

UCPR partners with SNC to encourage landowners to protect, not cut down, woodlots

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"We are a largely rural area," he remarked. "We've seen an increase in demand for acreage from farmers and in many cases, that's why the clear cutting is taking place. It's a difficult situation."

The woodlot zones in the region were split by forestry and agricultural developments and exploitations. Old forests are almost non-existent in the region. Approximately 88 per cent of all woodlot zones belong to private landowners and in many cases, the decisions of these private landowners affect the health of forests across the region.

The silver lining, noted Prévost, is that the counties will be reviewing its official plan this spring and is considering introducing policies

regarding tree preservation.

"We are going to look into adding policies that will help protect forest cover," he remarked. "We will be hosting public meetings in spring and early summer to discuss the matter."

Prévost acknowledged that clear cutting has been an issue in the counties for a number of years, noting the Larose Forest is managed and maintained using good forestry practices.

Twice a year, he said, the UCPR proceeds with three to four tenders to harvest wood lots. Management is done according to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards.

The UCPR receives help from the Eastern Ontario Model Forest in order to obtain this certification. Income generated is reinvested in the forest with a primary objective to conserve a natural environment and its economical, environmental and tourist development.



An example of clear-cutting and burning that took place in Chute-à-Blondeau this summer.