

Year in Review | 2017



To educate, advocate and promote a healthy urban forest in Centre Wellington



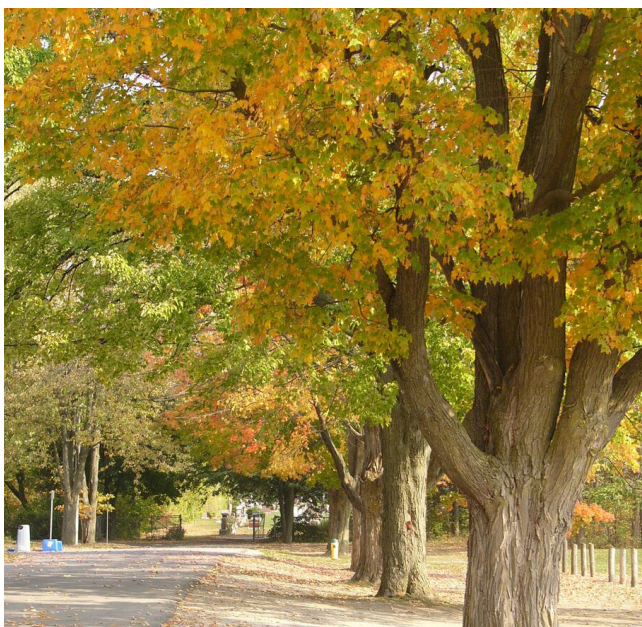
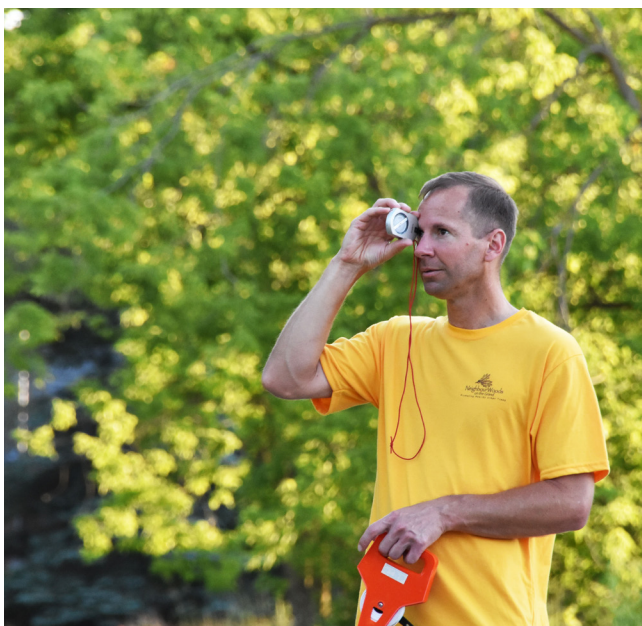


2017 - Year in Review

Since 2006, Neighbourwoods has been following our mission statement—to educate, advocate, and promote a healthy urban forest in our growing community of Centre Wellington, population 22,000.

Over the years, our wide-ranging, informative, and innovative activities have been based on grass-roots pragmatism; every funding dollar is maximized, and our volunteers drive all that we do.

We hope that you take a few minutes to read about our achievements last year. If you like what you see, we invite you to consider supporting our work with a charitable donation. Gifts over \$25 receive a tax receipt, and every contribution helps to nurture our valuable Centre Wellington urban forest.





Tree Inventory

In our eighth year, our volunteers covered more Elora and Fergus blocks, identifying species, size, location, and detailed information to help determine the health of our boulevard and front yard trees. There are 11,193 trees now recorded and in our system.

This year, we introduced ArcGIS mapping software and in-the-field data entry. This innovation will save us both data-entry time and reduce errors.

Citizen Pruners

This year we introduced the Citizen Pruner Program to train and equip volunteers to tackle structural flaws in our young trees. Crossed branches, co-dominant stems, and multiple leaders are examples of poor architecture that can impede the health and vitality of trees. We are the second community in Ontario to implement this program, which was first piloted in Thunder Bay.

Aside from improving the long-term prospects for young trees, the program offers valuable learning for our volunteers and broadens community understanding that urban trees need our help.

Because of our large data set, NW is one of a handful of community organizations selected to partner with University of Toronto on a study designed to quantify the value of urban trees in carbon sequestration.

Thanks to the Township of Centre Wellington for funding support and to Greg Wolowich for providing tech advice, training, and essential data management help.

Lopping branches off trees requires skill, knowledge, and forethought. Training involved two in-class sessions and one field practice, all led by local volunteer arborists.

Thanks to our local volunteer arborists: Andrew Doucett, Out of Your Tree Property and Tree Care; Andrew Hutton, Creo Landscaping; Phil Guenter, Baum Tree Care; Bill McKenna, MW Tree Services; Ali Morrison, Green Legacy; Chris Morrison, StormWaterForestry; Doug Steel, Full Circle Tree Care.

Citizen Pruner Highlights

- > Eight sites selected for maintenance
- > 137 trees pruned in six weeks
- > Nineteen volunteers and four summer students
- > Improved skill and confidence for all participants
- > Most are eager to return in 2018
- > Seven volunteer professional arborists mentored volunteers during six nights of fieldwork
- > Arborists enjoyed sharing their knowledge with appreciative participants and most plan to help again in 2018

Thanks to the Jack Kimmel Fund of the Canadian Tree Fund for funding support.



We've been

Building Partnerships

This year we brought together the Citizen Pruner Arborists with the newly hired Township Urban Forest Manager to share information and ideas. This group plans to meet twice a year.



Tree Stewarding

We continue in our commitment to tend young trees by mulching, weeding, and removing old tree wraps. These measures greatly increase the chances of survival. We weeded and mulched seventy young trees.

Thanks to Ted Ecclestone for leading the team and the Township for providing mulch.

Advocacy and Education

Witnessing damage done by grounds-keeping crews to the schoolyard trees we planted ten years ago spurred us into short- and long-term action.

First, we devised a special *NO MOW* zone. Then we approached the Upper Grand District School Board, offering suggestions for tree-protection requirements in their 2018 tenders. We are following up with a short Tree Care PowerPoint presentation that contractors can share with their staff.

Tree Talks

Once more, over the course of the year—winter, spring and fall—we offered our increasingly popular Tree Talks.

- > Maria Legault—*Back to Nature Network: fostering children's connection to Nature*
- > Andrew Millward—*City Trees: a tool that pinpoints individual trees and their attributes*
- > Todd Fitzley—*Helping trees weather climate change*



busy,

Movie Night

And, yet again, our walk-in outdoor movie night was a hit. *Civilian Conservation Corps* profiled President Roosevelt's successful solution to the Depression, which saw, among other things, thousands of the unemployed hired to plant millions of trees across the U.S.

Communitrees

2017 was a positive one for restoring native trees on the Trailway, thanks to generous local funding and our collective volunteer commitment.

Communitrees Highlights

- > 150 new native trees planted over three work mornings—fifteen different species, including trembling aspen and red oak
- > Every tree watered, mulched, and staked!
- > Forty larger Baker Forestry trees and 110 from Green Legacy
- > Several summer and autumn work mornings of tree tending and winter preparation
- > Over thirty volunteers participated
- > Program initiated to begin control of buckthorn in Centre Wellington
- > Kelsye Coulter, a local biologist, led an invasive species workshop on the Trailway, focusing on identification and the importance of effective removal
- > Professional tagging and removal of numerous buckthorn shrubs

Thanks to Carolyn Crozier and Frank Stilo for spearheading Communitrees.

Thanks to program funders: the Centre Wellington Community Foundation, the Elora Cataract Trailway Association and the Grand River Conservation Foundation.





Help your c

Summer Students

Four summer students were hired again in 2017. Jobs included: managing the tree inventory, administering the Citizen Pruner Program, maintaining social media/website, tree stewarding, public outreach. Since 2008, we have created twenty-seven student jobs, all of which have provided valuable and meaningful work experience.

Thanks to the Canadian Federal Government for funding our four Canada Summer Jobs positions.



Celebration Trees

More than 100 trees now grace eight parks, thanks to this highly successful partnership between the Parks Department, NeighbourWoods, and donors. We bade a sad farewell to Donna Ross and Peter Szmidt, who initiated and managed the program for ten years. They have settled nicely into Merrickville, which is lucky to have them!

Thanks to Paul Mitchell and the other dedicated volunteers who have taken over, and to all the donors who purchased trees for loved ones.





community grow.

What...you want to help? Great! Here's how...

Become a Volunteer.

Since our programs are seasonal, there is a limited time commitment. Any training required is always provided!

- ☐ One-time effort—as a tree steward or tree planter
- ☐ Two hours a week for June and July—part of the Tree Inventory or a Citizen Pruner team
- ☐ Three evenings throughout the year—helping with Tree Talks
- ☐ Once in a while—helping with special events like our Farmers Market booth

☐ Become a Sponsor

If you are drawn to any one of our programs, please ask how you can help and how we can recognize you and your business.

☐ Become a Member

Just \$10 gets you free admission into our Tree Talks and adds your name to the roster of people who support our urban forest.

☐ Become a donor

We are grateful for every gift, and donors of more than \$25 receive a tax-deductible receipt.

We are so grateful for your support to continue growing the urban forest of Centre Wellington through education, advocacy & action.

PLEASE check all that apply, and mail form and your cheque to:

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Please make cheques payable to Elora Environment Centre.

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