



March 5, 2025

Dear Mayor McMillan,

Trees for Life is a national charity with a mission to create a healthier, happier Canada by planting native trees where we live, work and play. Our roots are in the highly successful Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign and Grand Trees Climate Solutions projects, which raised over \$12.4 million and enabled the planting of over 2 million trees. **I am reaching out to you today, to suggest a partnership between your Municipality and Trees for Life to plant more trees.**

One of our new programs, called Hero Forests, emphasizes the importance of creating living legacies to pay tribute to all the heroes who improve our communities and country. We are imagining a Canada-wide network of Hero Forests dedicated to local community heroes from health care professionals, first responders, public servants, military and volunteer community leaders. The attached brochure answers most of the frequently asked questions, but my team is happy to discuss any additional questions you may have. Additionally, you can visit our webpage for more information here: treesforlife.ca/hero-forests

Trees for Life is happy to support any partnerships with municipalities through our expertise, fundraising ability, communication and marketing support. What we need from individual municipalities is to identify between 1 to 5 hectares of land that may be suitable for a Hero Forest. From there, Trees for Life may have the flexibility to provide up to 50% of the cost of the Hero Forest partnership. We additionally have relationships from the nursery and landscape industry through our partner Landscape Ontario that we may be able to leverage.

We are grateful to have the support from Honorary Patrons like Sharon Johnston and the Right Honourable David Johnston (former Governor General of Canada), as well as board members like Donna Cansfield (former Minister of Energy, Transportation and Natural Resources for Ontario). We have also had the pleasure of working with other

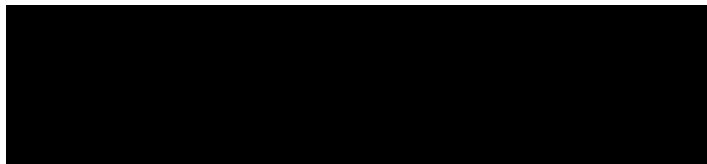
Ontario municipalities like Georgina. Here is what Mayor Margaret Quirk had to say about our partnership: “Trees are essential to our health and well-being, and we recognize and value the importance of them. Our partnership with Trees for Life has allowed Georgina to increase our urban forest, benefiting current and future generations.”

Thanks to municipal partners like the Town of Georgina, City of Edmonton, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF), among others that has helped us plant over 137,000 in 2023, enabling us to plant over 2 million trees since our creation.

I hope you will connect with our team to discuss Hero Forests and how Trees for Life can work together with your municipality. Please connect with Marina Dimitriadis, Partnerships and Operations Manager, (marina@treesforlife.ca) or Tony DiGiovanni, Partnership Development, (digiovanni.tony@gmail.com) to discuss this idea further, or let us know if you would like us to make a presentation to your Council.

We look forward to working with you to enhance lives and the environment as a gift to the future.

Yours truly,



Mark Cullen
Founding Director and Chair of Trees for Life

Cc. Clerk