

=====THE URBAN FOREST NETWORK NEWSLETTER=====

Issue 20 - July 2004

Wicked Wind

Standing tall and lean
arms flinging about
in desperation but
unable to hold on to
his glorious mantel of
red and gold leaves
being snatched away,
he was left stripped
naked and forlorn
that October day
when the wind died away.
- j.a. Major

In this Protecting Trees issue . . .

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HARMONIZATION OF TORONTO'S PRIVATE TREE PROTECTION BYLAW A message
from Deputy Mayor and Tree Advocate Joe Pantalone

Thanks to those who supported the Private Tree Bylaw at last week's Community Council meetings. It passed through all 4 Community Councils with minor recommendations from some of the councils. The next step is for the Private Tree Bylaw to be reviewed by the Planning and Transportation Committee.

Once again, your support is needed to ensure that the Private Tree Bylaw is supported at the Planning and Transportation Committee on Tuesday, September 7th and sent to City Council. If you can make a deputation to committee, please contact:

Patsy Morris
Committee Administrator
416-392-9151
pmorris@toronto.ca

If you can not attend, but would like to make a statement, please send a letter of support to the Committee. This letter of support will be distributed to the members of the Planning and Transportation Committee. The letter can be based on your deputations or letters sent to the Community Councils, but should be addressed to Patsy Morris.

PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW by Bohdan Kowalyk, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

The Ontario government is in the process of reviewing the current land use planning system in the Province. The government has proposed changes in support of the goal of stronger, better communities. More specifically, the Planning Reform initiative includes: examining the planning process; determining the need for more effective implementation tools for municipalities and other decision-makers; reviewing the Ontario Municipal Board; and proposing changes to the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) for public input.

The PPS sets out the Ontario government's interest in land-use planning and development and provides policy direction on a wide range of matters such as managing growth, using land efficiently, and protecting resources. The PPS is issued under the authority of the *Planning Act*. The current PPS was issued in May 1996 (with an amendment in 1997) and all land-use planning decision-makers are required to "have regard to" the policies in the PPS. As a first step in Planning Reform, the government introduced Bill 26, the Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2004, which proposes to change this standard to require that all land-use planning decisions "shall be consistent with" the PPS. A new draft PPS has been issued and is available for public review and comment at www.planningreform.ontario.ca (Consultation Discussion Paper #2).

With regard to urban forests, the draft policies introduce consideration for "maintaining or expanding vegetated areas within settlement areas, wherever possible" (section 1.2.3). Natural heritage policies (section 2.1) call for recognition of linkages among features and areas. Treatment of significant woodlands remains similar to the existing PPS. Development and site alteration in these woodlands south and east of the Canadian Shield will not be permitted unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions for which the area is identified. Significant woodlands are treed areas that provide important ecological, functional or economic benefits. Negative impact with regard to significant woodlands is defined as "degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or ecological functions for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities".

The Ontario government is currently seeking input and comment on the proposed changes to the PPS policies and has posed the following questions:

- Do the draft policies provide sufficient direction?
- Do the draft policies achieve the right balance among different policy interests?
- Are there additional planning matters that require provincial policy direction which are not included or which you believe are not adequately addressed?

Comments must be received by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing no later than August 31, 2004 either electronically or at the address provided with the consultation discussion paper.

For more information on planning for significant woodlands in the Greater Toronto Area, contact Bohdan.Kowalyk@mnr.gov.on.ca.

HERITAGE TREES ~ PROTECTION? by Fran Moscall

Heritage Tree defined . . . “An outstanding specimen because of size, form, shape, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution or other distinctive features; a distinctive community landmark; a specimen associated with an historic person, place, event or period; a representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors that is at risk of disappearing from cultivation; a specimen recognized by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition.”

Coined by Paul Aird, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto

Currently there is no explicit provincial protection of heritage trees provided by the Ontario Heritage Act. Nor is there protection afforded by municipal tree protection policies. However, citizens' wave actions are moving across Ontario and indeed in other provinces to identify and protect heritage trees. The Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC) whose members include forestry personnel, ratepayers, and other interested citizens has been proactive in this regard.

On June 19, 2004 the OUFC hosted a Heritage Trees Workshop bringing together heritage groups, municipal staff, urban foresters and other citizens to network and participate in sessions with a variety of topics including examples of heritage tree attributes, urban forest planning for preservation of heritage trees, community activities to protect urban trees, work-in-progress to include heritage trees in municipal trees protection policy, ways to protect heritage trees per the Ontario Heritage Act e.g., using heritage conservation districts, and development of heritage tree criteria/template for municipal by-law protection. Proceedings from the workshop will be posted at www.oufc.org.

Scarborough District of the Heritage Toronto Advocacy Committee has advised that Scarborough designated a grove of rare Black Walnut trees in Highland Creek. The city of Barrie is working toward including heritage trees in its tree protection policy. Trees Thunder Bay, a group that boasts 950 members, was formed by citizens of Northern Ontario to protect urban their trees, including the protection of the position of urban forester in that city. Another municipality has the city forester working with the heritage coordinator to include heritage trees in the city's register of heritage landscapes for protection and planning purposes.

And, in Surrey B.C. the city and its citizens developed the heritage tree evaluation program to identify, evaluate and protect heritage and “significant trees” to preserve the natural heritage of the community for the future and to educate the public about the value of trees. Thus the Surrey Great Tree Hunt was created involving the community.

In 2003/04 the OUFC submitted recommendations to the Ministry of Culture as it prepared amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). Suggestions included the

- need to include heritage trees in the definition of “Ontario Heritage” as well as strategies for their protection
- adoption of the definition of “heritage trees” as stated above
- requirement that municipalities prepare Heritage Tree Plans and preservation by-laws to be included in their official plans and also include heritage trees in tree protection by-laws
- power for municipalities to exact penalties for damaging heritage trees

As of June 30, 2004 amendments to the OHA are awaiting second reading in the Ontario Legislature. While there is no explicit mention of heritage trees in the OHA some municipalities have found ways to protect them e.g., Jacob Fisher Oak Tree in Vaughan (1983) and The Comfort Maple in the town of Pelham Ontario. Section IV of the OHA dealing with Individual Property Designation gives municipalities the power to designate sites of cultural heritage value or interest. The significant aspect of that property can be a heritage tree. In that way it provides a formal recognition of the importance of the property through municipal by-law and offers a measure of protection for the property in the future.

Finally work is being done on the designation and protection of Cultural Heritage Landscapes. This may prove to be another way to protect heritage trees. How can the Ontario Heritage Act and The Ontario Planning Act be used to protect cultural heritage landscapes and in turn, heritage trees? A workshop was convened on June 25, 2004 at Ridgetown College to consider this question. Further information on this matter will be provided in a forthcoming issue of the OUFC newsletter. The event was supported by a grant from the Ministry of Culture and sponsored by the Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo (hrc@uwaterloo.ca).

Should you have information about other activities or want to help protect heritage trees in Ontario, you are invited to contact the Executive Director of the Ontario Urban Forest Council at jradec@MountPleasantGroup.com

PRESERVING CANADA'S BOREAL FOREST compiled by Sandra Iseman

The Boreal Forest is one of the world's most significant forests. With a presence in almost every province of Canada, it stretches from west to east coast. Spanning across millions of square kilometres, the boreal forest wraps the Earth's northern hemisphere like a green cloak, covering close to 12% of the planet's surface. Canada's boreal forest makes up a key piece of what is one of the world's largest remaining still wild "frontier forests". This is one of the few places left in the world with a full suite of species and ecosystems that are still fundamentally shaped by natural forces like fire and wind. But the boreal forest is also the world's largest source of paper fibre. And more than 90% of logging in the boreal in Canada is clearcutting. Only 9% of the boreal region across Canada is officially protected from industrial development, including logging, mining and hydroelectric dams.

So far the federal government has endorsed the nomination of a huge area of intact boreal forest straddling the Ontario-Manitoba border for designation as an international World Heritage Site. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will consider the Canadian government's nomination list as it works to identify areas around the world that meet its requirement for "universal value". "Thanks to the vision of the First Nations, including the Pikangikum First Nation in Ontario, this area is starting to get the international attention it deserves" says CPAWS-Wildlands League Executive Director Janet Sumner. "The provisional listing of the site by the Canadian government really acknowledges that we must take a new approach to our vast intact boreal forests," she adds. "In these still-wild forests, protection of ecosystems, waterways, species, and communities must come before development."

Products you can use that are boreal forest free include 100% recycled toilet paper, by producers such as Seventh Generation, fabric handkerchiefs or recycled tissue as produced by Cascades, recycled paper towels by Earth Friendly Products, and recycled napkins as produced by Cascades. For a list of companies to buy from and not to buy from go to: <http://www.greenpeace.ca/tissue/index.php>. For those family picnics use biodegradable plates made out of corn starch by Biocorp North America.

Cancel your magazine subscriptions and catalogues that are printed on virgin paper. Publishers of 34 Canadian magazines, including Canadian Geographic, The Walrus and Cottage Life, have announced their pledge to shift away from papers containing tree fibre from the world's ancient and endangered forests. For a list of catalogues and magazines as well as other producers that are boreal forest paper free please go to: <http://www.marketsinitiative.org/>.

Currently there are many initiatives to increase awareness among the public. We can make a difference by being informed consumers and by taking political action. The following is a list of steps you can take recommended by the Boreal Forest Network

1. Demand an immediate stop to clear cutting.
2. Call for immediate reductions in annual allowable cuts to ecologically sustainable levels.
3. Call for reform of the tenure systems to allow for community-controlled forestry.
4. Press for an Endangered Species Act that protects all species.
5. Insist that key wilderness and wildlife areas are protected.
6. Support legally enforceable, ecosystem-based forestry legislation that protects all the values of the forest.
7. Ask government to adopt legislation that requires full recycling of paper products in Canada.
8. Call for raising of stumpage rates to include ecological and social costs.

For more information regarding the forest, what you can do, and what others are doing across the country visit <http://www.borealnet.org/hotbuttons/changehabits.html> and <http://www.cpaws.org/boreal/index.html>.

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

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Match the tree species with its family.

Tree Species

- 1) Eastern white cedar
- 2) Sassafras
- 3) Swamp White Oak
- 4) Large-toothed Aspen
- 5) Hackberry
- 6) Eastern Hemlock
- 7) Bitternut Hickory
- 8) Blue Ash
- 9) Eastern Hop-hornbeam
- 10) Northern Catalpa

- a) Walnut
- b) Olive
- c) Cypress
- d) Laurel
- e) Beech
- f) Elm
- g) Pine
- h) Willow
- j) Bignonia
- k) Birch

Answers at the end of the newsletter.

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Events/Announcements

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VOLUNTEER FOR NATURE – GIANTS OF GRANT’S WOODS, Orillia area

Saturday July 24 to Monday July 26, 2004

Join Volunteer for Nature (Ontario Nature, Nature Conservancy of Canada volunteer program) and the Couchiching Conservancy at Grant's Woods; an upland forest of old growth Maple, White Ash, Red Oak and White Pine. Help complete a trail system and remove invasive species from the forest. A birder's paradise. Food and accommodation (tenting) included.

Cost is \$185

Ontario Nature (Federation of Ontario Naturalists) and Nature Conservancy of Canada. For more information go to <http://www.ontarionature.org/action> or call 416-444-8416 ext. 222.

HOORAY FOR HERONS! (TALK AND WORKBEE), Toronto

Wednesday, August 18, 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Join expert birder Glenn Coady, of the Toronto Ornithological Club, to learn about coastal birds. After the talk a workbee will take place at the Spadina Quay Wetland to help improve heron habitat by removing unwanted plants and grasses, and making room for native species. Meet at the Spadina Quay Wetland, located at the foot of Spadina, by the water's edge. Contact TBI to register.

For more information go to <http://www.torontobay.net> or call 416-598-2277.

COMMUNITY GARDEN EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS IN AUGUST, Toronto

Wednesday, August 18 to Thursday, August 26

Various community garden visits allow city dwellers to connect with nature at a wildflower habitat community garden. August is Wildflower Blossom Bounty month.

Wed. August 18, at 7pm, Beatty Boulevard Parkette Community Garden

Thurs. August 19 at 7pm Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Community Garden

Wed. August 25 at 7pm Seaton Walk Parkette Community Garden

Thurs. August 26 at 7pm St. James Town West Park Community Garden

Please see the website for location of Evergreen Community Gardens:

http://www.evergreen.ca/en/registry/view_project.php?ID=00032.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, London
Wednesday, August 25 to Friday, August 27

Participate in a meeting of the Canadian Society of Landscape Ecology and Management (CSLEM) to discuss possible directions for the CSLEM and to establish a new executive, working groups, etc., as well as the opportunity to exchange information on current research and interests in the field. The event includes presentations, business meetings, workshops, and field trips. Volunteers welcome and regional representatives from outside Ontario. For more information contact Rob Milne at 519-884-0710 x2533.

GARDENS OF DIVERSITY: GROWING ACROSS CULTURES, Toronto

October 1-3, 2004

Registration brochures for The American Community Gardening Association's 25th anniversary conference are now finalized and posted as a PDF download on the ACGA's website. Complete info is available at <http://www.communitygarden.org/conf/conferences.php> For information on how to volunteer (and possibly lower your registration costs), please contact Jennifer Volk at: tcgn@foodshare.net or (416) 392-1668

6th CANADIAN URBAN FOREST CONFERENCE – Fires, Storms and Pests – Crises in Our Urban Forests, Kelowna B.C

October 20-21, 2004

The City of Kelowna and Tree Canada Foundation are proud to host the 6th Canadian Urban Forest Conference. The conference will be held at the Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference Centre. Pre-conference sessions on October 19; post conference sessions on October 22 and 23. For full conference details visit www.treecanada.ca/cufc6/index.htm

For more events, visit or subscribe to PEOPLE- & PLANET-FRIENDLY Events, Resources, Jobs & Fun visit www.planetfriendly.net

Answers to Dendro Devotion

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

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the UFN Committee or LEAF

Please send us your submissions for future newsletters – articles, announcements, news, recourses and events welcome! info@leaftoronto.org