



# Arboretum News

Spring 2011

## Another Busy Spring in the Arboretum

Would your group like to have a guided tour of the Aurora Community Arboretum?

If so, let us know and we'll arrange a convenient time.

Would you like to help the Aurora Community Arboretum to grow? Members—and working volunteers—are always welcome!

You'll find contact information on page 2 of this newsletter. We'd be happy to hear from you.

Visit our web site for information on current events—and you'll find lots of seasonal photographs too!

www.  
auroraarboretum.ca

Spring has been extremely busy for us this year, with your Arboretum Board and our volunteers accomplishing a tremendous amount of digging and planting. We are happy that spring has come slowly, to allow us some breathing space. We started off with digging up many young trees and shrubs from our nurseries, potting up quite a few and preparing others for bare-root planting.

Because of the cold, wet spring, the first major event was the Community Spring Planting on April 30th. That day, with the help of 74 enthusiastic volunteers, we planted 500 trees and shrubs. Our partner, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority provided 350, while the remainder came from our own nurseries. Many of the latter were raised from seed and nurtured several years until big enough to plant out.

On May 14th, our second major planting event of the year involved planting phase 2 of Flora Aurora, with 389 shrubs and trees now in beds near the Family Leisure Complex. A lot of planning and preparation made that event successful. In the meantime, 80 more trees and shrubs have been planted in the Specimen Area and at least another 50 will go into the Shelter Belts and the Specimen Area before summer sets in.

Well over 1,000 trees and shrubs this year!



Top row: Community Planting April 30th; centre row left—in the nursery; centre row right — May 14th planting Flora Aurora 2; bottom row Flora Aurora Phase 2.

## Ornamental Pears

In the Aurora Community Arboretum we currently have several ornamental pear trees (“*pyrus calleryana*”).

Two of the more significant ones are a “Chanticleer” pear by the stone trail, north of the Nokiidaa Trail stone marker by the gazebo. The other is a “Bradford” pear, west and north off Woodroof on the left-hand side of the stone trail.

‘*Pyrus calleryana* Chanticleer’ grows cone-shaped and evenly branched, to a height of 13 m and a spread of 4 m, with glossy green foliage in summer, turning to purple or reddish orange in the fall. With small, inedible fruit,



*Pyrus calleryana* Chanticleer

Chanticleer is one of the hardier pear varieties. It was named Urban Tree of the Year in 2005.

‘*Pyrus calleryana* Bradford’ has a height of 11 m. It is a medium size tree, broader than the Chanticleer. It also has shiny green leaves, turning crimson in the fall, with russet-coloured small, inedible fruit.

Both varieties have profuse white blossoms in the spring, before the crab apples come into bloom. Ornamental pears are very disease and pest resistant.



*Pyrus calleryana* Bradford

## Volunteers Needed

The Arboretum relies on a small group of dedicated volunteers. This is a year with a lot of new plantings (near 1000 by the end of spring), which will need watering over the predicted hot dry summer. So we really could use more volunteers.

We need a few more folk capable of learning about—and operating—our tractor and water trailer, or just being able to come and lend a hand by handling a hose, as we like to do watering in teams of 2 or 3. And we have an opening for at least one person to understudy our tree propagation team. If you've ever wanted to learn (from the best) how to grow trees from seed—and to see the results—this could be an ideal spot for you.

As always, we have planting, weeding, mulching, planning and general maintenance tasks to be done. With the spring being a bit late, we likely will plant into June. We are working every Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning through the rest of May and into early June. Get in touch with us and see how you can help. Contact us through our website: [www.auroraarboretum.ca](http://www.auroraarboretum.ca) and click on the button for ‘Members and Volunteers’, or phone us at 905-727-6984.

## Educational Signs

The Mission Statement of the Aurora Community Arboretum includes a commitment to education. Our vision is that education in the Arboretum would include appropriate signs, so both organized classes and casual visitors could better understand what they are looking at.

Thanks in part to funding by TD Friends of the Environment, we are in the process of developing prototype signs for use in the Arboretum.



As shown in the photograph above, the first of these signs now has been installed in The Meadow portion, in the north end of the Arboretum.

This newsletter is published by the Aurora Community Arboretum Inc.

For more information on Arboretum activities or events, or how to become a member, telephone (905) 727-9774 or e-mail: [trees@auroraarboretum.ca](mailto:trees@auroraarboretum.ca) or [membersandvolunteers@auroraarboretum.ca](mailto:membersandvolunteers@auroraarboretum.ca)

You can visit the ACA website at [www.auroraarboretum.ca](http://www.auroraarboretum.ca)

