

Branching Out

2002

AT SHADY LANE

OUR PHILOSOPHY

IS TO TREAT

NATURE WITH

A RESPECTFUL

AND HOLISTIC

APPROACH. OUR

COMMITMENT

TO YOU IS TO

PROVIDE

KNOWLEDGEABLE,

THOROUGH AND

PROFESSIONAL

SERVICE.

This winter, Judy and I decided to alter the usual beach vacation for some adventure. We traveled to Costa Rica, a country that has become well known for eco-tourism, rainforests and beach resorts. During our trip, we ventured above the forest canopy, 150 feet above ground; a thrilling and unusual way to view bird and animal life. Costa Rica is striving to develop tourism while maintaining a harmonious relationship with nature.

As each year passes, I realize how much I enjoy my profession and how fortunate I am to be working in arboriculture. I love what I do because Canadians love their trees (almost as much as hockey). There is an innate, mutual bond of trust between people and nature; trees are required for our well-being and our future. In return, trees require our care to thrive. For that reason, people never tire of learning about trees - a fact that is impressed on me every time I speak at community clubs, horticultural meetings, etc.

I am pleased that our son, Jonathan, has "inherited" this same love. For several years he has expressed his earnest desire to work in and learn this field. In due time, he will take over the reins at

Shady Lane Expert Tree Care. This spring, he completed the Arboriculture program at Humber College and plans to attend

business college in the fall. This commitment gives me a great sense of personal satisfaction.

It is this same sense of commitment that is often seen in our clients. Recently, I have become involved in a new endeavour, the management of ravine properties in Toronto. This takes a great deal of planning but the end result is satisfying and rewarding as the future of the ravine is ensured. Visitors to our area are impressed by the amount of tree canopy found in our urban environment. Homeowners are becoming increasingly involved in keeping Toronto and the GTA green. The Forestry Department will be introducing a new bylaw to help maintain and manage the ravines. This will help to ensure that our grandchildren have similar green areas throughout the city. Environmental protection has many positive benefits to our society including wildlife habitat.

Shady Lane is constantly trying



to improve our service. Many city clients have asked for our services at their second home (cottage) and it has become our privilege to service both properties. Please note our telephone number for the Simcoe/Barrie area.

I look forward to seeing you this year.

Sincerely,

Lewis Arnold
President

IPM UPDATE

Last year, our newsletter featured a full-length article on the proposal to reduce the use of pesticides in the City of Toronto. Two Canadian cities, Halifax and Ottawa have implemented a ban, or severely regulated the use.

The response from the municipal government is directly related to the concern for environment and human health; it is believed

that exposure to pesticide is a health risk and that the use negatively impacts our air and water. Many people are pressuring the government to set standards for the use or ban of pesticides.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a component of Plant Health Care that focuses on treating insect and disease at the most vulnerable stage in the life cycle using the least toxic methods. IPM is being promoted within the green industry as it appears that the municipalities may enforce the reduction or ban of pesticides. Under the leadership of Landscape Ontario, a company may become IPM accredited; this will promote

IPM as the standard within the green industry. Therefore, IPM will reduce pesticide use at the industry level.

As stated, one of the main objectives of IPM is the reduction in the use of pesticides, but informing and educating the public is of



equal importance. The public must turn its focus from visual perfection to plant health. Society

may have to accept the appearance of a less perfect leaf with the understanding that a healthy plant can tolerate some degree of insect damage. The question of tolerance must be for the benefit of the plants' health and not for aesthetic reasons. Realistic goals must be established; damage on plant

foliage may not look pretty but as long as the damage is minor and not threatening the plants' vitality, one must learn to accept it.



Plant Health Care Program for over 16 years. The use of insecticidal soaps, dormant oils and other insect deterrents has eliminated the need for more toxic insecticides. One of the key components of IPM is inspection and monitoring of properties, thereby creating a history of plant health. This data has given us the ability to anticipate potential problems and to achieve attainable goals. The reduction in the use of pesticides has been one of the main goals for Shady Lane. We are proud of this achievement, as this reduction will improve the quality of our air and water for the benefit of our human and animal population.

This year, we will strive to become IPM accredited while continuing to focus on complete plant health care. Maintaining healthy plants assists in eliminating stress factors that in turn helps plants to be "naturally resistant".

Shady Lane has been at the forefront developing the IPM component as part of its

Not every insect is a pest
Not every pest requires treatment

The age of specialization is upon us and this is becoming especially true in the green industry. Today, people associate the term arboriculture with trees, but because the industry is in the infancy stage, the role of an arborist is continually expanding and adapting.

Some of the functions of an arborist are well known: pruning of trees and shrubs, removals, cabling, insect/disease management. However, a more correct definition for an arborist is a "specialist in the care of trees". Arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and woody plants and are trained and equipped to provide proper care. Arboriculture is not limited to maintenance; another essential role is in providing information and advice to clients because trees cannot talk to their caregivers.

It has been said that one of the most important facts of life is to get advice before, not after. Construction sites provide a prime example of this—trees can usually be preserved if an arborist is included on the team. Clients often purchase a specific lot because of the trees on the site. A creative architect, with advice from an arborist, can save mature trees from ending

up on the woodpile, thereby avoiding major disappointment to the client. The same type of input can also be used for landscape designs.

A tree preservation plan implemented before construction begins undoubtedly saves healthy, viable trees and shrubs on site. The advice from an arborist will include many of the aspects of plant health care but will also provide guidelines for the protection of the root system, trunk, and canopy from the backhoe and other heavy equipment. Proper protection will prevent soil compaction, extensive root damage, and structural damage to the trunk which can lead to eventual death. Many cities and towns are now insisting on a tree preservation plan before building permits are issued.

However, there are times when a tree is damaged or lost due to a vehicle accident or construction that has been mismanaged. This can be very disconcerting to a client, especially if the tree is a prominent feature in the garden or if it provides a specific function (screening, shade or sentimental value).

A Certified Arborist must be called upon to provide valuation of the loss(es). This is determined with the aid of various publications and guidelines established by the International Society of Arboriculture and the American Society of Consulting Arborist. These guidelines are recognized by the judicial system.



Landscape design involves planting the "right tree in the right place", a simple phrase that cannot be emphasized enough. The

proper selection and planting of trees and shrubs can prevent future problems that are disappointing and costly. Landscaping is an investment that will give substantial returns if it is well designed and implemented. Seeking the input from an arborist is time and money well spent.

Your trees and shrubs are one of the most important features of your garden. A call placed to a certified arborist in our office before undertaking a project would be prudent and prevent inevitable and eventual decline.

VALUE & APPEAL

Q&A

ASK THE EXPERTS AT SHADY LANE

Q. I am installing a sprinkler system in my garden this season. Can trees be watered the same as my grass and flowerbeds?

A. Rule of thumb: the deeper the root, the longer the duration of watering with less frequency. Trees have deeper root systems that require different amounts of water than grass and flowers. In comparison to grass that needs only a few inches of water, large trees should be watered to a depth of 12 inches when the soil is dry. It is imperative that the soil is not kept moist at all times. Over watering is more harmful than too little water as the root system will die from lack of oxygen in the soil.

Q. Last year, my neighbour applied wood chips around his trees and shrubs. Is this a healthy thing to do or is it done for aesthetic reasons?

A. A two to four inch mulch layer over the tree's root system has many benefits. It protects the base of the tree from mechanical damage and reduces competition with grass and weeds. Mulch tends to stabilize soil temperatures and increase the soil's water-holding capacity. It can be applied at any time during the growth season. Apply under the tree canopy; do not place against the trunk of the tree. Again, too much mulch can be harmful, as it will restrict the oxygen to the root system.

Q. What are the advantages of implementing a Plant Health Care program?

A. PHC is an effective approach to plant health management that encourages tree vigour to strengthen the natural defences. The focus is on preventive care to maintain healthy, balanced growth rather than emphasizing chemical treatments for disease and insects. This approach is similar to human health care where prevention is preferred to cure or intervention. At Shady Lane, the goal is to continue to use cultural practices to eliminate the use of toxic chemicals.

Pruning, fertilizing, mulching, watering, inspection and monitoring for insect and disease are the major components of Plant Health Care. Further information can be accessed on our website @ www.shadylanetreecare.com.

**WE NEED
THE FULL
SPECTRUM
OFLIFE
ON EARTH**

STAFF PROFILE

Bright and eager to try an outdoor job, Jesse Brooks applied for a summer position at Shady Lane. He had never given any thought to tree care but decided that it sounded interesting. He enjoyed his summer employment to the extent that Jesse decided on a career in arboriculture. He applied and took the Arboriculture course at Humber College. Upon graduating, he received the award for Most Improved Climber.

Jesse furthered his education by successfully completing the Ministry of the Environment Pesticide License. He has worked in all aspects of Plant Health Care including pruning, deep root fertilization, and IPM. Jesse's knowledge and experience have enabled him to achieve a personal goal by becoming a crew leader.



Tree Technology

Sonic Air technology has been utilized as one of the newest inventions in the arboriculture industry. Air excavation is being used to remove soil around tree root collars. This is the area where the tree trunk, roots and soil come together. This tool removes soil, thereby exposing the root collar without damaging the tree.

When soil comes in contact with the root collar for a long period of time, decay and fungal diseases can set in. Removal of soil around the root collar can substantially prolong the life expectancy of a tree as it exposes girdling roots, decay and fungi. One of the major reasons for root collar decay is planting trees too deep.

There are many reasons for using sonic air; for example, the installation of a water line for a sprinkler system or other conduits can now be completed without cutting the tree roots.

As our industry evolves, science and technology will continually assist with improving the tools of the trade.