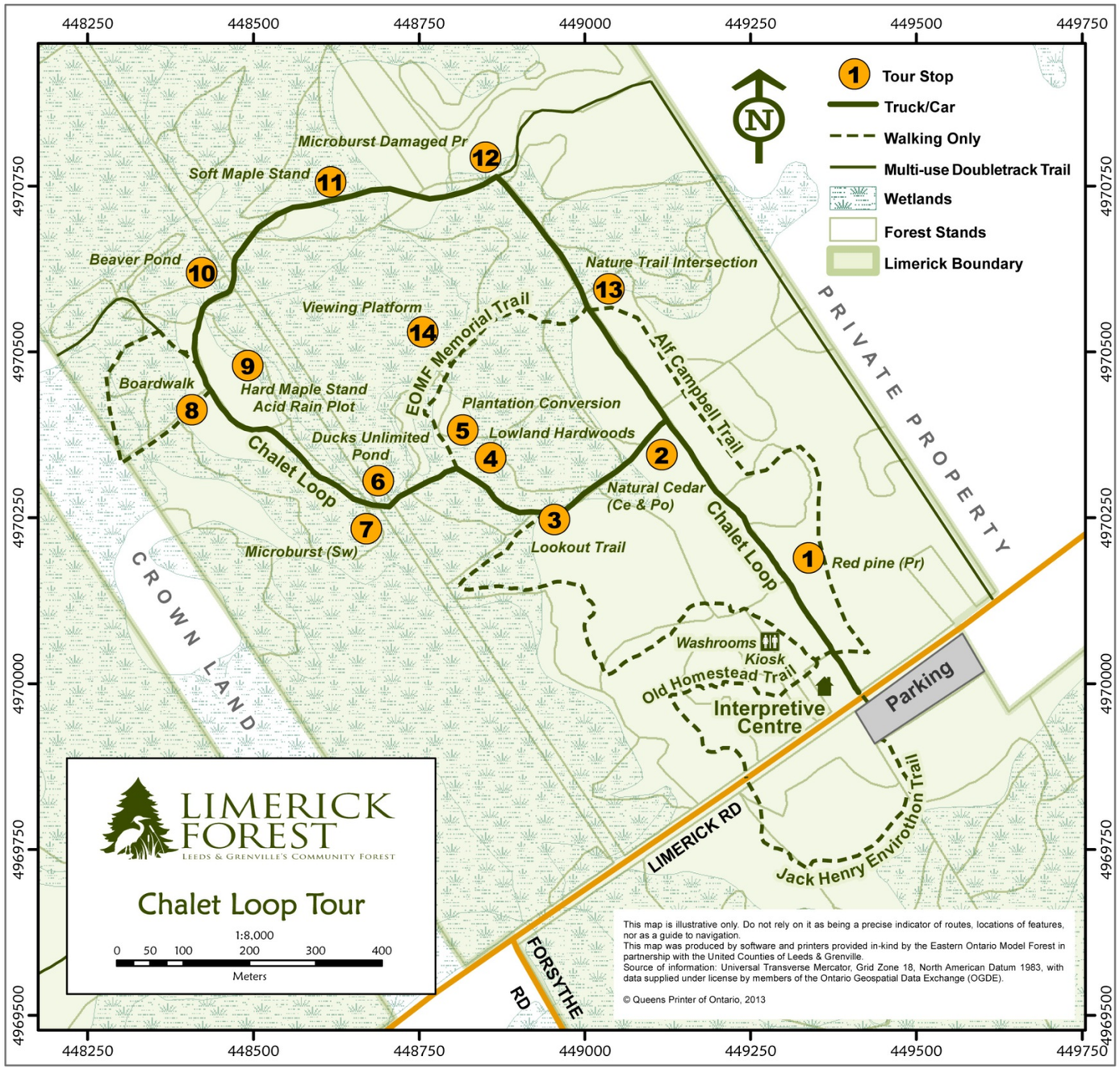

LIMERICK FOREST "CHALET LOOP" TRAIL

LIMERICK FOREST
LEEDS & GRENVILLE'S COMMUNITY FOREST
75 YEARS
1940 – 2015

LIMERICK FOREST "CHALET LOOP"

Proceed north from the Interpretive Centre parking lot, following the main road in a clockwise direction, circling the loop back to the parking lot – total distance = 3.1 km.

TOUR START

- Heading North from the Interpretive Centre
- **Land** purchased from Oxford Township 1940
- **The Old School House/Chalet** which stood where the new interp. centre is located
  - originally built in the 1870's as a one-room school house
  - converted to Lands and Forest H.Q. 1960's, Natural Resources office 1973 – 1980, MNR work centre until early '90's.
  - closed in 2007
  - land behind the Chalet is approximately 150 ha or 375 acres

ROLLING STOP – 1

- **Red pine (Pr) Management** – Pr on both sides of the road planted in 1945
- compartments 44 (west) and 43 (east)
- thinned in 1972, 1983 & 1989
- next thinning probably in 2013-2014
- thinning schedule dictated by tree age, how fast they are growing and how many trees are in the plantation (= growth and stocking data)
- data collected from sample plots to determine the total number of stems/ha (= how well the stand is stocked) and basal area (= the amount of surface area the stump would have if you cut the tree off at 1.5m above the ground)
- both of these measurements help indicate the degree of crowding within the stand, or conversely how much growing space is being used by all the trees on the site (measured in m^2 per ha)
- this data is collected to determine how much to thin and when to do it; (just like thinning your carrot patch!/

ROLLING STOP – 2

- 1st Intersection....turning to the left
- **Natural cedar and poplar** on the left, once planted to white pine but failed

ROLLING STOP – 3

- **"Lookout Trail"** on the left – runs between this point and the Interpretive Centre

ROLLING STOP – 4

- **Lowland areas –** on the right - natural poplar, birch and ash
- **"Eastern Ontario Model Forest Memorial Trail"**....to the right of wagon ....heads east over to the far side of the block; connects with the main road; runs through a low, wetland area
- small **wildlife viewing platform** built by Friends of Limerick volunteers in 2012, looks out over the wetland

ROLLING STOP – 5

- **"Plantation Conversion"** - Compartment 40 (adjacent to EOMF Memorial Trail**)**
- natural red maple stand developing in understory of red pine plantation which was removed in 1984 due to poor survival

ROLLING STOP – 6

- **Ducks Unlimited Pond** on the right
- Wetland Conservation project with D. U. signed in July 1998 - agreement is for 30 years
- 9.3 ha wetland – in the past, water levels would change drastically from flooded to almost dry, however now managed via boards in the control structure – allows for consistent water levels thus providing habitat for many species of birds and wildlife; occasionally, the water will be drained away for a season to assist with vegetation regrowth before the area is allowed to flood again; will find mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks, Canada Geese and herons in this area.

ROLLING STOP – 7

- **Microburst wind damage** on left
- from microburst July 5, 2005; white spruce (Sw) – note shallow rooting of the white spruce tree – caused by growing in area with a high water table

ROLLING STOP – 8

- **Boardwalk** down path to the left (west)
- Phase 1: 2003/4 – funding from the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Improvement Program (CFWIP) & labour from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC); total cost ~$3000
- Phase 2 : 2005/6 – funding from CFWIP & HRDC; cedar cut from Limerick Forest at value of ~ $ 3900; milled by LFAC volunteer
- the wetland is approximately 50 ha of the much larger "Limerick Wetland", a *provincially significant wetland* of over 2500 ha in size, (comprised of 7% bog, 92% swamp and 1% marsh)
- the Limerick Wetland includes the Groveton Bog (1200 ha), located for the most part, south of Limerick Rd., including all of that portion of Limerick South.

ROLLING STOP – 9

- **Hard maple stand**, age ~80 years, on right side of wagon (behind parking area),
- small yellow signs in the forest – indicate location of an **acid rain plot** with data collected by M.O.E – studying long term effects of air pollution and climate change on our forests – part of a larger provincial study
- trail up ahead to the left - leads to the other end of the **boardwalk extension**
- this trail also continues on to the northwest and is part of Ontario Snowmobile trail network, heading towards Merrickville
- more damage from microburst visible along right-hand side of road – upturned root systems show how shallow the trees roots were due to the high water table

ROLLING STOP – 10

- Beaver-plugged culvert
- Water flows to the west into the larger wetland where boardwalk is located

ROLLING STOP – 11

- **Soft maple stand (compartments 37 & 36)**, both sides of road, age ~70 years; thinned in 1972 & 1994
- Note: you are now traveling behind (north) **the D.U. pond**

ROLLING STOP – 12

- **Microburst –** more damage in the Pr stand to the left
- 35 Pr trees blown over; 60 years old (planted in 1945)
- this area had been thinned in 2003
- road turns south at this point, heading for the Interpretive Centre
- the road heading straight east from this corner is part of the snowmobile trail network

ROLLING STOP – 13

- **Intersection of nature trails – "Alf Campbell Trail" and the "Eastern Ontario Model Forest Memorial Trail"....**
- EOMF Memorial Trail heads to the southwest and comes out near the DU pond
- Alf Campbell trail runs south to the parking lot

ROLLING STOP – 14

- **Eastern Ontario Model Forest Memorial Trail**
- completed in 2012 with funding from the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, the James H. Cayford Memorial Fund and Leeds-Grenville
- wildlife viewing platform constructed by Friends of Limerick volunteers
- this trail will honour recently departed friends of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest

RETURN TO PARKING LOT

Leeds Grenville

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