

A Walk in the Woods at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

Follow the marked trails along forests, stream banks and meadows all around the perimeter of Canada's Outdoor Park in Woodstock, Ontario - and you'll discover what could be in your own backyard or your back forty.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and a host of partners have helped create the Ontario Stewardship Legacy Trail - a fantastic venue for farm families interested in stewardship of their own land. For four years, the Ontario Stewardship Legacy Trail has offered Farm Show attendees the chance to learn more about environmental stewardship on organized guided wagon tours along the trail.



"The Ontario Stewardship Program supports and influences people to take better care of their own natural resources," says Dave Depuydt, OMNR Stewardship Coordinator for Oxford County. "With so much of southwestern Ontario being privately owned, if we are going to make an environmental difference in this province, we'll need to help farmers become more knowledgeable and interested in performing conservation work on their own properties."

Tours will take attendees through the woodlot, which is currently in a natural state of flux, facing typical problems that many Southern Ontario Woodlots experience. Foresters will be available along the trail to discuss innovative and inexpensive means of reforestation through direct seeding.

Attendees will also have the chance to learn about stewardship opportunities, including available funding and where to find practical resource management advice and support. "The trail is a chance for attendees to learn what nature can do for them," says Depuydt. "Whether it's providing a buffer against erosion, increasing the water-holding capacity of a stream, or providing a home to beneficial animals and insects, farmers often discover that these areas can help increase their quality of life."

The wagon tours will begin in front of the Site Office at 1:00 and 2:00 pm. It will end at the Bayer CropScience Tent, where the local Conservation Authority and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) will profile actual projects that have been completed with the help of their cost-share programs. Pictures and information will be available on some of these projects, such as well decommissions, energy conservation and generation, pesticide and fertilizer storage.

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show is held September 15, 16 & 17, 2009 in Woodstock, ON.
For more information, visit www.OutdoorFarmShow.com

