

# TREE'S ARE AN INVESTMENT.

- ✿ **Invest** in Tree **Maintenance** and reap the numerous returns.
- ✿ **Mature** trees have **greater benefits** (economic/environmental) than young ones.
- ✿ **Extend** the **lifespan** of large, mature trees with routine maintenance.

# MATURE TREE CARE

- Tree Inspection
- Mulching
- Fertilizing
- Pruning

# INSPECTING

- Assess for tree vitality:
  - new leaf or bud formation
  - leaf size
  - twig growth

# INSPECTING



- Crown dieback (gradual death of the upper part of the tree)

# INSPECTING

- Trunk decay; loose bark, deformed growths, conks (mushrooms)



# INSPECTING

- Lean:
  - Cracked soil?
  - Exposed roots?

# INSECTS & DISEASE

- Correct diagnoses is essential.
  - Know the type of tree/plant.
  - Patterns of abnormality?
  - Disease?
  - Insects? (chewing, sucking, boring)

# MULCHING TO REDUCE STRESS

- Moderate root environment from temperature and moisture extremes
- Reduce competition from weeds and grass
- Prevent mechanical damage from lawncare equipment
- Add nutrients to the soil (organic)

## How?

- 2-4” deep; cover as much of root system as possible; keep base mulch free away from trunk



# SOIL MANAGEMENT

- Nutrients
- pH
- Drainage
- Pore space (air and water space)

**Accredited Soil Testing Laboratories in Ontario  
(OMAFRA: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture  
and Food)**

# PRUNING: prevention & correction

- Dead or dying
- Diseased
- Improve structure (reduce risk)
- Increase air flow or light

*Improper pruning can create lasting damage or even shorten the tree's life.*

# TIMING: When To Pruning

- 1) Dead or dying or diseased or damaged at any time.
- 2) Before spring flush

Avoid: Heavy pruning after spring flush

Never: while leaves are opening in spring or falling in the autumn

# HOW TO PRUNE: Proper cutting



\*Just outside branch collar.  
collar.  
DO NOT cut the collar

\*Reduce the weight of large limbs.

# HOW MUCH TO PRUNE

- Depends on tree's size, species, age, pruning objectives
- Younger trees can tolerate higher %age than mature trees
- General Rule: no more than 25% of crown should be removed \*less for mature trees.

# YOUNG TREE PRUNING

- For good tree development.
- Location of cut is critical.
- Cut at a 45 degree angle

# ESTABLISHING STRONG STRUCTURE

Goal:

Strong central trunk with sturdy well-spaced branches



# SELECTING BRANCHES TO PRUNE

- Spacing and balance, vertically and radially
  - Watch for branch sizes
  - Narrow angles, tight crotching (enclose bark)
  - No more than 25% of canopy
- \*wait to prune newly planted trees in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year.





# WOUND DRESSING

**DO NOT do it.**

# HIRE AN ARBORIST

- ISA Certified – International Society of Arboriculture.
- Get 3 quotes. References?
- Ask for proof of insurance (personal, property damage, workers compensation insurance).
- Permits?
- Contract

# CONTRACT WITH ARBORIST

- When will the work be started and completed?
- Who will be responsible for clean-up?
- Is this the total price?
- What are the terms of payment?
- If I would like more to be done, what is your hourly rate?



# NEW TREE SELECTION CONSIDERATION

Tree's ultimate size:



- Full sized? (Red Oak, Sugar Maple)
- Columnar? (Beech, Oak)
- Smaller in height and width? (Ivory silk Lilac, Flowering Pear)



# NEW TREE SELECTION CONSIDERATION

## Soil Conditions

- Clay? (Mountain Ash, Birch, Larch)

## Wind? Salt?

- Serviceberry, Mountain Ash, Honey Locust

## Evergreen? Deciduous?

# New Tree Planting (9 key points)

- When?
  - Dormant: Fall, after leaf drop / Spring, before budbreak
- Transplant Shock
  - Slowed growth and reduced vitality after transplanting; prepare site properly and handle with care, good follow-up
- Ontario One Call \*Call Before You Dig: **Call Before You Dig 24/7 for A FREE Locate 1-800-400-2255**