

Rec. use and SDG

Forest Plan

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MORRISBURG – The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry has amended the SDG County Forest Management Plan in order to include 1,000 acres of recently purchased land.

The land was purchased by the counties in partnership with the Ontario Greenland Program, which granted about half the funds (\$315,000).

According to Michael Otis, county planner, the five parcels of land purchased, formerly owned by Domtar, are located in South Stormont and South Dundas.

He and Steven Hunter, forestry specialist with South Nation Conservation, both explained that the amendments to the County Forest Plan allow the plan to apply to this type of forest, which is different than others in the plan because it consists primarily of hybrid poplar planted specifically for Domtar use.

“Our main focus is conservation and preserving the recreational value of the land,” said Hunter.

He explained that this land, will remain open for public use as long as it doesn’t compromise the forest.

Speaking about the 420 acres of newly acquired forest located along County Road 2 between Morrisburg and Riverside Heights, Hunter said that this land is a very large site, which is most important because of the great number of unique species.

“Typically a site will have 10-15 unique species, but there are 20 or more on this site,” said Hunter.

In keeping with the goal of maintaining existing recreational use of this land, the Counties and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club’s Riverside Snowmobile Club, one of the main recreational users of the land, have signed an agreement to maintain the clubhouse site, now located within the County Forest. Typically, buildings are not permitted within the County Forest.