



City of Peterborough

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Peterborough, ON --

Urban Forest Management Strategy Press Release

In 2008, the City of Peterborough will begin a program to develop an Urban Forest Management Strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to identify a framework to advance policies and practices designed to sustain and enhance the City's Urban Forest Resource. The Urban Forest Management Strategy will update the City's 1998 Forest Management Policy. The development of this new Strategy will involve input from key stakeholders and the public through Public Information Centres and Key Stakeholder Round Table consultations.

"Trees touch all of our lives in so many ways. They play a very important role in greening the city and contribute to air and water quality. It is hoped that the community will participate in helping us prepare a Strategy that enhances the many benefits provided by trees and that meets with community expectations to safeguard this vital resource" said Wayne Jackson, Director of Utility Services.

Trees provide many benefits. It has been documented that well-placed deciduous trees around a building moderate summer heat generated by nearby hard surfaces and reduce cooling requirements by 40 percent. Trees planted along city streets reduce air pollution gases and trap particulate matter improving air quality. On average, a single mature tree produces 120 kilograms of oxygen a year. Trees absorb rain water and reduce run off thereby enhancing the capacity of the sewer infrastructure. Trees absorb noise, reduce glare and enhance an overall sense of well-being.

To facilitate a greater awareness of these and other benefits provided by trees, the City will invite groups such as Peterborough Green-Up to participate and incorporate information gathered by their programs into the new Urban Forest Management Strategy. Peterborough Green-Up is currently providing a tree education program for schools and neighbourhood communities. Information gathered by participants will help to shape the future of the Urban Forest Resource in Peterborough for years to come.

"It is our goal to develop an Urban Forest Management Strategy that has clear objectives, measurable outcomes and makes recommendation for policies and practices to sustain and enhance this essential, natural resource. To prepare the new Strategy, we will follow a process that evaluates the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats that influences Urban Forest Management in the City. Once these Challenges and Opportunities are outlined, we expect that the Strategy will respond to such issues as tree maintenance, protection by-laws, property development guidelines, programs to enhance community awareness, stewardship opportunities and regular monitoring of the tree canopy cover" said Peter Southall, Manager of Public Works.

This information is also available on our City of Peterborough website at www.city.peterborough.on.ca

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