



Improving city life one tree at a time

FACT SHEET

Updated December 2009

BACKGROUND

LEAF is community based, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of urban forests through planting, training and education initiatives.

OUR PROGRAMS (For detailed information and photos please visit www.leafontario.org)

The Backyard Tree Planting Program offers **native trees and shrubs to property owners at a subsidized cost**. Our certified arborists assist residents in making educated decisions about the type of tree that best suits the size of their property and show where it should be planted. Since our first planting season in 1996, **over 12,000 native trees and shrubs** have been planted in backyards throughout the City of Toronto.

Tree Tenders Training offers fifteen hours of arboriculture training offered over three sessions for \$50 plus GST. Registration is required. It is a combination of indoor and outdoor instruction designed for individuals who want to gain tree-related knowledge and skills. These public sessions are held in the spring and fall. In 2009 a total of 124 participants learned about tree biology, tree and shrub identification, proper planting techniques, preventing tree stresses and recognizing tree health concerns.

All About Trees are educational talks and workshops open to the general public that focus on urban forest issues such as the importance of native species, identifying urban tree stresses and proper tree care.

Toronto Tree Tours (www.treetours.to) offer guided walks through Toronto's neighbourhoods, for groups of 15 to 25 people. Walks can incorporate tree identification, tree health, local history and interesting tree stories. Multi-language and self-guided tours are available online.

EVENTS

The Leslieville Tree Festival is held yearly in partnership with the City of Toronto and local community groups. This family-oriented event offers a fun-filled way to learn about and celebrate our local urban forests. Music, story-tellers, local artists and local food add flavour to this outdoor event.

At our **Annual Celebration** we invite over 200 staff, volunteers, partners and friends to celebrate the work we have accomplished over the year.

(More...)

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QUOTES

"LEAF programs are a model of how to successfully achieve community/individual involvement in raising awareness AND enhancing the City's Urban Forest on both private and public properties. I am a great fan of LEAF!"

- Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone

AWARDS

Toronto Tree Tours selected as "**Vital Idea**" by the Toronto Community Foundation, 2009

Green Toronto Award – **Environmental Awareness Award**, May 2007

Backyard Tree Planting Program selected as "**Vital Idea**" by the Toronto Community Foundation, 2005

Tree Advocacy Sponsor Acknowledgement – Mayor David Miller, City of Toronto, October 2004

Arboriculture Award of Merit - International Society of Arboriculture, February 2003

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