forestry activities. Grant access to the property to the EOMF or its forest management contractors to review compliance of the forest management plan and activities and the certification standard
4. Costs such as: forest management planning, tree marking, boundary establishment and forest harvest monitoring, will be the responsibility of the Town.
5. Pay an annual fee of \$6000 to the Eastern Ontario Model Forest to assist with the cost of the EOMF forest certification program responsibilities and administration – this fee is set by the Certification Working Group. Provide the Eastern Ontario Model Forest with an annual report of activities including annual harvest volume, activities and issues.
6. Take prompt actions to rectify any non-compliance as a result of forest operations and notify the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.
7. Notify the EOMF in writing 30 days prior to removing the forest from the certified pool
8. Have an opportunity to designate a contact person to assist the Eastern Ontario Model Forest – Forest Certification Program with input, guidance and direction through their representation on the EOMF Certification Working Group

Furthermore, it is agreed by the Eastern Ontario Model Forest and The Corporation of the Town of Oakville that:

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest is not liable for any injury or damages that may be incurred by any forest workers during the duration of this forest certification program.

The Corporation of the Town of Oakville is not liable for any injury or damages that may be incurred by Eastern Ontario Model Forest staff, contractors or volunteers during the duration of this forest certification program.

This agreement shall remain in effect for the term of the forest certification program or until a written request for removal is received by the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest will keep all records, forest management plans and timber sale details confidential and will not distribute any sensitive information.

The Corporation of the Town of Oakville

Name Signature Date

Name Signature Date

Eastern Ontario Model Forest:

Name Signature Date