

## The University of Toronto's Trip to the Canadian Ecology Center



For some of us, this year's University of Toronto Master of Forest Conservation class field trip to the Canadian Ecology Centre (CEC) near Mattawa was as much a lesson in Canadiana as in forest management and ecology. Fuelled by numerous Tim Horton's double-doubles (our Dean's new favourite), this intrepid group of eleven made our way from the balmy urban jungle to the "sub-Arctic" shores of Lake Nipissing early morning on Friday, March 14.

We received a warm welcome from Nipissing University's Professor of Biology, Peter Nosko, and were treated to a series of presentations concerning forest management in Ontario, species at risk in the Nipissing watershed, and riveting red oak regeneration research. As a final treat to ease our

data-loaded minds, we enjoyed a fascinating look at artists' interpretations of the forest throughout Canadian history. Many thanks to Brian Naylor, Fred Pinto, Jeff Dech, Lisa Robinson, Kelly Major and Michelle Courville for their insightful presentations. Best of luck in your future research work!

On Saturday, we joined Fred Pinto, Andrée Morneau and Jeff Dech for visits to several managed stands. While some of us struggled with the intricacies of snowshoe bindings, we learned about the various stages of shelterwood silviculture in white and red pine, and selection harvesting in tolerant hardwood stands. We even tried some tree marking – our hearts go out to all the hard-working markers out there!

An evening discussion about upcoming CIF projects highlighted the importance of the social dimensions of forest management and conservation for us – something we feel every forester must always keep in mind. Later, John Pineau broke out the six-string and entertained us all with songs of the North, while some of us debated the peculiarities of the word



"eh!" We expect a related research paper by Dean Tat Smith to hit the press shortly.

One of the highlights of our weekend was a Sunday visit to the Peavoy homestead in Mattawa – a true "eco-house" powered solely by renewable energy, and an inspiration for us all to reduce our environmental footprint as best we can. Many thanks to the Peavoy family for letting us poke into every corner of their beautiful home. Thanks also to Allan Hodder of Burk's Falls for giving us a tour of his biodiesel operation – we all developed a strange craving for French fries on the way home.

The MFC class of 2007 would like to thank all those who made this annual tradition so inspirational and informative for us - our professors, Nipissing University, and especially the staff of the MNR, CEC and CIF.

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