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Dozens of mature trees destroyed by weather and invasive species at Oshawa co-op replaced by local Conservation Authority

November 26, 2021, Oshawa, ON – [Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority \(CLOCA\)](#) along with two of their funding partners, [TD Tree Days](#) and [Trees for Life](#), planted more than 100 native trees, to replace the dozens of mature trees devastated by an extreme weather event and invasive species at the Willow Park Cooperative housing complex in the City of Oshawa.

The Willow Park Cooperative housing complex is comprised of 90 residential units including four fully accessible units. The property and its surrounding landscape have been managed by the Willow Park Cooperative Board of Directors for over 30 years, and in that time, they have seen considerable change, but none more devastating than what has occurred in the last decade.

“The coop we see today looks quite different, largely due to climate change, and this community is taking some positive steps to ensure they are more prepared and resilient as weather becomes wilder, wetter and warmer,” said Laurie Chambers, past Board of Director and lead on the project for the Willow Park Cooperative community.

In December 2013, this community experienced firsthand the devastating effects of extreme weather by the ice storm that littered southern Ontario with downed trees, branches and hydro wires. In addition to impacts on the Willow Park Cooperative community’s ability to overcome the short-term obstacles, it was the long-term impacts of that event that remained a painful reminder of weather-related changes. The following spring, with more than 45 mature trees requiring removal because of damage by the ice storm, it was not economically feasible for the Cooperative to replace the trees when they were burdened with the removal costs of the destroyed trees. The remaining mature trees were primarily ash trees, which were further devastated by [Emerald Ash Borer](#), an invasive species, and those, too, had to be removed.

“In November this year, the Willow Park Coop residents witnessed the planting of more than 100 native trees to replace the trees lost over the past 10 years,” added Ms. Chambers. “We now demonstrate what a climate change-resilient community looks like.”

The trees planted represent approximately 10 different species of native trees. They have been planted in front yards and back yards, common spaces, and entrance areas. These trees possess a natural resistance to common pests, adapt to local temperatures and seasonal changes, and require low maintenance. These species also don't require fertilizing or insecticides.

The selected tree species will provide a variety of flowers for pollinators, fruits and seeds for local wildlife, and shade in for the warmer months. Having a range of species provides more resiliency and less likelihood of the complete tree canopy being impacted either from pests or extreme weather. In the spring of 2022, Cooperative residents will be invited to participate in a tree-pruning workshop, where they will receive a gator bag for easy watering and create tree-name markers, so everyone will have an opportunity to connect with their trees and the many benefits of this new urban forest, to come.



Bob Chapman, Oshawa Regional and City Councillor, and CLOCA Board Chair, Laurie Chambers, Willow Park Cooperative former Board of Directors' member, and Mayor of Oshawa, Dan Carter, help plant the trees at Willow Park Cooperative.

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About Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) is a local, community-based, environmental organization and one of 36 Conservation Authorities responsible for managing watershed resources across Ontario. Established in 1958, CLOCA's jurisdiction is based on the watershed boundaries of four major watercourses and 18 minor watercourses draining an area of over 639 square kilometres. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's watershed stretches from the municipal boundaries of Ajax/Pickering to Clarington, and north from Lake Ontario to the crest of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority provides a wide variety of science-based watershed management programs and services, delivered in partnership with their municipal partners, local landowners, environmental agencies, and all levels of government. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's municipal partners include the Region of Durham, the cities of Oshawa and Pickering, the towns of Ajax and Whitby, the Municipality of Clarington, and the townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.