



TREES FOR GUELPH

"a project for improving Guelph's urban environment"

www.treesforguelph.ca

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary

This has been another productive and highly successful year for TREES FOR GUELPH. **In 2018, we engaged with over 7,000 volunteers for the first time!!!** During the 2018 spring planting season over 7,000 trees, shrubs and wildflower plugs were planted by our volunteers and school children at 29 planting events! This year, our community planting days were with the Rickston Public School community on May 12th, at the Hilltop site on May 26th and Clairfields Neighbourhood on June 30th.

This Executive Summary provides a brief overview:

MISSION: *To enhance Guelph's environment through tree planting and related projects, education and community leadership.* **TREES FOR GUELPH** is a not-for-profit organization with charitable status. Founded in 1990, TFG has facilitated the planting of over 150,000 trees in the City of Guelph. Our volunteer Board of Directors offers environmental, educational, forestry, landscape architecture, administration and accounting expertise. Our project coordinator, Moritz Sanio, has over 25 years' experience working with communities in planting, naturalization and site maintenance.

VOLUNTEERS: The majority of our planters are students. This year we involved 21 Guelph schools and several community groups. Over 7,700 volunteers including students from both the elementary and the high school levels participated. Each student was provided instruction on the benefits of trees and how to plant them. We also had over numerous volunteer planters from industry, business and the community in Guelph. Many continue to be connected to their plantings through supplemental watering and other stewardship activities.

SITES: This year we conducted planting programmes at 28 different sites. We planted on nine public green spaces in coordination with City of Guelph staff, on 18 school grounds and one institutional site.

PLANTS: We plant hardy, native species. We also develop naturalized landscapes that provide environmental benefits and have low maintenance requirements. This year, our volunteers planted native wildflower plugs and seeds at many of our sites to increase biodiversity beyond our 40 species woody plant inventory.

PARTNERS: Without our partners and financial supporters all this exciting work would not happen. The City of Guelph's support is fundamental to the success of TREES FOR GUELPH and we are a participant in the City's Urban Forestry Plan initiative. Copernicus Education Products, The Modern Bride, Grand River Conservation Authority, Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board have all played major roles in the continuing support of our programs.

If you wish further information please contact James Taylor, President (jrtaylor@uoguelph.ca).

Messages from two of our partners:



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In 2009 Copernicus created our Trees for Schools program. This program allows us to donate seedlings to K-8 school children within Earth Week every year. Studies indicate that a lack of exposure to nature in the early years of childhood has been linked to a loss of emotional and physical well being, impaired social skills, poor memory, and declining academic performance. Working with **Trees for Guelph** has allowed our impact to go even further. The Trees for Schools program allows students to take their trees and plant them at home, and Trees for Guelph actually teaches students how to properly plant a tree so that it has the best chance of survival. The best of both worlds!

We want to do our part to bring the natural world into the hands of children. The cross section of human behaviour and the environment can be an abstract concept for children to understand. Because of this, we provide a few resources for teachers to share with their students on the importance of caring for our environment. We value the opportunity to get our hands dirty, just like those who participate in the program! So, every employee at Copernicus is involved in the process of getting these trees into the little hands of tomorrow's leaders. To date we have donated over 150,000 seedlings and 5,000 wild flower packets to students around Ontario! For more information about our social and environmental initiatives, or to learn more about our products, please visit www.copernicused.com.



Over 7,700 volunteers were engaged to support our school, community open space and institutional planting programme in 2018!



As a small business in the heart of Guelph, we knew it was important to give back to and help build our community. We partnered with **Trees for Guelph** to ensure we can make an environmentally conscious impact for many generations of Guelphites to benefit from. In partnership with **Trees for Guelph**, **The Modern Bride** purchases and plants a tree for each dress sold! Since the partnership began The Modern Bride has now planted over a thousand trees in the Guelph community!
www.tmodernbride.com