



The LEAFlet

Wrapping Up A LEAFy 2007!

This year has been an exciting one at LEAF. We've expanded our programs and forged many new partnerships. Our [Backyard Tree Planting Program](#), which helps property owners put the right tree in the right place at a subsidized cost, continues to boast high rates of both tree survival and participant satisfaction. We're thrilled that our new partnership with Ontario Power Generation has allowed us to increase our 2007 fall plantings by 50%! We're also working with Ryerson University to incorporate data collection and analysis into the program. We'll work with graduate students to examine both tree health and participant attitudes and behaviors.

But we've been doing more than planting trees. This year LEAF held six native plant sales (downtown, Scarborough and Etobicoke) and hosted and/or participated in over 40 community events including Nuit Blanche, where we worked with artist Leah Burns to stage our own urban forestry themed art installation. We also launched the [Toronto Tree Tours](#) website with collaborating partner the [Toronto Public Space Committee](#). The project celebrates the urban forest via fun, guided walking tours, some of which are offered in a second language. You can download Tree Tour maps [online](#), and go on a self-guided tour anytime.

The popularity of our Tree Tenders sessions, which provide 10 hours of basic arboricultural training, has prompted LEAF to begin developing an advanced program that will train and mentor participants to organize and deliver urban forestry initiatives in their own communities. Last but not least, this year LEAF won the coveted [Green Toronto Award](#) for Environmental Awareness.



Allan Gardens Tree Tour



*LEAF's E.D. Janet McKay accepts
Green Toronto Award*



Tree pit makeover

We at LEAF wish you a healthy and happy holiday season, and look forward to continuing to make Toronto a healthier place to live, work and play in 2008, one tree at a time.

	2006	2007
Native trees and shrubs planted	1000	1450
Volunteer hours contributed	2055	3575
People reached at community events	770	1300
Individuals reached through educational presentations	715	975
Backyard Planting Program enquires responded to	650	900
Members of the Urban Forest Network	500	650
Tree Tours Participants	340	500
Tree Tours held	11	21



CBC TV tapes backyard planting

Celebrate the Holidays with 'Green' Gifts!

[LEAF Annual Celebration and Fundraiser](#)

The perfect stocking stuffer is a ticket to **LEAF's Annual Fundraiser** at the [Gladstone Hotel](#) on Wednesday, February 6th. The ticket gets you in the door, and enters you in the draw for the door prize of a bicycle worth \$700 (winner need not be in attendance). Bid on over \$3000 worth of fun 'green' items in the silent auction, enjoy live music, and make new friends over participatory tree-related art installations. What a fun way to help us continue improving Toronto's urban forest! Tickets are \$20 advance or \$25 at the door. [Contact us](#) to purchase.

[LEAF Gift Certificates](#)

Give the gift that grows! LEAF gift certificates can be used to purchase perennials, shrubs or trees. Include a personalized message with your gift certificate. Check our website for details on purchasing and [Contact us](#) today in time for the holiday rush!

[The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada: Discovering the rich natural diversity of Ontario's Southwestern heartland](#) (2007)

Edited by LEAF Board member Lorraine Johnson, this book features the rich diversity and rarity of the species and spaces in Carolinian Canada, with gorgeous colour photographs throughout. 160 pages, \$34.95. Available in paperback.

[Green Gardeners](#)

For the eco-conscious gardener on your list, give a gift certificate for Green Gardener services. Redeemable for garden clean ups, makeovers, plantings, pollution-free and silent yard maintenance, ecological design or edible landscaping services. [Contact](#) them today!

[GreenTOpia](#)

Guaranteed to please the environmentally minded Torontonians on your list, this book features a collection of insightful and creative essays (including contributions by LEAF staff and board members) which conjure up visions of a more sustainable Toronto. 256 pages, \$24.95. Available in paperback.

The Slippery Slope of Road Salt

Environment Canada is predicting the coldest winter in 15 years due to the effects of [La Nina](#) which will also bring above-average snowfall. Although many are aware of the environmental dangers of road salt, Ontarians will apply about 2 million tonnes of road salt this winter with devastating environmental consequences. For example, [RiverSides Stewardship Alliance](#) notes that creeks draining into Toronto's Don River can be as salty as the ocean!

Trees and shrubs can be severely damaged or even killed by road salt, especially those that are situated near heavily salted roads, lie downhill and/or in poorly drained areas. All species of trees can suffer when salt is present in the soil. Some deciduous species, such as red maple and hackberry, are particularly salt sensitive. Evergreens also tend to be salt sensitive and can suffer from severe damage if the needles are sprayed with salt, a common occurrence near roadways.

Take action: Be diligent about shoveling snow and breaking up ice as soon as possible after a snowfall, and apply a thin layer of sand or cat litter instead of salt. If ice is an issue, buy a chloride-free deicer or blend such as calcium magnesium acetate. Use sparingly if salt must be used, and do not use salt at all near salt sensitive tree and shrub species.

Advocate: Contact your local councilor to voice your concern about municipal salt use in your city. [Contact](#) Environment Canada to voice your support for the inclusion of road salts on Schedule I of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) 1999. Their December 2001 Priority Substances List Assessment Report confirms that road salt damages our ecosystems. Let's get it included in legally binding legislation!

Species of the Month

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*)

Native to eastern North America from southern Ontario to northern Florida, the Eastern Redbud is a large, deciduous shrub or small tree with an irregular shape when young, forming a flat-topped or rounded crown as it matures. It typically grows 8 - 12 m tall, has a fast growth rate of one to two feet per year, and often has more than one trunk unless trained when young. Key identifying features include zigzag branches, heart-shaped leaves and purple-pink flowers that pop out of the bark and all over the tree in April or May.

The fruits are flattened pea-like pods 5 - 10 cm long containing brown seeds, that mature from August to October. The Redbud thrives in most soil types tolerating both drought and wet soil, although a well drained location is preferred. Often planted as a landscape ornamental, its leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of some Lepidoptera like the [lo moth](#) (*Automeris io*).



A redbud planted by LEAF 5 years prior

Dendro Devotion

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

Match the provincial arboreal emblem tree with the province or territory. Answers on page four.

1. eastern larch (tamarack)
2. red oak
3. white spruce
4. yellow birch
5. lodgepole pine
6. western red cedar
7. red spruce
8. paper birch
9. alpine fir
10. eastern white pine
11. balsam fir
12. black spruce

- a. British Columbia
- b. Nova Scotia
- c. New Brunswick
- d. Yukon
- e. Ontario
- f. Prince Edward Island
- g. Northwest Territories
- h. Manitoba
- i. Newfoundland and Labrador
- j. Quebec
- k. Alberta
- l. Saskatchewan

Winter Pruning Tips

Did you know that trees and shrubs can be pruned in winter? Here are a few handy tips from The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) to consider before pruning:

- Prune with a purpose. Remove dead or diseased wood, provide clearance, or improve structure
- Use proper technique. Improper cuts can cause long-term damage
- Small cuts create less damage to the tree than large cuts
- Making cuts just outside the branch collar allows for faster wound closure
- Do not leave stubs
- Only use sharp and clean tools that are designed for pruning. Do not improvise with regular saws or cutters.

Large trees should be pruned only by certified arborists who have the knowledge and equipment to do the job properly and safely. Make sure the arborist you hire is certified, has adequate insurance and good references. To locate a certified arborist in the area, contact ISA at 1 888 463 2316

More info on pruning can be found on the ISA's [Trees Are Good](#) website.

Events

Decorate a Tree for the Birds Holiday Workshop
Saturday December 15, 2007—10 am - noon
Sunday December 16, 2007-10 am - noon
[High Park Nature Centre](#), 430 Parkside Drive
Toronto

Decorate a holiday tree in High Park with handmade pine cone bird feeders and popcorn garlands. Hand-feed chickadees and learn how birds that over winter in High Park survive the cold months. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Phone Diana Teal at 416 392 1748 x 6 or email: diana@hpicharity.org

Christmas Flower Show 2007
Dec. 2, 2007 - Jan 1, 2008 10 am - 5 pm
[Allan Gardens](#) and [Centennial Park](#)

Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation invites you to visit the conservatories at Allan Gardens & Centennial Park from December 2nd to January 1st 10 am - 5pm for their Christmas Flower Show. For a romantic evening, visit the conservatories by candlelight Dec 9 - 23 and 26 - 30 from 5 - 7 pm. Admission is free. Donations to the food bank would be greatly appreciated.

[High Park Volunteer Stewardship Meetings](#)
Jan. 6th and Jan. 20th, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Howard Park Tennis Club, 430 Parkside Dr.

Come out to hear presentations on interesting topics such as High Park history. Free admission.

LEAF Annual Fundraiser
Wednesday, February 6, 2008
Gladstone Hotel, Toronto
Doors open at 7 pm

Don't miss the green event of the year! Bid on a wide variety of silent auction items, enjoy live music and complimentary finger foods, network with others who are interested in Toronto's urban forest, and tell us about your favourite trees. All tickets holders are eligible to win the door prize (\$700 bicycle). Tickets are \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. To avoid disappointment, contact [LEAF](#) to buy yours today!

Royal Botanical Garden (RBG)
600 Plains Road West, Burlington

Meet Hercules, the world's oldest tree at Burlington's [Royal Botanical Gardens](#) in the Mediterranean Garden. The botanical discovery of the 20th century, the Wollemi pine tree, was considered extinct for 2 million years of its 90-million-year history. Taken from the original find of [Wollemi nobilis](#), and named after the parent from which the cutting was taken, Hercules is on permanent display at the RBG. Admission is \$2. Open 10 am—5 pm.

DENDRO DEVOTION Answers:
1g, 2f, 3h, 4j, 5k, 6a, 7b, 8l, 9d, 10e, 11c, 12i

SUPPORT TORONTO'S URBAN FOREST

We rely on your support to continue our work. Donations of \$50 or more are recognized with a special set of five buttons featuring five native tree leaves drawn by a local artist. Send us the form below or donate on-line at www.leafontario.org/donate



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Suite 305
Toronto, ON

Tel: 416-413-9244
info@leafontario.org
www.leafontario.org

Yes! I would like to support LEAF with the following donation:

\$25__ \$50__ \$100__ Other \$_____

I do NOT require a tax receipt (make cheque payable to "LEAF")

I DO require a tax receipt (make cheque payable to our charitable partner "Phoenix Community Works Foundation")

OR I would like to pay by VISA (please supply information below and indicate above whether tax receipt is required)

Name: _____

Address _____

VISA _____ Expiry _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Please return to LEAF, 73 Bathurst St, Suite 305, Toronto, ON, M5V 2P6