

Community Support Makes for a Banner Year for Tree Trust TBM



With the help of so many super dedicated volunteers and donors, 2023 has been a very busy and productive year for Tree Trust TBM as we try to preserve and build our tree canopy. Individual donations funded professional tree care for three older but very healthy legacy trees this year, helping to extend their life for many more decades. Exceptional volunteer support meant that we could also provide proper care and look after new tree plantings and demonstrate our tree-community muscle to funding agencies, allowing us to leverage additional funding for planting programs. TBM residents clearly care about trees and are willing to support tree care and tree planting in TBM through donations and their time. A huge thank you to all the donors, volunteers and Town staff for supporting our efforts! To support our work in 2024, donations can be made www.treetrust.ca or you can email Tree Trust TBM directly at tbm@treetrust.ca. Some highlights of our work this year include:

Expert tree care was provided for three beautiful legacy trees including two on Napier Street West and one on Elgin Street East. A tree care public event was hosted by the homeowners of the Elgin Street property – kindly providing lawn chairs, some munchies and all-round cheering support to the arborists. Tobias Effinger from Arboreal Tree Care gave a talk and answered tree questions.



A tree care day was held along the Georgian Trail at Northwinds and Tenth Line to apply mulch and compost to tree saplings that were planted last year. The Town supplied materials and logistical support. So nice to see all the volunteers come out on a sunny but chilly spring day to give these trees what they need in their 2nd year of fledging growth.

Forty trees (all between two and three meters) were planted along the Georgian Trail at Christie Beach Road. These larger trees were planted and watered weekly by Arboreal Tree Care Company. Species included: American Elm (Valley Forge) Swamp White Oak, Bitternut Hickory and Eastern White Cedar – all selected for the local conditions. Funding for these trees was provided by the Georgian Cycle and Ski Trail Association.

Twenty-five larger (3 meter+) trees and 20 shrubs were planted at Nipissing Ridge Park including Autumn Blaze Maples, American Elm (Valley Forge), Burr Oak, White Spruce, White Cedar, Juniper and Dogwood and Viburnum shrubs. A community volunteer mulch and compost day was held in late October. Tree Trust TBM and the Town collaborated to successfully apply for and receive funding from Tree Canada for the trees and the planting labour.

Trees are getting bigger at the Native Tree Nursery. We have planted out six basswood trees into the community from our nursery. We have eight more trees that are ready to go and 47 trees that are further sizing up in the nursery. Thanks to our very dedicated volunteer nursery manager – weeding and watering these trees all summer long! Pending further funding from the Town and or corporate donations in kind, we hope to add more trees and make

improvements to the fencing and possibly expand and or move the location.

Efforts to minimize tree loss from the Thornbury West Reconstruction continue. Many Thornbury residents have been upset by the proposed tree removals in the TWR phase 1b area, in particular, along Louisa Street. Tree Trust TBM got engaged more than 2 years ago, conducting an independent assessment of tree health, making presentations and submitting advocacy letters to Council and Staff. As a result, we believe that ten mature trees along Elma Street South will be preserved, when compared to the original plan. Unfortunately, tree preservation challenges are greater along Louisa, due to the deep digging/trenching required for the water and sewer service installations. We continue to advocate for preserving trees at the corner of Louisa and Bruce and Louisa and Elma as these are not subject to water or sewer installations. We are also advocating for special measures to protect on especially large and healthy tree approximately at the mid-point of Louisa Street.

Efforts to update the TBM Tree Preservation By-law continue. Tree Trust TBM has made repeated deputations and submissions related to upgrading the existing (2010) TBM Tree Preservation By-law. Updating the By-law is a work in process and hopefully a new revised draft bylaw will work for all concerned.

So, it's been a busy year! In 2024, we will continue to provide professional preservation care for older, legacy trees, to expand our tree canopy and to advocate for tree protection. We already have our eye on two very interesting legacy trees, much in need of professional, life-extending care. Oh! And stay tuned – we will have an exciting announcement coming up in the New Year!
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(Direct) 705-441-1075
(Office) 705-445-5520
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