
Dendrochronological potential of buried wood in Atlantic Canada

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Old trees in Atlantic Canada are scarce, but quality material can be found in the form of logs from old buildings and in buried stumps. The latter are found in many situations throughout the region, especially in bogs and marshes. This paper explores two case studies: stumps recovered from a bog exploited by Premier Horticulture near Rogersville, New Brunswick, and stumps recovered from a reclaimed marsh near Amherst, Nova Scotia.

Two large boles were recovered from a bog in Rogersville and analyzed for their dendrochronological potential. The logs were in a good state of preservation and identified as white pine through a scanning electronic microscope analysis. Radiocarbon dates confirmed that the trees were old with both tree ages found to be approximately 4 ky BP. Since the two samples were close in age, it allowed them to be crossdated to produce a floating chronology.

Excavation of six *in situ* stumps in George Daucy's field, near Amherst, NS, produced a more diverse group of data. The sheared stumps, once dried, were still in a workable state even though in some cases the stumps were badly damaged. Species identification through anatomical wood characteristics revealed that a diverse mixed forest once inhabited the site (four different species out of the six samples).

These results show the possibility of producing valuable long-term chronologies from these types of locations, but also highlight some of the difficulties encountered when conducting this type of research.