

NEWS FROM SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



Annual Day of Service 2011

ONTARIO COMMERCIAL ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

In 1962, American physicist, philosopher and historian Thomas Kuhn popularized the phrase “paradigm shift” in his book *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. In this book he suggested that scientific thought does not progress in a smooth linear curve of increasing knowledge as the scientific community collectively and cooperatively works together to harvest an understanding of things. Instead he suggested that differing scientific paradigms would compete for popularity until a significant event should give cause for a “paradigm shift” which would forever change the landscape of what is known or understood.

Why do I know this? It would take too long to assess and describe odd and eclectic personality flaws of mine but I can say that some of the team members at Advanced Tree Care are often ready to pull their hair out after riding with me in my truck for any length of time. My media system appears to be more inclined to play podcasts or audio books, and is especially fond of scientific, philosophical or theological thought provoking material.

Back to the term “paradigm shift” and the subject of this article. I believe it can be used to describe the 2011 Ontario Commercial Arborist Association’s (OCAA) Annual Day of Service. For the first time, the membership chose to accept the challenge of providing two individual sites with our services. On Wednesday, May 4, 27 OCAA member companies descended upon both Teen Challenge Camp and Blue Hills Child & Family Centre in Aurora, Ontario.

Blue Hills Child & Family Centre is devoted to assisting children and their families within York Region. Their aim is to promote psychological, emotional and behavioural healing to children afflicted with a variety of issues. They perform this community service hand-in-hand with the families of these children and are pivotal in promoting the overall social well being of York Region communities. The six acre facility at Blue Hills provides a location with peaceful, natural landscapes that

contribute to the effectiveness of their various programs.

Teen Challenge Camp GTA is a faith-based organization devoted to assisting adult women rehabilitate from drug and alcohol addictions. The 87 acre facility is used to provide these women with a variety of academic, vocational and spiritual programs that promotes their growth into successful contributors to their communities and society.

And so, on to the paradigm shift. Seventy-one OCAA participants had their skills, talents and equipment split into two separate groups. Strategy was key in order to make the day a success, and the enrollment of eight volunteers in order to plan and prepare was the critical strategic decision for this year's event. These eight individuals sacrificed valuable time and effort to ensure success and the Day of Service Committee is truly grateful for their support.



Event day began with the various team leaders converging on their respective work sites for an initial briefing and work order review. Participants began arriving at the two sites at 7 a.m. and our hosts provided refreshments including coffee for those in need of an octane boost. As with every other Day of Service, the itinerary included a brief introductory meeting at 8 a.m. allowing representatives from the Day of Service Committee, Teen Challenge & Blue Hills to warmly greet and welcome everyone. Eager arborists at Teen Challenge jumped the gun and were off burping chainsaw engines with enthusiasm a little ahead of schedule. The leadership team at Teen Challenge took this minor hiccup in stride, embraced the zeal, and harnessed the positive energy for the benefit of the work load.



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Many Thanks! ALL PARTICIPANTS

Wes' Tree Service

Wes Reynolds, Alex Jarvis
Adam McKinnon, Dave Reid

Vermeer Canada Ltd.

Loralee Davidson

Shady Lane Expert Tree Care

Jonathan Arnold
John Dagg, Tom Hester

Pests-Aside Tree & Garden

Don Carter, Peter Simmons

Pavey Tree

Phil Pavey, Ben Suave
Aaron Strickland

Maple Hill Tree Services

Chris Morrison, Chad Currie
Andrew Hutien

Kelly's Tree Care

Mike Watson, Mark Cooke
Mark Carroll, Jen Carroll
Mike Winstanley, Graham Sward
Marchellow Santarossa, Adam Brown

Four Season's Tree Care & Service

Ken Lund, Shane Lund

Douglas Wood Large Tree Services

Paul Hanousek, Rob Kirby

Chatham Tree Services Ltd.

Phil Hime, Shannon Burke, Tyler Hime
Ian Sparks, Eric Jensen

In order to set a tone of safety and professionalism, three area stewards at each site reviewed the scope of work for their zone with their allocated crew. A project risk assessment was performed with all participants so that all obstacles, tree hazards, skill sets and work prescriptions were evaluated for risk and appropriate risk abatement strategies were employed. An emergency action plan was developed by each work crew which included the appointment of a SPOC (Single Point of Contact) for each crew. Star Trek fans would agree that both Ambassador Spock and a work site SPOC promote all individuals to *Live Long and Prosper*.

Within moments of the conclusion of the necessary formalities, each site began to resemble what can only be described as a recently-violated-anthill of activity.

In total, 8 chipper trucks, 4 aerial lifts, 10 wood chippers, 1 roll-off truck, 1 knuckle boom, 5 stump grinders, 1 mini skid steer, 1 tree spade truck, 1 PHC truck, an excavator, a four wheeler with a trailer and 1 Teupen spider lift were used to complete almost every single work prescription planned for the day.

I think all practicing arborists giggle with evil delight at the incredible capability of Upper Canada Tree Service's Morbark Hurricane. At one point it was observed that seven workers (count them, seven!) were keeping the machine entertained. Ontario Tree Experts, or Ontree as their new branding promotes, brought polish and shine to the day with some very well appointed equipment. Forest Glenn Tree Care's Vermeer TX800 was able to keep Durham Tree Service's Bandit 250

One unique project completed this year was a large elm stump (below right) was creatively carved into a "Hobbit House" by Markus Atio from the Ontree team.



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well fed and yet not nearly operating to the machine's highest capability. Wes's Tree Service's sharply painted aerial lift could easily be tracked via satellite and Shady Lane's massive and capable aerial lift was a benefit for both chip volume and the 75' reach of the aerial device. The PHC team from Pests-Aside Tree & Garden were, to great surprise, able to fulfill the fertilizing needs of both sites. Pavey Tree's spider lift was again able to amaze many with its capability to get work aloft completed from very confined set-up locations. Kelly's Tree Care represented themselves well with a large professional crew and a nice new chipper truck. Our long haul friends from Arbortech Professional Tree Care and CLC Tree Service kept a great work pace despite a 4:30 a.m. departure from their

home locations. And last but not least, the Douglas Wood team worked hard to plant five new trees at Blue Hills and one 15' white pine at Teen Challenge.

Two very unique projects were accomplished at this year's Day of Service. A large elm stump was creatively carved into a "Hobbit House" by Markus Atio from the Ontree team and a 12' elm log was planted by the Douglas Wood team in order for Blue Hills to install some new and artistic signage.

Both hosts provided refreshments throughout the morning keeping hunger at bay. At 1:30 p.m. participants began placing the final touches on their project work zones and those working at Blue Hills travelled to Teen Challenge to meet with the other members for a fine meal and fellowship.

Many Thanks!

ALL PARTICIPANTS

CLC Tree Service

Cal McCallum, Nate Ruffel

Arbortech Professional Tree Service

Ian Johnston, Ian Legg, Will Guthrie

Able Tree Service

John Van Ekeren, Jeff Kinna

Uxbridge Tree Service

Joel Morvey, Cameron O'Connor

Urban Forest Innovations

Rob Skeoch, Alex Satel

Philip Van Wassenæer

Upper Canada Tree Service

Ian Pike, Mark Whetter, Jeff Harrison

Shawn Tucker, Chris Coumbs

SJM Arboricultural Consulting

Steve Mann

Oxygen Professional Tree Care

Quinn Brown

Ontree

Steve Steiger, John Douskos

Markus Atio, James McCready

Bob O'Halleran

Forest Glenn Tree Care

Glenn Ramsbottom, Devin Ward

Craig Woods

Durham Tree Service

Kevin O'Neil, Ira Rusaw, Brent Goudy

Diamond Tree Care & Consulting

Cody Menken, Roy Beishuizen

Kayla Postma

Davey Tree (Orillia)

David Sutherland

Davey Tree (Toronto West)

Derek Phillips, Bill Dzegieris

Bruce Tree Expert Co.

Dan Davis, Andrew Wiseman

Arborvalley Urban Forestry

Ruurd van de Ven, Colin Dekkema

Advanced Tree Care

Kevin Mengers



CHATHAM TREE SERVICE OCAA EVENT



A few important groups also in need of appreciation are Plant Products for providing the fertilizer used by the PHC team and OCAA member company Vermeer Canada for their continued support and supply of new and innovative trial equipment. And for this year's event, Miller Compost located on Bloomington Road offered to take all overflow of woodchips at no cost to Day of Service participating companies. Additionally, Bob Smith from the Humber College Arboriculture Program was in attendance lending his charisma and support to the participants, many of whom were past pupils.

Back to the theme. The 2011 OCAA Annual Day of Service represented a para-

digim shift in what the Ontario Commercial Arborist Association as an organization is capable of and open to considering. Yet there is one post script note which needs to be added.

Not officially sanctioned as an OCAA event, primarily due to a need for developing policies, procedures and framework, the team from Chatham Tree Service participated in a Day of Service for an organization local to Chatham on the same day. The spirit and tone is identical and the appreciation of their host is no less significant. It is in this humble arborist's opinion that both the 2011 OCAA Day of Service and the Chatham Tree Service

event indicate that there is need, desire and capability for multiple fronts to be challenged and successfully completed under the banner of the "OCAA Annual Day of Service." So considering all of the above, I can state confidently that our traditional annual event has experienced a paradigm shift. We were stretched and challenged in 2011 and responded collectively in a manner that proves near anything is possible.

And so concludes the 2011 Day of Service, which for our team at Advanced Tree Care kicks off the upcoming season with a positive note and encouraging enthusiasm for a successful and fulfilling year. ❁

— OCAA Director Kevin Mengers