

## **Carbon Footprint Initiative Profile – Richard Keeso**

**October 2022**

I worked in our family business along with my wife Anne, which was a sawmill established in 1872. We were the 5<sup>th</sup> generation. I had been around sawtimber my whole life.

Because of a great respect for the environment, I soon joined The Perth Stewardship Network. With a very small budget we did our best to put together hands-on work projects in the field with community members.

I first became involved with Maitland Conservation around the year 2000 when I was asked to become a member of its Terrestrial Committee. I was brought to the table because of my working knowledge of sustainable forestry. I realized, after listening to the other members, I was lacking in an understanding of the many diverse aspects other stakeholders considered important, so I sat and listened and learned and soon shared a lot of the same interests of those stakeholders namely everything living in, living on, and growing from the land.

Climate change started to become more and more a topic of concern and the evidence and statistics supporting it could not be dismissed. It was by all means not a new phenomenon but the urgency to address it was starkly apparent and long overdue.

Thanks to Phil Beard, the CFI presented itself as a forum to discuss Climate Change and more importantly do something to combat it. Our Age of Anthropocene had enveloped the whole planet, but we would take the fight to it in our own front yard.

Having lost our business to fire in late 2019 our company could no longer qualify to satisfy the requirements of the CFI, those being to discover ways of lowering our carbon footprint in our working environment. The group graciously asked me to stay on as an associate member.

Today I contribute with as much field work as possible some of which includes:

- volunteer work with the Middle Maitland Rejuvenation Committee
- volunteer efforts with tree planting projects supported by MVCA
- I am a member of North Perth's Memorial Park Restoration Committee including dam removal
- assisted with the Maitland Conservation's Forest Health Studies
- stream and river rehabilitation
- shoreline work and conditions monitoring with Lake Huron Coastal Centre