



**Subject: Sustainable Orangeville 2020 Annual Update**

**Department: Corporate Services**

**Division: Clerks**

**Report #: CPS-2021-003**

**Meeting Date: 2021-01-25**

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### **Recommendations**

**That report CPS-2021-003, titled Sustainable Orangeville 2020 annual update be received;**

**And that Council approve the carry-over of \$12,500 from the 2020 committee budget funds for projects that were started and are scheduled for completion in 2021;**

**And that the balance of the 2020 committee budget funds be transferred in to the Environmental Reserve fund for future sustainability projects.**

### **Background and Analysis**

The Sustainable Orangeville committee (previously known as the Orangeville Sustainability Action Team or OSAT) consists of 11 members, including one member of Council, one Communities in Bloom member, one Upper Grand District School Board representative, eight public members and Town staff representation.

The committees mandate is to work to reduce Orangeville's environmental impact and improve the quality of life for residents through; urban food systems, active transportation awareness and infrastructure, waste reduction initiatives, water conservation and stewardship, air quality, energy conservation, urban forestry, assistance in implementation of the Town's Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.

### **Baby Tree Program**

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the annual baby tree planting ceremony usually scheduled for April was cancelled. The committee only received two submissions for babies born in 2019 and therefore opted to postpone the ceremony until April of 2021.

The committee has begun a pruning and maintenance plan in coordination with the parks division to assist in the upkeep and health of some of the baby tree forests in need of some extra care.

Baby Tree Plantings		
Year	Location	Number
2009	Kin Family Park, 485 College Ave.	20
2010	Fendley Park	21
2011	Fendley Park	21
2012	Princess of Wales Park	21
2013	Rebecca Hills Park	6
2014	Harvey Curry Park	6
2015	Alder Recreation Centre Parklands	9
2016	Kin Family Park	13
2017	Kin Family Park	3
2018	Parkinson Park	5
2019	Mother Teresa Park	7
2020	Cancelled due to COVID	0
Total		132

### **Bee City Designation**

In March of 2020, the committee was successful in having Orangeville recognized as a designated Bee City, for the Town's commitment to develop, restore and preserve pollinator-friendly local habitats. The Town has pledged to refrain from pesticide use whenever possible, plant native species, increase naturalization and add additional pollinator garden beds throughout the community.

### **Earth Week**

The annual earth week tree planting, book exchange, and special workshops and events scheduled for April were cancelled due to the pandemic.

### **Fall Tree Planting**

In partnership with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, a Fall tree planting event took place at Harvey Curry Park on October 17, 2020. Online registration was

mandatory and strict COVID health and safety protocols were enforced. Two hundred trees and shrubs were planted by 40 volunteer planters.

<b>Sustainable Orangeville Tree Plantings</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>
2008	Maywood Park/Amelia to Blind Line	900
2009	Kay Cee Gardens/Mill Creek	675
2010	Montgomery/Morrow	619
2011	Mill Creek	650
2011	Montgomery/Morrow	700
2012	Montgomery/Morrow	400
2013	Rotary Park	500
2014	Edelbrock Centre and Montgomery Village	1,100
2015	Best Western, Hwy 9/Hwy 10	500
2016	Rotary Park & behind Best Western	500
2016	Tree Canada Fruit & Nut Tree Grant for Community Garden	65
2016	NW corner of Hwy 10 & McCannell Ave	150
2017	Broadway Pentecostal / Alder Parklands /	523
	Island Court Parkette (Trees Can Grant)	
2018	Broadway Pentecostal	500
2018	Fall Tree Planting - East Entrance	150
2019	Montgomery Trail between Alder & Fendley Park	500
2019	Fall Tree Planting - Monora Trail between Blind Line & Amelia	200
2020	Fall Tree Planting - Harvey Curry Park	200
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,832</b>

### **Community Clean Up Event**

The Sustainable Orangeville committee partnered with the Rotary Club for the Let's make Orangeville Shine community clean up day which took place on September 16, 2020. The committee set up the on-line registration system for the event, provided

marketing and promotion, and coordinated the Literatti App to track the waste collected during the event.

### **Community Garden & Orchard**

The community garden had another successful year with a wait list and all 24 plots reserved. The Food Bank has a designated plot that was maintained by student volunteers.

### **Environmental Sustainability Awards**

Gary Skinn was selected as the Environmental Sustainability award recipient in the Individual category. Due to the lack of nominations received the other categories for youth, business, group were not awarded.

### **Urban Harvest Program**

The 2020 fruit harvest was very small this year based on the unusual spring weather and dry summer resulting in low quantities, as well as poor quality of the fruit that was harvested. Also, the natural 2-year fruiting habits of many fruit trees meant that after last year's bumper crop many of the same trees didn't bear any fruit at all in 2020. The challenges with COVID-19 also limited the number of volunteers who wanted to help with the harvests, as well as tree owners willing to register with our program.

Only three properties were harvested this year, all of which were repeat participants from previous years. A total of 203 lbs. of apples were picked, of which 159 lbs. were donated to the Orangeville Food Bank and 44 lbs. went with the volunteers.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Lbs. Harvests</b>	<b>Food Bank Donations</b>
<b>2018</b>	912 lbs.	912 lbs.
<b>2019</b>	1,679 lbs.	1,581 lbs.
<b>2020</b>	203 lbs.	159 lbs.
<b>Total</b>	2,794 lbs.	2,652 lbs.

### **Seed Library**

This was the committee's third year offering the seed library program. Due to the on-going pandemic and the closure to the Mill Street library the seed library transitioned to a self-serve porch pick up model during the 2020 gardening season. Seeds have been graciously donated again from Dufferin Garden Centre for the 2021 seed library gardening season.

### **Communities in Bloom**

Recruitment for volunteers commenced in the beginning of the year, however due to the pandemic the national judges tour was cancelled which in turn halted the communities in bloom programming for 2020.

**In-complete projects started in 2020 that will carry-over to 2021:****East Entrance Welcome Garden and Baby Tree Forest Maintenance and Repairs:**

The committee motioned on September 1, 2020 to allocate \$10,000 of the committee's 2020 budget funds towards the required maintenance, repairs, and signage replacements for the many baby tree forests planted within Orangeville parks since 2009 and for landscaping and repairs to the East Entrance gardens by the welcome signage on highway 10 by McCannell Ave.

**Hutchinson Court Trail Volunteer Naturalization Pollinator project:**

At the November 3, 2020 committee meeting, Shaun Booth presented to the committee with an initiative to create a naturalized pollinator garden with volunteers along the Hutchinson Court Trail. The committee has requested that Mr. Booth formalize plans to be submitted and reviewed/approved by the Facilities and Parks Division. The committee motioned to allocate \$2,000 of the 2020 committee budget funds towards new plants and materials pending final approval from the Parks division.

**Backyard Hens virtual education workshop:**

The Sustainable Orangeville committee assisted in selection of education and marketing materials for the new backyard hens pilot project. The committee motioned on November 24, 2020 to offer a virtual education workshop to assist those registered participants in the pilot program. The committee motioned to allocate \$500 of committee budget funds as per the estimated cost received from the instructors.

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**Strategic Alignment****Orangeville Forward – Strategic Plan**

Priority Area: Community Stewardship

Objective: Engaged and involved

**Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan**

Theme: Social Well-being

Strategy: Provide accessible social and community program options that support health, wellness and learning.

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**Notice Provisions**

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N/A

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**Financial Impact**

The Sustainable Orangeville committee approved and commenced the following project initiatives in 2020. These projects are scheduled to be completed in 2021 and therefore is requesting that the allocated 2020 committee budget funds of \$12,500 be carried over to 2021 to assist in the completion of these initiatives.

<b>Project / Initiative</b>	<b>Project carry-over</b>
Landscaping, Maintenance & Repairs – East Entrance Garden & Baby Tree Forests	\$10,000.00
Hutchinson Court Trail Naturalization Volunteer Pollinator Garden initiative (Pending plan approval from Parks)	\$2,000.00
Backyard Hens virtual education workshop for participants	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>

Due to COVID many of the committee's programs and funding was not expensed in 2020 and would like to request that the balance of the 2020 Sustainable Orangeville committee budget funds, which amount to approximately \$17,000, be transferred to the Environmental reserve fund for future sustainability projects.

Respectfully submitted

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