

### Message from the Executive Director

Trban forests are very important to our communities. They provide shade and windbreak, reducing our energy consumption for cooling and heating our homes. They protect us from harmful UV rays and provide relief on blistering summer days. They improve our air quality by intercepting and filtering pollutants. They provide essential habitat for urban wildlife and reduce our storm water run-off. They offer us a sense of history, heritage and place. And they provide significant and measurable psychological benefits for urban dwellers.

Toronto's urban forest is shrinking. It now covers about 17 per cent of the city, well short of a desired goal of 35 to 40 per cent. We need a creative and innovative approach that maximizes the potential benefits of trees planted and minimizes the stresses they will have to overcome. We need to foster a sense of ownership amongst Toronto residents for this commonly owned and incredibly valuable resource. Most people express a concern for urban trees and consider them very important. LEAF's role is to help turn that concern into action. By offering accessible programs that facilitate citizen involvement, we're striving for a paradigm shift where people feel a sense of collective responsibility for the trees in their yards, along their streets and in their parks and ravines.

Citizen action will have a huge impact on the future of our urban forest. We cannot rely solely on our municipal urban forestry sector to provide all of the planting, care and maintenance that is needed to maintain a healthy urban forest. With shrinking budgets and mounting crises such as invasive pests and climate change, our municipal forestry section does not even have adequate resources to properly care for the portion of our urban forest that is rooted in public property. Our communities must become actively involved. With over 80 per cent of the land in Toronto being privately owned, successful urban forest stewardship must begin at the neighbourhood level.

## This year by the numbers

3575 volunteer hours contributed individuals attended tree 2500 145 1450 native trees and shrubs planted
300 975 individuals reached through people reached through 1300 97 educational presentations Backyard Planting Program inquires 900 Urban Forest Network members of the 550 referrals made to other groups native perennials sold 600 people participated in 500 tree tours 500 210 community action kits distributed 480 people volunteered individuals took part in workshops 250 individuals reached through 75 Volunteer orientation sessions 35 graduates from the ten hour Tree Tender Training sessions partner organizations for tree tours 32 community events attended with educational displays guided tree tours held 21 31

This year LEAF received a Green Toronto Award for raising awareness about the urban forest.

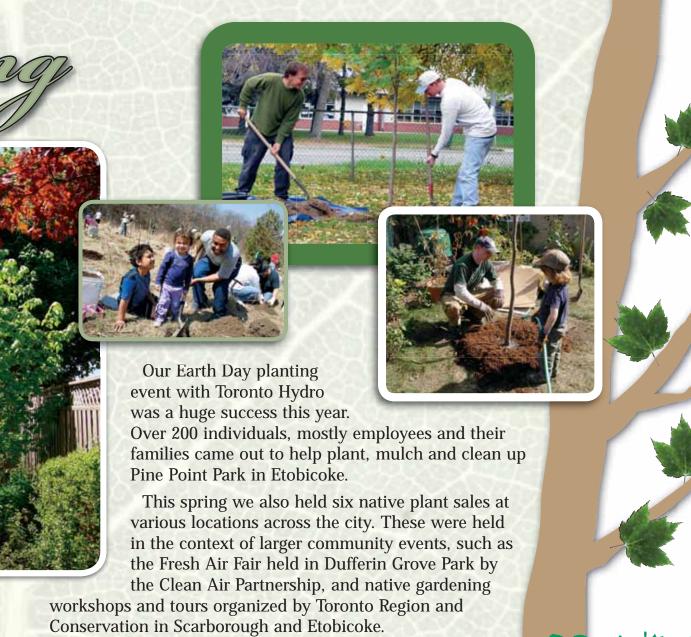


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he success of our **Backyard Planting** Program continues to grow every year. Our ability to help property owners get the right tree in the right place, and a focus on proper tree care, create the cornerstones of this program. High tree survival rates and satisfied participants are the key indicators of our success. This year Ontario Power Generation came aboard as a supporting partner, enabling us to increase our fall tree planting by over 50 per



cent. They join Toronto Hydro Corporation as the main supporters of our backyard program.





## Tree Tend

Back by popular demand, another round of Tree Tenders training sessions were offered in September at the Riverdale Library with a record 35 students participating in ten hours of arboriculture training. Resident arborist Todd Irvine,



past LEAF staffer Wendy Strickland and executive director Janet McKay gave in-class lectures and hands-on workshops covering tree anatomy, soil structure, tree and shrub identification, urban tree stresses, tree selection, planting and maintenance and city tree bylaws. Students from this session are now sharing their new arboriculture knowledge with their communities, co-workers, friends and families across the city.



Enthusiastic feedback from the training sessions has prompted LEAF to begin developing an advanced Tree Tenders n

advanced Tree Tenders program that will train and mentor participants to organize and deliver urban forestry projects in their own communities. Watch out for this new initiative in 2008!









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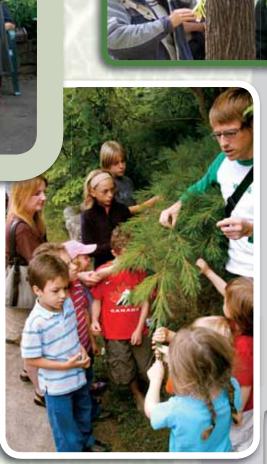
his year marked the official launch of the Toronto Tree Tours project with a celebratory gathering held in the beautiful St. Christopher House courtyard in July. The event saw close to 100 collaborators, community activists, tree-lovers, public space advocates, politicians, artists and community members assemble to celebrate the arrival of the tree tours website. While we continue to collaborate with community groups across the city, telling stories of the urban forest and the people and places it sustains in multiple languages, the website allows an even larger audience to experience the tours virtually or to download and print a self-guided version.

This year has also seen an unprecedented amount of media attention in print, radio and television being directed towards the project with



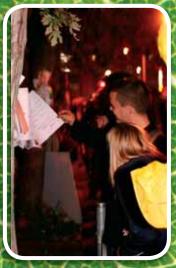


a more environmentally aware public hungry for knowledge about how to protect our urban forest. This has not only attracted more people to the tours but has helped us develop a diverse audience across the city. The tours have also become an excellent way for LEAF and our collaborating partner the Toronto Public Space Committee to promote our other programs.







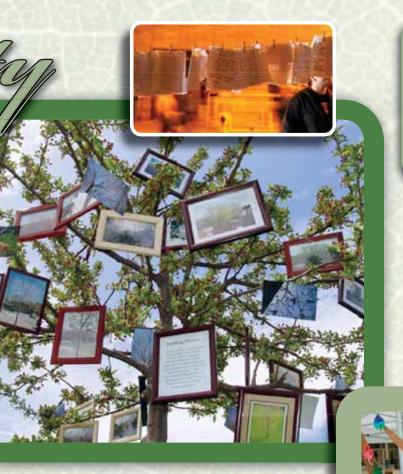




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EAF hosted and participated in over 40 community events during 2007. In March we attracted an audience of over 100 people to a presentation by acclaimed U.S. scientist Dr. David Nowak. May brought our third annual Leslieville Tree Festival that featured amazing musical performers like the Forest City Lovers, tree detective activities for kids, aerial tree dancers and a performance of Dr. Seuss' The Lorax. Throughout the spring and summer LEAF participated in numerous Councillor Environment Days and an increasing number of eco-themed events, which brought hundreds of people to chat with our education and outreach volunteers.

This September saw LEAF creating its first ever urban forestry themed art installation at Nuit Blanche in collaboration with community artist Leah Burns. Over 5000 people came by our installation in Kensington Market featuring a







talking silver maple lit up with lanterns. Hundreds of people participated in the installation by writing a letter to their favourite tree. Selected letters will remain as a permanent feature on the Tree Tours website.









## Dollanteers

n increased number and greater diversity of volunteers played an integral role in fulfilling our organizational mandate this year. With 125 regular volunteers, and 355 who came out to seasonal planting events, the number of hours contributed increased dramatically. Volunteers cared for trees, performed at our tree festivals, hosted our educational booth at community events, produced educational materials, wrote our quarterly newsletter, answered phones in the office, took photographs and helped at our special events.



This year numerous artists have contributed their skills to help bring urban forestry issues into the cultural realm. With the diverse skills, expertise and dedication of our volunteers we were able to engage a broad cross-section of Torontonians in urban forestry issues. Increasing





#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT NOVEMBER 30, 2007

ASSETS		2007		2000
	¢	73,638	\$	75,041
			Þ	
Prepaid insurance		2,376		2,376
Total	\$	76,014	\$	77,417
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	6.850	\$	3,424
Deferred grants		12,000		50,000
		18,850		53,424
Unrestricted net assets		57,164		23,993
Total	\$	76,014	\$	77,417
LOCAL ENHANCEMENT AND APPRECIATION OF FORESTS				
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2007				7
REVENUE		2007		2006
Grants	\$	147,735	\$	108,542
Project revenue		73,029	•	48,848
Donations and fundraising		10,946		2,848
Awards received		10,000		
		241,710		160.238
EXPENSES		241,710		100,230
Direct project costs				
Human resources		140,687		101,159
Other		44,867		29,705
Rent		6,980		6,745
Communications		8,170		4,631
Insurance		2,851		2,770
Office		2,629		1,733
Professional fees		2,355		1,634
		208,539		148,377
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR		33,171		11,861
Net assets, beginning of year		23,993		12,132
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$	57,164	\$	23,993

2007

2006

A complete set audited financial statements is available on request

Supporting Partners

The Ontario Trillium Foundation Ontario Power Generation **Toronto Hydro Corporation** Ryerson University

Phoenix Community Works Foundation City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Project Partners

1 plus Veguals 3 **Aerial Tree Dancers** Artscape **Bain Apartments Cooperative** The Ben Show Black Creek Project BoardRx Cadbury - Schweppes Clean Air Partnership City of Toronto,

Natural Environment Section Councillor Paula Fletcher Councillor Michael Thompson Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone DIG IN

**Eastview Community Dancers Faculty of Environmental** Studies, York University

Evergreen

Friends of Trinity Bellwoods

**Green Gardeners** Cooperative Inc. Green Here **Green Living Show** Green Tourism Association **Greenest City Highland Creek Community** 

Forest City Lovers

Stewardship Project Kensington Art Project Lawrence Park

Ratepayers' Association Leah Burns Lost Rivers Marlena Zuber Illustration Michael J's Red Rhythm Monkeycycle - Michael Pereira Mount Dennis Community

Association Phin Park - Jeff Otto Raging Grannies

Rainbow Centre Dance School Ryerson University

- Dr Andrew Millward smartliving St. Lawrence Spacing Magazine

St. Christopher House

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

The Taylor Massey Project Toronto and Region

Conservation

Toronto Environmental Volunteers

Toronto Field Naturalists **Toronto Green Community** Toronto Outdoor Club

Toronto Public Space

Committee urbanspace Property Group Underwriter's Laboratories Vision Youth





Don Adams
Janet Anderson
John Apostolides
Toni Ellis
Bruce Tree Expert Company Ltd.
Faculty of Environmental Studies,
York University
Councillor Adam Giambrone
Green Gardeners Community
Collaborative Inc.
Marcia Kredentser

Cornelia Shuh
Jennifer Sloan
David Smith
Councillor Michael Thompson
Toronto Life Publishing Co. Ltd.
Karen Weisberg
James R.M. (Mack) Williams
Andrew Brown for Cindy Blazevic
and Pascal Paquette
Anonymous in honour of Eva Sharpe

Contributors

Andrew Gray
Artists Network of Riverdale
AutoShare
Board Rx
Brian Green
Chocoland Eco-Choco-Art
Coachhouse Books
Creative Works Studio
East Toronto Climate Action Group
Eneract
EvolutionGreen

Friends of the Don East

Green Gardeners Community
Collaborative Inc.
High Park Volunteer Stewards
Karma Food Co-op
North American Native Plant Society
Ontario Urban Forest Council
Project CHIRP
Toronto Environmental Volunteers
Greentea Design
Greenest City
Sultry Suds
Urban Tree Salvage

### Polunteers

Janet Anderson Alexandre Baril Dagmar Baur Heather Bean Bruce Bell

Anibal Benitez-Calderon Dougal Bichan Matt Blackett Gregg Blackler Gary Carmichael Andrew Chiu

Wai Chu

Alfred Clausen Leigh Davidson Andrea Dawber Jesse Demb

Dale Duncan Terry Fahey Torie Gervais

Dennis Glasglow Barbara Goss

Camille Greenstein

Jon Harstone Anna Hill Jeff Hill

Jenna Hofbauer

Lisa Jayne Jeff Kraemer Christine Korol Katie Krelove Ed Krolow Dan Lander

Brian Lee

Ben Marans Lisa McGinn

Diane McGrath

Magali Meagher Carole McKay

Kim McNeilly Helen Mills

Neeta Nathwani

Emily Nixon Dan O'Leary

James Ondrey

Michael Pereira Vincenzo Pietropaolo

Liat Podolsky Jocelyn Pollard

Lisa Rebnord

Laura Reinsborough Brenlee Robinson

Amber Roga-Fox Tanya Rhodes

Andrew Roy

Terrie Russell Luke Sargent Michael Sargent

Jordan Sewell Bill Sheridan

Mark Sherman

Netami Stuart

Wendy Strickland

Robin Sutherland Elizabeth Sweeting

Sau Wai Tai Jill Tomac

Justyna Trojanowska

Luke Tyszkiewicz

Kate Watson

Marc Willoughby

Bernadette Wycks

And many more who participated in planting and maintenance events.



## Board of Directors

#### Colleen Cirillo, MES ~ President

Community Stewardship Technician, Toronto and Region Conservation

#### **Steven Joudrey** ~ **Secretary**

Conservation and Land Planning Technician, Toronto and Region Conservation

#### **Stuart Grant** ~ Treasurer

Manager, The Centre

#### Donald Boyes, Ph.D.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Geography

#### **Chris Chopik**

Green Realtor, EvolutionGreen

#### **Lorraine Johnson**

Writer

#### W. Andy Kenney, Ph.D., R.P.F

University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry

#### Andrew Millward, Ph.D.

Ryerson University, Department of Geography

#### **Olivia Nugent**

Manager, Clean Air Campaign and Commute, Pollution Probe

#### Philip van Wassenaer, B. Sc., MFC

Consulting Arborist, Urban Forest Innovations

#### **Lawrence Wilson**

Teacher, Peel District School Board



From left to right ~ Andy Kenney, Lorraine Johnson, Steven Joudrey, Colleen Cirillo, Stuart Grant, Andrew Millward, Olivia Nugent Absent ~ Don Boyes, Chris Chopik, Philip van Wassenaer, Lawrence Wilson





#### Students and Interns Laura Brodey Lisa McGinn



**Liza Badaloo**Office and Event
Coordinator

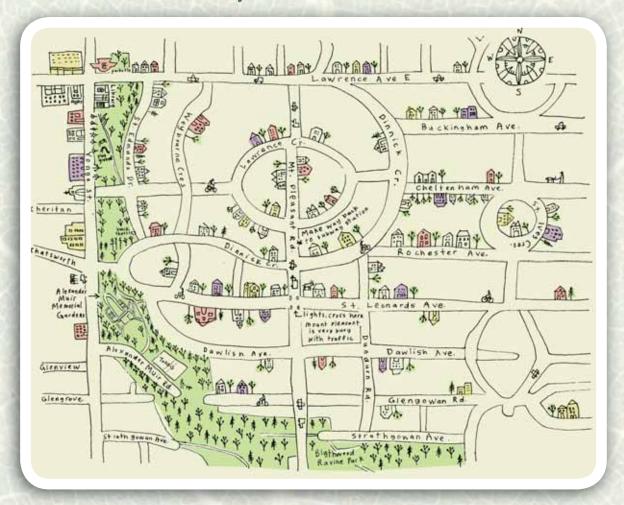
Matt Smith
Backyard Planting
Program Coordinator

**Todd Irvine** *Education and Outreach Coordinator* 

**Liz Forsberg** *Tree Tour and Event Coordinator* 



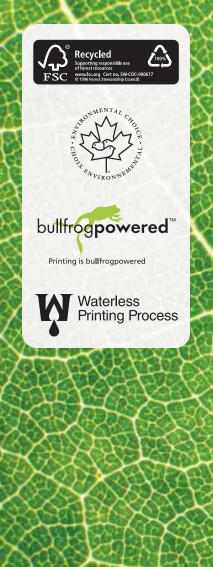
### Lawrence Park Tree Cour



Map by artist Marlena Zuber
Visit www.treetour.to for complete on-line tours



Newspaper articles taken from the Globe and Mail, National Post, Toronto Star, NOW Magazine, Eye Weekly, Town Crier and Ming Pao



LEAF contact information

73 Bathurst St, Suite 305 Toronto, Ontario M5V 2P6

416-413-9244 www.leaftoronto.org

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