

LUNENBURG COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 204, BRIDGEWATER, NOVA SCOTIA

West Northfield, N.S.

November 27, 1967

Dear Members, Friends and future members of the Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers' Association:

It gives me great pleasure to extend a word of welcome and thanks for showing so much interest in the new Association and the business in general.

Our first Annual Meeting was a great success. Since then a Directors meeting was held at West Northfield. A summary of the minutes of both meetings is included.

Your Directors are from many walks of life: most are in some type of year round business, with Christmas trees as a sideline. This I feel is a good thing. We are indeed fortunate to have these men as Directors. I congratulate them wholeheartily.

We are planning a page in the local newspapers for March, 1968. This will pass on to you a great deal of information on pruning, shearing, fertilization, insects, planting, and management of the Tree lot. When this comes read it thoroughly and save it for future use. The information will be gathered from the many Tree organizations, and from the Federal and Provincial Research Institutes.

In closing, please keep in mind that the only way the Association can help you is if you help the Association. Again I thank you for your cooperation and urge those who are not already members to come and join our Association as we need new members and Officers yearly.

Yours sincerely,

Lester E. Veinotte  
President, L.C.C.T.P.A.

# LUNENBURG COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 204, BRIDGEWATER, NOVA SCOTIA

## ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 1, NO. 1

BRIDGEWATER, N.S.

NOVEMBER, 1967

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### ASSOCIATION FORMED AT BLOCKHOUSE MEETING

Approximately 150 Christmas tree growers met at Blockhouse on Saturday, October 14, to approve the establishment of the Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers' Association.

The meeting approved a Constitution, and accepted the slate of Officers elected by the twelve Directors, who in turn had been elected earlier at local meetings held throughout the County. President is Lester Veinotte, West Northfield; Vice-President is Douglas Morton, New Germany. Mrs. John Gates of New Ross, was appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

Aims of the new Association are to promote production of quality Christmas trees on a sound economic basis, and marketing conditions which will ensure the producer the highest return. The Association will seek: to improve the quality of trees grown in the County, to exchange information regarding production and marketing, to suggest research and education for the betterment of the industry, to safeguard the members and the general public against unscrupulous practices, to work in cooperation with government or other private agencies, and to take cooperative action on behalf of the members.

Following the business meeting a panel discussed the topic "Quality Production and Marketing". The panel included Stanley Floyd, President of the Maine Christmas Tree Association, Tom Ernst, Extension Forester, Douglas Morton, farmer and Christmas tree grower, and Merlyn Wright, Manager for Kirk Company. Leroy Wright of the Dept. of Lands and Forests acted as Chairman. The panel engaged in a spirited half-hour discussion, then answered questions from the floor.

Highlight of the meeting was an address by Mr. Floyd, who in addition to being President of the Maine Association is also a Director and a National Trustee. Mr. Floyd outlined the history and development of his Association and discussed some of the results achieved. He stressed that there is a strong market for quality trees, and pointed out the role of an Association in helping the grower to develop the required quality.

Chairman of the meeting was Richard Lord, Forester with the Extension Department of St. Francis Xavier University. The University has been carrying out an ARDA project providing educational and organizational assistance to woodlot owners in several parts of Nova Scotia. The project was initiated at the request of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.



# LUNENBURG COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

## Summary of Minutes of First Annual Meeting

The meeting took place at Blockhouse, on October 14, 1967.

Chairman was Richard Lord, Extension Forester with St. Francis Xavier University. The Chairman summarized the results of the Section meetings held earlier throughout the County.

Delmar Conrad, acting Secretary, read the draft Constitution approved at the Section meetings. The Constitution was approved with a few minor changes.

The twelve Directors, elected at the Section meetings, were introduced by the Chairman.

The names of the first slate of Officers, elected by the Board of Directors, were announced.

Lester Veinotte, the President, spoke briefly. He asked for the assistance of all present to make the Association a success.

Rev. Alex MacDonald of the Extension Department at St. Francis Xavier University spoke briefly.

A panel discussed various aspects of the topic "Quality Production and Marketing". The panel included Stan Floyd, President of the Maine Christmas Tree Association; Tom Ernst, Extension Forester; Douglas Morton, Vice President; Merlyn Wright, Manager for Kirk Company. Leroy Wright, Dept. of Lands and Forests, acted as Chairman.

Highlight of the meeting was an address by Mr. Floyd, who in addition to being President of the Maine Association is also a Director of that Association and a National Trustee. Mr. Floyd spoke on their experiences in Maine in improving the quality and marketing of their trees.

A motion that Richard Lord be made an Honorary member of the Association was approved.

The meeting was ajourned.



## SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

The meeting took place on Nov. 9, 1967, at the home of the President. The following were present:

Lester Veinotte, Douglas Morton, Leslie Corkum, Eugene Getson, Delmar Conrad, Basil Wagner, Creighton Sanders, Philip Barkhouse, Richard Lord.

The minutes of the Blockhouse meeting were read and approved.

The Directors summarized their own experiences as growers, and discussed the merits of various improvement practices.

Mr. Corkum suggested a questionnaire be sent to all the members to determine what services the Association should provide. It was agreed that this should be done this winter.

There was considerable discussion of the merits of trying to require all potential buyers to file a Credit Report with the Association. This was generally agreed to be impractical, but it was felt that members should be advised to obtain a credit report when dealing with unknown buyers. If requested to do so the Association will assist the grower in any particular case.

The question of the Association issuing a formal blacklist was considered. This was rejected but it was agreed the Association would request members to report in detail any questionable parties or transactions, and would keep a confidential file on anyone accused or convicted of such offences.

Mr. Conrad suggested the association attempt to encourage the industry to adopt a standard rule for the measurement of tree height. This will be investigated.

It was suggested that several committees be appointed, in particular a committee to study the means of control of insects and diseases of Christmas trees.

The Organizational meeting held at Blockhouse was reviewed. It was noted that 56 Active and 4 Associate members had joined. 14 more Active members have since been accepted. Payment of an honorarium of \$50.00 to the guest speaker, Mr. Floyd, was voted.

It was agreed that the remuneration to the Secretary-Treasurer be set at \$50.00 for the term of office.

A letter from the Ontario Christmas Tree Growers' Association making certain accusations against some of the Christmas tree companies who are members of our Association was read. It was agreed that these charges should be investigated, but that no further action was warranted at this time.

A letter from Topaz Sales Ltd. of Falmouth, manufactures of wire for Christmas wreaths, requesting membership, was read and their acceptance as Associate members was approved.

It was agreed that the Executive would meet within a week to prepare a Newsletter, and that the full Board of Directors would meet again early in January.

The meeting was adjourned.



LUNENBURG COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 204, BRIDGEWATER, NOVA SCOTIA

November 26, 1967

Dear Christmas Tree Grower:

As you are probably aware a Lunenburg County Christmas Tree producers' Association has been formed recently. Perhaps you were at the meeting at Blockhouse in mid-October when the Association was formally established, or at one of the earlier meetings held throughout the County.

In any event, we are sending you the enclosed information so you will know what the Association is, why it was set up, and what it hopes to accomplish.

To date, 70 Christmas tree growers have paid three dollars (\$3.00) to become Active members. Several more have joined as Associate members. They have faith that their money will be well spent. It will be used to hold local and county meetings and field days in the coming year, to put on demonstrations of thinning, cleaning, pruning, shearing, fertilizing and brush and hardwood control. A list of pamphlets and articles on the growing and marketing of Christmas trees will be prepared and passed on to the members. Many of these bulletins will be made available free of charge.

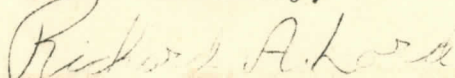
The Association will petition the Department of Lands and Forests, and other agencies, with programs and proposals on behalf of the members. It will ask that more research be carried out on matters relating to the industry, and that more information and assistance be made available to the grower. Additional activities are described in the attached material, and more will be planned as we go along.

We invite you to join the Association now. If you are interested contact one of the Directors in your area, the Executive, or myself. Please act now to help yourself to the services the Association will provide, and to help build a strong Association that will be effective on your behalf.

In the future the information and services of the Association will, of necessity, be limited to the members.

We hope we can welcome you to the Association.

Yours sincerely,



Richard A. Lord

per The Directors

Association



## NEW ROSS

### Philip Barkhouse, New Ross

An Engineering graduate from Acadia, Philip is engaged in lumbering and Christmas tree farming. He has 50 acres under cultivation, and has been active in all phases of the industry including buying, selling and trucking. Philip is married and has four children.

### Creighton Sanders, New Ross

Retired from the N.S. Power Commission, Creighton is now a full time Christmas tree grower and dealer. Together with his son Dwight, he has been active in cultivation and the use of fertilizers. He has served on the forestry Sector of the provincial Voluntary Planning Board, and with the New Ross Board of Trade. He is married with one son.

## PROGRAM FOR 1967-68

Since the annual meeting in Blockhouse, a Directors' meeting has been held to plan the program for the first year.

It was agreed that every effort would be made to attract more members to the Association.

During 1968, field days will be held in each district. These will include demonstrations of various techniques of pruning, shearing, brush control and fertilizing. The staff of the Dept. of Lands and Forests have offered their assistance in these demonstrations.

Your Directors will be considering such problems as markets, diseases and insects, quality improvement, and grading. Requests and proposals will be made to the Department of Lands and Forests and other agencies to increase their research in these fields, and to make more information available to the grower.

A request will probably be made to the government asking that the amount of money made available for Woodlot Stand Improvement and Christmas tree cultivation (i.e: \$25.00 per acre for up to ten acres a year for cleaning, pruning, etc.) be increased. If you are interested in this policy or in receiving this assistance, you should act NOW by contacting the Bridgewater office of the Dept. of Lands and Forests. The more applications submitted now, the more likely the Department will increase the funds available next year.

Future Newsletters will be published every few months. In order to keep the costs down they will be made available only to members of the Association.

A list of all available publications of interest to growers of Christmas trees will be sent out to all members. Many of these publications will be available free of charge to members. Others will be summarized in this Newsletter.

Other planned activities are mentioned in the attached summaries of the Minutes of the Directors meeting.



## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers' Association is comprised of six geographic Sections. Each Section elects two Directors to the Board of Directors of the County Association. They will also be responsible for the affairs of the Association in their own Section. Each Section will hold their own local meetings and field days. Several times a year the 12 Directors will meet together to plan and carry out the affairs of the County Association.

Prior to the Annual Meeting in October the Directors will elect from their own ranks a President and a Vice-President for the coming year. The new President will then appoint a Secretary-Treasurer.

Listed below are your Officers and Directors for the year 1967-68. At least two of them are from your own area. They are your representatives, and are at your disposal. Don't hesitate to call on them at any time.

President: Lester E. Veinotte, West Northfield

Lester is a well known Lunenburg County businessman. He owns and operates several well drilling rigs, a chainsaw dealership, and a fleet of equipment for land clearing and excavating. Approximately 150 acres of his 900 acres of land is devoted to Christmas trees. He has been a local Fire Chief for the last eight years, and is Secretary of the Provincial Well Drillers Organization. A 32nd degree Mason, Lester is married and the father of three children.

Vice-President: Douglas Morton, New Germany

Douglas is a poultryman and beef farmer, with 110 acres of woodlot yielding pulpwood, sawlogs and Christmas trees. He has recently turned to the production of winter wheat, harvesting yields of 48 bu./acre. Douglas has been pruning his trees for the last eight years and is now experimenting with fertilizer. He produces some 900 bales per year for sale to a local trucker for the Long Island market. Douglas is President of the New Germany Fruit Company; he is married and the father of two girls.

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. John Gates (Shirley), New Ross

Adding a feminine touch to the Executive, Mrs. Gates describes herself as one who has always had an interest in the Christmas tree business. A capable Secretary, she has held that position for a number of organizations including the New Ross Home and School, and the Federation of Agriculture. She is the mother of four children.