treetrust.ca

# Stratford-Perth Tree Trust
# Work Summary



Stratford-Perth Tree Trust thanks you for your previous support and interest in our work. We continue to do tree preservation work on iconic mature trees, planting of young trees and public education, highlighting the value of all trees. We are associated with the larger, not-for-profit organization, Tree Trust, that now works in eight communities across Ontario. We wanted to provide you with a summary of our activities over the last couple of years.

## Spring 2025

We worked with The Rotary Club of Stratford on an ambitious *Roadside Tree Planting* initiative along Perth County Road 112, just south of Stratford. Ninety trees were planted with the help of a gang of enthusiastic volunteers. We are pleased to have seen a 90% survival rate in the saplings. This was the first of many projects we plan to share with the Rotary Club of Stratford moving forward. Along with tree planting projects, we plan to invite public speakers and host events for the local community. We will keep you informed!



## Summer 2025

We had repair work done on a lovely old copper beech tree on the property of the Westover Inn in St.Marys and enjoyed an excellent presentation by Brenda Gallagher of the Upper Thames Conservation Authority.



# Fall 2025

We had fun at Upper Thames Elementary School in Mitchell, this time with young students. We planted several trees in an area that had previously been devastated by heavy wind storms.



In 2025 we also repaired the iconic tree on the original Central School property in Stratford. This much loved mature maple is well known by students and families as it sits high on the school grounds above the toboggan runs, and the track and field yard. Its roots were badly exposed due to erosion, and protection of the root zone was our primary area of concern. Following that work, we planted four native trees in the flats with the grade 7 and 8 students.



# Summer 2026

We hired our forest expert from Tree Trust Head Office, Braedon Witt, to offer a *Tree Walk* through the streets of Stratford. A good turn out of folks both local and visitors, enjoyed a two hour tour of the area near the Festival Theatre learning interesting and often unknown facts about trees, and their amazing value to our world.



In 2025 and 2026 we worked in the school yard of the St Marys DCVI with students in grades 6 to 8. First we did *tree repair workshops*, reviewing the existing tree inventory and undertaking repairs and plantings on several trees. We were back this year with our arborist Tim Lott and his crew, who pruned a huge old Sugar Maple. We were fortunate to have Braedon Witt with us to provide a *Tree Walk and Talk* for the grade 8 students.







As we walked the large school grounds we identified problems with many of the existing planted trees. These included the growth of weeds and grass at the tree bases, old stakes and ties remaining on trees and limiting the trees growth potential as well as many damaged and broken branches. The amazing teacher, Kristin Debrabandere, took the initiative and followed up with her students, assigning pairs of students, who *adopted* individual trees to care for and repair. Mulch was added to tree bases, branches were pruned, and old stakes and ties were removed. It was a great learning experience and the trees of St Marys DCVI will thrive thanks to these efforts.

## Looking Forward

We are now partnering with The Rotary Club of Stratford's Environment Committee on a major fund raising initiative, through Young's Funeral Home. As a tribute to loved ones, people will soon be able to make donations on Young's website to support our joint efforts.

Your support and donations are truly appreciated. On this ***Giving Tuesday***, we hope you will consider making a donation to Tree Trust Stratford-Perth at treetrust/ca/donate.

*Warm Wishes from your Stratford-Perth Tree Trust crew,*

*Geoff Love, Marianne Van Den Heuvel, Jane Eligh Feryn, Jan Dutton and Patsy Berton*