



TREE CANADA AND THE CITY OF SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE ARE TACKLING FOOD INSECURITY

SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE, September 26 2018 – Today on National Tree Day, Tree Canada – Canada’s leading national tree-planting charity – and FedEx celebrated the planting of 12 edible trees in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. This investment in tackling food insecurity is in partnership with Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, with the support and expertise of Tree Canada.

Earlier this year, Tree Canada informed Sainte-Anne that the town’s application to the Edible Trees program had received a grant of \$ 3,980 and that it had been selected out of 130 different applications.

The project is to design, install, and maintain a public permaculture food forest while also using the opportunity to educate the community about how to create one. A food forest is a self-supporting system with several layers that mimics a forest ecosystem but is largely made up of edible trees, shrubs, and plants. Working with a recognized expert in this field, Zach Loeks (author of *The Permaculture Market Garden*), we will use an area that is about 50 metres long and 20 metres wide along our municipal bike path to create rows of fruit trees that are then connected by strips of mulch and interplanted with berry bushes, dwarf fruit trees, and ground cover plants. The project also has an educational component because it involves students from McGill University at Macdonald Campus who are taking a course on Landscape Design with Professor David Wees.

Tree Canada is planting edible trees in 39 communities this year. The Edible Trees program encourages environmental health and education on food security, community involvement and beautification. Since the beginning of the Edible Trees program in 2012, Tree Canada and their sponsors have planted more than 10,000 edible trees in more than 100 communities.

“Tree Canada is proud to work with the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue on such an important initiative. We congratulate them on their project and we are confident that it will benefit the community for years to come.” Said Michael Rosen, President at Tree Canada

“The purpose of this food forest is also to create a situation where there will always be something for the community to pick or nibble on at any point during the growing season. What we hope to achieve with this project is greater awareness about the fruit trees on our bike path, hands-on research that could contribute to similar permaculture projects, educational outcomes for McGill students who will analyze and participate in the project, other municipalities reproducing the efforts, and organic fruit that is produced and consumed by people, animals, and other wildlife” added Ryan Young, City Councillor for district #2 in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

About National Tree Day

September 26th is National Tree Day and this year will be a particularly special one for Canada. This year will be the first National Tree Day without Royal Galipeau, the Member of Parliament who founded the day. Back in 2010, the former M.P. for Ottawa-Orléans presented a private member’s motion declaring a “National Tree Day” to serve as a celebration for all Canadians to appreciate the great benefits that trees provide us. After much work, on March 2, 2011, the House of Commons passed Motion 575 to declare the Wednesday of National Forest Week as National Tree Day.

About Tree Canada

Tree Canada is a non-profit charity dedicated to improving the lives of Canadians by planting and nurturing trees. Since 1992, we’ve planted more than 80 million trees, greened more than 600 schoolyards, helped restore places hit by natural disasters and brought together urban forestry experts greening cities all across Canada. Get involved or learn more about us at treecanada.ca.