

# THE VALUE OF TREES



**ReForest London**  
planting the future today

# This Presentation will Cover:

- What is a Tree?
- The Easter Island Mystery
- Trees and the Forest City
- London's Urban Forest
- The Benefit of Trees



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# Mission:

**ReForest London is a non-profit organization dedicated to partnering with our community to enhance environmental and human health in the Forest City, through the benefits of trees.**

- Empowerment
- Ecosystem Health
- Education





MILLION  
TREE  
CHALLENGE

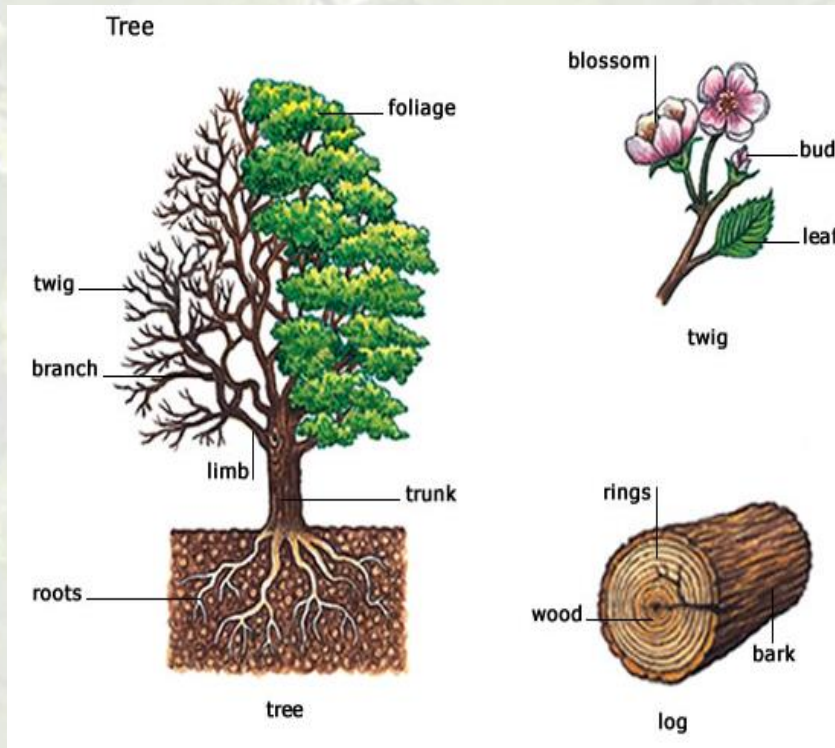
**THE GOAL OF THE  
MILLION TREE  
CHALLENGE IS TO PLANT  
1,000,000 TREES IN 10  
YEARS**

**ANY SPECIES, PLANTED BY ANYONE,  
ANYWHERE WITHIN THE CITY OF LONDON**





# What is a Tree?



A woody plant with one main, erect trunk with a circumference of at least 9 1/2 inches (or a diameter of 3 inches) at breast level (which is considered 4 1/2 feet above ground level) at maturity and a distinct and elevated crown.



# What is a Tree?

- True trees will reach a height of 13 feet or more





# Easter Island Mystery

- Dutch sailors arrived in 1722, when the island is thought to have been inhabited for more than one thousand years.
- The island was a barren landscape with no trees over ten feet in height.





# Easter Island Mystery



- The Dutch also found huge stone statues, some as high as 65 feet and weighing as much as 270 tons. How could such a people create, and then move such enormous structures?
- Pollen research has revealed the mystery.



# Easter Island



- Easter Island, when first settled, was a sub-tropical forest complete with the tall Easter Island Palm
- When the islanders cleared the forests for firewood and farming, the forests didn't grow back.
- They had committed unintentional ecocide.





# Could we become Easter Island?

- The collapse of Easter Island's isolated civilization is the clearest example of a society that destroyed itself
- A worst-case scenario of what can happen to a culture that does not value its trees.





# London 1840



*London looking west down Dundas St from Wellington to Ridout circa 1840*





# London Turns a Corner

- In the early 1900's Londoners recognized the need to replant the trees that had been cut down.
- Being a Forest City became important to the citizens







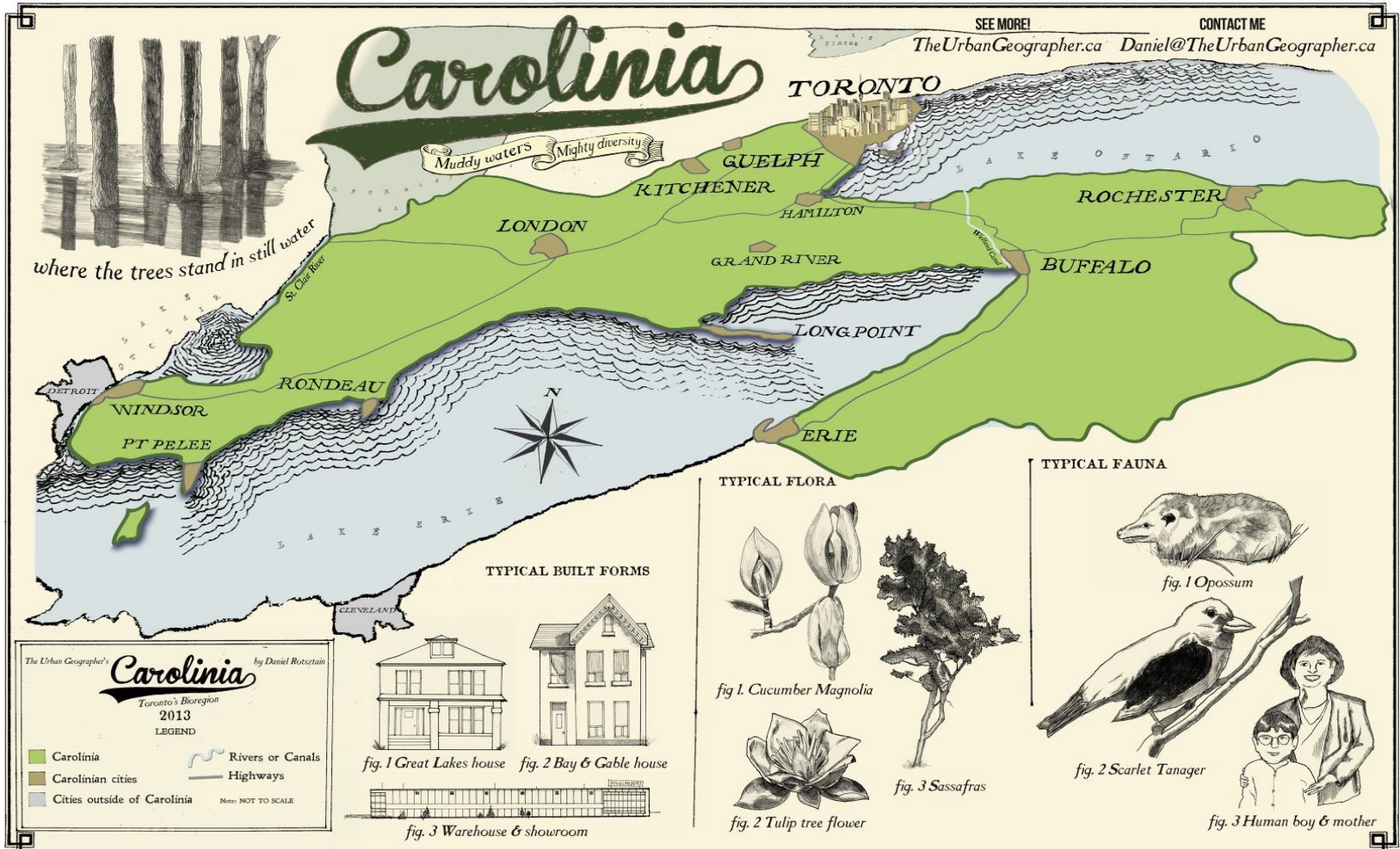
# TREES, FORESTS AND THE FOREST CITY

London has around 22% canopy, while an ideal percentage is 40%.





# Our Region





# Quick Facts About Carolinian Canada

- 25% of Canada's population on 0.25% of its area
- More endangered and rare species than any other life zone in Canada
- A great diversity of wildlife of all kinds, including many species not found elsewhere in Canada.
- Forest cover has been reduced from 80% to 11.3%
- Wetlands reduced from 28.3% to 5.1%





# London's Urban Forest

- Under intense pressures from human activity, our forest is usually the most common connection that we urbanites have with our natural environment.
- Includes street trees, residential trees, park trees and greenbelt and ravine plant and animal communities, and provides habitat for a diversity of urban wildlife



**What does  
London's Urban  
Forest do for  
YOU?**





# Lower heating and cooling costs

- Deciduous trees planted on the south and west side of a home can **decrease your cooling costs by up to 50%.**
- Evergreen trees planted as wind breaks around homes can **decrease your heating costs by as much as 30%.**





# Higher property values

- **A well-treed lot can increase your property value by as much as 20%** and help to beautify your neighbourhood streetscape. Once you start digging, you'll find your neighbours will too!

# Better health and less stress



**Study after study shows that well-treed communities are safer and healthier.**

"Using data from Toronto, a team of researchers has found that having 10 more trees on your block has self-reported health benefits akin to a \$10,000 salary raise or moving to a neighbourhood with a \$10,000 higher median income or being seven years younger."

*—Star 2015*





- **Trees store carbon dioxide and release oxygen back into the air.** They remove dust and particulates, and absorb ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and other pollutants from our air.
- Trees clean water by filtering runoff and sediment from slopes next to streams, and recharging groundwater.



# More shade and less skin cancer

- Besides lowering cooling costs inside the house, shade from trees cools your yard too, making it more pleasant to eat, play, work, and relax outside.
- Skin cancer is one of the most common form of cancer, **trees can reduce UV exposure providing protection to our skin while we are outside.**



# Safer, more walkable streets

A stylized illustration of a tree-lined street. The street is dark green with white dashed lines, receding into the distance. On the left side of the street, there are three trees of varying heights and widths, with light green foliage. The background is a solid light green color.


- **Well-treed streets encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic and improve sense of safety.** Tree-lined streets slow traffic. Children are more likely to walk to school on well-treed streets.



# More wildlife habitat

- **Planting trees can restore critically needed habitat.** Trees provide excellent urban homes for birds, bees, and other wildlife.
- Trees can attract a diversity of wildlife with the food, cover, and nest sites they supply.



A green silhouette illustration of a large, leafy tree on the left. To the right of the tree, four children are depicted in various playful poses: two are holding hands and jumping, and two are performing handstands. The background is a solid green color.

# More play and time spent outside

- **Planting trees is a great way to empower and instill community involvement within a neighbourhood.** Trees bring diverse groups of people together and provide a space for retreat.



They look  
great!





# What our Urban Forest Can Do For You:

- **Increase your businesses bottom line** - Studies show that the more trees and landscaping a business district has, the more business will flow in, an average of **11% more**.
- Since a tree-lined street slows traffic drivers have a chance to look at the store fronts instead of whizzing by.





# What You Can Do

- Order trees where they are needed on city property:  
**519-661-5783**
- Plant a tree –  
ReForest London can help





# Next Steps

- Take care of the trees you have
- Give trees as gifts
- Let your municipal leaders know your city includes trees
- Visit: [www.ReForestLondon.ca](http://www.ReForestLondon.ca)  
For more about the value of trees and to volunteer
- Sign up for our e-newsletter



Any Questions?

thank you!

