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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
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.

**Sustainability**

- 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.

**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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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

Developing . . .

Educational tools and resources
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.
Financial Summary

Statement of Financial Position 30 November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$75,041</td>
<td>$43,230</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant receivable</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>519</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid insurance</td>
<td>2,376</td>
<td>2,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$77,417</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46,044</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$3,424</td>
<td>$3,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred grants</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>30,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>53,424</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,912</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>23,993</td>
<td>12,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$77,417</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46,044</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Operations and Net Assets per Year Ended 30 November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$108,542</td>
<td>$86,717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project revenue</td>
<td>48,863</td>
<td>38,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donations</td>
<td>2,833</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>160,238</strong></td>
<td><strong>125,906</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>101,159</td>
<td>80,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct project costs</td>
<td>29,788</td>
<td>24,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>6,745</td>
<td>6,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>4,548</td>
<td>4,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>2,770</td>
<td>2,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>1,733</td>
<td>1,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>1,634</td>
<td>1,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>148,377</strong></td>
<td><strong>121,702</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess of revenue over expenses for the year

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.

- 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.
• 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.
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
Derek Lo
Madhu Mahadevan
Carole McKay
Cameron McLean
Kim McNeilly
Tomi 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
• 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.

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
• 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

• Thanks to Bill Sheridan of ubArt for the cover art and graphic design of this report.

Board of Directors

President ~ Olivia Nugent
  Manager, Clean Air Campaign and Commute, Pollution Probe
Secretary ~ Colleen Cirillo, M ES
  Community Stewardship Technician
  Toronto and Region Conservation
Treasurer ~ Donald Boyes, PhD
  Faculty of Geography
  University of Toronto
Chris Chopik
  Green Realtor
  EvolutionGreen

Steven Joudrey
  Ecologist
  Toronto and Region Conservation
W. Andy Kenney, PhD, RPF
  Faculty of Forestry
  University of Toronto
Philip van Wassenaer, BSc, M FC
  Consulting Arborist
  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
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
Printed on Rolland Enviro100, 80 lb. text and 80 lb. cover, which contains 100% recycled post-consumer fibre, is EcoLogo, Processed Chlorine Free, and FSC Recycled certified and is manufactured using Biogas energy by Cascades in Canada.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Environmental Benefits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 mature trees saved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,635 litres of water and waste water saved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 kilograms solid waste not generated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 cubic metres of natural gas saved by using biogas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.5 kilogram waterborne waste not generated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 kilograms of air emissions not produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,680,630 BTU of energy not consumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95 kilograms atmospheric emissions eliminated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>