

SCOUTTREES

Creating a Better World

by Barry Hardaker



Since its inception more than a hundred years ago, Scouting has always been concerned with conservation and environmental stewardship by being “wise in the use of our resources”.

Scouts began planting trees in the early 1900s; in 1925 we were called upon by the “Dominion” Government and the “Ontario Safety League” to assist them in the “Save the Forests” campaign. Close to 300,000 trees were planted in several locations.

In 1928 and again in 1929, we partnered with the Department of Lands and Forests to plan “Scout Forests”; several of which remain today in Marathon, Ganaraska and Angus, Ontario (to name a few).

Trees for Canada

In the early 1970s, Canadian Scouting formally undertook a national project known as Trees for Canada. Initially a dual purpose campaign for reforestation and fundraising, it evolved into a pledge-type campaign with a portion of the funds going to the “newly created” Scout Brotherhood Fund used to financially support projects in developing countries around the world.

Why Scouttrees was Created

Our national environmental project was designed to:

- 👉 reforest Canada and reclaim waste areas
- 👉 involve youth with the outdoors, developing an awareness of conservation
- 👉 provide a program of instruction in conservation and forestry for Scouts
- 👉 be a beneficial outdoor program to reinforce Scouting’s programs and badges
- 👉 give Scouting a strong public image.



Burnt in the 30s, this land was scarified by Marathon Pulp in the middle forties. Scouting groups from town planted in this area from 1948 until the 90s. What once was an eyesore is now one of the biggest Scouttree plantings in the world.

Photos: Jim Brown

Scouttrees in 2008!

Today we continue to be Canada’s premier volunteer tree planters. More than 80 million trees have been planted by at least three generations of Scouts since the early 1900s. Our Scouttrees program is needed more than ever, with the impact of global warming, cities expanding their housing and commercial developments. It is imperative that all of us in our colonies, packs, troops, companies and crews participate in Scouttrees every year — our future depends on it! We’re not just “Growing the Next Generation of Citizens”, we’re also growing the next generation of trees

and assisting our brother and sister Scouts in developing countries to help themselves. Think of this when you participate in Scouttrees this spring — one tree at a time can provide so much for Canada and people in other countries around the world! X

– Barry Hardaker is the Executive Director for Field Services. Throughout his Scouting career Barry has had a finger in most every aspect of Scouting. Scouttrees remains one of his favourites as it helps in so many ways, both in Canada and the world.

(STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7)

Two Generations

Our cover picture features two generations of Scouttrees planters. Scouter John Valtonen was featured in *The Leader* thirty years ago, planting trees as a Scout. Now a leader with the 23rd Sudbury Beaver Colony, he stands with his son Markus, in front of a tree John planted years ago. Since Scouttrees started in Sudbury, Scouting has planted over 200,000 trees on land devastated by acid rain.

John has been recognized as one of the forty most influential people under 40 years of age in the City of Greater Sudbury. John contributes his experience as a Cub with the 14th Sudbury Pack as helping to determine his role later in life serving people as a police officer and a peacekeeper in Bosnia. As well as being a Beaver leader, John is one of the youngest commanding officers of a militia unit in Canada.

– Larry Rivers, Group Commissioner for 23rd Sudbury Group, Sudbury, ON.

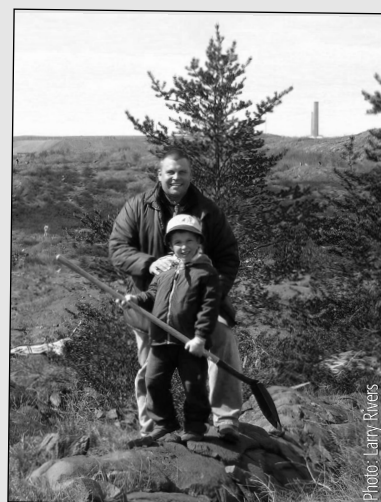


Photo: Larry Rivers