

News Letter Spring 2015

A Word From the Owners

It is that time of year once again! Hope this letter finds you all well. We are sure you can't wait for warm weather! This past Winter seems long but looking back, we had severely cold temperatures but not very much snow. At least December did not end like last year! I was reflecting back on Christmas Eve and remembering that I was cooking Christmas dinner on the BBQ since we were without power due to the ice storm and that then, had me remembering the entire season from thereafter, just how devastating that ice storm was and just how busy—actually run off of our feet trying to keep up with the work that resulted from that. As tired as we all were, this Winter season did really provide us with a well deserved rest. I do want to thank you all for your patience in waiting not only for your estimates but for us to complete the work. I don't ever remember a time where our customers had to wait as long as eight weeks, at times, for us to complete work on their property. So, once again—thank you—I do appreciate and value your business and look forward to being of service this year in a more prompt manner. To do so, as of last Fall due to the volume of work we did hire some additional employees to be able to have four crews out working every day. As we are writing this Newsletter, we are not out of the clear yet. It seems that freezing rain is about to take place, lets hope the weatherman is wrong! As I have already mentioned, we have experienced severely cold temperatures once again this year for a long period of time. Therefore, since this has taken place for two consecutive years, we should all expect quite a lot of die-back and mortality in already stressed trees/shrubs and temperature zone boundary plant material in all of Southern Ontario (ie. Japanese Maples, Redbuds, Non-Native Dogwoods, Magnolia's, Holly's etc.) This year is a very special year for us as we will be celebrating our 55th Anniversary in business. It really is sad that my father is not here with us to celebrate this milestone with us. I don't think he ever imagined that the small tree company he began in 1960 would be what it is today, nor would he have imagined the technology that exists today with products and equipment. Safety at Van Dyke's has always been our first priority and we have been attending regular safety training courses since this past late Winter. I have also been conducting in-house tree pruning courses with all of our employees to review the ANSI A300 pruning standards. Our success would not take place without the dedication of our employees and the loyalty of our customers. We are very proud of what we have achieved together. I will also be speaking about a new product that we will be using for the treatment of Emerald Ash Borer. Which has now heavily infested all areas of Southern Ontario I will speak further about a wonderful opportunity that I had this year that included the preservation of a 200 year old Walnut tree on the MacLeod estate that we had been caring of for decades! A removal permit had been issued by the Town of Richmond Hill based on the recommendation of a person that claimed to be a Certified Arborist. After investigation with the ISA and the certification of Arborist's through the Government of Ontario, we found that they were not certified with either one! And actually discovered ISA logo misuse on this persons behalf. Quite an eye opener! I on the other hand, was very proud of our success in our fight to preserve this majestic tree! We would never again see one like it in our lifetime! It obviously pays to investigate advertised credentials! We are looking forward to seeing/speaking to you all this season!

Larry & Rita Van Dyke

Ash Trees—New Product Update!

Since the registration of Tree-Azin in early 2009, we were one of the first companies to invest in the equipment and training to purchase and inject this product into Ash for the prevention of the Emerald Ash (EAB) infestation. The recommendation from the manufacturer was for the injection to be completed every two years. We have been doing this and have had excellent results in areas where there was a low population of EAB. However, we noticed in heavily infested/stressed areas that the treated Ash trees were becoming infested once again in their second year of protection. Until now only Tree-Azin and Confidor were registered for in for the control of EAB. The manufacturers of Tree-Azin are now recommending the trees be injected every year instead of every two years. Tree-Azin injections for our customers on a yearly basis would not be economical due to the cost of the product. We have found a new product that has just been registered in Ontario called Ima-Jet which is 5% imidacloprid. It has been developed by Arborjet Revolutionary Plant Health Solutions and has been used in the U.S. for many years with great success. It is still a trunk injection and the formulation is specifically designed to work systematically inside the tree for quick uptake to the target area. Ima-jet is required to be injected on a yearly basis during the infestation period that scientists estimate to be 8-10 years. After further investigation into this product we found that the only way to purchase it, we would have to attend a comprehensive training course to obtain Certification. All of our Plant Health Care Technicians as well as my-self and Rob attended this course and I am happy to report that we all obtained our Certification. I am also happy to report that this product is less expensive and less labour intensive, reflecting in a cost savings for us and a more effective product to protect our Ash trees! We will not be sending out Ash tree injection renewal forms with this Newsletter. We are going to have to come to your property in late May/early June to inspect and measure the DBH of your Ash trees to provide you with an estimate. At that time we will also leave you with more information on this product for your perusal. More information on this product for your perusal.

Preservation of a 200 Year Old Black Walnut Tree!

We have been taking care of this majestic tree at the MacLeod estate (formerly Drynoch Farms) in Northern Richmond Hill for over 40 years! The original homestead had been purchased by developers, the farmhouse and this tree remain, however, after the Ice Storm at Christmas 2013 it did suffer some storm damage and had shed several large limb sections, the tree had been deemed hazardous by someone advertising themselves as a Certified Arborist and he recommended it be removed. When our customers who reside adjacent to the tree became aware of this, they contacted me immediately to verify the persons credentials and his findings. We determined the Arborist Report had been written by someone that was not a Certified Arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture or through the Government of Ontario. I then contacted a colleague of mine, Mr. Philip Van Wassenauer from Urban Forest Innovations who then performed a Management Assessment of the 154 cm. D.B.H Walnut tree that included a visual and a sonic tomogra-phy assessment (ultrasound for trees). The results of this test

concluded that the tree did not require removal. Based on his written recommendations we conducted re-trenchment pruning, this would reduce the crown of the tree by approximately 1-2 metres in height and width in order to reduce leverage on the crown base and co-dominant union; we performed a light crown thinning and removed deadwood or cracked branches resulting from the ice storm. Several new steel cable systems were in-stalled using eye-bolts and one large 7/8ths steel through bolt was installed at the point where the crown divides into two stems. Philip was on-site the entire time the work was conducted. This Spring we will do a follow-up assessment and recommendations for root zone enhancement and protection fencing. I applaud our customer for reaching out to us and we are so very happy to have been of assistance in the preservation of this very majestic tree (large living organism) something that our children and their children will live to see and enjoy for many more years to come! I do wish there were more people out there that cared as much as I do in saving such special specimens!

Godzilla "Crane" —Sighting!

Godzilla has been spotted everywhere this past season from removing infested EAB Ash trees in front and back yards to the removal of a large 200 year old dead Oak tree located in the front yard of a residence in Toronto. Godzilla has also been spotted lifting large calliper trees for planting into un-accessible back yards. The use of Godzilla has not only reduced the hazards of the removal of danger-ous trees but also labour costs to our customers so we are very pleased. Our men continuously attending training seminars to remain up to date in operation and safety in the operation of this large 55 ton knuckle-boom Crane.