

CITIZEN PRUNERS

Summer 2017 Report

For the Canadian Tree Fund



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Citizen Pruners Summary

This summer, thanks to funding from the Jack Kimmel fund of the Canadian Tree Fund, the Elora Environment Centre launched CP, following the model set by TH – Rena Vlehbeck was very helpful and forthcoming with her advice and information.

We ran 2 in-class evening training sessions, one field training and 6 community pruning sessions.

A total of 19 citizen volunteers stepped forward to participate, each of whom worked a minimum of 4 of 6 work nights at 2 hrs/night.

7 arborists volunteered in all. Two arborists were on hand each work night to provide field training and ensure trees were correctly pruned.

The Township was pleased with the work done by our volunteers – so much so that they agreed to allow us to work on public trees in two parks; something that initially, they had not approved.

Our summer student, Charlotte Rumbell, maintained meticulous details about the project, as illustrated by the attached summary report!

Taylor Heine, our graphic artist/photographer summer student, designed our T-shirts, negotiated the printing and sale, signage and took pictures throughout the summer.

We hosted a BBQ to thank volunteers – at which time most indicated enthusiasm to return next summer.

CITIZEN PRUNERS SUMMER 2017 TIMELINE

Monday, May 21	<u>Citizen Pruner Pilot Project</u> : Gathered information from Rena Vlebeck about Citizen Pruners which has been run once before in Thunder Bay.
Wednesday, May 24	<u>Citizen Pruner Training Day One</u> : Volunteers sign-in, sign waiver, then Chris Morrison presents information about trees and pruning to volunteers.
Thursday, May 25	<u>Citizen Pruner Training Day Two</u> : Volunteers sign-in, hand in any left-over documents, Chris Morrison presents more information about pruning to volunteers (some new volunteers are here learning the info. as well)
Friday, May 26	<u>Location Scouting</u> : SITES VISITED: OPP Station, Shortreeds Auto, Elora P.S., Collins Barrow
Wednesday, May 31	<u>Location Scouting</u> : SITES VISITED: CWDHS, Newdon Industries, Beer Store, Geo Solar, Fergus Auto Recyclers
Tuesday, June 30	<u>Email</u> : update to volunteers about where, when the pruning field training will be taking place. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Notes about weather, reminders of what to bring and cost of instruments.
Thursday, June 1	<u>Citizen Pruner Field Training</u> : Took volunteers out with arborists: Chris Morrison and Andrew Hutten, to get hands-on training about how to prune trees at the Fergus Arboretum (165 Park Ave., Fergus) at 6:30 PM.
Tuesday, June 6	<u>Email</u> : email reminders to the volunteers and arborists about
Wednesday, June 7	<u>Surveying</u> : Went out to the first pruning location (tomorrow night) and inventoried the trees – to keep a record of the trees we prune.
Thursday, June 8	<u>Pruning Night One</u> : prepping for the pruning night at the <i>Elora OPP Station</i> at 6:30PM – creating an agenda and making sure we have t-shirts, binders, sign and tools etc. AGENDA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction – special thanks to our volunteer arborist Bill McKenna and colleague Spencer (MW Tree Services)- Introduce the site we're working (which trees we will be pruning)- Gather around one tree for arborist to do a quick recap/example- Started pruning at 6:45PM – spent a lot of time with the arborist- <u>13 trees pruned in 1:45hrs with 8 volunteers, 3 summer students + Toni and 2 arborists</u> NOTES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Don't need to put people into teams – they'll do that themselves- Having two arborists is most helpful – to split up the group- Everyone looked like they were enthused, and asking questions- We had just the right number of trees – not too many, not too little

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask arborists to bring their own pole pruners – 3 per night (ask Monique as well) - Brush was picked up the next day by Bill McKenna, who said he would chip it - Trees were planted in April 2009
Monday, June 12	<p><u>Surveying</u>: went to Elora P.S. to inventory the trees for pruning night two – to keep a record of trees pruned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major mower damage to base of trees <p><u>Email</u>: email reminders to the volunteers and arborists about</p>
Wednesday, June 14	<p><u>Pruning Night Two</u>: less prep for tonight for pruning night at <i>Elora Public School</i> at 6:30PM – brought sign, pruning equipment and binder.</p> <p><u>AGENDA</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction – special thanks to our volunteer arborist Bill McKenna (from last week) from MW Tree Services - Started pruning at 6:40PM - <u>18 trees pruned in 1:30hrs with 8 volunteers, 3 summer students and 1 arborist</u> <p><u>NOTES</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trees planted in April 2010 - Volunteers were much more confident in their pruning – made the night quicker - Trees were very damaged by lawnmowers and children – expect one of the trees to die due to damage - Left the brush for the township to pick up by Church St. path entrance
Monday, June 19	<p><u>Email</u>: email reminders to the volunteers and arborists about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pruning night date, time and location (plus map) - Thanking the volunteer arborists - What to bring: pruners, loppers etc. - What the weather will be like
Thursday, June 22	<p><u>Pruning Night Three</u>: pruning at CWDHS (905 Scotland St., Fergus) at 6:30PM</p> <p><u>AGENDA</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special thanks to volunteer arborists: Doug Steel from Full Circle Tree Care and Phil Guenter from Baum Tree Care - Pruned the fruit trees, sugar maples and the trees on the boulevard - Started at 6:30PM - <u>Pruned 35 trees in 2 hours with 8 volunteers, 2 arborists, 2 summer students</u>
Friday, June 23rd	<p><u>Surveying</u>: went to CWDHS to inventory the trees that were pruned the night before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thought about taking the stakes off of the fruit trees – but arborists (from CP the night before) said that small fruit trees always need to be staked

Saturday, June 24th	<u>Email</u> : email reminders to the volunteers and arborists.
Monday, June 26th	<p><u>Pruning Night Four</u>: pruning at the Fergus Arboretum (165 Park Ave.) at 6:30PM</p> <p><i>AGENDA</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special thanks for our volunteer arborists: Andrew Doucette from Out of Your Tree Care and Ali Morrison from Green Legacy - Started pruning at 6:30PM – lots of people showed up late - Pruned many trees throughout the arboretum – volunteers and arborists were scattered around the area so unable to discern stat. for this night. <p><i>NOTES</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another night’s work of pruning – if we need a backup spot - Can never have too many pole pruners - Threw the brush into the bush
Monday, July 3rd	<u>Email</u> : email reminders to the volunteers and arborists about:
Wednesday, July 5th	<p><u>Pruning Night Five</u>: pruning at first Shortreed Auto Centre, 6:30-7:20PM, and then at Collinsbarrow, 7:30-8:20PM</p> <p><i>AGENDA</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special thanks to volunteer arborists: Ali Morrison from Green Legacy and Andrew Hutten from Kodiak Tree Services - <u>Pruned 11 trees in 1 hour at Shortreeds Auto Centre with 9 volunteers, 2 arborists and 3 summer students</u> - <u>Pruned 10 trees in 1 hour at Collinsbarrow with 6 volunteers, 1 arborist and 3 summer students</u> <p><i>NOTES</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brought safety glasses for all the volunteers – though most of them had their own (or sunglasses) - Made elevation cuts to the larger trees to the right of the Auto Centre - Moving between two locations worked well – some volunteers who had enough pruning went home, and the ones who wanted to prune some more came to the next location - May need to return to continue corrective pruning to silver maples – though they are already very tall at Auto Centre - Left the brush for the township to come and pick up – also filled Ali Morrison’s van (who said she could take it to compost later) - Now we have permission from Mat Alain (the township), to work on park trees: (Drimmie Park, Station Square Park and Hoffer Park to start)
Friday, July 7th	<u>Email</u> : email reminders to the volunteers and arborists.

**Monday
July 10th**

Pruning Night Six: pruning at first Station Square Park, 6:30-7:20PM, and then at Drimmie Park, 7:30-8:20PM

AGENDA:

- Special thanks to volunteer arborists: Ali Morrison from Green Legacy, Andrew Hutten from Kodiak Tree Services and Doug Steel from Full Circle Tree Care
- Pruned 10 trees at Elora Station Square Park with 5 volunteers, 3 arborists and 2 summer students at Elora Station Square Park
- Pruned 20 trees at Elora Drimmie Park with 5 volunteers, 3 arborists and 2 summer students

NOTES:

- We were given permission to prune Celebration Trees at Station Square
- The horse-chestnut trees at Station Square had severe damage to the trunk (which looked like vandalism), but it was determined that it was sun-scorch, and compression fractures due to weather, and that they are thin-barked trees
- Drimmie trees had a lot of mower damage – (but we have since mulched there)

**Friday, July
14th**

Email: emailed all of the volunteers as a Citizen Pruners Conclusion email.

- Thanked them for their time
- Asked them to spread around the contact information about our volunteer arborists (as a thank-you for their time)
- Included an attachment of all of the contact information for each arborist (ordered based on the nights they came out)
- Asked them the following survey questions:
 - *Is there one thing you learned that really stuck with you?*
 - *Did you think the in-class training and in-field training equipped you to get started?*
 - *Was the volunteer time commitment reasonable? Too much? Too little?*
 - *There is some interest in doing a pruning night in the Fall, would you be interested?*
 - *Are you interested in being a Citizen Pruner next year?*
 - *General comments/suggestions for improvements (if you could change one thing what would it be?)*

Call: contacting all of the arborists who helped us (by phone), and asking them for feedback, specifically:

- *How was the time commitment?*
- *Do you think the program was well organized?*
- *Would you volunteer next year?*
- *Any general feedback you would like to give?*

IMPORTANT NOTE

- Different arborists have different pruning opinions/techniques – so it was useful to see and hear different opinions and styles.

CITIZEN PRUNERS PRUNING STATISTICS

Night One: 13 trees pruned in 1.75 hours with 12 volunteers and 2 arborists

AVG: 1 tree/0.13 hr.

Night Two: 18 trees pruned in 1.5 hours with 11 volunteers and 1 arborist

AVG: 1 tree/0.083 hr.

Night Three: pruned 35 trees in 2 hours with 10 volunteers and 2 arborists

AVG: 1 tree/0.057 hr.

Night Four: trees pruned in arboretum – no stats available

Night Five: 21 trees pruned in 2 hours with 9 volunteers and 2 arborists

AVG: 0.095 hr.

Night Six: 30 trees pruned in 2 hours with 7 volunteers and 3 arborists

AVG: 1 tree/0.067 hr.

We worked 8 locations, pruning 137 trees in six weeks with 15 citizen volunteers and 4 summer students.



CITIZEN PRUNERS TIME

Job	Hours	Total
Ordering t-shirts, signs and supplies	2 hrs	2 hrs
Recruiting volunteers and arborists	6 hrs	6 hrs
In-class prep and training	2 nights x 4 hrs	8 hrs
In-field training	1 night x 3 hrs	3 hrs
Location scouting in Fergus and Elora	1 hr	1 hr
Pruning nights and cleanup	6 nights x 3 hrs	18 hrs
Project managements	6 wks x 2 hrs	12 hrs
Total:		50 hrs

CITIZEN PRUNERS MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT PURCHASED

Item	Number Purchased
Belt Holster for Pruners	16
Felco #2 Pruner R.H.	13
Forged Bypass Lopper	3
Pocketboy 170m Saw	10
Silk Screened T-Shirts from local supplier	21
Coroplast signs installed on existing frames	4



CITIZEN PRUNERS VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

Question	Response
<p>Is there one thing you learned that really stuck with you?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pruning is done to lengthen the life of the tree and inhibit damage that could be caused by vehicles/pedestrians. 2. In spite of the fact that I have done a lot of pruning over the years, I think that I am more aware of the overall impact of pruning for the future of the tree. Two specific things are tipping back the branches to encourage leader growth and mode of entry of disease. 3. The knowledge of the arborists and their willingness to share sticks with me. 4. As with most skills – there is always a jump when going from the classroom to the field – e.g. from learning the principles to applying the practice. And – there was considerable variation among the arborists in how those principles were applied. The amount of mower/trimmer damage to trees planted within mowed lawns was disturbing – and almost seems to undermine much of the planting efforts in these situations. I do not expect many of these damaged trees to survive very long. 5. Yes, pruning isn't a perfect science, do the basics, and remember you don't need to do all the pruning in one year 6. Yes, don't cut too much of the tree. These are actually wounds. Pruning is an ongoing process. Guess that actually two. 7. Young trees are being very poorly maintained, mowers and trimmers are being used as assault weapons. Trees need remedial pruning at planting and within the first three years after planting (7-10 years later is too late to fix major structural problems).
<p>Did you think the in-class and in-field training equipped you to get started?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Absolutely! Very interesting classes. 2. Yes. Chris Morrison was a great in-class teacher and while I missed the in-field training night, having the arborists available each session was valuable, especially at the beginning. 3. Yes...definitely. 4. I can't comment – due to my rather poor attendance due to being out of the province for most of the sessions! 5. I wasn't able to get to the class, but the in-field training was very valuable. 6. Yes. If it only made you realize just how little we know.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Training sessions were quite helpful and increased my confidence about my pruning decisions.
Was the volunteer time commitment reasonable? Too much? Too little?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfortunately, I was away for the past two weeks and really missed going out with the group – would have been good to have a bit longer training time but – we could benefit from refresher gatherings in the future! 2. The volunteer commitment was just fine. 3. Amount of time was good. We had a bit of a time to be on time because of Carole’s work commitments but no big deal. No sense in starting later. 4. Very reasonable – perhaps even too light. 5. I thought it was reasonable ☺ 6. I think it was pretty much ok. The training evening was good, the 4 evenings of pruning I found with other commitments tough. I do feel though you should be able to attend at least three and as many as you can. 7. The time commitment was quite light as far as I was concerned.
There is some interest in doing a pruning night in the Fall, would you be interested?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes – definitely! 2. Yes, I would be interested in a pruning night in the Fall. 3. Yes...count us in. 4. Certainly. 5. Yes, I would be available. 6. Sure, that would be fun. 7. Sure, fall should be okay.
Are you interested in being a Citizen Pruner next year?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes! Count me in! 2. Yes, I am interested in being a Citizen Pruner next year. 3. Yes...count us in...there must be an echo in here ;) 4. Certainly. 5. YES. 6. Sure thing. Not sure of my time commitments at the moment, but I would love the offer. 7. Count me in for next year.
General comments/suggestions for improvements (if you could change one thing what would it be?)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I suppose more information on different species of trees – also more information on plants with the Township. 2. Really there isn’t anything major I would change. I would have preferred if there had been a certain night of the week assigned to pruning. Two nights happened on the same day as Tree Inventory. 3. As I mentioned to you... I have pruned many trees on many properties that I have owned or maintained, but I learned more and more about fine tuning and understanding the long-term effects of pruning and the reason why we pruned when and as we do. So, I listened a lot and learned a lot. At

	<p>this point I can't comment any further. Next year I'll be more active in actual pruning and then may have some thoughts to share.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. I feel the group should spend considerable time and effort in researching methods that have been tried, tested and proven to reduce the amount of mower/trimmer damage to trees planted within mowed lawns. Preliminary discussions and trials this year among the group are a good start but I feel the best methods of protecting these trees for many years may be identified more quickly through library and trade research journal searches of results that have been developed and compared to date. Emphasis should also be placed on how long these methods must be effective for – as 2-3 years is not sufficient for many species that we observed. These literature searches and “metadata” literature analyses would be a good research topic for any forestry or environmental university students during the fall and winter semesters. I expect that this would be a faster route to identify and incorporating an effective method than trying to develop a new method.<li>5. I very much enjoyed the group, the arborist we're helpful and engaging. Maybe have the arborist watch one of us pruner prune a tree, then if we're 'okay,' to say we can go on our own. Just having the confidence to know what we are doing is okay.<li>6. I'm not sure I could come up with any. The arborist we're very friendly, Charlotte was great at keeping everyone informed and the company at the pruning locations were all very eager.<li>7. I think the program should start earlier in the spring – April if possible when the trees are still dormant.
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CITIZEN PRUNERS ARBORIST FEEDBACK

- Great idea, schedule okay – prefer spreading it over July, August and into Fall (less busy), 2 hours fine.
 - Arborists don't think they're coming back to a tree (so they prune heavily) – we can afford to do lighter pruning (since we can revisit them).
- We got a lot of work done, the time commitment was reasonable.
- Yes, time commitment was reasonable, more one-on-one time with volunteers may be a good idea for next year.
- Really impressed with how well run everything was, a lot of confidence and pride in your volunteers faces when working on trees. This program was a great experience for the participants and the local trees.

All arborists are interested in volunteering again.

