



# Tree News

May 2026

## **Arbor Week 2026 Events**

**How to organize a community tree planting in your neighborhood** Monday May 25. 7-8pm at Grosvenor Park United Church. This presentation will include all the issues to consider if you want to organize a tree planting in your neighbourhood.

**Patterson Garden Arboretum Tour** - Tuesday May 26 7 pm.

**Arbor Week Film Night** - Wednesday May 27 7:00 pm at Outter Limits featuring *The Hidden Language of Trees* (45 minutes)

**MVA Tree Wrapping** - Wednesday May 27 4:30-6:00pm. Join us for helping to protect trees from beaver damage.

**Arbor Week Community Tree Planting** - Thursday May 28, 9 am. You can join students from Estey School and the Walter Murray Outdoor School along with SOS Trees members and other volunteers.

**Pruning Class** - Saturday May 30, 9:00 - 12:30. Registration is limited, for more information call Arbour Crest at 306-242-8733 or please contact SOS trees by [email](#) and e-transfer \$35 to ensure you have a place in this class.

**Trees With a Story, A Tree Celebration and Smile Walk** Sunday May 31 2:00-3:30pm. Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas. Celebrate Arbor Week at Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area. Reserve your spot on this [link](#).

**Pollinators Celebration and Native Plant Market** Sunday May 31, 1-4pm. Pick up your Tree Tour booklet and Dutch Elm Disease information. Behind Buena Vista School.

**Twigs and Trees Photo Contest** Deadline June 1. Tell us why you love your tree - interesting shape, has a story, birds love it, etc. Contest is open to everyone.

**Meewasin Eco-Scavenger Hunt** Wednesday - Sunday, 9:00-4:00. A self-guided tree-themed Eco-Scavenger Hunt where participants can learn to identify and record their nature findings as citizen scientists!

## **THANK YOU**

Arbor Week is made possible by support from Zaks Home Hardware and Building Supplies, The Government of Canada through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Dutch Growers, The International Society of Arboriculture Prairie Chapter and our organizational partner; The City of Saskatoon, Meewasin Valley Authority, Friends of Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc. And thank you to all of our fabulous volunteers.

A special shout out to Sheldon Finlayson at [s.l.finlayson@shaw.ca](mailto:s.l.finlayson@shaw.ca) who for four years has volunteered his expertise to bobcat auger the tree holes in preparation of the students and spread the mulch in preparing the site. It is only with the help of our longterm volunteers and funders that Arbor Week is possible.

**“In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”** Baba Dioum, Senegalese poet and environmentalist, 1937

For Additional Information: <https://sostrees.ca/arborweek.html>

## Volunteer Opportunities

SOS Trees Coalition is increasing its Dutch Elm Disease public awareness as well as general tree values. We have a number of community events that we will be distributing Tree Tour booklets and Dutch Elm Disease information. You can help, don't worry if you are not an expert, If you can join us for a couple of hours you can still help. If you can help at any of the following events please email us at [trees@sostrees.ca](mailto:trees@sostrees.ca).

Sunday May 23, 10-3, Art in the Park, President Murray Park

Sunday May 31, 1-4pm. Pollinators Celebration, Buena Vista School

Sunday June 14, 10-3pm Buena Vista Park

Sunday July 26, 10-3:00 Ashworth Holmes Park

Sunday August 30, 10-3:00 Buena Vista Park

**Thank you to all of our volunteers** who participated at Gardenscape 2026, your participation helps spread the word about Dutch Elm Disease and the values of our urban forest. We could not do it without you.

## Information You Can Use From our friends at [EcoFriendly West](#) and others

Just weeks after a wildfire, pyrophilus fungi emerge from the burnt ground and release spores. Scientists suspect the fungi "play a big role in helping seeds germinate and get established after a fire". <https://www.biographic.com/how-fire-fungi-help-put-burnt-landscapes-back-together/>

The panel appointed to map BC's old-growth forests says the province is failing to save them: "Purposely causing extinction is not just a moral failure but also a high economic, ecological and social risk". <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/old-growth-forests-bc-failing-to-save-9.7128469>

BC is proposing salvage logging in wildfire-impacted forests. Past experience demonstrates salvage logging is of limited financial value while it degrades forest soils, damages water supplies, and alters peak water flows, increasing the risk of flooding. <https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2026/03/17/Harvesting-Burned-Trees/>



## Dutch Elm Disease Reminder

Help protect our beautiful elm trees and historic canopies by:

1. Not storing or burning elm wood
2. Disposing of elm wood at the Saskatoon Landfill (it's free for residential loads!)
3. Never pruning elms during the April 1 – August 31 ban
4. If you spot unhealthy elms or suspicious wood, report it by submitting a **photo online**  
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-diseases-pests/dutch-elm-disease#dedform>

Learn more at [saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease](https://www.saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease)



## We Need You. 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 tree protection and increased City tree planting and monitoring of 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!



<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/12757>

Memberships can also be purchased by printing out & sending our [membership form](https://sostrees.ca/pdf/SOS-Trees-MembershipForm-2022.pdf): <https://sostrees.ca/pdf/SOS-Trees-MembershipForm-2022.pdf>. Payment can be mailed or sent to us via [e-transfer](#).

## 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](mailto:trees@sostrees.ca).



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](mailto: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 registered charity.