

Doug Larson retired from the University of Guelph 10 years ago after a 35 year teaching and research career. He is best known for the discovery of the ancient forests of the Niagara Escarpment. Four books and 130 research papers formed the core of the academic career. While not conducting research, Doug was heavily involved with woodworking, instrument building, songwriting, and recording. Five albums with *Kid Coma* (see iTunes for *Complete Metamorphosis*) were recorded over 8 years, and the material in those records covered many environmental and political topics including homage to Aldo Leopold. Most recently Doug has recorded an album (*Things that need to be said*, see www.larsonknox.com) with Steve Knox of the *Kramdens*. Doug's best known post-retirement project was the building of the Storyteller Guitar and the writing of a book of the same name (Dundurn, 2011). Seven other history-based guitar-building projects have been completed recently including three telling the story of the rediscovery the Dawn Redwood, one using wood from the 107 year history of Knight Lumber Inc. of Guelph, and six testing the incorporation into instrument building of the much-hated Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*).

