

Newport Forest

November 30 2003

2:25 - 5:30 pm

Weather: prec. 39 mm; overcast; SW < 30 kmh; LM 6 C; FCF 6 C

Purpose: tree planting

Participants: Kee, Nic

Fleming Creek is fully charged with the recent rains. Water is up about 30 cm over the decking on the bridge, with one section off the pipes and trailing downstream (tethered). Two other sections have partially lifted from the pipes, but remain in place. Although the river has backed up into the creek, there was still a steady, downstream flow.

We filled the two regular tray feeders for the birds, as well as the deer feeders (shelled corn).

We visited all the major planting areas, placing bud protectors on about 100 trees. We used soda straws and neoprene tubing, depending on individual bud sizes. About five trees were nipped in the LM cores and another five or so in the FC cores. Since there are only about a quarter as many trees in the latter locations, the deer damage is more extensive in the forested areas, relatively speaking. One CA was cut off right at the base, the standard left lying beside the "stump." This was very reminiscent of squirrel damage at home. A JB in one of the FC cores was similarly affected.

We walked the TRT, stopping in the BCF to assess the wind damage of recent weeks. A probe of the interior revealed that four of the (already) dead elms were windthrown. I was surprised to realize, for the first time, that the interior of this wood is more than 50 percent White Elm. We went on to the HB, noting that Lotor* was home. On this occasion, Lotor's fur had become exceptionally dark. One large BE in the RSF was also windthrown. The Thames remains high, now coming to within a meter of the base of Pat's birdwatching bench.

*For the uninformed reader, "Lotor" is a floating name, being applied to *any* raccoon that happens to be sleeping in the pocket of the old Black Maple.