

It's An Investment In Our Future Health & Well Being

No matter where you live in Ontario, trees are an extremely important part of life for every one of us.

One of the things that the modern world is lacking is any sort of guarantee that life can simply go on unaided. Environmental degradation, unchecked urban expansion, climate and weather pattern changes, industrial pollution and dozens of other factors are a constant threat to the delicate forest ecosystem that exists in Ontario.

And that, in turn, becomes a serious threat to our continued good health.

Awareness is one thing that can help. But active support is even more critically needed, most importantly in the form of financial contributions, to support our work and the tree planting efforts of our many partner organizations.

You can start by visiting our web site at www.treesontario.on.ca/ for information on the need for trees and how to support our efforts. Your help is seriously needed and it is something that will benefit us all in the years to come.

For more information about the Trees Ontario Foundation, please contact us today:



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We Can Never Have Too Many Trees



*Let's Keep Our
Trees & Forests
Growing Strong*



“We have nothing to fear and a great deal to learn from trees, that vigorous and pacific tribe which without stint produces strengthening essences for us, soothing balms, and in whose gracious company we spend so many cool, silent and intimate hours.”

MARCEL PROUST (1871–1922)

Our trees & forests
are much more
important than
they appear.



Ontario is one of the most naturally beautiful places on earth. A great deal of that natural beauty comes from our trees and forests with which we are blessed. We know trees and forests are not just environmental decoration. They are, in fact, a critical component in the ecosystem of our province and alarmingly, they are in serious trouble.

At first glance, it's hard to see the problem. After all, two-thirds of the province is covered by trees. Forests in the northern part of the province, like the boreal forest, are thriving due to successful reforestation programs on Crown Lands. Unfortunately this is not the case in southern Ontario where our forested areas are on privately owned rural land or found in the parks and backyards of our rapidly growing towns and cities. The prosperity we experience in Ontario may be good for the economy, but for our trees and forests, the opposite is true.

The trees and forests challenge.

There are a number of factors that are putting our trees and forests in serious jeopardy - the astronomical rate at which our cities are growing, the steady increase in global warming and a dramatic reduction in tree planting in Ontario over the past decade.

The established forest cover in Southern Ontario is declining at an escalating rate. Between 1991 and 2005 more than 10,000 hectares of pristine forest have been converted to other land uses.

Over the next few decades, the Golden Horseshoe area of southern Ontario is expected to attract an additional 4 million people. If current trends continue, rural land twice the size of the city of Toronto will be urbanized by 2031.

Protecting areas from development, such as the Greenbelt, is an important step. However we need to reforest much of this region. These new forests are critical as the “lungs” for a wide geographic area that includes 90 per cent of Ontario’s population.

Over the past decade there has been a major reduction in tree planting in Southern Ontario – from 20 million to 2 million trees annually. Many rural landowners find tree planting too expensive or lack the necessary knowledge.

And we’re not just losing our rural forests. Tree canopies, our urban forests, are disappearing in many Ontario towns and cities. Aging trees in older neighbourhoods are not being replaced and insufficient trees are planted in new developments. There has been a 30 per cent decline of forests in urban areas over the last three decades.

These factors, plus a myriad of others, exert tremendously negative influences on our ecosystem, our air and water quality and ultimately our physical health. As time goes by, the environmental impact of these changes will affect each and every person in Ontario. Without an aggressive and diligent tree planting program in place, Ontario will become a very unhealthy place to live.



“The trees may wish for quiet, but the wind will not subside.”

CHINESE PROVERB



*“Below me trees unnumbered rise, beautiful in various dyes:
The gloomy pine, the poplar blue, the yellow beech, the sable yew,
The slender fir that taper grows, the sturdy oak with broad-spread boughs.”*

JOHN DYER (1699–1758)

There are some very important facts you need to know about the specific role our forests play in Ontario.

OUR TREES & FORESTS ARE AIR CLEANERS

Trees filter pollutants from the air we breathe. One hectare of forest annually consumes about the same amount of carbon dioxide that an average car will produce driving 100,000 kilometers. That same hectare of forest produces enough oxygen for 45 people to breathe for a year.

OUR TREES & FORESTS ARE GREENHOUSES

In addition to trees, our forests support more than 1,000 different types of plant life that add immeasurably to the natural beauty of our province. These same plants, which support wildlife and local habitat, need the forest ecosystem to ensure they don't become extinct.

OUR TREES & FORESTS ARE RESERVOIRS

Forests help produce nearly 75% of the water in our streams and lakes, by acting as 'sponges' for rain and snowfall and assisting in the slow release of water into streams and groundwater.

OUR TREES & FORESTS ARE WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

The various Ontario forest ecosystems support hundreds of animal species, including 89 species currently at risk.

OUR TREES & FORESTS ARE A MAINSTAY OF THE RURAL ECONOMY

Our forests are sources of hard and softwood lumber, maple syrup and our most important rural commodity, tourism.

In addition trees have many other benefits on our health and well-being. They contribute to green space which can lead to more exercise and less stress, plus increase the amount of shade available for protection from the sun's harmful rays. Trees can also contribute to better mental health.

There is an urgent need for more trees and forests in Ontario, for today's generation and tomorrow's. A province-wide coordinated effort is needed to significantly increase the number of trees in Ontario. The Trees Ontario Foundation is spearheading this work and is committed to finding workable solutions.

Because without trees, life cannot be sustained. It's that simple.

When it comes to appreciating just how important our forests are, a little knowledge can go a long way



The Trees Ontario
Foundation.
Our Mission Is Quite Simple.
And Its Importance Is
Constantly Growing.



Trees Ontario Foundation's goal is to revitalize Ontario's tree planting efforts on rural and urban land and to encourage and coordinate the growth of trees in our province. To do this effectively, we enlist the help of various partners - government, the scientific community, conservation authorities and local environmental organizations.

We're helping cities plan and re-build their aging parks and streetscapes. We're working with groups to encourage homeowners to plant trees. We are also encouraging rural landowners to increase the number of trees they are planting and to make more land available for tree planting

Trees Ontario Foundation, a registered charitable organization, works to:

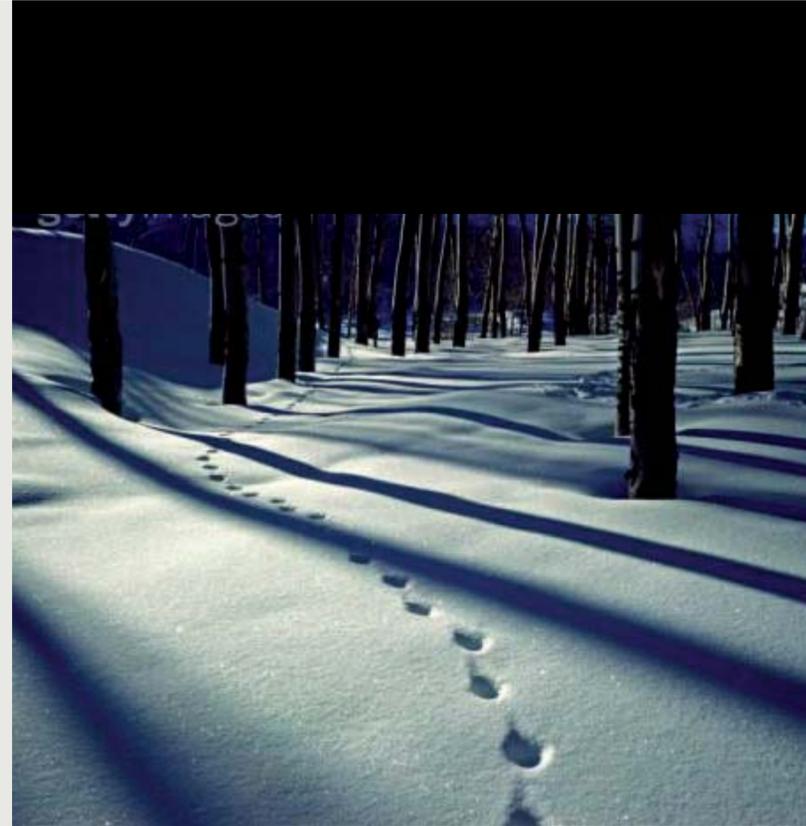
- Provide technical training to organizations involved in tree planting.*
- Identify ecologically appropriate areas for effective tree planting initiatives.*

- Promote the use of native trees and the overall importance of trees and forests in Ontario, in conjunction with our fund raising efforts*

- Serve as an information resource, where landowners can obtain tree planting assistance and advice.*

- Coordinate the collection and storage of seeds, which ensures there are enough seedlings to meet the longer term demand for both urban and rural plantings.*

- Educate governments, private sector companies and individuals through ongoing information programs and workshops.*



"As I went forth early on a still and frosty morning, the trees looked like airy creatures of darkness caught napping; on this side huddled together, with their gray hairs streaming, in a secluded valley which the sun had not penetrated; on that, hurrying off in Indian file along some watercourse."

HENRY DAVID THOREAU (1817-1862)



*“It takes ten years to grow good trees,
but a hundred years to grow good people.”*

CHINESE PROVERB

We're Making
Real Progress,
But That Doesn't
Mean We're
There Yet.

With the steady decline in rural and urban tree planting over the past decade, we really have nowhere to go but up.

The good news is that we are moving strongly and steadily in that direction.

For example, through the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, landowners can reduce their property tax if they prepare and follow a Managed Forest Plan for their property.

Last year more than 1,200 people attended province-wide workshops organized by the Trees Ontario Foundation and the Ontario Forestry Association.

Through our fundraising efforts, we provide working dollars for our tree planting agency partners. This in turn reduces tree planting costs to landowners and helps increase the number of trees that are planted each year.

Since 2004, we have assisted our partner organizations in increasing tree planting efforts throughout the southern Ontario region by more than 2.2 million trees

This is a great start. But when you consider that the number of trees planted annually had fallen from approximately 20 million plantings per year, it's easy to see that we still have a long way to go.

Getting there will require a great deal of help.

