

UPDATE SPRING 2022

# CATCHACOMA FOREST CONSERVATION

BY: THE CATCHACOMA FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (CFSC)

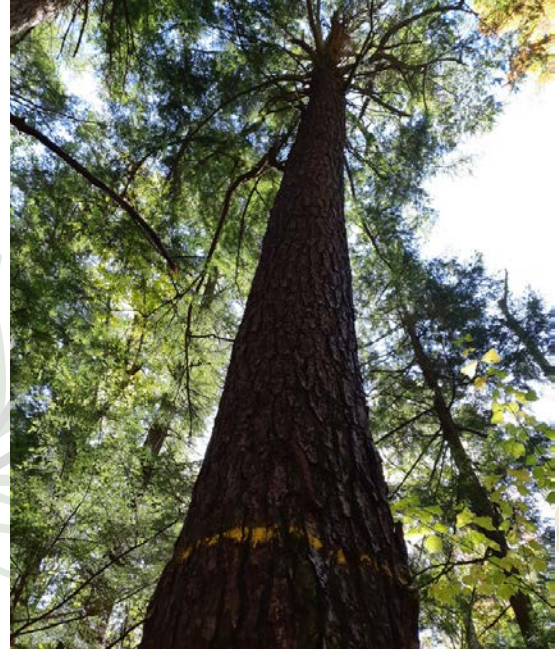
## WHAT IS THE CFSC?

We are local landowners, students, teachers, and ecologists advocating to protect a rare 660-ha old growth hemlock forest on crown land north of Catchacoma Lake, east of 507 and adjacent to Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park--known as Catchacoma Forest. Protection status will exclude logging and manage the forest for the highest level of ecological health.

Old forests have important conservation values including carbon storage, wildlife habitat, recreation, education and research. We've built the case for conservation for Catchacoma Forest since 2019 with the help of Ancient Forest Exploration & Research (AFER) and Wilderness Committee

For more info or to join the CFSC  
email [katie@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:katie@wildernesscommittee.org)

Read up on AFER's research reports at  
[peterborougholdgrowth.ca/catchacoma-forest](http://peterborougholdgrowth.ca/catchacoma-forest)



## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO IN 2021-22

### Since 2021 the CFSC has:

- Secured a moratorium on further logging in Catchacoma until 2023
- Hired students to continue research
- Engaged with Ontario's Minister of Environment to initiate government studies of Catchacoma Forest for protection
- Held public hikes highlighting old growth, wildlife and recreation
- Starred in the short documentary "Conserving Catchacoma" that debuted in Peterborough's ReFrame Festival
- Partnered with Haliburton Land Trust to add Catchacoma Forest to the vision for the "Highlands Corridor", a conservation plan to connect Queen Elizabeth II and Kawartha Highlands Parks



# WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PROTECT?

CFSC participated in the consultation process for the development of the 2021-2031 "Forest Management Plan" (ie: logging plan) for the Bancroft Minden Forest Company. By presenting and defending the old growth and other conservation values of the forest, we secured a 1-year moratorium on planned logging in Catchacoma Forest in 2021.

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNR) also put all of the Catchacoma blocks scheduled for logging into "contingency," meaning certain conditions need to be met before the company can re-apply for logging--including the development of a process to identify old growth in the field. The 2022 operations plan confirmed that none of Catchacoma Forest will be logged this year.

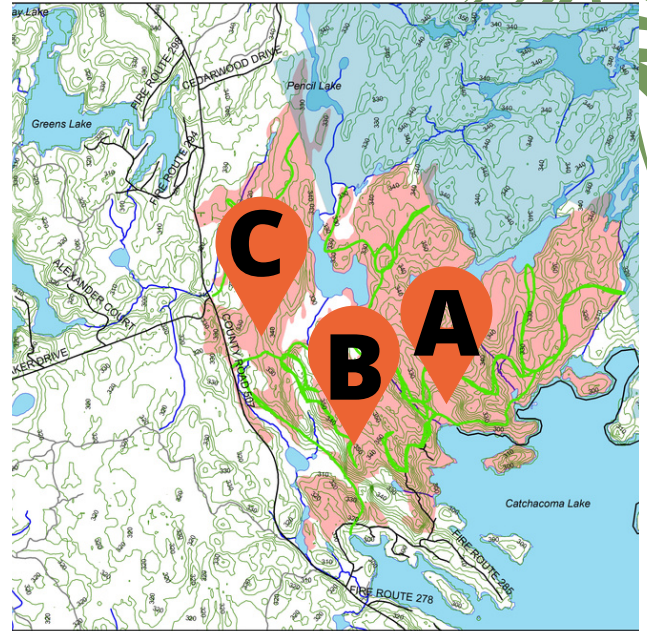
## WHAT'S NEXT

The pause on logging allows CFSC to apply to MNDMNR for a "crown land use change" for protection status for the forest--either as a conservation reserve or an addition to Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park. This change requires support from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). CFSC's advocacy led to the Minister assigning MECP biologists to evaluate the forest for conservation--happening this summer.

If MECP studies support protection, public consultations will follow.

**Take Action:** Send an email to Ontario's Minister of the Environment to support protection for Catchacoma Forest: [www.wildernesscommittee.org/take-action/support-protection-catchacoma-old-growth-forest](http://www.wildernesscommittee.org/take-action/support-protection-catchacoma-old-growth-forest)

## Catchacoma Forest



- A** = Area in contingency
- B** = Area logged 2019-2020
- C** = Area in contingency

## THE BIG PICTURE

The Canadian government committed to protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030, but this can't happen without the cooperation of provinces. Ontario currently is stalled at 11% protected with no targets for expansion.

Protecting old growth southern Ontario forests like Catchacoma is low-hanging fruit to meet this goal,

## HOW TO HELP

Share this newsletter with friends and family

Join our upcoming guided hike in Catchacoma Forest Sunday June 26, 2022 from 1PM-3PM

Email [katie@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:katie@wildernesscommittee.org) to RSVP