

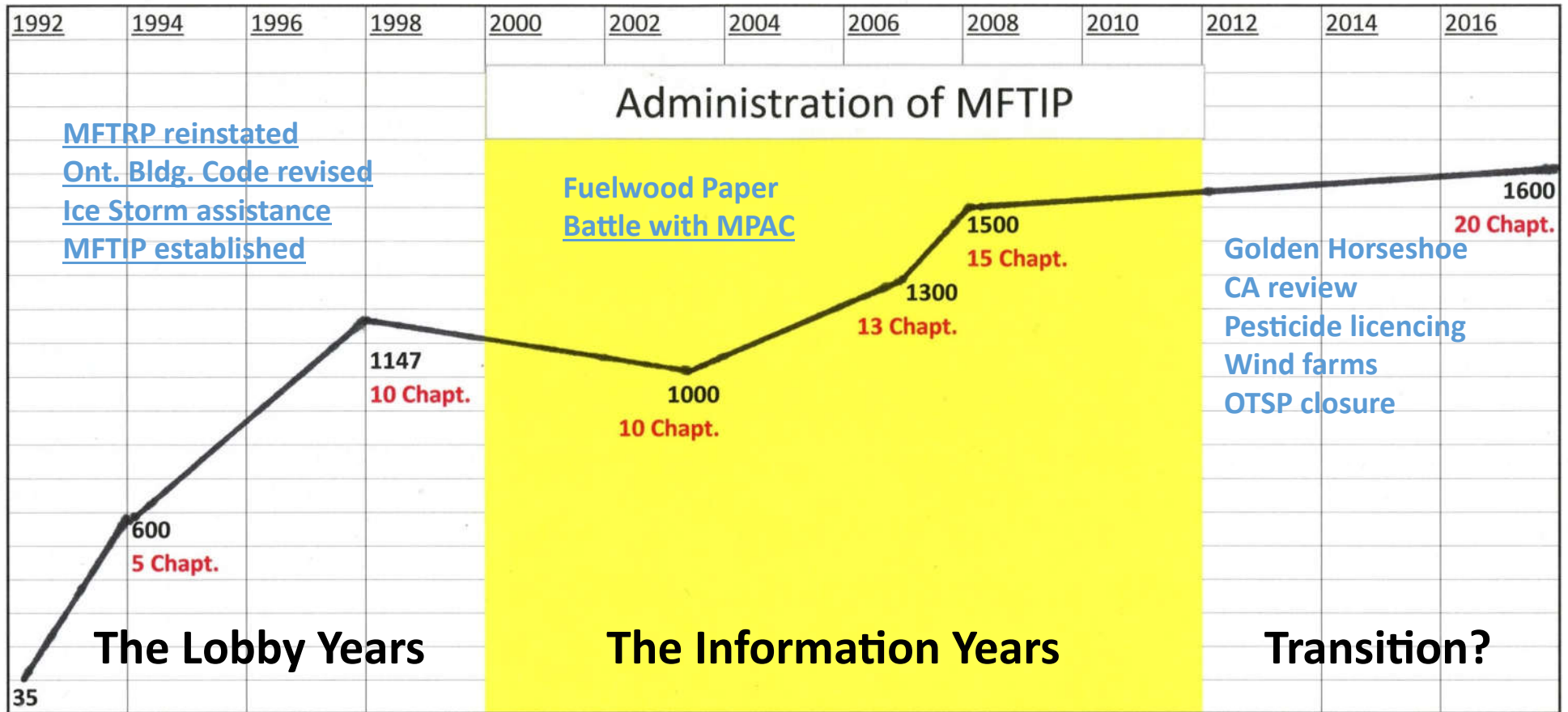


Ontario Woodlot Association

A Look Back,

A Glimpse Ahead

Looking Back:



OWSOA Position on the Issues — Great Reasons for Joining OWSOA!

Managed Forest Tax Rebate Program

OWSOA believes that forested land should have its own separate category within the assessment system to encourage landowners to maintain their land in forest cover for ecological, commercial and aesthetic reasons. OWSOA strongly recommends that woodlots be treated equitably under *the Assessment Act* if private land forestry is to survive in Ontario.

Amendments to the Trees Act

OWSOA supports conservation and woodlot management and the need to amend *the Trees Act* to address urban concerns, but the rural community believes it is served under the present Trees Act.

Ontario Building Code (OBC)

OWSOA feels the current changes to the Code requires farmers to overbuild and is an unnecessary, wasteful practice of a precious resource.

Sewell Commission on Planning and Development

OWSOA believes proposed changes to the Planning process, regarding no development permitted in significant woodlots will severely restrict private landowners' rights to use their property.

Old Growth Strategy

OWSOA supports the principle of biodiversity and the need to maintain old growth forests, however regulations on private land are based on the assumption that government considers itself a better custodian than the landowner. The Association feels that the public concern for the preservation of old growth forest is best addressed through public lands.

Wetland Policy

OWSOA recognizes that wetlands are essential ecosystems that provide benefits to water quality, flood control and protect soil erosion. When private land activities are restricted there must be financial compensation for the loss of rights. ❌

As a member...

▶ you receive the association's informative quarterly newsletter, the *S&W Report*, and the monthly e-letter, News From Around the Woodlot. They provide practical information on all aspects of woodlot management, as well as news about people, events and issues affecting the management of private forests.

▶ you have access to a variety of fact sheets and other information about natural resources. In addition, you don't want to miss the opportunity to participate in one of the many workshops and events provided by our Chapters.

▶ you can register for a login and password at www.ontariowoodlot.com which will allow access to a wide variety of information, including the ability to download full-volume back issues of the *S&W Report*.

▶ you strengthen our collective voice as the advocate of private woodlot owners.

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2018

Why OWA Membership is Important: (based on a 2017 Limestone Chapter survey)

Out of 45 respondents, the scores were:

For the information	73%
To support the OWA vision	70%
To support OWA advocacy	70%
For the social aspect	46%

OWA Advocacy is not Easy Because:

It requires consensus.

You have to consider every word.

It's a time-consuming process.

Some issues are local or regional.

We won't win very often.

Our staff doesn't have time.

Why is it Important?

1. That's what makes the OWA unique.
2. Ontario forests are in the spotlight.
3. Challenges to our forests are mounting.
4. Only 1 in 80 Ontarians is a woodlot owner.

2. The Good News:

The OWA is:

1. Advocating in a more structured manner
2. Increasing its membership (slowly)
3. Increasing its readership
4. Adding advertisers and sponsors
5. Reducing its deficit
6. Developing new relationships (OFAH, DU)

A Glimpse Forward: Short Term

1. New membership categories (student, etc)
2. More visible advocacy (website, TOW, etc)
3. More partnerships (FOCA, research community)

Longer Term?

1. The Ontario Woodlander in colour and available to the public by subscription.
2. The OWA will have sponsored programs.
3. OWA membership will include HST.
4. Chapters/OWA collaboration on pilot projects.
5. 10K+ MFTIP holders will be OWA members!

Future OWA Members?

