

Ontario Enhancing Blue Box Program

Following extensive consultations, the Ontario government is improving blue box recycling by expanding service to more communities, standardizing the list of materials that can be recycled across the province and saving municipalities money by making producers of products and packaging fully responsible for the cost and operation of the program.

The enhanced Blue Box program will make recycling easier for Ontarians by:

- Expanding collection to all communities outside the Far North by 2026;
- Standardizing what can be recycled across Ontario;
- Accepting common single-use and packaging-like products such as paper & plastic cups, foils, trays, bags & boxes sold for home use;
- Collecting single-use items that are distributed or sold to consume food and beverage products, like stir sticks, straws, cutlery & plates;
- Expanding services to more facilities such as apartment buildings, municipally run or non-profit long-term care homes and retirement homes, and schools.

The province is also expanding collection to more parks, playgrounds, and transit stations, more than tripling the number of public space recycling bins funded under the current program so there are more opportunities to recycle at home and on the go.

The changes to the program will also transition the costs of the Blue Box program away from municipal taxpayers by making the

producers of products and packaging fully responsible for managing the life-cycle of their products, resulting in an estimated savings of \$156 million annually for municipalities.

Combining 253 local programs into a single provincial collection system managed by producers will improve recycling operations across the province, encouraging producers to find efficiencies that will make recycling simpler and easier for residents, while also driving innovation in recycling practices and technologies by rewarding producers who make their products easier to recycle and can derive more value from waste – fueling job creation and attracting investment right here in Ontario.

The transition to the enhanced Blue Box program will be staggered from 2023 to 2025 to ensure a smooth transition for municipalities and producers, so there is no interruption to service for residents. Some of the first municipalities scheduled to adopt the new producer model include Kenora, London, Toronto and Hawkesbury.

Reducing plastic waste and litter and making producers responsible for managing waste from packaging or their products is a key part of the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan. Ontario remains committed to balancing a healthy economy with a healthy environment and keeping Ontario clean and beautiful.

2021 Tree Trust Work Begins!

On June 25, Tree Trust TBM sponsored conservation work on a 140 year-old sugar maple located in the Thornbury Union Cemetery. The sugar maple is the third tree cared for by Tree Trust TBM since our launch last year and the first tree so far in 2021. We hope to complete another special tree in the Thornbury Union Cemetery soon, in conjunction with a public celebration event. Thank you to TC Rotary Club and our dedicated citizen donors for helping Tree Trust TBM to look after beautiful and ecologically important trees.

The sugar maple at Thornbury Union Cemetery presented several issues needing attention including the presence of a large cavity in the main trunk. Tobias Effinger of Arboreal Tree Care explained how a tree produces new wood as part of a multi-layered defense mounted in response to injury. When an injury or cavity interrupts the vascular system, the tree works around the cavity in a process known as compartmentalization.

This process creates both physical and chemical barriers in an attempt to arrest the spread of decay. When examining the large cavity, Tobias was able to determine that the tree was successfully creating new wood at the edges of the cavity. In order to create the conditions favoring growth of new (reaction or barrier zone) wood, and reduce fungal spread, the team carefully cleaned the cavity.

James Houghton of the Arboreal Tree Care team also completed work in the upper canopy, removing carefully selected limbs and sections of limbs that are vulnerable to structural failure due to poor attachment (i.e. limbs outgrowing their holding potential). Limb reductions like this are preventative against injury but also increase tree vitality by stimulating new growth closer to the center and the proximal vascular system of the tree.

Regarding another tree on the Tree Trust TBM list: An active and dedicated Tree Trust supporter recently alerted us that **gypsy moths have completely defoliated an oak tree that Tree Trust**

was planning to care for in the Windfall area. Tobias had already assessed the tree as somewhat vulnerable due to root damage from recent road and trail construction. At this point, we will have to wait to see how the tree recovers from the considerable stress of losing all of its leaves. For the time being, providing sufficient water is our best form of support while we monitor this special tree.

bettymuise@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING PROMOTION - GREAT VALUE AT \$25



- Renpure Coconut Cream Shampoo 32 fl oz
- Renpure Coconut Cream Conditioner 32 fl oz
- Shield Plex Hand Wash 16 fl oz
- Renpure Coconut Milk & Vitamin E Body Wash 16 fl oz
- Sunzone Sunscreen 50 ml

Proceeds to support local community groups. Call 519-599-3345 or order online at www.lobsterfest.blue



HAPPY
Canada Day

TERRY **DOWDALL** MP
SIMCOE-GREY

1-866-435-1809 • TERRYDOWDALLMP.CA •
TERRY.DOWDALL@PARL.GC.CA

