

2005





1. April, 2005



“A brook need not be large to afford us pleasure by its sands and meanderings and its falls and their various accompaniments. It is not so much size that we want, as picturesque beauty and harmony”
Thoreau

THE REBECCA, OLIVIA, AND EMMA FARM TOUR
January 5, 2005
Elmvale, Ontario, Canada





Five star accommodations.

Three brave young women who volunteered to sleep in the barn, in January !



Emergency food supply



Girls migrated somewhat downhill during the night



It was – **13C** that night, and nobody was in a big hurry to get out of bed in the morning !







Great Gray Owl, January 6, 2005, in the spruce woods near the river



May 2005: Mr. John Turnbull's class, Elmvale District Secondary School, kindly planted trees, provided by the NVCA, at the farm

TREES PLANTED, 2005

10 Black Walnut

15 Black Walnut

5 Silver Maple (large)

19 White Oak

5 Silver Maple (large)

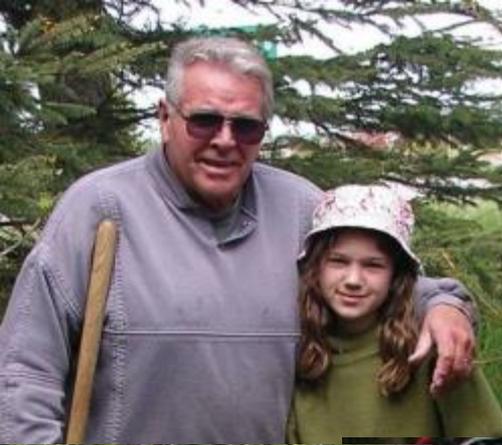
20 Red Oak

100 Wt. Spruce

100 Silver Maple (small)

25 White Ash







Tony

Cara

Lindsay

Pat

Barb

Andy

Emma

Gary

Sharon

Alana

Dario

Olivia

Kara

Yadira

Nathalie

Aunt Sadie

Belinda

Allison

Stephanie

Julia

Alexandra

Christa

Elizabeth

Marcos

Clarke



In 2005, Peter and Tina Blaser came from Switzerland...



And the Höppner family from Germany

Somewhere near Elmvale, turning right from the road,
is an entrance to another world.



In the middle of green Nature lies Bill's "Hotel", surrounded by trees and fields
and a stream that splashes gently – no hectic, no noise

Using a ladder we arrive at our room on the first floor –
Comfortable and purposefully organized: hay, as far as the eye can see

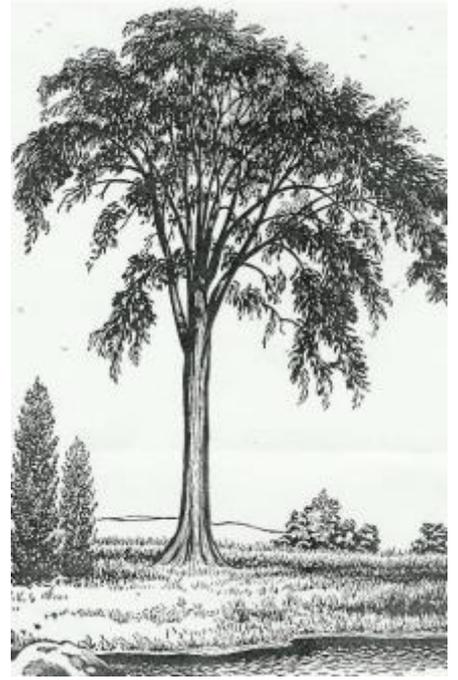
It has been a very long time since we slept so well ! What could be nicer
than to wake up in the morning being tickled by sunbeams ?



Thanks Bill, for the fun days and nights
in a highly recommendable First Class Hotel !

CHRISTINA HÖPPNER

2006





15 silver maple

10 red maple

10 white ash

5 mountain ash

these were large
e.g. 5 to 7 foot
trees, some kindly
provided at no cost
by Huronia Nurseries

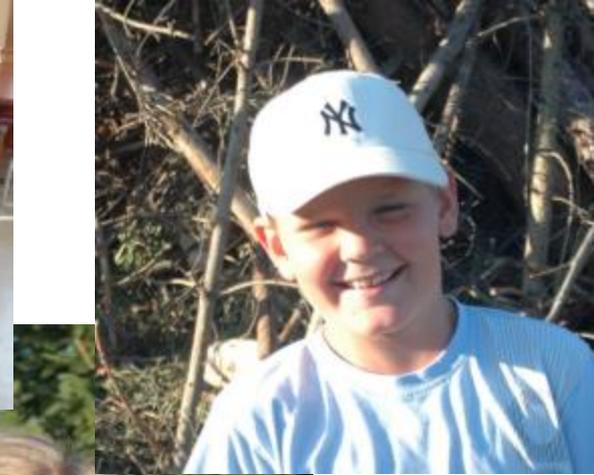
← famous footbridge





*The Farm, Elmvale
May 20-21, 2006*

The 2006 t-shirt



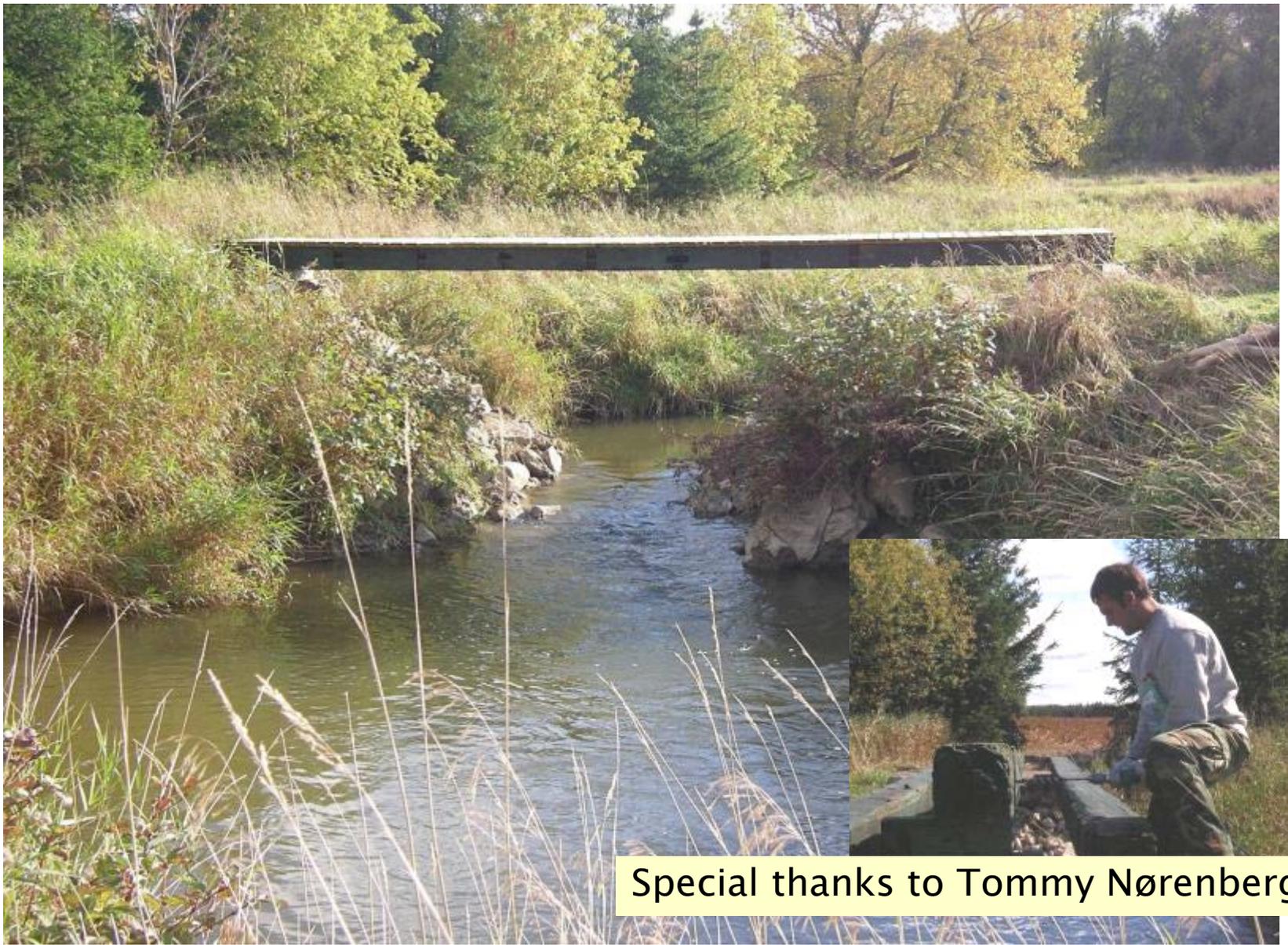
and we all had fun together

In 2006, the Hoppe-Tichy family came from Germany to visit: Torsten and Barbara, Nicky, Matti, and Lucas.



In September, the barn beams grew into the Bridge Over the River Wye

September 26-28, 2006



Special thanks to Tommy Nørenberg

as well as Dan McLean, Steve Ogden, and John Nahuis



This little bridge was very sturdy, and was a big help in allowing us to care for the trees on the “other” side of the river.... But also providing us with a favourite resting place and picnic spot...



March 2007



At high water, however, the bridge is only just barely long enough.....

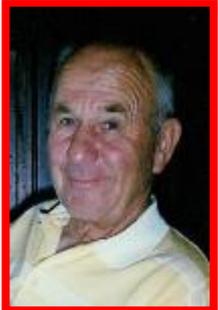
2007



INVITATION

The Farm, Elmvale

May 19-21, 2007



Thirty Years of Tree Planting, 1977 - 2007



This was the 30th anniversary of our 1977 tree planting adventure with 16 friends from high school



“when a child plants a tree,
there is a smile in Heaven”



1. Red oak along highway
2. Colorado spruce along highway
3. Blue ash along river
4. oak, walnut, maple at the bend in river

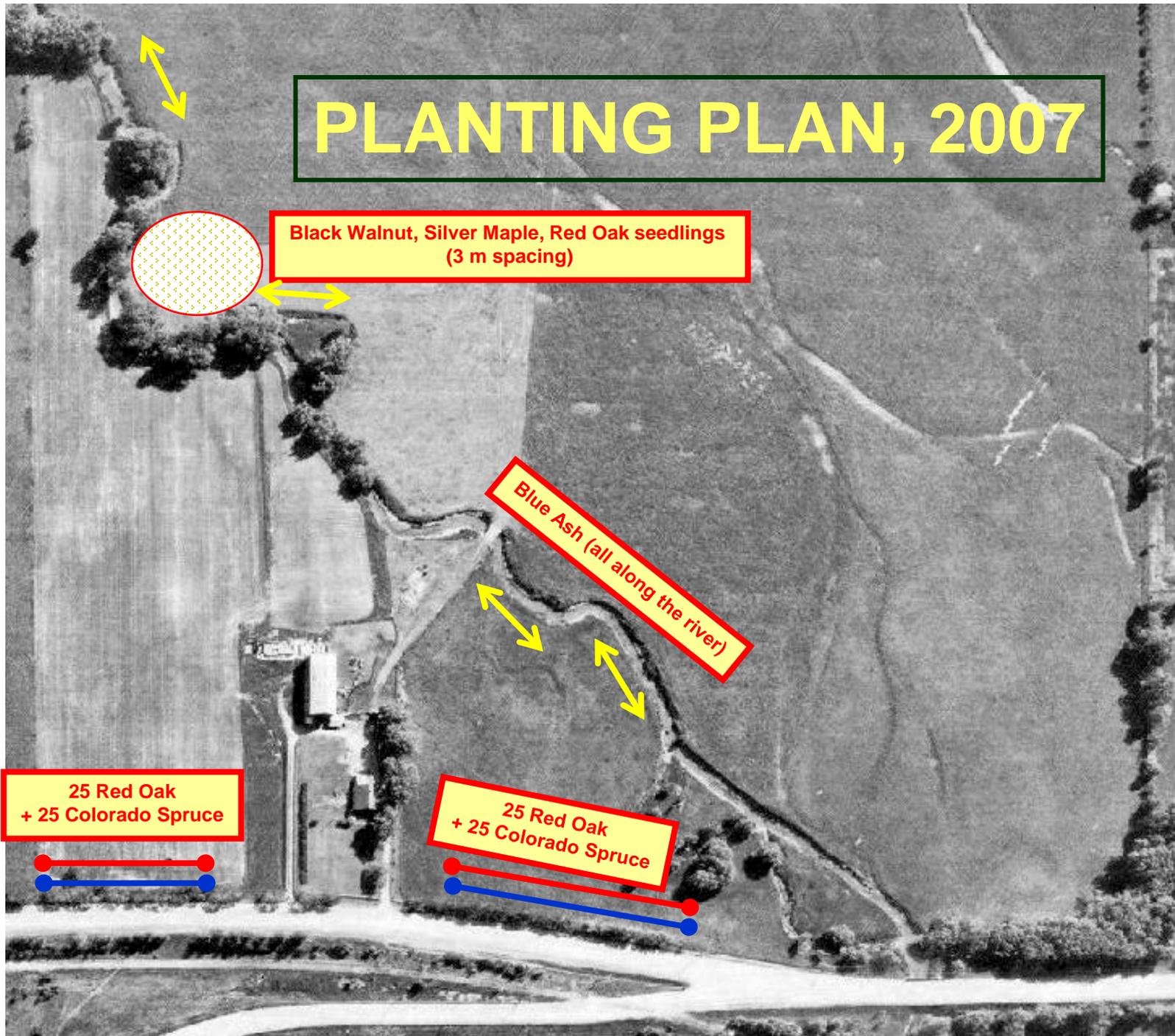
PLANTING PLAN, 2007

Black Walnut, Silver Maple, Red Oak seedlings
(3 m spacing)

Blue Ash (all along the river)

25 Red Oak
+ 25 Colorado Spruce

25 Red Oak
+ 25 Colorado Spruce





October 2007



May 2007

For the first time, we tried planting “Blue Ash” which, it is hoped, is resistant to the emerald ash borer.....



At the bend in the river where we planted so many black walnut and silver maple seedlings, we mulched heavily with pine bark kindly provided by Rob Ritchie from his sawmill in Elmvale. In fact, although there was a drought that summer, we did not lose a single tree.



May 2007



October 2007



September 2008



A snapping turtle has since used this spot as a nesting site at least twice....but on both occasions, it was clear the raccoons found it soon after the eggs had been laid ...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to everybody for all your hard work !!!!



- Tommy
- Taras
- Ivan Andriy
- Donna
- Gary
- Tony
- Christa
- Olivia
- Matthew
- Janet
- Isabelle
- Peter
- Carolyn
- Elizabeth
- Beth
- Stephanie
- Madison
- Emma
- Celina
- Holly
- Natalie
- Julia
- Alexandra

Trees

I THINK that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

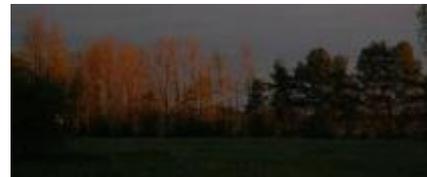
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Joyce Kilmer. 1886-1918



I am grateful that my childhood was spent in a spot where there were many trees....
When I have lived with a tree for many years it seems to me like a beloved human companion.

Lucy Maude Montgomery

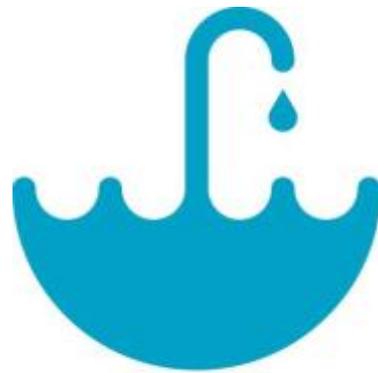


The brass tap was replaced with stainless steel in May of 2007, imported from Denmark, and I can confirm (after further extensive testing in our lab in Heidelberg) that we now have unleaded water (thanks Tommy !)

THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET

by Samuel Woodworth

How dear to this heart are the scenes of my childhood,
When fond recollections present them to view!
The orchard, the meadow, the deep-tangled wild wood,
And every loved spot which my infancy knew;
The wide-spreading pond, and the mill which stood by it,
The bridge and the rock where the cataract fell;
The cot of my father, the dairy house nigh it,
And e'en the rude bucket which hung in the well;
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,
The moss-cover'd bucket, which hung in the well.
That moss-cover'd vessel I hail as a treasure;
For often, at noon, when return'd from the field,
I found it the source of an exquisite pleasure,
The purest and sweetest that Nature can yield.
How ardent I seized it, with hands that were glowing!
And quick to the white-pebbled bottom it fell;
Then soon, with the emblem of truth overflowing,
And dripping with coolness, it rose from the well;
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,
The moss-cover'd bucket arose from the well.
How sweet from the green mossy brim to receive it,
As poised on the curb it inclined to my lips!
Not a full blushing goblet could tempt me to leave it,
Though fill'd with the nectar that Jupiter sips.
And now, far removed from the loved situation,
The tear of regret will intrusively swell,
As fancy reverts to my father's plantation,
And sighs for the bucket which hangs in the well;
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,
The moss-cover'd bucket, which hangs in the well.



celebrate water



2007 was wet: the Elmvale Water Festival, was established, as well as the Elmvale Foundation

elmvale



It was also the summer that Chiara Heidinger came to visit



In 2007, the Vysocansky family came from Germany: Jaro, Marie, Miro and Lina. Here Lina and Miro are helping to tidy the barn, and learning to ride the motorcycle

2008





PLANTING PLAN, 2008
200 white cedar
150 red osier dogwood
50 nannyberry

Tree planting, 2008





Caring for the trees by cutting grass,
or taking a break from it, summer 2008





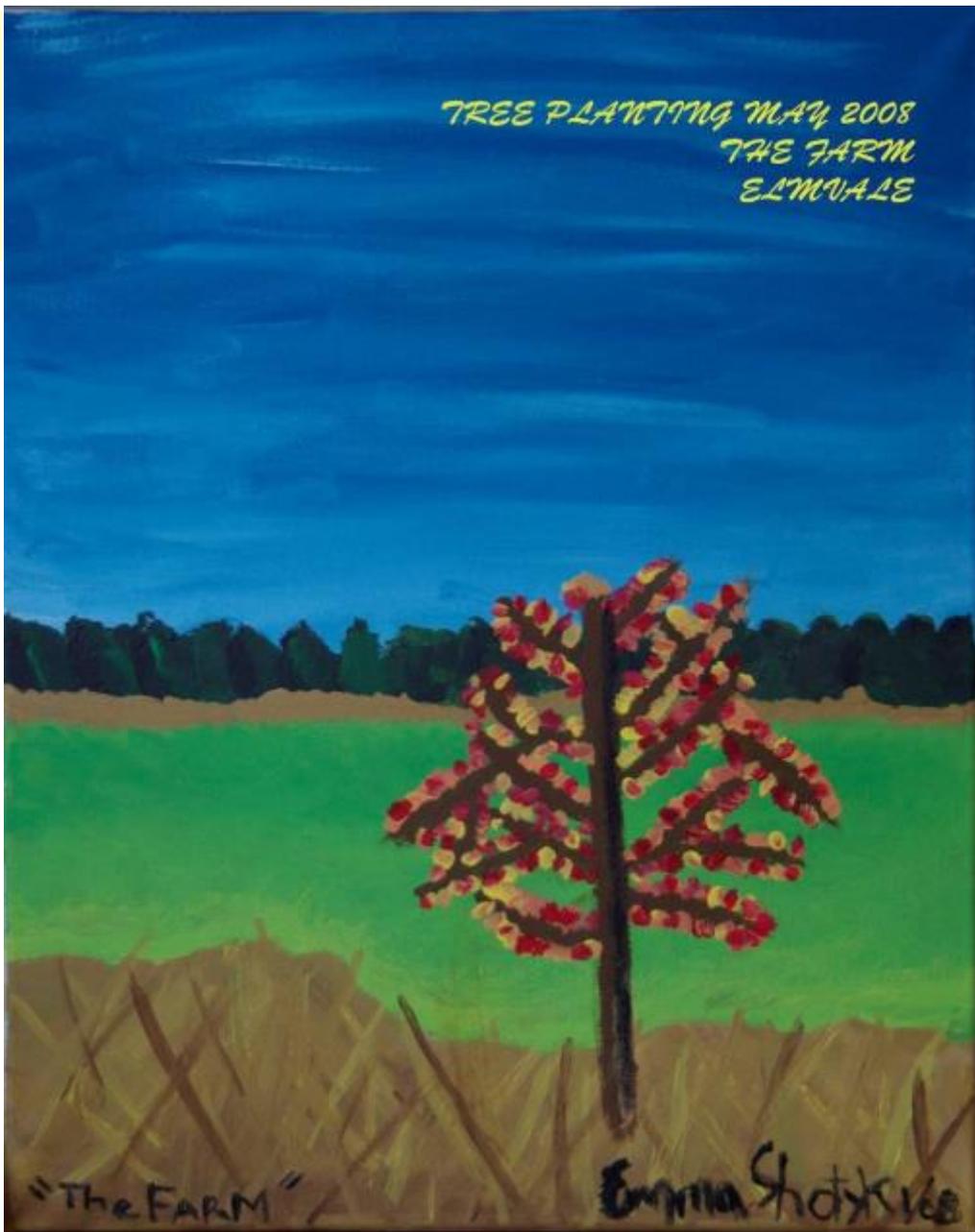
Spring summer fall and winter, rain snow or blow, the girls have been a great help



the English White Oak is one of the last trees to give up its leaves in autumn: they hang on well into the winter; this tough character, and the strength of the wood, reminds me of my Dad

In 2008, these stones were placed around the English White Oak, planted with Dad in 1993, to mark the spot where the remainder of his ashes will be spread.

“I am deeply attached to my trees.
I address to them elegies and sonnets and odes.
I know them all by their names like my children. They are my family.
I have no other and I hope to die in the midst of them.”
- François René de Chateaubriand



An artists rendition of the same scene



the artist



Other area artists have also drawn inspiration from the farm



One hundred and sixty tonnes of rip rap stone was emplaced along the banks of the river (thanks to Steve Ogden and a 60 foot excavator)

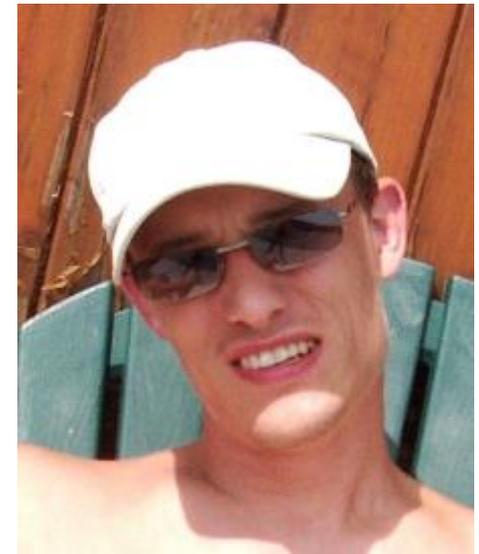


With large boulders first set into the bottom of the banks of the river, to hold the rip rap stone in place.....



and in September 2008, a beautiful steel bridge was constructed, by Tommy Nørenberg and Steve Ogden, with help from his son Neil, and based on engineering by Ulf Höppner.





German engineering....



Made in Canada



With expert help from Matthew Janiuk and his father Peter, building the deck





Why restore? Regenerate for whom ?



There has never been a shortage of raccoons: they share the barn with us. Or we share it with them ?



And there have always been muskrats in the river



and who could forget the beavers ?



they have now made the farm their home



But there are now also deer and wild turkeys

September, 2008





and a bunch of other wild creatures



There are now so many seed cones that the red squirrels have made this place their home too



“Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life”
Rachel Carson



Where we have planted trees, a number of other plants and animals soon follow including armies of ant with impressive anthills



In addition, it is also the home for the chimney crayfish living underground. There are nine species of crayfish in Ontario, and this is the “digger crayfish”, *Fallicambarus fodiens*.



The slough found in the middle of the farm might not look like very much to the untrained eye, but in fact it is a seasonally important wetland which provides temporary habitat for waterfowl on their annual spring migration.



Place your cursor on the speaker icon to hear the frog music



At the back of the farm is a small wetland, with a successful plantation of ash provided by Mother Nature. This very small wetland might not look like much, but in fact it has become a breeding area for frogs who provide music every night in late spring and early summer.

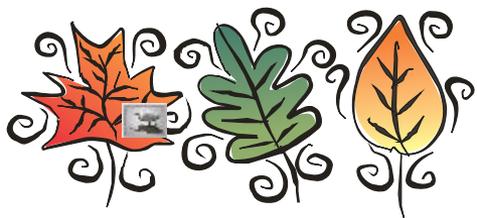
A close-up photograph of a bright yellow goldfinch with black wings and a black cap, perched on a purple thistle flower. The bird is facing left. The background is a soft-focus meadow with other thistles and green foliage.

“I should be glad if all the meadows of the earth were left in a wild state,
if that were the consequence of men’s beginning to redeem themselves”
Thoreau

The goldfinches add colour to the farm in spring and summer. They do not nest until the end of the summer, as they rely on seeds (such as those of thistle) for feeding their young.



The coyote is a frequent visitor. On nights with a full moon, when we are in the barn curled up in our sleeping bags, we often hear them howling.....



MEADOW BIRDS OF THE FARM



Brown-headed Cowbird



Meadowlark



Tree Swallow



Barn Swallow



Northern Harrier (Marsh Harrier)



American Goldfinch



American Robin



Killdeer



WOODLAND BIRDS OF THE FARM



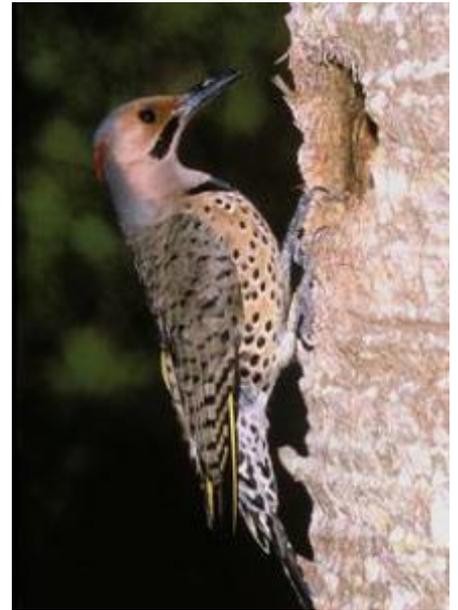
Cedar Waxwing



Blue Jay



Pileated Woodpecker



Northern Flicker



Black-capped Chickadee



Downy Woodpecker



Northern Oriole



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Mourning Dove



WETLAND BIRDS OF THE FARM



Mallard Duck



Belted Kingfisher



Red-winged Blackbird



Great Blue Heron

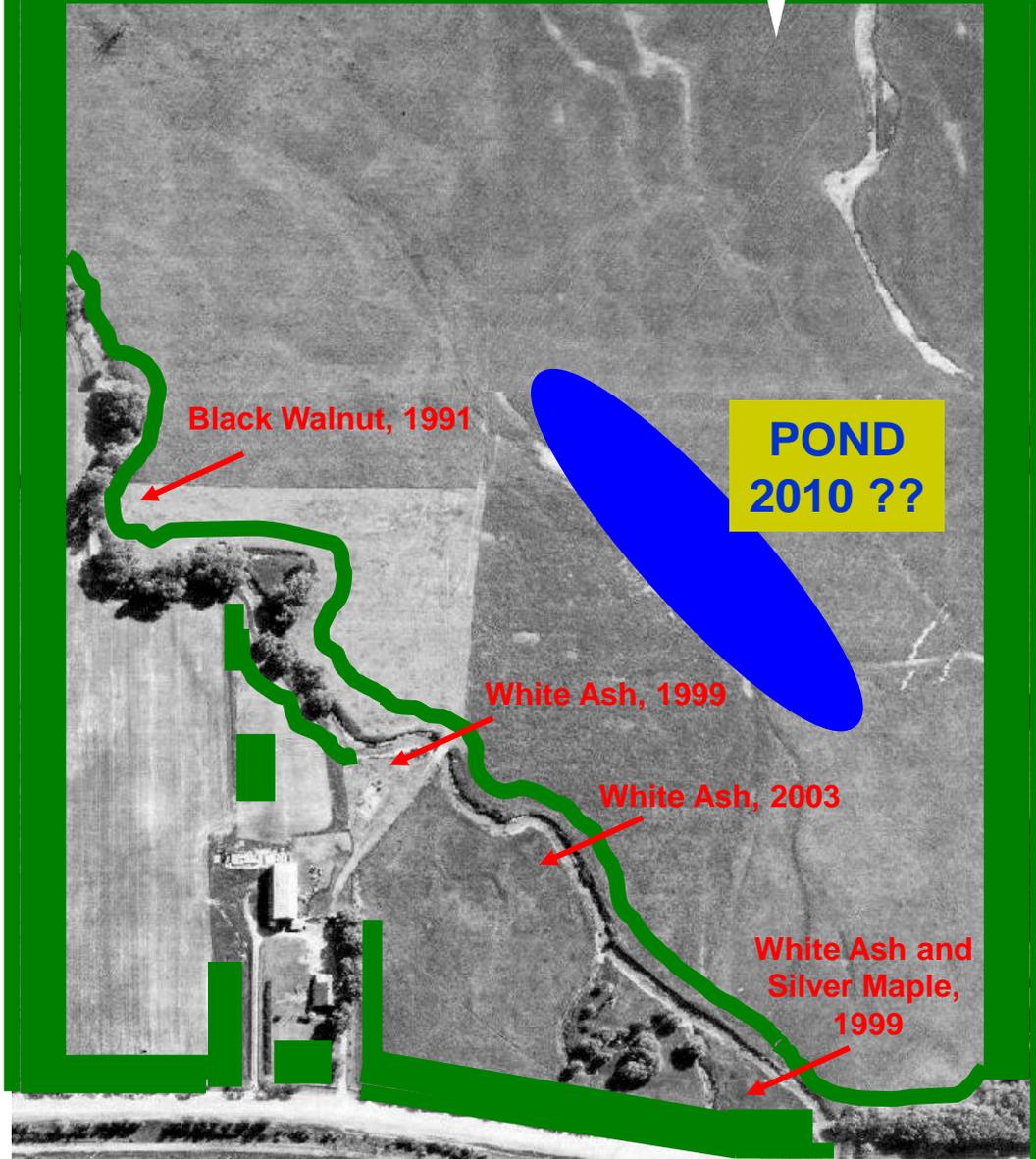


Bufflehead Duck



OMNR, WIA

1999
1993
1991
1990
1977
1976





If you have built castles in the air, do not despair.
Now put the foundations under them.
Thoreau



Manitoba Maple (Box Elder)



American Elm



Sugar Maple



Silver Maple



White Ash



Black Cherry



Staghorn Sumac

TREES COMMONLY FOUND IN THE AREA



Shagbark Hickory



Black Walnut



White Oak



Bitternut Hickory



Red Oak

NUT-BEARING TREES



Larch (Tamarack)



White Spruce



White Cedar (Arbor Vitae)



Norway Spruce



Austrian (Black) Pine

NON-NATIVE CONIFERS

NATIVE CONIFERS



Black Locust



European Mountain Ash



Scots Pine



Norway Maple

INTRODUCED SPECIES, NOW NATURALIZED



Cucumber Magnolia



Kentucky Coffee Tree

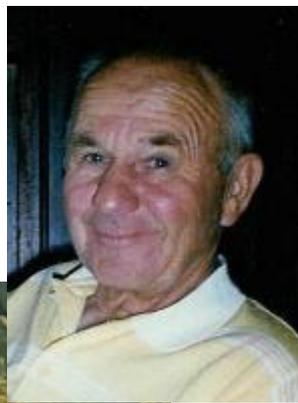


Linden Tree



American Sycamore

CAROLINIAN SPECIES



TREES
OF
PAPA'S
FARM
BY Olivia
and Emma



DEDICATION:

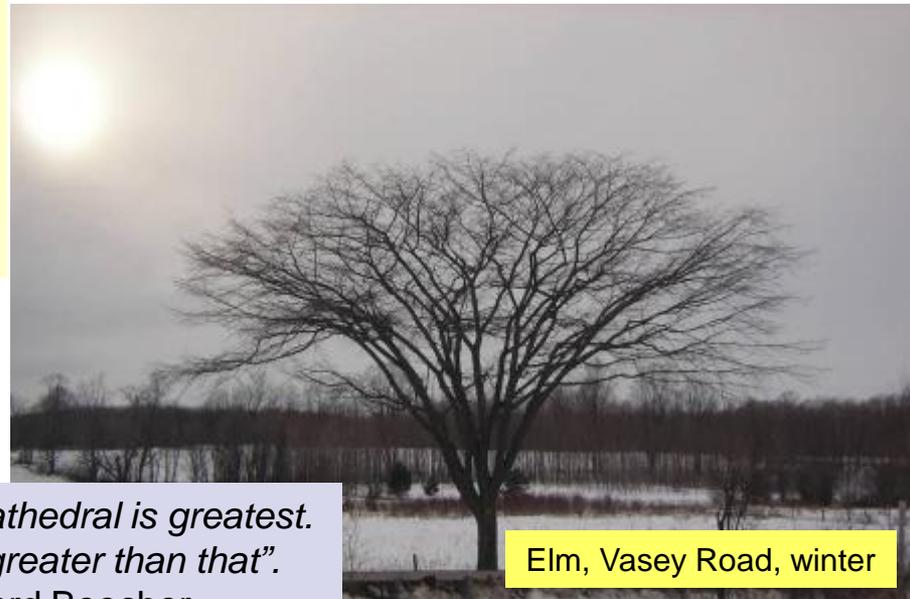
I have my father to thank for all of this, and so much more

THANKS are also due to the folks who provided all the seedlings and young trees, namely: the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Severn Sound Environmental Association, Huronia Nurseries, Peter Duenk, and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.



Elm, Fredericton, NB, 2007

*“Of all man`s works of art, a cathedral is greatest.
A vast and majestic tree is greater than that”.*
- Henry Ward Beecher



Elm, Vasey Road, winter



Elm, concession 10, Flos Township, October 2007

may the majestic Elm once again return to Elmvale in all its splendour....



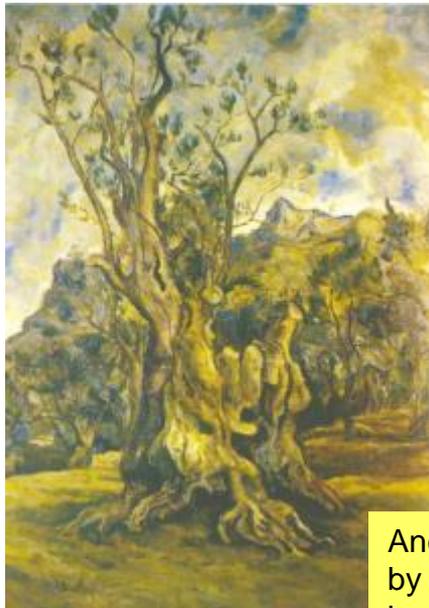
Elm, Site 41, Tiny Township, April 2006



Piet Mondrian, Red Tree



Piet Mondrian, Gray Tree



Ancient Olive Tree at Bar, Montenegro. This tree has served the community, and has been cared for by the community, for more than 2,000 years. In this region, olive trees are so important that they can be neither bought nor sold, and young men cannot marry until they have planted at least one tree.



The Farm, Elmvale.
Work in Progress.
Thanks to Mom and Dad.
Thanks to one and all.





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The Farm, Elmvale