



TREES Winnipeg

The Coalition to Save the Elms

Organization Background

Trees Winnipeg (formerly known as The Coalition to Save the Elms), is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the stewardship of elms and other trees, forests and the urban environment. Although we are based in Winnipeg, we have members throughout Manitoba.

The Coalition to Save the Elms was founded in 1992 in response to the heightened threat of Dutch elm disease to Winnipeg's extraordinary American elm population. The organization has updated its strategy to stress the importance of all tree species and biodiversity in Winnipeg's urban forest; in 2009 we changed our operating name to Trees Winnipeg to reflect the change in our scope.

Winnipeg is renowned around the world for its exceptional urban forest which is composed of the largest native American elm population in North America. Trees Winnipeg has played a vital role in ensuring the continued survival of our precious urban tree population. The vision of Trees Winnipeg is to protect, preserve and promote the health of the urban forest and the urban environment through public awareness and education.

Some of our Programs & Accomplishments

- Advocated successfully for government funding for promising DED research at the Universities of Manitoba and Toronto.
- Advocated against construction damage, insensitive development and unnecessary tree removal.
- Worked to have a public tree protection bylaw enacted and public tree advisory committee forms to oversee the preservation of the urban forest.
- Annual Tree Care and Dutch Elm Disease (DED) workshops for the public, schools and other organizations and family events such as our annual Arbor Day Celebration (last Saturday of May).
- Developed Neighbourhood elm guard and tree action groups to identify DED in Winnipeg.
- Annual neighbourhood tree banding programs to reduce the cankerworm damage.
- Developed partnerships with the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and many community groups.
- We support and participate in Manitoba university research programs (eg. the University of Manitoba DED research project and the University of Winnipeg urban tree health assessment project)

1539 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 4V7

Tel: (204) 832-7188 Email: office@treeswinnipeg.ca Web: www.savetheelms.mb.ca



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Publications: Tree Owner's Manual, Manitoba Elm Survival Guide, The Urban Forester (quarterly newsletter).

Who We Are

Trees Winnipeg is proud of our dedicated volunteer Board members and advisory members, including representatives from municipal and provincial agencies, local universities, the private tree-care industry, and other non-government organizations. The success of our programs and workshops is possible through our partnerships with the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, local businesses, and many other organizations and community groups.

For specific inquiries about our programs and initiatives, please feel free to contact the following representatives:

Gerry Engel – Board Member & Historic Tree Preservation Spokesperson

A passionate and curious tree person his entire life, Gerry left the security of a family business and started TreeLife Arborist Service 17 years ago; a certified, custom arborist practice specializing in the preservation of trees. Gerry also volunteers his time as a board member of Trees Winnipeg, serving as the chair of the Annual Arbor Day Festival, as well as a committee member of the Historic Tree Protection Committee. Gerry believes that the trees of our urban forest can't be taken for granted and he works hard to preserve what we have left. As an ISA certified arborist and member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists, Gerry is happy to engage in conversation with anyone interested in the value of trees to our city and communities.

- ◆ Historic Tree Preservation Program

Please contact the number below if you would like to arrange an interview with Gerry.

Kerienne La France – Executive Director

Kerienne is a graduate from the University of Winnipeg Environmental Studies (Forest Ecology) Program, and joined Trees Winnipeg in 2010 as the Public Education Coordinator. She began her new part-time position as Executive Director in spring 2011, and is currently finishing her Master's degree in Forestry and Environmental Management from the University of New Brunswick. Kerienne also works at the University of Winnipeg, managing research projects on urban forest health and diversity.

- ◆ Historic Tree Preservation Program
- ◆ Public tree-care workshops and events
- ◆ Tree Banding Program
- ◆ Research initiatives
- ◆ Publications
- ◆ All other programs and inquires

Office Phone: (204) 832-7188 (9-4 pm only)

Outside of Trees Winnipeg, Kerienne volunteers her time as a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, and has served as a volunteer with other organizations exploring forest management and conservation projects in Europe and Central America.

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Email: office@treeswinnipeg.org (day & evenings to 9pm)

June 15, 2011

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

TREES WINNIPEG LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM: "ALL TREES TELL A STORY" - THE WINNIPEG HISTORIC TREE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Trees Winnipeg (the Coalition to Save the Elms) is pleased to announce the launch of The Winnipeg Historic Tree Preservation Program on June 16, 2011. The launch will be formally announced to the public during the assembly at the Arbor Day Celebration at Carpathia Elementary School, 300 Carpathia Road at 11:00am.

This initiative is designed to increase public knowledge of the historical, cultural, ecological, and sociological roles of trees and green spaces in Winnipeg's urban communities, and to promote the preservation of trees within the City of Winnipeg.

Does **your** tree have a story to tell?

Trees Winnipeg needs your help in locating trees throughout Winnipeg that have historical, cultural, ecological, or sociological significance. Do you have a tree you would like to nominate? Do you know a tree worth preserving? Visit our website for more information and to download the "All Trees Tell a Story" nomination form.

Contact:

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 4V7
Phone: (204) 832-7188
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ALL TREES TELL A STORY

The Winnipeg Historic Tree Preservation Program

1. About This Program
2. The Importance of Tree Preservation
3. What is a Historic Tree?
Feature: The Story of the Grandma Elm
4. Historic Tree Nomination Form

1. About This Program

Trees Winnipeg (the Coalition to Save the Elms) is pleased to announce the launch of The Winnipeg Historic Tree Preservation Program on June 16, 2011.

The goals of The Winnipeg Historic Tree Preservation Program are:

- 1) Increase public knowledge of the historical, cultural, ecological, and sociological roles of trees and green spaces in Winnipeg's urban communities
- 2) Promote environmental stewardship by engaging Winnipeg residents in the identification and protection of trees and green spaces
- 3) Provide the necessary data and support required to establish a tree preservation policy for urban trees within the city of Winnipeg

This program is driven by public support from Winnipeg residents, as well as the professional expertise of partnering organizations, private companies, and volunteers. Trees Winnipeg is proud to be working with local, experienced tree-care professionals certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA); an international standard of accreditation through which arborists demonstrate the proper technical knowledge and skills, as well as a high level of dedication to the tree-care profession and to the community.

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2. The Importance of Tree Preservation

With over 30 years of successfully managing Dutch elm disease, Winnipeg is home to the largest American elm population in any city in North America, with over 140,000 elms growing on City boulevards, in parks and open spaces, golf courses, cemeteries, private properties and riverbanks. Our elms make up just a portion of Winnipeg's urban forest of an estimated 8 million trees. Tree-lined boulevards and mature trees on private properties are distinguishing features for many communities within the city of Winnipeg, with many pre-dating the houses and structures built around them. Currently, there is no protection for trees on private property in Winnipeg, despite the progress in tree protection policies in other major Canadian cities.

3. What is a Historic Tree?

In general, a historic tree can be considered an individual tree that due to its age, dimensions, cultural significance or a combination of other social, biological or physical aspects may have special significance to citizens in a community.

The technical heritage tree definition developed by Dr. Paul Aird, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, has been adopted by the Trees Winnipeg Historic Tree Protection Committee:

"A notable specimen because of its size, form, shape, beauty, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution, or other distinctive features; a living relic that displays evidence of cultural modification by Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal people, including strips of bark or knot-free wood removed, test hole cut to determine soundness furrows cut to collect pitch or sap, or blazes to mark a trail; a prominent community landmark; a specimen associated with a historic person, place, event or period; a representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors that is at risk of disappearing from cultivation; a tree associated with local folklore myths, legends or traditions; a specimen identified by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition".

(Source - Securing the Future of Heritage Trees: A Protection Toolkit for Communities. Ontario Tree Alliance, Ontario Urban Forest Council.2006)

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Featured Historic Tree: The Wolseley Elm



The Wolseley Elm, December 05, 1957

This famous tree stood in the middle of Wolseley at the foot of Basswood Place. It was planted in the 1860's on the river lot farm of Joseph and Mary Anne Good, when Mary Anne was a bride. The sapling had been rafted down the river from Baie St. Paul. In 1957, the city decided that it had to be removed to build a new road. Mary Anne Good, Mrs. Borrowman, and other neighbours petitioned city council to stop this action and won their case; the road was built winding around the tree. Unfortunately, the tree was cut eventually removed in July 1960.

Source: A Historical Walking Tour of Wolseley (Manitoba Historical Society)

Photo: Winnipeg Tribune Photo Collection (University of Manitoba Archives)

As part of this program, **Trees Winnipeg needs your help** in locating trees throughout Winnipeg that have historical, cultural, ecological, or sociological significance.

- ◆ Does **your** tree have a story?
- ◆ Do you know a special tree worth preserving?

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Download our **“All Trees Tell a Story” Historic Tree Nomination Form** at www.savetheelms.mb.ca and submit it to the address below!

Mail: Trees Winnipeg **Fax:** (204) 986-4050
1539 Waverley Street
Winnipeg, MB R3T 4V7

4. Historic Tree Nomination Form – enclosed.

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