

Upper Canada Woods Co-operative

Thirty-three woodlot owners in the Quinte Region have joined together to try a different approach to managing and marketing products from their forests. This new approach is called The Upper Canada Woods Cooperative (UCWC). Forestry cooperatives have been around for years in the United States and Eastern Canada, but in Ontario they're a relatively new idea. UCWC is a landowner forest management, processing, and marketing cooperative with a mission to maximize ecological, economic and aesthetic benefits from area forests. UCWC promotes sustainable, environmentally-responsible forest practices, landowner and consumer education, and local manufacturing of value



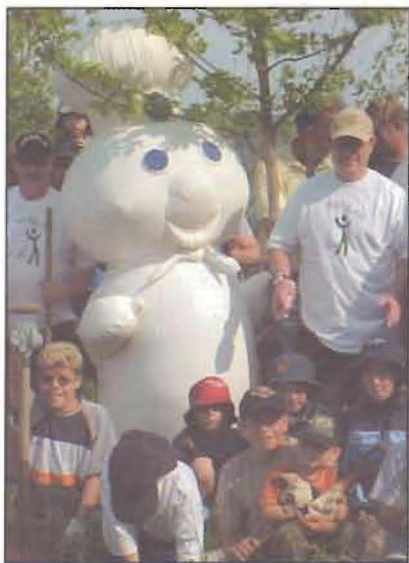
UCWC in action on a woodlot demo.
Photo courtesy of S. Pitt

added products. The Co-op has 3 potential sort yards where logs from several

members' harvests can be combined to create truckload quantities. Membership is open to individuals, businesses, and other forest ownership entities. To date, 33 people who collectively own 2,000 hectares have joined the UCWC. Member services include site visits, management plans, tree marking and logging. Accomplishments of the UCWC to date include hosting educational events in the form of 'woods walks', assisting members to secure funding for management plans, and hosting the annual lumber auction at the Hastings County Plowing Match.

More information on UCWC can be found at steve.pitt@mnr.gov.on.ca.

General Mills Trenton



The Pillsbury Doughboy with General Mills employees and their children on tree planting day.
General Mills Photo

planted and there's more to come. Lower Trent Conservation prepared a waterfront regeneration plan for the City, and with help from good corporate citizens like General Mills, the downtown waterfront is gradually returning to a natural state.

For several years, General Mills employees have participated in a volunteer project which calls for the riparian and aquatic habitat restoration of 3.5 kilometers of shoreline along The Bay of Quinte and the mouth of the Trent River. What it means is planting trees and shrubs ... lots and lots of trees and shrubs ... and the contribution from General Mills/Pillsbury has been significant. Almost 300 large-stock trees and shrubs have been

The Steele Sheep Farm in Norwood

Countryside Canada Environmental Stewardship Award 2004

John and Eadie Steele haven't been in Canada that long. They emigrated from England just fourteen years ago in 1990, but they haven't let the grass grow under their feet by any means! They purchased a century farm near Norwood, and transformed it into one of Canada's leading sheep operations.

The Steeles are concentrating on the OLIBS breed, which is a two-breed composite of Polled Dorset and Rideau Arcott. The lineage of this breed can be traced back to the original OLIBS research flock from the University of Guelph. The OLIBS flock is recorded on the Ewe Byte computer program – a comprehensive sheep management system designed for health, lamb production and pedigree tracking. In-depth life history reports for ewes and rams can be found on Ewe Byte, including lifetime productivity and health.

The Steele farm is advanced both technically and in management practices, and they've illustrated how success can be achieved while maintaining an environmentally-friendly and profitable farming operation. The Steele's focus is soil improvement, water conservation and management, erosion control, energy conservation, and woodland improvement. For their dedication to protecting and improving the environment, the Steeles were given The Countryside Canada Environmental Stewardship Award for 2004.

Detailed information about the farm is available at www.qualitysheep.com.