Woodland Owner

Summer Edition
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Woodland Owner of the Year Award Nomination Form
(See separate file)

NOVA SCOTIA

Carla and Ross Pentz, Western and Provincial Award Winners

Woodland Owner of the Year Award 2026

The Nova Scotia Woodland Owner of the Year Award (WOYA) recognizes and rewards landowners for outstanding stewardship of their woodlands. It was developed to encourage woodlot owners to practice sustainable woodland management and to increase public awareness of the importance of private woodlands in Nova Scotia and good woodland management.

Woodland owners are evaluated on their effort and commitment to setting and meeting sustainable goals for their land; improving their knowledge or understanding of the forest land or the forest in general; improving the condition of, access to and health of their woodland; using integrated resource management, with an emphasis on wood production; and considering values such as wildlife habitat protection and recreation.

Nova Scotia residents who own between 20 and 2000 hectares (50 and 5,000 acres) of woodland in the province are eligible. Nominations are accepted at Department of Natural Resources offices until April 15.

Provincial & Western Winner:

Carla and Ross Pentz

Ross has owned this family woodlot for 50 years and has carried on the family's heritage and tradition of sustainably managing this highly productive land.

Being a Forest Technician and working with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources gave Ross both the knowledge and desire to do the right things with this woodlot. Ross had a Forest Management Plan prepared in 1979 by N.S. Department of Natural Resources and updated by the Lunenburg County Forest Management Group. A new comprehensive plan has just been prepared this past year by The Nova Scotia Working Woodland Trust. Ross has carried out the prescribed silviculture treatments and carried out any harvesting of mature trees with a soft touch.

The Pentz family has always been kind, and their woodlot has always been open to neighbours and friends for recreational activities such as horseback riding, bird watching, and hiking.

Ross has always done all the woodlot work himself; which has truly been a labour of love. Now after his 50 years of careful management, Ross has undertaken a significant commitment of signing up with the Nova Scotia Working Woodland Trust and his new management plan is considerably different from the one that was prepared in 1979 but the underlying principles are still the same: "Work with nature to enhance and improve his woodlot for the future".

Congratulations to Ross Pentz and family of Camperdown, Lunenburg County for winning both the Provincial and Western Region awards.

"Now, after his **50 years of careful management**, Ross has undertaken a significant commitment of signing up with the Nova Scotia Working Woodland Trust and his new management plan is considerably different from the one that was prepared in 1979 but the underlying principles are still the same: **"Work with nature to enhance and improve his woodlot for the future"**"

If you're interested in visiting this stunning woodland and learning more about sustainable woodlot management, make sure to attend our Provincial WOYA Field day on October 17th from 9:00am – 4:00pm!

Location: 872 Camperdown Road, Camperdown, in Lunenburg County.

Agenda:

1. Arrival (8:30 -9:00 am)
2. Guest book signing and registration (up on arrival)
3. Field tours (from 9:00 am)
4. Lunch (from 11:30 am)
5. Recognition speech (12:30 pm)
6. Award presentation (12:40 pm)
7. Acceptance speech by the Pentz family (12:50 pm)
8. Tree planting ceremony (1:00 pm)
9. Tour continues until 4:00 pm

Eastern Winner:

Bill Angevine

The eastern regional winners are Bill Angevine and family of Antigonish County. Bill Angevine has demonstrated a deep and sustained commitment to responsible woodland stewardship through thoughtful management practices, continuous learning, and a strong ethic of environmental and sustainable resource management.

Bill Angevine receiving the Eastern Region Winner sign from Simon Pierre Mutabazi

His approach to woodland ownership reflects both practical forestry knowledge and a genuine dedication to improving the long-term ecological and economic value of his land. Bill purchased his woodlot in 2006. The property contains stands harvested between 2001 and 2006, as well as evidence of older harvesting dating back to the 1960s.

Since acquiring the land, Bill has invested significant effort into improving the productivity, accessibility, and overall health of the woodland. He is currently interested in developing a formal management plan to continue guiding the future stewardship of the property and ensuring the sustainability of the forest for future generations.

Over the years, extensive silviculture work has been completed on the property, including planting, pre-commercial thinning (PCT), early competition control (ECC), crop tree release, and selection management. These activities demonstrate Bill's long-term commitment to active woodland management and his willingness to invest both time and resources into improving forest conditions.

Bill has extensive experience with horse logging and has harvested softwood stud wood and pulpwood on neighbouring properties within a 30-minute radius of his farm. He plans to continue using horse logging methods to selectively harvest mature fir from his own woodlot over the next decade. This low-impact approach minimizes soil disturbance and reflects Bill's careful balance between forest utilization and environmental stewardship. He has also improved the condition and accessibility of the woodland through the construction of roads that now provide excellent access throughout the property.

In addition, Bill operates a bandsaw mill, demonstrating his hands-on involvement and interest in utilizing local forest resources responsibly and efficiently. One of the most notable aspects of Bill's management philosophy is his use of integrated resource management principles. He has intentionally left some areas untreated by PCT in order to stagger stand development and create a diversity of forest ages and structures across the property. One stand consists of approximately 30 acres of 25-year-old poplar and balsam fir, which Bill hopes to gradually transition toward greater species diversity. His goal is to promote a more resilient woodland capable of withstanding future pest pressures and environmental challenges.

Bill has also undertaken salvage harvesting in recent years and is exploring the possibility of small-scale Christmas tree production on some of the salvage sites. This reflects both adaptability and a willingness to pursue sustainable opportunities that complement the long-term health and productivity of the woodland. Wildlife habitat protection remains an important consideration in Bill's stewardship. Near the house, a crow's nest was occupied by nesting eagles for several years, and Bill has remained mindful of preserving the habitat values associated with the property. In 2026, Bill Angevine was also a recipient of the Forest Stewardship Certificate presented by Minister Masland in recognition of his outstanding leadership across the forestry industry. This recognition reflects the respect Bill has earned for his commitment to sustainable forestry practices and his positive contributions to woodland stewardship in Nova Scotia. Bill Angevine exemplifies the qualities the Woodland Owner of the Year Award was created to recognize dedication, practical stewardship, continuous improvement, and a genuine respect for Nova Scotia forests. His commitment to sustainable woodland management and responsible resource use makes him an outstanding woodland owner.

Spruce Budworm (SBW) Updates

For the first time since the early 1990s defoliation caused by the eastern spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) (SBW) was detected in NS during an aerial detection survey conducted over Cape Breton National Park (CBNP) in July 2024. During the flight a small area of approximately 300 Ha of low to moderate defoliation was detected. Following Forest Health engagement with CBHNP, the park opted out of the EIS management option. As a result of this decision and the fact that all affected areas currently lie within the park boundaries, no treatment program was scheduled for 2025.

During a ground survey conducted in July 2025, a large area of low to moderate defoliation was detected from within the park from Skyline trail to the Pleasant Bay lookoff. In the absence of aerial survey and to better assess the extent of the damage, Satellite imagery and pixel classification using Machine Learning modeling was utilized. The results of this Machine Learning exercise showed over 600 Ha of impacted forests with both spruce and fir trees being impacted to varying degrees.

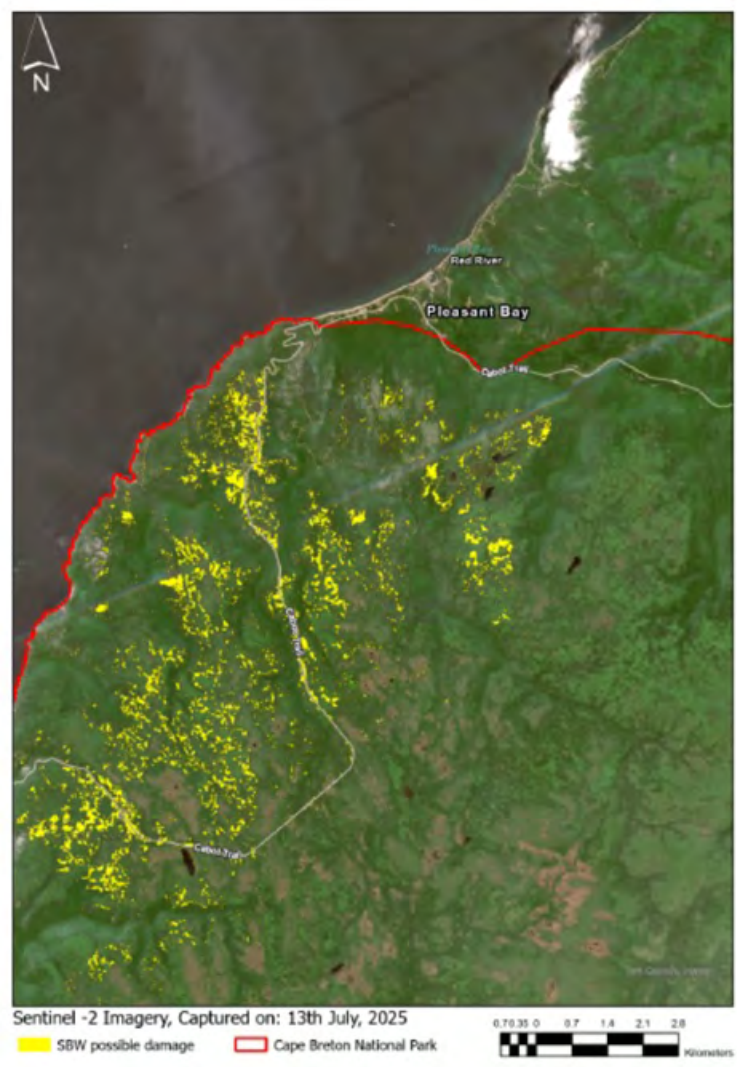
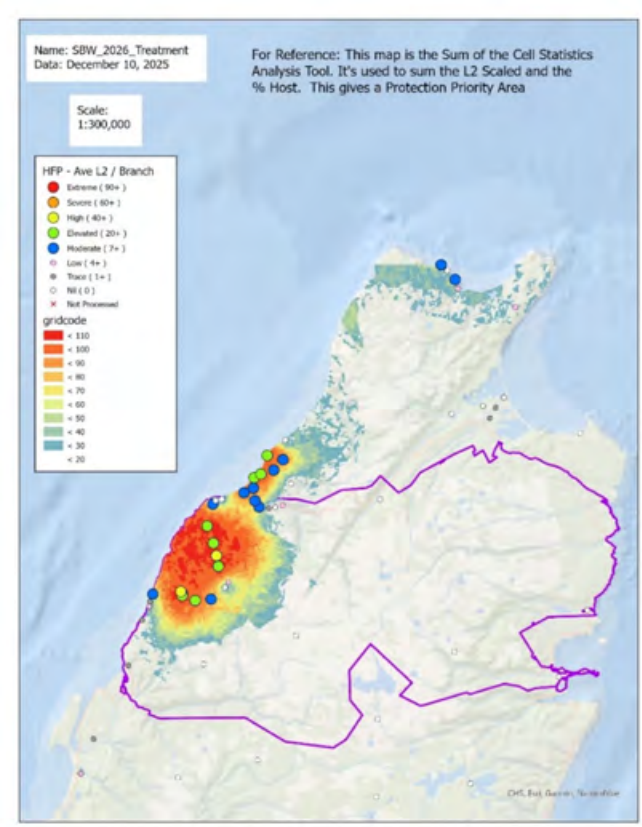


Figure 1: Eastern spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) damage detected through satellite imagery and machine learning modeling software, Cape Breton, 2025.

Results of the fall overwintering larvae survey, or L2 survey showed, an increase in both total L2 numbers as well as the total number of positive sites particularly in the areas around the previously detected defoliation. All moderate and high counts were confined to Cape Breton with the mainland remaining at endemic levels. L2 sampling identified a total of 22 sites along the west coast of Cape Breton Island with L2 per branch numbers at or well above the Early Intervention Strategy (EIS) threshold levels of seven L2 per branch. The majority of these high counts continue to be within CBNP, however for the first time larval counts averaging close to 20 L2 per branch were detected in a small area north of the community of Pleasant Bay outside of the park.

These findings indicate an increase in local SBW populations both within the Cape Breton National Park (CBHNP) as well as north of the park. As a result of CBNP opting out of EIS



Forest Health focused further analysis on the area outside of the park only. Priority protection GIS modeling was then used to estimate the area of impact outside of the park to be approximately 2,000 ha. At that time Forest Health began actively seeking approval to undertake a small Btk treatment program for the summer of 2026.

Figure 2: Region of increased eastern spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) population in Cape Breton 2025 as determined by priority protection GIS modeling.

In early spring 2026 the province was approved to aerially treat 1300 Ha of private and crown land north of the park with a single application of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (BTK)*. The forest management company Forest Protection Limited of Fredericton was contracted to complete the treatment. Private landowners had the option to opt-in to have their lands treated and those who did not were excluded from the treatment plans.

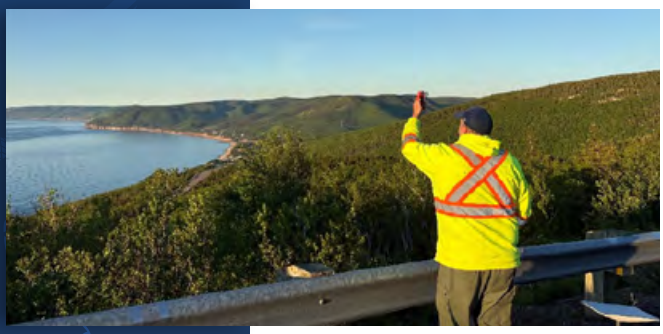


Figure 3: Forest Health staff conducting wind measurements prior and during aerial application in Cape Breton, June 2026.

Figure 4: Aerial application of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (BTK)*, June 2026, Cape Breton.

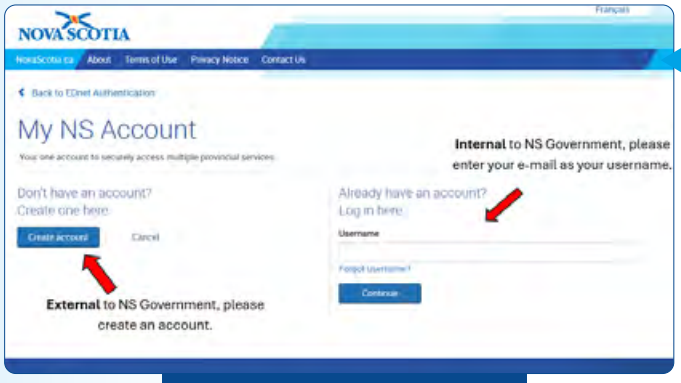
Pheromone trap collections from the area have been completed for 2026 with numbers not surprisingly remaining high in the Cape Breton region. Further assessment of overwintering L2 populations from these areas with occur in September of this year to better determine the extent of SBW population and potential spread.

Woodland Management Home Study Program

Standard Operating Procedure for Woodland Management Training Course (Woodlot Management Home Study Series)

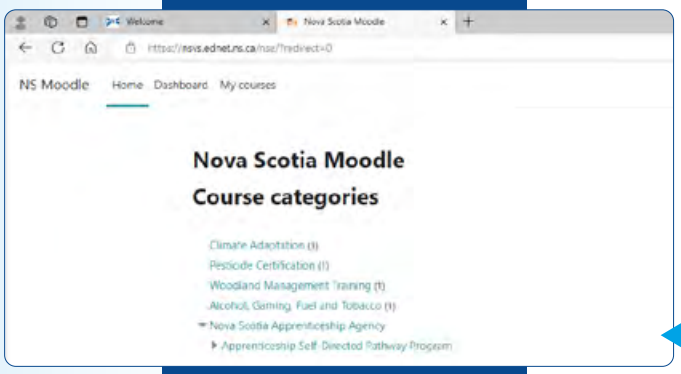
Want to learn more about woodland management? This free program consists of a series of easy-to-understand modules on topics that relate to woodland stewardship.

The modules can be done right in your home at a time convenient to you! Here are the **six steps** for creating an account and easy enrollment to the program:



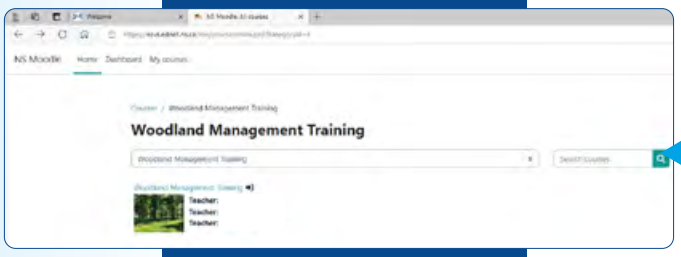
Step1: **Click Here** to set up your My NS Account. **Welcome / Bienvenue (novascotia.ca)**

Step 2: Log Into the Account once your account has been set up.

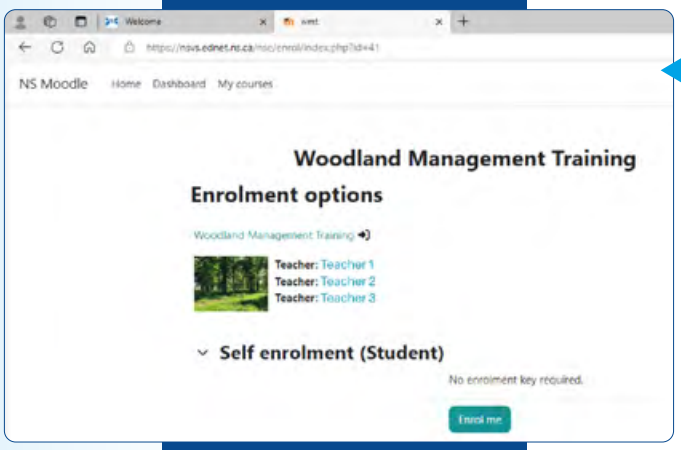


Step 3: Once signed in, open a second browser in internet explorer and click the link **Nova Scotia Moodle: Log in to the site (ednet.ns.ca)** to access the Moodle learning platform.

Step 4: Once in Moodle, select the ***Home*** tab at the top of the screen and then select ***Woodland Management Training***.



Step 5: Once you see this screen, select ***Woodland Management Training*** again just above the picture.



Step 6: Select ***Enroll me*** at the bottom of the screen and then you will enter the course.

Shortcuts...

Click Here

to visit the site and create your account

Scan Me

Our Contact Information

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Like us on Facebook
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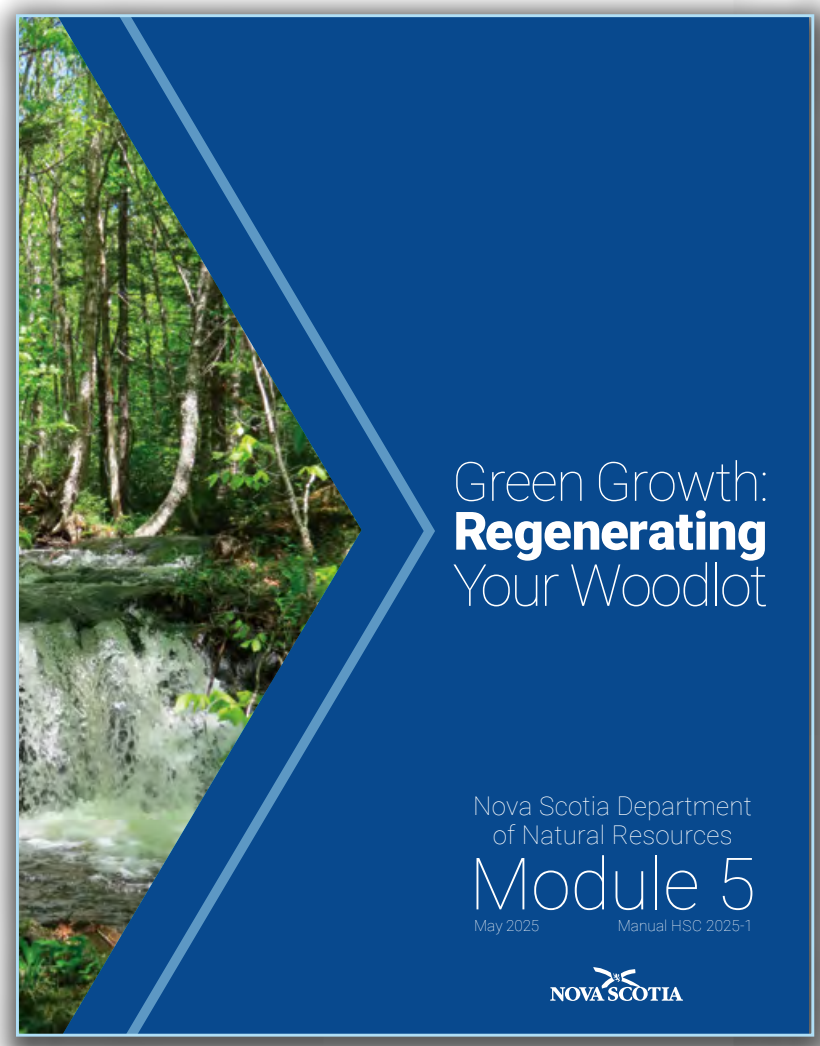
and stay tuned to any upcoming family events and other information

NOVA SCOTIA



Green Growth: Regenerating your Woodlot

This revised Home Study Module on stand establishment is one in a series of modules that have been developed to assist Nova Scotia landowners and others understand the dynamics of forest stewardship. These modules introduce a wide range of concepts and subjects, including the diversity and ecology of forest ecosystems, the management and protection of woodlot resources, and – perhaps most significantly of all – the impact of human decision-making and influences on the landscape. This module will acquaint the reader with both natural regeneration and artificial regeneration.

The module provides information about the methods used in determining the best course of action for initiating new cohorts of forest growth, and whether any action is needed at all, and provides valuable information about tree tending. To receive a copy of the home study module please contact: Simon Mutabazi (see contact information) or your local DNR office.