Veterans Memorial Parkway Community Program

Final Report Presentation

To

The City of London Civic Works Committee

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Honouring the past, embracing the future

Veterans, Environment, Community
It began with …

A 10 Kilometre Landscape Enhancement Project
London, Ontario
2011 - 2017

To honour the men and women who have served our country in uniform.

Honouring the past, embracing the future
2. To **enhance** our environment through a large scale landscape project.

3. To **improve** the Community’s image in a high profile location.
A New Initiative to complete the project
With Innovative Public-Private Partnerships

The Six Original Features - 2010
A Nationally Recognized Award Winning Methodology
Teaming Volunteer Professionals
Landscapers, Arborists, Foresters

To Drill the Holes
And Place the Trees from Local Landscaping Companies
To Work with an Engaged Community

Of Future Professionals – Fanshawe & Western
Students and School Volunteer Hours

And Corporate Teams
Urban Forestry Conference planting Team

Sponsors
Tourism London Planting Team

VMP Promotion – East Lions Park
VMP near London Machinery

With a Strong Youth Component
Mentoring the planting leaders of the future

There is a job for everyone... big or small
with Impressive Results

Before we started
The day after we finished

Two Years Later
Where it Started in 2011

Significant Achievements

- 3,000 large caliper trees & 1,000 shrubs planted along the VMP
- $1.5 Million in infrastructure value with Significant R.O.I. for Municipal Support
- $300,000 in volunteer hours
- Completed Landscape Plan from Hamilton Rd. to Huron St.
- New Species and New Planting Techniques
- National Award for Community Engagement (CNLA 2014)
Three New Features

Features Installed
- 2014 – “Bravery” by London Chapter Landscape Ontario
- 2014 – “VMP Road Sign in Stone” by GDLS
- ~ $100,000 in Infrastructure Value

New Planting Techniques
Bigger Holes are Better

Use the right tool for the job
48” Diameter Tree-planting Auger
Experiments with new Trees
Like the Regal Petticoat® Maple

New Materials for Easier Planting
EZ-Disc™, Shorter Stakes, Blue Tree Guards, & Stretchy Ties
Know what you are dealing with

Experiments in Soil Amendments
Joint Research with Forestry, Vineland Research, & VMP CP
Data vs. Opinion – Track what you do

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Results (2015 Survey)

Much lower attrition rates than comparable Street Tree Projects
- 8.1 % due to all causes including accidents
- 2.0 % after the anomalies are removed

With improved planting techniques, After-Care is key
- Watering, inspections, adjustments, and pruning

Proposed Survey in fall of 2017

Honouring the past, embracing the future
The Key Lesson Learned:

Properly supported Community Groups can successfully implement large scale caliper tree planting projects with a major impact on the community.

Honouring the past, embracing the future.

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY
Community Program

A 10 Kilometre Landscape Enhancement Project
Honours our Veterans’ Service

Enhances our Environment
Improves our Community

Honouring the Past; Embracing the Future

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