



Ontario Urban Forest Council
 PO Box 32166
 Harding Post Office
 Richmond Hill, ON, L4C 9S3

Tel: 416-936-6735
 Fax: 416-291-5709
 Email: info@oufc.org
 Web: www.oufc.org

Monday, October 19, 2015

Ms. Marilyn Toft, Manager
 Council Secretarial Support
 Toronto City Hall, 12th Floor, West Tower
 100 Queen Street West
 Toronto, Ontario
 M5H 2N2

Mayor John Tory and Members of Council:

Re: Motion MM9.1 Request to Protect 250 year old Red Oak Tree at 76 Coral Gable Drive - Toronto City Council Meeting - November 3 and November 4, 2015

The Ontario Urban Forest Council had our fiftieth (50th) anniversary as a non-profit in 2013. We started the celebration by gifting the Woodland League of County Clare, Ireland, the *second edition* of our toolkit titled, "Securing the Future of Heritage Trees: A Protection Tool Kit for Communities".

Mr. Andrew St. Ledger of this non-profit, sent us a letter dated April 11, 2013. The last paragraph first sentence states, "*Your wonderful comprehensive tool kit will now be used as a template for Ireland's first national Tree Protection Manual.*"

This internationally acclaimed toolkit is used by Forests Ontario in its Heritage Tree Program. Forests Ontario celebrated this red oak as a heritage tree following the strict evaluation standards found in the kit. *The tree qualifies as a designated heritage tree in the amalgamated City of Toronto.*

In fact in 2006, one of our members brought over twelve (12) toolkits of our first edition kit to Toronto's Forestry Department to assist them re designating heritage trees.

I have attached the letter from the Woodland League dated April 11, 2013, two other documents re importance of trees and the OUFC toolkit in support of Motion MM9.1.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Wynnyczuk".

Executive Director

Attachments (4)

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 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
 SECRETARIAT 12 W

Fifty Years of Conservation, Action, and Advocacy

The Ontario Urban Forest Council toolkit is available for review in the City Clerk's Office



The Woodland League

11 April 2013,
Ontario Urban Forest Council
1523 Warden Avenue
Units 23 + 25
Toronto, Ontario M1R 4Z8

Attention: Mr. Jack Radecki - Executive Director

I am writing today to the Ontario Urban Forest Council on behalf of the Woodland League to express our heartfelt appreciation for the gift of the Heritage Trees - Protection Tool Kit, that we recently received. We wish to personally thank Edith George for taking the very timely initiative, in sending us the toolkit, and Diana Beresford Kroeger our consultant Scientist for informing Edith of our work in Ireland.

We were in the process of producing our own basic tree protection booklet for communities. The situation regards trees in Ireland is not good, mainly due to historical reasons, when the Great Forests of Ireland were destroyed, for military, political, and economic purposes. Ireland was once known in ancient times as *Inis na Bhfeodha*, or Island of the sacred trees, today less than .02% of ancient tree cover remains.

The State forestry policy is reliant on tree farms of non native conifers. Trees are the poor relation in the land and mindscape of Ireland, their once sacred status diminished over time. We have forgotten that trees were once revered in Ireland, and all native trees were protected under the Brehon laws reputedly 2000 years preceding Common law. There are only sixty Tree Preservation Orders in the whole country under Common law.

Your wonderful comprehensive tool kit will now be used as a template for Ireland's first national Tree Protection Manual. You have rightly used your first peoples tree wisdom, respect, traditions and knowledge to inspire your communities to appreciate trees, we shall be dipping into the similar ancient Gaelic rich vein of woodland culture to inspire Irish people to connect with and Love our best and oldest friends on this planet, the Trees. Our aims are summarized within the three R's.

**Regeneration of the Great Forests of Ireland,
Restoration of the Forest Culture of Ireland,
Reform of current State Forestry Policy.**

Yours Faithfully,

Andrew St Ledger
PRO The Woodland League

Suidain, Glendree, Upper, Feakle, Co Clare

www.woodlandleague.org E-mail: stledgerwood@gmail.com Phone: 087-9933157



About the Ontario Urban Forest Council
www.oufc.org¹

What are urban forests?

Urban shade trees lining residential streets, gardens, urban parks, cemeteries and public land of schools, universities, and other institutions, together with wooded neighbourhoods, wooded ravine and regional wood lot remnants form our urban forest.

Urban forests are all the green trees and forest remnants of other vegetation that grow in places where people live, work and play, from small communities in rural areas to large metropolitan cities. They may be planted or grow by nature. Urban forests and trees are relatively inexpensive objects of nature that can bring a sense of nature's mystique into our daily lives.

Urban forests are ecosystems.

Urban forests are ecosystems. An urban forest ecosystem is actually a combination of many interacting parts. The living parts include the plants, animals, humans, birds, insects, fungi and microbes that interact with each other and with all the abiotic parts of the physical non-living environment, the air,

soil/water/nutrient, and drainage parts that interact with plants and animals.

Within the urban forest ecosystem, each organism has its own needs. Animals and birds, for example need water, food, a reproductive area, and an escape cover, provided by the plant community. All species of wildlife, birds and insects are dependent on the plant community, with its composition, quality and arrangement of its vegetation. Vegetation, in turn is dependent on the site which provides water, nutrients, soil-drainage and anchorage support, and for insect pollination and seed dispersal by animals and birds, or by the atmospheric conditions (wind).

In the urban forest people provide for the needs of the tree and plant community and in return receive shade and all kinds of tree benefits. Birds, animals, plants, insects and microbes are present in remnants of the forest, ravine or meadow, and re-invade the new urban forest plantations in suburban communities over time.

The people-involved urban forest ecosystem differs from a natural ecosystem, in that people are the dominant beings who live in a sort of symbiosis with and manage the urban forests for tree benefits. If benefits of the urban forest are basic to create places fit for people, birds, animals and trees (plants) to inhabit, then people will prosper in direct proportion to their skills in managing the new environment-the urban forest ecosystem. Managing the urban forest involves, among many other tasks, organizing the urban plant community, its composition, quality and arrangement of its vegetation, and managing existing remnants through an appropriate ecosystem management approach.

Evolution of a Neighbourhood Urban Forest Ecosystem

Most of us are only vaguely aware that we are creating this urban forest ecosystem. But it is an invitation for birds, animals, insects, fungi and soil microbes to become co-inhabitants with us.

Everywhere houses are constructed on farm land with

hedge rows, orchards and ravine woodlots. It is well known that with urbanization there is a dramatic shift in species and in numbers of birds, from meadow and woodland edge-species to house sparrows, starlings, chipping and song sparrows, and pigeons. The greatest density of birds, almost entirely starlings and house sparrows, was observed in areas having intense development with town houses and apartments. Detached homes with some original trees left standing had the most varied species composition. Very few hole-nesting species such as flickers and woodpeckers were present, and these species would face competition with starlings and house sparrows if tree-nesting holes were available.

Later, as the area is getting planted there is an increase of robins and other tree-neighbourhood bird species that invade the area. Such birds are blue jay, cardinal, house finch, goldfinch, mourning dove, grackle, chipping sparrow and song sparrow, downy woodpecker, oriole, kestrel hawk, chimney swifts, a flicker, waxwings and chickadees. During migration many birds stay over night, such as species of warblers, juncos, white throated sparrows, grosbeaks and so on.

So, what is happening? Are the birds getting used to humans, and are they changing their feeding and nesting habits? This however, is not so. It is we people who are changing the early barren subdivision habitat to create a habitat with trees, shrubs and plants, suitable for several bird species, insects and small animals. We can learn from the birds what kind of tree and shrub arrangement can be created in relation to lawns to be also attractive visually and to provide for shade and cooling. We can conclude what is good for the bird likely is good for us.

Many song birds can be accommodated in suburban or even urban situations, provided that the right kind of vegetation is present. Scientists, noted that type and structure of vegetation assumed importance for all bird species. Less important were the presence of dogs, cats, traffic density, human presence and type of buildings. Furthermore different kinds of species can occupy the same habitat, with undue competition, each having their own niche. Grackles that nest in gardens use nesting sites

OUFC members work in partnership with others on issues that impact on our urban forests to maintain our environment as a place fit to live in. The OUFC also provides technical support for groups addressing urban forestry issues and offers various workshops on trees, urban forests covering a wide range of topics.

in coniferous shrubs and trees that are also wanted by robins. The grackles being aggressive prevent robins from raising an early brood by occupying all tall conifer shrubs, such as cedar and yew. Robins later on in the season also make nests in deciduous trees, and can occupy coniferous nesting sites vacated by the grackles in early summer.

So, we may conclude that what is good for us is also good for the birds, insects and small animals like the black/grey squirrel and the feisty little red squirrel. A University of Waterloo study of likes and dislikes of wildlife concluded that most urban dwellers liked seeing birds, with the exception of starlings and pigeons, which have become pests. Both are exotic, introduced species. Most people liked chipmunks, squirrels, and cottontail rabbits, but other mammals such as groundhogs, raccoons, and skunks, among others, were unpopular with home owners because of the damage they cause. Despite their acceptance of many wildlife species, a large number of people were unable to identify many of the animals present in Waterloo, Ontario. The ability to recognize animals and birds was a function of education as well as age.

Because each species has its specific habitat requirements, one can reconstruct habitats in the urban forest subdivision to accommodate various species to a certain extent. Furthermore, by identifying nesting birds on your walks during the summer you also encounter the habitat suitable for that species in that location. The walk becomes a learning experience on the tree and shrub species present and the structural arrangement of this local spot of vegetation. If one knows the bird one can also look up the vegetation requirements from the Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario. This exercise provides a free course in designing urban forest landscapes.

If small creatures can get their basic needs for food, water, shelter, nesting areas and escape cover from my neighbourhood environment, they will start to co-habit with us in the urban forest. Not surprisingly, we have similar needs, but our food is trucked in, the water comes through pipes, our houses are our shelter and nesting

area, and some of our wastes flow away through the sewer system, but not the carbon dioxide from our cars. We planted some of the vegetation, added nutrients and water and compost leaves. So we are interacting with our local environment and experience the physiological and psychological benefits from the urban forest.

Hazard Trees and Wildlife

If a tree is dying or dead and is not a hazard to people or property, consider leaving it as a cavity tree. This is a partly hollow tree that wildlife uses as a refuge. In Ontario, more than 50 species of birds and mammals depend on cavity trees for nesting, storing food, escaping from predators, and hibernating. These species include woodpeckers, eastern bluebirds, deer mice and squirrels.

The extension Note "MAINTAINING HEALTHY URBAN TREES" tells you how to keep your trees healthy and how to help sick or damaged trees.

www.ironline.com/Extension_Notes_English/pdf/urbntrs.pdf

Forests in Urbanized Environments

Urbanized environments now extend to all shores of the great lakes and the numerous inland lakes in southern Ontario. This is possible because of the automobile, which transports the urban weekend and holiday - recreational refugees to these places. Urbanites, which now make up 80 percent of the population, have transferred their social values and preferences to these once rural-value-dominated landscapes, county agreement forests, Muskoka-Haliburton forests as well as provincial parks.

One could now define an urban forest as "a place where trees and forest are viewed, experienced and/or managed in terms of urban values and use-preferences and not for wood products as a principle use". These places have become the special components of the urban forest in the urban-dominated landscape. The Ontario Forestry Association www.oforest.on.ca and the Ontario Woodlot Association www.onit-woodlot-assoc.org work to raise forest understanding.

Activities in the urban forest: the Great Community Tree Hunt - Paul Cadieux

PH 705 435-6896 paul.cadieux@sympatico.ca

The Great Community Tree Hunt took place within New Tecumseth which includes Alliston, Beeton Tottenham, and the surrounding communities. The goal was to create the climate and mood to introduce heritage trees into the community; their size, their durability, their variety and their beauty. We did this through the fun and engaging activity of finding the largest and the tallest trees in our area.

The tree hunt specified ten native species: Beech, Birch, Cedar, Cherry, Hemlock, Maple, Oak, Pine, Spruce and Willow. Some of these species are still plentiful while others unfortunately are few and far between.

We received 172 entries; some are amazing trees. A number of these were found on streets right in town, like the majestic row of Maples on Centre Street in Beeton, and the record breaking two hundred year old Oak tree standing alone in a farmer's field. Not to mention a mammoth Willow in Kenansville with a trunk circumference of over 22 feet and a height of over one 100 feet. Then there were the hidden treasures found only by searching wood lots, wetlands, parks, forest areas and the rare spots of old growth timber.

Volunteers visited the nominated trees, noting the tree species and measurements and then reported their findings to a central telephone number. Any measure in question was checked and confirmed by volunteer judges who are representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and the Ontario Forestry Association. The Great Community Tree Hunt took place within New Tecumseth which includes Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham, as well as the surrounding communities. The goal was to create the climate and mood to introduce heritage trees into the community; their size, their durability, their variety and their beauty. We did this through the fun and engaging activity of finding the largest and the tallest trees in our area.



www.oufc.org

Benefits of Trees - A Short List

- Provide medicines - 1 of 4 pharmaceutical products is plant based.
- Provide food - nuts fruit and berries.
- Improve air quality.
- Reduce air pollution.
- Reduce Noise Pollution - Planted in screens of trees and shrubs.
- Increase traffic safety, with appearance of narrower streets.
- Carbon 'Sinks' - alleviate 'Greenhouse Effect'
- Prevents Soil Erosion (water pollution)
- Recharges ground water and may provide fish habitat.
- Enhance economic stability.
- Increase property real estate values.
- Provide employment - lumber, plywood and other wood products.
- Provide recreational opportunities.
- Attract tourists.
- Reduce utility bills - air conditioning in summer and heating in winter.
- Cool hot streets and parking lots - Cities are heat islands 9 - 16 ° C.
- Windbreaks - shield against wind / snow and increase crop yields.
- Screens unsightly views, Softens harsh building outlines.
- Add beauty and grace to any community.
- Provide nesting for migratory birds and habitat for other wildlife.
- Help reduce stress in the workplace and speeds recovery in hospitals.
- Help experience connections to our natural heritage, spiritual/cultural values.

Tree Planting Myths - Avoid the Pitfalls

Maximize tree planting with as many specimens as possible.

- Tight spacing creates unnecessary and harmful competition for limited water and nutrients.
 - This type of planting restricts proper and characteristic crown development of each tree.
- Solution: Plan according to mature size, and site tolerances (sun/shade, soil type) to avoid problems.

The bigger the tree, the better. Instant trees are better than small saplings.

- Older (larger) trees have fewer roots in the root-ball, than do younger (smaller) trees.
- The tree must exist on stored starches, till enough new root mass develops to sustain tree growth.

Solution: Planting success is improved by planting younger trees, with a good root system.

The Planting Hole - 'A hole is a hole is a hole'

- An inadequate opening (width, depth, shape and walls) can result in poor root development.
- Hospitable root development, with less restricted transitions into surrounding soil is desired.

Solution: Use wide, soup-bowl shaped openings, no deeper than the root ball, with roughened walls.

Cut back the top of the tree at transplanting, to compensate for root loss.

- Live limb removal compromises healthy growth by reducing photosynthesis or sugar production.
- Strong form, structure and crown development is compromised, with top pruning of live limbs.

Solution: Remove only damaged, dead, or diseased wood for the first 5 to 10 years after planting.

All tree roots are instinctively programmed to grow out and away from the tree.

- Girdling root problems may develop if new site soil is not similar to original native soil.
- Planting near retaining walls or other permanent structures may deflected root growth to girdling.

Solution: Loosen and spread visible girdling roots, if tree is container grown, or cut away girdling roots.

Plant trees deep so they can grow better.

- Most common tree health problem. Oxygen is more depleted with increased soil depth.
- Soil covering even some of the trunk will cause the bark to suffocate.

Solution: Replant at correct depth, or slightly higher than the nursery grown soil level, by ~5-cm (2").

Lots of soil amendments, or compost rich top-soil, are good for the planting site.

- Dissimilarity with parent soil, altered soil properties, or soil too nutrient rich is harmful to trees.
- Tree may not be anchored correctly, with roots not readily growing into surrounding native soil.

Solution: Often too late, after the fact. It's best to use un-amended native soil as backfill.

Stake and brace trees, after planting.

- Usually unnecessary, bare-root and/or steep slope planting excepted, but may be injurious.
- Trunk sway wind reaction is required, even when staking, to help develop a strong buttress flair.

Solution: Only tie tree to a stake, to a minimum height which prevents fall over, avoiding trunk injury.

Water the tree as often as possible - Keep it continually wet, day and night.

- Continual saturation is harmful to a newly planted tree, leading to root rot or suffocation/death.
- Roots need some oxygen, which is otherwise displaced in the soil, with continual saturation.

Solution: Let soil dry out between watering, after first saturating the soil for 1 - 2 days after planting.

Grass (Lawns) and trees coexist quite nicely. I see it all over the city.

- Grass and trees compete for similar and often limited water and quickly deplete soil nutrients.
- Bark is damaged from improper lawn maintenance, including: string trimmers and lawn mowers.

Solution: Remove lawn from tree base, to at least 0.3-m (1-ft) or further, which can then be mulched.

Lots of mulch is good.

- Excessive mulching creates low soil oxygen but high moisture levels, repressing root growth.
- May also support insect root rot and other disease problems, alter soil pH or soil nitrogen levels.

Solution: Use bark, more inert than wood chips, to a 3 to 8-cm (1-3") depth, or living perennial mulches.

Fertilizer is free food.

- Fertilizer is not food, but contains one or more elements required for tree growth.
- Fertilizers, supplements to a tree, are much like vitamins, supplements to humans.

Solution: Fertilize, if leaves and soil show a deficiency, 2 years prior, or 2 years after any root injury.

The only good bug is a 'Dead Bug'.

- Many insects do not harm trees, but seek its protection, shade and/or dew, for survival.
- Many insects are actually beneficial, as they feed or parasitize on tree harmful insects.

Solution: Identify any insects found on the tree, as friend or foe. Can use UofG/OMAFRA labs, etc.

Prepared by the Ontario Urban Forest Council

1523 Warden Avenue

Units 23 and 25

Toronto, Ontario

MIR 4Z8