

From: Cory Morningstar

Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 9:53 AM

To: Bill Armstrong | Ward 2 ; Bud Polhill | Ward 1 ; Dale Henderson | Ward 9 ; Denise Brown | Ward 11; Harold Usher | Ward 12; Joe Fontana; Joe Swan | Ward 3 ; Joni Baechler | Ward 5; Judy Bryant | Ward 13; Matt Brown | Ward 7; Nancy Branscombe | Ward 6; Paul Hubert | Ward 8; Paul Van Meerbergen | Ward 10; Sandy White | Ward 14; Stephen Orser | Ward 4

Subject: Wastewater Infrastructure Project Results in 44 Canopy Trees Destroyed/Cut Down (4 streets)

Good morning Mayor Fontana and City Councillors,

I'm forwarding my email (below), sent to my councillor Bud Polhill (February 4, 2014), basically out of desperation and frustration because my communication to my councillor went unanswered/unacknowledged.

This is my the 4th year of construction for my community. (Project commenced in 2010: Wastewater Infrastructure: Old South Combined Sewer Overflow Project - Wellington Road – Trevithen/Alexandra/Whetter).

This year the project has begun/expanded to Fairview Ave.

(http://apps.london.ca/RightOfWay/Details.aspx?GIS_ID=2121 | http://apps.london.ca/RightOfWay/Details.aspx?GIS_ID=2122)

Between 2010 and 2013 – 20 mature living canopy trees have been cut down, approved by the City of London (this does not include trees cut down by property owners in their backyards, etc.)

This year another 24 are being cut down. (Many have been cut down already). This represents a total of 44 canopy trees destroyed including a beautiful and healthy massive black oak tree and the 15-year old locust beside it (on Raywood) that were supposed to have been left alone. (When they were cut down my backyard was full of baby cardinals that were, up until that day, living/developing/growing in nests in the trees.) (This number is not including the canopy trees cut y homeowners which would bring the total to approx.50.)

The neighbourhood is being decimated – and few seem to care less. (The irony that this is happening simultaneously with a City of London "Million Tree Challenge") If people did not have access to air conditioners – communities would be up in arms. But as it is – most care little and are happy to simply crank up their air conditioners - adding to our massive energy consumption and air pollution/smog.

Further, these streets are a bus route – we need ADDITIONAL trees to assist in the cleaning of the air pollution (2 buses – in every 15 minutes 18 hours per day) – not less trees. Bus routes should have double or triple tree plantings to help with the air quality for those both young and old who suffer from asthma.

In a time of global ecological devastation/break-down, in a city/province where thousands die due to illnesses directly associated with air pollution– I would ask that this is discussed at the next council meeting. Surely we should be doing everything in our power to protect living trees and plant more, rather than cut them down simply because it is easier.

My neighbourhood, once covered with a beautiful canopy – is now a mere eyesore. Void of life and beauty. No amount of new trees can replace it. Such a feat takes decades and decades.

Sincerely,

Cory Morningstar

From: Cory Morningstar

Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 5:32 PM

To: Bud Polhill (bpolhill@london.ca)

Subject: Question/Request

Hi Bud,

I believe you are my councillor.
(69 Trevithen Street)

I am hoping you could come over to my house and walk around my neighborhood with me. The tree canopy has been decimated (sewer construction) with so many trees gone that were supposed to be saved/secure.

This spring, another 24 are scheduled to be cut down on Fairview.

I'm also hoping you would consider bringing back the recommendation that to cut a tree on ones property, you must seek approval from the city.
I realize this ordinance would not stop the city from cutting down trees, but there is a disturbing trend that more & more people don't want trees on their property at all.
Of course, many do not value a tree (at this juncture) when they are able to simply crank up their air conditioners full tilt as soon as warm weather arrives.

Please let me know if you could make some time for me.

Thank you Bud.

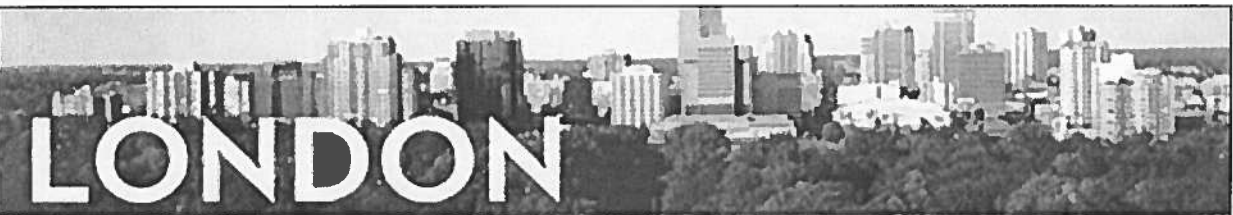
Best,
Cory Morningstar



Jaclyn Ramsay

Who am I?

What am I doing here?



What will I be Working On?

- Invasive Species & Woodland Restoration
- Asian Longhorned Beetle Awareness
- Community Planting Projects
- Tree Protection Standards
- Options report- Contract growing or City Nursery

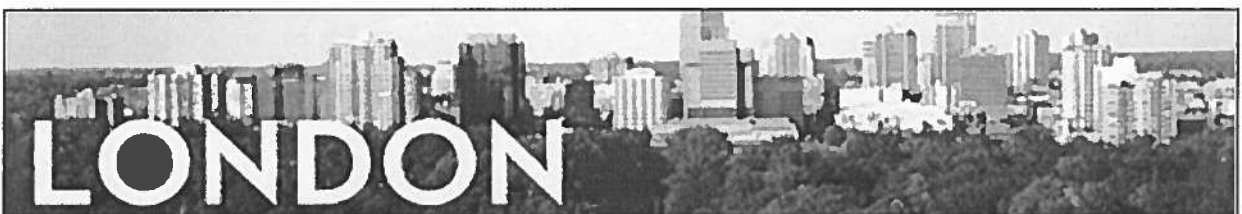




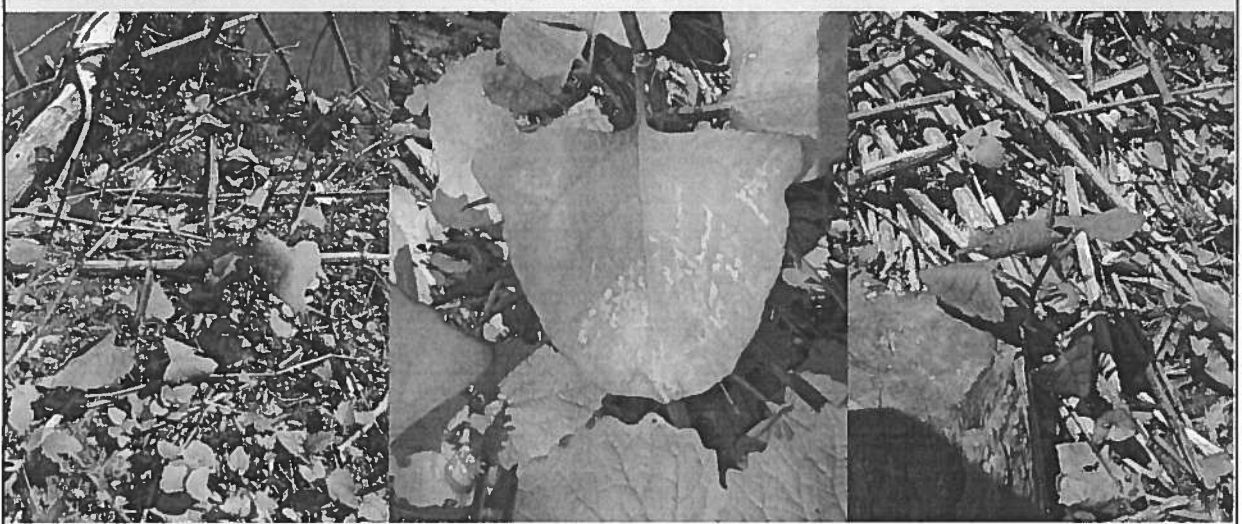
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Early Growth Giant Hogweed




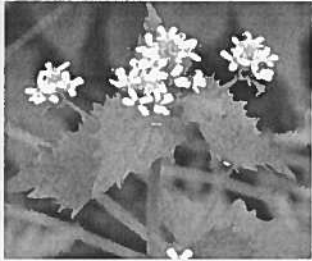
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Young Japanese Knotweed emerging from previous years treatment. Significant reduction in populations. (Kiwanis Park)



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garlic mustard flowers. Photo: Ken Towle

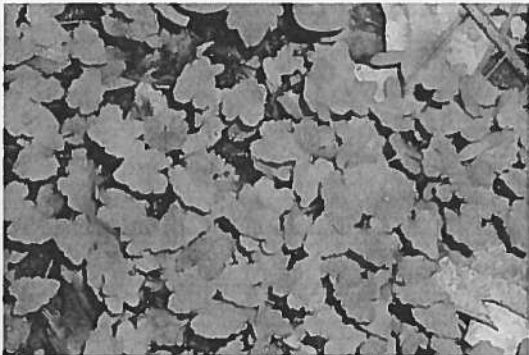



Photo: Lesle J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Garlic Mustard.




London

Photo: Wasyl Bakowsky, MNR


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Asian Longhorned Beetle.


Host: Broad leaf Deciduous trees.



<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>




<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>




<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>

Where did they come from?
How did they get here?
What are we doing to stop them?



London



INVADING SPECIES



Community Planting

Sovereign Woods



The Sovereign woods planting project was a huge success. The volunteers planted an astounding 2100 trees! The city of London worked closely with the Upper Thames Conservation Authority and the Thames Valley school board To organize this massive four day planting project.

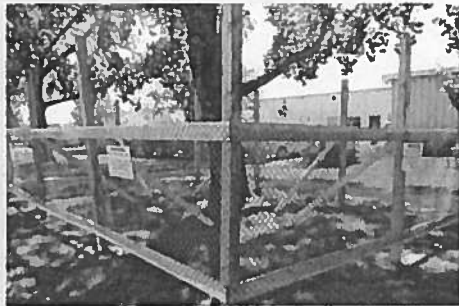


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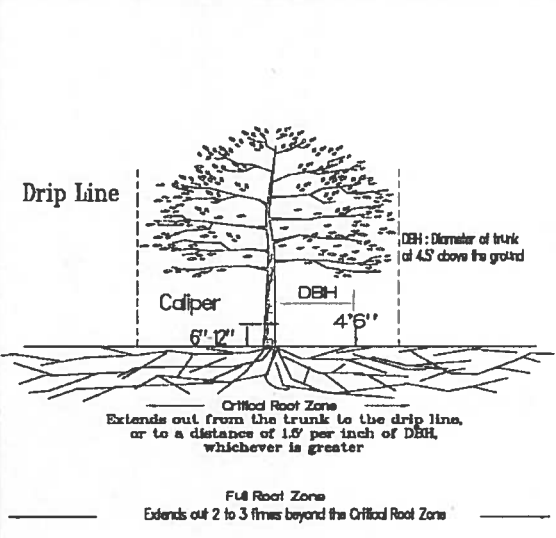
Tree Protection Zones (TPZ)

- Why do we need them?
- What purpose do they serve?

We are the forest city! Lets make sure that we take care of our trees!




<http://calgary.ca>








<http://www.ncufc.org/determining-root-zone.php>

- BSI Standards Publication BS 5837



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While with the City, I will be doing research on weather the city should enter into a long term contract or start a nursery of its own. These pictures are from Winkelmolen Nursery in Lynden, Ontario.










Questions?

- What do you want to see me accomplish?
- Do you agree with my priorities?
- Is there anything I haven't mentioned that you would like to see me do while I am here?







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KEEPING THE “FOREST” IN THE “THE FOREST CITY” London’s Urban Forestry Strategy and Implementation Plan

Produced By: Ivan Listar to TFAC, May 28, 2014




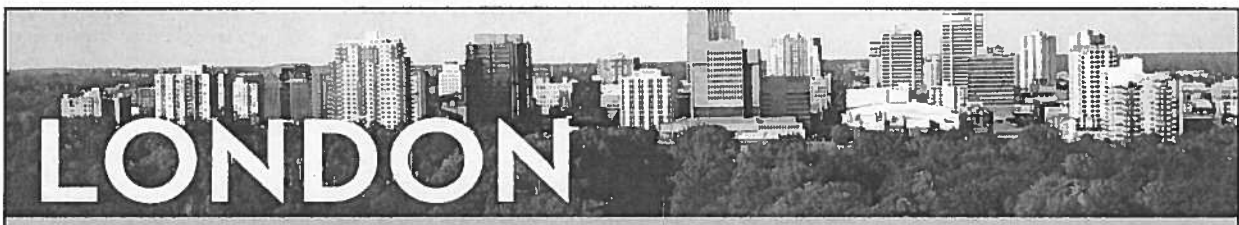
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Outline

- What is the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS)
- Why is it important?
- What are we trying to achieve?
- What are the issues?
- What are our solutions – how do we make it happen?
- Summary

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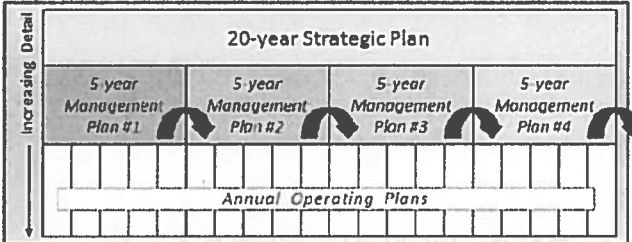


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What is the Urban Forest Strategy?

The Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) is a 20 year answers the following questions:

- What have we got? *The UFORE analysis addressed much of this question.*
- What do we want?
- How do we get what we want?
- Are we getting what we want?



The diagram illustrates the structure of the 20-year Strategic Plan. It is divided into four 5-year Management Plans (Plan #1 to Plan #4). Below these, a series of boxes represent Annual Operating Plans, which are more detailed than the management plans. A vertical arrow on the left indicates 'Increasing Detail' from the management plans down to the annual operating plans.



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Why it important?


- It includes all the trees in the City regardless of location & ownership class.
- It defines how our urban forest will be managed for the next 20 years
- Implements the Vision and Goals of the Official Plan



A collage of six images illustrating urban forest management and benefits: a person working with a tree, a street lined with trees, a park with a large tree, a river flowing through a wooded area, a path lined with trees, and a large tree in front of a building.



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Why it important?

We have quantified some of the Value of our urban forest.

- The UFORE analysis was a snapshot in time in 2008 of the structure, function and value of the urban forest. Within the UGB alone:
 - 4.4 million trees
 - \$1.6 billion replacement /structural value
 - \$17million+ /year in environmental benefits alone
- Trees have values other than those identified in the UFORE analysis

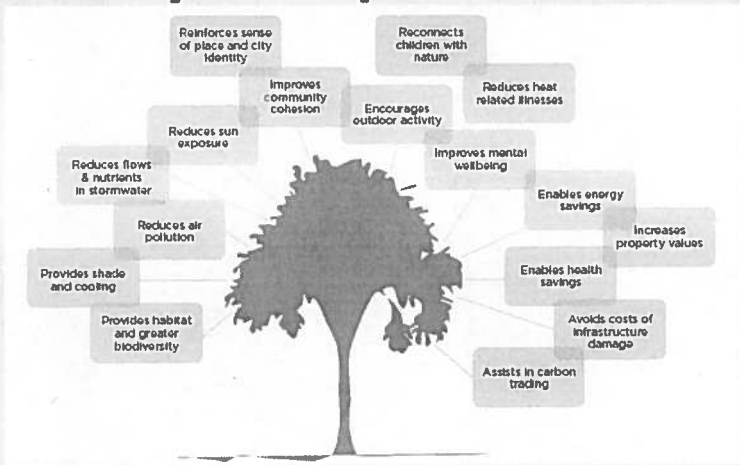


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Why it important?



- Reinforces sense of place and city identity
- Reconnects children with nature
- Improves community cohesion
- Encourages outdoor activity
- Reduces heat related illnesses
- Reduces sun exposure
- Improves mental wellbeing
- Reduces flows & nutrients in stormwater
- Enables energy savings
- Increases property values
- Reduces air pollution
- Enables health savings
- Provides shade and cooling
- Avoids costs of infrastructure damage
- Provides habitat and greater biodiversity
- Assists in carbon trading

We are benefitting from what residents did 100 years ago – This is our legacy to the quality of life of future generations.


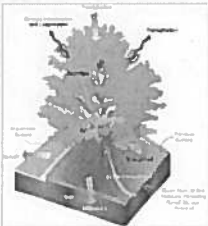





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Why it important?

- Climate change mitigation
- Social and health values
- Stormwater management
- Economic benefits
- Wildlife Habitat

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Why it important?

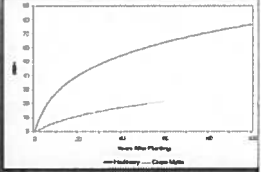
- Tree value is more than just the cost to cut and replace the tree
- Trees and forests are assets that increase in value over time
- We need to build a forest that will last for generations, just as we do with other infrastructure. We do not build roads for a 15 year life expectancy

QUALITY IS AS IMPORTANT AS QUANTITY

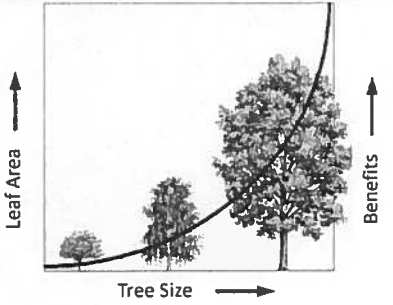
WHEN IT COMES TO TREES, SIZE DOES MATTER

Size & Longevity Matter

- CO2 after 60 years
- Grape myrtle 150 kg
- Hackberry 3,500 kg



Maximizing Leaf Area




Leaf Area ↑

Benefits ↑

Tree Size →

W.A. Kenney

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What Do We Want To Achieve?

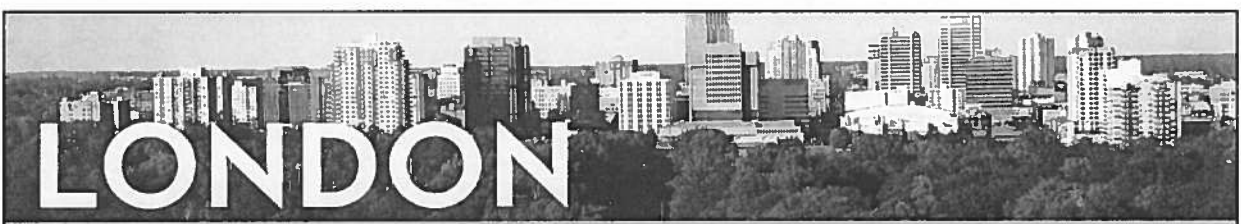
Urban Forest Vision

- A healthy, diverse and extensive urban forest for today and the future
- It is resilient and will continue to provide environmental, social, economic & other values into the future
- Residents recognize the value of the urban forest and have very high expectations with respect to its management and continuation of benefits for themselves and future generations



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What Do We Want To Achieve?

- Residents strongly identify with our identity and London should continue to be called "The Forest City".
- The top 3 concerns
 - Overall tree preservation and protection;
 - Lack of tree cover, and;
 - Protection of heritage/historic trees

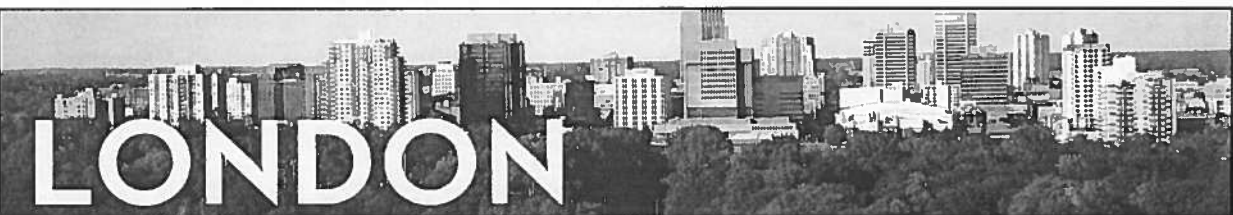
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How Do We Know?

- Public consultation over 6 months
- Input from thousands through the Rethink process
- “Dotmocracy” to identify vision, values, issues
- 1758 responses to Focus on our Forest online survey including 592 additional written responses
- 15 External stakeholders interviewed
- 30 City staff from various divisions
- TFAC and EEPAC provided comments



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Issues

Storms



Old age



EAB



Invasive species



Insects



Climate change



Diseases



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Issues

Illegal removals

Utilities

Loss of plantable spaces

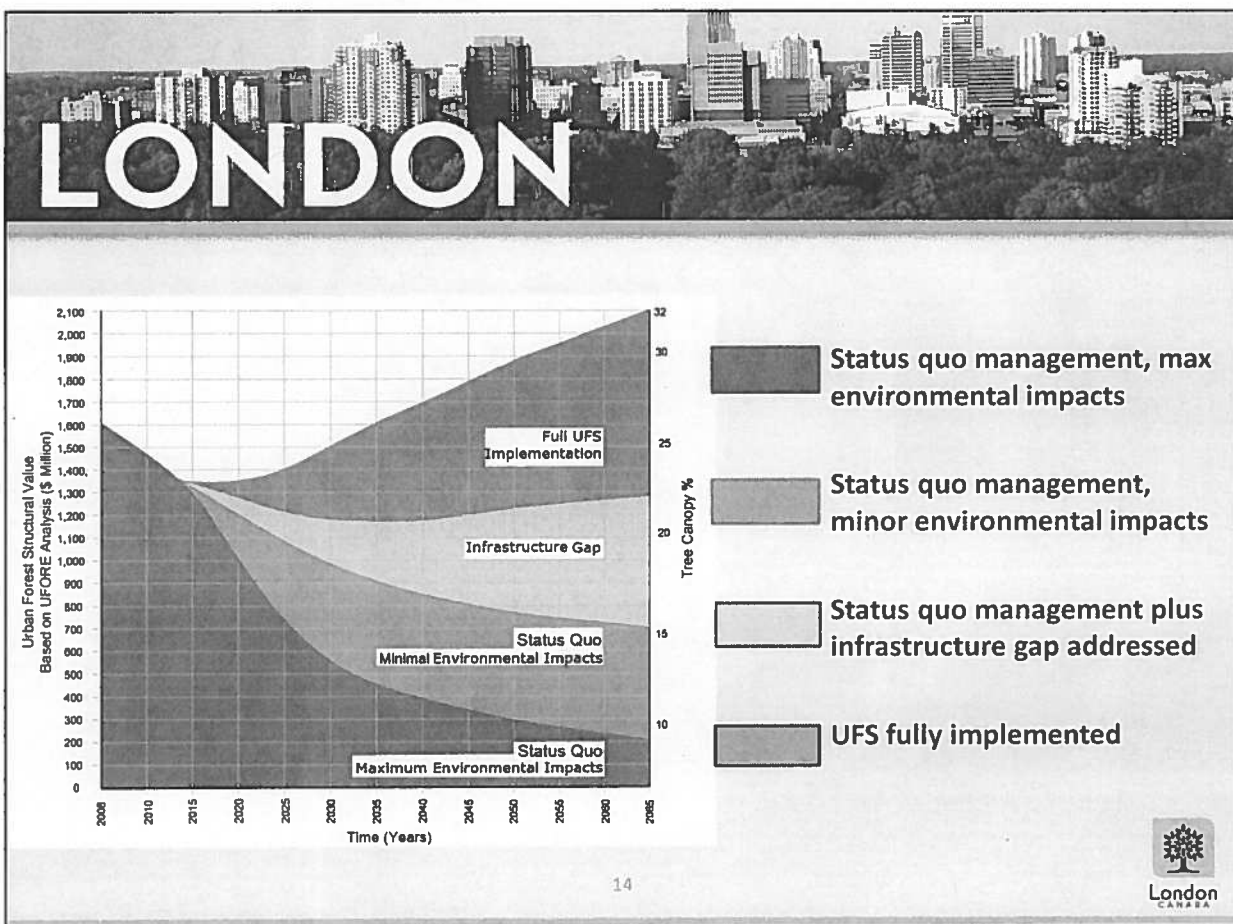
Aging infrastructure

Subdivision standards

Development removals

Past practices

Private trees

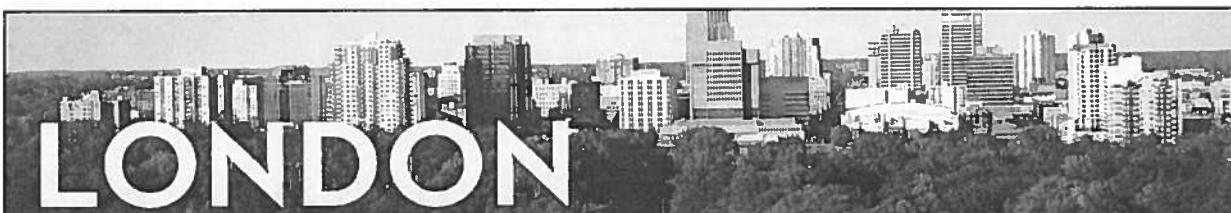




How Do We Make It Happen?

- Understand our Forest and the Pressures that Affect It ✓
- Find out what our residents and stakeholder groups expectations are ✓
- Formulate a Strategy and Implementation Plan to meet those expectations as well as supports the Official Plan ✓
- Gain Corporate approval and Public support: June 2014
- Develop Business Cases to implement the Strategy: Summer 2014
- Monitor the implementation of the strategy: Ongoing with formal review every 5 years

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How Do We Make It Happen?


4 Basic Principles into which all the Action Items :


- Protect the existing trees because the trees that are in the ground now will make up the majority of our urban forest over the next 20 years
- Maintain and Monitor the structure, function and value over time
- Plant More and Enhance the Urban Forest where possible
- Engage the Public because ¾ of all trees are on private property and all residents are stakeholders in our urban forest

Consider these to be links in the chain to achieve our vision for the Forest City

- The Chain is only as strong as its weakest link
- If we plant more trees but don't protect and maintain them, we will not achieve our vision


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How Do We Make It Happen?

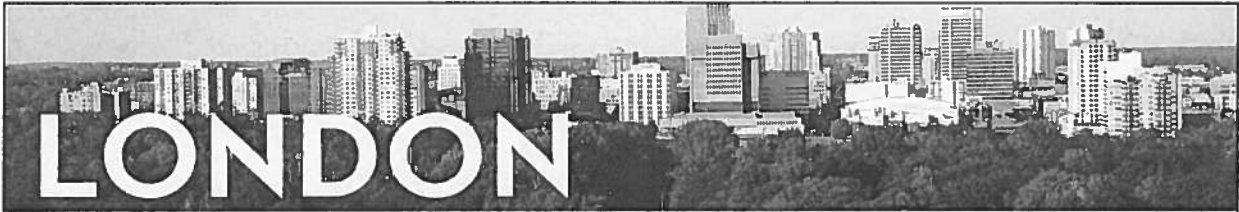
Short Term Priorities			
Plant more and Enhance	Protect	Maintain and Monitor	Engage the Community
Establish tree canopy targets for Place Types	Hire 2 additional staff for forest health and enforcement	Establish inter-divisional Implementation Team	Develop comprehensive communications strategy
Develop overall planting strategy	Strengthen tree protection by-laws	Remeasure tree canopy to determine change since 2008	Initiate public and stakeholder information and discussion forums
Apply right tree-right place practices	No 'net loss' of tree canopy cover	Complete CMMS and update inventory information	Promote London's urban forest




How Do We Make It Happen?

- Council adopt the Strategy and Implementation Plan
 - Total investment over 20 years is approximately \$26 million (average \$1.3 million per year)
 - The cost of this investment is 1.2% of the future value of the one of our most valuable assets
 - This funding supports the entire Urban Forest, not just the City owned trees
- Public and Stakeholders take up the “Call To Action”





Summary

- The urban forest is a multi-billion dollar asset that is under significant threat from both environmental factors and human caused
- Both Residents and Stakeholders have told us very strongly that we have to do more and we have to do it better in order to remain “The Forest City”
- We are at a crossroads in the management of our urban forest
- Additional funding is required to maintain and improve the environmental, social, economic and other values
- Achieving the Vision and Goals of the Strategy will support the Vision and Goals of the Official Plan
- The Strategy is a Call to Action for all Residents and Stakeholders of London

This strategy will define the forest of future generations
This is OUR legacy!

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