

TREE program and Green Acres reach milestones

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THE CITY OF OTTAWA

EMC News - The city's Trees Reforestation and Environmental Enhancement (TREE) program celebrated a milestone last week with the planting of its 100,000th tree in Ottawa since the inception of the program in 2007.

"In 2007, we set an ambitious goal of planting 100,000 trees over a

period of four years and I'm delighted to be here today to celebrate the achievement of that goal," said Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien on May 11. "Our city's residents will benefit from this initiative for many years to come."

The ceremonial 100,000th tree was planted on the lawn of city hall, near the location of the program's first tree planted in May 2007.

"This program has made a real difference to the city," explained Coun. Peter Hume, chair of the planning and environment committee. "Not only have we made Ottawa a greener place, we've also brought residents and communities together through our planting initiatives."

The TREE program is not the city's only successful tree planting initiative. It also funds the Green Acres program, a rural Ottawa reforestation project managed and delivered by the three local conservation authorities.

This year the Green Acres program will reach 1,000,000 trees planted. "The city's commitment to supporting and investing in tree planting is greatly appreciated," said Alan Arbuckle, chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

"To my knowledge, the City of Ottawa's investment in green infrastructure is second to none in Ontario. We congratulate the city for their vision and their commitment to a health urban and rural environment."

The TREE program officially ends this fall, but residents are still able to order their own tree by visiting ottawa.ca/tree or by calling 3-1-1.

Rural landowners with one acre of land or more and who are interested in planting a minimum of 500 trees can contact the LandOwner Resource Centre at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 and connecting to ext.1128 or 1132.