

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

New Favorite
Tree : Hackberry

Trees &
Construction

New Featured
Historic Tree!

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Hanging Out at Elmwood Cemetery

On Saturday, October 20th, certified arborists from all over Winnipeg gathered at Elmwood Cemetery to “hang out” – and to do a little work!

Elmwood Cemetery, located in east Winnipeg on the banks of the Red River is blessed with an abundance of beautiful mature trees. Approximately 600 of these trees are American Elms. Unfortunately, the Cemetery is losing these trees at a rapid rate due to Dutch elm disease (DED).

Elmwood Cemetery is owned and operated by The Friends of Elmwood Cemetery Inc., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration, reforestation and beautification of the grounds. Being a private entity, there are currently no public funds available for DED management, but there is a critical need for pruning the trees in the cemetery to help slow down the rate of loss.

In response to the urgent need for professional pruning, the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) along with The Friends of the Elmwood Cemetery hosted what was named “A Day of Service” as a nod to the many veterans resting there. Many of Winnipeg’s ISA member companies and associations donated their time and equipment to prune trees in the cemetery. Over 50 arbor-

ists and volunteers turned out to prune 57 mature American elms.

One section of the cemetery was cordoned off for safety’s sake and as one climber so aptly named it, became the “Climbers Corral”. At one point during the morning, with sunlight steaming through the trees, it was quite a sight to see 20 of Winnipeg’s best tree climbers/arborists working together. It was mentioned that we may have set a record for the most climbers working together in one area.

A great big “thank you” goes out to everyone who came to show their support, and to all those who generously provided lunch and snacks for our hard-working guys and girls. All in attendance considered the day a great success and we look forward to “A

Day of Service 2013”. Hope you’ll join us next year!



Left: Martha Barwinsky, City Forester and master brush chipper! **Top:** Jesse Antonation of Trilogy Tree; 2011 & 2012 ISA Prairie Chapter Tree Climbing Champion. **Bottom:** Alliance Tree Care looking “brilliant” in their safety gear. (Photos: Matt Vinet)

Written by **Matt Vinet**
ISA Arborist,
Green Drop TreeCare

My Favorite Trees: Hackberry



Hackberry tree
(www.cityoffargo.com)

One of my favorite trees is the hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis* 'Delta'.

The reason it's a favorite is because this great tree reminds me that we do have a variety of shade tree species to choose from and we are not limited to the usual maple, ash, oak and elm. Hackberry trees can tolerate our urban environment and are becoming more common on our boulevards.

Hackberries are related to the elm and have similarities in appearance; however they are not susceptible to Dutch elm disease. The mature bark is light gray, and has a unique corky texture. It has small, berry like fruit that turns reddish purple to dark purple at the end of summer. This tree is excellent for attracting birds.

The Delta hackberry is a zone 2 species that was

propagated from the Delta area at the South end of Lake Manitoba. It can reach heights of 40 ft and is suitable for many urban yards. This is definitely a tree that I would like see planted more often.

Written by
Carla Antonation
ISA Certified Arborist,
Trilogy Tree

“Remedial work after the damage is done is seldom successful...a qualified ISA arborist can help you execute a tree protection plan.”

Trees & Construction: the Root of the Problem

Construction around mature trees is tricky business.

If you are planning a construction project around trees you are intending to save, you need to consider the roots. Careful advanced planning will save you the expense (and heartache) of repairing or removing trees damaged by construction activities later on.

Roots are the most important part of a tree's anatomy. A mass of wood equal in size to the upper canopy, the roots exist in the first 12 inches of soil and grow out from the tree to as much as three times the height of the tree or more! Damage to tree roots from construction is typically the result of soil compaction or soil excavation. Tree roots require loose soil to grow, obtain oxygen, and absorb water and nutrients. Stock-

piled building materials, heavy machinery, and excessive foot traffic will damage soil structure. Lacking good soil aeration, roots will eventually suffocate and excessive root damage will lead to the slow death of your tree. Remedial work after the damage is done is seldom successful.

Soil Compaction

You can prevent soil compaction by carefully selecting storage areas and traffic routes (i.e. the new future driveway) and installing protective fences. If you can't reroute traffic, install a root system bridge by spreading wood chips (at least 6 inches deep) on the soil within the tree root protection zone (TPZ). Trees that are pruned or removed during the construction process could be chipped on site used for

soil preservation tactics such as this.

Excavation

In terms of soil excavation, the removal of soil is detrimental for the same reasons above, but can also compromise the stability of the tree. If there is excavation work which will impact tree roots, have the roots within the TPZ pruned to prevent damage. Exposed roots should be cut cleanly to promote quick wound closure and regeneration. Hand tools do a better job at this than bulldozers and backhoes. Minimize damage by avoiding excavation during hot, dry weather and keep trees well watered before and after digging. Exposed roots should be covered with soil, mulch, or damp burlap as soon as possible.

Continued...

**Featured Historic Trees:
Maison Gabrielle Roy**

All Trees Tell a Story

Construction continued...

Before construction begins, meet with your builder and make it clear that you insist the trees are to be protected. Establish a tree TPZ around the trees and make it clear that construction traffic or excavation within the TPZ is prohibited. Fence off the TPZ with a permanent structure.

There are many other possible variables to consider including changes in grade, and soil pH. A qualified ISA-certified arborist to help you execute a tree protection plan, and help you avoid costly remedial work down the road!

Written by

**Gerry Engel, ISA Certified
Arborist, Tree Life**

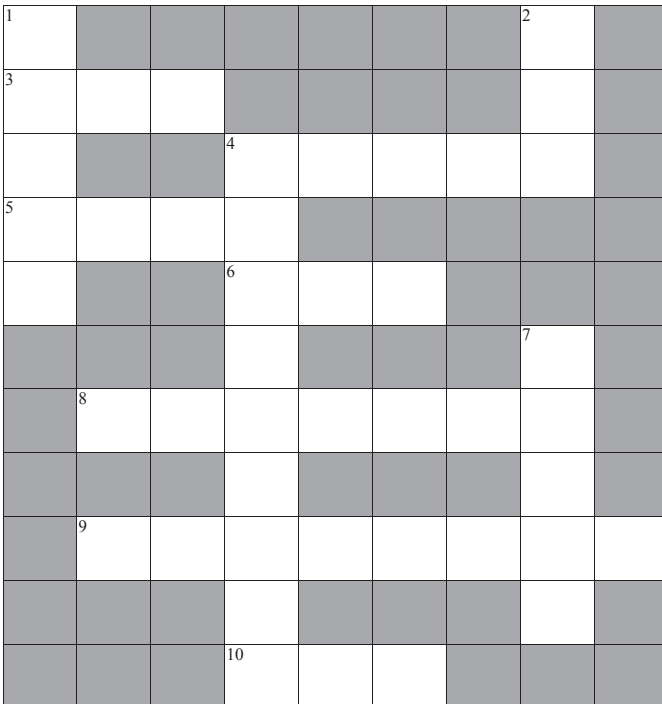
This lovely house at 375 Deschambault in St. Boniface was once the childhood home of Gabrielle Roy, one of Canada's most influential writers. While the house is a community landmark in itself, the trees on the property tell a story of their own.

These five graceful elms were planted by Gabrielle Roy's father soon after the house was built in 1905. It is said that as a child, Gabrielle use to sit upstairs by the dormer window to read and daydream — and no doubt spent countless hours admiring the elms growing just outside her window.

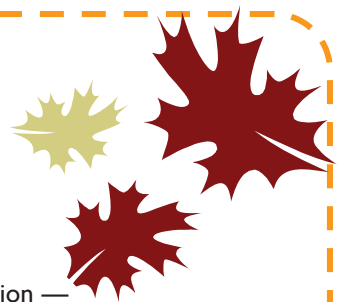
The house has been operating as a museum since 2003 and was declared a national historic site in 2009. Special thanks to Museum Director, Lucienne Châteauneuf and neighbour, Mr. John Dumas for registering these historic trees!



Photos of the property in 1910 (*Archives de la Société Historique de Saint-Boniface*) and in 2010 (*John Dumas*). You can see how the trees have grown!



Just for Fun



ACROSS

- 3. Tree that produces acorns
- 4. Good direction to head for vacation — especially if you're a goose!
- 5. Tool of choice for fall yard work
- 6. Apples and pumpkins are used to make this delicious dessert
- 8. A warm layer for going outside
- 9. This professional will take care of all your tree-care needs
- 10. The colour of cheeks out in the cold too long

DOWN

- 1. A pumpkin is a type of this
- 2. One of the first trees to drop its leaves in fall
- 4. The month of the fall equinox
- 7. Sign that winter's coming — quick, cover the garden!



TREES *Winnipeg*

To preserve and protect our urban forest and urban environment

Trees Winnipeg (formerly known as The Coalition to Save the Elms), is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the stewardship of elms and other trees, and the urban environment.

Trees Winnipeg was founded in 1992 in response to the heightened threat to Winnipeg's extraordinary American elm population by Dutch elm disease. The organization has updated its strategy to stress the importance of all tree species and increased biodiversity in Winnipeg's urban forest; in 2009 we changed our operating name to Trees Winnipeg to reflect the change in our scope.

The vision of Trees Winnipeg is to protect, preserve and promote the health of the urban forest and the urban environment through public awareness and education.

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