

University of Toronto field tour in Mattawa

By Nancy Young

In the middle of March, students of the Masters of Forest Conservation program in the Faculty of Forestry participated in the 11th annual University of Toronto/Nipissing University field camp in Mattawa. The Algonquin Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Forestry Research Partnership once again hosted this event. Originally it was planned to coincide with the Red Oak Research Workshop at Nipissing University on March 2nd, but unfortunately the weather prevented the group from making the journey. However, they still paid a visit to the Fur Harvesters' Auction in North Bay, a field tour of several forestry operations in the Nipissing Forest, and sessions on the CIF and the Forest Stewardship Council certification – not to mention the spectacular campfire entertainment by John Pineau of the CIF!



Harlon Davey examining the specimens at the Fur Harvesters' Auction

The group included 12 UofT Masters students from a variety of educational backgrounds, as well as a PhD student and a professor from Laurentian University. All were eager to learn about forest research, management, and operations taking place in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence forest region and beyond. A surprise side-tour of the salvage operations from last summer's windstorm was an eye-opener for many, and a great educational opportunity for all. For some, such as Adit Sharma of Guyana, it was also their first experience with snow, let alone snowshoes!



Adit Sharma enjoying the snow – a bit different from his rainforest experience!



UofT Masters students jumping into forestry

As always, the event was a great success with both the students and the presenters learning a great deal from one another, and the CIF even gained a few new active members! Many thanks are owed to all of the field tour guides, caterers, speakers, and organizers for the excellent service provided to this group. The FRP and CIF hope to see this tradition continue for many years to come!