



Memorandum

TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Erin Mahoney, Commissioner of Environmental Services
DATE: June 18, 2015
RE: **York Regional Forest – Achieves Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Re-certification (2015-2020)**

In 2015 the York Regional Forest obtained Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for an additional five-year period

On May 1, 2015, the York Regional Forest was re-certified for an additional five-years from 2015 to 2020. FSC certification allows the Region to demonstrate to the public that the York Regional Forest is managed in an appropriate and sustainable manner in accordance with an international standard.

The Region owns and manages 2,300 hectares of York Regional Forest. Most of the properties have been owned by the Region for many years, with some being acquired in the early 1920's. The York Regional Forest consists of 22 properties and includes over 120 kilometres of trails. These natural areas are important natural heritage features and provide for a broad range of passive public recreational opportunities. The York Regional Forest also serves a variety of other purposes including a location to demonstrate environmental protection, restoration, and sustainable forest management, as well as provide a nature setting for our public environmental education programs.

In 2000, the York Regional Forest became the first public forest in Canada to be Forest Stewardship Council certified

The Forest Stewardship Council is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote responsible management of the world's forests. Over 180 million hectares of forest, in 80 countries, are certified to Forest Stewardship Council standards around the world. Approximately 30 per cent of the world's Forest Stewardship Council certified forests are in Canada, totaling over 50 million hectares. Other Forest Stewardship Council certified forests in Ontario include provincially-managed Crown lands, Conservation Authority forests and municipally-owned forests in Simcoe County, Grey County, and the Town of Oakville.

The Region is seen as a pioneer and leader in the certification of municipally-owned forests and the York Regional Forest was the first public forest in Canada to be Forest Stewardship Council certified in 2000. Our efforts are seen as contributing, along with

large forest companies and small woodlot owners, to sustainable management of the world's forests. To earn Forest Stewardship Council certification, an organization must manage its forests to meet social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations. This includes managerial aspects as well as environmental and social requirements. The Forest Stewardship Council rules are internationally recognized as being the strictest, with the highest social and environmental requirements.

There are 10 principles and 56 criteria which form the basis for all Forest Stewardship Council forest management standards. Based on these 10 principles, they developed further rules, called policies or standards, that further define and explain certain requirements stipulated in the 10 principles (Attachment 1).

In global markets, Forest Stewardship Council's certified wood products are increasingly capturing higher premiums and greater market share due to their 'green' reputation and recognition of increased environmental awareness. York Region sells standing timber each year as part of the sustainable management of the York Regional Forest which contributes to the pool of available Forest Stewardship Council certified wood.

Forest Stewardship Council certification demonstrates that the Region is an environmental leader and is committed to the sustainable management of the York Regional Forest

Forest Stewardship Council certification is granted for a period of five years after which a forest must be re-certified. Re-certification includes an intensive audit and stakeholder consultation. In March 2015, the Forest Stewardship Council certifier, the Rainforest Alliance, completed an intensive re-assessment of the management and operation of the Regional Forest including a two-day field audit and consultation with stakeholders. Based on the results of the re-assessment the certifier recommended that the York Regional Forest be re-certified for an additional five years.

In May 2015, the Region entered into a certification agreement with the Rainforest Alliance, re-certifying the forest from 2015-2020. In recognition, the Region has received a certificate from the Rainforest Alliance (Attachment 2). A cost associated with the five year re-certification of \$15,000, was funded through the 2015 approved operating budget.

For more information on this report please contact Ian Buchanan, Manager Natural Heritage and Forestry Services at 905 830-4444 Ext. 75204, or Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection at Ext. 75077.

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.

Attachments (2)

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FSC Forest Management Certification

Understanding Forest Management Certification

Our forests provide clean water, purify the air, maintain biodiversity, provide habitat for species, and play a central role in reducing the impacts of climate change. When managed responsibly, forests are also a source of renewable and recyclable products such as lumber, furniture, and paper. Canada's forests are also vital for the livelihood of Aboriginal and other forest dependent communities.

Your choice makes a difference. FSC certification guarantees that our forests are healthy and our communities are strong.

FSC Forest Management (FM) certification involves the evaluation of a forest by an independent third-party certifier against FSC's Forest Management Standards.

If the forest meets FSC's standards, it is issued an FSC certificate and products from that forest may be sold as FSC-certified.

Become FSC Certified and keep our forests for all, forever.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international certification and labeling system dedicated to promoting environmentally sound, socially beneficial, and economically prosperous management of the world's forests. FSC was created in 1993 to help consumers and businesses identify products from well managed forests. FSC sets standards by which forests are certified, offering credible verification to people who are buying wood and wood products.

Benefits of FSC Certification

- ◆ FSC-certified forests **PROTECT** waterways and wildlife habitat, conserve regions of high biodiversity, and minimize the impact of harvesting.
- ◆ FSC **PROHIBITS** the conversion of natural forests for plantations, mining, oil exploration or agriculture.
- ◆ **100%** of the fibre in FSC-certified products comes from independently verified sources.
- ◆ Independent auditors **MONITOR** forestry practices annually on-the-ground.
- ◆ FSC protects the rights of **ABORIGINAL PEOPLES**.
- ◆ FSC is the fastest **GROWING** forest certification systems in the world.
- ◆ Thousands of FSC-certified products available worldwide.
- ◆ FSC is the only forest certification system with **SUPPORT** from major Aboriginal, environmental and social groups.
- ◆ Banks, insurance companies, retailers, publishers, and governments recognize FSC in procurement policies as the **BEST** choice for healthy forests and healthy communities.
- ◆ Building projects earn **LEED®** Credits by purchasing FSC-certified wood products.

FSC Forest Management Requirements: FSC Principles & Criteria

PRINCIPLE 1: Compliance with Laws & FSC Principles

- Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which they country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles & Criteria..

PRINCIPLE 2: Tenure and Use Rights & Responsibilities

- Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

PRINCIPLE 3: Aboriginal Peoples' Rights

- The legal and customary rights of Aboriginal Peoples to won, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

PRINCIPLE 4: Community Relations & Worker's Rights

- Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.

PRINCIPLE 5: Benefits from the Forest

- Forest management operation shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and wide range of environmental and social benefits.

PRINCIPLE 6: Environmental Impact

- Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils and unique fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

PRINCIPLE 7: Management Plan

- A management plan shall be written, implemented, and kept up-to-date. The long-term objectives of management, and the needs of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

PRINCIPLE 8: Monitoring & Assessment

- Monitoring shall be conducted to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

PRINCIPLE 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests

- Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

PRINCIPLE 10: Plantation

- Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principle 1-10. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

All FSC-certified forests worldwide are evaluated against FSC's 10 Principles & 56 Criteria for responsible forest management. FSC's Principles & Criteria form the guiding framework for developing regional forest stewardship standards appropriate to local social, ecological and economic conditions.

Become FSC-certified

1. Contact an **FSC certifier** (=auditor).
<https://ca.fsc.org/certification-bodies.213.htm>
2. Submit an **Application** to the FSC certifier and receive a price and timeline quote.
3. Complete an **On-site Audit**.
4. **Certification approval** and receipt of FSC Certification code (XXX-COC-#####) and Trademark License Code (C#####).
5. Annual **Surveillance Audit**



Rainforest Alliance

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

17250 YONGE STREET
NEWMARKET, ONTARIO L3Y 6Z1
CANADA

IS CERTIFIED FOR FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL™ FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Certificate Scope

Certificate Type: Single Forest Management and Chain of Custody

Standard(s): RA Adapted FM Standard for the GLSL region (August 2010)

Product group(s): Logs

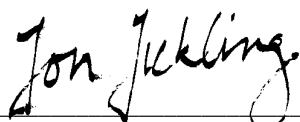
Valid from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2020

Certificate Registration Code: RA-FM/COC-000115

FSC License Code: FSC-C005211

Certificate Issue Number: IN-2015-1 ENG

Additional details regarding the scope, including a full list of products and species, are available at info.fsc.org.



Jon Jickling, Director, Certification
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RAINFORREST ALLIANCE IS AN FSC® ACCREDITED CERTIFIER

The validity of this certificate shall be verified on info.fsc.org. This certificate does not constitute evidence that a particular product supplied by the certificate holder is FSC certified and/or FSC Controlled Wood. Products offered, shipped or sold by the certificate holder can only be considered covered by the scope of this certificate when the required FSC claim is clearly stated on invoices and shipping documents.

This certificate is the property of Rainforest Alliance. This certificate and all copies or reproductions of this certificate shall be returned or destroyed if requested by Rainforest Alliance.

Version July 2013

