

Copeland Forest Open Forum

Saturday November 3, 2012

Horseshoe Resort

9 am to 3 pm

Group Reports

The Copeland Forest Open Forum was attended by 140 people, and facilitated by Gord Ball. One question was asked at the beginning of the session,

“What are the challenges and opportunities facing Copeland Forest?”

From this question, participants arrived at a list of topics they wished to discuss, and after the brainstorm, these topics were posted and participants signed up for the sessions they were interested in. For the remainder of the day, groups met and produced a report covering the key aspects of the discussion (see blank template, attached). These reports follow here.

At the end of the day, all reports were posted on a wall, and the remaining participants (approximately 75 people) were given 5 red sticky dots and asked to place one dot beside the topics they viewed as most important. Those totals are indicated at the top of each report, and the reports are listed in order of the amount of dots they received. Considering that 234 red dots were placed on reports, and each person received 5 dots, approximately 47 people participated in this part of the exercise.

The names of participants have been removed and replaced by the total amount of people who participated in each meeting. If you attended one of the meetings and would like a copy of the report with the names, please contact dorthea@couchconservancy.ca (705) 326-1620 .

Table of Contents:

Sample Blank Template Form.....	3
Long Term Ecological Sustainability.....	4
Sustainable Trails.....	5
Raising Awareness of Protecting the Integrity of CF.....	7
Water Quality and Water Issues.....	8
Long-Term Management of Copeland “Friends of Copeland”.....	10
Keep The Forest Natural.....	12
Active Forest Management.....	14
Education Component.....	15
Spooky Steeds Meet Stealthy Cyclists.....	17
Commercial Activities in CF.....	18
Bike Trails – Construction, Maintenance, etc.....	19
Invasive Species.....	21
Deer Yard Management.....	22
Entrances and Parking Facilities.....	23
Hiking, Riding, Bicycling, Cross-Country and Trail Marking.....	24
Winter Activities.....	25
Compatibility and Safety for Mixed Use.....	26
Garbage+Manure (poop).....	28
Respect for Other Users.....	29
Target Practice in CF.....	30
Information Release.....	31
Beaver Management.....	32
Establishing A Cycling Club for Horseshoe & Copeland.....	33

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:

Who convened the session?

Who attended?

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.....

Major issues discussed:

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-
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Interesting ideas that emerged:

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Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

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COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: **Long term ecological sustainability of the Copeland Forest**

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 11 people

Major issues discussed:

- There is a need for ecological sustainability LONG TERM that underpins ALL activities
- The need to cap/limit human activities –what activities? what intensity?
- The impact of trails on the ecology
- Motorized vehicles –i.e.”sequays”
- The province has “backed off”
- Orienteering & geo-caching –what is the impact? Can it stay on the trails?

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- The environment is dynamic – changing
- What could it be? 4,000 acres of forest
- Invasive species have 3 elements: foreign, opportunistic, climate change
- ALL USERS need to care everything is connected
- Could decrease the size of the gates
- Need to determine a target, an overall vision
- Growth projected for the area –Horseshoe –sewage plant
- Include on the signs to respect the culture

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- Ongoing monitoring of ecological health
Action:
- Not make more trails –stay on trails Action :
- More signs, mapping, enforcement Action:
- Communication & Education Action:
- Best practices for all users to support long term sustainability of the ecology–N.B. invasive species
- On the entrance signs - identify the user groups and a contact for each &user groups will educate members Action :

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: Sustainable Trails in Copeland

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 14 people

Major issues discussed:

- **Current network includes some unsustainable trails – erosion, sensitive areas etc**
- **Well intentioned maintenance will continue (underground) but without standards and planning**
- **Mapping of current trail network is required and should be combined with the Life Sciences Inventory**
- **No particular group or organization has stepped up to take ownership of a holistic sustainable trail plan**
- **Mountain bikers thought that there was a MTB steering committee but it has not taken a leadership role or has lost momentum**
- **Insurance is one key issue that must be overcome in order for official trail planning and building/maintenance to take place – and only an organization (above point) will be in a position to get insurance**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **Huronian Trails and Greenways could be in a position to take a leadership role in the trail building aspect of Copeland planning**
- **The Barrie Cycling Club could be the mountain biking representation at HTG**
- **Trail inventory and trail plans must be part of the recommendation that goes to the MNR from the Stewardship Committee**
- **HTG and the Stewardship Committee (or maybe Couchiching Conservancy) have separate Trillium grants that could be used to create the trail inventory and plan**
- **Mtn bikers expressed a desire to ensure trails are sustainable**
- **The point was made that no more kms of trails are required but some trails might need rebuilding, rerouting, or even closing**

- **IMBA Trail Crew can be brought in to help with the trail inventory and planning and eventually execution of trail maintenance/building**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **HTG should have representation on the Stewardship Committee**
- **Follow up with ___ on involvement of both HTG and BCC as well as funding and insurance issues**
- **Follow up with ___ to get picture of how IMBA can be engaged to help develop trail inventory and planning components of Stewardship Committee to MNR**
- **_____ and _____ may be able to take more of a leadership role in MTB advocacy**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: Raising the Awareness of Protecting the Integrity of CF

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 11 people

Major issues discussed:

- How to protect the land and be good stewards.
- How to treat the environment in a friendly way
- Safety concerns of all user groups
- How to engage all user groups to achieve common objectives

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- Signage and control – create a culture or philosophy - values
- Diversity of user groups also means a diversity of solutions to any issues/concerns
- Is it possible to create a revenue stream? E.g. logging, Horseshoe lease, partnerships/sponsors and user fees e.g. cycle clubs, adventure racing
- MNR needs to get more involved, not less involved.

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- Create a vision statement that captures the culture and philosophy of CF use (_____ will help work on this. He is email list).

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:

Water Quality and Water Issues

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 11 people

Major issues discussed:

- **It is the headwaters of 3 streams.**
- **Impact possibilities: snow making, snow runoff, road salt, quarry to north, golf course Chemicals, Railway-creosote ties, spills.
Development-residential and commercial upwards of 5000 units!**
- **Monitoring. Is there current monitoring? Is there a need for future monitoring? Who should do the monitoring?**
- **Drainage map of area would point to areas of concern.**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **NVCA has jurisdiction to all surrounding lands (SSEA has some downstream responsibilities but NVCA is responsible for all of Oro-Medonte.**
- **Buffering lands around the forest. Is it possible to create a buffer zone around the forest? Could it be done through voluntary property owners or through some official plan amendments.**
- **Source Water Protection has responsibility around municipal wells that exist in Horseshoe and Craighurst.**
- **Sewage treatment plant is owned by Skyline. They want to give it to the municipality. It is not able to accommodate new growth. What will the new plant look like or cost?**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Find out if there is any current monitoring of water. And should there be any future monitoring of water quality and who should do it. NVCA? MOE? MNR? – _____**
- **Steering committee needs to be more informed about all of the potential/planned growth for the area.- ? contact township**
- **NVCA, MOE or SWP or Some INDEPENDENT organization should do a full EA environmental assessment of the larger area surrounding the forest including Craighurst and horseshoe valley. – _____**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: Long-term management of Copeland Forest – “Friends of Copeland”

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 29 people

Major issues discussed:

- **What is future of Couchiching Conservancy (CC) in Copeland Forest (CF) management, i.e. long term**
- **Central management group “Friends of Copeland Forest”**
- **Everyone wants to continue to use CF**
-

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **All interest groups are accommodated; conditions of MNR**
- **Central place to gather info to decide on future management**
- **CF divided into separate use areas, train user groups in sustainable use practices**
-

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Central fund to raise money for CF – restricted fund**
- **Develop CF organization**

- **Follow-up public meeting in 2013**
- **Stewardship ctee to make recommendations from Open Space mtg to MNR**
- **Report on today's mtg to all participants**
- **Near agreement from MNR to manage trails**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: Keep the forest natural.

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 9 people.

Major issues discussed:

- **Protect our water!! Need first class sewage treatment for Horseshoe/Craighurst development areas which will run into the Copeland Forest if not monitored properly.**
- **What is Natural? Non manicured ... for sure.**
- **Liability? .. use at own risk.**
- **There is a change of indigenous animals/birds etc.**
- **Long term there will be more use from increased populations.**
- **Conservation and restoration dictates human use; ecology balanced with user use.**
-

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **C.P. Railway goes through the forest .. use creosote ties, what do they do to protect the forest environment? Can we encourage good management practices?**
- **Create and protect animal/bird habitat .. interior and exterior habitats from human use. Quantify areas to protect.**
- **Eliminate some trails to allow regeneration?**
- **Monitor and enforce; fundraise and create management teams to protect forest.**
- **Protection of water – headwaters of 3 different streams emanate from the forest. Sewage treatment (primary and secondary) from commercial and residential areas supreme importance.**

- **Need to consider the impact of ALL development projected for an area rather than a project by project approach.**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Friends of Copeland Forest (C.F.) encourage and outline concerns about water and sewage – worried about building at edges of C.F. – _____**
- **Make proposed residential and commercial developments WELL known – _____**
- **Set ecological goals and priorities as TARGETS for C.F. AT LEAST don't lose any more ecological functions. _____**
- **C.P. Rail – Contact them re: minimizing impact on C.F. _____**

Need to create habitat for Bald Eagles and other animals/birds.

- **Curtail more local development in immediate areas of C.F.; creating feral animals in forest. _____**
- **Create Education and Awareness of Forest, slow down change . _____**
- **Introduce CHILDREN/STUDENTS to our forests – the C.F. will depend on our next generation to CARE enough to protect and love it.**

THANKS FOR DOING THIS DAY AND ALLOWING US TO DECIDE THE DIRECTION FOR THE FOREST.

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:
Active Forest Management

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 9 people

Major issues discussed:

- Sustainable forest practices that recognize forest health and different recreational users
- MNR has no resources management and the legislation has not allowed MNR to keep the revenue
- How to manage ecological interests and recreational uses and timber harvesting
- Harvest some areas and leave other areas untouched

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- Explore new partnerships to jointly manage the Forest
- Could Copeland be a Park rather than a resource management area
- Need to retain revenue within Copeland

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- Get expertise to determine Copeland Forest health via access to provincial forest health programs and expertise
- Look at other models where communities jointly manage forests such as St. Williams Forest Council and the Eastern Ontario model forest
- Seek clarification and even change legislation or get an exemption so forest can be managed
- Look at community licensing programs (e.g. Alberta) to access crown land and resources
- An authority be created similar to the Algonquin Forest Authority to retain harvesting within the Copeland

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:

Education Component

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 8 people.

Major issues discussed:

- **Education sector should be at the table – historical and current users of the land. Potential for more education, educational placements**
- **Need for awareness of Copeland where it is, what it is, it's fragility, need for integrity**
- **How can we respect and protect the environment e.g. define areas for uses, define times for uses (e.g. hunting)**
- **Need a vision for the land before can decide what we will communicate and educate**
- **Lack of organization re: education e.g. lack of understanding of what are permitted/non permitted uses.**
- **Sharing – use of the land and stewardship of the land**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **If we can organize effectively, we can advocate for local, provincial and land use (e.g. organized forestry) funding**
- **Signage needed at 5 main entry points (early win)**
- **Need a master plan for education and awareness, with input from many and dissemination by all users e.g. media, orientation centre, through user groups, seminars at organization/community meetings, brochures, speakers bureau, video, information a local tourist centres, information for Horseshoe guests**

- **Collection of known information e.g. historical, natural, etc that can be shared with all users**
- **Learn from the experience of other “like” groups e.g. MTM Conservation (Tiny Marsh, Matchedash, Markle Lake**
- **Education should be at the table.**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Education Subcommittee – to create a master plan based on the vision. Can determine what information needs to be shared, where & how; need to engage young people and other local groups (e.g. individuals and scouting/guiding organizations); find resources to fulfill the plan (e.g. sponsors)**
- **Create a “Friends of the Copeland” group to with sharing the education and stewardship message**
- **Disseminate information/messages through Chamber of Commerce (potential opportunity for environmental initiative), Service Clubs (potential sponsorship), user group organizations, web, social media, Horseshoe**

Willing to work on these proposed actions:

Six people put down their names and email addresses.

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: **Spooky Steeds meet Stealthy Cyclists**

Who convened the session?

Who attended? Approximately 40 people. Not all names were recorded.

Major issues discussed:

- **Communication between user groups on the trail, how horses and riders need to know you are coming from behind as well as which way you will pass**
- **Right of Way; Who has the**
- **Trail Etiquette; Establish what each group needs;**
- **Education regarding use of trails;**
- **Establish Rules; Code of conduct;**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **3 members from each group - Equestrian and Cyclist - get together quarterly to discuss the above. Take back information to share with their own groups.**
- **Informative signage for trail entrances; Will explain to new users what the rules/code of conduct are;**
- **Maintenance of trails – All users are responsible for trail maintenance;**
- **Develop 3 Cardinal Rules – Establish at multi group meeting**
-

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **_____ from Huronia Trails and Greenways informed of online message board to communicate wants/needs of each group;**
- **OTRA, Couchiching Conservancy and HTG to band together to discuss wants/need**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:

Commercial Activities in Copeland Forest

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 24 people.

Major issues discussed:

- **Horseshoe – Skyline relationship with the MNR**
- **Special events taking place in the forest**
- **The ‘Business’ of Copeland Forest**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **How will the plans put forth by the Conservancy be funded, or financed**
- **Is a new legal entity required ‘Friends of Copeland Forest’, or ‘Copeland Culture of Conservation’. How will this be structured and maintained**
- **Current ‘commercial’ activities taking place in the forest: Horseshoe xc skiing & snowshoeing, tour groups who pay attendance fees (biking, hiking, birding etc.), Active Forest Management, Special events (Cycling, Trail Running, Orienteering, Ski Loppets, Snowshoe etc.) (Charitable, Not For Profit, For Profit),**
- **Future potential ‘commercial’ activities: Solar Panel Installation, Business Partners**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Stewardship Committee should explore the creation of an entity to oversee the forest via an agreement with the MNR (see Wye Marsh, or other such agreements that already exist). This includes how such a group would be governed and financed.**
- **Identify all commercial activities taking place within the forest and how each activity fits into the long-term plan to maintain the environmental, cultural and recreational attributes of the forest**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: Bike Trails – Construction, Maintenance, Etc

Who convened the session?

Who attended? At least 15 people. 13 names were recorded but more attended.

Major issues discussed:

- **Construction**
- **Maintenance**
- **Expansion**
- **Path Sharing / Access**
- **Mapping**
- **Facility Access / Parking**
- **Events**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **Construction: Is there a process to allow for new trails to be built when needed?**
- **Maintenance: If there is an official maintenance group, is there liability associated?**
 - **There is an ‘army’ of volunteers from all groups ready to do work**
 - **Some think trails should be left as is with obstacles in place (challenging)**
 - **Need a method of reporting maintenance issues. How? To who?**
 - **Can users raise money for maintenance / mapping?**
- **Mapping: Is the existing mapping good enough for safety**
 - **Group is worried that if mapping is too good, too many people will come!**
 - **Maps are already readily available online through various sources**
- **Facility Access / Parking: Parking is available off Ingram Rd & Line 5**
 - **People are entering south end through private property**
- **Events: In general, cyclists think that major events would have a negative impact on the forest and should be discouraged.**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Construction: No new construction is permitted**
- **Maintenance: Groups should work as a single entity, not separate interest groups**
 - **Coordinate strengths of each group to work together**
 - **Need method of allowing or advising of maintenance reqt's**
 - **Need governing body to coordinate volunteers**
- **Facility Access / Parking: Ingram lots need to be cleared of snow (safety issue)**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: Invasive Species (sub group to Ecological Sustainability)

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 8 people

Major issues discussed:

- **Invasive species – several present in CF**
- **Control mainly, irradiation is very difficult**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **Must develop a plan**
- **Monitor each year – inventory all locations, size of patch, create map, data base**
- **Removal is an issue – permit needed to use motorized vehicle, or enlist help from all user groups e.g bikes, horses**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Form a subcommittee to develop a plan – include/engage all user groups**
- **Create teams**
- **Train volunteers**
- **Prioritize new patches**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:
Deer Yard Management

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 11 names recorded, 19 people in total attended the session.

Major issues discussed:

- **Winter deer yard: where is it? how big?**
- **Any trail planning must look at impact on this critical habitat**
- **Warm winters lately have skewed population**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **Can volunteers do surveys?**
- **2004 aerial survey covered CF but not in detail (re: deer yards)**
- **High local deer pop due to agricultural uses**
-

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Avoid putting trails into critical yards**
- **Trail planning MUST be aware of deer yard location**
- **NEED research info to make planning decisions**



*Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP report form*

Title of session:
Entrances and Parking Facilities

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 4 people

Major issues discussed:

- Where are the Entrances ?
- Where is the Parking?
- Specifically Southern Entrance?
- Winter Access? (Parking lots not plowed in Winter)

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- Map for Public consumption with Entrances & Parking marked
- Identification of Boundaries for Copeland Forest

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- 4th. Line Right of Way (at end of Pine Ridge Trail) Develop into signed entrance & parking lot (fill required)
- Exam other opportunities for entrance from South Eg. Ring Road through Timber Ridge Development (not yet developed but in planning stage)
- Develop Map for purchase of Copeland Forest
- Map should be available free for Distribution at all Ontario Government Information Locations

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:

Hiking, riding, bicycling, cross-country and trail marking

Who convened the session?

Who attended? Hikers, riders and bicyclers...no names recorded.

Major issues discussed:

- **What signage is required?**
- **People get lost**
- **Are there too many trails in the forest?**
- **Hunting is permitted – people should be warned**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Place signs at all the access points. The signs should show:**
 - ❖ **The main trails**
 - ❖ **Trails should be numbered**
 - ❖ **The preferred or recommended use for each trail**
 - ❖ **Not motorized vehicles allowed**
 - ❖ **Indicate dates hunting season in place & then “use trails at own risk”**
 - ❖ **Have paper maps available**
 - ❖ **Indicate the trail etiquette, for example, keep to right when encountering horses or bicycles**
- **Trails in forest should be clearly numbered from time to time should have “you are here signs” and show direction of north.**
- **There was agreement that people could share trails successfully**
- **Should be a meeting once per year of people using trails to discuss problems and solutions.**
- **There should be some “no go” or no people allowed areas in the forest**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **Well marked trails will help to prevent people from making “ad hoc” trails**



COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:
Winter activities

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 13 people

Major issues discussed:

- **clarification- walkers, snowshoers, skiers on Horseshoe property**
- **agreement btw Horseshoe/MNR – exclusivity? permits required?**
- **ownership of Copeland – who gets to use it? When leases come up for renewal, who gets to bid? Does Horseshoe have exclusive rights on any part of Copeland Forest? Is their present lease specific to certain areas?**
- **walkers on ski trails, protocol of snowshoeing on a trail someone has made ahead of you**
- **overlap of hunting season & snowsport season**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **sharing xc skiing, snowshoeing, walking**
- **emergency response – cell phones, gps**
- **parking lots of Copeland not plowed in winter – users have no place to park, is parking on the road illegal?**
- **signage at main entry points – hunting seasons, permissible activities – where to post? updating? at which access points**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **exact answers to questions re major issues above**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:
Compatibility and Safety for Mixed Use

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 7 people

Major issues discussed:

- **Character of forest changes from area to area and all should be preserved for everyone. Use as an education tool for children/grandchildren etc. Maintain safety while hunting season is in progress. Talked about the woman who was killed pretty much in her own back yard by a hunter.**
- **Dog droppings**
- **Almost too many trails – afraid this “jewel” of Simcoe may be lost as a “natural” forest area**
- **Relationship between Horseshoe Resort and MNR; does this open the door to permitting other commercial uses of the forest? Eg. Guided hikes, dog sled rides, trail rides.**
- **The impact of one group should not negatively affect any other group of users**
- **Hearing the “crack” of a gunshot while using the trail for non-hunting purposes, seeing deer stands in tress can be disconcerting for some users.**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **All present agreed that multi-use is a good thing; that it can bring respect and awareness between the various groups**

- **The more “groups” that are involved with it, the more voices can be heard in defense of maintaining it against pressures from developers.**
- **Start off on a ski trail that is not part of the Horseshoe Valley maintained trail system and skiing onto it – is this acceptable? Can I be asked not to use their trail system?**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **By and large everyone agreed that all groups (with the exception of motorized vehicles of any kind – excluding official maintenance vehicles) biking, hiking, skiing, hunting, horseback riding etc., should continue to be permitted in what we agreed is a “jewel” in Simcoe and Southern Ontario. More education and communication is needed so that there is better awareness of all groups using the Forest. More groups provide more voices in support of the Forest.**
- **Better signage, for example, there are generic signs indicating that hunting is permitted in the forest. Could these signs be changed to include specific times when hunting is permitted eg. Deer hunting; first week in Nov & first week in Dec; turkeys in ?? so that all users could be aware and able to make a choice to use the forest for non-hunting purposes during those times.**
- **Thank you for listening!**



COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:

Garbage +Manure (poop)

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 4 people

Major issues discussed:

- **Manure on trails, parking lot.**
- **Dog poop to be picked up by owners**
- **Garbage in parking lot +trails**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **Educating users to pack out what you pack in.**
- **Asking horse riders to clean up after their horses. Simply move the manure off the parking lot area and on the trails**
- **Asking users to remove at least 1 item off the trail per visit to help clean up the trails**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Trail maintenance _____**
- **Bear resistant garbage bin for the parking lots _____**



COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session: **RESPECT FOR OTHER USERS**

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 4 people

Major issues discussed:

- **Horse manure, garbage , tree limbs in parking lots and on trails.**
- **Everyone needs to remember others use the same trails for variety of activities**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **Leave trails in good condition.**
- **Hikers yield to bikers and horses!**
- **Educational signage at parking lot - do's & don't (stoop & scoop etc)**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Trail mtnce – _____**
- **Liaise with horse rider's re: clean-up manure**
- **Occasional public input sessions by CC/Stewardship Committee**

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:

Target Practice in the Copeland Forest

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 4 people

Major issues discussed:

- Forest being used for target practice
- There is no law regulating this
- Once it becomes known that it's not illegal, the practice mushrooms
- Safety issues

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- There has to be a clear law
- Signage required
- Hunters, hikers, cyclists, riders need to understand each others' sports

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- We need a law; this group feels it should not be legal to target practice in the forest
- The law has to be communicated; instead of excess signage, perhaps add "no target practice allowed" to existing hunting sign
- An education session for non-hunters and hunters alike to understand what is and is not allowed. And for hunters to appreciate the safety concerns of non-hunters.

The problem does exist and is not isolated. One example is a young couple came all the way from Bowmanville to target practice here, understanding that it was legal and thinking that it was gun season here (it wasn't). Other neighbours are aware of it happening, also.

COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:	INFORMATION RELEASE

Who convened the session?

Who attended? One family who arrived late and so could not post this as a topic.

Major issues discussed:

- **The need for and dire lack of data and information and maps on and for the Copeland Forest**

Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **Make all available maps, information, data and history available for all**

Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

- **Digitize / Scan all documents and data maps and information and post then on the Internet for all to have access to (The Couchiching Conservancy).**



COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:
Beaver management

Who convened the session?

Who attended? 2 people

Major issues discussed:

- **Do beavers need to be managed?**
- **How does the beaver population get managed?**
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Interesting ideas that emerged:

- **The Copeland Forest needs a good forest management plan that takes into account beaver food resources and that will try to simulate the natural disturbances of the forest.**
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Actions proposed (followed by names of those who would be willing to work on them)

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COPELAND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Nov. 3, 2012 Open Space Meeting
SMALL GROUP REPORT FORM

Title of session:

Establishing A cycling club for Horseshoe & Copeland

Who convened the session?

Who attended?

15 cyclists attended from throughout Simcoe County

Major issues discussed: Whether a separate club is justified or if the Barrie cycling club is willing to change their name to encompass the stewardship of the entire region of Simcoe county including the Copeland Forest.

- **_____ Is offering a newly established cycling club called:**
- **CCR Celtic Copeland Riders**
- **Action item: There will be an independent Cycling club established called:**

CCR Celtic Copeland Rider first meeting to be scheduled : **Nov 11, 2012 ,7am**

Contact: