

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

Issue 28 – August 2005

Happiness is sharing a bowl of cherries and a book of poetry with a shade tree. He doesn't eat much and doesn't read much, but listens well and is a most gracious host.

Astrid Alauda

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ONTARIO HERITAGE TREE ALLIANCE

By Fran Moscall

Consider seven generations in the future. Aboriginal elders teach us that whatever major decisions we make, we must do so keeping in mind the well-being of our offspring seven generations hence. The Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance (OHTA) is working to ensure that our urban forests are protected now so that future generations can enjoy what will become their heritage trees.

What explicit provincial and municipal protection is currently afforded heritage trees in Ontario? None so far. Building on the work of individuals and groups, the OHTA is developing a toolkit for use by local communities to identify trees they deem to be worthy of heritage designation. Among the items that will be in the toolkit are nomination and evaluation forms; model tree protection bylaw templates; examples of tree hunts; examples of heritage trees that have been designated and the means of doing so without official protection; resource materials and personnel; tree profiles etc.

We have adopted the following definition: "A heritage tree is an outstanding specimen because of its size, form, shape, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution or other distinctive community landmark; a specimen associated with an historic person, place, event or period; 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." (*Courtesy of Paul Aird, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto*)

Toolkit components will be tested in three sites namely, Simcoe County, Elora and Thunder Bay. Progress reports on the status of the toolkit can be found at www.oufc.org. Completion date for the toolkit will be January 31st 2006.

Phase II will include the launch of the toolkit. Another component is the development of a database for storage and retrieval of heritage trees' designations and tree protection bylaws. Other dissemination strategies will be developed as well.

What is unique about this venture is the collaboration between heritage groups and those involved in urban forest protection. Because the Ministry of Culture Ontario saw the importance of this union of interests it accorded the OHTA a grant for Phase I of the project beginning in January 2005. The OHTA is sponsored by the Ontario Urban Forest Council and Community Heritage Ontario.

Individuals or groups interested in offering suggestions for toolkit components, strategies for dissemination, trees for nomination etc. can contact OHTA by emailing jradec@MountPleasantGroup.com.

NEW YORK CITY'S TREE PROJECT

By Dina Acks Benanti, Reprinted from Newsday Inc., June 2, 2005
www.newsday.com

The city is looking to breathe new life into its neighborhoods. Starting this month, the city's Department of Parks and Recreation will start recruiting volunteers who will plant trees in selected areas to help lower the rate of asthma cases. The department's Trees for Public Health Initiative is targeting the Rockaways because it has the highest rate of asthma in Queens, according to hospitalization records.

The initiative is modeled after a program in Hunts Point, which doubled the number of trees from 1998 to 2002 and helped bring down its high asthma-related hospitalization rates. "The trees act as a buffer to filter out air pollution," said Maricruz Badia, the public health outreach coordinator for the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. "They lower temperature and conserve energy."

The training sessions will include learning how to identify and maintain trees, and how to recognize planting opportunities. In the fall, the collected data will be reviewed and a tree planting strategy developed.

Teens from the Lighthouse Corporation, a youth group in Far Rockaway, will take part in the program. "It will empower the teens," said Pastor Leslie Oliver, senior vice president of Youth Development & Initiatives. "It is a way to breed quality of life and become active in a flourishing community," adding, "scholastically, it is an opportunity for the teenagers to keep accurate records of the trees."

One area in each borough with high asthma rates and low tree density will be participating in the program. They are East Harlem (Manhattan), the Rockaways (Queens), Morrisania (Bronx), East New York (Brooklyn) and Stapleton (Staten Island). To volunteer as an individual or group, contact Liza Rosen, Trees for Public Health coordinator at 516-790-5968 or visit www.nyc.gov/treescount.

WATER YOUR TREES PLEASE!

By Janet McKay, LEAF

Hot, dry weather is putting millions of Ontario's urban trees at risk. We may not notice, as these majestic giants do their best to remain stoic. Often by the time the effects of drought become noticeable it is too late.

Trees help us survive sweltering summer temperatures. Who hasn't sought the protection of a shade tree to avoid the blistering sun? Those of us lucky enough to have trees near our dwellings know the importance of the shade they cast. Mature trees allow us to turn down the air conditioning when we hear appeals to conserve energy.

But it's not just shade that trees provide. One large tree can discharge up to 375 litres of water per day. This happens as the roots draw water from the soil, up through the tree and to each leaf surface. Evaporation from the leaves causes a cooling effect in the surrounding air. Trees need a constant supply of water to keep this process going. Without it they become stressed and are vulnerable to attacks from pests and disease.

Water mature trees with a soaker-hose or use a regular garden hose with no sprinkler attachment. Allow the water to trickle slowly from the hose for approximately 1 hour once a week. Move the hose around periodically to ensure the whole area under the tree's canopy gets watered. For newly planted trees (3 years ago or less) shorter, more frequent watering is better. Run the hose on a slow trickle for approximately 20 minutes or provide 3 large buckets of water 2 or 3 times per week.

Be mindful of water conservation. Early morning or evening watering times are best. Use a low flow to ensure that water soaks into the soil rather than running off onto driveways, sidewalks or streets.

For more tree care information, contact LEAF at www.leaftoronto.org or 416-413-9244.

DENDRO DEVOTION

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

Match the common name of the following trees with one of its traditional folk names. Answers at end of the newsletter

Common name

- 1) paw-paw
- 2) pin cherry
- 3) Nootka false cypress
- 4) hackberry
- 5) trembling aspen
- 6) sassafras
- 7) striped maple
- 8) eastern hop-hornbeam
- 9) black cherry
- 10) northern catalpa

Folk Name

- a) stinking cedar
- b) moosewood
- c) leverwood
- d) pigeon or hay cherry
- e) woman's tongue
- f) bastard elm
- g) cabinet cherry
- h) cigar tree
- j) mitten tree
- k) false banana

FEATURED RESOURCES

WHAT DO TREES HAVE TO DO WITH PEACE? By Denise Roy

Thirty years ago, in the country of Kenya, 90% of the forest had been chopped down. Without trees to hold the topsoil in place, the land became like a desert. When the women and girls would go in search of firewood in order to prepare the meals, they would have to spend hours and hours looking for what few branches remained. A woman named Wangari watched all of this happening. She decided that there must be a way to take better care of the land and take better care of the women and girls. Read the full article on this 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate at www.philia.ca/cms_en/page1214.cfm

THE LARGE TREE ARGUMENT: THE CASE FOR LARGE-STATURE TREES VS. SMALL-STATURE TREES

Large trees give more shade, cleaner air, and better storm water management than small trees do. However, cities are increasingly planting small-stature trees to reduce short-term costs. This resource provides a means to help convince community members and city officials to bring large-stature trees back. It is available to download in a booklet or fact sheet format.

www.urbanforestrysouth.org/cannedSearch?id=HotTopic.2004-07-01.0330

STRUCTURAL SOILS: A NEW MEDIUM TO ALLOW URBAN TREES TO GROW IN PAVEMENT

Pavement is typically laid on highly compacted, well-draining soil to minimize its need for replacement, yet this directly opposes the type of soil needed for tree roots to grow properly. J. Grabosky, N. Bassuk, and P. Trowbridge have developed a structural soil designed to bear loads while simultaneously being porous enough to allow air, nutrients, and water to circulate to tree roots. Their report is available to download at www.asla.org/latis/pdf/Structural_soils_updated081202.pdf

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 6TH CANADIAN URBAN FOREST CONFERENCE

Downloadable PDFs of papers presented at the most recent Canadian Urban Forest Conference, "Fire, Storms, and Pests: Crisis in our Urban Forest", can be found on the Tree Canada Foundation website. Also available are the conference program and a history of the conference. Visit www.tcf-fca.ca/cufc6/proceedings/proceedings.htm

KEEPING EMERALD ASH BORER OUR OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Pennsylvania, surveys have been conducted since 2003 to aid in early detection of the emerald ash borer and so far the pests have not been found. Read the full article at <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/NewsReleases/eab.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Tree Maintenance Event in Scarborough, Wednesday August 10, 4 - 8 pm

Join the LEAF team for an evening of hands-on maintenance at one of our planting sites in Scarborough (near Lawrence and Birchmount). Volunteers are needed to help maintain this site where over 500 native trees and shrubs have been planted along Taylor-Massey Creek. Learn tree care tips you can use in your own yard! For more information or to register, contact Steven at LEAF - 416-413-9244 or sjoudrey@leaftoronto.org

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer training for the CNE “Hug a Tree” Booth, Metro Hall, Toronto, Room 310 Wednesday August 10, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

This two-hour training session will qualify you to volunteer at the CNE and help spread the word about the importance of trees. Volunteers sign up for shifts at the end of the training. The CNE runs from August 19 to September 5. Get a free pass to the grounds on the day you volunteer. For more information contact Wendy at LEAF - 416-413-9244 or wstrickland@leafontario.org

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Trees Count Inventory Volunteers, Hamilton, Summer 2005

Environment Hamilton will be conducting two new Trees Count inventories in the Delta West and North End communities of Hamilton. The inventories will provide useful information on the state of our trees by collecting 30 pieces of information on each tree, both city and privately owned. The Trees Count team is hoping to enlist the help of about 30-40 volunteers for each community to help survey at least 1000 trees over the summer. No experience is necessary; all training is done 'on the job'. Once a week, all volunteers will receive an emailed schedule of available tree counting times. You may attend as many, or as few, sessions as you wish through out the summer. For more information contact TreesCount at (905) 549-0900 or visit www.environmenthamilton.org/treescount/index.htm

NATURALIZING YOUR PROPERTY WITH WATER-EFFICIENT PLANTS SEMINARS

Wednesday, August 3, Seasons Drive Baseball Diamond, Scarborough, 7 – 8:30pm

Wednesday, August 10, High Park, #24 Picnic Area, Toronto, 7 - 8:30pm

The City of Toronto presents Marjory Mason, host of radio show ‘Let’s Get Growing’, in a series of outdoor seminars on low-maintenance landscaping to reduce water use. Seminars run rain or shine - look for the seminar tent. Registration by phone is required. Please call 1-866-949-7797 to register.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Tuesday, August 9, North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave W, 6 - 8 pm

Join the North Toronto Green Community expert gardener Andrew Roy as he takes you on an adventure of learning how to identify plants. The focus will be on native plants and the plants in the Community Garden behind the Community Centre. \$5. To register, please contact garden@ntgc.ca or call 416-781-7663.

TREE IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, August 27, High Park, Toronto, 10am – 1pm

Join the Toronto Bay Initiative in a beginner’s tree identification workshop at High Park. No experience is necessary. Learn how to use a key to identify native trees, shrubs and wildflowers and then hike through High Park for hands-on opportunities to practice your new skills. \$10. For more information visit www.torontobay.net or call 416-598-2277.

CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL CITY APPRECIATION AWARDS

Applications due September 12, 5pm

These awards identify and celebrate outstanding contributions to the Clean and Beautiful City initiative made by city residents, community groups and businesses. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and demonstrate how their activity or project improved the cleanliness and/or beauty of the city. Application packages and full details for award criteria are available at www.toronto.ca/cleanandbeautiful

PROFESSIONALS & AMATEURS – NUTURING THE URBAN FOREST

**Thursday October 20, 2005, Black Creek Pioneer Village, 1000 Murray Ross Parkway, Toronto.
8am – 5pm**

Join the Ontario Urban Forest Council for this full day of inspiring stories from professionals and community activists from across the province. Visit www.oufc.org/events for details.

For more events visit www.planetfriendly.net

Answers to Dendro Devotion:

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

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