



Annual Report 2006

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Improving city life ...
One tree at a time





LEAF got its start in 1996, when several hundred tree seedlings were distributed to South Riverdale residents. This initiative grew and eventually became our subsidized Backyard Tree Planting Program. Within two years we offered home delivery and planting services within the former City of Toronto. In 1998 we expanded the program to include Scarborough. Toronto soon amalgamated and with the support of the Toronto Hydro Corporation, LEAF expanded to cover the entire new city.

Over the next six years, we focused on improving the success rates of our backyard plantings, developing strict tree placement criteria and educating property owners on tree care. With survival rates greater than 90% four years after planting it is clear that we have developed a formula for success.

LEAF has evolved to become a trusted and respected leader in community-based urban forestry. While continuing to offer our core services, we build capacity within communities through hands-on workshops, training sessions and special events. Our work with volunteers has increased significantly and membership in our electronic Urban Forest Network has grown to over 500 individuals this year. In addition, our exciting new collaborative, the Toronto Tree Tours, offers a creative way to reach a new and diverse audience.

Our work would not be possible without the ongoing support of our partners, a dedicated board of directors, a resourceful staff and a legion of volunteers and collaborating organizations. This report showcases the efforts of all of these groups and individuals throughout 2006. I hope it inspires you to get involved in protecting and improving one of the most valuable assets we have—our urban forest.

Janet McKay
Executive Director

- LEAF activities:
Backyard Planting Program
Community Planting Events
Workshops & Training
Tree Festivals
Tree Tours
Urban Forest Network

- Trees protect us from harmful UV radiation, cool our communities and increase our property values.
- Air and water quality benefits increase with the size and health of a tree. Preserving mature trees is one of the best ways to help our environment.
- Trees produce an oasis effect by shading paved surfaces and reducing air temperatures when moisture evaporates from their leaves.
- Trees create a sense of well being and improve urban living conditions.



Sustainability

Ensuring LEAF is an effective and stable organization requires an investment of time and resources. Visioning exercises with the board of directors, staff, volunteers and partners followed by the development of a five-year strategic plan, have clarified and focused our goals and objectives. We continue to improve and expand upon existing programs, while responding to community needs and interests as they arise.

Strengths

- quality service
- excellent reputation
- public trust
- skilled staff, dedicated volunteers
- creative approach to learning
- flexibility and responsiveness
- strong alliances
- strategic partnerships
- successful programs
- revenue-generating projects

Priorities

- strengthen organizational viability
- promote programs widely
- expand services to the community
- build lasting strategic partnerships
- broaden education initiatives
- enlarge outreach activities
- ensure inclusiveness in all programs
- encourage community involvement

Goals

- raising public awareness
- fostering a sense of ownership
- facilitating urban forest stewardship
- developing educational tools and resources
- engaging diverse communities



The value of our urban forest is immense. Improved air quality, shade and windbreak, reduced storm water runoff, wildlife habitat and increased property values are just a few of the benefits provided. Bringing this message to the public in a creative way is a top priority for LEAF. Our tree festivals, organized in partnership with neighbourhood and community groups are fun, family-oriented events offering an engaging way to learn about and celebrate our urban forest. Music, food, story-tellers and local artists are often part of these events. This year the second annual Leslieville Tree Festival was organized in partnership with Councillor Paula Fletcher and Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation. We also held our first Wychwood Tree Festival in partnership with EvolutionGreen, celebrating the new Green Arts Barn development where LEAF will become a tenant in 2008.



Raising . . .
Public awareness



LEAF staff and volunteers host an educational display at over twenty community events each year. We maintain a presence across the city and attend both small community functions and larger, city-wide events. For instance, we participate in many City Councillor Environment Days and always have an exhibit table on Green Day at the Canadian National Exhibition. We also provide training for over 50 volunteers who work each year at the Hug-a-Tree Booth at the CNE.



Counter-clockwise from top left of opposite page: local vendor at Leslieville Tree Festival; kids' art activity table; children's artful expression of a tree; Scarborough natural yards workshop; community members browse tables at Wychwood Tree Festival



Approximately 80 per cent of the land in Toronto is privately owned. Together, we are the collective owners of the urban forest and are responsible for its care. LEAF's subsidized Backyard Planting Program offers expert assistance to Toronto residents who want to plant trees and shrubs. Our certified arborists visit each property to help owners select appropriate native species and planting locations. We return to do the planting and provide an illustrated tree care guide. LEAF's careful approach to getting the right tree in the right place, coupled with diligent care from property owners, ensures that trees will reach their maximum size and age. As they mature, these large, healthy trees will offer significant environmental benefits to both property owners and the surrounding community. Program participants pay \$85 to \$125 per tree including consultation and planting.



Fostering . . .
A sense of ownership



We encourage restoration of all layers of the urban forest. Native shrubs and perennials offer essential wildlife habitat and a low-maintenance alternative to grass or annual flower beds. We offer a wide range of flowering shrubs and perennials that are beautiful and easy to care for. Visit our website to find dates and locations of our native plant sales.



Counter-clockwise from top left of opposite page: red oak planted in backyard; native plant sale; youth learn proper tree planting methods; eastern white cedars in backyard four years after planting; Councillor Fletcher gets in the spirit at Leslieville Tree Festival; planting a native evergreen



When a community gains knowledge and skills in urban forestry, it's amazing what can happen. LEAF offers presentations, tree tours, and workshops that are customized to the needs and interests of diverse audiences across the city. Common themes include the current state of our urban forest, tree biology and how to alleviate urban tree stresses. These introductions are often a first stepping-stone for participants to greater involvement in urban forest issues in their own neighbourhoods. Our Tree Tenders Training Program provides more in-depth arboriculture instruction, offering ten hours of classroom and hands-on training from our certified arborists. This year our 50 graduates took their skills and knowledge back to their volunteer or staff positions at a wide array of groups including Evergreen, Friends of the Don East, Eneract, Toronto and Region Conservation and the City of Toronto.



Facilitating . . .

*Urban forest
stewardship*



LEAF works with community groups to organize planting and maintenance events. We stress the importance of at least three years of after-care to ensure tree health. Our ongoing partnership with Toronto Hydro Corporation has produced one of our most successful sites, where employees and their families plant and care for hundreds of trees each year.



Counter-clockwise from top left of opposite page: tree identification training; youth leadership camp in St. Lawrence neighbourhood; tree-pit make-overs in the St. Lawrence Community; signs to encourage watering and care; Toronto Hydro employees brave the rain





Each year, we respond to thousands of inquiries about trees. In addition to general information on tree planting, care and preservation, we offer tangible support to residents through our own programs and services. Our Backyard Planting Program reaches hundreds of Toronto residents each season. Site consultations with our certified arborists are extremely educational for property owners. We make referrals to other resources such as the City of Toronto's Urban Forestry Services, professional associations such as the International Society of Arboriculture and other community groups such as the Organic Landscape Alliance. The LEAF website and our seasonal newsletter offer extensive information on the benefits of urban forests, the value of native species and the importance of proper tree care. In addition, the website offers a long list of useful links to other resources.



Developing...

***Educational tools
and resources***



LEAF facilitates the Urban Forest Network, a province-wide electronic network of individuals and groups interested in urban forest issues. In a monthly electronic newsletter distributed to over 500 members across Ontario, we feature community projects and achievements, exchange ideas and resources, and promote upcoming events.



Counter-clockwise from top left of opposite page: corrective pruning three years after planting; workshop with Toronto Region and Conservation; follow-up on redbud tree planted five years prior; volunteer Janet Anderson works on the newsletter; involving all ages



Reaching out to diverse communities is an important part of our work. This year with the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and in partnership with the Toronto Public Space Committee, we launched the Toronto Tree Tour Collaborative. This program offers guided neighbourhood walks that raise awareness about the urban forest, highlight particular trees of interest and incorporate stories of history and culture. Tours are offered in English and translated into other languages predominant in the community being served. Each tour is planned and mapped in partnership with a local group or individual that is knowledgeable about the area. Self-guided maps of each tour will also be made available from the website. The goal of the program is to foster a sense of pride and ownership of public and private trees and the spaces where they grow.



Engaging ...
Diverse communities



LEAF hosts Urban Forest Orientation Sessions which offer an overview of the state of urban forests in Toronto. Participants receive our Community Action Kit fact sheet series, contacts and inspirational ideas that will help them become active urban forest stewards in their own neighbourhoods.



Counter-clockwise from top left of opposite page: guided Tree Tour along Queen Street; Tree Tour with seniors group; Taylor-Massey Creek walk with Vision Youth; Tree Tour and work day with Lawrence Park Ratepayers; planting a white spruce; a walk down a canopy-covered alley

2006 LEAF Countdown

- 2,470 volunteer hours contributed
- 1,000 native trees and shrubs planted
- 900 native perennials sold
- 770 people reached through community events
 - 715 individuals reached through educational presentations
 - 650 Backyard Planting Program enquiries responded to
 - 650 individuals attended tree festivals
 - 500 members of the Urban Forest Network
 - 400 referrals to other groups or businesses
 - 340 people participated in guided Tree Tours
 - 290 individuals took part in hands-on workshops
 - 250 people volunteered
 - 125 Community Action Kits distributed
 - 60 individuals reached in Urban Forest Orientation Sessions
 - 50 graduates from the ten hour Tree Tender Training Sessions
 - 20 community events attended with educational displays
 - 11 guided Tree Tours held
 - 2 community Tree Festivals organized
 - 1 City of Toronto made healthier

- Three properly placed trees can reduce home cooling costs by up to 40 per cent.
- Evergreens planted on the west and north sides of buildings can cut heating costs by 10 per cent.
- Ninety per cent of most trees' roots are found in the top 30cm of soil.
- In an ideal setting, tree roots will grow out in all directions up to three times the height of the tree.



- Select a tree species based on the light and soil conditions where it will be planted.
- Avoid Norway maples. Their seedlings invade natural woodlots and ravines, choking out our native species.
- Smaller trees often do better since they recover from transplant shock faster.
- Young trees do not require fertilizer. Place a circle of mulch and compost five centimetres deep around the base instead.



Financial Summary

Statement of Financial Position 30 November

Assets	2006	2005
Cash	\$ 75,041	\$ 43,230
Grant receivable		519
Prepaid insurance	2,376	2,295
Totals	\$ 77,417	\$ 46,044
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,424	\$ 3,312
Deferred grants	50,000	30,600
Totals	53,424	33,912
Unrestricted net assets	23,993	12,132
Totals	\$ 77,417	\$ 46,044

Statement of Operations and Net Assets per Year Ended 30 November

Revenue		
Grants	\$ 108,542	\$ 86,717
Project revenue	48,863	38,403
Individual donations	2,833	786
Totals	160,238	125,906
Expenses		
Human resources	101,159	80,569
Direct project costs	29,788	24,296
Rent	6,745	6,390
Communications	4,548	4,343
Insurance	2,770	2,851
Office	1,733	1,621
Professional fees	1,634	1,632
Totals	148,377	121,702
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	11,861	4,204
Net assets, beginning of year	12,132	7,928
Net assets, end of year	\$ 23,993	\$ 12,132

A complete set of audited financial statements is available on request.

Supporting Partners

The Ontario Trillium Foundation
 Toronto Hydro Corporation
 Toronto Community Foundation – Vital Ideas
 The Walter and Mary Tuohy Foundation
 City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
 Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
 Phoenix Community Works Foundation
 Pilkington-Henniger Charitable Trust
 Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation
 Post City Magazines
 Shaklee Canada
 Lee Valley Tools

Project Partners

Artscape	GreenHere	Toronto Environmental
Bain Coop	High Park Volunteer	Volunteers
Cadbury Schweppes	Stewards	Toronto Green Community
Centennial Community	Lawrence Park Ratepayers'	Toronto and Region
and Recreation	Association	Conservation
Association	Leslie Grove Youth Centre	Toronto Public Library –
East Toronto Climate	Mount Dennis Community	Danforth/Coxwell
Action Group	Association	Toronto Public Space
Eneract	Ontario Urban Forest	Committee
EvolutionGreen	Council	Underwriters' Laboratories
Friends of the Don East	Project CHIRP	of Canada
Friends of Fairmount Park	Riversides	Vision Youth Leadership
Green Gardeners	Ryerson University	Program
Community	Smartliving St. Lawrence	
Collaborative Inc.	The Taylor Massey Project	

- Regular watering will help mature trees resist pests and disease. Put your hose on a slow drip at the base for one hour once per week.
- Pruning should never be used as a way to keep a large tree small. Research proper pruning methods or contact a certified arborist.
- The environmental benefits offered by a tree increase exponentially with the number, size and health of its leaves.
- Keep your trees healthy by preventing drought and root damage. Avoid the use of lawn and garden chemicals in summer and salt in winter.



- Our urban forest is the green infrastructure of our city. It improves our air and water, increases our quality of life and creates habitat for urban wildlife.
- Tree inventories help us assess the condition of our urban forest and determine the best management plan.
- The City of Toronto Urban Forestry Services maintains an inventory of the 500,000 trees that line our streets.
- There are an additional 2.5 million trees in Toronto parks and ravines.



Individual Donors

Janet Anderson
Roark Andrade
Suzanne Betcke
Marc Bergeron
Ian Brehaut
Sister Catty
Chris Chopik
Kathleen Cornick
Ambrose Chau
Linda J. Freedman

Glenn Gillespie
Helen Goldstein
Stuart Grant
Lorraine Johnson
Steven Joudrey
Mashi Karumanchiri
Bruce McDonald
Willem Morsink
Margaret O'Neil
Katrina Preece

Joseph C. Quinn
Brigitta Schmedding
Cornelia Shuh
Susan Siopsis
Grace Tsui
James R.M. (Mack)
Williams
Marc Willoughby

Volunteers

Janet Anderson
Anibal Benitez-Calderon
Kent Buchanan
Teresa Cameron
Elizabeth Carvalho
Perry Cheung
Nick Chignall
Charlotte Cox
Leigh Davidson
Toni Ellis
Dennis Glasgow
Misha Glouberman
Vanessa Hayward
Katia Houde
Ed Krolow
Dan Lander

Derek Lo
Madhu Mahadevan
Carole McKay
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Kim McNeilly
Tomomi Ohashi
Dan O'Leary
Alissa Park
Eddie Park
Michael Pereira
Liat Podolsky
Jack Radecki
Brenlee Robinson
Amber Roga-Fox
Tanya Rhodes
Michael Romandel

Terrie Russell
Bill Sheridan
Jeff Sheridan
Matt Smith
Elizabeth Sweeting
Sherwin Tjia
Vera Tong
Kate Watson
Marc Willoughby
Lana Winkler
Bernadette Wycks

*And many more
who participated in
planting and
maintenance events*

Contributors

Able Tree Service
 Alternative Grounds
 AutoShare
 Board Rx
 Cahoots Theatre Projects
 Carsbrooke Park Rejuvenation Project
 Cathy's Crawly Composters
 Chocoland Eco-Choco-Art
 Christina Sharma
 Citizens' Environment Watch
 City of Toronto, Water Efficiency Program
 Coronation Community Association of West Hill
 Creative Works Studio
 DIG IN
 Don Mills Residents Inc.
 Evergreen
 Fabienne Good
 Greentea Design
 Greenest City
 Highland Creek Community Assn.
 Inspired from Within
 Lauren Bride
 Lorraine Johnson
 Mountain Equipment Co-op
 Mugsy's Antiques and Collectibles
 Native Men's Residence
 New Toronto Good Neighbours
 Ontario Natural Food Co-op
 Organic Landscape Alliance

Parkdale Liberty Gleaner
 Paul O'Hara
 Ralph Thornton Centre
 Riverdale Horticulture Society
 Riverside Quarterly Magazine
 Roncesvalles MacDonnell Residents' Association
 A Room to Bloom
 Schomberg Horticulture Society
 Seeds of Diversity
 Silverview Community Association
 The Storytellers School of Toronto
 Sheppard-Leslie Homeowners Association
 Sultry Suds
 Sustainability Network
 Thrill of the Find
 Thompson Orchard Community Association
 Thornhill Horticulture Society
 Toronto Community Gardening Network
 Urban Seed Savers Network
 Urban Tree Salvage
 Weston Village Business Improvement Area
 Westway Horticulture Society
 Women's Healthy Environments Network
 York University Department of Environmental Studies

- Over 50% of Toronto's urban forest is rooted in private property.
- There is very little information available for privately owned trees in our city.
- Some community groups have done their own neighbourhood inventories, hiring consultants or using volunteers.
- Raising awareness and interest is the first step toward protecting and improving our urban forest.



- Thanks to those who contributed photos for this report:

Kerstin Beyer
Cindy Blazevic
Todd Irvine
Steven Joudrey
Ben Marans
Michael Pereira
Amber Roga-Fox
Matt Smith
Wendy Strickland
Marlena Zuber

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Board of Directors

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Commute, Pollution Probe

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Urban Forest Innovations

Lawrence Wilson

Teacher
Mississauga School Board

Staff

Todd Irvine

Coordinator
Education and Outreach

Ryan Kamstra

Coordinator
Tree Tours

Janet McKay

Executive Director

Wendy Strickland

Manager
Backyard Planting Program



*Clockwise from top left:
Todd Irvine, Janet
McKay, Ryan Kamstra,
Wendy Strickland*

Students & Interns

Kerstin Beyer

Kristen Lowitt

Tanya Rhodes

Amber Roga-Fox



Envisioning . . .

*A healthier city where
every citizen cares
for the urban forest*





Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests

73 Bathurst Street, Suite 305

Toronto, Ontario M5V 2P6

416•413•9244

www.leaftoronto.org

info@leaftoronto.org

2006 plantings



basswood **black chokeberry** bur oak **common ninebark** common witchhazel
dwarf honeysuckle eastern redbud **eastern white cedar** elderberry
grey dogwood hackberry **honey locust** kentucky coffee tree **nannyberry**
pagoda dogwood **paper birch** pasture rose **red maple** red osier dogwood
serviceberry silver maple **smooth wild rose** snowberry **spicebush**
striped maple **sugar maple** tulip tree **white pine** white spruce



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use of forest resources

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Certified



Processed
Chlorine
Free



100%
Post-Consumer
Waste Fibre



Recyclable
Where Facilities
Exist



Green Energy
Source

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80 lb. text and 80 lb. cover,
which contains 100% recycled
post-consumer fibre, is EcoLogo,
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FSC Recycled certified and is
manufactured using Biogas
energy by Cascades in Canada.

2
mature trees
saved

4,635 litres
of water and
waste water
saved

49 kilograms
solid waste
not generated

7 cubic metres
of natural gas
saved
by using biogas

.5 kilogram
waterborne
waste
not generated

12 kilograms
of air
emissions
not produced

1,680,630 BTU
of energy
not consumed

95 kilograms
atmospheric
emissions
eliminated