

What is a Forest Conservation By-Law?

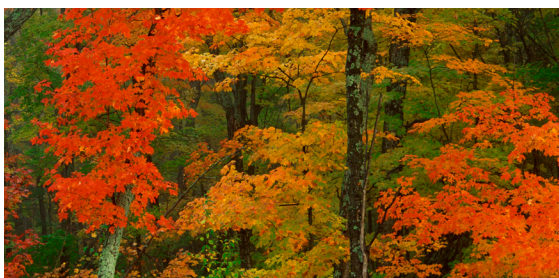
Forest Conservation By-laws have traditionally been referred to as tree cutting by-laws and have existed in Ontario for more than 50 years. These by-laws are intended to ensure privately-owned forests are harvested on a sustainable basis and to regulate the clearing of forests.

The Simcoe County By-law regulates:

- forests at least one hectare (2.5 acres) in size
- commercial harvesting
- clearing of forests

The Objectives of the By-law are to:

- conserve the forest landscape and prevent over harvesting
- protect Sensitive Natural Areas
- encourage 'good forestry practices'
- ensure a sustainable supply of timber for industry and landowners



It is recognized that most landowners are excellent stewards of their properties and have the right to make decisions regarding the use and management of their forests. While the by-law must protect the resource, undue constraints are neither necessary nor conducive to a healthy local forestry industry. Staff are committed to working cooperatively with operators and landowners in a fair and timely way.

Managing Your Forest



There are a number of information sources to assist landowners in managing their forests. The Ontario Woodlot Association, in partnership with other contributors, has developed www.ontariowoodlot.com to provide information and related links.

You may also wish to join the local Woodland Owners Association to learn from your peers, or investigate opportunities to attend local workshops or courses.

The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, which provides a reduction in property taxes on the forested portion of your property with an approved Managed Forest Plan in place is also available. Information on this provincial program is available at www.ontariosforests.mnr.gov.on.ca

To learn more
and to contact us
705-735-6901
or visit our website
simcoe.ca



FOREST CONSERVATION BY-LAW

Leads to
sustainable forests



Why a Forest Conservation By-law?

Our Forests do all of this and more...

- contribute to the economy by producing forest products such as lumber, fuelwood and maple syrup
- conserve soils and improve water and air quality
- provide a healthy and sustainable ecosystem
- provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife species
- provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities
- contribute to human health and increase our quality of life
- increase property values

The public benefits from the services our forests provide and therefore has a stake in the protection and management of private forests. The Forest Conservation By-law is one of the tools used by the County to protect and sustain this vital resource.

This by-law does not:

- regulate or restrict cutting on properties less than 1 hectare (2.5 acres) in size
- regulate or restrict cutting in order to erect a building where approvals or permits are in place
- prevent landowners from cutting wood on their own property for their own use (firewood)
- prevent landowners from gaining revenue from their forest
- prevent landowners from practicing good forest management



Forestry Conservation By-law's Permitting Process

Prior to harvesting trees, one of the following permits is required:

- **Good Forestry Practices Permit**
This is the preferred option for landowners with an interest in improving the long-term values of their forests. An assessment by a Registered Professional Forester and marking by a qualified individual ensures that the forest and landowner are protected. This also provides an opportunity to have several loggers make offers to ensure that a fair market price is received for the timber.
- **Conifer Plantation Permit**
This is a simplified process where standard thinning is proposed in a pine or spruce plantation.
- **Harvesting Permit**
This provides an option for landowners to harvest trees which have attained a minimum diameter limit, provided that a minimum density of trees remains following the harvest. Note that this is not considered a good forest management practice. In the long-term, it can result in reduced diversity, quality, and productivity, as the best and fastest-growing trees are normally removed in each successive harvest. This often leaves only the poorer quality trees to grow further and as the source for future regeneration.
- **Special Permit**
A Special Permit is required prior to the clearing of a forest unless the clearing is exempted under the by-law. Staff should be contacted and an application submitted a minimum of 3 months prior to the proposed clearing.