

The Elora Environment Centre  
NeighbourWoods is a branch of the EEC

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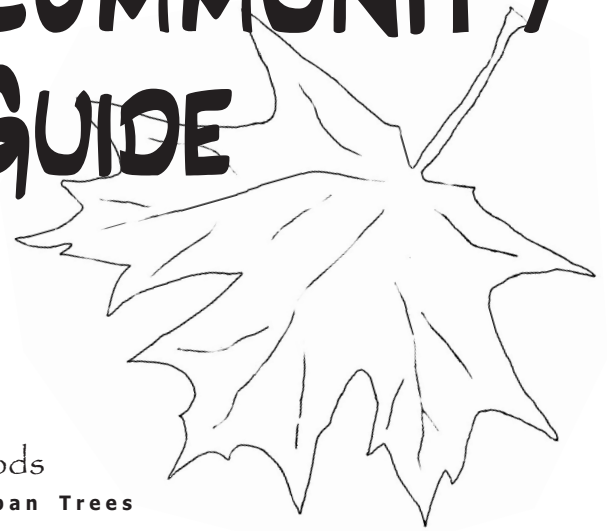
EEC is a registered charity.

A tax deductible donation of \$60  
allows us to plant one more tree  
at our seasonal tree plants.



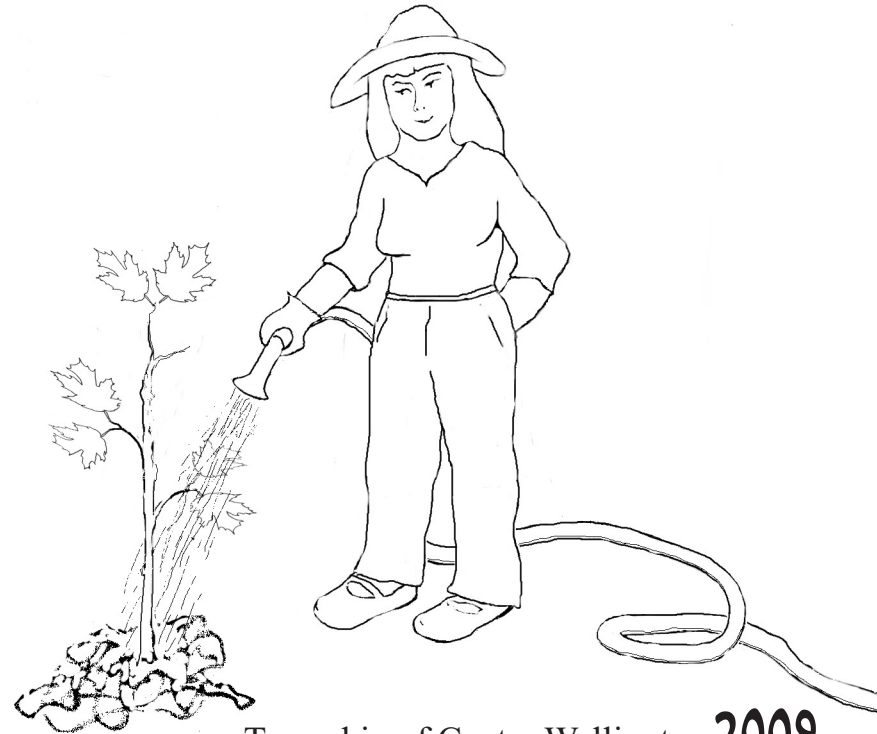
Lynda Golletz Editor  
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# OUR COMMUNITY TREE GUIDE



Compiled and presented by...

  
NeighbourWoods  
Promoting Healthy Urban Trees



\$1.00

Township of Centre Wellington 2009

# Centre Wellington Tree Guide

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## NeighbourWoods

Web: [www.EloraEnvironmentCentre.ca](http://www.EloraEnvironmentCentre.ca)

Contact: Toni Ellis, Coordinator Phone: 519-846-0841

Email: [Neighbourwoods@eloraenvironmentcentre.ca](mailto:Neighbourwoods@eloraenvironmentcentre.ca)

*NeighbourWoods*, a branch of the Elora Environment Centre, began in 2005 with a Heritage Tree Program. The goal of NeighbourWoods is to help rebuild our community's tree canopy by tree planting, stewardship, public education and advocacy about the need for and value of trees in our community. Our website is chockfull of useful tree information and provides updates on our activities. About 25 volunteers have signed up as NeighbourWoods Tree Stewards. They receive professional training and today tend trees and help other community volunteers in our spring and fall tree plants. Our Education Committee provides resources to schools and leads various events like ArTboretum, Schoolyard Shade Conference and Earth Day Events. We publish a regular column in the Fergus Elora News Express and a monthly e-newsletter. In the spring of 2009, NeighbourWoods volunteers are starting an inventory of urban trees in Fergus and Elora neighbourhoods. If you love trees and want to learn more, please let us know and we can tell you about interesting volunteer opportunities. It is a great way to meet fellow tree lovers, learn and contribute in a meaningful way to our community. Subscribe to our email newsletter mailing list: lots of news, for free.

### Celebration Trees

NeighbourWoods has partnered with Centre Wellington's Parks Department in a new green initiative: **Celebration Trees**. This program will not only provide a way to give a lasting gift for someone special or to recognize a memorable occasion. These trees will provide shade and beauty to our community's passive parks. Station Square in Elora and Veteran's Park in Salem will be the first parks to welcome **Celebration Trees**. Your tax deductible donation of \$100 will fund the purchase of a 6 to 8 foot native tree. An engraved plaque will be placed by each tree. Donate by September 1st for the annual **Celebration Trees** October planting. Donors and gift recipients will be invited to take part. For more information, contact *NeighbourWoods* at 846-0841.

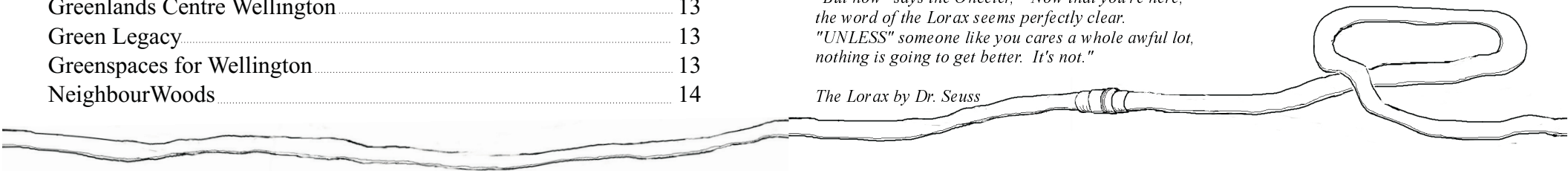
With thanks to...

**Guelph Environmental Leadership** for funding this year's edition. GEL provides a cross sector collaboration to stimulate partnering among local environmental groups, heighten support for environmental improvement & engage widespread participation in sustainable behaviours.



*"But now" says the Onceler, "Now that you're here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. "UNLESS" someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."*

*The Lorax by Dr. Seuss*



## Greenlands Centre Wellington

Web: [www.greenlandscw.org](http://www.greenlandscw.org)

Contact Chris Hart Email: [gcw@sentex.ca](mailto:gcw@sentex.ca)

Phone: 519-787-2805

Greenlands Centre Wellington is a citizens' organization. While they don't plant trees, they are working hard to promote and establish a system of Greenlands natural areas, working lands, and recreational spaces across the municipality that enhances the wellbeing and quality of life for residents of Centre Wellington, respects the integrity of the natural environment, and contributes to a sustainable community for future generations. They believe that the principles of Smart Growth that have been adopted by our municipality, should underpin this wider vision, and ultimately the way we design and plan for our community.

## Green Legacy

Web: [www.wellington.ca](http://www.wellington.ca)

Contact: Rob Johnson, Manager Email: [robj@wellington.ca](mailto:robj@wellington.ca)

Phone 519-837-2600 ext. 3030

The Green Legacy program is directed by the Green Legacy Committee of Wellington County council that includes representatives from MNR, GRCA, Wellington County Stewardship Council, county staff and Municipal councillors. This relatively new program has an impressive list of accomplishments!

1. Growing thousands of trees (giving out 155,000 in 2009!) in their county-owned greenhouses with help from hundreds of volunteers.
2. Starting trees in classrooms: over 2,500 grades K-3 students in 130 classrooms delighted in growing 6,000 trees from locally collected seeds. In June, these seedlings are moved to county greenhouses until they are ready for distribution in the programme. 2,500 grades 4-6 students will come to the nursery to help grow the trees that go back to the community.
3. 1,200 grades 7-8 students will plant over 12,000 trees in 2009. Many more trees are distributed to community groups and government agencies for use in community tree plants across the county. Every year more people are volunteering and getting involved in the Green Legacy Program.

## Greenspaces for Wellington

Web: [www.greenspaces.ca](http://www.greenspaces.ca)

Contact: Barrie Hopkins Email: [greenspaces@sympatico.ca](mailto:greenspaces@sympatico.ca)

Phone 519-843-4544

Greenspaces projects include installing butterfly gardens, spearheading "make and take" birdhouse workshops and planting trees. Trees are self-sown seedlings rescued from inappropriate locations, mainly gardens and construction sites. They are grown to larger size in pots in a sanctuary in Hopkins' back yard. Butterfly gardens and trees have been planted in many locations in CW.

## Why We Need More Trees in Township of Centre Wellington

Trees are a capital asset and community leaders are starting to see it that way. They are beginning to refer to trees as part of our green infrastructure - the physical framework of a community: grey being buildings, roads, utilities and parking lots and green being trees, shrubs, and grass. Green is porous, allowing water to percolate, to recharge the ground water. This is one of green's chief benefits but of course there are many others. The bigger the green, the bigger the environmental value. Trees are the only part of a community's infrastructure that increases in value over time.

### The Economic Value of Trees

Tree advocates are building an impressive level of understanding and sophistication about the economic benefit of trees. In one older neighbourhood in Peterborough Ontario for example, 829 trees were surveyed and valued at \$917,000, based chiefly on replacement cost. In New York City, the total environmental value of street trees, taking into account their role in managing storm water, filtering air pollution, extending the life of pavement through shade, cutting the use of air conditioners and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> has been pegged at \$122 million... a year! To calculate the value of your trees, (it's fun!) visit [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com)

### Tree Benefits

The list of things trees give us is long. Here are just a few benefits from trees:

- Trees absorb particulates found in air pollution.
- Trees help reduce soil erosion.
- Trees save energy by sheltering buildings from wind and hot summer sun.
- Trees reduce glare and reflections, thus extending the life of pavement.
- Mature trees bring us beauty and a sense of well-being.
- Trees provide habitat and food for insects, birds and animals.

Studies have found that patients recover faster from surgery and need lower doses of medication when they have a treed view. People who are deemed to suffer from stress, show marked improvement after a walk in the woods (and the woods can be a simple park setting).

## Tree Stresses

Urban trees face special stresses from drought, pollution, soil compaction, road salt and vandalism. Add to that the influx of various, often imported tree diseases and pests against which our trees have no natural defenses (e.g. white pine rust and gypsy moth) and it's easy to see why it has never been tougher to be an urban tree.

For our trees, it's likely to get worse: by 2022 it's projected that Centre Wellington will be home to 11,000 new residents with about 40% of the growth taking place through densification in existing areas. Clearly there will be increasing environmental pressure on our urban trees. Our majestic senior trees are facing tough times, and it seems it has never been harder to get a new tree established. Luckily, there is an increasing amount of knowledge about growing and maintaining our trees.

### Don't Forget Your Roots!

When we think about a tree's health, it's easy to overlook the roots. As feeder roots are only 18-24 inches (45-60cm) below the surface, it is easy to see why soil compaction is a serious urban tree problem. Parked cars (think of our boulevards), construction equipment and concrete sidewalks can effectively compress soil's air & water "pockets" causing serious, if not fatal, stress to trees. Urban forestry departments are devising some solutions for busy urban areas where there is little or no soil at the base of a tree. In Toronto, for example, engineers are testing an underground "cage" to house and protect tree roots.

## What Can We Do?

### 1) Nurture what we have:

Because our large, mature trees offer significantly more environmental benefits than small or young trees, we need to protect our large existing trees. If you are lucky enough to have a large tree, take care of it: water, mulch and if you see dead wood, trim it out. You may want to have a professional forester do some work on your tree.

### 2) Plant, and plant native:

Native species have adapted to local soil and climate conditions. Native trees have evolved with the local bird, mammal, butterfly and insect populations and therefore provide just the right food and habitat. Ontario has been divided into 38 tree seed zones so that we can plant trees best adapted to OUR local area. For example, a Red Oak growing in Algonquin Park, has evolved over many generations and is genetically

## Friends of the Grand

Web: [www.friendsofthegrand.com](http://www.friendsofthegrand.com)

Contact: Larry McGratton. Email: [mcgratton.mcgratton@sympatico.ca](mailto:mcgratton.mcgratton@sympatico.ca)

Phone : 519-843-3102.

Each May, volunteers plant 4'-6' native trees purchased from the GRCA nursery-about 250 trees/year along the Grand River from Belwood to West Montrose and another 250/year on Conestoga River from Conestoga Dam to Hawkesville. Riverside plantings help cool rivers and stabilize banks. We can thank Friends for the young green necklace lining Swan Creek, a delight when you drive down CR 7 to Guelph. FOGR also stock rivers and has planted willow cuttings on the banks of the Grand, from canoes and rafts.

## Grand River Arboretum

Web: [www.ferguslionsclub.org](http://www.ferguslionsclub.org)

Contact: Sherri Holmes Email: [allanholmes1@sympatico.ca](mailto:allanholmes1@sympatico.ca) Ph: 519-843-3217

or: Margaret Murray Email: [twolikeme@hotmail.com](mailto:twolikeme@hotmail.com) Ph: 519-843-3225

Over the last decade, the Fergus Lions have planted 300 trees (6-8 ft. tall) in the Arboretum to honour the achievements, lives, and memories of special people. The cost of a memorial tree is \$100 and includes planting and mulching. Plaque is extra. They will also install special benches for \$500. Families are encouraged to come and help on annual fall planting day. The arboretum is located in Fergus south of Colquhoun St. between Beatty Line S and Johnson St.

## Grand River Conservation Authority

Web: [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca)

Contact Nathan Munn Email: [nmunn@grandriver.ca](mailto:nmunn@grandriver.ca)

Phone 519-621-2763

The GRCA maintains the Burford Tree Nursery that provides more than 200,000 trees and shrubs a year that are planted across our watershed. They're grown from seed collected in four different seed zones to ensure the resulting stock is well-suited to the climate and genetic characteristics of the watershed. Burford trees are used by the GRCA for its own projects, but there are also many trees available to municipalities, eligible landowners and community groups throughout the Grand River watershed. There is an annual tree sale in which cancelled orders, trees not picked up and nursery overruns are sold at bargain prices. The sale is first come, first served and lineups start as early as 6 a.m. Trees are available in a variety of sizes, ranging from seedlings through to bare root tall stock. Check the website for details.

GRCA actively supports private tree planting. Landowners in the watershed with more than one hectare (2.5 acres) of land (exclusive of buildings) can have the GRCA arrange for tree planting. Staff from GRCA's forestry department conduct site visits to recommend tree species, spacing and numbers that will be needed. Alternatively, landowners with 1 hectare or more can plant themselves but they must purchase a minimum of 200 seedlings or 20 saplings.

### **Elora and Salem Horticultural Society**

Web:

Contact: Ian Rankine Email: [ianrankine@gto.net](mailto:ianrankine@gto.net)

Phone: 519-846-0085

This society has been carrying on a tree planting tradition that dates from the 1870's. We owe them our thanks for many of the beautiful trees that we enjoy today. Currently, they work with the Township to site planting locations, pay for and together with NeighbourWoods volunteers, plant about 60 trees a year each spring. They also work with NeighbourWoods on fall street tree plants that began in 2007.

### **Evergreen Foundation**

Web: [www.evergreen.ca](http://www.evergreen.ca)

Contact: Dennis Wendland, Evergreen School Ground Greening Consultant

Email: [dennis\\_wendland@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:dennis_wendland@wrdsb.on.ca)

Phone: 519-570-0003 ext. 4508

Evergreen works to support the returning of nature to public spaces (Common Grounds Program) and works with students, staff and parents, to help schools brainstorm, fund and plant greener schoolyards. (Learning Grounds Program) The impetus for greening school grounds is to provide students with a healthy place to play, learn and develop a genuine respect for nature. The Upper Grand District School Board and Evergreen are continuing to support this program in a few schools each year.

### **Fergus & District Horticultural Society**

Web: [www.gardenontario.org/site.php/fergushs](http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/fergushs)

Contact: Kathy Bouma email: [chair-fergus@gardenontario.org](mailto:chair-fergus@gardenontario.org)

Phone 519-843-7703

The Fergus & District Horticultural Society has recently celebrated its 151st year. Throughout the years the Society has planted trees within the Fergus area. Trees have been planted for special occasions such as the Centennial of Canada when 14 Royal Flowering Crab trees were planted. Trees have also been planted to replenish the barren streets as well as in memory of past members. Many of the trees are in areas where the Society tends the gardens as well. They look forward to further plantings for future generations to enjoy together with the gardens.

different in its adaptation to climate than a Red Oak that has evolved in Toronto. When Red Oak is moved to a different set of climate conditions, even within its overall range, it may suffer from spring or fall frosts, moisture or heat stress or damage from snow and cold temperatures. These stresses can kill a tree or reduce its overall vigor, making the tree more susceptible to insect or disease damage. If the stock that is planted does not have the genetic potential to survive and thrive in the environmental conditions of the planting site, no amount of tending, fertilizing, irrigation or pest control will help the trees grow as vigorously as trees from the appropriate source. Thus, trees rescued from and replanted within Township of Centre Wellington usually thrive (as long as they are well-watered for the first 3 years).

Note: we are in seed zone 32.

For tree species suggestions, please visit the NeighbourWoods website: [www.EloraEnvironmentCentre.ca](http://www.EloraEnvironmentCentre.ca) to read the Recommended Trees & Shrubs to Plant in Centre Wellington chart.

### **3. Planting tips:**

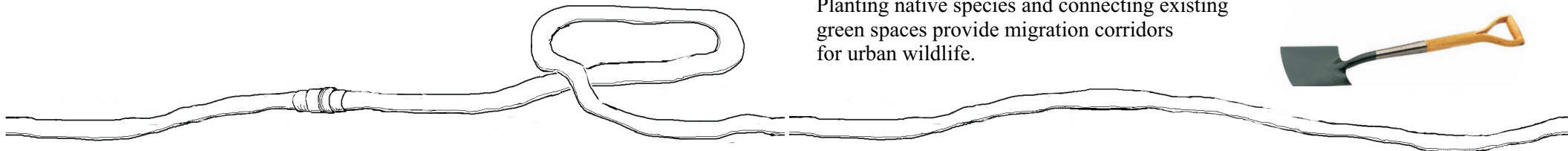
The best times to plant are spring and fall when hardwoods are leafless. This is especially true when transplanting.

When you plant, be sure to keep in mind how big the tree will be a generation from now. All too often we see a large tree against a house because the homeowner didn't take this into account when planting it.

Also, LOOK UP! If there are overhead wires above the tree, opt for a small species. Reminder! Before planting, call for locates to make sure you don't cut underground wires and pipes.

Three calls are required: CW Hydro (electricity) at **519-843-2900**, CW Public Works (water) at **519-846-9801** and Call Before You Dig for everything else (cable, Union Gas and Bell) at **800-400-2255**.

Planting native species and connecting existing green spaces provide migration corridors for urban wildlife.



## Tending Trees 101

With proper maintenance, trees will bring you and local wildlife, years of pleasure. Poorly maintained trees, on the other hand, can be a significant liability. Most trees will thrive if you do three things:

### 1. Mulch

Mulching is the single best thing you can do for your tree. Mulch prevents and alleviates compaction, keeps soil cool and moist, and protects against mower and line trimmer injury. Mulch can be any organic product such as hardwood, bark, pine needles, etc. Depth should be 3-4 inches (7-10 cm), but taper to the ground at the trunk (like a donut). Do not mound mulch around the bark of the tree (no volcanoes please) as this can cause sites for decay and insect attack.

### 2. Water

All trees need to be watered during times of drought. Avoid frequent, shallow waterings as they encourage tree roots to stay shallow. Go for slow, deep, long drenchings once a week if you can. This applies especially to trees planted in the last 3 years, but all trees benefit from good watering.

### 3. Prune - properly

Carefully pruning small trees will improve tree structure making them more balanced, healthy and beautiful. Pruning can also help avoid more drastic and expensive pruning later. Because each cut has the potential to change the growth of, or cause damage to the tree, no branch should be removed without reason.

If you have mature trees in need of trimming you'll need special equipment, training and expertise. This is likely the time to call in a qualified forester. (Good ones will use ropes to climb the tree, not boot spikes which can harm the trunk).

For more complete pruning information, Google tree pruning, or drop by the NeighbourWoods office for advice.

Or contact us and we'll put you in touch with your NeighbourWoods Tree Steward.

## Groups Working For Our Trees



### Centre Wellington Department of Public Works

Web: [www.tcw.ca](http://www.tcw.ca)

Contact: Les Davidson

Email: [ldavidson@tcw.ca](mailto:ldavidson@tcw.ca)

Phone: 519-846-9801

Coordinates street tree pruning, cutting of unsafe trees and stump removal. Trees in serious decline are best removed so a vigorous young tree can get growing instead. To determine if your tree is in serious decline, homeowners are welcome to get a second opinion from a professional forester at their own expense.

Public works also plant several hundred trees a year along rural roads.

### Centre Wellington Parks and Recreation Department

Web: [www.centrewellington.ca](http://www.centrewellington.ca)

Contact: Matt Tucker, Manager of Parks & Facilities Operations

Email: [mtucker@centrewellington.ca](mailto:mtucker@centrewellington.ca) Phone: 519-843-2800

Contact: Trevor Ashbee Cell Phone 519-994-0217

The Parks and Recreation Department plants and maintains trees and horticultural areas in The Township's parks and open spaces with the assistance of community organizations like the Fergus Horticultural Society, the Elora and Salem Horticultural Society, NeighbourWoods, Service Clubs, etc. The Department is responsible for the watering and maintenance of the horticultural displays in the downtown cores of Fergus and Elora as well as the watering of newly planted trees (as time permits.) Trevor Ashbee, the Department's horticulturalist, is responsible for the tree planting and horticultural services within the department and provides expertise for these areas for the Township and community groups.

In new park developments, the Township works with developers to provide some tree planting in the establishment of park and open spaces. For existing parks, the Department works with community organizations to assist in the provision and planting of trees and horticultural areas. They strive to plant native tree material.

### Elora Cataract Trailway Association

Web: [www.trailway.org](http://www.trailway.org)

Contact: Raymond Soucy Phone: 519-843-7703 [info@trailway.org](mailto:info@trailway.org)

The ECT is a forty-seven kilometre trailway that winds its way through many unique and sensitive landscapes linking parks, watersheds and communities in south-central Ontario. ECT plants about 100-150 trees a year along the trailway in co-operation with various groups and volunteers. The Trailway is owned by *Credit Valley Conservation* and *Grand River Conservation Authority*. The Elora Cataract Trailway Association works with the Conservation Authorities to protect, promote and enhance the trailway. The trailway is a beautiful but sensitive area that is enjoyed by thousands of human and animal visitors each year. Visitors and residents who use the trailway and want to help protect and preserve it, are encouraged to purchase memberships and volunteer to help maintain it.

## Township Centre Wellington Tree Policy

The Township has a Tree Policy which has been adopted by council. You can find it on line on the Township's website, [www.tcw.ca](http://www.tcw.ca)

### Some highlights:

- \* any public trees removed must be replaced by the next planting season
- \* for every tree removed, 2 must be planted, but the second tree does not have to be planted in the same location
- \* when a tree needs to be removed, the homeowner must be advised in writing
- \* new developments must provide street trees, on private or public land, planted by the developer or by the Township but paid for by the developer
- \* there should be 1 new tree per home or 1 tree for every 10 m along the street and the minimum size should be 70 mm diameter at breast height (dbh). This is 21 cm around the tree at 1.21 metres above the ground.
- \* developers are required to replace diseased or damaged street trees in their development

### Tree Action Plan (TAP)

NeighbourWoods has initiated a Tree Action Plan process to develop a long-term plan for our urban trees. Our objective is: To work as a community to develop and implement a plan to protect, maintain and plant trees across Centre Wellington for the maximum environmental, economic, social and public health benefit. We developed this plan together with local organizations working with trees and township staff.. There are six objectives in the plan, one of which is conducting an inventory of our urban trees - something we are starting this summer. Yes, it's a long-term process but even after the first year, we'll have useful data to identify where trees are needed the most and what species to plant for diversity.

### Tree Websites

There are dozens of excellent websites, chock full of advice on how to plant, what to plant and how to care for your trees.

Several we love are:

<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca>

<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu>

[www.EloraEnvironmentCentre.ca](http://www.EloraEnvironmentCentre.ca)

(includes list of native species to plant in our area)

[www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com)

<http://guffguelph.ca>

[www.leafortonto.org](http://www.leafortonto.org)

## What if my street tree needs attention?



Start by calling Public Works at 519-846-9801. They may consult Trevor Ashbee (our town horticulturalist) or a qualified arborist.

**Tree Trimming:** Township Centre Wellington contracts this work to a tree service.

**Tree Removal:** If it is determined that a tree has to come down, the township will first notify the adjacent homeowner in writing. If you have a beloved majestic tree, you may wish to have a certified forester examine it at your expense. Centre Wellington staff recognize the value of trees and don't want to spend money on tree removal unless it is necessary. Occasionally they get requests from homeowners who want trees removed because they deem the tree a nuisance: the township does not comply. It is very sad to see a healthy mature tree needlessly cut down.

### Tree protection

The Ontario *Planning Act* and Sections 135 - 141 of the Ontario *Municipal Act* give municipalities the legislative tools to protect trees. It all starts with the Official Plan which lays the ground work for a municipality to adopt tree protection measures. Our Official Plan is currently under review and the revised version will include policies to protect natural features and we hope individual trees.

Meanwhile, Wellington County is currently working on a new Forest Conservation Bylaw. It is a bylaw Respecting the Conservation and Sustainable use of Woodlands. These are defined as 1 hectare (2.47 acres) or larger. The bylaw requires a permit before any significant forestry activities occur. Check with the County of Wellington for details [www.wellington.ca](http://www.wellington.ca)

### What about a tree on private property?

Although street trees are often the urban trees we think of first, in fact far more urban trees grow on private property. If you need advice for a tree on private property, seek advice from a professional forester. Visit the International Society of Arboriculture website for a list of accredited professional arborists [www.isaontario.com](http://www.isaontario.com)



## Township of Centre Wellington - Who Does What?

<u>Location</u>	<u>Who's Responsible?</u>	<u>Phone 519</u>	<u>Tree Type</u>	<u># / year</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Parks	TCW Parks & Recreation	843-2800		currently less than 20	Tree planting is being revised based on The Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Passive Parks	NeighbourWoods	846-0841	native		New program 10' (3 m) Celebration Trees planted each fall. Call for details.
Street Trees	TCW Public Works Dept. plant in the spring	846-9801	native	50	In response to customer calls. Replacement priority as set out by Tree Policy.
Street Trees	NeighbourWoods and Elora Salem Hort. Society. Spring and Fall Plant	846-0841	native, locally grown	50+	In response to customer calls and Tree Steward observations.
Downtown Street Trees	TCW Public Works Dept. plant in the spring	846-9801	native		A tough environment.
Cemeteries/Cenotaphs	TCW Public Works Dept.	846-9801	native	10 to 20	Generally as replacements.
Rails to Trails	Elora Cataract Trailway Association	843-7703	native, locally grown	100 to 150	Planting with various groups and volunteers
Rural Roads	TCW Public Works Dept.	846-9810	native	250	Budgeted. Planted in the spring.
Grand River Arboretum	Fergus Lions Club: Sherri Holmes Margaret Murray	843-3217 843-3225	native	300 to date	6-8 foot (2-3 m) Memorial Trees planted in reforestation areas to date, focus on Arboretum.
Grand River shoreline	Friends of the Grand	843-3102	native	250	For concerns about riverbank trees contact GRCA.
Private lands	Green Legacy	837-2600 ext. 3030	native	last year 150,000	Provide trees at 25 cents each for private planting. Also provide hundreds of free trees to schools, organizations, municipalities and service groups.
Private lands	Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA)	621-2761	native		Provides trees for landowners whose property is over 1 hectare.
Schools	School Board approval first step - special motivation is shade for children, teaching opportunity, and environmental health	UGDSB 822-4420 WCDSB 821-4600	native	varies based on site, budget	See page 11 for more information on school yard greening and the Evergreen program.
Storm water retention ponds	Public Works, NeighbourWoods volunteers & the Elora Salem Horticultural Society	846-9801	native locally grown		Plant trees from Green Legacy as needed to help establish wildlife.
Parks, public lands	Fergus and District Horticultural Society	843-7703	native		Sometimes plant in memory or to mark special events. Call for details.