



2012

ANNUAL REPORT



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Planters Colin Ferrier, Cindy Hignett
Assistants Mat Laporte, Allison Craig, Sarah Michelle Rafols
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Marketing & Communications Coordinator Matthew Higginson
Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager Amanda Gomm
Education & Stewardship Coordinator Jessica Piskorowski

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LEAF CONTINUES TO INNOVATE while staying true to its core strengths and priorities: plant and protect, engage and inspire, collaborate and advocate. I'm so pleased to see the advances we made on all three fronts in 2012!

LEAF has planted in backyards for more than 15 years and with over a 90% survival rate for our trees and shrubs we do it very well. Now we have expanded our offerings, to better serve residents and promote a more ecological view of the urban forest. In 2012 LEAF added shade gardens and edibles to its popular butterfly and songbird kits.

Through education, outreach and a strong presence on social media and in the news, LEAF continues to shape urban communities by empowering our citizens to act. This was a strong year for community engagement: volunteer hours and attendance at educational programs are up over last year. LEAF is quick to respond to emerging threats to our forests, and so too are local residents. We launched our Emerald Ash Borer Ambassador Program in 2012 and our new ambassadors devoted 251 hours raising awareness and sharing their expertise in the community.

Leaf can't do it all on its own. In 2012 we collaborated with local businesses, environmental organizations, academics, and one of our own program graduates to help green our local urban spaces. Now our reach extends across Ontario: LEAF's key role in The Green Infrastructure Coalition led to the release of the inaugural report in 2012 as we work to promote the benefits of investment in environmentally sound infrastructure. Through collaboration with Ryerson University, 2012 also saw the release of a tree benefits estimator that easily quantifies the value of backyard trees for residents.

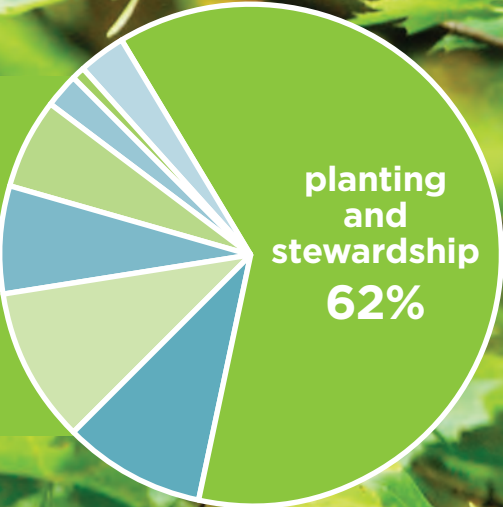
None of this would be possible without our supporting partners, our in-kind contributors and our volunteers. Thank you all for helping make 2012 another successful year for LEAF!

Sincerely,

Lorne Rothman
Vice-President, Board of Directors

927 volunteers
contributed
6785 hours

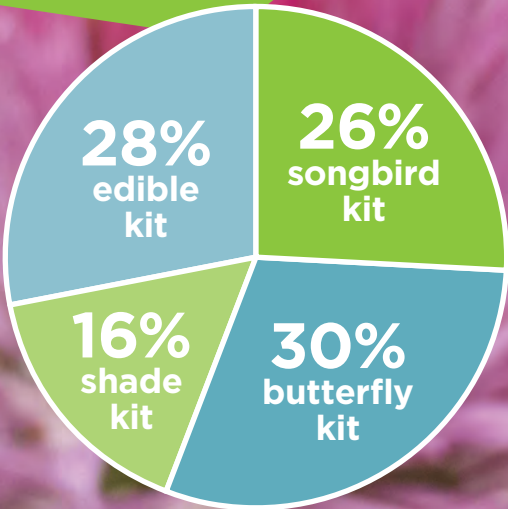
outreach 3% →
tours 1% →
other 2% →
EAB ambassadors 6% →
board and committees 7% →
office help 10% →
marketing and special events 9% →



OUR NATIVE GARDEN KITS were very popular again this year. In addition to the songbird and butterfly kits, this spring we offered shade garden and edible kits.

Edible kits contain fruit and nut-bearing trees and shrubs and include selections such as apricots, heritage apples, pawpaws, Canada plums and pin cherries.

799 trees
935 shrubs
2066 perennials
95 garden kits



“I LOVE MY EASTERN REDBUD TREE. It blossomed in the spring and was so beautiful. It is now growing and is spreading its branches in the exact direction I wanted. What a miracle!”

—Sylvia, Toronto, fall 2011 participant

98% of participants told us that they would recommend the program to others.

SURVIVAL RATE

Trees **98%***
Shrubs **94%***

*Based on 227 trees and 47 shrubs evaluated at 167 households in 2012. Trees and shrubs were planted between 1 and 15 years prior.

ADOPT-A-TREE

WE CELEBRATED NATIONAL TREE DAY with our Junction Depave Paradise Project, removing paving stones that were causing damage at the base of four large honey locust trees and replacing them with soil and native plants. Local landscaping company Green Gardeners salvaged the bricks and gravel that were removed and the Junction BIA promised to water and maintain the site. The project is part of a province-wide Depave Paradise initiative led by Green Communities Canada.

“These trees need our help. It’s inspiring to see the community make this positive change.”
—Sarah Doucette,
Councillor Ward 13,
Parkdale-High Park

Our volunteers spread **25 cubic metres of mulch** at LEAF stewardship sites in 2012.

BAYVIEW BUCKETS was launched to help street trees survive Toronto’s increasingly hot summers. Led by LEAF volunteer Helen Godfrey, this initiative encouraged 21 local businesses to water street trees each week.

“I love trees and I felt there was an opportunity to help beautify my neighbourhood, reduce pollution and fight climate change. We can’t afford to wait around and let governments do everything, so I felt this was an easy way for citizens and businesses to have a positive impact on their communities. Hopefully this initiative will be duplicated in other neighbourhoods across the city.”
Helen Godfrey,
Tree Tenders Graduate



WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO PAY CLOSER ATTENTION to the natural world around them. Newly found connections to our streets, parks and laneways can spark healthy dialogue. And our Tree Tours and Tree Tenders Volunteer Training Program connect people to the urban forest and inspire them to take action in their own neighbourhoods.



**EMERALD
ASH BORER (EAB),**
an invasive insect which attacks and kills ash trees, is a serious and imminent threat to our urban forest. LEAF engages volunteers to help spread the word about EAB and what can be done to fight it.

© 2012 Matthew JW Haginson / LEAF



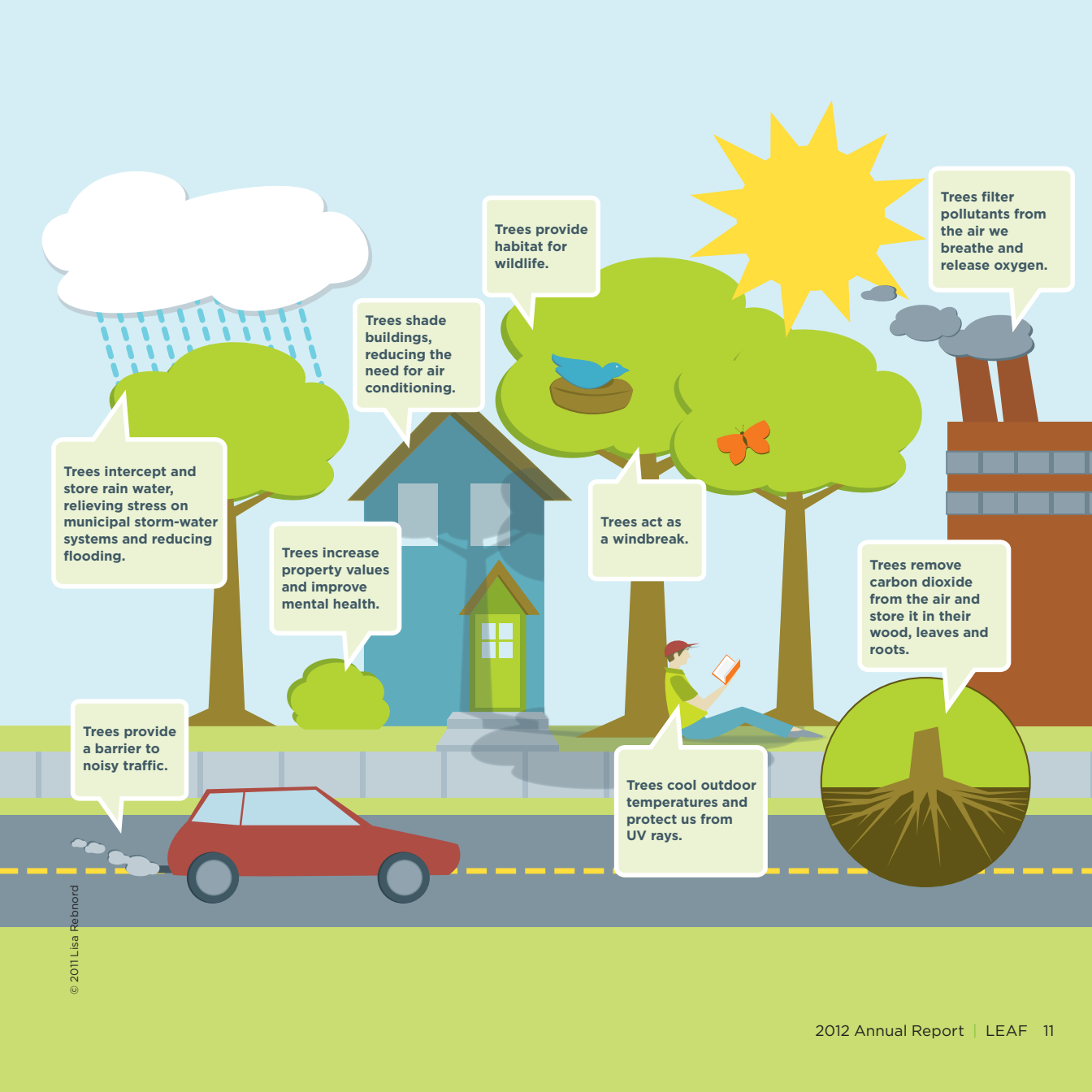
THIS YEAR WE ENGAGED
487 people at tree tours
103 people at our Tree Tenders Volunteer Training Program
664 people at presentations
384 people at workshops

THE ONTARIO RESIDENTIAL TREE BENEFITS ESTIMATOR (ORTBE) was developed by LEAF in partnership with Dr. Andrew Millward of Ryerson University. It estimates electricity savings, carbon dioxide sequestration and avoidance, storm water mitigation and air pollution removed by single trees in a residential setting.

| OVER ITS LIFETIME, AN AVERAGE* BROADLEAF DECIDUOUS TREE IN MARKHAM WILL: | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SAVE | SEQUESTER | MITIGATE | REMOVE |
| 5116 kWh and \$624 on your bill. | 6,385kg and avoid 732kg of CO ₂ | 625,558 litres of stormwater | 85kg of pollution from the air |

* with an approximate diameter at chest height of 6 cm planted within 6 metres of a house on the south west side

© 2012 Vadim Sabetski



SHARE

FROM ADOPTING TREES with Bayview Buckets to fruit tasting on the Edible Tree Tour, we helped the urban forest stay in the news 99 times throughout the year.



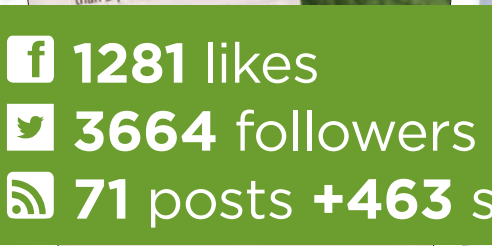
Cooking with the Understorey

This story originally appeared on the LEAF blog, August 16, 2012.

Garlic mustard was introduced to North America by European settlers in the 1800s. They used the plant as a pot herb and for medicine. Garlic mustard produces a rosette with toothed, heart-shaped leaves which covers the ground in its first year. In the spring, it develops a tall stem with clusters of white flowers that mature into long, thin seed pods.

I like to use garlic mustard's leaves in salads, which give them a nice, strong garlic flavour. Compared to real garlic though, garlic mustard leaves can be slightly bitter – especially later into the season. Many have recommended collecting garlic mustard in early spring or summer for both flavour and weed control.

Now commonly found in southern Ontario, garlic mustard has aggressively covered forest understoreys by out-competing other plants for light, nutrients, soil, and space. For example, garlic mustard remains green over the winter. This gives the plant an advantage by being ready to photosynthesize and grow once the snow melts, while its understorey neighbours are only starting to establish themselves. Other invasive tendencies include releasing chemicals in the soil that suppress growth of native tree seedlings like red and sugar maples and producing thousands of seeds that can be viable in the soil for more than 5 years.



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LEAF Brings a Bit of Wilderness to the TTC

A not-for-profit organization takes small, unused spaces in the city and re-imagines them as gardens.

The newest Urban Forest Demonstration Garden at the Walmer entrance to Spadina Station.

It used to be just a median of trampled grass between the road and the Walmer Street entrance to the Spadina subway station, but a not-for-profit organization called LEAF, with help from the TTC, has turned the strip into one of their Urban Forest Demonstration Gardens.

There are now five such gardens at TTC Stations around the city. The first two, planted in the spring of 2010, are located at Old Mill Station and the Marham Street entrance to Bathurst Station. There are also gardens at St. Clair Station and High Park Station. The newest garden is at the Walmer Street entrance to Spadina Station.

They may not look like much now, but come spring these gardens will add a bit more green to the city.

Jessica Piskowski, the Education and Stewardship Coordinator at LEAF, says that a number of different factors go into deciding which TTC stations get a garden. Visibility is important; these are "demonstration" gardens, so viewing by the public is essential. LEAF also factors in access to water, soil condition, and the volunteer base in the area.

There are multiple partners in the project, but the TTC plays a large role. Aside from providing the land, the TTC prepares the soil for planting, does some landscaping, and provides signage and a small shed to keep tools.

A total of 319 plants—consisting of 60 different kinds of native species of trees, shrubs, and perennials—have been put in the ground to date. Piskowski says that LEAF tries to "gear" species to support wildlife and song birds, "so there is an element of habitat to the gardens as well."

With these gardens, Piskowski says, LEAF hopes to show how "you can transform a regular lawn into an attractive natural space." She says that not only do the demonstration gardens provide an aesthetic boost to the surrounding neighbourhoods but they help reduce storm water run-off, filter out pollutants in the air, and help to absorb carbon.



Don't expect any hand-crafted topiaries, though—part of the point of the project is to inject a little bit of wilderness into the city, Piskowski says. That doesn't mean letting the sites grow out of control, however. Volunteers from the surrounding neighbourhoods who are graduates of LEAF's Tree Tender Training Program make sure the plants are well-watered and pruned.

OBSEVER

News Arts & Life Sports Features Opinion

Emerald Ash Borer beetle wreaks havoc on Scarborough ash trees

Carleigh O'Connell
Published 21 March 2012

One of the most devastating threats to the urban forest in the Greater Toronto Area is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This invasive beetle, which was first detected in the GTA in 2002, has since spread to several other areas, including Scarborough. The beetle feeds on the inner bark of ash trees, which eventually leads to the tree's death. In Scarborough, the EAB has caused significant damage to the urban forest, particularly in the areas around the city's major roads and parks.

The Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society received a visit from a very "green" guest last Tuesday. Fortunately for them it was guest speaker Erin Silverstein, and not an Emerald Ash Borer beetle.

Silverstein is a university of Toronto graduate and has degree in forestry and geography, with deep environmental focus. She is a part of the organization Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF). The organization has been dedicated to protecting and improving urban forests since 1996 and has helped plant thousands of trees in the GTA.

BAYVIEW BUCKETS ADOPT-A-TREE PROJECT

A unique and innovative project was launched last month, which is designed to preserve trees along Bayview Avenue. Bayview Buckets Adopt-A-Tree Project encourages local businesses to commit to watering the trees in front of their locations three times per week, using special watering cans donated by the local Valu-Mart. This effort is in connection with the organization LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests), and was spearheaded by volunteer Helen Godfrey. As a part of the project, LEAF staff and volunteers have also attached informational

Earth Matters by Jacqueline Milner – Save Money and Improve the Environment! June 22, 2012

Added by admin on June 22, 2012
Saved under Earth Matters, GREEN News
Tags: headlines

Earth Matters

Free online tool allows homeowners to calculate energy savings and other ecological benefits of their trees. LEAF (Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests) has just launched the Ontario Residential Tree Benefits Estimator (ORTEB), an online tool designed to estimate the energy savings and other environmental benefits provided by trees. The Estimator is housed on LEAF's website, www.yourleaf.org. Research has shown that strategically placed trees provide shade heating in winter. By preserving existing trees and planting new trees in the right locations, Ontarians can reduce their electricity bills, beautify their properties and help the environment all at the same time.

ORTEB was developed by LEAF in partnership with Dr. Andrew Milward of Ryerson University's Urban Forest Research & Ecological Disturbance (UFRED) Group and was made possible with funding from the Ontario Power Generation's Conservation Fund. The Estimator has the ability to both model future benefits of a newly planted tree as well as estimate the present and accumulated benefits of an existing tree. The Estimator models the amount of dollar value of electricity savings, the amount of CO2 sequestered, the number of kWh saved, as well as the number of liters of storm water diminished and kilograms of air pollution avoided.

Homeowners contemplating a new tree for their yard, this tool can help determine what species and planting location will provide the most energy savings," said Janet McKay, Executive Director, LEAF. "We built upon research conducted in the United States to find out the dollar and ecological values of trees."

Regionally-specific climate data and electricity rates, as well as comprehensive residential tree benefits estimator to be used by homeowners who already have trees on their property. "We built upon research conducted in the United States to find out the dollar and ecological values of trees."

"It's a fun way to see how much energy and water we can save and we hope it will encourage people to protect the trees on their property and use the Estimator by visiting the website."

Submitted Photo of Dr. Andrew Milward of Ryerson University and Janet McKay, Executive Director of LEAF (Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests) using the new, online, Ontario Residential Tree Benefits Estimator (ORTEB).

2012 Annual Report | LEAF 13

1281 likes
3664 followers
71 posts +463 shares

"The presence of city green spaces is critical for the health and happiness of its residents, of course, but these spaces also serve to connect us to each other in profound and meaningful ways"

Sarah Berneche, LEAF Volunteer

LEAF PLAYED A LEADERSHIP ROLE in producing a ground-breaking report which makes the case for greater investment in living green infrastructure in Ontario. It includes research and case studies that demonstrate the multitude of environmental, social and economic benefits provided by urban forests, green roofs, wetlands and other forms of green infrastructure.



FINANCIAL POSITION as at November 30, 2012

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$ 414,049 | \$ 353,759 |
| Short-term investments | | 158,003 |
| Grants receivable | 2,747 | 10,661 |
| Prepaid insurance | <u>2,500</u> | <u>2,330</u> |
| Total | \$ 419,296 | \$ 524,753 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 5,266 | \$ 32,358 |
| Amounts payable to governments | 12,380 | 1,379 |
| Deferred revenue | <u>195,025</u> | <u>310,925</u> |
| | <u>212,671</u> | <u>344,662</u> |
| Unrestricted net assets | <u>206,624</u> | <u>180,090</u> |
| Total | \$ 419,296 | \$ 524,753 |

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2012

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| REVENUE | | |
| Grants | \$ 480,144 | \$ 625,427 |
| Project revenue | 157,333 | 131,980 |
| Donations and fundraising | 15,375 | 25,823 |
| Interest | <u>5,189</u> | <u>2,735</u> |
| | <u>658,041</u> | <u>785,965</u> |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Direct project costs | | |
| Human resources | 428,841 | 509,752 |
| Other | 153,343 | 192,862 |
| Rent | 15,220 | 14,760 |
| Administration | 11,272 | 13,562 |
| IT systems development | 5,737 | 6,967 |
| Board and staff development | 3,327 | 6,653 |
| Professional fees | 4,255 | 4,916 |
| Communications | 6,684 | 4,889 |
| Insurance | <u>2,829</u> | <u>2,995</u> |
| | <u>631,508</u> | <u>757,356</u> |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR | 26,533 | 28,609 |
| Net assets, beginning of year | <u>180,091</u> | <u>151,481</u> |
| NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR | \$ 206,624 | \$ 180,090 |

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

Thank you for making everything possible!



Chocosol
City of Guelph
City of Vaughan
City of Waterloo
David Suzuki Foundation
Green 13
Green Communities Canada
Green Gardeners
Grow Wild
inHerEye Photography
Junction Gardens BIA
Lifford Wine Agency
Pandor Productions
Patagonia
Planet in Focus Film Festival
Steam Whistle
Tango Palace Coffee Company
The Fairmont Royal York
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Town of East-Gwillimbury
Town of Richmond Hill
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
Urban Tree Salvage
VIA Rail Canada
Will Whitwham

Design: Lisa Repnord and Matthew Higginson



www.yourleaf.org