

MAUF Fall Forum – Meeting Notes

Tuesday Nov 23, 2021 Virtual Webinar: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Panel Members: Tami Sadonoja (Co-Chair); Mandy Vandenberg (Co-chair); David Vollett; Angie Hutnick

Regrets: Steve Robinson (Co-chair)

Speakers: Camilo Ordonez; Dave Braun

Housekeeping

- To become a member of MAUF; or if you have ideas: please email: mauf@isaontario.com
- ISA Ontario Conference Feb 16-18 2022 at Deerhurst Resort + Virtual Conference Mar 3-4, 2022.
- At the 2022 AMM ISAO members will vote to ratify MAUF as an official committee of ISAO
- ISAO is accepting Award nominations: <https://isaontario.com/isa-ontario-awards/>

Brief Introductions & What's New

- Richmond Hill has added a Part 1 Ticket process to private tree bylaw enforcement. (Allows the municipality to issue tickets to offenders). Also dealing with LD moths
- Town of Ajax: One issue this year is waiting for locates for trees; In 2022 will be using iTREE to complete a canopy forest study (and compare to a previous study)
- St. Catharines: Will be hosting 2022 Canada Summer Games – will be looking into service standards for trail maintenance and inspection
- Peel Region: Will be undertaking a tree inventory next year; experiencing issues recently with missing trees (trees are being sliced at the base)
- Town of Cobourg: Also having issues with locates; and dealing with some large developments
- City of Kingston: Will be doing an inventory update and a canopy closure assessment; held a neighbourhood tree planting program for homeowners which had good uptake
- City of London: Recently expanded and clarified soil requirements for subdivision developments
- City of Mississauga: looking into a possible aerial spray in 2022 for LD moths; trying to obtain locates was also difficult (long delays)
- City of Guelph: looking into restoration phase of EAB plan; looking into tree planting strategy as part of urban forest study; private tree bylaw review & feasibility study of public tree bylaw
- Also heard from attendees from: City of Brantford; City of Toronto; Town of Aurora; York Region; City of Hamilton; Tree Canada; ISA Ontario; Ontario Urban Forest Council

Camilo Ordonez – Tree Removal Research Study

- This project will study upcoming tree removal projects and assess changes over time in biodiversity (fauna & vegetation density); social impacts (demographics & perceptions on the value of trees); and movement tracking (walkability). This study aims to assess socio-ecological benefits of urban trees, help improve communications and update tree valuation formulas.
- Starting January 2022 and running approx. 1.5 years
- They're looking for sites with significant tree removals planned: **please reach out if you're aware of any sites:** Camilo Ordonez Barona camilo.ordonez@utoronto.ca

Dave Braun from Braun Nurseries: Nursery Challenges

Nurseries are labours of love. It takes 4-8 years to grow a 60mm tree, so it's impossible to predict what trees will be in demand that far ahead. Some challenges/ issues Dave mentioned:

- Tree Shortage: Since 2008 half of US nurseries have gone out of business. Trees are in high demand: Braun is currently sold out of all trees for spring 2022. (Taking orders now for 2023).

- Quality Control: Installers know they can get away with using lower quality/ smaller sizes than originally quoted because no one is checking (or even if they are checking, the penalty for these violations is quite low). Some unscrupulous parties will even change the labels on the tree. It's important for someone to be on site when trees are delivered and before they are planted (once they're planted it's too late). One municipality in Quebec tags trees themselves directly at the nurseries and then tenders these trees to qualified landscapers: this ensures the correct trees are planted. There can be a lack of understanding of tree species when awarding contracts (Braun lost a contract because another bidder falsely stated they could source a European tree in Ontario, which was impossible).
- Timing of Contracts: Opening bidding for contracts earlier can help ensure quality control & availability (by September 2021 Braun was already almost sold out of all trees for spring 2022).
- Planting Depths: Site issues are often linked to planting depth. "Plant it high, never die." Planting above ground and adding soil on top (e.g. making a berm) can work. Avoid planting in a 'well'. Avoid mulch volcanoes – high mulch levels can absorb all the water before it gets to the roots.
 - Dave shared a study from [Pocket Woodlands](#) on the [success of berms](#)
 - Excess soil around the root ball can also be an issue (it's good practice to remove this excess soil at the planting stage)
- Warranties: Awarding multiple short-term contracts makes it difficult to ensure long-term health of the tree (e.g. separate 1 year contract for supply; 1 year contract for planting; 1 year contract for watering). Longer term contracts (e.g. 3 years) could help ensure long term care of the tree
- Bare root planting and smaller trees: seems more cost effective at the start but can still be somewhat costly and logistically tricky – need to store in a cooler to ensure they don't dry out
- Braun Nurseries: <https://www.brauntrees.com/contact>

Professional Foresters Act (PFA) Update

- See update online: <https://isaontario.com/urgent-notice-the-future-of-arboriculture-in-ontario/>
The proposed changes to the Professional Foresters Act will reduce overlap between foresters and arborists (and eliminate requirement for supervision on the work of arborists). This is positive and we thank everyone on the task force, and thank those who wrote letters
- Work will continue to increase professionalism in our industry and increase recognition

Other business: LD Moths

- We need more provincial support to monitor and mitigate LD moths: [contact your AMO representatives now: put pressure on the MOECP and MNDMNRF together - this is an Ontario-wide issue.](#) Provincial monitoring is too limited (a lack of ground truthing after aerial surveying)
- York Region: hired a company to do LD surveys and selected some sites to do egg mass scrapings
- City of Kingston: pheromone traps; website content; discussing aerial spraying
- City of Hamilton: may be looking at spraying next year
- For spraying: Zimmer Air (possibly Trees Unlimited?)
- York Region: looking into burlap kits for next year
- Town of Aurora distributed burlap kits with success (also stressed importance of watering trees)
- City of Mississauga: Resident reporting map; Treatment map; Website content; Door-to-door flyers; Webinars;. Councillor newsletters; Burlap kits in the past; Egg mass scraping promotion; videos showing burlap methods and IPM methods.
- Engaging residents and local community groups is very useful and can have a positive impact
- Main cost of the kits is the cost of burlap

Close of Meeting – Thank you!