



SPRING 2018

TREE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Spring is in the air...

I thought it was March weather that was supposed to break your heart? So far April has not been very spring-like yet either. Oh for those balmy days of February!

Kidding aside, spring weather is in the air and some maple producers are still at work across the province. Before long buds will be breaking on trees, the serviceberries will blossom followed by the cherries, and lawns will soon green up and require mowing.

Another sure sign of spring for the last **46** years is the start of the Town of Truro's annual urban tree planting programs. Orders are now being accepted for trees and shrubs through the *'Do It Yourself'* program, with a May 31st order deadline. The order form and species descriptions for plants available under the 2018 DIY program are included at the end of this newsletter. In addition, PDF copies are available to download off the Town website, and paper copies are available at the front counter of both Town Hall and the Douglas Street Parks, Recreation & Culture offices.

In addition to the DIY program the Town is also offering tree planting rebate program which runs from May 1st to September 30th, 2018. The rebate is for 50% of the tree cost, to a maximum of \$50 per tree, and for up to ten trees per in town property. For more details see the planting program information at the end of the newsletter.

Clean Wood and Brush Disposal

Truro residents looking to dispose of clean wood waste and brush still have the opportunity to do so at the Willow Lane site previously operated by Nova Tree Co.

While Nova Tree Co have relocated their operations to their new facility at 2715 Hwy #4 in Glenholme (902-662-3129 www.novatree.com), the company Asante Freight (902-895-5723) still operating at the Willow Lane site have agreed to keep the brush drop open. As before there is a \$10 tipping fee per load, which can be paid at the Asante office located to the right/north of the former Nova tree offices. Materials NOT accepted include stumps, lumber with nails/hardware, painted or treated lumber, plywood/particle board.

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush."

- Doug Larson

Invasive Insect Pest a Threat to Victoria Park's Hemlock Stands!

The hemlock wooly adelgid is a killer of eastern hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*) like those magnificent specimens and stands that form such an integral part of Truro's Victoria Park, and it is the most recent alien invasive species to threaten the woodlands and urban forests of the province.

The invasive forest pest hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), an aphid like non-native insect, was confirmed as having arrived in Nova Scotia in late July of last summer. The detection was confirmed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) from suspect samples reported to CFIA by an observant private tree care company working in Digby County. As a result, by mid December 2017, five counties in southwestern NS (Digby, Queens, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Annapolis) were regulated under an Infested Places Order by the federal government, restricting the movement of hemlock and the ornamental yeddo & tiger-tail spruce from within the regulated areas; as well as firewood of all species. <https://novascotia.ca/natr/forestprotection/dont-move-firewood.asp>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/insects/hemlock-woolly-adelgid/questions-and-answers/eng/1501782937749/1501782938373>

Hemlock woolly adelgid, or HWA, is currently found in western Canada in BC as well as 26 US states. Including the north eastern states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts. Small isolated infestations were also detected and then eradicated at sites in Ontario in 2011 and 2013. The 2017 discovery in NS is the first in Atlantic Canada. <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/insects/hemlock-woolly-adelgid/fact-sheet/eng/1325616708296/1325618964954>

Unfortunately the extent of the insects' foothold in SW NS upon detection, and the significant mortality within infested stands, indicates HWA has been present in the province for some time and is here to stay.

HWA originates in Asia, where it has co-evolved with Asiatic hemlocks and as a result does not cause significant damage in its natural environment. HWA was first found in eastern North America in Virginia in 1951. Unlike western populations which also do not typically cause widespread mortality, hemlocks in the east seem much more susceptible with tree mortality in as little as 3-4yrs after being infested.

HWA are tiny aphid like insects that feed on host plants by piercing the base of the needles with their mouth and sucking up the sap from infested trees, robbing them of both moisture and nutrients. Stressed trees (i.e. drought stress) are more susceptible to infestation and infested trees become stressed and susceptible to secondary pathogens. HWA do not travel very far on their own, thankfully, and is generally spread by winds/storms, migratory birds, and people. Human assisted dispersal can be the result of insects from an infested area hitchhiking to a new location on nursery plants, logs (including non-hemlock species as firewood), and other wood products. This is similar to numerous other invasive pests of concern like emerald ash borer, brown spruce longhorn beetle, Asian longhorned beetle, Dutch elm disease, and European fire ants to name but a few.

The presence of the insects is easiest to detect when in the overwintering stage while they are covered in a white, woolly protective waxy coating at the base of needles and underside of branches on infested trees. During the early stages of infestation, when populations are low, it can be difficult to detect. www.forestinvasives.ca/Meet-the-Species/Hemlock-Woolly-Adelgid#6997-the-insect

With the importance of Victoria Park to the surrounding Truro community, and the importance of the eastern hemlock to Victoria Park, this will be a forest pest to keep a close lookout for. At present the best defense is early detection at low population levels and the quick removal of infested trees.

King Street Community Garden – Season 4 COMING SOON!

The popularity of the King Street Community Garden continues to grow. Requests for garden space at KSCG now far exceeds supply, with all 65 individual raised garden beds spoken for. Calls to be placed on a waiting list began last fall, with available spaces for new gardeners filling up at February's 2018 Seedy Saturday event.

New and returning gardeners will soon be busy tending the soil, planting this season's seed and nurturing transplants. All to be rewarded with some healthy home grown produce, and the sense of satisfaction having grown food to feed family and friends.

As a result of the popularity of the King Street Community Garden, and vegetable gardening in general, it is hoped additional community garden space can be created on additional suitable public lands. In addition to being a source of healthy food to eat, gardening is also gaining recognition as a great way to stay healthy both physically and mentally. Increasing access to gardening space for residents that wouldn't otherwise have room to do so, helps promote the overall health of the community as a whole.

In the meantime prospective Truro gardeners are reminded of the two other local community gardens in operation, and are encouraged to contact them to check on available gardening space for the coming season:

- **Truro Marshland Community Garden**, 253 Marshland Dr. (in past the model airplane club flying field) email: dmbrown80@gmail.com or 902-895-5650.
- **Glenwood Drive Community Garden**, 169 Glenwood Dr. (behind the John Calvin Christian Reformed Church) email: glenwooddrivecommuitygarden@gmail.com or 902-897-6017.

Even residents without a garden plot can grow a surprising amount of food in a couple of old 5 gallon buckets, large plant pots, or any similar suitable containers and a sunny spot on a patio or lawn. Tomatoes, zucchini/summer squash, peppers, leaf lettuce and salad greens, cucumbers, and even carrots are only some of the veggies that can be successfully grown in container gardening at home! Some great container gardening how to information can be found at the *Bonnie Plants* website here: <https://bonnieplants.com/container-gardening/>

*"My fake plants died because I did not to pretend to water them."
- Mitch Hedberg*

NSPI Utility Tree Trimming – Victoria St area

Area residents may have noted traffic control and tree care contractors working along the east end of Victoria St, and side streets recently. Tree crews were pruning street-side trees for increased clearance next to Nova Scotia Power utility lines. This is being done in advance of NSPI upgrading and replacing both old utility poles and lines in the downtown.

This work is being completed by the utility to improve and protect service and reliability to their customers, and should help to strengthen the utilities above ground infrastructure from weather and tree related damage in the areas treated.

***"A tree with strong roots laughs at storms."
- Malay Proverb***

Emerald Ash Borer – Moving East, West, North & South

Forestry professionals in Eastern Canada and elsewhere continue to closely monitor the spread of the ash tree killing beetle, emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). EAB has spread in all directions outward from the original twin ground zero first finds in both Detroit, MI and Windsor, ON in 2002.

Emerald ash borer is firmly established in Quebec, well east of Montreal, and only a day's drive away from us. To our south EAB is as close as the states of New Hampshire and Vermont. It is only a matter of time before EAB finds its way to Atlantic Canada. Most likely via an unintentional introduction of the beetle in some infested firewood transported by unwitting campers, trying to save a few dollars by bringing along their own firewood. Ironically, the effort to save a few bucks to enjoy a campfire on vacation could easily end up costing millions in eradication or management programs. This is the basis for the North American wide *Don't Move Firewood* and *buy it local & burn it local* campaigns.

The resulting costs to communities in terms of both ecological and financial losses can be huge, and are typically borne by municipal governments. For example, for the City of Winnipeg, MB preliminary calculations predict it will cost the city \$105 million over the next 10 years to manage EAB which was only discovered in Winnipeg in late 2017. It should be noted that ash trees often make up a large part of urban forests in Canada.

Participants in the town's annual tree planting rebate program should be aware that due to the pending arrival of EAB in Nova Scotia, true ash species (*Fraxinus* Sp.) will no longer be eligible for rebates! Please note that *mountain ash* trees, which are from the genus *Sorbus* and are not true ashes, and will still qualify however.

For more information on emerald ash borer check out the following links:

- <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/fire-insects-disturbances/top-insects/13377>
- <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/insects/emerald-ash-borer/eng/1337273882117/1337273975030>
- <https://forestinvasives.ca/Meet-the-Species/Insects/Emerald-Ash-Borer>
- <https://globalnews.ca/tag/emerald-ash-borer/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYIW2OUEr9I> Detroit Public Television and USDA Forest Service Documentary, "Emerald Ash Borer: The Green Menace".

***"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change."
- Charles Darwin***

TRURO TREE COMMITTEE

2018 Urban Tree Planting Programs

For the 46th year, the Town of Truro will be helping citizens' plant new trees within the urban forest, offering two separate urban tree planting programs: a tree planting rebate program and the sale of smaller, potted trees offered by the Town (*see species list and order form below*).

Residents wishing to apply for a rebate of up to **\$50** per tree toward the purchase price of trees they have purchased and planted can do so at any time between **May 1, 2018** and **September 30, 2018**. Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis and rebates will be given toward trees of appropriate species (*Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone 5 or hardier*) until the end of the program deadline or available funding, whichever comes first. The rebate is for 50% of the purchase price of the tree, to a maximum of \$50 per tree, and for up to ten (10) trees per property. To apply for the rebate, simply contact the Tree Committee once your new trees have been planted to arrange a site visit. Call **902-893-6071** for more information if desired.

Beginning in 2017 Norway maple varieties (*Acer platanoides*) will no longer be eligible for the rebate!
Beginning in 2018 Ash species (*Fraxinus*) will not be eligible for the rebate due to *Emerald Ash Borer!*

The **“Do It Yourself”** (DIY) planting program includes a large selection of trees and shrubs for purchase, the majority being native to our Acadian Forest Region. These small potted trees and shrubs range in height from 40cm to 100cm, depending on the species selected

Trees & shrubs under the DIY program are available for **\$10** each, taxes included! **Orders will be accepted until May 31, 2018** and will be available for pick-up **Wednesday, June 6, 2018** at the **Parks, Recreation & Culture Dept** facility located at **200 Willow St.**, next to the *Needs* store, from **10am** until **2pm**. Orders will be processed on a first come, first served basis and are subject to availability, as numbers may be limited at the nursery. For more information call the Truro Tree Committee at **902-893-6071**, or via e-mail awilliams@truro.ca

Written descriptions of the tree species being offered through this year's program are included in this newsletter. Those with internet access may wish to visit the website noted at the end of each description in order to view an image of the tree. **To place your order simply fill out the order form below**, or print one off the Town website and mail it in or drop it off with your payment to the Town Office at 695 Prince St.

*** ORDERING DEADLINE is MAY 31, 2018 ***

Truro Tree Committee – **2018 DIY TREE ORDER APPLICATION**
 Return to: **Truro Tree Committee, 695 Prince St, Truro, NS, B2N 1G5**

“DO IT YOURSELF” Trees (\$10)

Eastern Hemlock	Norway Spruce	Purple Chokeberry
Austrian Pine	Red Spruce	Red Osier Dogwood
Red Pine	White Spruce	Meadowsweet
White Pine	White Birch	Steeplebush
Black Spruce	Mountain Ash	Sweet Gale

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

Total payment enclosed: \$ _____ (**PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH**)

Town of Truro – Truro Tree Committee

2018 DIY Tree Planting Program Tree/Shrub Descriptions

\$10 each in 1 gallon pots

EVERGREEN TREES

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*): A native Nova Scotian evergreen, stands of which may be seen in Victoria Park. This tree is capable of reaching mature heights of 12-21m (40-70') and widths of 8-11m (25-35') and will therefore require room to grow. Pyramidal in form and finely textured. This tree is shade tolerant but can thrive in full sun; hemlock is intolerant of drought. This tree does best on moist but well drained soils in a sheltered location. Not for windy, exposed locations or wet, heavy clay soils.

<https://macphailwoods.org/nature-guides/trees/eastern-hemlock/>

Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*): This hardy, adaptable pine is native to Europe but has been widely planted across North America as an ornamental. This tree is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, including clayey soils, urban stresses, heat, drought and road salt. Reaching mature heights of up to 20m (65') and a spread of 12m (40') this tree will require adequate room to grow and mature. Needles are in bundles of two, 8-15cm (3-6") long, stiff and sharp. This tree is suited to planting near the shore, as well as group plantings as a windbreak, due to its tolerance of both exposed sites and salt spray.

http://www.canadiantreetours.org/species-pages/Austrian_pine.html

Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*): This native "hard pine" is often encountered in large single species forest plantations around the province. Reaching mature heights of up to 24m (80') with an rounded oval crown, however heights of 18m (60') are more common. Red pine will do well on acidic, sandy or gravelly soils, in exposed sites in full sun. This tree develops a straight, branch free trunk with little taper when grown in dense stands, making it desirable for utility poles, and at one time sought after for use as masts of sailing ships.

<http://ontariotrees.com/main/species.php?id=2068>

Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*): Our largest coniferous tree in eastern Canada, capable of reaching mature heights of 30m (100'), or more, and trunk diameters of 1.2m (4'). It was these giants that were highly prized for use as ship masts and lumber by early European visitors to our province. Obviously, this tree requires plenty of room to grow as it matures and is not suited to small yards or locations with overhead obstructions! White pine achieves its best growth on fertile, moist, well drained, slightly acidic soils but will tolerate dry, rocky soils. White pine is quite susceptible to salt damage and should therefore be located to avoid street and sidewalk salt spray in winter. While maintaining a symmetrical pyramidal outline in youth, white pine will develop the flat topped, windswept appearance typical of the species as it matures.

<https://macphailwoods.org/nature-guides/trees/eastern-white-pine/>

Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*): This wide ranging native spruce is generally associated with wet, swampy areas and bogs growing alongside larch (tamarack), where it develops a relatively short, narrow, club-like top form. However, when situated on a good site with moist well drained soil and full sun this tree makes an attractive specimen; capable of reaching mature heights of 15m (50') with a spire like crown. As this tree has a shallow root system, planting in exposed, windy sites may make it susceptible to windthrow as it matures. This tree can hybridize with red spruce. <https://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca/en/trees/factsheet/39>

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*): This fast growing European native is commonly planted as both an ornamental as well as having been widely utilized in plantations across the province. This tree is capable of reaching mature heights up to 30m (100'), but heights of 20m (66') and a width of 8m (26') are more typical. Norway spruce display a pyramidal crown which develops a weeping or drooping appearance as it matures. Large 10-15cm (4-6") cones on older trees are often used for crafts. This tree will require full sun with moist but well drained soils. Norway spruce is suited for use in mass plantings in groups, as windbreaks, or as single specimens.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=e620>

Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*): This native spruce is the provincial tree for Nova Scotia, as well as our most valuable source of lumber and pulp. Reaching mature heights up to 21m (70') and a crown spread of approximately 6m (20') at maturity. Red spruce can survive in wet swampy areas in poor light, but obtains its' best growth on moist well drained soils in full sun to light shade. In the wild this tree often hybridizes with black spruce, creating offspring which share the characteristics of both parent species. On poorer sites, or when stressed, red spruce needles often take on a chlorotic pale yellow-green colour.

<https://macphailwoods.org/nature-guides/trees/red-spruce/>

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*): This native tree is common right across Canada, with the exception of the Pacific coast, and commonly referred to as both "cat" and "pasture" spruce. A very hardy and adaptable tree, white spruce can withstand heat, wind, drought (once established), and salt. Reaching mature heights of up to 20m (70') and crown widths of 6m (20') this tree will require room to grow. White spruce is well suited, and often utilized in mass plantings to create a spruce hedge, as well as windbreaks. White spruce makes its' best growth on moist loamy or alluvial soils in full sun, but quite adaptable and will tolerate light shade.

<https://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/search/view-plant.php?ID=00501>

DECIDUOUS TREES

White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*): Commonly referred to as "paper birch". If there is one tree that most anyone can identify, this is probably it. Often planted as an ornamental, this native tree develops the characteristic peeling white bark as it matures. White birch reaches mature heights of 18m (60'), is fast growing and relatively short lived (60-70yrs is typical). This tree does not tolerate shade, and will make its best growth on moist but well drained soils in full sun. Two common native insect pests are the bronze birch borer and the birch leafminer. Bronze birch borer infestations are not easily or successfully controlled once established; keeping trees free of stress, vigorous, and well-watered during dry periods is an effective means of preventing an infestation in the first place as the insects target trees which are weakened & stressed.

<https://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/search/view-plant.php?ID=00156>

American Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*): While not a true ash (*Fraxinus* sp), the mountain ash or "dogberry" as it is sometimes called, is actually a member of the rose family. A small, native, flowering tree reaching up to 10m (30') in height and producing clusters of orange-red to red pea-sized fruit which are eaten by a wide variety of birds. Often planted as an ornamental. Prefers well drained but moist, acid soils, in full sun to part shade, but is not tolerant of drought conditions. Autumn leaf colour may range from showy orange-yellow to reddish purple. <https://macphailwoods.org/nature-guides/shrubs/mountain-ash/>

NATIVE SHRUBS

Purple Chokeberry (*Aronia x prunifolia*): A native, multistem deciduous shrub, 1-1.5m (3'-5') in height, and capable of spreading by suckering to form colonies. Useful in mass plantings for borders, bank stabilization, and wetland reclamation. Adaptable and tolerant of both dry and wet soils. Best growth, flowering, fruit production and fall colour is obtained in full sun. Bearing clusters of tiny white flowers in early spring. Shiny dark green summer foliage turns wine red to purple in autumn, contrasting with the hanging purplish black fruit, which remain on the plant for some time. As the name implies the fruit is very astringent, and although eaten by many birds is usually left until later in the season before being consumed.

<https://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/search/view-plant.php?ID=00097>

Sweet Gale (*Myrica gale*): Also known as bog myrtle, this small (60cm-150cm tall) native deciduous shrub with bluish-green leaf is in the same family as northern bayberry. Male and female flowers are found on separate plants. Commonly found growing in riparian areas, swamps and marshland, sweet gale is tolerant of nutrient rich wet, acidic soils in full sun to partial shade. Sweet gale would be a good accent plant bordering a pond or wet area. <https://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/search/view-plant.php?ID=00445>

Meadowsweet (*Spirea latifolia*): A small native shrub, 1m (3'), related to cultivated spireas. White to pink flowers born in narrow pyramidal clusters on new growth at branch ends. Dried flower heads persist through winter. Prefers moist soils. Suited to woodland or natural gardens.

<https://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/search/view-plant.php?ID=01605>

Steeplebush (*Spirea tomentosa*): a common native shrub also known by the name hardhack. Mature heights between 60cm-180cm and slightly wider spread; with 10cm-20cm steeple-like clusters of purple/pink flowers from July to September. Prefers moist, acidic soils, in full sun to part shade. Capable of spreading to form colonies. Commonly found in fields, pastures, marshes, pond/lake and stream margins. The flowers are attractive to birds, bees and butterflies, while the plant itself is considered deer resistant.

<https://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/search/view-plant.php?ID=01118>

Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*): This native deciduous shrub is commonly planted in the home garden, and is readily identifiable by its' bright red bark and distinct parallel venation on the leaves common to dogwood species. Red osier dogwood, or *red twig dogwood*, is commonly found in the wild growing along stream banks, ditch lines, field edges, and swampy areas. This plant will spread via its fibrous root system to create large colonies if left unchecked, and for that reason is often planted as a means of stabilizing soils on slopes and stream banks. This plant produces flat topped clusters of white flowers in June, which mature to white berries in early fall. The fruit is eaten by over 90 species of birds, and the twigs are browsed by snowshoe hare, deer and moose. Reaching mature heights of 2-3m (6-10') and a spread of 3m (10'). This plant will grow on almost any soil, from clay to sand and gravel as long as ample moisture is available. It is pH adaptable and can be grown in full sun to partial shade. As stems mature they tend to lose their vibrant red color and periodic pruning to remove older stems is recommended to promote new vigorous, brightly colored growth.

<https://macphailwoods.org/nature-guides/shrubs/red-osier-dogwood/>

Visit the website listed at the end of each description to view an image of the plant.



"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

-Chinese Proverb