



Annual OCAA Day of Service

April 29, 2009, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinberg

COVERAGE FROM CHAIR KEVIN MENGERS

It was a chilly morning. “An extra sweater might be needed today,” I think as I step out the door and lock it behind me. It’s early, my morning routine just finished. I had some coffee and breakfast while checking emails. I kissed my wife and daughter goodbye as they lay peacefully in the comfy state that exists between sleep and awake. The dawn is breaking over Mount Albert to the east as I bring life to a Cummins diesel with the turn of a key. The raucous Dodge takes me south from the great metropolis of Queensville. “Today is going to be a good day,” I mumble to myself and begin to wade through my mental checklist.

The start-up of my day was likely quite similar to that of 55 other arborists from the Ontario Commercial Arborist Association on Wednesday, April 29. These were the volunteers who participated in the 2009 OCAA Arborist Day of Service. Our shared destination was the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinberg. Comprising a 100-acre facility, this organization is devoted to gathering, promoting and providing a vast array of Canadian artwork for public display. The gallery’s need for quality tree care was great, yet the resources few to complete the needed work. The OCAA observed a prime opportunity to share, serve and support a worthy facility.

The Arborist Day of Service is an annual event held during Arbor Week. As professional arborists, we are stewards of trees within the urban environment. In many cases, we are the only people who bring the tree a voice to communicate proper care and service to the owners of our urban giants. As guardians of the urban forest, we also manage a resource that is on the front lines in the fight against climate change. Our patients combat global warming at the epicentre of the damage. It is during Arbor Week that we choose to give back. We give of our skills, our knowledge and our resources to the community and to the trees.

Wednesday morning began with a brief registration period at 7:30 a.m. and introductions started at 8:00. After a meeting to ensure all participants agreed to promote a culture of accountability and safety, our teams set off to begin pruning and removing trees and stumps. A vivacious energy ran through every member of every team as participants climbed, cut, chipped and cleaned up from their work. The enthusiasm and energy was incredibly positive and every face was smiling as people appeared to truly enjoy working with one another.

The 2009 Arborist Day of Service was an incredible success. Special consideration must be given to a few key organizations. The *McMichael Canadian Art Collection* staff went the extra mile to ensure the resources our crews needed were available. They were an exceptional host! *Plant Products* donated tree fertilizer and mulching materials for improving the soil vitality around some trees in need of extra care. *Nobleton Farm Service* provided a number of John Deere gators for transporting staff and snacks to the crews. *Tim Hortons* donated the coffee supplies for the morning break. *Williams Communications* also made important contributions. *Eastwood Catering* provided snacks for the morning break. The culture of safety was further demonstrated by *Vaughan Fire & Rescue Services* who provided a fire truck and emergency personnel for the day. *Outdoor Special Events* provided an

astounding gourmet barbeque lunch that was enjoyed by all. *Douglas Wood Large Tree Service* supplied a gorgeous white pine that was planted near the gallery to commemorate the event.

The planning team that made for such a fantastic day were Jamie Felice, Sheri Guevara, Ken Lund, Steve Lang, Paul Hanousek and myself. The leadership team that helped orchestrate the day and ensure everything ran smoothly was Steve Mann, Mark Graves, Ruurd Van de Ven, Steve Lang, Ken Lund and Paul Hanousek. Chairpersons for the 2009 Arborist Day of Service are Paul Hanousek and I. It is with the deepest gratitude and appreciation that we thank the OCAA member companies and the participants they provided for making the 2009 OCAA Arborist Day of Service an outstanding day in which we all *shared, served and supported* one another and the greater public.

In closing, I encourage the OCAA membership to consider not-for-profit facilities and organizations that they feel would benefit from the Arborist Day of Service and note these groups by email or phone to the Chairpersons of the Committee. We will be announcing the 2010 Arborist Day of Service location at the OCAA Annual General Meeting in December.

If the Arborist Day of Service is something you wish to become involved with, contact Sharon at 416-410-8770 to inquire about membership opportunities. >>>





Thanks and see you next year!

COVERAGE FROM CHAIR PAUL HANOUSEK

What if and why not? ISAO's 2009 conference banquet entertainer Mike Rayburn is really getting a run for his money with this catch phrase!

I wonder if Harold Van Dyke was thinking these same words when he orchestrated the first Arborist Day of Service at the Quaker Meeting House in 1996.

Thirteen years later, the lucky candidate for the 2009 event was the McMichael Canadian Art Gallery in Vaughan. Each year, the OCAA Day of Service (i.e. arborists giving back) attracts greater attendance from our members. This year, there was a record 22 member companies and vendors, bringing 60 employees and a wide variety of equipment including bucket trucks, stumpers, grinders, chippers, a spiderlift, mini skidsteers, fertilizing trucks and a 90" tree spade. We began with a safety and orientation meeting and then divided into seven teams to handle the different tasks. Within six hours, our goals were complete!

Our association consists of many industry professionals who contribute to the success of this annual event. This year we made a greater attempt to publicize the Day of Service to increase public awareness of the importance of arboriculture. We were fortunate to have Tree Service Canada, The Toronto Star and Rogers Cable Television to help spread the news.

In closing, I would like to thank all arborists, vendors, Vaughan's volunteer fire department for providing first aid services, McMichael's staff, the caterers and lastly, Mother Nature who gave us perfect weather.

Also a special thank you to Ian Johnston from Arbortec. With seven employees and three vehicles, Ian travelled three hours one way to be a part of this event. They have truly proved their dedication to our association in supporting the Day of Service.

— p.s. It's not too early to sign up for next year's Day of Service! ♦



Participating Companies

Able Tree Service
Advanced Tree Care
Arbortech Professional Tree Care
Arborvalley Urban Forestry
Arborwood Tree Service
Bruce Tree Expert Co.
Capella Tree Service
Davey – The Treeman
Douglas Wood Large Tree Service
Forest Glenn Tree Care
Fours Seasons Tree Care
Full Circle Tree Care
Graves Oak Tree Care
Meadowood Tree Service
Pavey Tree Care
Pests-Aside Tree & Garden Care
Shady Lane Expert Tree Care
SJM Arboricultural Consulting Services
Upper Canada Tree Service
Uxbridge Tree Service
Vermeer Canada Inc.
Wes's Tree Service

