

The GREEN Column

Trees are the roots of a healthy community

Cindy Saucier
Special To The Villager

Two local groups care about trees: South Nation Conservation (SNC) hosted its 6th Annual Spring Watershed Tour with a Forestry tour.

It was a beautiful, sunny day on June 12 and the bus was once again full. The tour started out at a farm in Hallville that has been re-treed by Dr. Jackson. His love of trees and dedication to this project shone through. They have been harvesting firewood and

Christmas trees from the property. What was interesting is it is on an honour system and people leave the money for the trees and they have never had a problem. In 2002, Dr. Jackson donated the property to SNC.

The next stop was Findley Creek and we toured the beautiful boardwalk through the wetland. This is worth checking out and an information kiosk will be erected by SNC. The developers donated \$200 from the sale of each home to conserve part of the wetland and construct the boardwalk for residents to enjoy.

Lunch was at Sandroad Sugar Camp in Moose Creek. Host Angela

Coleman provided a delicious lunch. The Forestry Committee held their meeting at this site.

The highlight for me was the visit to a Mohawk sweat lodge and ceremony we attended with smudging, offering of gifts, pipe ceremony, singing and drumming. We were all welcomed by the members of this lodge and it was a spiritual experience. They also stressed the importance of trees and talked about the belief that you only take what you need and use it all, but also give back to Mother Earth!

The next stop was a Christmas tree operation owned by George and Hennie Velema. This 100 acre farm hosts on average 587 Christmas trees per year. There are also a number of mature pine trees planted there.

On June 27, Trees for Tomorrow selected its committee. Eric Bazinet is Chairman; Cindy Saucier is Vice-Chair; Susan Barr, Treasurer, Steve Mihok is Tree Advisor; Barbara Mann is Communication Advisor; and Directors are Su Young, Gilles Gratton, Greg McGinnis, and Josee Smeltzer.

TAKE NOTE: Hydro has been knocking on doors in Russell (on George St. recently) stating trees need to come down.

If the tree is on your property, it possibly could be trimmed away from Hydro lines but not removed. A similar situation arose on Forced Rd. and most residents were able to save their trees. Not a good time to take down trees as fledglings are leaving the nest.