

## How to Help:

✓ **Email** these decision-makers to tell them you want to see a moratorium on logging and protected status for Catchacoma Forest.

Svetlana Zeran, BMFC: [svetlana@bmfci.ca](mailto:svetlana@bmfci.ca)

Jesse VanAllen, MNRF: [jesse.vanallen@ontario.ca](mailto:jesse.vanallen@ontario.ca)

Rob Davis, MECP: [rob.davis@ontario.ca](mailto:rob.davis@ontario.ca)

Dave Smith, member of provincial parliament for Peterborough:

[dave.smith@pc.ola.org](mailto:dave.smith@pc.ola.org)

Or use our handy online action tool by going to: [bit.ly/CatchacomaForest](https://bit.ly/CatchacomaForest) or scan the QR code.



✓ **Participate** in upcoming public consultations on the new 10-year management plan from BMFC.

Email [jesse.vanallen@ontario.ca](mailto:jesse.vanallen@ontario.ca) to be notified when these consultations will happen

✓ **Visit the forest!** Use the trail map inside to find ways to appreciate the beauty of the Catchacoma old-growth hemlock forest. Email [katie@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:katie@wildernesscommittee.org) to find out about upcoming community hikes.

✓ **Stay informed!** Email [katie@wildernesscommittee.com](mailto:katie@wildernesscommittee.com) to join the CFSC or to get on our mailing list to keep up to date on the campaign.

✓ **Find out** more about AFER's research at <https://www.peterborougholdgrowth.ca/catchacoma>

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**Cover Photo:** logging in Catchacoma Forest (Katie Krelove).

**Back Photo:** Catchacoma old-growth hemlock trees (Cameron Douglas).


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 Wilderness Committee Ontario



# WHAT'S UP WITH LOGGING IN CATCHACOMA FOREST?

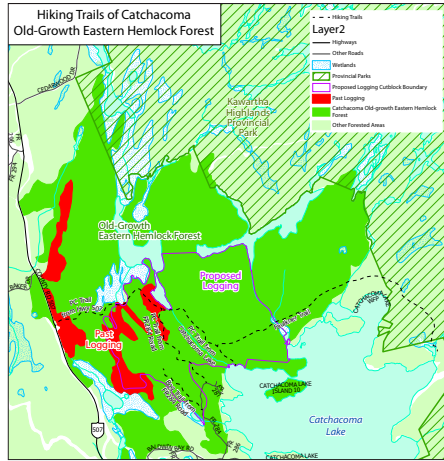


**WILDERNESS**  
COMMITTEE

# The Forest

Just north of Catchacoma Lake, west of Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park, lies 660-hectares of Crown forest — known as Catchacoma Forest. If you've ever walked or snowmobiled the trails you may have noticed the large hemlock trees and dense canopy that shelters the waters that feed into Catchacoma Lake. The forest is habitat for moose, Algonquin wolves, as well as a wide diversity of birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants.

Recently, a local non-profit group, Ancient Forest Exploration and Research (AFER) worked with local Peterborough students to survey sections of the forest. They measured significant stands of old-growth hemlocks including a 375 year-old tree, and found this landscape to be the largest known mature hemlock stand in Canada. Researchers also found documentation for at-risk species in the forest, including cerulean warbler, hognose snake and Blanding's turtles.



# Logging in Catchacoma Forest

AFER ecologists, local residents and environmental organizations are concerned about the effects of recent and planned logging on the ecological, carbon storing, educational, scientific and recreational values of Catchacoma Forest. This winter, many of the large hemlock trees were logged and many more are marked for cutting in 2020-2021. A gravel road and landing were constructed and trails widened to facilitate logging machinery, which has fragmented the forest community. In response, a group of citizens formed the Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee (CFSC) to advocate for protection of the forest.



Photo: cut tree rings (Katie Krelove).

Catchacoma Forest is public land leased for logging to the Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC). Logging practices are overseen by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) through approval of 10-year logging plans. The ministry is also responsible for identifying species at risk habitat. Unfortunately, past independent audits of logging operations have found multiple instances where this species at risk reporting did not happen. CFSC has made multiple requests for information about what studies were done to identify species at risk habitat prior to logging. So far no response has been received from the MNRF.

## About hemlock trees:

- Can live up to 600 years
- Are considered “old-growth” starting at 140 years of age
- Are “late-stage” forest succession trees, as they don’t recover quickly after disturbance
- Old-growth hemlock forests are one of the rarest types of forest in Ontario, and are on the decline
- The dense canopy of hemlock trees provides water cooling to the creeks that feed Catchacoma Lake.
- Are threatened by a relatively new non-native insect predator — the hemlock wooly adelgid. The genetic biodiversity of the hemlocks in Catchacoma could provide insight into resistance to this disease.



Photo: Catchacoma old-growth hemlock trees (Katie Krelove).



Photo: eastern hemlock (Robert McCaw).

## Protection for Catchacoma Forest

The CFSC believes this nationally-significant forest qualifies for conservation status with the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), which would ban commercial logging. While the provincial process for getting protection is complicated and long, the first step is stop the logging planned for next year. CFSC has been advocating with the logging company and the MNRF to stop logging in Catchacoma Forest while its conservation status is evaluated.

You can help! Turn to the back page to find out how you can find out more and help protect Catchacoma Forest.



Photo(left): Blanding's turtle (Robert McCaw).  
Photo(right): cerulean warbler (Jeff Nadler).

