



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee
From: Rob Johnson, Green Legacy Nursery Manager
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021
Subject: **Green Legacy Programme – Annual Report**

Since its inception in 2004, the County of Wellington's Green Legacy Programme has continued to receive enormous support from the community. To date, over 2.8 million trees have been distributed. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the nurseries suspended all on-site volunteer and school programming opportunities since March 2020. Despite a 70% drop in labour, the spirit and dedication of the GL Staff did not diminish. And this past season there were many accomplishments. Here are some highlights:

GL Accomplishments for September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

Tree Distribution: A total of 173,628 trees (165,640 seedlings and 7,988 potted stock) were distributed. 998 orders were received with the majority being delivered to individual addresses. Customers with larger orders, such as Conservation Authorities, picked up their stock from the Bradford Whitcombe Nursery in Puslinch.

Transplanting: 125,000 coniferous seedlings were transplanted from small growing cells to larger ones.

Seeding: 200,000 coniferous and 67,000 hardwood seeds were seeded on-site for future distribution.

Seed Collection: 150 hours of seed collection was given by 5 individuals in the community. These residents work offsite and independently to collect seeds from local native trees and shrubs. They collaborate with staff to make sure the seeds are properly harvested and provided to our nurseries for planting.

Warden's Annual Planting:

In October 2020, with outdoor restrictions in effect, 25 people attended to plant 400 potted trees along the Cottontail Road Trail in the Township of Centre Wellington.

New Collaboration: Green Legacy is working with the County of Wellington's Indigenous Advisory Committee to grow traditional native plants such as sweet grass and sage. They will eventually be planted at the Indigenous ceremony space behind Wellington County Museums and Archives

Donations: A donations page was added to the website allowing online donations to be given via credit card. Donations are eligible for a tax receipt.

Presentations and Event Participation

The Green Legacy Staff attend and present at a number of public outreach events every year. These events are great opportunities to educate the public on the Green Legacy Programme and the tree planting vision for the County. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has again impacted our ability to participate in community events this past year.

Annual GL Awards

Every year staff look forward to the recognition of our wonderful County residents that contribute their time and energy to the GL programme and other important sustainability initiatives in Wellington. The pandemic has meant we had to postpone our Annual GL Awards this year.

Home Delivery of Tree Orders

Since April 2020, GL staff took on the challenge of delivering tree orders throughout the County. Staff are becoming more effective and efficient with this new approach and have received great praise. We plan to continue this delivery method next spring.

Warden's Annual Planting for 2021

This October we will also continue the tradition of a Warden's Planting Day. Participants and site activities will be reduced again this year due to Covid, but we are pleased to work with the Warden Linton to host 50 County staff and local dignitaries. We hope to plant 600 potted trees at a storm water management pond in Elora.

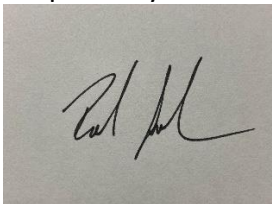
Staff Retirement

Since the opening of the Northern Nursery 10 years ago, Richard Remmer has looked after the daily operations. Richard was loved by all the staff he supervised. He ran a very tight operation and always maintained a high standard of tree quality. Richard will be missed and we all wish him well for his next journey in retirement.

Recommendation:

THAT the Green Legacy Programme - Annual Report be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Rob Johnson' written in a cursive, stylized script.

Rob Johnson, B.Sc., E.R.P.D., CMM II
Green Legacy Programme Manager