



Illustration by Connor Saucier

The GREEN Column

The Russell Villager - Dec. 21/11 pg 12

Only five per cent tree coverage in Russell-Embrun

At the last Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held Dec. 1, South Nation's Steve Hunter and Josée Brizard visited Russell Township and shed some light on the rate of tree coverage. Presently, we are sitting in Russell/Embrun at around five per cent.

Russell Township sits around 12 per cent and you need 30 per cent to sustain wildlife.

We are in dire straits. We need to plant trees, many trees. There are some old growth forests that need to be protected. There is concern about forests near the dump site that could be jeopardized. There are some endangered species such as butternut in that locale. Trees are coming down in our village and we need to decide if this is really necessary.

We have very few streets that offer shade. Thankfully, we have Burton Conservation area and Tweed Park Conservation area. Some developers are

putting houses closer and closer together and there is no room to plant a tree. Steve Hunter showed two developed areas; one from Russell and one from Navan.

The Navan development had lots of trees but the Russell development had no trees.

This is a huge concern for this area.

This year marked International Year of the Forest. We need to do our part. Did you plant a tree this year? There is also a woodlot advisory program at SNC and if you own a woodlot and would like some expertise advice, contact SNC at 1-877-984-2948 or go to www.nation.on.ca. This is a free service.

TAKE NOTE: The Big Give will be held Dec. 21. Make a donation to anyone in your community with a smile or a hug and go to www.htrio.com/plp.

What a great idea! Thanks to Penny Lee Provost.

ECO Christmas Ideas: I hope you have been shopping local. Use cloth bags to wrap your gifts. Use baskets, decorative boxes, or reusable containers. Wishing you all a Happy Holiday!

FINAL THOUGHT: The Christmas Cat. It is with great sadness that I tell you my wonderful pet of 21 years had to be put down this week.

A Russell resident called me when I lost my black and white cat Algonquin at only 1 year. She suddenly vanished. This person found a mother cat pregnant and she gave birth to a black and white cat like the one I had lost.

We picked up Sylvester at six weeks old and 21 years later he gave us much love and devotion. When another pet passed, he was very nurturing. He lost his sense of balance in the past week and we made the decision to put him down.

Our Christmas cat is gone. Thank you Sylvester for 21 wonderful years!