

Newport Forest

Sunday May 1 2005

3:40 - 6:30 pm

Weather: prec 0 mm; sun/cld; WSW < 50 kmh; LM 13 C; FCF 14 C

Purpose: planting trees

Participants: Kee

I drove down to Orford Ridges Native Plants on the MacDonald Line between the 401 and Hwy 3. There I purchased 4 BC and 4 YB (\$117.50) and immediately brought them back to Newport Forest for planting. I put two small YB in pots into the TS, bringing the remainder to the LM. All 8 trees already had small leaves

The for BCs were all 4-foot standards, bare root. I hate bare root planting! You have to ensure that the root-branches are given latitude and “aimed right,” that the soil is well distributed under and over the roots, etc. I put two BCs in the S Core and two in the north. The YBs had been potted, but not pot-grown. This was the next worse thing to bare rooting it. Both YBs were about 3’ high, one to each of the cores. (I am trying to keep the planting densest in or near the cores, with only a “neck” of trees between them. As the cores grow higher (toward the centre), the surround starts getting the same attention.

I went down to the creek and along the new trail to see whether that beautiful immense log still spanned the creek in such a perfect manner. It did. My head spun with engineering fantasies. Should I use the same scheme employed on the unfortunate bridge of 2001? Pat would also ask, should I bother?

Something was amiss. There was no frog chorus, just occasional peeps from somewhere. Is it too cold? Have they bred already?

Birds: (12)

American Robin (Tr); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (BCF); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Chipping Sparrow (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Mourning Dove (Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (ER); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (FCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Phenology: young elms leafing out, also Prunus and Betula.