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“Every tree salvaged saves another tree from being destroyed in the natural environment.”

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Community Profile: Urban Tree Salvage

By Kristen Lowitt, LEAF

From trash to treasure could be the trademark for Sean Gorham's Company Urban Tree Salvage.

The only urban log recovering company in the country, they take logs that would otherwise be turned into mulch or sent to a landfill and transform them into lumber, furniture, and flooring.



Log removal from Upper Canada College.

It all started when Gorham, President of Urban Tree Salvage, was studying landscape design at Humber College. He saw some of his friends who were doing tree work, paying to dispose of truckloads of logs. Gorham's background as a third generation cabinet maker immediately saw the potential in the materials. *“With my background in cabinet-making, I thought of what a wasted resource those logs were. So, I started using them to construct projects.”*

Today, Gorham has established an extensive tree recovery network, in which he works with the municipalities of Toronto and Oakville, large developers like Tridel, and other institutions, including Sunnybrook Hospital and Queen Street Mental Health, to salvage trees.

However, Gorham never pays for the trees. To do so would negate the environmental benefits of tree recovery. *“By paying for trees, you create a market for cutting down trees”* says Gorham.

The recovered trees are taken to his site at Warden and Eglinton Avenues in Scarborough to be processed into lumber. The lumber is then sold or made into furniture and flooring. The furniture pieces can be seen on display at various retail locations and are also advertised on the Urban Tree Salvage website. Gorham also works closely with architects and designers to make custom furniture pieces.

For Gorham, Urban Tree Salvage is a business, a passion and a contribution to the community. *“Preservation and education is a huge aspect of what we do,”* he says. *“Every tree salvaged saves another tree from being destroyed in the natural environment.”*

Gorham offers public visits to the site by appointment, as well as tours for various student groups and forest conservation efforts.

Visit www.urbantreesalvage.com to learn more.

Nature at every doorstep should be a goal of city planners, researchers suggest.

LEAF supports efforts to grow the urban forest in the City of Toronto through the Backyard Tree Planting Program. If you want to plant a tree in your backyard, call LEAF at 416-413-9244 or visit www.leafontario.org

If you live in Toronto and are interested in a free street tree, call Urban Forestry Services at 416-338-TREE

The Power of Trees

Taken from the article by Tina Prow, Human-Environment Research Laboratory

People need trees. They need to see leaves from their windows, to sit in greenspaces, and to play in the shade. Trees draw people out and in coming together, neighbors forge relationships, nurture children, and build a sense of community. Those are key findings from a series of studies conducted by Frances Kuo and Bill Sullivan of the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) team.

Kuo and Sullivan conducted much of their research in Chicago's public housing neighborhoods. Some housing units have trees and grass. More often, however, people live in areas the researchers describe as moonscapes or urban deserts. The research team is accumulating data that show trees are

integral to quality of life and may alleviate some costly social ills. "Nature at every doorstep," the researchers suggest, should be a goal of city planners. Their data show that planting more trees to create a more fit environment in urban areas could yield savings measured in fewer calls to police, less strain on social services, and reduced demand for medical services. When the research team made observations of outdoor common spaces in housing developments, they found adults and children gathered more often in spaces with trees, compared to spaces with no trees. By drawing people out of their homes, the trees created an opportunity for neighbors to interact and develop community relationships.

That may account in part for why researchers found fewer reports of physical violence in



Local youth care for trees in Leslie Grove Park prior to the Leslieville Tree Festival in May 2006.

homes that had trees outside the buildings. One surprising finding from the photo simulation study was that residents identified settings with trees as places where they would feel safe. In fact, the more densely planted pictures received the highest safety ratings. The researchers also found that children played in outdoor spaces with trees about twice as often as in barren spaces around their homes. The analysis also indicated that children playing among trees had double the access to adult attention. *For the full article visit www.herl.uiuc.edu*

Take Action: Conduct a Tree Inventory

Are you interested in the trees in your neighbourhood? A tree inventory may be the best way for your community to ensure that your community is healthy and treed for years to come.

A tree inventory is the first step in developing a planting program for your community. It can help you establish a list of trees that need to be managed, facilitate planning and scheduling, and assist in the preparation of a budget.

A tree inventory should consider the following objectives:

1. To count all trees growing with community boundaries
2. To count all trees by species
3. To records the need and problems of trees
4. To point out needs for more plantings or tree care

Resources on tree inventories:

www.rittenhouse.ca/hortmag/heather/Implementing%20a%20Street%20Tree%20Inventory.htm

www.fode.ca

www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/streettree/toc.htm

www.co.st-lawrence.ny.us/Cooperative_Extension/forestry/03treeinventory.html

www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/forest/fact8.htm

Featured Resource: ONTARIO URBAN FORESTS - SCRAPBOOK II Growing Interest and Concern

By Willem Morsink, OUFC



Available for \$20 + \$5 postage and handling from:

Ontario Urban Forest Council

www.oufc.org

1523 Warden Avenue, Units 23/25,

Toronto ON, M1R 4Z8

Attn: Jack Radecki,

Executive Director

416-936-6735

jradeck@MountPleasantGroup.com

This fascinating compilation outlines the land, forests, people, individuals and organizations that have shaped, and continue to shape, Ontario's urban forests. It takes a comprehensive look at where we came from and where we are headed. It's packed with information on contemporary concerns, issues and emerging strategies for sustainable urban forestry.

Lorraine Johnson, author of The Ontario Naturalized Garden and past president of the North American Native Plant Society highly recommends the toolkit:

"A treasure-trove of information, the Ontario Urban Forests Scrapbook draws together the multi-faceted strands of the growing urban forest movement, with wide-ranging essays and case studies from key players. Chapters cover everything from big-picture topics (such as the history of Ontario's forests) through to the benefits of urban forests, the challenges they face, and the municipal programs and volunteer efforts to protect and maintain them. With up-to-date information on research about threats such as Emerald Ash Borer, and extensive resource listings, this book is a must-have for anyone with an interest in keeping Ontario's urban forests healthy."

Dendro Devotion

By Marc Willoughby, M.L.Arch., O.A.L.A.,
I.S.A. Certified Arborist

Match the tree species with the corresponding family name:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 1) eastern white cedar | a) pea |
| 2) white ash | b) pine |
| 3) hop tree | c) birch |
| 4) white oak | d) elm |
| 5) eastern hop-hornbeam | e) cypress |
| 6) hackberry | f) rose |
| 7) black cherry | g) citrus |
| 8) redbud | h) olive |
| 9) basswood | j) beech |
| 10) Douglas fir | k) linden |

Science Bite

Wildlife Habitat Canada (www.whc.org) has released the results of the National Survey on Ecological Goods and Services. Over 1,700 Canadian farmers and ranchers were surveyed for their attitudes and behaviours towards ecological goods and services in an effort to inform policy development at the national level.

Ecological goods and services are the benefits that humans derive from healthy ecosystems.

The survey results highlight that farmers and ranchers make considerable efforts to steward their land and mitigate environmental risks.

The survey points to a perception among farmers and ranchers that their agricultural practices provide broader benefits to society, with 70 per cent of respondents seeing themselves as "part of the solution." While respondents felt a great deal of responsibility towards the environment, a majority identified financial considerations as the main barrier to adopting more environmentally sound practices.

Emerald Ash Borer Found in Illinois

From the Associated Press, June 13

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -- The emerald ash borer, a pest blamed for killing millions of trees across the Midwest has reached Illinois, prompting state officials to prepare a detection and eradication plan they expect to begin within the next few weeks, the state agriculture department said Tuesday. The borer was found recently by a homeowner in a rural subdivision near Lily Lake, about 40 miles west of Chicago in central Kane County, said Warren Goetsch, division manager for natural resources in the agriculture department. But it's possible the pest has been in trees there as long as five years and has spread.

Events and Announcements

Ecology Walk at the Former Toronto Brickworks site

Wed August 9

Location: The Brick Works 550 Bayview Ave, Toronto

Time: 5:30-8:30pm

Join Toronto Bay Initiative and Evergreen biologists at Toronto's largest engineered wetland at the former Toronto Brickworks site. Contact Mandy Pereira at 416-596-1495 ext. 249.

Woodlot Management Workshops

Wed August 9

Location: Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129, 719 Mountain Street, Haliburton

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Workshop to help local residents reduce property taxes and reap financial benefits of managed woodlot hosted by the Ontario Forestry Association. Call the Ontario Forestry Association for more information at 1.800.387.0790

Everdale Get Dirty Day!

Sat August 12

Location: Hillsburgh, northwest of Toronto

Be a farmer for a day. You will be weeding, planting, hoeing and growing along side the farmers in the Everdale Farm gardens.

FEE: General Admission to Everdale. Visit

www.everdale.org

Butterfly Gardens and Long Blooming Perennials

Sat August 12

Location: Plant Paradise Country Gardens, 16258 Humber Station Road, Caledon

Time: 9:00am and 1:00pm

The workshop demonstrates how to attract butterflies to your garden with perennial nectar and host plants. Visit www.plantparadise.ca or call 905-880-9090

Organic Garden and Compost Tour by the Ecological Farmers Association

Sat August 12

Location: Kendal, Durham County at Hida Manns, R.R. #1 Kendal (NE of Oshawa)

Tour the vegetable garden grown with compost and join in a discussion of how compost works. Call (905) 983-8149 or (519) 822-8606 for further directions and lunch reservations.

www.efao.ca/

Spadina Quay Wetland

Wed August 23

Location: Foot of Spadina Avenue by the water's edge, Toronto

Time: 6:00-8:30pm

Come to Toronto's own small but mighty wetland in the heart of Harbourfront to pull out unwanted invasive plants. Contact Toronto Bay Initiative at 416-598-2277 to register.

Saving the Planet Art Exhibit

Fri September 8

Location: Orillia & area

Time: Runs Sept 8 to Nov 7

Tour a ten-gallery art exhibit entitled "Saving the Planet" to raise money for the Couchiching Conservancy. Visit

www.galleryseven.ca/savingtheplanet.html

Growing Native Woody Plants from Seed:

Tues September 19 or Thurs September 21

Time: 9:00-4:00pm

This workshop will teach you the techniques for cleaning, treating and sowing seeds and how to protect them as seeds and young plants. project. Fee: \$55.00. To register, visit

www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum

For More Events: Visit www.trca.on.ca/events or www.planetfriendly.net

Get Involved with the UFN!

We want to hear from you! Email your stories, suggestions, announcements, photos, and ideas to info@leafforonto.org

Dendro Devotion Answers:
1)e 2)h 3)g 4)j 5)c 6)d 7)f 8)a 9)k 10)b