

- (4) The return of abandoned and open lands suitable only for reforestation, to forest
- (5) The change of unproductive scrublands to productive forest lands.
- (6) The ensurance of proper care and harvesting techniques in the forest area.

To date 896,412 acres have been recommended for acquisition by Authorities for Authority Forest programs, 455,283 acres of this land are covered with natural woods, 356,922 acres are cleared, and 84,207 acres scrublands, both wet and dry.

By the end of 1960, 15 Conservation Authorities had purchased 50,000 acres which now constitute Authority Forests. In those Authorities that have established Authority Forests, 7.7 per cent of the area recommended has been acquired.

The Ganaraska River Conservation Authority, one of oldest Authorities in Ontario, has in the last 12 years purchased 39 per cent of the area recommended for Authority Forest. The Ontario Government provides a 50 per cent subsidy for land purchased.

In addition, Authorities are aided in the preparation of maps, literature, suitable conservation pictures, projector slides and lecture material for presentation to school classes, service groups and public meetings. These are all designed to increase the knowledge of all age groups about forest conservation work.

Woodland Grazing

Woodlot grazing causes a great deal of the damage to Southern Ontario woodlots. The succulent valuable species are cropped off leaving the forest floor open to erosion, water loss and a succession to weeds and low-value tree species.

Of the 1,190,070 wooded acres surveyed by the (Conservation Branch) Department of Commerce and Development, 635,519 acres or 54 per cent have been classified as grazed.

To combat this practice, the Conservation Authorities are promoting the fencing of woodlots. Demonstration woodlots are also set up to illustrate the good results of protecting woodlots from cattle.

Promotion of Proper Harvesting Techniques

Malpractices such as overcutting, waste, improper slash disposal and damage as a result of poor cutting practices in farm woodlots are fairly common in Southern Ontario.

By promoting the passing of county diameter limit by-laws and their enforcement, and by designing and recommending the use of timber sales contracts, the Conservation Authorities are working towards improvement.

Reforestation Assistance

Various types of assistance are given by the Conservation Authorities to private property owners in order to promote better land use in areas outside of the Authority Forests. Examples of these are:

- (1) Direct subsidization of private planting.
- (2) Provision of planting machinery and planting crews. A charge may be made for this service, depending on the individual Authority's policy.
- (3) Provision of delivery service of free stock being supplied to property owners.