



MONARCH BUTTERFLY CATERPILLAR (DANAUS PLEXIPPUS) TAKEN JULY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2018.

# Larose Biodiversity Project

SOW # 2017-JW-01-02

September 11, 2018

## Quarterly Update

by Naomi Langlois-Anderson

### Construction Time

The much-anticipated construction of the simulated wind-throws began on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Heavy rains in excess of 70 mm fell on the project site and pushed excavation work to resume the following day.

The skilled Operator was able to perform the “stump flip” in two to three minutes per stump. By the end of the following day over 100 stumps had been up-rooted and positioned on their sides, with another scoop of earth taken from the pit to deepen the pit and provide additional medium for later planting.



1. Stump pulled up and placed on its side, showing pit.

Stumps remained firm and did not disintegrate while being manipulated. The pits consist of sand, as the soils are shallow in much of the forest.

### Native Vegetation

Following construction, the site was prepared for planting of native vegetation. Careful consideration of species was undertaken to prevent introductions that could be detrimental to the forest ecosystem. Plantations are often very limited in diversity, but time and nature have helped Larose Forest. As it nears a century since its earliest plantings, wildlife and the wind have helped to add biodiversity to the Larose Forest.

Consultation with local experts helped to pare the plant list to those that are most beneficial to wildlife, exist within the Ottawa Valley but not the Larose Forest, and a few rare types that are likely



to establish within this ecosystem. In total 19 species of plants were added, including seven perennials, seven shrubs and five trees. All stock came from southern Ontario tree nurseries.



2. Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) germinated on the project.

### Planting Contract

The plant stock was delivered to Larose Forest beginning August 24<sup>th</sup> and shuttled into the forest using ATVs and trailers. The potted stock was placed in a clearing adjacent to the project site for easy access by planters. The drought and high temperatures during the month of August were damaging to the stock, some of which suffered leaf browning, leaf loss and desiccation. The extent of plant loss will also depend on the severity of the winter. Survival assessments will take place in the spring and summer of 2019. Plant losses will be evaluated based on site conditions and species; replacement stock will reflect these elements.



3. Blue-spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma laterale*) are common in Larose Forest.

Planting contractors started on September 4<sup>th</sup>, once all deliveries were received. Conditions continue to be very dry in Larose Forest, despite recent rain events. Planting is expected to be completed before the end of September. Monitoring of the planted stock will continue until freeze-up. Seeding will take place before snow fall to ensure that birds and mice don't consume too much. Seeding in the fall ensures better germination since freezing temperatures are beneficial to their propagation.



4. The excavator operator poses beside the machinery used to flip stumps.

The 2019 project planning will begin following completion of field activities. Assessing the planted stock survival and observing the re-growth adjacent to excavation areas this coming spring will provide important information about intentional species introductions and biodiversity enhancement projects.



5. Britney Bourdages using the watering pack to keep the plants hydrated.

### Questions About This Project?

Feel free to contact us at  
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