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## Community Profile: Elora Neighbourhoods Tree Stewards

By Toni Ellis, Neighbourhoods Coordinator

Thanks to their involvement in the successful Heritage Tree Program, the Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence, located in Centre Wellington (think Elora and Fergus) has launched a permanent tree committee – NeighbourWoods (thank you U of T for that excellent name!). NeighbourWoods has two chief projects underway: Tree Stewards and an elementary schools program.

Twenty volunteers have enrolled in the Tree Stewards program, agreeing to donate 5 to 6 days a year to tending young town trees. Over the last decade dozens of street trees have been planted by volunteers led by the Horticultural Society. However, there has been little or no follow-up care. Enter the Tree Stewards! Each has signed on to tend to the boulevard trees in a block or more – usually near their own home. They distributed initial door hangers introducing themselves to their neighbours and suggesting they call the office if they did not want any work done on their

trees. Tree Stewards have then gone out to tend the trees; removing stakes, unwrapping (often discovering many icky bugs lurking beneath the black O rings), mulching and pruning. They are filling out detailed forms to track the work done on each tree which is being entered into a data base, by Canada World Youth volunteers working in the office this fall.

Tree Stewards also helped on an Earth Day planting blitz and were out in force on a pruning day in September.

Not only are we lucky to have such a dedicated group of tree fans in our community, but we are also grateful for the help from 3 tree professionals who have been providing training: Brett Dixon and arborist/forester from Williams & Associates, Rob Johnson the community forestry initiative coordinator for the County's Green Legacy program and Rob Guthrie, with the Guelph Arboretum.

On the education front we discovered the tree resources currently in school libraries in our area

are woefully out-of-date and dusty. So, several volunteer teachers, led by retired teacher Lynda Golletz, are assembling a Tree Kit for elementary schools which will include activities, the Tree CD by Tamarack, a tree cookie (prepared and donated by our local youth centre), and two hard-cover picture books. This kit is being put together on the smallest of shoestrings with a \$2,000 grant from our Township. If you would like to purchase a kit, they are available for \$80 each. For more information about the kit, please see our website at [ecee.on.ca](http://ecee.on.ca) and follow the NeighbourWoods link.

Happily the GIS planning technician for the Township is revising our very modest map of our Treasured Community Heritage Trees, which we assembled last fall. This latest version will be a big improvement over the original with handwritten numbers on a map quest map! Probably more important than the aesthetics, is the buy-in from the Township.

For more information contact [neighbourwoods@ecee.on.ca](mailto:neighbourwoods@ecee.on.ca)

**The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more.**

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**If trees could  
scream, would we  
be so cavalier  
about cutting them  
down?**

**-Jack Handey**

## Anonymous Donor pledges \$150,000 in Matched Funds

The Woodlands Oak Tree Preservation Committee, a citizen-led group working to save a 250+ year old white oak tree, recently received a great boost to their fundraising efforts. An anonymous benefactor has stepped forward and pledged in writing, to match donations up to a total of \$150,000. This Toronto benefactor has recently 'put down roots' in Oakville.

Committee Co-Chair Jim Young was thrilled with the news. "On one hand I'm totally shocked by the sheer generosity of this offer and on the other hand, I'm not surprised that others feel such a responsibility towards preserving this magnificent old oak tree."

The matching pledge by the 'mystery donor' means the committee could have their work cut almost in half. This best-case scenario of course, is dependent on the generosity of grassroots and corporate donors stepping up to the plate in order to have their



gifts matched. Once the fund total reaches the \$150,000 mark, it will jump to \$300,000, leaving only a target of \$43,000 to save the tree. All funds must be in place by the Dec 15<sup>th</sup> deadline set by Council.

Joyce Burnell, the other Committee Co-Chair said; "This is such wonderful news. It makes me feel so good that other people in the community value and respect all that this tree represents and that this generous benefactor has the financial means to support this important piece of history. Thank you, thank you!"

To date, the Committee has been successful in raising over \$30,000. Their

new goal is to raise the remaining \$120,000 necessary to maximize the anonymous \$150,000 pledge.

For information on how to donate to the 'Save the Tree' fund, please visit the web page hosted on Halton Region's site at: [www.halton.ca/savethetree](http://www.halton.ca/savethetree) or call Jim Young, Committee Co-Chair, Woodlands Oak Tree Preservation Committee at 905-844-5000.

**"This is such wonderful news. It makes me feel so good that other people in the community value and respect all that this tree represents..."**

## Take Action: Plant a Butterfly Garden.

By Katia Houde, LEAF volunteer

A garden in full bloom is not only beautiful and soothing, it can also be a haven for butterflies. And it's easy to do! Choose native plants, keeping in mind that butterflies are attracted to colourful, nectar-rich species: Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Marigold, and Ironweed are some examples of plants that will draw butterflies like the Monarch, Swallowtail, and Silvery Blue to your garden. The secret is to select a variety of flowers of assorted heights, colours, and shapes that bloom throughout the season. These should be planted in large dense groups. A successful butterfly garden should provide ample sun and water, and protection from the wind. Because your butterfly garden will also serve as a food source and shelter throughout the butterflies' life cycle, remember to keep it free of chemical synthetic pesticides.

For more information on butterfly gardens and butterflies visit, the Toronto and Region Conservation website: [www.trca.on.ca/events/stewardship\\_programs/yards/pdf/trca\\_butterfly\\_e.pdf](http://www.trca.on.ca/events/stewardship_programs/yards/pdf/trca_butterfly_e.pdf)

For an extensive list of native butterfly species, visit Butterfly Watching in Ontario: [www.web-nat.com/Butterfly](http://www.web-nat.com/Butterfly).

For a list of native plant species, visit the City of Toronto website: [www.toronto.ca/trees/ravines.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/trees/ravines.htm)

## Featured Resource:



[www.seeds.ca](http://www.seeds.ca)

Seeds of Diversity is Canada's premier Seed Exchange for the passionate gardener. They are a great source of information about heritage seeds, seed saving, plant diversity, garden history and your own garden heritage. This network of gardeners from coast to coast collects and shares over 1500 varieties of fruits and vegetables.

The website includes an on-line Heritage Plant Database and great resources including a list of seed suppliers.

## Dendro Devotion

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

Match the tree with the insect pest most likely to be associated with it. Answers at end.

- 1) balsam fir
  - 2) mountain-ash
  - 3) juniper sp.
  - 4) black locust
  - 5) tulip tree
  - 6) birch sp.
  - 7) eastern hemlock
  - 8) linden sp.
  - 9) oak sp.
  - 10) alder sp.
- a) Japanese beetle
  - b) tulip tree scale
  - c) balsam twig aphid
  - d) arborvitae leafminer
  - e) two-lined chestnut borer
  - f) forest tent caterpillar
  - g) poplar and willow borer
  - h) locust borer
  - j) bronze birch borer
  - k) woolly adelgid

## Science Bite: 42 Species Added for Protection Under the Species at Risk Act

OTTAWA, August 24, 2006 - The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment and the Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, today announced the addition of 32 land-based species and 10 aquatic species to Schedule 1, the list of species protected under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

Last fall the Governor in Council (GiC), on the recommendation of the Minister of the Environment, acknowledged receipt of 46 COSEWIC species assessments. This action initiated the nine month timeline for the GiC to decide on whether or not to add the species to SARA, or refer the assessments back to COSEWIC. Of the 46 species, 33 were terrestrial species and 13 were aquatic species.

The implementation of the Species at Risk Act reinforces the Government of Canada's commitment to ensure the protection for species at risk and their ecosystems.

More information on the Species at Risk Act is available on the SARA Public Registry [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca).

## Orillia council approves new tree bylaw

*Taken from the article by Teviah Moro, Orillia Packet and Times, October 3, 2006*

Developers will now have to abide by regulations spelled out in a bylaw designed to prevent clear cuts on large tracts of private land in Orillia.

Last night, city council ratified a bylaw that requires anyone wanting to "injure" or "destroy" a tree on private land larger than half a hectare to seek approval from the city planning department.

Some councillors, however, argued the city should have spoken with local developers before passing the legislation. "We have not consulted on this with anybody," said Councillor Doug Downey.

Council realized the need for the regulations after a developer cleared a 9.3-hectare property along Atherley Road more than a year ago.

Councillor Tim Lauer said any delay in passing the legislation could lead to similar incidents. "This is the kind of thing you delay... and you find every single tree is cut down," he said. If needed, public sessions can be held after passage of the bylaw, he added.

After the meeting, Lauer called last night's move a "strong step."

Orillia councils had mulled a tree bylaw for about six years.

## Events and Announcements

### Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour

Saturday October 7, 2006 9:00 – 10:30 am

Saturday October 21, 2006 9:00 – 10:30 am

**Etobicoke**, near East Mall and Burnhamthorpe.

Tour an inspiring wildlife habitat garden in the city, while enjoying a cup of shade-grown coffee and perusing Canadian Wildlife Federation resources.

FREE but space is limited and registration is required.

Contact Christina at [projectchirp@rogers.com](mailto:projectchirp@rogers.com)

### Shrub Identification Workshop

Tuesday October 10, 2006 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Guelph Arboretum**

Ecologically important shrubs and vines in our landscape will be the focus of this workshop. Fresh specimens and an easy to use key for shrubs will be used to familiarize you with some major groups.

Participants will receive a shrub identification booklet and checklist. \$40. To register, call

519-824-4120 ext. 52358 or visit

[www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum](http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum).

### Water Conservation in the Garden

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Rec Room B, North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Avenue West, **Toronto**

Learn about stormwater management, permeable pavements, downspout disconnection, rain gardens and more at this workshop organized by the Toronto Green Community. RSVP to [nadia@ntgc.ca](mailto:nadia@ntgc.ca) or 416-781-7663.

### “Ode to a Tree” 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Day

Saturday October 14, 2006 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Riverdale Park, Museum on the Boyne, 250 Fletcher Cres, **Alliston**

Celebrate heritage trees, the environment and our community with entertainment, vendors associated with the environment, good food, kids' educational workshops and much more.

### Waterways! Workshop for rural landowners

Sunday October 15, 2006 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Albion Hills Conservation Area Chalet,

16500 Highway 50

8 km north of **Bolton**

Learn natural ways to water protection. Choose one of six concurrent hands-on sessions on such topics as naturescaping for ponds, forest and woodlots, managing wetlands, and natural gardening with native plants. To register, call 416-661-6600 ext 5660, before October 10.

### Gibraltar Sand Dune Restoration

Sunday October 15, 2006 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Toronto**

Join the Toronto Bay Initiative as they continue the restoration work at the Gibraltar Point sand dunes. Meet outside the Toronto Island ferry terminal gates (city side) at 10:00 am for the ferry to Hanlan's Point. In partnership with City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Free.

[www.torontobay.net](http://www.torontobay.net)

### First Nations Culture & Native Plants

Sunday October 15, 2006 1:00-3:00 pm

Don Valley Brick Works, 550 Bayview Avenue

**Toronto**

Join Evergreen and Joseph Paquette for a guided tour of plants at the Brickworks wetland. The significance of native plants to First Nations cultures will be discussed. Examples of some medicinally and spiritually used essential oils will be provided. For more information, visit

[www.evergreen.ca/en/brickworks/events](http://www.evergreen.ca/en/brickworks/events).

### The Faithful Witness: The Journey of the White Pine in Southern Ontario

Tuesday October 24, 2006 7:30-9:00 pm

Royal Botanical Gardens, **Burlington**

Don't miss this inspiring story told by Paul O'Hara; ecologist and native plant expert. Register by calling 905-527-1158.

This presentation is coming soon to Toronto, hosted by LEAF. Announcement coming soon . . .

## Events and Announcements continued...

### Tree Identification Workshop

Thursday October 19, 2006 9:00 – 4:00 pm,  
**Guelph**

This workshop will help you refine your skills at identifying trees in Ontario. The focus will be on learning important identification characteristics. Difficult groups such as the cherry, oak and walnut families as well as the easier groups such as ash and maple will be explored. Participants will receive an Ontario tree identification booklet and checklist. \$40.00. To register, call 519-824-4120 ext. 52358 or visit [www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum](http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum).

### Our Legacy – Our Heritage Trees: What have we received? What will we endow?

Thursday October 19, 2006 9:00 – 4:30 pm  
**Toronto** Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue E  
Join the Ontario Urban Forest Council for their Annual General Meeting featuring eight seminars on heritage trees. OUFC members \$100, Non-members \$120. Registration including lunch and breaks. Visit [www.oufc.org](http://www.oufc.org) for more information.

### Brick Works Fall Nature Walk

Saturday October 21, 2006 1:30 – 3:30 pm  
Don Valley Brick Works, 550 Bayview Avenue  
**Toronto**

Join Evergreen for a Fall Nature Walk with plant and animal specialists, as we look at the fall seasonal changes and how they affect plants and animals. Learn how to identify plants without their leaves and how animals survive the winter in the Brick Works wetland. Free. For more info, contact Claire Ellenwood at 416-302-3785.

### Invasive Plants Workshop

Sunday October 22, 2006 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Royal Botanical Gardens Centre, 680 Plains Road W, **Burlington**

Throughout history humans have moved plants either on purpose or accidentally, often changing the landscape forever. Carole Ann Lacroix helps participants identify common invasive species to be avoided, contained or eliminated. \$23 RBG Members, \$27.50 Non-members. For further information, call 905-527-1158 x 276.

### Planet in Focus

#### International Environment Film Festival

Wednesday Nov1 to Sunday Nov 5

#### Toronto

Planet in Focus, the 7<sup>th</sup> annual festival, is Canada's most acclaimed International Environmental Film and Video festival. The annual film fest showcases films from across Canada and around the world including compelling documentaries, animation, dramatic features, shorts, and experimental works that celebrate, question, and establish varied ways of viewing the state of our world.

Visit [www.planetinfocus.org](http://www.planetinfocus.org) for more information.

### Planting & Community Clean up Day

Saturday November 4, 2006 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Snelgrove – Kennedy & Mayfield Rd, **Brampton**  
Join Toronto and Region Conservation in their efforts to restore the Etobicoke Creek. Plant a tree, build a bird house, and learn about wildlife. For more information, 416-661-6600 ext 5740 or [www.trca.on.ca/events](http://www.trca.on.ca/events).

## Get Involved with the UFN!

We want to hear from you! Email your stories, suggestions, announcements, photos, and ideas to [info@leafforonto.org](mailto:info@leafforonto.org)

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