



# CATCHACOMA FOREST CONSERVATION

## CATCHACOMA FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (CFSC)

### WHAT IS THE CFSC?

We are citizens advocating to protect a 662-ha old-growth hemlock forest on crown land in Williams Treaty territory, north of Catchacoma Lake, east of 507 and adjacent to Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park. Protection status would exclude logging and manage for ecological health.

Old forests have important conservation values: carbon storage, unique habitat, recreation, health, education and more. We've built the case for conserving Catchacoma Forest since 2019 with the help of scientific research produced by Ancient Forest Exploration & Research (AFER).

### PROTECTION UPDATE

In 2021 our advocacy with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry resulted in a 1-year suspension of new logging in Catchacoma Forest. This pause has been extended once again for 2024. We continue to request meetings with the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) discuss permanent protection.

### HOW TO HELP

#### Follow us!

 CatchacomaForestStewardshipCommittee

 catchacoma\_forest

#### Read more about us and our efforts!

<https://www.ancientforest.org/catchacoma-forest-stewardship-committee>

**Send an email** to the MECP to support protection for Catchacoma Forest [wildernesscommittee.org/take-action/support-protection-catchacoma-old-growth-forest](https://www.ancientforest.org/wildernesscommittee.org/take-action/support-protection-catchacoma-old-growth-forest)

### 2024 NEWS



CFSC members at the Rotary Club of Peterborough Environmental Innovators Fund award ceremony

### TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

With generous funding from the Rotary Club of Peterborough and the Peterborough Foundation we are embarking on a project to enhance hiking trails in Catchacoma Forest. This will include marking trails, clearing debris, and creating maps and signage with engaging information to highlight old growth features and values.

We hope that these enhanced opportunities for low-impact recreation and health benefits will increase local appreciation for the forest and spur support for protection for Catchacoma Forest.



# OLD GROWTH FEATURES

Old growth forests are more than just old trees (although that's a big part of it!).

While there is no one definition, certain features are indicative of older, more undisturbed forests in southern and central Ontario. Here are some:

**1. COMPLEX**, multi-layered structure, with trees of all ages and sizes.



**2. DECAYING WOOD** on the ground create habitat for fungi, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and bacteria. As wood decays, it returns nutrients to the forest soil and creates the fertile, moist conditions yellow birches, hemlocks and cedars needed to grow.

**3. SNAGS:** standing dead trees. Owls, woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, tree swallows, bats, and other species rely on them for habitat.

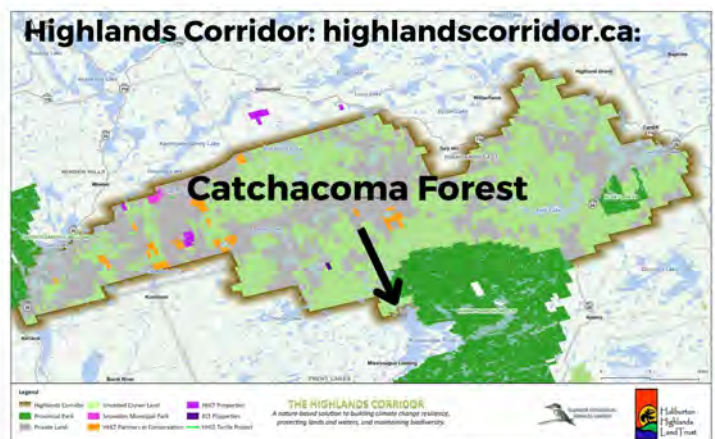
**4. PITS AND MOUNDS:** the topography formed when large trees are naturally uprooted. The pits form when the roots and soil are pulled from the ground and the mounds as the roots decay. Together, these give the forest floor a rugged appearance and provide a diversity of drier and wetter habitats

**5. LICHENS:** part fungus and part green alga or cyanobacterium, lichens are bio-indicators of air quality. Certain species are also associated with the sustained moisture levels and diversity of microhabitats of old growth forests.



## WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust has included Catchacoma Forest in its "Highlands Corridor": a significant wildlife corridor rich with wetlands, forest and species at risk covering 100,000 hectares and connecting three provincial parks. HHLT is pursuing conservation status for the Crown land along this corridor



## STAY IN TOUCH!

Join our email list to learn about our upcoming guided public hikes. Send an email to [katie@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:katie@wildernesscommittee.org)

Sources: <https://www.slpoa.ca/oldgrowth.pdf>  
<https://phys.org/news/2019-03-rethinking-old-growth-forests-lichens-indicator.html>