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SPRING 2021 PLANTING CANCELLATION

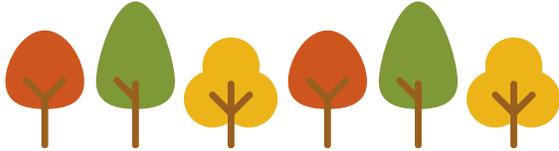
We are extremely disappointed to let you know that we have had to cancel our May 2021 planting event this year. While we had been hopeful that the COVID-19 pandemic would have been behind us (and planned to hold a smaller, more intimate event), the current public health recommendations make it too difficult to organize an outdoor event in May. We are monitoring the situation and are looking forward to seeing everyone as soon as the public health situation improves.

Robinson Creek Planting Site waiting for trees



10,000 TREES UPDATE AND NEWS

SITE PREPARATION CONTINUES AT THE ROBINSON CREEK PLANTING SITE



While we wait for the okay to hold an outdoor planting event, work continues at our Robinson Creek planting site at McCowan Road and Major Mackenzie Drive in Markham. Late last fall, our forester mowed the site to allow for an easier planting season. The City's Park Department has delivered several truck loads of woodchips which will be distributed into smaller piles throughout the planting site over the upcoming months.

With the planting event called off for now, a small group of volunteers plan to spread seeds to establish a temporary cover crop to prevent water run-off and to improve soil quality. These efforts will be important to ensure a successful planting in the future. Thank you to **Kamal L., Marshall B., Cathie J. and Rich H.** for your continued leadership on the field set-up committee!

CELEBRATING TWO OF OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

THANK
YOU

In February, two of our volunteers were nominated as **Volunteer Champions** with Volunteer Markham. **Robert R.** is our current chair and is one of our longest serving volunteers of over 30 years. **Sydney Y.** is one of our newest volunteers and has already had a tremendous positive impact to 10000 Trees through her work on the IT committee and her graphic design skills.

We thank them both for their contributions as our entire organization is entirely run and powered by volunteers. Congratulations!

Our organizing committee works around the year to plan, organize and run our planting events. If you are interested in volunteering with the organizing committee, please contact us!



10,000 TREES UPDATE AND NEWS

SAY HI TO OUR NEW SECRETARY!

WELCOME

In January, we were fortunate to welcome **Gurneet K.** to the 10,000 Trees team. As we have moved to online meetings, Gurneet has had the unique challenge of minute taking over bad internet connections and background noises in our monthly Google Hangout video calls. But she is definitely up to the challenge and has brought a new wave of enthusiasm and positivity to our group. Thank you to **Tona R.** for filling this role on an interim basis.

NEW PLANTING COACH TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT



Our Planting Coach Lead Volunteer, **Raimund K.**, has spent a tremendous amount of time to prepare our new Planting Coach Development Program. This will formalize the training that all of our Planting Coaches receive prior to planting events. Planting Coaches are the public face of 10,000 Trees and play a critical role to mentor and manage members of the public during our planting events. We are extremely excited to see the impact that this will have on both plant survival and the overall event experience. A huge thank you to Raimund for leading this important initiative.

We are always looking for passionate and outgoing volunteers to serve as Planting Coaches. If you are interested (commitment of 4 - 8 hours per planting event), please contact us!

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

CATHIE JEFFERY

We talk to Cathie about her time with 10,000 Trees - starting as a planter and now with the organizing committee



1. When did you start volunteering with 10,000 Trees?

When I went on maternity leave in 1989, a colleague at the City of Markham suggested that I could help 10,000 Trees. And that's how I was introduced to the group! My first task was to call nurseries to get prices and availability for trees and shrubs. I have been a volunteer planter with 10,000 Trees for every year since.

2. Do you have a favourite memory with 10,000 Trees?

I think planting with my family is a great memory for me. We would often go home tired, muddy and satisfied that we had done something good. I think it helped instill in my kids that nature is important. My daughter still comes to the plantings when she and her husband are available. Both my son and daughter enjoy gardening at their own homes. My sister-in-law and her daughter also attend the plantings so it is truly an extended family event.

I have a photo from 1991 at the Austin Drive Park planting of my kids holding trees in place while we covered the roots with soil. We were on the news that night because the kids were so young!

3. What motivates you most to volunteer?

I have always been a gardener. My father would bring home a tree for our yard and we would plant it together. I love seeing plants and especially trees establish into a beautiful canopy. I worked for Markham's Park Department for quite a few years in the 1990s and helped with tree planting events with various volunteer groups including the Settlers Park Scouts, Pomona Mills park group and Milne Park group. I love seeing trees being planted and grow over the years in communities all over Markham.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: CATHIE JEFFERY

4. Describe your current and past roles.

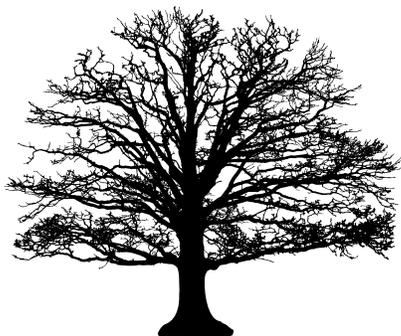
I joined the organizing committee about 8 years ago because I wanted to be a Planting Coach. The group made me feel very welcome and appreciated.

There is increasing recognition of the importance of creating meadows and grasslands for wildlife and biodiversity. So about five years ago, 10,000 Trees expanded their planting events to include wildflowers and grasses. There was a task waiting to be done and I started helping out with everything wildflower-related. I still primarily help to plan the wildflower plantings, but with our group there's always odd jobs to help complete.

5. Your message for new volunteers?

Anyone joining 10,000 Trees - whether as a planter on the day of the event or as a volunteer on the organizing committee - will find a feeling of accomplishment that they are helping to create a better environment for both people and wildlife. Trees do so much for the earth and its occupants: providing food for wildlife, nectar for pollinators, beauty in the flowers and foliage, shade and water purification. Not to mention all the positive benefits of being in nature - listening to the wind in the trees, seeing wildlife like birds and deer, and the smell of the forest.

**THANK YOU CATHIE FOR YOUR ONGOING AND
TREE-MENDOUS EFFORTS!!!**



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 12 - 15 was the Great Backyard Bird Count. Every year, Birds Canada coordinates this citizen science project and welcomes everyone to submit bird observations. This information helps them to analyze trends in bird population and distribution. A number of us took part and spent the weekend counting and photographing birds at home and around the neighbourhood. You can see the results on our Instagram page. Follow us for more nature-inspired photos and real-time updates from 10,000 Trees and our volunteers!



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