

# Woodlot program explained

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**B**ERWICK – NORTH STORMONT COUNCILLORS WERE PROVIDED UPDATES BY GOLAN SHARIF AND JOEL MARTINEAU OF SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION AT THE OCT. 27 COUNCIL MEETING.

SNC Forestry Technician Joel Martineau provided information on the forests in the watershed, the Forest Stewards Program, SLPC Tree Risk Evaluations, Woodlot Advisory Services and the Managed Forest Plan. This plan, sponsored by the Ontario Woodlot Association, UCPR and OPG, provides for a

grant of up to \$500 for the completion of a management plan and up to a 75 per cent tax savings on woodlots. During his presentation, Martineau noted that agricultural use and land development appeared to be the main reason for tree cutting in North Stormont, with the forest cover in this township being 22.1 per cent in 2008, below the minimum 30 per cent forest cover.

Golan Sharif, a water resources analyst, described how the SNC is monitoring the quality of water utilizing stream gauges, ice survey stations, rain gauges, snow stations and meteorological stations throughout the watershed. He provided detailed

information on the 25 stream assessments which identify species at risk and fish populations, as well as invasive alien species to the habitat. There are habitat restoration projects in Shields, Parlow and Kirby Creeks and a Stream Watch Program to collect physical and biological information on specific streams. Sharif presented information on the 80 grant programs that are available to landowners and described research projects and flood plain mapping projects that are currently underway. He also mentioned that the SNC provides information to various groups regarding flood or drought forecast, as well as looking at the effect that extreme weather conditions have on the ecosystems in the watershed.