

Naturalization Goal sees fruit



I was weeding in the end garden up along the front of the property the other day. Birdsong and a flutter of wings drew me to investigate one of the recently planted Eastern Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) more closely. As I parted the grey-green starched branches, I saw what caused the flurry of anxious movement and song. Deep down inside the protection of the native tree, was a neat round nest of the small chipping sparrow (*Spizella passerine*). There he sat in the Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) scolding me for working too close to his sanctuary. Obligated to respond, I moved to weed the other side of the berm further away from his nest and within minutes he flitted back, disappearing into the protective shrub. It was a stamp of approval on a long labour of love by a dedicated community, learning about and implementing sustainable environmental management in Trinity Village Outdoor Spaces.



The goal of the Trinity Village Berm Revitalization and Naturalization Project 2018-2021 was to restore and naturalize the 260-meter berm that traverses the front of our 11.5 acre property providing a much needed public frame and fully treed hedgerow and at the same time providing habitat for small birds and mammals and food for our native pollinators. For the residents, staff and visitors the revitalized berm of approximately 250 new trees and shrubs would provide a wind break, a sound barrier as well as a line-of-site break from all the commercial activity across the highway.

Community hearts[♥] and hands make the project sing



Throughout the project, many residents, staff and community volunteers lent a hand to remove the diseased trees, add layers of free Region of Waterloo compost and plant hundreds of native trees and shrubs. Wood chip mulch donated by Burkhart Sawmill was added in 2021 and 2022.

It is the commitment of volunteers and donors like these and funding partners like those listed below that create the sturdy golden threads woven into the tapestry of sustainable projects at Trinity Village.



The Berm Revitalization Project would not have been completed without the financial partnership of the following funders:

- TD Friends of the Environment
- City of Kitchener Community Environment Improvement Grant
- City of Kitchener Lovemymhood Matching Grant.

