Newport Forest   December 20 2002   1:40 - 5:00 pm

Weather: overcast; calm; misty; LM 2 C; FCf 2 C
Purpose: maintenance
Participants: Kee, Nic, Matt. Darren, Steve

Nic and I, with his brother Matt, parked the van by the tree nursery and walked in, owing to the rather wet ground. It had rained (lightly) overnight and would rain later in the day. We filled the bird feeders (only) and put some of the (female) cougar urine in a small shopping bag.

Just before we left for the trail work, Darren and Steve rolled in from Moravian-town in Darren's (newly traded) 4-runner. We took three shovels and a grizzly-hoe out to the river bluffs, setting to work along the newly roughed-out trail. It follows one of the deep ruts made by tractors skidding out the heavy maple logs that Harvey, Lorne, and others, had cut in the RSF. Basically, the crew filled in the ruts by shoveling earth from the sides and throwing it into the centre. I searched for liner-logs by scrambling up and down the densely wooded (second-growth) slopes of the bluffs.

While we worked, Matt (the only one not being paid) went down to the river's edge with his shovel and dug out about 7 lbs of blue clay. Matt is an expert potter and noted that the clay modelled rather well, characterizing it as a "good stoneware clay." He intends to refine it a bit and to make some mugs for us.

We split up, Darren, Steve and me heading for the trailer, while Nic and Matt walked the RSF. Nic's assignment was to refresh and check the Gauthier posts and to observe wildlife along the way. He reported by WT that there were numerous signs of White-tailed Deer, Cottontails, Grey Squirrels, and even one Raccoon track. There were also some dog tracks of undetermined origin. Nina had reported hearing someone running dogs through Janik's property yesterday. No fur on the posts. They saw two Ruffed Grouse roosting in trees in the BCF. Nic also found an absolutely fresh crayfish chimney (!)

Back at the trailer, Darren , Steve and I took a break and discussed the hydro towers. What would be the best use for them if Hydro One relinquished the line?