Beaverbrook Tree Inventory Course – May 25/26, 2019

Do you love the trees of Beaverbrook and have an interest in their well-being? Consider volunteering with Neighbour*Woods*© in Beaverbrook, a community forest stewardship project.

Neighbour*Woods*© is a comprehensive urban tree inventory protocol developed by Dr. Andy Kenney and Dr. Danijela Puric-Mladenovic of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. The protocol assists communities to collect tree information needed to provide sound stewardship of their urban forest. The data from the tree inventory is important to assess the health of existing trees and to support decisions about future needs. The protocol has been used by a number of Ontario communities such as the Town of Mitchell, Kingston, North Bay, Toronto and Windsor and has been endorsed by the City of Ottawa to complement the city's Urban Forest Management Plan. As well as enhancing the attractiveness of properties, studies have shown that urban trees improve air quality, absorb storm water and can reduce summer energy consumption by shading homes.

In June 2018, under the sponsorship of the Kanata Beaverbrook Community Association, Dr. Kenney led a weekend of Neighbour*Woods*© training. A group of residents put their course knowledge to work on several Beaverbrook streets. Based on the inventory data collected from approximately 1100 trees, we observed that while the species diversity was acceptable, the number of spruce and pine trees was a little high compared to the rule of thumb for the composition of an urban forest. We also noted that larger, older trees were dominant, many in poor or declining condition. If this trend holds for the entire neighbourhood, it may be time for a comprehensive regeneration plan to establish the next generation of trees. Plantable spots are being identified.

The 2019 training session with Dr. Kenney is scheduled for Saturday May 25 and Sunday May 26 at the Beaverbrook Community Centre. The training topics for the urban tree inventory include: tree species identification, measurements and location, tree health and condition assessment and the state of the tree's growing site. The material will be covered in outside field demonstrations and hands-on exercises. Participants will learn how to use the Neighbour*Woods*© data-entry forms, forestry measurement equipment and will be provided with tree identification resources and hint sheets. The complete agenda for the 2 day session will follow. There will be no course fee for Beaverbrook residents.

The course is intended for anyone with an interest in the Beaverbrook's valuable natural resource: our trees. High school students are very welcome to work on the project to fulfill their community involvement hours.

After the course, 2019 participants will be partnered up with more experienced volunteers to inventory additional streets in Beaverbrook. This field work will be scheduled at the convenience of the team members over the summer months.

For further information about Neighbour*Woods*© in Beaverbrook or to register for the May 25-26 course, please see http://www.kanatabeaverbrook.ca/joomla16/ or email info@kanatabeaverbrook.ca. Registration details should include:

First and last name, address, postal code, phone number and email address