

Bourse commémorative Peter-deMarsh Memorial Bursary
Rules for applicants
February 2021

About Peter deMarsh

On March 10, 2019, forest-dependent communities in Canada and around the world lost a champion when an Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 157 aboard. Peter deMarsh was on the plane, on his way to a United Nations environmental conference in Nairobi, again representing the viewpoints of woodlot owners in international deliberations on forests.

Peter deMarsh strived throughout his life to convince the tens of millions of woodlot owners around the world to take collective action through their local, regional, national and international organizations, which work so ably to defend and promote woodlot owners' interests. This was his aim when serving as President of the York Sunbury Charlotte Forest Owners Marketing Board (New Brunswick) between 1972 and 1988, when helping to found the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners in 1976, and when co-founding the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners in 1989. In addition, he was a driving force behind the creation of the International Family Forestry Alliance in 2002, in order to make woodlot owners' voices heard in international forums.

As head of these organizations, Peter deMarsh observed that woodlot owners and wood producers across the globe faced remarkably similar problems. While he continued his efforts at the national and international levels, he also worked tirelessly at the local level to develop initiatives for the wood producers in his own community of Taymouth. Language and cultural barriers never stopped him.

Over the years, Peter deMarsh has highlighted multiples roles played by forest owners in social and economic development of rural communities.

Peter was an exceptional human being and a mentor—a modest, humble man whose wisdom was universally recognized. Renowned as a champion of rural communities and private woodlot owners, he had a wealth of institutional knowledge and an unmatched love and passion for rural life. His message was simple: woodlot owners themselves are in the best position to sustainably manage our natural resources, since they have an intimate knowledge of the land and pass it down from generation to generation, often within the same family.

About the bourse commémorative Peter-deMarsh Memorial Bursary

To honour Peter deMarsh's memory and to continue to celebrate and defend woodlot owners' multiple contributions to rural development, the Canadian Federation of Forest Owners, in collaboration with the International Family Forestry Alliance and the UPA-Développement international, have established the **bourse commémorative Peter-deMarsh Memorial Bursary**, to be given annually.

The bursary supports two types of projects:

Option 1: Research bursary

A \$10,000 bursary will be awarded each year to a Canadian or international graduate student in the final stage of his/her doctoral or master's-level research at a Canadian university. The research project must focus on the role of woodlot owners or woodlot owners' associations in helping to solve social, economic or environmental problems. Very often, students will have finished the years of schooling and coursework required for their master's degree or doctorate but will not have completed their thesis or dissertation. This bursary gives them a few extra months to finish writing their thesis or dissertation before returning to the job market.

Option 2: Travel bursary for attendance at an international conference

Peter deMarsh was particularly concerned about woodlot owners' lack of representation at major international conferences on forest land management due to insufficient financial resources. Consequently, a bursary of up to \$3,000 will be awarded to help representatives of woodlot owners' associations in Canada or abroad to participate in international conferences dealing with issues involving forest owners.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria depend on the type of bursary applied for.

Option 1: Research bursary

This bursary is for graduate students beginning their research on the role of woodlot owners' associations or woodlot owners in rural development or in solving social, economic or environmental problems, which were Peter deMarsh's favourite themes.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or international students and be registered full time in a master's or doctoral program at a Canadian university. Each applicant must provide:

- ❖ Proof of registration in a graduate program at a Canadian university;
- ❖ A cover letter explaining the reason for applying for this bursary;
- ❖ A curriculum vitae;
- ❖ A letter from the student's academic supervisor confirming that the student is in the process of finishing the writing of his/her master's thesis or doctoral dissertation;
- ❖ A reference letter;
- ❖ A one-page description of the research project.

Bursary recipients must agree to have their names and a description of their projects included in various promotional tools.

Option 2: Travel bursary for attendance at an international conference

This bursary is intended to help defer travel expenses for representatives of woodlot owners' associations attending international conferences on rural development.

The applicant must provide:

- ❖ A letter from the woodlot owners' association indicating the title and subject of the international conference, the name of the organization organizing it, the date of the event, the applicant's official role at the conference and the nature of his or her participation.

Once the bursary has been awarded and accepted:

- ❖ Proof of registration in the international conference.

Following the event, recipients must agree to provide a one-pager describing objectives of the conference, the nature of their participation and interesting observations from a forest owner perspective. They must also agree to see summary of their participation included in various promotional tools.

Submission of applications and announcement of recipients

To submit an application, applicants must email their documents to bois@upa.qc.ca.

A committee composed of representatives of the Canadian Federation of Forest Owners, the International Family Forestry Alliance and the Peter deMarsh family will select the recipient or recipients.

For the travel bursary, the selection committee will give preference to applicants who plan to play an active role at the event, as a speaker or a participant in round-table discussions.

The deadline for applications to be received will be June 30th of each year and the name of recipient will be announced on September 1st.

To support this initiative

By contributing financially to this initiative, you will help us in our efforts to support the next generation of professionals sharing Peter deMarsh's spirit of commitment and dedication. At the moment, donations are collected through a [GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com) page or by sending a cheque, payable to the Canadian Federation of Forest Owners, to the following address:

Canadian Federation of Forest Owners
1 Rideau St., Suite 700
Ottawa (Ontario) K1N 8S7

Aside from the costs of advertising the bursary, no other administrative fees will be deducted from individual donations to the Canadian Federation of Forest Owners. The members of the selection committee are working as volunteers, without remuneration.

First financial contributors to this initiative

So far, the following individuals and organizations have contributed to the initiative:

Allison Burgess, Anthony Rotherham, Association canadienne des propriétaires forestiers, Association des propriétaires de boisés de la Beauce, B. Douglas Prebble, Barbara deMarsh, Burchells LLP, Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners, Catherine Burgess, Christopher Lee, Drew Gilbert and Amy Floyd, Étienne Bélanger, Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec, Fédération des propriétaires forestiers familiaux de Suède, Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations, Federation of Swedish Family Forest Owners, Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC), Gary Heathcote, Helen Chernoff, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Jean-Pierre Dansereau, Joan McFarland, Kathy Abusow, Khalil Walji, Kirsten Vice, Lennart Ackzell, Marc-André Côté, Marc-André Rhéaume, Margaret Anderson, Maureen Whelan, Megan Hanacek, Monica Debenedetti, Muriel E. Anderson, Neil Burgess, New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners, Paul Martins, PEFC Canada, PEFC International, Prince Edward

Island Woodlot Owner's Association, Peggy Rivera, Peter Murphy, Private Forest Landowners Association of British-Columbia, Producteurs et productrices acéricoles du Québec, Rick Doucett, Robert Austman, Ruth Wilson, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, The Boeing Community Investment Fund, Woodlot Association of Alberta, Yukiko Okuma.