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Trees Ontario

About Trees Ontario

Trees Ontario is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that is committed to the re-greening of the province of Ontario through a range of tree planting activities on rural lands and in urban areas.

Founded in 1994, the organization is governed by an eight-member Board of Trustees and is managed by a small staff of professional foresters and communication experts. Its offices are located in Toronto, Ontario.

The province of Ontario is Canada's second largest province covering more than one million square kilometers (415,000 square miles) - an area larger than France and Spain combined. More than 12 million people currently live in Ontario.

The focus of Trees Ontario's work is in the southern part of the province, which covers an area of approximately 203,044 square kilometers (78,395 square miles).

Trees Ontario's Planting Partners

Trees Ontario promotes scientifically-based tree planting and forestry practices. The goal of Trees Ontario is to restore the province's tree planting capacity on private lands, throughout southern Ontario.

To achieve this goal Trees Ontario works closely with its tree planting partners such as local Conservation Authorities (public agencies of local governments that deliver tree planting services as part of their mandate to protect the watershed and other natural resources), local governments and local volunteer organizations, who in turn work with private landowners to plant the much needed trees.

Working with these partner organizations, Trees Ontario provides educational, financial and planning support that enables these agencies to significantly lower tree planting costs for private landowners, while also helping to rebuild seed collection and tree planting capacity.

Most of Trees Ontario's partners plant trees on rural, private lands, although tree planting on urban and public land does occur with various special projects that the organization supports.

With its planting partners Trees Ontario is the largest, not-for-profit tree planting partnership in North America.



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State of Ontario's Forests

There is a need more than ever to re-establish the tree planting infrastructure, rebuild tree planting capacity and replace the aging forests across the province of Ontario.

Twenty years ago in the province of Ontario we were planting 20-30 million trees each year. Following some major government cutbacks in the early 1990s, tree planting rates dropped drastically to 2 million trees being planted annually. As a result, the entire tree planting infrastructure across southern Ontario, from seed collection to tree planting itself almost disappeared.

We face a serious challenge rebuilding this infrastructure and tree planting capacity. Today, with climate change, the importance of protecting our watersheds, urbanization, and other environmental concerns, it has become urgent that Trees Ontario and its partners address this challenge and restore tree planting across southern Ontario.

This past spring Trees Ontario, with its partners, planted nearly 3 million trees. Its goal is to continue increasing tree planting rates to 10 million trees annually by 2015. Since 2004 when tree planting activity began to increase, Trees Ontario and its partners have worked with over 1,012 landowners and planted more than 5,402,778 trees.

The Ontario Government's 50 Million Tree Program

Trees Ontario is also working closely with the government of the province of Ontario (the Ministry of Natural Resources) to help deliver the Ontario government's commitment to plant 50 million trees by 2020.

The 50 Million Tree Program is Ontario's commitment to the United Nations Billion Tree Campaign. The program is also the most ambitious program of its kind in North America and the largest goal of any jurisdiction, anywhere.

Trees Ontario website: www.treesontario.on.ca.

Planting tomorrow's forests.