



Ontario Urban Forests - Scrapbook II Growing Interest and Concern

by Bill Morsink

The OUFC Executive Committee worked with me, a retired urban forester, in developing this scrapbook, which takes a comprehensive look at where we came from and where we are headed in the field of Urban Forestry in Ontario. This Committee accepted the 108 page review manuscript written for and by many OUFC members and contributors. Philip van Wassenaer, who reviewed the final form of publication with Scott Kletke, will submit a design recommendation and a cost for printing for the next OUFC Executive meeting in December. Bill strongly recommends that the pictures remain in black and white, because the cost of the publication should remain reasonable.

Our members have growing concerns about the well being of urban forests. Currently, management of our urban forests starts and finishes at the municipal level. Historically, the provincial and federal governments have not been involved with management or extension support. With the arrival of new invasive insect pests (i.e. Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle), interagency cooperation is imperative. We must move toward collaboration, not only in the face of these potential disasters, but in all aspects of urban forest planning and management.

This Scrapbook a history of the development of the urban forest concept and how OUFC came about. If you read it carefully, you may discover many topic ideas for OUFC workshops and field days. It also urges the various tree and urban forest related groups to get involved with partnerships. There are groups and organizations that work locally and/or regionally with similar goals. The OUFC can help to connect these groups to share strategies, promote urban forest legislation, and provide educational workshops. Saving trees and disease control are still important parts of the agenda, but they are no longer addressed in isolation. For success to be realized, the urban forest as a whole, with all its needs, its vulnerability and its benefits to people has to be the focus.