

OHA Health Achieve 2004

Healthy Trees – Healthy Canadians

Jeffrey Monty, R.P.F., CAE

President

Tree Canada Foundation

Fondation canadienne de
l'arbre

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Toronto, ON



Tree Canada Foundation
Fondation canadienne de l'arbre
www.tcf-fca.ca



Tree Canada Foundation's Mission

“Tree Canada Foundation envisions a healthy environment for Canadian communities through creating, sustaining, and enhancing urban and rural forests. Tree Canada will be at the forefront of all movement, with innovative programs empowering communities through volunteerism and partnerships to provide high quality of life for current and future generations.”



Healthy Trees – Healthy Canadians

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- 80% of Canadians live in urban areas
- Trees breath in CO₂ and exhale O₂
- The average person needs 165 kg of O₂ to breath each year
- Air pollution increases the risk of Heart Disease, resulting in about 2000 premature deaths in Ontario alone



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- Smog causes asthma, bronchitis and chest pain, and prolonged exposure can permanently damage lung tissue
- Increases in temperature and sunlight, enhance the chemical reaction that causes smog to form
- Air pollution prematurely kills as many as 16,000 Canadians each year
- In Ontario, air pollution costs more than \$1 billion each year in hospital admissions, emergency room costs and absenteeism



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Solution:

- More public transit
- Energy efficiency standards for vehicles, buildings and appliances
- Plant and maintain urban forests

Visit www.growcleanair.ca



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Case Study

City of North Vancouver, April 2004

- The city has over 5350 street trees
- Average annual benefits:
 - \$501 000 per year in total
 - \$94 per tree per year
- Approximately \$25,000,000 in benefits over 50 years
- Annual cost \$94,000 in 2003



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Air Quality Improvements 1 Year

- Removes 400 kg of O₂, NO₂, Particulate Matter
- Urban trees provide air quality benefits in 5 main ways:
 1. Absorbing gaseous pollutants through leaf surfaces
 2. Intercepting particulate matter
 3. Reduce emissions from power generation by limiting building energy consumption
 4. Release O₂ through photosynthesis
 5. Transpiring water, and shading surfaces which lowers air temperatures, reducing ozone levels



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Trees provide other health benefits...

- Reduce levels of dementia, violence, and foster safer communities
- Provide sense of meaning
- Provide restorative powers to ease mental fatigue
- Reduce stress response
- Better patient care
- Lower exposure to U.V. (skin cancer, cataracts, etc)



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“We need to engage in every bit of abatement we can.”

Dr. Ted Broadway, Executive
Director

Health Policy, OMA

*Please consider supporting Tree Canada
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Thank You

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