



Tree News

November 2023

Advocacy Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2023 Councillor Coffees. We conducted seven coffees with attendance of over 100 concerned participants who shared what they valued about our lovely urban forest and expressed a number of concerns and suggestions. The response from the Councillors has been very favorable. As we write this today, most proposed cuts to tree related budget items have been reversed and appear to be included in the final proposed budget. One thing we did hear consistently from the Councillors was that we needed to be more present at council and they needed to hear from all of us who value the trees and green spaces more frequently. So we will continue to provide you with the opportunities to do just that. You can help - when you hear of a consultation in your neighbourhood that will impact trees let us know at trees@sostrees.ca and then speak up. We will try to post opportunities when we are aware of them to protect our trees. To review the complete [Summary of Councillor Coffees](https://sostrees.ca/pdf/2023-11-Summary-of-Councillor-Coffees.pdf) go to <https://sostrees.ca/pdf/2023-11-Summary-of-Councillor-Coffees.pdf>



Updates on other City initiatives

Saskatoon ended its pilot project to evaluate elm wood disposal, including free elm wood disposal in October. Currently it looks like it will be repeated again in 2024 & 2025.

This fall we saw an increase in signage by the City for proper elm wood disposal/it is illegal to store elm wood, similar to what SOS Trees has done for the past two years.



Volunteer Opportunities



The 2024 Arbor Week Committee is gearing up, and we need volunteers to help with public awareness, media relations, grant research and/or writing, and phone follow up. If you can help email us at trees@sostrees.ca

Get involved! Stand up for our trees & join SOS Trees Coalition Today

SOS Trees Coalition is on the move and we have increased our efforts working with the City of Saskatoon to protect our trees. In addition to Arbor Week, our largest public education event, we are advocating for the City tree protection bylaw, increased City tree planting and monitoring Saskatoon's Urban Forestry Management Plan. Every member and donor is crucial as we build our coalition. Please take a moment today and sign up for your [Membership](#) and/or donation today. Thank you!



Memberships can also be purchased by printing out and sending our [membership form](#) PDF format. Payment can be mailed or sent to us via [e-transfer](#).

You may be interested in

- ◆ Saskatoon Forest Chaplaincy (seeking expressions of interest): are you someone, from any religious/spiritual tradition or none, who feels called to pray, bless, and do ceremony for the various more-than-human beings of Saskatoon's forests, waterways, and green spaces? Would you be interested in coming together for mutual support and sharing of practice? If so, please reach out to Shawn Sanford Beck at greenpriest@hotmail.ca for more information. Blessed be. Shawn has led our highly successful Arbor Week spirituality event the past two years.
- ◆ Kenyans get tree-planting holiday to plant 100 million seedlings - BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-67400448>
- ◆ [Emerging tree diseases are on the rise, threatening the planet's largest plants](#)
- ◆ From gardening.usask.ca [Trees to plant cautiously on the Canadian prairies](#)
- ◆ [Edible Trees and Shrubs](#)
- ◆ [Our love affair with uniform landscapes kills trees.](#)
- ◆ Iconic Sycamore cut down https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sycamore-gap-tree-chopped-down_n_65167d4de4b0acbe63fa6824
<https://www.npr.org/2023/09/29/1202609966/despair-flows-after-englands-sycamore-gap-tree-is-cut-down-could-it-regrow>
- ◆ From Ecofriendly West "It's easy to love a living tree, with its lush foliage and canopy of greenery. But snags are like skeletons. They've lost their leaves, sloughed their skin. Their bones are furrowed with insect tracks, riddled with holes, rotted at the core, and their tops are stunted and snagged. But what life they support! More than a hundred species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians use snags for nesting, roosting, denning, and feeding." [[What an Owl Knows](#), Jennifer Ackerman]

EVENTS: Meet the Authors

Join Ariel Gordon and Brenda Schmidt for the launch of their new poetry book, *Siteseeing* (At Bay Press) with special guest host, Candace Savage. [Wednesday Nov 22, 2023 7:00 pm](#). The event will be hosted live in the McNally Robinson Travel Alcove, and also available as a simultaneous [YouTube stream](#). The video will remain available for viewing thereafter. [Before arriving, please review details of how to attend physical events here at the store.](#)

In *Siteseeing*, Ariel Gordon and Brenda Schmidt wrote collaborative poetry, formatted like a call and response. Ariel intended to write about urban Manitoba, the city and its trees, and Brenda was to write about rural Saskatchewan and birds. Over the course of the year, the matter of place took over and the intentions branched and flew apart. The poets wrote about the natural world and people making their way through it all. Survival, struggle, keen naturalist perception, and endless wit, bring forward the idea of hope, rejuvenation, and the generative power of community.

Ariel Gordon is a Winnipeg/Treaty 1 territory-based a writer, editor, and enthusiast. She is the ringleader of Writes of Spring, a National Poetry Month project with the Winnipeg International Writers Festival that appears in the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Her first two collections of poetry won the Lansdowne Prize for Poetry. Her most recent books are the essay collection *Treed: Walking in Canada's Urban Forests* (Wolsak & Wynn) and the first book in the public poetry project *TreeTalk* (At Bay Press), which was nominated for three Manitoba Book Awards. This is her fifth book.

William R. Schroeder Launching *Trees Against the Wind* (In Person)

[Thursday Nov 30 2023 7:00 pm](#) at McNally Robinson, Travel Alcove, Saskatoon Join William Schroeder for the Saskatoon launch of his book, *Trees Against the Wind* (Nature Saskatchewan). The event will be hosted live in the Travel Alcove. [Before arriving, please review details of how to attend physical events here at the store.](#)

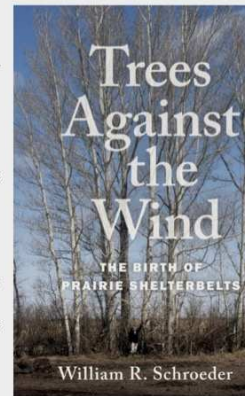
TREES AGAINST THE WIND: THE BIRTH OF PRAIRIE SHELTERBELTS

by William R. Schroeder

Foreword by Trevor Herriot

Author William R. Schroeder relates how a government initiative begun in 1901 transformed Canada's open prairie into a tapestry of tree farmyards and planted shelterbelts

Curious about the origins of the government tree planting program he had worked for, retired research scientist William R. Schroeder was driven to learn more about the people who had the foresight and belief that tree planting could succeed on the Canadian prairies. Scouring archives in Indian Head, Regina and Ottawa, he gathered information and images that would help him trace the history of tree planting on the Canadian prairies. In *Trees Against the Wind*, Schroeder brings to life the inspiration, the people, the science, the business and the politics behind prairie shelterbelts. This enlightening history is a tribute to the thousands of innovative prairie farmers who planted trees to shelter their homes and land, and to Norman M. Ross, Chief of the Tree Planters, who, from 1901 to 1941, shaped, promoted and fought for the program that ultimately distributed over 600 million trees to western Canadian farmers. Complemented by over 130 archival photos and maps, this 286-page publication provides an important and captivating perspective on prairie history and a heightened appreciation for the connection between people and trees on the prairies.



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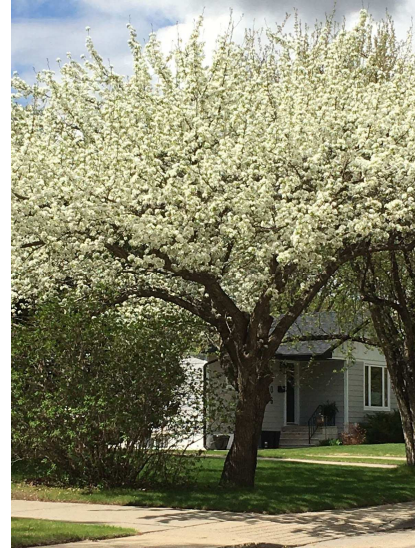
To view sample pages and to learn more go to: naturesask.ca/publications/trees-against-the-wind

Nature
SASKATCHEW.

Create Your Tree Legacy

A planned gift may be one of the most impactful ways that you can support the trees in Saskatoon. A planned gift, life insurance, annuity, etc. to SOS Trees Coalition will make a difference. A great example is the gift left by Joan Browne. The Joan Browne fund has been a supporter of Arbor Week tree planting activities and other educational programs. We are very thankful for the forethought that Joan Browne had and her vision of Saskatoon with a healthy urban forest.

For more information on how you can include SOS Trees Coalition in your estate planning email us at trees@sostrees.ca.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



SOS Trees Coalition is pleased to offer this electronic newsletter to our members and supporters who have an interest in trees in Saskatoon. Through sharing information we can all be more consistently informed and therefore become better advocates for our urban forest and the individual trees that make life so much more enjoyable. If you do not want to receive this newsletter or to share your comments with us regarding our publication please email us at trees@sostrees.ca. You can also follow us on Facebook at SOS Trees Coalition <https://www.facebook.com/SOSTreesCoalition>.

Membership and contributions to SOS Trees Coalition support the protection and fostering of stewardship of Saskatoon's urban forest. To become a member or supporter go to: [membership](#) or you can mail directly to: 1618 9th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K3A1. *SOS Trees Coalition is a Canadian not for profit registered charity. Thanks to the financial support of our members and donors we are able to continue to advocate for the trees in Saskatchewan. For additional information on how you can help go to: <https://www.sostrees.ca>*