

THE URBAN FORESTER



THE COALITION TO SAVE THE ELMS

FALL 2004

Annual Tree Banding Underway

Call 775-6642

Why band your trees? In a word PROTECTION. Every spring our magnificent trees suffer the ravages of cankerworms. Cankerworms are caterpillars that feed on the leaves of many trees including Elm, Ash, Manitoba maple, linden, oak, ornamental and fruit trees. The cankerworms create holes in the leaves and in severe outbreaks can even completely strip trees of its leaves depriving it of its food producers and weakening the tree. But there is something we can do about it! Participation in the Coalition to Save the Elms' Tree Banding Program is an effective way to reduce cankerworm populations and prevent defoliation of our trees – particularly along riverbank corridors and near park areas.

Why You Should Choose Our Service

By using our service you are not only helping you trees you are helping your community. The Coalition to Save the Elms is a non-profit organization that uses the proceeds raised from the Tree Banding Campaign to support urban forest education and preservation efforts throughout the City of Winnipeg.

Throughout the year we hold free public education workshops on tree care, participate in urban forest maintenance and plantings, serve as an advocacy force for change and provide an information line responding daily to calls from the public about private and public tree problems and concerns.

The Citizens of Winnipeg have a significant investment in their trees, both private and public. Trees provide numerous aesthetic and social benefits as well as adding measurable values to our urban environment. Trees increase property values, decrease energy costs, filter dust, pollen and pollutants, provide shade from harmful UV rays, absorb noise, prevent soil erosion, provide a habitat for wildlife, replenish oxygen, remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and are important living organisms for carbon sequestering (of increasing important documented climatic changes). Therefore, maintaining a healthy urban forest is of great importance to the well being of all urban communities.

Within Winnipeg there is a demonstrated need for the efforts of the Coalition to continue. Please support our efforts by supporting our campaign. All tree species within our urban forest have shown varying degrees of stress symptoms due to changes in climatic conditions and the impact of the urban environment. As threats to the health of our City's urban forest continue to grow there is a great need for private citizens to take responsibility and action in caring for private and public trees.

Call our Tree Banding Hotline @ 775-6642 to register for tree banding on your property. Our service includes fall banding and spring removal.

Don't chop that tree! Not all yellow leaves are DED

by Mike Allen



The Dutch elm diseased leaves turn brown and curl up at the edges. They stay on the tree a long time.

This cool wet summer has resulted in the leaves on some shade trees turning colour prematurely. Suddenly mature American elm, green ash, Manitoba and silver maples, and poplar trees look like they are getting ready for autumn.

A caller to Dorothy Dobbie's CJOB radio's gardening program this summer asked about yellow leaves falling from his elms. In the belief that these trees had succumbed to Dutch elm disease

(DED) the caller had cut two of them down, but upon further examination, it appears that the common leaf signs of the disease were not present. He had cut his two mature elms down for nothing.

There is an important distinction between-DED infected leaves and those which are not.

Dutch elm disease is a wilt disease that causes healthy green leaves to droop and then curl inwards from the sides. Soon the pale green colour turns yellowish

green and then yellow-brown. Finally the leaves will become totally brown, but they don't fall from the tree right away. Instead, they may persist on the twigs into winter all the while retaining the prominent droop and curl appearance.

Be careful not to confuse this with premature yellowing of a leaf for other causes. If you see an elm leaf turn a bright yellow very quickly and if this leaf also falls from the tree very readily, chances are the cause is something other than DED. In the case of a non-DED problem, the leaf maintains its turgor, or stiffness, even on the ground. There is no drooping or curling. This fall, you may notice more elm leaves discolouring as a result of a common leaf disease called *Anthracnose*. Typically this disease causes the leaf to develop yellow to brown spots or blotchiness against a green background. There can be some curling of the sides of the leaf, but it does not droop.

To prevent *Anthracnose* leaf disease from attacking, keep your trees healthy through aeration, fertilization and watering. *Anthracnose* also attacks shrubs and smaller trees. These can be treated in mid to late April with lime sulfur dormant spray as a preventative measure.

If you are concerned about an elm, call the Tree Line at 986-7623, the Coalition at 832-7188 or an arborist for diagnosis before you chop down a healthy tree.

Mike Allen can be reached at 831-6503.

Eight Reasons to Band Your Trees

by Jeffrey Timms

Using a tree band does not only apply to elms. These environmentally friendly bands help reduce the defoliation caused by a variety of worms and insects that attack many different types of trees including:

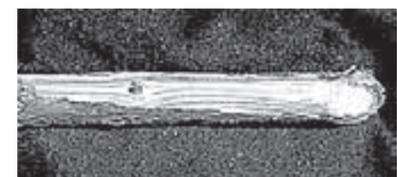
- 1) Fall Cankerworm (*Alsophila pometaria*) and Spring Cankerworm (*Paleacrita vernata*). Host species attacked include the red and white oak groups, maples, elms, hickories, ash, and cherry.
- 2) Winter Moth, A.K.A. Munch Inch Worm (*Operophtera brumata*, L.). Host species attacked include ornamental, orchard, and forest trees, especially oaks and maples.
- 3) Linden Looper (*Erannis tillaria*, Harr.). Host species attacked include the red and white oak groups, maples, elms, hickories, ash, and cherry.
- 4) Bruce Spanworm (*Operophtera bruceata*, Hulst.). This worm attacks a variety of hardwood trees, but sugar maple, aspen, and beech are its favourite host trees. In areas where these particular trees are numerous, moderate to severe defoliation will occur.
- 5) Eastern Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*). These caterpillars are native to North America east of the Rockies. Their preferred tree is black cherry but they will also infest other cherry trees and fruit trees such as apple as well as a variety of shade trees.
- 6) Forest Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*). A cousin of the Eastern Tent



Above, the smaller European beetle with the native beetle below. The native beetle overwinters in the base of elms.

Caterpillar, this caterpillar prefers hardwoods like sugar maples and oaks. 7) Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*). These are one of North America's most devastating forest pests. They are known to feed on the foliage of hundreds of species of plants in North America but their most common hosts are oaks and aspen. 8) Last but not least, the native Elm Bark Beetle (*Hylurgopinus rufipes*). This species of the elm bark beetle likes to overwinter in the bark at the base of elms, about 30 cm (12") from the ground. Banding prevents the beetle from traveling to their winter home in fall, reducing their success in over-wintering.

You can also spray the base of your



Top: Telltale red streaks beneath the bark indicate DED. Below the tunnels of a European bark beetle.

elms with Chlorpyrifos to kill the adult. The European elm bark beetle overwinters in dead branches on riverbanks and in elm firewood piles. Be sure to burn all elm wood in place. It is illegal in Manitoba to transport elm wood.

It is possible for Cankerworms as well as other caterpillars listed here to travel as far as 150m (almost 500') on silken threads from one tree to another. This allows them to spread to new trees in search of leafy treats. Because of this, caterpillars may still visit your trees if your neighbours don't band their trees. So don't forget to band your trees and encourage your neighbours to do so as well!

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1539 Waverley Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 4V7
Phone 837-7188
Fax 986-4050
www.savetheelms.mb.ca
elms@mb.sympatico.ca

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The president's page

It's time to find a road salt alternative

Trees, herbaceous plants, even wildlife are succumbing to the effects of road salt.

Overall, this has been a good year for the trees.

Although we humans haven't been too impressed with the weather, the cool days and lots of moisture have promoted good leaf growth and have given the trees a chance to recover from the past two or three years of insect attack and drought.

This is not enough however. As you drive around town, turn your eyes upward and you can't help but notice the sad condition of many of our boulevard trees. There are dead branches, even whole dead trees throughout the city. Some trees are just hanging on, waiting to be pruned before an insect population or disease invades their injuries and ends the tree's life prematurely.

So why doesn't somebody do something? Well, the folks at the city forestry branch are trying, but they lack resources. Because the trees have slipped on the budget priority list over the past few years, the pruning program is decades behind.

But, again, that is not the only problem. The use of road salt to melt snow and ice is having a major impact on the health of our trees. It causes defoliation by killing buds. It causes browning of needles and complete branch die back.

It can prevent flowering and it causes "tufting" or witches broom.

Salt is killing boulevard grass and plants on private property that are close to salt-sprayed roads.

Salt accumulates in the soil, breaks down soil structure promoting soil compaction and, and increases erosion. Salt also causes death to significant numbers of mammalian wild life which ingest the salty snow-melt and die from salt toxicity. Salts gets into ground water and there is concern about rising incidences of high blood pressure among the population.

What's to be done? Alternatives include such things as a mixture of calcium magnesium acetate with sodium chloride. A liquid solution of potassium acetate is commonly used as a runway deicer in Europe. Both are apparently much less damaging to the environment than salt and are even reported to spur plant growth (something that can have its own negative impacts by promoting algae growth in streams and lakes).

In Finland, good results have been obtained from potassium formate, which bio-degrades into carbon dioxide and water. Independent studies have shown it to be environmentally benign.

Unfortunately, these alternatives are



Witches broom on Linden.



Coalition president, Dorothy Dobbie.

all priced – up to 20 times as expensive as salt. Salt costs about \$30 a ton US, while the alternatives range in cost from \$500 to \$800 US a ton.. Since the cost of cleaning up salt and sand is still less than these product alternatives, there is little incentive for cities to change their current patterns of deicing – although if salt damage were factored in, the equation might change.

Clearly, there are no black and white answers, here but the harmful effects of sodium chloride are incontrovertible. Indeed, in 2001, Environment Canada declared salt a toxic substance.

It is time we started looking for alternatives and making better choices, not just for the trees, but for the quality of our entire environment. Maybe we just have learn to put up with less than dry streets and rely on unsalted sand and gravel to get us through the winter.

Meanwhile, if your property is bordered by a road that is deiced with salt, try flushing your trees and plants with water after the first snow melt. You can also try to protect your plants using a variety of barriers. Good maintenance is another way to help the trees resist salt. Finally, some salt resistant trees include the American elm, sumac and lilac.

The Coalition to Save the Elms is a non-profit conservation organization that was founded in 1992 in response to the heightened threat of Dutch elm disease to Winnipeg's extraordinary elm population. Since our inception our mandate along with our support base has grown. Today our organization is dedicated to the preservation of all tree species in our urban environment and we have over 15,000 supporters of our efforts in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba. Due to this support, we are very proud that Winnipeg is home to the largest urban elm forest in all of North America and the largest bur oak population in any prairie city.

The Coalition To Save The Elms Manitoba would like to acknowledge the support of MTS who sponsored tree banding on Jessie Avenue and to CJOB for sponsoring tree banding on Lenore Street. Thank you for your generosity.

Membership Form

You can become a member of the Coalition to Save the Elms for as little as \$15 per year. Receive the quarterly Urban Forest News newsletter! Find out what's happening with trees in your community and throughout our urban forest! Be the first to know about our exciting and educational workshops that are free to you as a member!



I AM INTERESTED IN:

\$25.00 Preferred Membership

Includes your subscription to the Urban Forest News, tree workshop admission and the banding of one tree of your choice.

Location of Tree:

Trd: _____ Private property—front yard: _____ Back yard: _____

Please provide any information about accessing your property and/or trees, if applicable (i.e. drags, trees growing around the trunk etc.)

\$15.00 Membership

Includes subscription to Urban Forest News and tree workshop admission.

\$25.00 Membership Renewal

Making a tax deductible donation in the sum of _____

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CORPORATE TAX ID NUMBER: 896707098

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE The City of Winnipeg

Dutch Elm Disease Control Surveillance

Notice is hereby given that systematic inspections of all Elm trees throughout the City will be undertaken by the City of Winnipeg, Forestry Branch, for the purpose of Dutch Elm Disease detection. These inspections will be conducted on a regular basis through September as conditions dictate.

This will necessitate entry onto private lands by City Dutch Elm Disease Inspectors. Inspectors may enter private lands for the purpose of Dutch Elm Disease surveillance under provisions of the Dutch Elm Disease Act and Regulations.

Dead, dying and diseased Elm trees will be marked with orange flagging tape or paint for future identification and removal. All removals will be conducted by the City of Winnipeg at no charge to the property owner.

Residents are also advised the Dutch Elm Disease Act and Regulations prohibits the storage of Elm firewood. Anyone having Elm firewood on their property is requested to undertake immediate disposal measures. Failure to dispose of Elm firewood can result in an order to do so under the Dutch Elm Disease Act. Elm firewood may be disposed of at the Brady Landfill Site. Landfill fees are the owner's responsibility. Citizens are reminded that pruning of American Elm trees is prohibited between April 1 and July 31 and pruning of Siberian Elm trees is prohibited between April 1 and June 30. As well,



Inspections may be carried out on private property.

all cankerworm trap bands should be removed and all suspect Elm trees should be reported to the "Tree Line" (Customer service Line) at 986-7623.

Should additional information be required, please contact the Forestry Branch as follows; Phone the Customer Service Line: 986-7623, Fax: 222-2839, E-mail: ppines@winnipeg.ca, Mail: City of Winnipeg, Public Works Department, Forestry Branch, 401 Pandora Avenue West, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2C 1M7 or access the web at <http://www.winnipeg.ca/PWDForestry>.

The co-operation of all Citizens is appreciated.

Director of Public Works, June 2004.

Why do leaves change colour?

Have you ever wonder how and why leaves change colour in fall?

Leaves are the tree's food factories. This food-making process takes place the leaf's cells which contain chlorophyll, giving the leaf its green color. This extraordinary chemical absorbs energy from sunlight to transform the carbon dioxide that trees take from the air and the water they get from the ground through their roots to carbohydrates, such as sugars. This is the process called photosynthesis, which means "putting together with light".

As summer ends and autumn comes, the days get shorter and shorter, triggering a gradual shut down of the tree's system. Soon there is insufficient light or water for photosynthesis so the trees begin to live off the food they stored during the summer. The green chlorophyll disappears from the leaves and we begin to see the yellow and orange colors that have been in the leaves all along.

In some trees, like maples, glucose is trapped in the leaves after photosynthesis stops. Sunlight and the cool nights of autumn turn this glucose into a red color through the development of red anthocyanin pigments. Some mixtures give rise to the reddish and purplish fall colors of trees such as dogwoods and sumacs, while others give the sugar maple its brilliant orange. The brown colour of trees like oaks is made from wastes left in the leaves.

The amount of rain that has fallen, the amount of sugars in the leaves, the wind and air temperatures will all influence the amount of fall colour. The side of a tree exposed to bright sunlight might turn red, while the shady side of the same tree may turn yellow. Weeks of cool, bright sunny days and chilly nights (but no frost) create the brightest colors.

In the final coup de grace, a specialized layer of cells called an "abscission zone" forms across the stem-like base of the leaf, or petiole releasing the leaf from its tight hold on the tree. A slight wind or gravity is all it takes for the leaf to fall.

Arbor Day in the Park 2004 honours Israel Asper



Coalition to Save the Elms, educational display.

An American elm was planted in honour of Israel Asper this year to celebrate his belief in Winnipeg and his commitment to the environment. In attendance at the planting in the Mayor's Grove were Mrs. Babs Asper and many of Izzy's family.

Dave Domke, Arbor Day committee chairman, presided over the ceremony. Students from Luxton School sang the National Anthem. Dorothy Dobbie, President of Coalition to Save the Elms, spoke about the importance of the urban forest to Winnipeg and said how fitting it was that the tree being planted that day was dedicated to Mr. Asper. Mayor Glen Murray, MLA Bonnie Korzenowski and Babs Asper all made wonderful speeches about the Coalition and the dedication. The Asper Family was presented with a plaque commemorating the event.

At 1:00 the music started welcoming over 425 people. There were educational displays by Red River College Landscape Program, Resource Conservation, Insect Control, CPAWS, Mother Rock Creations, Manitoba Conservation, City Naturalist Dept, City Forestry, Friends of Assiniboine Forest, Fire & Paramedic Technical Rescue, ISA, Coalition to Save the Elms, Manitoba Gardener, Manitoba Horticulture Association, Mb Wildlife Association, Orchid Association and the Manitoba Consumer Association.

Other events included Bucket rides, inflatable bouncers, climbing demonstrations, aerial rescue demonstrations, face painting, live entertainment, free seedlings, prize draws and a children's scavenger hunt. It was a great day, enjoyed by all.



Dorothy Dobbie, Mayor Glen Murray, Bonnie Korzenowski and Babs Asper



Luxton School students sang Oh Canada.

The Coalition to Save the Elms would like to thank the events sponsors:

City of Winnipeg, Forestry Branch	Manitoba Gardener	Blake Penner
Manitoba Hydro, Forest Enhancement Program	Canad Inns, Winnipeg	Nicole Madson
Manitoba Conservation, Forestry Branch	Lillian Thompson, City Councillor, (Elmwood-East Kildonan)	Pat Pozernuk
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services, Station 11	Jenny Gerbasi, Councillor, (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry)	Carla Cameron
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Green Drop Tree Service	Glen Murray, Mayor	Janna Dawson
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Squiggles Inflatable Bouncer & Slide Rentals	Green Drop Tree Service	Fern, Heather and Stuart from Century 21
Heartwood Arboricultural Tree Life Professional	BBQ SPONSORS:	William Dowie
Tree & Shrub Care	Stuart Pynoo, Century 21	Trish Samoila
Luxton School	Manitoba Pork Council	Brenda Massey
Sister Dorothy, Music	Gunn's Bakery	Denise Bisson
Ard-Ri, Music	A super special thanks goes out to the volunteers:	Green Drop Tree Services Staff
Prize Sponsors:	Matt Vinette and family	Parkland Tree Care Staff
Jensen Nursery & Landscaping Ltd.	Dave Domke, Committee chairman	Shurwood Forest Tree Service Staff
Kackenhoff Nurseries Ltd.	Dorothy Dobbie	Heartwood Arboriculture Staff
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Canon Envirothon 2006 in Brandon

The Manitoba
Forestry Association
will host event



The Manitoba provincial competition
this year will be held at Brandon
University from May 13th to 15th.

For the past seven years the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA), in co-operation with more than a dozen partners, has sponsored Manitoba Envirothon, an environmental program for high school students. Now Manitoba has been offered the extraordinary opportunity to host the 2006 international competition (Canon Envirothon) with 50 teams from all over North America competing. This will only be the second time Canon Envirothon will be hosted in Canada. It was held in Nova Scotia three years ago.

Manitoba's approach to this unparalleled international program provides a challenging and rewarding opportunity for teachers and students from schools throughout the province. High school team members experience the world in which we live through hands-on environmental issues. From four teams competing in the Manitoba program the first year, we now have over 20 teams participating each year. Manitoba representatives have performed very well in the Canon Envirothon, ranking in the top five several times.

There are five theme areas studied each year, namely forestry, soil, aquatics, wildlife, and a current environmental topic. This year's current topic is Resource Management in an Urban Environment so urban forestry and planting of trees for carbon sequestration are a couple of the forestry thrusts the students will explore.

The Canon Envirothon will be held at the University of Manitoba from July 23rd to 29th, 2006, with field training and testing taking place at several venues near Winnipeg. MFA and its partners will require approximately 250 volunteers to prepare for and deliver this unique event. (The Manitoba provincial competition this year will be held at Brandon University from May 13th to 15th. Food and accommodation are provided for volunteers.)

We have many diverse volunteer opportunities, which include helping with registration, acting as trail captains or trail guides, supervising the oral preparation, and judging the oral presentations.

Should you be interested in further information about the Manitoba or Canon Envirothons, or would like to volunteer to help at either event, please contact Dianne Beaven at (204) 453-3182 or djbeaven@mts.net. There is additional information available on the MFA website at www.mbforestryassoc.ca (Follow the links to Envirothon).

Protect Plant Pollinators



Pollinators such as bees help food production by transferring pollen and assisting in fertilization.

Did you know that an estimated one out of every three bites of food we eat comes from a pollinator? Without pollinators we would be unable to enjoy apples, peaches, strawberries, blueberries, grapes, watermelon, cherries, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots and cocoa, just to name a few. Pollinators are organisms that aid in the transfer of pollen to allow for the fertilization of plants essential to fruit and seed production.

Many people focus on bees when thinking of pollination. Bees are the principal pollinators, but there are also several other important pollinators. These include hummingbirds, bats and insects such as butterflies, wasps, moths, flies and some beetles.

Presently, there are many threats facing pollinators. Habitat loss is the main issue in the decline of wild pollinators. Expanding urbanization has replaced native vegetation with pavement, large expanses of lawn, and exotic garden plants. This has led to the destruction of nesting and mating sites on which pollinators depend.

Another serious threat to pollinators is pesticides. The majority of pesticides are more effective at killing beneficial insects, such as pollinators, than pests. By decreasing the population of beneficial insects, the natural control of pests becomes impossible. This leads to using stronger pesticides to fight an ever-increasing pest problem. In addition, pollinators such as bats and hummingbirds are predators of pest insects. Therefore, pesticides reduce the amount of food available to these pollinators. Herbicides destroy the natural forage needed for pollinator survival. For example, butterflies are reliant on many "weed" species for the survival of their larvae and caterpillars.

Homeowners can play a vital role in protecting pollinators. Give pollinators a source of food by

planting native flowers that are abundant in nectar and pollen. Native plants are also better adapted to local conditions. Therefore, they have a natural resistance to pests. To ensure that pollinators have food from spring to fall, plant vegetation with a variety of bloom times. Shrubs and trees, such as dogwood, blueberry, cherry, plum, willow, red maple, and poplar will supply pollen, nectar, or both, early in the season when food is limited.

In order to provide shelter to pollinators, allow areas of wildflowers, grasses, weeds and brush to remain undisturbed. Leave a patch of sandy soil undisturbed also; as bees build their nests in the soil, often using abandoned rodent nests. Replace portions of your lawn with plants like clover to sustain beneficial insects such as bees.

To ensure a healthy pollinator population, use organic pesticides only when absolutely necessary. Apply organic pesticides sparingly after sundown when many pollinators are inactive. Keep your garden healthy with the use of compost and well-rotted manure. A healthy garden is far more resistant to pests. If a problem is detected, apply organic pesticides only on the problem spot. Do not apply pesticides widely on your garden or lawn.

Protect pollinator habitat by encouraging public officials and conservation authorities to set aside park boarders, and strips along fence rows. Hedges of native vegetation can be planted in these areas to host pollinators. And finally, education is important in understanding the delicate ecosystem of plants and animals that live in backyards. This knowledge will enable homeowners to see beyond the pest/weed mentality and appreciate the complex role of each plant and animal species.

Remember: One man's weed is another's treasure!



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Still time to register for the 6th Urban Forest Conference in Kelowna!

The Conference features an all star line up of speakers in Canada's playground

An exciting agenda of tours, workshops and speakers has been finalized for the 6th Canadian Urban Forest Conference (CUFC) in Kelowna, B.C. October 20-21, 2004. The theme of the conference Fire, Storms and Pests – Crises in the Urban Forest is proving to be very timely for those concerned with the preservation of trees in our cities and towns. Information and registration including a number of pre and post conference sessions is available through the conference website at: www.tcf-fca.ca/cufc6.

The conference will feature 25 speakers including:

Gerry Zimmerman, Kelowna Fire Chief - a truly Canadian hero from the 2003 fires which saw the evacuation of 30,000 people and the destruction of 238 homes.

Lee Humble, Canadian Forest Service Scientist on Innovations in Fighting Urban Insect Pests.

Kathy Wolf of the University of Washington on the important role urban forests play in the economy of our cities and towns.

Jim Mottishaw, B.C. Ministry of Forests on Fire Smart Landscaping – minimizing wildfire losses around the home.

A banquet honouring those who have made contributions to urban forestry will be held on the opening night. Engaging workshops on practices and policies will be expertly facilitated on the second day. The conference winds up with a "Fire and Wine Tour" of the devastation from last year's fires and the areas' fine wineries.

An exciting team made up of individuals from the Tree Canada Foundation, City of Kelowna, Malaspina College and University of Toronto have put together the agenda for this important event which takes place at the beautiful Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort & Conference Centre - a world class facility located in downtown Kelowna.

The CUFC began in 1993 and has included Winnipeg, Halifax, Windsor, ON, Calgary, and York Region, ON as sponsoring communities. It demonstrates the innovations and issues in Canadian urban forestry – a discipline of great relevance because 80% of Canadians live in urban areas. Lately, urban forests are receiving greater recognition amongst Canadians. For the first time, they are part of the National Forest Strategy. The Canadian Urban Forest Network, a group representing municipalities, academics and NGO's interested in the urban forest has been formed. A number of municipalities as well as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have passed resolutions calling for greater involvement by the provincial and federal governments in urban forest issues.

The Canadian Forest Service, a sector within Natural Resources Canada, is a major sponsor of the Tree Canada Foundation. The Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organization established to encourage Canadians to plant and care for trees in urban and rural environments.

Register now and Join us in Kelowna October 20th-21st!

For further information please contact: Jeff Monty, Tree Canada Foundation (613) 567-5545 or Ian Wilson, City of Kelowna (250) 862-5580 Ext. 572

Natural Capital

Trees are an economic investment. The mature trees in your yard could be worth up to \$3,500 each!

If I could encourage every property owner in Winnipeg to do one thing, it would be invest in trees. I am often encouraging residents to 'plant' trees on their property. There are many very good reasons to plant trees. For most readers of this Newsletter, you are already aware of the many benefits trees provide so the following examples are obvious. Trees increase habitat for birds and mammals. Large trees provide shade from the sun's energy and makes backyards more comfortable. Large trees provide noise baffles for back yards and provide greater privacy. Their roots can strengthen shorelines along our City's rivers, creeks or retention pond and decrease erosion improving water quality. As if not enough, apparently trees also make oxygen from carbon dioxide.

Trees as an investment

Instead of planting trees I would like to encourage property owners to 'invest' in trees. You see, not only is planting a tree the simplest thing to do, it can also increase your property's value.

Many property owners consider their property an investment. So why not by a small tree and plant (invest) it in your property. After several years the tree 'matures' (like an RRSP) and it adds more value to your property (asset). Your \$20 or \$50 tree investment can bring many times that years later when you sell your home. Simple.

The Wealthy Barber has sold millions of copies telling readers a simple message 'invest early.' Just like compounding interest 'works for you', so to will Mother Nature by growing your tree for you, so plant early.

Many investors are advised to 'invest in what you are familiar with'. This is also good advice when investing in trees. You know native tree species grow well in your area so reduce your investment risk and invest in known local species. Native plant species make the most sense – they are more likely to thrive in your yard.

Even if you plan on staying in your home for years or leaving it in your family for generations to come, that is even more reason to plant now! If you already have large trees in your property, are they too big and their days numbered? Is there a younger generation in the ground ready to replace them?

Trees versus no trees

The term 'curb appeal' is a common phrase used to describe a home's outside appearance. If the curb appeal is positive it will appeal to and attract more buyers. If you were a wise homeowner and planted trees when you moved in, your home will likely be preferred when compared to homes with smaller trees or no trees. Simply put, buyers prefer trees. Why do you think new homebuilders immediately landscape (plant trees and shrubs) around their show homes? Because they know it will appeal to and attract more buyers. More buyers attracted to your property will generate higher property sale prices. If you decide to sell in a competitive buyer's market with lots of inventory to choose from, you may regret not planting trees when you moved in. Consult with realtors and appraisers; trees often help garner higher re-sale prices.

Imagine if all your neighbours planted trees in their yards. When the trees are mature they will make the whole neighbourhood a more desirable area. Consider how popular older neighbourhoods are where mature trees are more common. I wonder, would areas like River Heights, Wolseley or Wildwood be the same if the trees had not been planted so long ago?

Older neighbourhoods in Winnipeg have mature trees on private property and along city owned boulevards. The City of Winnipeg recognizes the value of their trees. Many mature trees are valued by the city at about \$3,000 – \$3,500 per tree. A single city block can easily have several hundred thousand dollars worth of 'natural capital.'

The only unavoidable investment condition that never changes is that it takes 50 years to grow a 50-year-old tree. This non-negotiable. A 50-year-old Oak tree will enhance property value because it is attached to the property. How could you replace a 60-foot tall tree with a 3-foot trunk and a root system that covers half the yard? You can't, that's why it is irreplaceable. It remains with the property and provides benefits to the next homeowner.

Remember one last tip about investments. Always keep your portfolio diversified by keeping some investments in low-risk, local ventures and go plant a tree in your yard.

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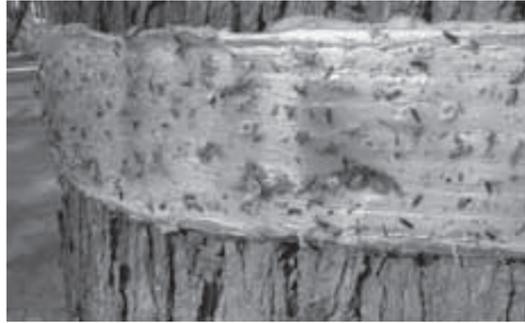
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Trees less than 12" trunk diameter: \$10 per tree
Trees between 12" and 24" trunk diameter: \$12 per tree
Trees greater than 24" trunk diameter: \$15 per tree
Block Captains: Flat Rate of \$10 per tree (minimum 30 trees)

Bulk Supplies (Do-it-yourself):

15 lb pail of tanglefoot (40-50 trees) \$125
25 lb pail of tanglefoot (70-80 trees) \$200
25 ft roll of pipe insulation (covers approximately 3-5 trees) \$10 per roll

Coalition to Save the Elms tree banding tape: 1 roll is provided with the 15 lb pail and 2 rolls are provided with the 25 lb pail at no extra charge.

Remember, the Coalition to Save the Elms is a citizen-based, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our urban forest. All funds from our tree banding service goes back into the community.

To order call our tree banding hot line at 775-6642

Coalition to Save the Elms Tree Banding Sign-Up Sheet

As an added service to our valued customers we've made ordering your tree bands even easier. Simply fill in the information requested below and mail in your cheque or phone in your VISA order to our Tree Banding Hotline, PH. 775-6642 and leave the rest to us. Our service includes placement of the bands in the fall and their removal in the spring

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Total number of trees to be banded: _____

Trees < 12" diameter: \$10 each
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Trees > 24" diameter: \$15 each
Block Captains: Flat rate \$10 each (Minimum 30 trees)

Tip: Band together with your neighbours, it costs less and it's more effective. We also sell bulk supplies.

Front Yard # _____ Back Yard # _____

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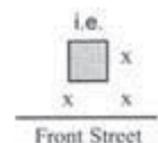
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Sign up sheets and payments must be received by September 15, 2004. If using VISA, name and expiration date must appear on the sign-up sheet exactly as it does on the card. Please provide any information about accessing your property/trees, if applicable. (i.e. dogs, locked gates, vines growing around tree trunks, call first, etc.)

To help make our service more efficient, please mark the general location of tree on your property to be banded in relation to your home in the space provided below:



Hire a certified arborist

by Dave Lutes, Owner of Treewise Inc., Provincial Director, ISA



I am the owner of a local firm responsible for general tree care, safety and/or proficiency training such as in the use of a chain saw; aerial rescue; arborist climbing skills; and various tree-limb removal rigging techniques, and utility line work (power lines).

In the province of Manitoba, as documented in the Forest Practices and Planning, Arborists' Licencing Regulations provided by the Manitoba Conservation Forestry Branch, to earn the right to possess a Manitoba Arborist Licence every person who works in the tree-care profession must be in possession of at least one of the following designations: Manitoba Arborist certificate, or International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certificate. The latter designation falls into one of three categories:

1. Tree care climber specialist
2. Certified arborist
3. Master arborist

Both of the above designations require a large investment of time and money on a student's part, as well as on their employer's part, and these designations are in place to ensure that tree care is addressed to a standard that will be recognized and adhered to by the national and international tree care community as well as by the general public.

Without this standard, owners of homes and commercial business, as well as those responsible for public property, cannot be confident and assured trees will be pruned or removed by people who adequately understand the dynamics of a particular tree, its expected life, how it presents symptoms of risk and disease, and so on. Similarly, insurance agents have no trusted, objective source of opinion to assess an unfavourable outcome of a tree-job gone awry. Both groups rely on individuals who are accredited to safety and ably perform work that is deemed high-risk and that could result in extremely costly damage to property and person if performed incompetently.

For the most part, tree care companies on Manitoba operate at a level worthy of accreditation in their industry. However, it is well-known there is a lack of

trained, qualified people, a problem that is typical across many technical trades. In the arboriculture industry, the situation is further exacerbated by the need to locate arborists who are accredited to work in power lines – people known as utility arborists. The pay range for those in the arborist profession ranges from \$17 per hour for a first-year apprentice to \$25 to \$45 per hour for a well-experienced journeyman; one can see from these wages that arborists' wages are representative of the high-risk work they perform and the informed perspective they bring to their job.

Manitoba arboriculture companies, as well as those across the continent, are currently experiencing difficulties securing staff due to the huge amount of work to be done nationwide. Available training institutions turn out graduates as best they can, and these people assume entry-level positions in the arborist community. Over the course of time, by working with those more experienced, they acquire the skills required to competently perform their jobs. Aspects of a tree such as the type of tree, its growth history, its susceptibility to certain diseases and insects, the ability to assess risks it faces due to its proximity to structures – all these factors are critical to ascertaining the proper way to prune and-or remove a particular tree. The arborist's job is further endangered by a tree's proximity to live electricity. Simply put, if one does not adequately understand a tree, one should not be working within it.

Manitoba Conservation, along with Manitoba Hydro, has decided, for the second year in a row, to circumvent its own policy and that of international tree-care community, by negating the need for either the Manitoba Arborist certificate or the ISA certificate. They now issue temporary certifications to people who, for various reasons, have been unable to achieve the minimum standard in either designation and who have therefore not been granted a Manitoba Arborists' License.

Imagine, if you will, the same decision made by those at the head of the electrical, plumbing, or carpentry professions: people are allowed to perform such work without any assurance they have been acquainted with the

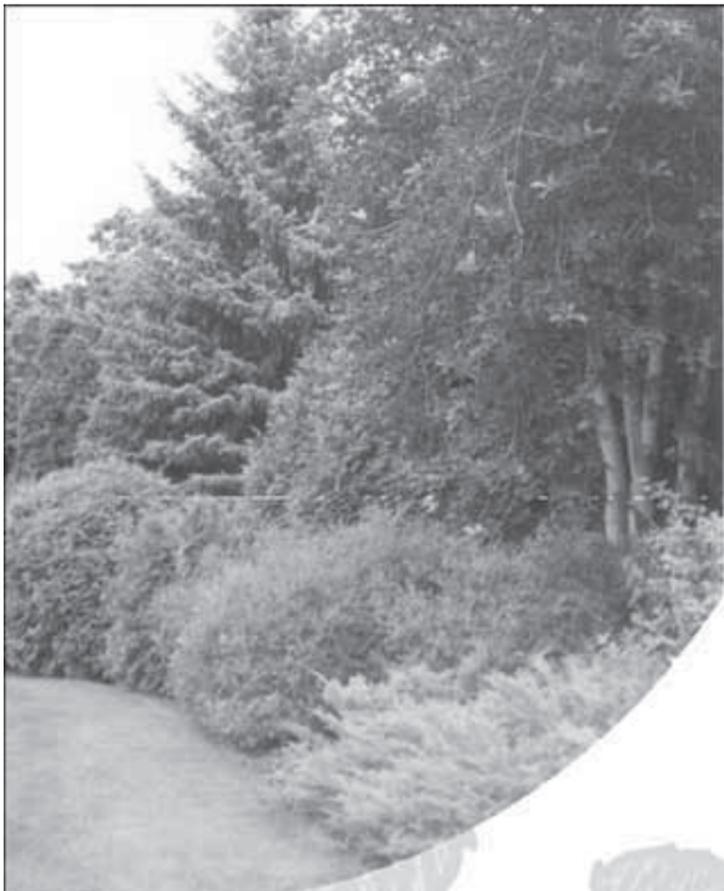
appropriate industry-specific information or safety precautions and are allowed to go straight to the 'head of the class'. One must wonder how such an unstructured, undisciplined approach would fare with the safety, quality, and insurance industries and how it would impact insurance, damage, and liability claims and rates.

Death and injury occur on a regular basis in the arborist profession; near-misses occur daily. Understanding tree identification, tree structure, how a tree behaves at different times of the year and in its various growth stages, how it reacts to various types of pruning and stressors – all of these factors are essential to arborists' and the public's safety and the protection of trees as a renewable resource. Insurance rates, workers' compensation rates, and disability rates are already very high and are worsening due to a lack of trained arborists in Manitoba. Although Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Hydro would not risk their own employees' safety by bypassing important training requirements simply because the minimum standard is difficult to attain, both groups are willing to allow others to risk theirs.

More than half of the people who currently work in arborist field have been unable to pass or obtain the minimum standard required – either the Manitoba Arborist certificate or the ISA certificate – in order to obtain a Manitoba Arborist's license, yet these individuals are now being issued so-called 'temporary' arborist licenses by Manitoba Conservation – the very group that refused their eligibility for their Manitoba Arborist's license.

This current high-risk policy of providing temporary licenses to unaccredited individuals compromises the professional accreditation legitimately earned by those willing and able to invest their time and energy to earn and maintain their standing in the arborist profession.

This is clearly not progressive thinking, and will ultimately downgrade the entire profession as well as result in higher damage and injury claims to workers, property, and the public.



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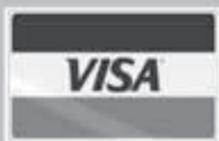
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