

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

Issue 26 – May 2005

The best friend on earth of man is the tree: when we use the tree respectfully and economically we have one of the greatest resources of the earth.

Frank Lloyd Wright

In this issue . . .

New Program in Hamilton – Tonnes for Trees

Success Story – City of Toronto Commits Funds for Urban Trees

Butternut Assessed as Endangered Species

Dendro Devotion

Featured Website – Eastern Ontario Urban Forest Network

Announcements & Upcoming Events

TONNES FOR TREES

By Julia Kollek, Project Coordinator, Tonnes for Trees

Tonnes for Trees is an exciting new program in Hamilton, Ontario that met its target within the first week of launching. The program - organized through Environment Hamilton - is a local initiative of the One-Tonne Challenge that comic Rick Mercer talks about in TV ads. It aims to cut each Canadian's annual greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent or one tonne. (A tonne of gases is enough to fill a two-storey home.) What Tonnes for Trees offers is a reward of two trees for every tonne reduced - one tree for a private backyard, and the other for a community park in one of the three pilot neighbourhoods where tree inventories were recently conducted.

Those taking part register at environmenthamilton.org/tonnes. An online calculator tracks their commitments. If their efforts add up to one tonne they get two, two-metre-high native trees through Green Venture, a partnering environmental organization, together with the city of Hamilton.

Tonnes for Trees is open to all city residents and Environment Hamilton's funding application noted a real risk: interest may outstrip Green Venture's supply of larch, pine, birch, maple and spruce. The initial goal to cut 50 tonnes of emissions has already been tripled - and chances are the amount will continue to increase by September when this phase of the project ends.

The program will close on a high note, however: a Tree Planting Day is planned when the community trees earned will find their new homes and accompanying celebrations will mark the event.

Here are some ways you can lose a tonne of greenhouse gases.

ONE TONNE TIPS

The average Canadian produces five tonnes of greenhouse gases (GHG) a year, enough to fill five, two-storey houses with emissions that contribute to pollution and smog.

- * If you drive 20,000 km a year, reduce this by 10 per cent: half a tonnes of GHG per year.
- * Buy 25 per cent more of your food locally instead of shipped by truck: 0.2 tonnes.
- * Rinse clothes in cold water and wash in warm, not hot, water: 0.2 tonnes.
- * Go car free: four tonnes.

- * Reduce your home thermostat by 3 C (5 F) at night and when you're away: 0.5 tonnes.
- * Recycle one-fifth of a tonne of material: 0.5 tonnes.
- * Stop idling your car 10 minutes a day: 0.25 tonnes.
- * Put more air in your underinflated car tires: 0.125 tonnes.
- * Use compact fluorescent light bulbs in five fixtures: 0.125 tonnes.

To find out more about the Tonnes for Trees program go to
<http://www.environmenthamilton.org/tonnes/index.htm>

SUCCESS STORY – CITY OF TORONTO COMMITS FUNDS FOR TREES

By Janet McKay, LEAF

Thanks to all who wrote letters and sent messages regarding the 2005 City of Toronto Forestry Budget. We have some good news to report.

Forestry received \$1 million in new operating funds for 2005. This funding will allow an increase in forestry maintenance, primarily to be aimed at reducing the service delays for residential street tree maintenance. Additionally, new funding of \$126,000 net was provided for staffing the private tree bylaw.

Forestry also received an increase for the Tree Advocacy Program. Usually the program receives \$750,000 from the City and has authorization to spend \$250,000 of any additional funds that are raised for the program. This year, the program has been increased to \$1 million from the City and up to \$500,000 in funds raised from other sources.

Public Works was also given an additional \$600,000 for tree planting.

BUTTERNUT ASSESSED AS ENDANGERED SPECIES

From Ontario Urban Forest Council Newsletter Spring 2005 www.oufc.org

Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), also known as white walnut, has been assessed to be an endangered species by the Federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. This tree species has been reduced by disease, but can still be found in a number of areas. A team of government staff and experts has been formed for planning its recovery. Tasks of the team include helping to define significant habitat of butternut as well as a specific strategy and actions for recovery. Input is currently being sought from stakeholders with an interest in this species.

For further information on these or other forest-related provincial issues in the Greater Toronto Area, contact Bohdan Kowalyk, OMNR Aurora District Forester, at Bohdan.Kowalyk@mnr.gov.on.ca.

DENDRO DEVOTION

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

Match the tree species with its characteristic leaf type:

- 1) scale like, evergreen
- 2) compound leaves, 2-3 times divided, bluish-green leaflets
- 3) compound leaves, leaflets dull green
- 4) needles four-sided
- 5) leaves lobed with teeth
- 6) deciduous needles in tight clusters
- 7) leaf edges coarsely toothed, single tooth per parallel vein
- 8) mitten shaped leaf
- 9) leaf base asymmetrical, irregularly saw toothed
- 10) leaves lance shaped, finely toothed

- a) Sassafras
- b) Red Maple
- c) American Beech
- d) Eastern Larch
- e) White Spruce
- f) White Willow
- g) Eastern White Cedar
- h) American Elm
- j) Black Locust
- k) Kentucky Coffee Tree

Answers at end of the newsletter

FEATURED WEBSITE – EASTERN ONTARIO URBAN FOREST NETWORK

<http://eoufn.eomf.on.ca/>

The Eastern Ontario Urban Forest Network is a working group consisting of communities, agencies and individuals in eastern Ontario who have an interest in promoting healthy urban forests. Their goals are to facilitate the sharing of information about urban forestry between communities, politicians, municipal staff, local organizations and individuals; to educate municipalities, communities and the public of eastern Ontario about urban forests; to promote municipal planning that recognizes and enhances sustainable urban forests in eastern Ontario; and to raise the profile of significant woodlands.

Their website features lots of information on the benefits of trees and threats to our urban forests. Instructions for maintaining a newly planted tree and tips on identifying and managing tree pests can also be found. The links section connects to other organizations working on urban forestry in Eastern Ontario.

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPPORTUNITY FOR INPUT – ONTARIO’S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY UP FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Comments due May 25, 2005

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is presently developing a “Master Plan” to protect biodiversity across the province. The objective of Ontario’s biodiversity strategy is to prevent and reverse the current trend of biodiversity loss through a series of initiatives that can be achieved, measured and reported on in the next 5 years. The public has the opportunity to review the draft biodiversity strategy by visiting the Ministry of Natural Resources’ website at:

www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/biodiversity/

Comments are due May 25, 2005 and should be directed to:

Dave Gordon

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy Project

Ministry of Natural Resources

99 Wellesley Street West, Whitney Block, Rm 5440

Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1W3

PHONE: (416) 314-1941

FAX: (416) 314-1198

e-mail biodiversity@mnr.gov.on.ca

To view the Environmental Bill of Rights posting, visit www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/024200ex.htm. Remember to include the EBR Registry Number: PB05E6011 at the top of your letter to ensure your comments are officially recorded.

HEALTHY PLANTS THE ORGANIC WAY

Wednesday, May 25, 809 Dundas St., London, 7:00pm

Learn about some of the key concepts in plant health management. Find out how you can help your trees, flowers, and vegetables battle those nasty diseases. Joe Omielan is a board member of the Ontario Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is also an instructor in the University of Guelph's new Organic Agriculture program. \$10. For more information visit

www.mygreengarden.ca or call 519-435-1498.

MAKING YOUR DREAM COMMUNITY HAPPEN: UNDERSTANDING & APPLYING PLANNING LAW TO ENSURE SMART LAND USE PLANNING IN ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 25, Centre for Social Innovation, 215 Spadina Ave, 1st Flr, Toronto, 2-3:45 pm

Designed as a primer on planning law, this educational and empowering seminar will help end your confusion by:

- clarifying jurisdictional issues, legislation and landowners’ rights;
- explaining how legislation is created, how it is applied, and how it has supported or delayed smart growth;
- presenting current planning and policy issues that are having a bearing on legislation;
- providing practical resources and other tools that will help you solve your own smart livable community challenges;
- answering your questions at the conclusion of the 1-hour presentation.

Presented by the Ontario Smart Growth Network. \$10 or pay what you can. For more information, visit www.greenontario.org/osgn/seminars.html or call 416-533-1635 ext 2.

SONGBIRDS & WATERFOWL IN THE HIGHLAND CREEK WATERSHED

Sunday, May 29, Colonel Danforth Park, Scarborough, 9 – 11 am

Experienced naturalists will lead a hike along the Highland Creek, providing natural history information and birding ID tips along the way. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them. Free. Hosted by Toronto and Region Conservation. Meet in parking lot near the south end of Highland Creek Dr, south of Kingston Rd. For more information, contact 416-661-6600 ext. 5660.

ONTARIO NATURE'S 74TH AGM & CONFERENCE

Friday, June 3 – Sunday, June 5, Nipissing University, North Bay

This June, the Nipissing Naturalists Club will host the 74th Annual Ontario Nature Conference and Nature Canada Annual General Meeting in North Bay. This conference is a must for conservation professionals and naturalists. Call 1-800-440-2366 ext. 224 or visit <http://www.nipissing-naturalist.com/ON/conference.htm> for more information. Cost depends on activities.

TREE TOUR OF EARL BALES PARK

Saturday, June 11, Earl Bales Park, Toronto, 10 am – noon

Gain unique insight into some of the important native tree communities remaining in this wonderful park. These hidden treasures are an important component of our Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest Region. The walk, presented by the Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC), will also include an in-depth evaluation of the many tree plantations that have been established in the park over the last 50 years. Learn about the different approaches that were used in establishing plantations, the reasons behind establishing them and the lessons learned. If you love trees, are interested in the history of places, and enjoy a walk in the park then this event is for you! \$10 donation to OUFC. To register contact 416-936-6735 or jradec@MountPleasantGroup.com before May 31, 2005. Space is limited – early registration is recommended.

CERTIFIED SEED COLLECTOR WORKSHOPS

Various dates June and August, 2005

This series of day-long workshops, presented by the Forest Gene Conservation Association and the Ontario Tree Seed Plant, will teach participants about woody species seed biology (forecasting, collection, handling, processing and storage) and seed certification (logistics of collecting, documenting and marketing source identified, quality seed). Upon signing a Code of Ethics, participants can become Certified Seed Collectors, eligible to register their source-identified collections with the FGCA's new seed source certification program, Ontario's Natural Selections. Workshops are \$100 per day. For more information, contact (705) 755-3284.

HIGH PARK TUESDAY EVENING WALKING TOURS

Tuesday evenings, Summer 2005, High Park, Toronto, 6:45 pm

Moderately-paced walking tours every other Tuesday evening through the summer. Tours last 1½ - 2 hours and may go on wooded trails (wear appropriate footwear). Meet at 6:45 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) at the benches across the road from the south side of the Grenadier Café and Teahouse in High Park. The \$2 donation supports volunteer programs in High Park.

Tuesday, May 17 – Lost waterways in High Park and Vicinity

Tuesday, May 31 – Native and Non-native Trees

Tuesday, June 14 – Spring Flowers

Tuesday, June 28 – Wildflower Names: meanings, history and lore

TOURS OF PRIVATE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

Tuesdays throughout Summer 2005, Toronto, 7-8 p.m.

Come for a captivating, private garden tour and learn the What, Where and Why? of planting with native flora. Discover the "How to's" of pesticide free lawn & garden maintenance. The tours and information sessions are offered by donation. Small groups welcome. Reservation required. Please call 416-236-7234 for more details.

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

Answers to Dendro Devotion:

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

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, courses and events welcome! info@leaftoronto.org