



International Society of Arboriculture – Ontario Chapter

Annual Meeting of Members

Caesars Windsor, Windsor ON

Thursday, February 20th 2025

11:30am

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Members International Society of Arboriculture – Ontario Chapter 7856 fifth Line South, Milton Ontario, L9T 2X8

Date: Thursday, February 20th, 2025

Location: Caesars Windsor, Windsor, Ontario

Time: 11:30am

1. Presidents Call to Order and opening remarks
 - a. Introduction of 2024 Board of Directors
2. Procedural Announcements
 - a. Declaration of Quorum
 - b. Appointment of scrutineers for the election of President-Elect and Directors
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Acceptance of the minutes from the February 22, 2024, AMM
5. Business arising from the February 22, 2024, AMM
6. Reports
 - a. Report from the Board of Directors
 - b. Finance Report / Treasurers Report
 - i. Approval of the 2024 financial statements
 - ii. Approval of the accounting firm, Smith, Chappell, Marsh, Vilander for the 2025 engagements review of the accounts
 - c. ISA International Report – Council of Representatives (CoR)
 - d. Committee Reports
 - e. Canadian Tree Fund Report
7. Elections
 - a. President-Elect – Nominations and Election
 - b. Directors – Nominations and Election
8. Special Business

The Board has submitted the following Motion as presented to update our ISA Ontario Policies and Procedures document.

MOTION: To amend the name and description of Section III of the ISA Ontario Policies and Procedures document as follows. The name of Section III to be changed from current wording of the ISA Council of Representative's to the ISA Component Council Representative with the following description. (changes to the description italicized, items proposed for removal have a strikethrough)

III. ISA International ~~Council of Representatives~~ *Component Council Representative*

The ISAO Chapter representative of the ISA ~~International Council of~~

~~Representatives~~ *Component Council* shall be appointed by the ISAO Board

for a ~~three~~ *two-year term, and for no more than 2 consecutive terms (total 4 years)*. The ISAO representative shall be a current or former ISAO Board member and, a current member of ISAO ~~and a current member of ISA~~.

~~The ISAO chapter representative may participate in all meetings of the Board of Directors but may not vote unless that representative is a current Director.~~

Rationale: The Governance committee is proposing these changes in response to the approved and adapted changes that were instated by ISA in the spring of 2024. The main change was the title of the Council. Secondary changes include reducing the term length to 2 years (required by ISA) and further

removing the statement at the end as the Board felt it was redundant as unless they are an appointed Director from our membership, they are not entitled to vote.

9. Announcements
10. Motion for Adjournment

Annual Meeting of Members
Minutes

International Society of Arboriculture – Ontario Chapter
7856 Fifth Line South, Milton, Ontario L9T 2X8

Date: Thursday Feb 22, 2024, 11:30 AM

Place: Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville ON

a) President's Call to Order and Opening Remarks

- a. Call to Order
- b. Welcome to the Annual Meeting of Members (AMM)

b) Introduction of Board of Directors for 2023

Executive Board President – Matt Logan Vice President – Michael LaPorte
 Past President - Steve Robinson Treasurer – Steve Robinson
 President Elect – Mandy Vandenberg Executive Director – Julie Tucker

Directors Rhoda DeJonge, Kyle McLoughlin, Courtney McCann, Stephen McQuigge,
 Andrew Smit, Serena Soucy

Staff Julie Tucker, Christine Benns, Bridget DiLauro

- Thank you to all our Board members, staff and members

c) Procedural Announcements

a) Declaration of Quorum: Quorum has been met

d) Approval of the Agenda

a) There were no additions to the agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda for the Feb 22, 2024, Annual Meeting of Members as presented;
Moved by Steve Robinson. Seconded by Rhoda deJonge..... All in Favour.
None Opposed. -Carried

e) Acceptance of the Minutes of the February 23, 2023, Annual Meeting of Members

MOTION to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2023 Annual Meeting of Members as presented;
Moved by Mandy Vandenberg. Seconded by Kevin Schieck..... All in Favour.
None Opposed. -Carried

f) Business arising from the February 23, 2023 AMM: None

g) Reports

President's Report (Pg 6)

Treasurer's Report (Pg 7) We're in a healthy position.

One question from Linda Hawkins: asked what are the bank charges on page 13: these are mainly credit card fees (mainly from conference registrations)

Approval of the 2023 Financial Statements (pg 8-21)

MOTION to accept the financial statements for the fiscal year Jan 1, 2023, to Dec 31 2023 as presented;
Moved by Andrew Smit. Seconded by Courtney McCann..... All in Favour. None Opposed. -Carried.

Approval of the Accounting firm, Smith, Chappell, Marsh, Vilander for the 2024 Engagement Review of accounts

MOTION to approve appointment of Smith, Chappel, Marsh, Vilander as accountants to conduct a review engagement & approve compensation for Jan 1, 2024-Dec 31 2024;

Moved by Steve Robinson. Seconded by Michael Plowman..... All in Favour.
None Opposed. -Carried

ISA International Report Council of Representatives (CoR) (Pg 22) ISA International will be dissolving CoR and creating a new leadership council – ISAO will need to update our bylaws and procedures (this would likely follow at the next AMM)

Committee Reports (Pg 22-29)

Canadian Tree Fund Report (Pg 29-31)

MOTION to accept all reports as presented.

Moved by Kevin Schieck. Seconded by Ruurd van de Ven..... All in Favour.

None Opposed. -Carried

h) Elections

- a. Appointment of Scrutineers for the elections of President-Elect and Directors: Linda Hawkins and Warren Hoselton were appointed.

MOTION to approve the appointment of Linda Hawkins and Warren Hoselton as scrutineers;

Moved by Rory Quigley. Seconded by Carolyn Dares All in Favour.

None Opposed. -Carried

Note: only *“members-in-good-standing”* can vote on motions or make motions

President-Elect

The Board endorses the nomination of for the position of President-Elect

Nomination of Mandy Vandenberg

Nominated by Michael LaPorte. Nomination seconded by Steve Robinson.

The nominee, Mandy Vandenberg, accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominees. Position declared by acclamation

Directors: Two positions are available from two vacancies (The board thanks Kyle McLoughlin and Steve Robinson)

Nomination of Kim Statham

Nominated by Nick Van Veen. Nomination Seconded by Warren Hoselton.

Nomination of Drew Deitner

Nominated by: Adam Chamberlin. Nomination Seconded by Kyle McLoughlin.

Nomination of: Johnny Corner

Nominated by: Ryan St. Pierre. Nomination Seconded by Mark Graves.

Nomination of Rob Shaw-Lukavsky.

Nominated by Rory Quigley. Nomination Seconded by: John Ransom.

There were no other nominations.

Acceptance of the Nominations:

Kim Statham accepted the nomination in person

Drew Deitner accepted the nomination in person

Johnny Corner accepted the nomination in person

Rob Shaw-Lukavsky accepted the nomination in person

MOTION to close the nominations;

Moved by Del Cressman. Seconded by Ruurd van de Ven.....All in Favour. None Opposed. - Carried

The four nominees spoke in support of their nomination.

A vote was held and ballots counted.

New members to the ISA Ontario Board: Rob Shaw-Lukavsky and Kim Statham.

- b. New President Michael LaPorte addressed the AMM – he is honoured to serve the members

i) Special Business

- a. Publications Committee

MOTION to amend the name and description of the Publications Committee in the ISAO Policies and Procedures as follows:

"The name of the committee to be changed from the Publications Committee to the Communications Committee. (Changes to the description *italicized*)

Proposed Revision:

This committee shall be responsible for the Ontario Arborist, new publications, media strategies and messaging, and for the revision and updating of all the association sponsored *content that is intended for greater public consumption. The purpose of this committee is to promote ISAO and its members.*

Communications Committee recommendations for the revision and updating of publications or social media strategies, require the approval of the Board of Directors.

The *Communications* Committee shall work in cooperation with the Education Committee in the planning and development of educational program material for its members and the public.

This committee shall consist of at least two members: The Executive-Director or their designate and one or more other members."

Moved by Kevin Schieck. Seconded by Ian Bruce. All in Favour. None Opposed. -Carried

b. Strategic Planning Committee

MOTION to amend the description of the Strategic Planning Committee in the ISAO Policies and Procedures as follows: (Changes to the description *italicized*)

Proposed Revision:

The Strategic Planning Committee shall be responsible for the long-range planning and future direction of ISA Ontario.

Committee members should elicit and be responsive to members' needs and interests, and act as a clearinghouse to evaluate suggestions, criticisms and other comments received from members for consideration in the formation of a "Strategic Plan."

The Committee shall formulate a Strategic Plan of at least 3-5 years for the consideration and approval of the Board of Directors. The Strategic Plan should be reviewed at least every three years and updated as required.

The committee's mandate includes formulating appropriate annual objectives and reviewing the Executive Director's draft annual operational plan for presentation and approval by the Board prior to the Annual Conference and Meeting of Members.

This committee shall consist of five or more members. The Executive Director shall be a member.

The President Elect shall be a member. The *President Elect* shall be appointed as the Chairperson.

Moved by Ruurd van de Ven. Seconded by Kevin Schieck. All in Favour. None Opposed. -Carried

j) **New Business**

None

k) **Announcements**

From Del Cressman: ISA International is seeking award nominations by March 15, 2024.

l) **Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn the Annual Meeting of Members;

Moved by Stephen McQuigge. Seconded by Andrew Smit All in Favour.

None Opposed. -Carried

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presidents Report

As my term as President of ISA Ontario draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on a year filled with both challenges and triumphs. I have truly enjoyed working with the current Board of directors along with our executive director Julie Tucker and program coordinator, Bridget DiLauro. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our organization, and you, the dedicated members that make ISAO so strong.

One of the most significant accomplishments of this past year was the development of our strategic plan. This comprehensive roadmap outlines our organization's vision, mission, and goals for the future. As this plan is implemented by setting clear objectives and prioritizing our efforts, we have positioned ISA Ontario for continued success in the years to come. The board has also continued to work diligently updating our policies, reviewing our budgets, and exploring new ways to connect to the membership more effectively. Thank you to all our board members for the dedication and service.

We also enjoyed a number of successful events. WAO Tree Fest continues to celebrate the contributions of women in our industry and provides a platform for networking, mentorship, and professional development. The multiple climbing stations and challenges, along with the educational session and sponsor representation, all contributed the success of the event. WAO will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2025 and will be celebrating at their events throughout the year.

The OTCC was our largest competition ever, featuring 45 of Ontario's best climbers, supported by our generous sponsors and trade show vendors situated between the events. This year, the competition also showcased The World Record Accent Challenge, where we all had the opportunity to cheer Chris Sallows on to his World Record Time of 8.803 seconds. Congratulations World record holder Chris Sallows!

At Experience Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show, our unofficial start to our new season, we will have the opportunity to learn from the many speakers on a wide range of topics, reconnect with friends and colleagues, and celebrate another year under our belt. We have some unique opportunities at a spectacular venue at Caesar's Windsor, February 19th -21st. There will also be the opportunity to become engaged in our organization at our Annual Members Meeting where we will provide updates, and vote in new board members. We will celebrate those who have contributed to ISAO and the industry in a special way at our awards banquet. Be sure to register early and book your hotel to be part of the celebration.

As my term comes to an end, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the committee chairs and members for your commitment and additional service to your respective events and initiatives. Thank you to the entire ISA Ontario membership for your support and dedication. Your passion for trees and commitment to our organization have made this year a resounding success. I would also like to thank the past presidents and board members who have paved the way for us.

As we look ahead to the future, with a new board guided by incoming president, Mandy Vandenberg, and supported by our executive director Julie Tucker, and program coordinator, Bridget DiLauro, I am confident that ISA Ontario will continue to thrive. By working together, we can achieve even greater heights and make a lasting impact on the arboriculture profession.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Respectfully submitted by,
Michael LaPorte
ISAO President

Treasurers Report

Throughout 2024, the ISAO Board of Directors worked hard to successfully implement an annual budgeting system as a means of being fiscally responsible. The Board remained diligent in implementing as many cost effective measures as possible and continued to work on initiatives that would directly benefit its membership.

The ISAO continues to operate in a viable and sustainable financial position as reflected in the 2024 Financial Statement.

The Net income at year end was approximately \$78,261.00 favourable.

The Below figures are highlights from the 2024 year based on the year end un-audited figures from our internal documents.

Revenue Streams

Membership

ISAO membership revenue for 2024 was up by 12% year over year realizing an increase of \$13,504.00.

Annual Conference

The ISAO conference committee ran an exceptional conference in Huntsville, which placed the association in a great financial position early on in the year, yielding a profit of approximately \$99,000. The annual conference continues to be a significant contributor to the overall general operations of ISAO.

Certification & Workshops

A number of certification exams and tree climber evaluations were administered in 2024. In addition, several workshops including TRAQ and Re-TRAQ courses were delivered, the number of workshops was increased from previous years. These programs yielded a combined net revenue of approximately \$116,000.

Investments

In 2024, the ISAO continued to invest responsibly through RBC Dominion Securities. This diversified investment portfolio yielded a net income of approximately \$21,000 at year end.

Expenses

In general, the Association had increased expenses year over year by approximately \$85,000. Some of the main reasons for this are the result of increased donations/sponsorships with industry partners, a consistent increase in general operating expenses, as well as carry-over labour costs associated with the hiring of the association's new Executive Director in 2023.

Summary

Your board continues in the fine ISAO tradition of responsible and conservative stewardship of funds. In 2025, the board will continue to investigate diversification of revenue streams to minimize risk to the Association, continue with the annual budget review process, and look for ways to grow ISA Ontario in a fiscally responsible manner.

Respectfully submitted by,
Andrew Smit, Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024



Smith
Chappell
Marsh
Vilander LLP

H. Howard Smith, FCPA (Retired)
Richard A. Chappell, CPA, CA (Retired)
Deborah L. Marsh, CPA, CA
Vesa K. Vilander, CPA, CA

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONERS' REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of International Society of Arboriculture-Ontario that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

21 Gladstone Avenue, Suite 306, Oshawa, Ontario L1J 4E3
Tel. 905-720-0265 Toll free 1-877-326-3422 Fax 905-720-0301
Email: Accounting@SCMV.ca Website: www.scmv.ca

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of International Society of Arboriculture-Ontario as at December 31, 2024 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Smith Chappell Manor Villander LLP

January 28, 2025
Oshawa, Ontario

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

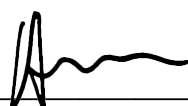
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

			<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>				
Current				
Cash			\$ 593,108	\$ 382,076
Temporary investments (Note 3)			287,161	272,137
Accounts receivable			16,883	7,833
Special projects receivable			-	32,098
Inventory (Note 4)			12,001	11,802
Prepaid expenses and deposits			87,229	240,501
			<u>996,382</u>	<u>946,447</u>
Capital Assets				
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>		
Leasehold improvements	\$ 27,565	\$ 13,783	13,782	16,539
Computers and technical equipment	4,015	2,676	1,339	2,677
	<u>\$ 31,580</u>	<u>\$ 16,459</u>	<u>15,121</u>	<u>19,216</u>
			<u>\$ 1,011,503</u>	<u>\$ 965,663</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
Current				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities			\$ 58,577	\$ 72,258
Government remittances			12,928	5,126
Deferred revenue			74,892	101,435
			<u>146,397</u>	<u>178,819</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>				
Internally restricted (Note 2(g))			200,000	200,000
Unrestricted			665,106	586,844
			<u>865,106</u>	<u>786,844</u>
			<u>\$ 1,011,503</u>	<u>\$ 965,663</u>

Approved by the Board of Directors:
Andrew Smit, Treasurer



Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Revenue		
Books and merchandise	\$ 44,989	\$ 35,661
Memberships	129,657	116,153
Publications	37,664	35,070
Annual conference	426,222	367,789
Certification	78,060	69,116
Workshops	138,426	112,734
Women in Arboriculture	8,394	-
Ontario Tree Climbing Championship	43,879	36,620
Special projects revenue	241,552	37,934
	<u>1,148,843</u>	<u>811,077</u>
Expenses		
Books and merchandise	34,392	30,479
Publications	63,031	58,172
Annual conference	327,227	304,502
Certification	748	146
Workshops	100,025	76,629
Women in Arboriculture	7,481	-
Ontario Tree Climbing Championship	23,116	25,654
Special projects expenses	241,552	37,934
Administration		
- office support services	192,165	175,481
- other operating expenses - Schedule 1	123,796	107,617
	<u>1,113,533</u>	<u>816,614</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE THE FOLLOWING:	<u>35,310</u>	<u>(5,537)</u>
Amortization of assets	(4,095)	(4,095)
Gain on foreign exchange	5,225	(1,068)
Investment income (loss) and miscellaneous	41,822	43,730
	<u>42,952</u>	<u>38,567</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 78,262</u>	<u>\$ 33,030</u>

Unaudited

SCHEDULE 1

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

SCHEDULE OF OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Bank charges	\$ 23,509	\$ 22,373
Donations and sponsorship	12,593	2,323
Insurance	9,915	9,698
Member benefits program	5,000	5,000
Office and general	16,557	18,564
Office rent and storage	21,573	21,448
Professional fees	4,825	4,900
Promotion	18,947	15,189
Travel	10,877	8,122
	<u>\$ 123,796</u>	<u>\$ 107,617</u>

Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</u>		
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 586,844	\$ 553,814
Transfer to internally restricted	-	-
Excess of revenue over expenses	78,262	33,030
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 665,106</u>	<u>\$ 586,844</u>

INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance, beginning of year	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Transfer from unrestricted	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing balance	<u>\$ 200,000</u>	<u>\$ 200,000</u>

Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating Activities		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 78,262	\$ 33,030
Amortization of capital assets	4,095	4,095
Cash provided from (used for) working capital (Note 7)	143,699	(69,217)
	<u>226,056</u>	<u>(32,092)</u>
Investing Activities		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(4,015)
Decrease (increase) in temporary investments	(15,024)	79,141
	<u>(15,024)</u>	<u>75,126</u>
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents During the Year	211,032	43,034
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	382,076	339,042
	<u>211,032</u>	<u>43,034</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	\$ 593,108	\$ 382,076
	<u><u>593,108</u></u>	<u><u>382,076</u></u>

Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

NOTES TO UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. Status and Nature of Activities

International Society of Arboriculture-Ontario was incorporated by letters patent issued under the Canada Corporations Act on July 26, 1971 as a corporation without share capital. The mission of the Organization is to enhance and promote the care and benefit of trees for present and future generations in Ontario through education, research and awareness. The Organization is exempt from income taxes under the Income Tax Act.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

(a) Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value with cost being determined generally on a first-in, first-out basis.

(b) Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost based on the organization's capitalization policy.

Amortization charges are calculated on straight-line basis as follows:

Leasehold improvements	10 years
Office furniture	10 years
Vehicles and equipment	10 years
Computers and technical equipment	3 years

Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

NOTES TO UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(c) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from membership fees and conferences is deferred and recognized in the year for which the fees were paid or the conference is held, provided the payment of fees is reasonably assured.

Revenue from the sale of books, merchandise and publications is recognized on a point-of-sale basis.

Revenue from advertising sales is recognized when the issue it appears in is published.

Revenue from other services is recognized at the time the services are provided.

(d) Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingencies at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Such estimates include the allowance for doubtful accounts. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on deposit in bank accounts.

Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

NOTES TO UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(f) Financial Instruments

Measurement of financial instruments

The Organization initially measures its financial assets at fair value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions.

The Organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in net income.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, temporary investments, accounts receivable and sales tax recoverable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The Organization measures investments in preferred and common shares at fair value.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at cost are reviewed annually to determine whether there are indicators of possible impairment. When there is an indication of impairment the amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net income.

Transaction costs

The Organization recognizes its transaction costs in net income in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption.

(g) Internally Restricted Fund

The Board of Directors has set up the Operational Expenses Reserve Fund and this balance represents funds set aside for operating costs and has been accumulated from prior years' surpluses. The fund is to be used at the discretion of the board.

Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

NOTES TO UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

3. Temporary Investments

Temporary investments consist of the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificates \$	24,125	\$ 23,573
Cash position	28	28
Res Bank of Montreal due June 17, 2025 (maturity value \$91,653 and yielding 5.68%)	89,392	84,588
Res Bank of Montreal due October 27, 2027 (maturity value \$134,173 and yielding 6.06%)	113,678	107,165
Res CIBC due January 20, 2028 (maturity value \$70,649 and yielding 5.54%)	59,938	56,783
	<u>\$ 287,161</u>	<u>\$ 272,137</u>

Guaranteed Investment Certificates are issued by The Bank of Nova Scotia.

The Guaranteed Investment Certificates have interest rates and maturities as follows:

Amount	Interest rate	Maturity
\$ 2,213	0.90%	December 1, 2025
21,912	4.22%	June 24, 2027
<u>\$ 24,125</u>		

4. Inventory

Inventory consists of books and merchandise for sale. The amount of inventory charged to expense in 2024 was \$34,392 (2023 - \$30,479).

Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

NOTES TO UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

5. Financial Instruments

Risks and concentrations

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the organization's risk exposure and concentration's risk exposure and concentrations at December 31, 2024.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge that obligation. The Organization provides credit to certain of its customers on a continuing basis and maintains provisions for contingent credit losses. The losses which have materialized in the last three years have been consistent with management forecasts. The Organization does not normally require a guarantor.

The Organization maintains its bank accounts and temporary investments with a single financial institution. Although this constitutes a concentration of credit risk, management assess the risk of loss from this concentration as negligible.

Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Organization collects fees for the International Society of Arboriculture - (U.S.) and remits these in U.S. funds as invoiced. To support this activity, the Organization maintains the following balances denominated in U.S. dollars:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash	\$ 54,476	\$ 138,907
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,475	\$ 5,370

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in the market interest rates. With respect to the Guaranteed Investment Certificates described in Note 3, the Organization is not exposed to cash flow risk with respect to changes in the market interest rates but is exposed to price risk due to fluctuations in those rates.

Unaudited

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE-ONTARIO

NOTES TO UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

5. Financial Instruments (continued)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Organization will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Organization has ample cash reserves to meet these obligations if funds generated by operations are insufficient.

Market risk

Market risk arises as a result of trading in equity securities and fixed income securities. Fluctuations in the market expose the organization to a risk of loss. The organization has formal policies and procedures that establish target asset mix.

6. Commitments

The organization has committed to the renting of facilities for the 2025 and 2026 annual conferences at guaranteed minimum amounts.

The organization has committed to leasing office and storage space beginning November 1, 2019 and ending October 31, 2024 at an annual rate of \$18,210 per year. There will be an annual 3% increase in rent beginning November 1, 2020.

7. Cash Provided From (Used For) Working Capital

Cash otherwise available from operating activities is influenced by increases or decreases in the following items:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Accounts receivable	\$ (9,050)	\$ 25,784
Special projects receivable	32,098	(3,808)
Sales tax recoverable	7,802	(491)
Inventory	(199)	1,459
Prepaid expenses and deposits	153,272	(178,274)
Accounts payable and accrued charges	(13,681)	39,818
Deferred revenue	(26,543)	46,295
	<u>\$ 143,699</u>	<u>\$ (69,217)</u>

Unaudited

ISAO COUNCIL OF REPRESENTITIVES (CoR) update

In 2024, the Component Council, in its new form, connected for our first meeting in May. This was a more formal meeting laying out scope, purpose, and process. In June, another meeting was held, which was less formal and allowed for the components to guide the dialogue, discussing issues specific to their region. The council was introduced to the Vision 2040 document (ISA International Strategic Planning document) and sent a series of questionnaires and surveys to tease out information the Board of Directors could use to complete the document.

ISA 2024 Vision Statement:

We envision ISA as a more diverse, dynamic, and inclusive global organization of professionals connecting trees, the environment, and society, providing solutions by expanding and sharing the knowledge of trees.

ISA's aspirations build on the accomplishments of our past, through the strength of our leaders, and with the involvement of our membership. We will focus our leadership, our investment of time and resources, and our intentional efforts to advance the careers of our members, the competency of our credential holders, and the impact and influence of our profession.

To implement this strategic vision, ISA's leadership will focus on four main outcomes that will carry both the organization and the profession forward. We will:

1. **Further develop and enhance ISA member experiences across the globe.**
2. **Expand pathways for entry, advancement, and inclusion in the profession.**
3. **Grow relationships, partnerships, and strategic alliances to advance arboriculture and urban forestry.**
4. **Position ISA to be nimble, strategic, adaptable, and opportunistic in the face of change.**

Following the ISA International Conference in Atlanta in August, the Component Council met in person and through a series of break-out groups, we continued to provide feedback to assist in the formation of this document.

In January we met virtually, to discuss the opportunity to house in-person Component Council meetings at Regional TCC's, new Component MOUs (Partnership agreements), and continue to be provide the opportunity to provide feedback through surveys, for the development of the Strategic Plan document.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors and the membership, for the opportunity to represent you on an international stage and ensure our voice is heard beyond our borders.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Michael LaPorte, CoR Representative

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

The Education committee celebrated our industry's history at the 75th edition of our annual conference in 2024, '75 Years and Climbing' in Huntsville at Deerhurst Resort. The celebration drew record attendance.

In 2024 the Education committee committed to offering more CEU opportunities for our Members and industry professionals. In the spring we launched a partnership agreement with our neighbouring Michigan Chapter, that offered a lunch time webinar series on various topics. However, this opportunity was largely under-utilized and we will be reviewing the program for this coming season. WAO Tree Fest along with the OTCC offered more formal educational offerings during their events. All opportunities were well attended, especially for a first year.

Thank you to all the members for being engaged in our event and I would like to thank the staff and all the volunteers for their commitment. In 2024 we worked to increase the number of educational opportunities for our membership and we will continue to strive to offer quality educational opportunities in 2025.

Respectfully submitted by,
Committee Co-Chairs, Michael LaPorte & Kyle McLaughlin



Arborist Ground Worker Training Program Committee Report

Thank you to all the members and to the arborist community who have provided support to the Arborist Ground Worker Training Program throughout the years. The application to the Skills Development Fund submitted in 2023 for the 2024/2025 year was unfortunately declined and as such, we were not able to run the program this year.



The Delivery Partners Submitted the application again in September 2024, the proposed application would provide the same curriculum the program has been successful with for many years with the addition of training to incumbent workers. We have communicated with the Ministry on multiple occasions the importance and high value of this program to advocate for the approval of the funding. Announcements should be made for the 2025/2026 year end of May.

About the Program

The Arborist Ground Worker Training Program is a 6-week work-based industry training program that equips students with the skills and knowledge to work as an Arborist Ground Worker. Training occurs every year in Toronto and biannually in London and Ottawa. Graduates are matched to employment opportunities throughout Ontario. There is no cost to participate. Each year, the program recruits 48 participants. Many of these graduate's secure long-term employment within the industry.

Program Benefits

- Free industry training for job seekers
- Access a pool of skilled graduates seeking employment
- Free access to curriculum and training videos

Respectfully submitted by,
Courtney McCann, Delivery Partner

Communications Committee

2024 was another successful year for the communications committee. Our membership grew, with the addition of Rob Shaw, and we continue to receive excellent feedback on our social media posts and Ontario Arborists content. Some highlights of the year include:

- Successful publication of 6 issues of the Ontario Arborist Magazine including some excellent series on fungi and safety by Kyle McLoughlin and Toni Tresselt respectively, as well as important event dates and other key industry news, as well as excellent general interest articles including 2 poster inserts from the talented Oliver Reichl on moths and galls.
- Continued dedication of our amazing staff (Julie Tucker, Bridget DiLauro, and Christine Benns), as well as the many volunteers providing excellent content.
- A review of our budget, including printing costs, to assure member dollars are spent wisely
- The digital distribution of our Nov/Dec magazine to prevent delay to our members during the postal strike
- A review of our Social Media Guidelines
- A very active presence on social media, with an increase in our Facebook and Instagram membership. Popular posts included content about OTCC, GWTP Toronto, and Oak Wilt information.
- A stronger understanding of how the communications committee can support the implementation of ISAO's strategic plan.
- Began a website review to improve messaging and content for all ISAO committees.



The Communications Committee has begun implementation of key aspects of the Strategic Plan that had been approved earlier this year, with an eye to growing our member base and serving all our members better with the information they need. In 2025, we will continue to address the priorities addressed in the strategic plan by putting plans in place and beginning implementation of:

1. A Public Outreach Plan
2. Developing better supports to encourage ISAO involvement by secondary and post-secondary students

As well as we aim to:

3. Grow the membership of the committee
4. Increase the diversity from which content is created for OA articles

Respectfully submitted by,
Rhoda deJonge, Committee Chair

Women in Arboriculture Ontario Committee Report



WAO celebrated another successful year in 2024. The committee wants to extend our gratitude to Mandy Vandenberg for her 8 years of commitment to WAO as she steps down from the committee to focus on her other volunteer commitments within ISAO. We would like to congratulate Mandy on her upcoming second presidency as ISAO President Elect for 2025. We are thrilled to have Jenna DeAbreu joining the committee in her stead. Jenna brings fresh eyes to the committee and is eager to jump into WAO's activities. Jenna has been a volunteer and participant at WAO's events for a few years and we are excited to work together for the future of WAO's successes.

At the 2024 Annual ISAO Conference at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, we welcomed over 100 attendees to the WAO Lunch. In addition to the networking benefits of this event, a big thank you goes out to Beth Brantley, from Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories, who provided a powerful and memorable guest talk to wrap up the lunch before dashing off to present for her encapsulating beech leaf disease seminar. WAO also held its members'

affiliate meeting during the conference, members and committee sat down to reconnect and discuss WAOs operations and other topics the group was interested in chatting about.

On Saturday June 15th, WAO hosted its 6th Annual TreeFest at Coronation Park in Oakville. The event was a tremendous success with over 100 volunteers and attendees. As always, we had our classic climbing activities for participants to try out including the Ascent Event, MRS Work Climb, SRS Work Climb, Fun Climb, Alligator Pit, and Throwball. New to the event this year was a consulting workshop which introduced participants to tree inventories and arborist reports. Thank you to all our sponsors, vendors and volunteers who supported the event and made it extra special for participants.

In September, WAO expanded the Fun Climb to span both competition days at the OTCC to provide the public and family members with the opportunity to try out climbing for themselves. The competition also hosted 10 female competitors, all of which made a fantastic effort in all of the challenging trees. We saw many faces from TreeFest both climbing, volunteering, and attending OTCC. A big congratulation to Hannah Winters who took home the gold medal and will represent Ontario at the NATCC in Texas in March.

This year marks 10 years of WAO! The committee is in the midst of planning the 7th Annual WAO TreeFest locked in for Saturday June 14, 2025. Stay tuned for more updates and details to come!

We thank all our event sponsors and volunteers who make it possible for us to run our events. Your hard work and dedication allows us to continue creating spaces for women and individuals in the industry to make connections, learn new skills and bolster their self-confidence.

If you are interested in more information, joining our group, or becoming a volunteer, email wao@isaontario.com and join our Facebook page. You can also follow us on Instagram, @womeninarboricultureontario

Respectfully submitted by:
Carolyn Dares, Committee Chair

Awards

The ISAO Awards Committee reviews nominee submissions and recommends annual award recipients to the Board of Directors. The chair of the Committee is the past president.

This year we wanted to increase awareness of the various awards and encourage nominations. There are so many of our members doing fantastic work in arboriculture and we want to celebrate those successes! Increase social media posts, ads in Ontario Arborist and a revised, easier to use online nomination form were initiated to increase membership participation. ISAO committees were also tasked with submitting nominations.

Also changing this year is the criteria for the Past Presidents Award. In the past the criteria for this award has been: "Awarded to the outgoing President in recognition of their service and leadership." While the efforts of the past President or any Director should be recognized and appreciated it has seemed a little awkward to chair a committee that gives yourself an award. With the approval of the BOD, we have revised the award criteria recognize others. The new criteria reads: "Awarded to an individual/individuals the current past president sees deserving of special recognition due to their positive influence on the past president or on the organization as a whole during the past president's tenure on the ISAO board of directors." I believe this change shows our gratitude and appreciation of others and aligns better with the values of the ISAO BOD and membership as a whole.

Respectfully submitted by:
Matt Logan, Committee Chair

Governance

Over the past year, with the help of Bright HR the Governance Committee focused on completing and updated multiple policies for the ISAO Board including but not limited to Travel Policy, Right to Disconnect, Media Policy. Moving into 2025, the board has decided not to move forward with Bright HR and will continue to update Policies to benefit ISAO and the members at large.

ISA International has made structural changes to the previously known Council of Representative's (COR) and have updated the title and representatives' requirements. The Governance Committee has submitted a Motion for the AMM as ISA Ontario will need to update our By-Law in turn to reflect these changes.

The Governance committee continues to meet to review existing and develop new Operational policies and procedures to help drive ISAO forward.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ryan St. Pierre, Governance Committee Chair

Strategic Planning

2024 was a monumental year for ISAO, marked by the successful ratification of our revised Strategic Plan. This milestone provides us with a clear focus and direction as we move forward into 2025 and beyond. Our previous strategic plan was last updated in 2019 and the Board recognized that it was important document to revise as we have grown significantly since then. A significant part of that process was to define our Core Values, which serve as our guiding values for executing the updated plan: **Leadership, Integrity, and Service.**

In addition to refining our values, we realigned our primary strategic goals to better reflect the evolving needs of our members and industry shifts. The new Strategic Plan is built around three key principles: **Educate, Advocate, and Research.**

For each of these 3 pillars, we have identified Key Action Items and assignments that will drive the work plan for 2025. This document will serve as a roadmap for ISAO's staff, Board, and committees, guiding us to deliver meaningful, ongoing services and events that will be of greater value and service to our members. The Board of Directors will continue to collaborate with staff as well as communicate with Committee Chairs to effectively implement the work plan.

The development and ratification of the Strategic Plan has been a significant undertaking by the Executive Committee and Board and it will be vital in continuing to move the association forward in the direction that benefits our members. We are looking forward to seeing the impact and growth of ISAO as 2025 rolls out.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mandy Vandenberg, Committee Chair

Ontario Tree Climbing Championship

The Ontario Tree Climbing Championship (OTCC), one of ISAO's premier events, had another successful year at R.K. McMillan Park in Mississauga. The city staff and location were perfect, and we cannot thank Mississauga enough for being such a great host. This park on the shores of Lake Ontario was the perfect size and made for an intimate gathering. It was amazing to see how many people from the public stumbled upon our competition and stuck around for hours enjoying the show.



This event takes a huge number of volunteers to organize and run. The OTCC committee would like to thank you for your commitment. We all do it to support our climbers and crown our champions. This year's champions Hannah Winters and Mark Gaudet will go on to represent Ontario in Christchurch, New Zealand in October 17-19, 2025. We want to wish them all the best and know they will represent Ontario well. We also held our first ever Ontario and world record attempt for the 50ft Ascent Event. Congratulations to Ontario record holder Serena Soucy with a time of 16.87 sec and Ontario and **World** record holder Chris Shallows with a time of 8.80 sec. It is amazing watching this level of athleticism in our trade, we truly do have the best jobs ever! OTCC has seen continued progression and growth. We have moved to a two-day event and have increased the number of climbers. We were able to accommodate all the women competitors who signed up but still had a large waitlist for men. This has been one of our biggest challenges and we are continuing to look for balanced solutions. We are offering workshops that earn CEU's and held the first ever Arbor Challenge which is a ground-based team event. There are always ways to improve and restructure things to make them more efficient while maintaining a positive environment for our volunteers and vendors. Have your voice heard, ISAO sends out a survey to volunteers, vendors and competitors after the event seeking input and hosts a virtual information session each year. The feedback received from these forms helps steer the direction of the competition and helps the committee to make informed decisions.

The Ontario Tree Climbing Championship has traditionally been a break-even event, with the main value being a member benefit that links production arborist with the organization. The last two years the competitions have seen a financial surplus. OTCC receives the majority of its revenue from climber registration, vendor and sponsorship fees. One very important thing of note is our relationship with our suppliers. We could not host these events without their support. It is a symbiotic relationship. We are in a good position and want to thank all of you who have contributed to our success.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ken Gillies, Committee Chair

Safety Committee

The focus of the Safety Committee in 2024 has been continuing to provide relevant, useful & current resources to the ISAO membership.

Continued partnership with Brock University Nursing Program brought to industry related research to the membership. Articles on neck strain injuries and inhalation illnesses & injuries were featured in the OA in 2024 from the 2023 Brock University students.

The 2024 Summer semester saw Lucas study the effects of heat stress and dehydration on arborists. Fall semester saw Marya studying Chainsaw Injury prevention. Both students were able to visit sites and see arborists in action, hear of their experiences and ask questions. Both Lucas & Marya produced articles & safety talks for future Ontario Arborist publications. Stay tuned for these articles in upcoming editions of the OA in 2025 detailing their findings.



Safety Committee members have continued to produce six (6) safety talks for Ontario Arborist publications in 2024. Topics include Stinging Insects, Neck Strain & Injuries, Respiratory Illness & Injury, Ticks, Cold Stress, & Winter Driving.

Succession Planning in 2024 saw Drew Deitner take over as chair from Andrew Smit & Andy Jefferies join the safety committee.

Respectfully submitted by,
Drew Deitner, Committee Chair

Regional Plant Appraisal Committee

The Regional Plant Appraisal Committee (RPAC) is a committee of industry professionals who provide guidance on regional concerns with regards to plant appraisals. The committee was formed and met for the first time in December 2019. The committee released a revised and related Supplemental Guide to the CTLA 10th Edition Guide for Plant Appraisal in 2022 to aid regional plant appraisers in determining consistent appraisal results based on industry and nursery prices of wholesale plants.

The Supplement recommends that the document be updated every three years or if any notable edits or changes in nursery tree prices become apparent. Last year (2024) was a scheduled year to review the supplement. The committee is actively compiling tree pricing data from the same Ontario wholesale nurseries that the Supplement is based on and hope to have it reviewed and have an update available for spring/summer 2025.

The committee will continue to meet and monitor industry feedback as well as current nursery tree prices in order to maintain a current and relevant Supplemental Guide.

As a note of interest, the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) is currently conducting a public review and comment period on the current tenth edition of the *Guide for Plant Appraisal* in preparation for development of the eleventh edition of the Guide. The yearlong public comment period has been extended until February 28, 2025. More information on this can be found in the Newsroom on the ISA International website and inquiries can be directed to eps@isa-arbor.com.

Respectfully submitted by,
Andrew Smit, Committee Chair

Certification

ISA Ontario held four certification exams and three tree climber evaluations over the course of the year. All events were well attended and a huge success. The following report was created on January 13, 2025, and summarizes the number ISA Credential Holders within Ontario for the 2024 year.

Number of Credential Holders	Count in 2022	Count in 2023	Count in 2024
Certified Arborist	1664	1693	1822
Utility Specialist	32	33	34
Tree Worker Climber Specialist	102	95	94
Board Certified Master Arborist	32	33	34
Municipal Specialist	49	52	47

It was a pretty amazing year for continuing education within ISA Ontario. There was an astounding 26,000 CEUs earned by Ontario credential holders over the course of 2024. A third of these CEUs (7,600) resulted from 43 industry events (including the 2024 conference) that submitted CEU pre-approval applications.

ISA Ontario staff have recently streamlined this approval process with a new online form making it extremely easy and convenient to submit applications prior to an event.

ISA has also recently announced in early 2025 that the “Municipal Specialist” certificate has received a rebranding and title change. It will now be the Urban Forest Professional certification. Current Municipal Specialists will automatically be changed to the UFP certification with no requirements other than to gain the standard CEU’s to maintain.

It is great to see such a thirst for knowledge and professional development across the industry!

Respectfully submitted by,
Andrew Smit, Certification Liaison

Membership

The Membership Committee has three primary goals: to increase membership engagement, promote awareness and utilization of membership services, and create and deliver a membership survey to evaluate the needs of the industry and the association.

The Membership Committee is dedicated to fostering a strong and engaged community within the association. To achieve this, we are focusing on several initiatives. First, we aim to increase membership engagement through events, networking opportunities, and enhanced communication strategies, fostering a stronger sense of community among members. Second, we are actively promoting membership services by highlighting the value of existing offerings and introducing new benefits to ensure members feel supported and informed. Lastly, we are in the planning stages of a comprehensive membership survey, which will gather insights on industry needs, satisfaction levels, and areas for improvement within the association. The results will guide our future initiatives.

To better represent all sectors within the province, including arborists, we are seeking additional committee members. Expanding our group will enhance our ability to address diverse perspectives and needs.

Membership Statistics:

Our membership base continues to grow, reflecting the value of being part of the association. We currently have 1,138 Chapter Members, 1,815 ISA Certified Members, 34 Board Certified Master Arborists, 33 Utility Arborists, 47 Municipal Specialists, 94 Tree Climbers, and 738 Tree Risk Assessment Qualified Arborists.

The committee meets quarterly in a hybrid format, accommodating both in-person and virtual participation to ensure accessibility for all members. We encourage all members to share feedback, suggestions, and ideas to help us better serve our community. If you are interested in joining the committee or have input to share, please reach out to us. Together, we can continue building a vibrant and inclusive association.

Respectfully submitted by,
Courtney McCann

MAUF



MAUF's mission is to collaborate and coordinate Ontario municipal arborists and urban foresters for the sustainability, health and benefit of the urban forests and its residents.

In 2024, MAUF held the following events

ISAO Conference Affiliate Meeting

Approximately 30 MAUF members attended the in-person Affiliate meeting at the ISA Ontario Conference at Deerhurst Resort ON.

Spring Forum

The Virtual Spring Forum was deferred to a Fall Forum this year. MAUF is planning on re-introducing the Spring Forum in 2025.

Fall Forum

Once again, as voted by the MAUF members, the Fall Forum was held virtually on October 8, 2024. Approximately 45 MAUF Members were in attendance to join the discuss around an Approved Contractor Program as presented by Stephen McQuigge and an exciting presentation by Adam Palmer and Nelwon Edwards from the City of Ottawa on Right of Way designs and including trees in the ROW. There was much time for lively and interesting discussion in the open floor round table.

We look forward to the following in the 2025 year ahead

- ISAO Conference Affiliate Meeting: Wed. Feb. 19, 2025
- Spring Virtual Forum: date TBD
- Fall Virtual Forum: Date TBD

MAUF is a community for Municipal Arborists and Urban forester to exchange ideas and gather input from other municipalities. MAUF members can send their MAUF related inquiries to this address. MAUF email address, mauf@isaontario.com. Send us an email and we can add you to our email list to receive notices from MAUF and invitations to our events

Respectfully submitted by
Mandy Vandenberg

Canadian Tree Fund 2023 Year in Review

I am happy to report that 2024 will be remembered as a remarkable year with a number of noteworthy achievements. As always on behalf of our Board of Trustees, I would like to offer our deepest gratitude to the countless people who have a genuine appreciation and understanding for how our work contributes to the ISA Mission and who supported the work that we do through financial donations, word of mouth testimonials, and in-kind volunteer efforts,



This is our 29th fiscal year and will stand out as the year we reached our **ONE MILLION DOLLAR** fundraising milestone. We are so indebted to our perennial supporters, our first time donors and to those individuals who responded to our fourth quarter requests, which collectively made this possible.

Since our inception in 1995, the Canadian TREE Fund, has demonstrated our commitment to our mission by raised over \$1,000,000, supported more than 100 research and education projects and aided over 35 students with aspirations of becoming future urban foresters. Our accomplishments have helped to bolster the benefits of urban trees, enhance our urban environments and help arborists to be more effective and work safer.



In the fiscal year, we allocate over \$18,000 for three Canadian projects and one international project.

In January the CTF **Jack Kimmel Grant** selection committee reviewed 9 submissions and selected the following 3, with a total funding commitment of over \$8,000

- University of Manitoba: Arboriculture training and development courses and workshops
- Vineland Research and Innovation Centre: Developing a Tree Selector Tool for All Tree-Planting Audiences
- Kelowna Tree Protectors: Regional tree promotion and educational initiatives

In October the **International TREE Fund Grant** Selection Committee, including Cathy Bentley representing The Canadian TREE Fund, reviewed 4 submissions and selected the following project for a \$10,000 **Jack Kimmel Grant**

- University Malaysia Terengganu: Distance effect of termite nests on tree growth and pathogen resilience of tree species, By Dr. Petr Hedenec

As in the past few years we are continuing to be encouraged by escalating grant submissions particularly by non-profit community organizations who advocate for a much needed connection between urban residents and nature through tree education and installation projects. This however poses a serious challenge when deciding on the most fitting projects to support. Regrettably we face the difficult decision of turning down many promising programs.

Also in January, we supported the following individuals with ambitions of becoming future arborists.

Harold Van Dyke Memorial Bursary:

Elizabeth Chow, Kyle Parker each received \$1000 bursaries

Gerry Micsinszki Apprenticeship Bursary:

Owen Chapman, became the first recipient of this newly created \$2000 bursary honoring Gerry a long time ISAO member for his dedication and commitment to our industry.

Wenda Li Tree Climbing Championship Bursary:

Elizabeth Chow, became the first recipient of this newly created \$400 bursary made possible with generous donations from Wenda Li and Warren Hoselton

Tour des Trees October 2024:

This year's ride numbered year 43. Since 1992, Tour des Trees riders plant trees, educate the public and highlight the work by arboriculture professionals and the importance of science-based tree care. It is notably the largest urban forest fundraising event in the world, messaging 100,000s of urban citizens and has provided 5.4 million dollars for tree research grants and scholarships since 2002.

Congratulations go out to Team Canada's passionate riders Warren Hoselton, (who also provides tree education as Prof. Elwood Pricklethorn), and David Seychell from Ontario, and Jim Urbanowski from New Brunswick, who collectively raised close to \$15,000 this year and over their many years of participation have raised \$100,000s of much appreciated Canadian TREE Fund dollars. Also included in the team is Joanna Nakeff, a non-arborist participant, who plays a vital role in the behind the scenes but essential support team.

Board of Trustees:

Over the course of 2024 we recruited several new Trustees and sadly have had to say goodbye to several committed Trustees who made significant contributions over their time and who will be dearly missed. New Trustees include Rachel Bowery, Kait Simpson, Catherine Dowdell, and Kyle Berwick. Retiring Trustees include Alison Morrison, Toso Bozic, and Kaitlyn Pike.

Current Board of Trustees:

Co-chairs: Cathy Bentley Astrid Nielsen, Trustees: Warren Hoselton, John Wilson, Serena Soucy, Alex Martin, Rachel Bowery, Kait Simpson, Catherine Dowdell, and Kyle Berwick.

Our Call to Action

2024 will be remembered as the year we achieved an incredible milestone—raising ONE MILLION DOLLARS in fundraising. This accomplishment is more than just a financial benchmark; it's a powerful symbol of hope for the future, especially at a time when urban forests are more critical than ever.

As cities and towns continue to grow, it's essential to recognize the vital role trees play in urban landscapes. They not only connect us to nature but also help address global challenges like climate change and the biodiversity crisis. Your support fuels our mission and drives meaningful progress across the industry.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are optimistic about continued support from the individuals and organizations who have brought us this far. To those who have yet to join us, we extend a heartfelt invitation: add your name to our growing community of supporters. Together, we can say YES to more grant submissions and make even more cities truly TREEMENDOUS!

For more information about who we are and what we do, please visit our website at www.canadiantreefund.org.

Respectfully submitted by,
John Wilson, Trustee, Canadian TREE Fund

Thank you to our 2024 Committee Volunteers

Executive Committee

Michael LaPorte
Matt Logan
Mandy Vandenberg
Andrew Smit
Ryan St. Pierre

Board of Directors

Michael LaPorte
Matt Logan
Mandy Vandenberg
Andrew Smit
Rhoda deJonge
Serena Soucy
Ryan St. Pierre
Courtney McCann
Stephen McQuigge
Kim Statham
Robin Shaw-Lukavsky

Communications

Rhoda DeJonge
Stephen McQuigge

Education

Michael Laporte
Kyle McLoughlin
Ken Gillies
Mark Graves
Linda Hawkins
Warren Hoselton
Ryan St. Pierre
Peter DeVries
Alice Power
Trent Meyers

Membership

Courtney McCann
Warren Hoselton
Mark Mastantuono

WAO

Carolyn dares
Kari Hansen
Krista Strating
Serena Soucy
Jess Van Vliet
Jessica Schlagheck
Jenna DeAbreu

OTCC

Ken Gillies
Devin Terris
Rob Shaw-Lukavsky
Jess Van Vliet
Ciara Condon
Adam Chamberlain
Carla Oliveira
Steve Lang
Michael LaPorte
Peter Devries
Nich Spino

Safety

Drew Deitner
Andrew Smit
Rachael Bowery
Kevin Schieck
Jolene Kostick
Sean Hopper
Ken Gillies
Andy Jeffries

MAUF

Gaspar Horvath
Angie Hutnick
Mandy Vandenberg
Steve Robinson
David Vollett
Drew Deitner

Awards

Matt Logan & Board

Treasury

Andrew Smit

Governance

Ryan St. Pierre – Chair
Courtney McCann

GWTP

Deliver Partners
ISAO: Courtney McCann, Julie Tucker
OCAA: Mark Graves, Patricia Thomson, Patricia Gallagher
CF: Jessie Shapansky, Lance Barrett

Advisory Committee

Dan Davis, Bartlett Tree Experts;
John Ransom, Davey Tree; Becky Moule, CLC Tree Service; Brian Zylstra, City of London; Carolyn Dares, City of Markham

There are many more volunteers not listed and a special and sincere *“Thank you”*
goes out to all of ISA Ontario's Volunteers!
An extra special Thank You goes out to Staff and President who sit on almost all Committees!