

SOS Elms News

Newsletter No. 16, Spring 2003

SOS Elms Coalition, P.O. Box 1313, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3N9

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SOS ELMS COALITION Inc. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday, June 26, 7:30-9:00 PM
Albert Community Centre, Room 13
(corner of Albert Ave. & 12th St.)
Speaker & refreshments!**

PLEASE ATTEND!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Judith Benson

Our organisation continues to thrive, thanks to a strong Board of Directors, a dedicated membership and generous support from The Saskatoon Foundation, Saskatchewan Environment, Meewasin Valley Authority, and the City of Saskatoon. Since December, we have found the City's largest elm, worked on a public service announcement video, improved our web site, presented and staffed a display at Gardenscape, planned a tree tour, and re-addressed concerns to City Council.

On a sad note, we are saying farewell to **Glenn Gustafson**, Executive Director of

the Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association (SDEDA). Glenn has supported SOS Elms since its inception eleven years ago. He has attended our monthly Board meetings, consulted closely with our presidents and initiated numerous activities to raise public appreciation of our American elms and awareness of Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Glenn has been an inspiration and creative force to me as president. We extend our thanks for his great efforts on our behalf along with our good wishes to him in his new job in Alberta, where he starts this month (see article below). Glenn will return for our Tree Tour (see article below) on June 7th and he has advised that his worthy replacement with SDEDA is **Sheri O'Shaughnessy**. We will feature her in our next newsletter.

We congratulate **Terry Beebe** for finding the largest American elm in Saskatoon. He led us to the champion, with a circumference of 12' 8.5" (3.87 m), in front of 216 Poplar Crescent. His television interview with the media and several of our intrepid board members at the tree was most informative. That event, on a crisp (- 34 C) January morning, concluded our "Trees of Renown" contest.

Many thanks to **Terry Tosh and Craig at Global Television** for continuing to work with us to perfect a video on the topic of

the signs of DED. We hope that it will be aired on Global and other local television networks beginning in June.

A big thank you to **Paddy Tutty**, for keeping our web site up to date. She not only sings as beautifully as our spring birds, but she's computer literate, as well! Please check our site out at: www.soselms.org where you'll find our Home Owner's Guide to Elm Care, previous newsletters, upcoming events, and much more.

Linda Moskalyk organised our Gardenscape display with a fine roster of volunteers to staff our booth. She and Glenn did the set up and take down. Thanks to all who helped to spread the word during this delightful event.

The **First Annual Saskatoon Tree Tour** ([see article below](#)) will be held on June 7, starting at 10 AM from the Diefenbaker Centre on campus. We are holding the tour in honour of Richard St. Barbe Baker, pioneer of a global sustainable forest, also known as "Man of the Trees." He planted his last tree on the Centre grounds. Following the bus tour we will hold a bar-b-que there, and the public is invited to attend a St. Barbe Baker slide show inside the Centre as well. **Glenn, Paddy, Rae Hearn and Doug Mitchell** and I have enjoyed planning the tour as a public awareness event and fund raiser for SOSE.

In February last year our acting president Stephanie Laverty made a presentation to Saskatoon City Council, thanking them for improving tree care in the City, but also urging them to improve the program. On May 2 this year, I wrote to the Mayor and Council to remind them of issues

brought to light last year that need revisiting: (1) assisting homeowners with care of elms on their property; (2) management of buffer zones around the City; (3) pruning City elms in parks, golf courses, along back lanes, shelterbelts, the campsite and cemetery; and (4) planting more trees to sustain a healthy urban forest. We hope to have a positive response for the next newsletter.

Thank you members for your patience in awaiting this newsletter. We get out them out as often as our busy volunteers can manage. **Richard Kerbes and Kathy Meeres** have taken responsibility for this newsletter from Glenn. Many thanks.

I hope to see a great number of members at our **AGM on Thursday, June 26, 7:30-9:00 PM at the Albert Community Centre, Room 13**. We hope to arrange for a speaker to talk about the state of our urban forest from a management perspective. Refreshments will be served. Bring your friends and neighbours. Consider running for the Board. Thank you for your continued support, and remember to get those **cankerworm bands down** now ([see following articles](#)).

*The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.*

William Wordsworth 1798

CANKERWORM BANDING STUDY

by Dr. Susan Kaminskyj

"Cankerworm" is the common name for two types of moth that can severely

damage trees such as American elm. Being wingless, adult females must crawl up the bark of trees to lay their eggs in the canopy. Cankerworm caterpillars, along with many other insects, eat leaves. In the 1990s, cankerworms were a severe problem in the Saskatoon area, leading to widespread use of sticky bands as a control measure, which was successful at reducing populations. The leafroller caterpillar is still annoyingly abundant, and damages the leaves of many trees, particularly maples. Unfortunately, adult female leafrollers have wings, so banding does not control them.

Over the past two years, University of Saskatchewan Profs. Susan Kaminskyj and Jim Basinger have been monitoring what is being captured on these bands, as well as studying the remaining caterpillar populations. They compared three sites: 1) the centre of Campus, where most trees are elms, all of which are banded, 2) Woodlawn Cemetery, where no trees are banded, and insect control is by spraying (last done five years ago), 3) boulevard trees in the residential area south of campus, where some trees are banded.

Only two cankerworm females were caught on a total of almost a hundred bands monitored last spring. Surprisingly, similar populations of cankerworm caterpillars were found at all three sites, suggesting that some adult females are avoiding the bands. However, each band also caught hundreds of tiny spiders, which are predators on small insects. In addition to harming spider populations, banding can cause bark rot by trapping moisture. Since cankerworm populations are extremely low, we suggest that banding

is not warranted in the foreseeable future.

City of Saskatoon - News Release Remove Cankerworm Bands

May 6, 2003 - The City of Saskatoon wishes to remind residents that now is the time to remove any bands used for trapping Cankerworm moths. Leaving the band on the tree over the summer can damage the bark by trapping moisture.

The City also advises that banding should not be necessary this year. Surveys by the City's Pest Management unit, and by Professor Susan Kaminskyj from the Department of Biology at the University of Saskatchewan, have indicated that Cankerworm populations are very low.

Tree banding will not be effective against the leafrollers that were abundant throughout Saskatoon last summer, since the female leafroller moth has wings and banding will not control them. Bands trap spiders that are potential predators of all types of young caterpillars. For more information:

Jeff Balone
Pest Management Supervisor
Infrastructure Services Department
City of Saskatoon 975-2766

Dr. Susan Kaminskyj
Department of Biology
University of Saskatchewan 966-4422

**SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENT -
DED MANAGEMENT**
by Glenn Gustafson

As another summer approaches, Saskatchewan Environment prepares for another season of DED control in the province. Once again Bioforest

Technologies Inc. will be doing surveillance in 43 selected communities across the province. In addition, the communities of Pilot Butte, White City and Emerald Park will be surveyed by Schneider Bros. bringing the total number of surveyed communities to 46. Surveillance in the buffer zones of Regina, Fort Qu'Appelle and Estevan will again commence in the third week of August. The Crop Protection Lab in Regina will continue to test elm samples for DED from our crews, the public and various communities.

Removals of diseased trees from the first round of surveillance will begin by July 23rd and hopefully be completed by July 31st. DED infected trees from the second round of surveillance will be removed in the fall beginning in October along with the buffer zone removals.

The Provincial DED Program has obtained a summer student through the federal Centennial Summer Student program which shares the cost. This student will be a great asset to the program by helping during our busiest time of the year. The student will also help to expand Moose Jaw's buffer by assisting with surveillance in that community.

The recent provincial budget saw no change to DED funding. The number of cost-share communities is expected to remain at 33 for the 2003 budget year. Communities in the cost-share program are pleased to receive assistance from the government to assist in protecting their trees against DED.

Program developments for 2003 include a further expansion of the Regina buffer as the inventory will be expanded to

include the area NE of the city. As a result of the expanded Regina buffer in 2002, 14 new properties were found to have DED. The program also intends to increase public awareness of the firewood and pruning ban by targeting advertising in communities where there has been high number of infractions. The Saskatchewan Environment DED web site is also under renovation so keep posted for changes in the upcoming months at www.se.gov.sk.ca/forests/forestmanagement/dutchelmdisease/. The web site will be made more informative and appealing making it a useful tool in awareness and education.

Although the overall level of DED decreased in 2002, it is important to continue the fight against the disease. Continued awareness and attention by all is needed to prevent the further spread of DED.

TAKE THE SASKATOON TREE TOUR !

By Glenn Gustafson

The SOS Elms Coalition is pleased to announce the launch of its printed "Saskatoon Tree Tour" with a guided bus tour that features many of the unique and unusual trees of the city. Following the launch the printed tour will be available at tourism venues and other selected locations throughout the city.

Saskatoon Tree Tour:

When: Saturday, June 7, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by a riverbank barbecue picnic (bring a lawn chair or blanket).

Where: Starting and ending at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre - U of S

Campus (free parking on weekends). There will also be a 20 minute slide show about Richard St. Barbe Baker, the Man of the Trees, presented at 2 p.m.

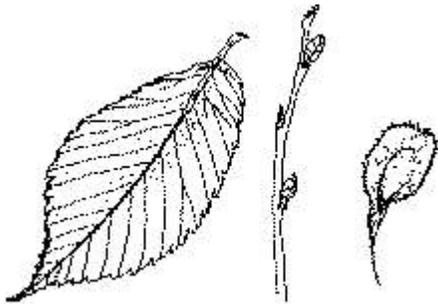
Bus Tour Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (under 12) including the BBQ. For people not on the Bus Tour, the BBQ will be \$2/adult, \$1/child.

Tickets are available from **Academy Piano Rebuilders** - 102, 802 Broadway Ave., on 10th Street just off Broadway, from 9:45 to 5:30 Monday to Saturday - 244-0084.

Only 50 tickets will be sold so book early!

For more information about the tour please call: Judith Benson, at 653-4339.

This project is sponsored by Saskatchewan Environment, the City of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Foundation, and the Meewasin Valley Authority.



ALBERTA STEALS GLENN

by Richard Kerbes

As our President has noted above, Glenn Gustafson, a important friend and defender of the community trees of Saskatchewan, is moving to Alberta. Glenn became active on the SOS Elms board in the mid-90s. He led a major campaign to obtain private corporate support for our activities. Results were modest - only one small donation from

only one of dozens of companies solicited....

But Glenn was not discouraged! Drawing on his background with Meewasin Valley Authority, he brought new ideas and action to our board, such as contributing a great deal to a completely new and colourful display for public events. After accepting a position with the SDEDA, Glenn resigned from our board, but he remained a solid supporter, adviser, and occasional contractor. His recent contributions include the production and distribution of our Home Owners' Guide to Elm Care, the tree contest, and the creation of the upcoming Saskatoon Tree Tour (see articles above).

Glenn, we sincerely thank you for all you have done for our Coalition and for the SDEDA. Although we much regret losing you, we congratulate you on winning your new full-time job with Alberta Environment in environmental education. Based in Stony Plain, with your region extending to Edson, you will be closer to forests, mountains, and ocean. We wish you great success in your new job, and we know you'll be enjoying the telemark skiing, the sea kayaking and all your new adventures out there.

**SOS Elms Coalition Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Judith Benson 653-4339
Vice-President: Doug Mitchell 244-3082
Treasurer: Geoff Benson 653-4339
Secretary: Rae Hearn 244-3082
Membership: Gary Bortolotti 665-3457
Web Site: Paddy Tutty 665-0864

Members at large:
Michelle Chartier 384-0284
Warren Chykowski 934-8972
Richard Kerbes 653-4209
Barry Kirchmeier 384-3210
Susan Kaminskyj 955-5753
Irene Moffat 382-7998
Linda Moskalyk 934-7156
Bronco Skorupan 668-7681

**TREE CARE REMINDERS:
REMOVE THOSE
CANKERWORM BANDS NOW**

**DO NOT PRUNE ELMS TILL
AUGUST 1ST**

YES! I WANT TO JOIN SOS ELMS!

- \$10.00 Annual membership per household
 \$_____ Donation
\$_____ Total - Money order or cheque enclosed

(Payable to SOS Elms Coalition,
Tax Receipt will be mailed to you.)

- Yes! I wish to help out as a volunteer

Name _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____ Telephone _____



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