

December 7th, 2021

Giving Back – 100th Anniversary: For the Earth, Environment and Future Generations

Maintaining trees is essential for future survival of all species. Trees help reduce climate change, and the effects of it. They also provide a home for birds, animals and insects, and provide fuel for warmth and cooking for those in some of our remote communities.

To this end, Blachford is contributing both locally and nationally:

1. In the spring of 2022, a grove of trees will be planted on the east side of the Mississauga office. We will work with a local landscaper to support choosing the type and number of trees for the location. It is expected that this will be accompanied by a ceremonial event.
2. Blachford is also contributing \$25,00 CAD (\$20,000 USD, £15,000) to Forests Ontario in support of a program for forestation or reforestation. This is the only not-for-profit organization in Canada that oversees all the steps from seed to tree, with follow up to track survival.

The donation will cover the planting and nurturing of approximately 6,250 trees. We have requested that a site be chosen on indigenous land in the northern part of Ontario. Once the site is selected, trees will be chosen that are beneficial for the specific area. Trees could include white pine, larch, tamarack, oak, maple, and beech depending on the area. The size of the seedling when planted will vary from 20 to 90 cm depending on the specific species.

Forests Ontario program involves planting and tracking 2.5M trees each year on over 500 sites and working with over 80 partners. To date, they have planted more than 34 million trees across Canada, supporting landowners planting on their property, as well as community plantings on public and first nations lands. They are tracking every tree that is planted at the 2-year and 4-year mark after planting and take corrective action to make sure the trees remain healthy.

Because trees absorb carbon dioxide, they reduce the extent of climate change. They also combat the effects of climate change. As you all probably know, climate change is causing unusually heavy, and very destructive, rainfalls. Where trees are present, the soil has a greater capacity to absorb water, and so trees act to reduce flooding. Furthermore, trees stabilize the soil, and this results in fewer mudslides after heavy rains.

To combat climate change we already have a car policy that limits the gas consumption of any car an employee receiving a Company car allowance, such as a salesperson, is allowed to drive. Furthermore, to encourage the use of electric cars we have provided two electrical outlets at each of our plants. Subsidizing the planting of trees is our third action to fight climate change. But not our last!



John Blachford