

March 26, 2013

*Trees and Forest Advisory Committee,*

**I would like the Trees and Forest Advisory Committee to recommend that "Provide Food" be one of the goals in London's Urban Forest Strategy.**

The *Urban Forestry Strategy* (draft) document\* is an uplifting read ... full of possibilities.

By the greatest coincidence one of my current bedside books is Diane Beresford Kroeger's *The Global Forest*; she writes about the hugely varied benefits of trees to our ecosystems, to food production, to medicinals, and to people's emotional well-being. The bookmark in it happens to be the flyer *Choosing the Right Tree in London Ontario*, written by The Sherwood Fox Arboretum and ReForest London.

The importance of choosing the right tree for the right location is emphasized in the (draft) *Urban Forest Strategy* for London.

**I would very much like London to include "Provide Food" as a goal of its urban forest strategy. Details of the where and how can be worked out over time, however, adding "Provide Food" as a specific goal - a vision - is important.**

There are "right" food producing trees for inclusion in parks and ESAs, providing food for animals and birds, and pollinating insects (a huge focus of conservation efforts these days); these are in an easy maintenance category.

Regarding food for people: worldwide there are models of food producing trees being included in community garden projects, in new and rejuvenating neighbourhoods, along park paths, and in urban agriculture projects. There are gleaning projects to harvest fruit and nuts from trees already in people's yards for use by neighbours and by food bank or community meal programs. Food producing trees in these situations are often of a higher maintenance type, *however, they are planted in the context of neighbourhood/community projects where city/volunteer cooperation works to the trees health and harvest. Such projects fit with the goals and vision of both London's Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy and the more recent ReThink London undertaking.*

I look forward to the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee meeting at 12:15pm today, to hear discussion by people who have concern and knowledge about trees, and to hear your recommendation that "Provide Food" be included as a goal of London's Urban Forest Strategy.

Sincerely,

***Maureen Temme***

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cc: S. Rowland, I. Listar

\* City of London *draft* Urban Forest Strategy  
[http://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Trees-Forests/Documents/London\\_Draft\\_Strategy\\_Report\\_FinalDraft\\_Nov2.pdf](http://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Trees-Forests/Documents/London_Draft_Strategy_Report_FinalDraft_Nov2.pdf)