

## **FRIENDS OF TREES COMMITTEE**

The Council of the Resort Village, through the Friends of Trees Program, aims:

1. To foster the establish of a replacement forest as a substitute for the 16,000 original trees planted in the 1960s and 1970s by the Department of Natural Resources on the communal areas of the Village,
2. To encourage a feeling of community ownership for our village forest, both the original trees and the new trees.
3. To promote appropriate environmental practices with regard to the care and maintenance of our village forest and our green spaces.

To the above ends, Council approves:

### **1. The Friends of Trees Committee**

A standing committee called the Friends of Trees Committee will be established and supported by Council as follows:

#### **1.1 Leadership Team**

The leadership of the Friends of Trees Committee is entrusted, jointly, to:

1. The Council member to whom Council has assigned the Friends of Trees portfolio, on the understanding that the Councilor will keep Council updated and seek approval for all expenditures,
2. The staff member to whom Council has assigned as role of Friends of Trees Coordinator, on the understanding that the Coordinator will work cooperatively with the Councilor.
  - When the Coordinator is doing such tasks as coordinating the tree planting, watering trees, mulching or otherwise caring for trees, those hours shall be paid at the regular rate of pay.

#### **1.2 Budget**

It shall be the responsibility of the Councilor and Coordinator to bring budget requests to Council, in early spring, regarding requested funds to support the work of the Friends of Trees. Examples could include, but are not limited to:

1. The purchase of trees,
2. The purchase of supplies or small tools,
3. The purchase, rental or lease of equipment,
4. The costs of educational events sponsored to support the goals of this policy, and
5. The costs of meetings or gatherings of the Committee,

In addition to the costs requested by the Committee, Council will annually assign in its budget, hours of employment for the Coordinator for the express purpose of doing the work of the Friends of Trees.

## **2. The Work of the Friends of Trees Committee**

### **2.1 Tree planting**

Annually, the Councilor and the Coordinator will:

1. Establish priorities for the location, number and type of trees to be planted (subject to the budget set by Council),
2. Select, order and, where necessary, arrange for the pick-up of the trees (and rental equipment if needed) for the *Tree Planting Bee*,
3. Set the date for the annual *Tree Planting Bee* (or a *Weed & Mulch Bee*) and advertise it to cottage owners, typically on a weekend,
4. Co-ordinate, with the Maintenance staff, regarding the use of maintenance facilities and equipment.
5. Coordinate and facilitate the *Tree Planting Bee*.

The allocation of the trees to particular planting areas or their disbursement to individual cottage owners shall be exclusively the decision of the Coordinator in consultation, where necessary, with the Councilor.

In public areas, straight rows of trees will be enhanced by planting shrubs to create an irregular and curvilinear appearance.

### **2.2 Tree watering**

The targets for watering new trees are:

1. Top priority will be to water, as needed, the trees planted during the current year and during the preceding year.
2. Lesser watering (or none) will occur for older trees to encourage them to put down roots.
3. Where possible, all trees in the plantation should be watered during times of intense stress (during a long period of drought, for example).

The decision about when and where to water tree plantations will be made jointly by the Councilor and the Coordinator.

- Volunteers may access water for watering trees by attaching hoses to nearby standpipes or borrowing the FRIENDS OF TREES WATER TANK.
- The coordinator will water using the village water truck.

### **2.3 Tree pruning**

- As a general rule, new trees will not be pruned except when necessary to the health of the tree (example, selecting a leader stem).

## 2.4 Tree weeding

- The most important weeding for new trees is around the base of the tree. Where possible, the area beyond the base will be mulched to prevent the growth of weeds (rather than tilling).
- Weeding will be done by Friends of Tree volunteers and by the summer student assigned to work with the coordinator.

## 2.5 Tree mulching

- The long term goal will be to cover the areas between trees, including the plastic mulch, with natural mulch (grass clippings, leaves raked up in the fall, and wood chips).
- The **village wood chipper**:
  1. The chipper will be powered by the village tractor. **(Power)**
  2. The chipper will most often be used after hours or on weekends so as to minimize both the disruption to the regular use of the tractor and to the disruption to regular maintenance work. Occasionally the chipper may be used during regular work hours. **(Time)**
  3. The chipper will typically be operated at the designated location near the shop, but occasionally may be take out to an off-site location where a pile of branches have been gathered. **(Location)**
  4. The chipper will be used exclusively to generate wood chips to use as mulch for new plantations on the green spaces in the village. The chipper may not be used for mulch on private lots. **(Purpose)**
  5. The chipper will be operated only by the following: **(Operators)**
    - a. The **tractor operator** must be either a maintenance staff member or the tree coordinator (no other operator).

Because the chipper will most often be used after hours or weekends, the tractor will typically be operated by the tree coordinator.
    - b. The **person feeding the chipper** will typically be a volunteer who has been selected by the Friends of Trees Leadership Team.
  6. The chipper will be operated in a safe and prudent manner as per the following guidelines: **(Safety)**
    - a. The volunteer feeding the chipper will have received training by staff member operating the tractor. That training will emphasize the safety rules that follow.
    - b. Both the tractor operator and the person feeding the chipper will wear a hard hat, goggles and steel toed boots.

- c. Both the tractor operator and the person feeding the chipper will NOT wear clothing such as scarves, open jackets, loose shirts, etc.
  - d. Only the tractor operator and the person feeding the chipper will be allowed in the vicinity of the chipper when it is operating. Groups of people will not be permitted near the operating machine.
  - e. The power take-off assembly will be housed in a protective casing prior to the use of the machinery.
- 7.** The role of maintenance staff will be:
1. To do maintenance on the chipper, as required.
  2. To move chips using the large tractor and bucket, to an off-site location, when the chips are needed for mulching by the Friends of Trees.
- In such instances, the Friends of Trees must place a tarp ready to receive the wood chips. Requests to have chips moved to an off-site location should be directed to the tree coordinator.

### **3. Assisting the Friends of Trees**

- **Tree Guardianship** - To assist village staff with the weeding and mulching of new trees, Council has established a Tree Guardianship program whereby individuals or groups of cottage owners choose to take responsibility for designated trees on village property. Council promotes and applauds the work of these volunteers.
- **Education** – Council will consider support for educational initiatives undertaken by the Friends of Trees.
- **Grants** – Council will apply for grants which might provide additional resources to the work of the Friends of Trees.