

Environment Report
APRIL 2017

March & April 2017 has been a busy month for Environment. A number of new initiatives have moved forward.

The BVA was awarded one of five city-wide 150 Tree Challenge grants to host a Tree For Me event in conjunction with the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation. The Tree For Me program was launched as the first program to fall under the Every Tree Counts Campaign in support of the City of Toronto's goal of a 40% tree canopy cover by 2050. Tree for Me offers residents anywhere in Toronto a free native tree that is grown from local seed stock, contributing to the tree canopy in Toronto. Tree for Me and the Bayview Village Association will work together to ensure residents receive a tree that is best suited for their desired planting space, provide a workshop on proper tree planting and tree care, and provide handy reference materials to care for your tree.

For spring 2017, we have two shrub species and four tree species available:

Trees:

Acer Saccharum (Sugar Maple)
Acer Rubrum (Red Maple)
Pinus Strobus (Eastern White Pine)
Quercus Rubra (Red Oak)

Shrubs:

Amelanchier Arborea (Smooth Serviceberry)
Thuja Occidentalis (Northern White Cedar)

This event will be held at Forest Grove United Church on May 27th from 10am - 2pm. Jean Probyn assisted Sharon Johnson secure this location by introducing Sharon to Gladys Ledesma, Office Manager at the church. Confirmation has been approved. This event will allow residents, schools and businesses within BV to get up to 2 free trees for their personal property. Businesses may apply separately for up to 10 free trees. The trees will be shipped from Allen Gardens to the church where residents can pick up their free trees. Sharon Johnson has been in contact with Margo Mullins, Co-coordinator of the Tree For Me program at TPTF. Residents who want a free tree will need to register on-line. Registration will open soon. There are 6 varieties of trees available this year. Volunteers will be on-site to demonstrate and educate proper tree planting and care. The church has agreed to accept some free trees and the tree planting demonstration will be a tree(s) planted on church property. All planting materials will be supplied for residents, however, it is the residents responsibility to plant and care for their own trees. Assistance for tree planting is available through the Tree-Mobile for those with mobility issues. This is separate from the Tree For Me event.

Jean Probyn suggested we have the perennial swap the same day as Tree for Me. Sharon thought this was a good idea and agreed. Thus, the perennial swap will take place May 27th 10am - 2pm at Forest Grove Church. Additional volunteers will be

needed to oversee this event. Environment will be busy with the Tree for Me event. Environment is asking Jan and Jean for assistance to secure volunteers for the Perennial Swap.

Environment has welcomed new Committee members for 2017. Ethan Johnson-Skinner, Hayley Johnson-Skinner and Sabrina Lau. Environment is excited to welcome these new members as they bring their youth, new ideas and thinking to the committee. It was Environment's goal to welcome young members. We believe the youth of today will create new initiatives to assist the growing problems with the environment such as global warming. Ethan & Hayley have been active over the years supporting Green Practices lawn care. Ethan suggested a tree planting initiative over the years. Tree For Me allowed the BVA the opportunity to bring this initiative to fruition.

Monty McDonald, Jean Probyn and Sharon Johnson met with Sabrina Lau to give her an overview of Environment Goals, Objectives, and Programs. The purpose of the meeting was also to consider if Sabrina would be a good match. All agreed Sabrina is a good match for Environment. She has been active at UOT, where she studies Environment and History, promoting and implementing environmental programs and education.

The Community Clean-Up will take place April 22nd. Sharon Johnson registered the BVA with the City for this event and designated waste pick-up at 3 locations: Forest Grove Drive by the ravine, Clarinda Park and Finch Ave just east of Page Avenue by the ravine. Monty will be heading up this event.

Monty McDonald and his non-profit organization Vimy Tree Legacy, and Forest Grove Church are holding a memorial Vimy Tree planting on the church property. This event will take place May 7th. This initiative celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge in France. Monty has been working on this 100th Anniversary Celebration for over 3 years. He will be travelling to France in April for this event. Monty McDonald in France for Vimy Ridge 100th Anniversary.

Kristina Kirkaldy, from The Post City Magazines contacted the Environment Committee. They have a section in their magazine called 'local hero' and since Earth Day is coming up, we would like to feature anyone in the North York/ Bayview community that has an interest in gardening/ tree planting and has helped the community in terms of helping the environment. Monty forwarded to Sharon, as he is busy with Vimy. Sharon contacted Kristina and suggested the Tree For Me event, the Vimy Tree event, and the Community Clean-Up event. Kristina checked with her manager and they decided the Tree For Me and the Community Clean-Up were the interests. Sharon Johnson will be interviewed March 21 for this article. Monty will also be interviewed if his time allows. This article will appear in the April Edition.

Judi Codd published an article in the newsletter on the Tree for Me event, send out blast email, and posted on Twitter account. It is important this event gets good publicity, as it is our goal to secure homes for all 150 trees within BV. Sharon has received one inquiry

from a resident who wants a free tree. If all trees are not spoken for we plan on offering these trees to nearby residents and/or community groups such as the East Don Parkland Partners headed by Phil Goodwin.

The website to order free trees for Tree for Me has been active since April 3rd. Sharon Johnson put in application to Tree for Me for 2 trees to be planted on her residential property.

It was decided February 2017 meeting that the Earth Hour Walk & Event will be conducted in later in the spring, summer or fall due to weather. Cathy McWaters has been consulted and she is looking into a date when the night sky will be good to hold this event. If Cathy is not available Judi Codd provided a link to an astronomy group who will most likely come out and provide assistance.

Environment attended the Strategic Retreat April 7 & 8th. Environment was well represented at the retreat. Programs and events were presented, as well as strengths and weaknesses.

The End.

Prepared by Sharon Johnson
April 9, 2017.