

Forest Fire Facts

The Ontario Forestry Association believes forest fire prevention is still a major factor in protection of the environment. There are many reasons to protect forests from fire. They provide scenic beauty, oxygen for the air we breathe, clean water, wildlife, recreation and fibre. Fires can destroy all

RESCUE BREATHING (MOUTH-TO-MOUTH)
THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

Start immediately: The sooner you start, the greater the chance of success.

Open airway by lifting neck with one hand and tilting the head back with the other hand.

Pinch nostrils to prevent air leakage. Maintain open airway by keeping the neck elevated.

Seal your mouth tightly around the victim's mouth and blow in. The victim's chest should rise.

Remove mouth. Release nostrils. Listen for air escaping from lungs. Watch for chest to fall.

REPEAT LAST THREE STEPS TWELVE TO FIFTEEN TIMES PER MINUTE. IF AIR PASSAGES ARE NOT OPEN: Check neck and head positions, CLEAR mouth and throat of foreign substances.

For infants and children, cover entire mouth and nose with your mouth. Use small puffs of air about 20 times per minute.

USE RESCUE BREATHING when persons have stopped breathing as a result of: DROWNING, CHOKING, ELECTRIC SHOCK, HEART ATTACK, SUFFOCATION and GAS POISONING.

Don't give up. Send someone for a doctor. Continue until medical help arrives or breathing is restored.

these. Pay cheques, taxes and economic development come from forest resources. Their loss affects us all. Even though fire was a part of the "natural" environment man can ill afford to let it run wild today.

FOREST FIRES IN 1970

The number of forest fires in 1970 was 1,236. These fires burned 56,155 acres of forest land. The number was slightly below the ten year average and the acreage burned was well below average. By size the fires averaged 45 acres which was the second worst since 1961 when the average was 908 acres. Most of the acreage burned was attributed to lightning fires in 1970 but only 33 percent of the fires were lightning-caused. Even so this was the highest since 1961. Forest recreationists were the major cause of forest fires in 1970.

1971 — There have already been over 600 forest fires in Ontario this year. Several towns have been threatened and there has been heavy loss of timber and facilities. The effects of forest fires on logging operators has been serious. In one case cutting plans for the coming year have had to be changed as fire destroyed the crop to be harvested. Expenditures for roads and other investments in planning for the cut have been lost. These figures do not show up in fire statistics but are large and present a hardship of large proportions.

PREVENTION

We could still have a major conflagration in Ontario's forests. The care of all is needed. Though it seems "old fashioned" to some, the need to chaperone cigarettes, matches, campfires and other fire materials is still important today. It seems strange that in this day of

protest and concern the environment there are those who protest others do while contributing to our problems themselves. There is a need for individual action. What I do to help care for the environment? Forest FIRE A USER TOOL

Forest fire prevention was one of the environmental programs aimed at the general public. It continues to be an important aspect of natural resources education. Just as knives are used carelessly can cause death and injury so, a forest fire can be a destroyer, a killer and a polluter of the air, water and soil. But like the trained surgeon, the forest fire can be a beneficial tool in the hands of qualified foresters.

Fire is a part of the natural world. Lightning strikes, volcanic eruptions and escaping embers of primitive fires can cause forest fires of large proportions in years by. Many of our forest stands are the result of past fires. The fire can clear the ground for seeding and expel seeds from cones which are otherwise reluctant to open.

One should not generalize about forest fires however. Some burn with intense heat, travel fast and higher in the vegetation than others. Only experts know when and how to achieve the desired results of burning and they will hasten to tell that there are still many problems encountered in "controlled burning". Forest fires of any kind some damage to the affected but, strange as may seem, the good under proper management outweigh the harm.

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Upper Canada's First Paper Mill 1826

Ontario's paper industry began with the opening in 1826 of a paper mill in Crooks' Hollow, then "the latest manufacturing centre in the Western Province." The community was acting as secretary for a meeting held in Dundas to promote the establishing of domestic industries, particularly paper mills. He continued this support in the columns of his weekly newspaper, The Colonial Advocate.

During the next few years economic conditions became increasingly favourable for the development of Upper Canada's industries. In 1825 the British Parliament passed a statute which became effective the following year and imposed a high tariff on most imports, including paper, into Canada. A rapidly expanding market was a further inducement for the entrepreneur.

The increase in the price of paper which resulted from the tariff spurred Mackenzie on in his efforts to promote the paper industry. In December 1825 he called a meeting of

main consumers of paper, provided the chief impetus in overcoming these obstacles. As early as 1821, William Lyon Mackenzie was acting as secretary for a meeting held in Dundas to promote the establishing of domestic industries, particularly paper mills. He continued this support in the columns of his weekly newspaper, The Colonial Advocate.

concerned individuals in the Masonic Lodge rooms at York. The gathering expressed support for the prevailing high tariffs and petitioned the government to grant a premium to the first person to construct and to bring into operation a paper mill.

At this meeting Mackenzie also read a letter from "a gentleman of high respectability at the Head of the Lake offering to have a paper mill in operation by the first of May next, and to supply the paper at Rochester prices; on certain conditions." This gentleman was James Crooks who was to play a very important role in establishing the paper industry in the province.

Crooks at that time owned one of the largest industrial complexes in Upper Canada. He had arrived in the province in 1797 after several years at Fort Niagara, New York. From the general store which he started that year in Niagara-on-the-Lake, he expanded into many other industries. In 1811 he

purchased 400 acres of land in the Township of West Flamborough and there built a house and gristmill, completing them in 1813. Darnley gristmill was the beginning of Crooks' Hollow where by 1826 he had erected a brewery, a distillery, a linseed oil mill, a sawmill, a cooperage, an inn, a general store and a woollen mill. With this industrial base and years of experience as a successful entrepreneur Crooks was well qualified for a new venture.

The Legislature of Upper Canada agreed with the proposal of the gathering at the Masonic Lodge and on January 26, 1826, it resolved that: the sum of 125 pounds... be given to the first person who shall build a Mill and Machinery for the purpose of making and manufacturing paper in the province, and carry the same into successful operation.

A race for the bounty developed between James Crooks and the partnership of John Eastwood, Colin Skinner and Robert

Stonehouse who were already well advanced in the construction of a paper mill on the Don River at York. Crooks had started to erect another grist mill on his property at Crooks' Hollow, but quickly converted it to the production of paper.

The greatest difficulty facing the competitors was gathering the rage used in the manufacture of paper. Linen rags, which produced the highest quality paper, were particularly scarce in what was still a "backwoods" society with only a few small towns.

Crooks overcame these obstacles and on October 6, 1826, sent his first samples of paper to the secretary of the Executive Council. The Council refused his application on the grounds that "no specimens of writing paper of the usual qualities had been submitted." His second application was accepted and on December 6, 1826, an order was passed granting him the premium of 125 pounds.

For the next decade Crooks' Mill and the York Paper Mill dominated the

scene. The low quality of paper produced brought frequent complaints, but it was not the fault of the manufacturers who were unable to secure an adequate supply of rags.

Although the province's paper industry prospered during the 1840's the operation at Crooks' Hollow gradually declined in relative size. In 1851 James Crooks sold the mill to Charles Helliwell who soon sold it to William Bantley. The latter operated the mill throughout the 1850's but it rapidly lost ground to larger mills, particularly those at Georgetown.

Following Bantley's death in 1862 his widow, with the assistance of her brother Thomas McDonald, reorganized the mill under the name of Springfield Paper Mills. The operation expanded considerably and its efficiency increased through the installation of a cylinder paper machine.

By 1865, widow Bantley had assumed sole control and continued operations until August 31, 1875, when the mill was destroyed by fire. The ruins were given to a Sam Adams who erected a barn on them.

Forest Fires Damage More Than Wood

Statements of forest fire damage frequently refer only to the value of merchantable wood which is destroyed. But this is often a small part of the devastation caused by fires in forested areas.

Young trees, the forests of tomorrow, are highly subject to damage from the heat of forest fires and they often die because their thin bark cannot protect the living layers immediately within from the heat. Foliage, too, of young trees is close to the ground and may be consumed by fire where larger trees escape. One of the major tragedies of young forests being killed is that there is no seed source left on older, standing trees to grow the next forest and the area may grow back to shrub or less valuable species.

Fires burn up important organic material with its important life supporting elements and this may affect the fertility of the land for many years to come. In addition, because protective vegetation is consumed the ground is immediately subject to erosion. The silt and ashes carried to rivers and lakes as a result of this may have a serious impact on fish and other water life.

Fire destroys scenery, too, and tourism and recreation can be seriously affected. In some cases the blackened stumps and changing vegetation resulting from forest fires may have permanent or long lasting impact on the landscape.

In many cases, these less obvious kinds of damage far exceed the value of the actual merchantable wood material which is lost during forest fires.

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