



# OUT ON A LIMB!

Spring 2002

## New Cost Share Community joins the Provincial DED Program

We are pleased to see that the community of Regina Beach has been added to the provincial cost-share program. This brings the number of towns and cities involved in this program up to 33. Humboldt is also considering joining, while Moose Jaw will continue with its work to expand its buffer zone around the city.

People will once again see BioForest crews out and about in **43 selected communities** this year as they do DED surveillance under contract for the province. Any infected trees found in their first swing through the province will be removed between July 15th and August 9th. Any infected trees identified in their second sweep will be removed in conjunction with buffer zone removals, unless it is a community with a new infection.



BioForest crews will once more be out and about sampling elms for DED.

As part of efforts to establish a more complete buffer zone around the City of Regina, inventories are planned for Emerald Park, White City, and Pilot Butte. These inventories will occur in June or July so that any symptomatic trees can be sampled at the same time. Samples will once again be processed by the Crop Protection Lab.

The recent provincial budget saw no change to DED funding, however, it should be noted that the department handling DED management is now called Saskatchewan Environment. It is promising to see that even in times of tighter fiscal restraint our urban forests are seen as a valuable part of our environment and worthy of protection.

## Tree Pruners need to Upgrade their Training Now!

We are now quite hopeful that changes to the DED Regulations will occur within the year. Along with other changes, we will be asking that the revised regulations require that anyone who is commercially pruning elms in Saskatchewan have an endorsement to do so from the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission by 2005 or 2006. As the endorsement

will be based on having three years of pruning experience (or 1500 hours) following the completion of an approved training program, **tree pruners must begin the process now if they wish to be ready.**

The suggested list of approved courses includes:

- ISA Certified Arborist Program (includes the three years experience)

- SIAST Tree Pruning Course (if taken after summer 2001)
- Manitoba Arborists Licence
- Olds College Programs (Ornamental Horticulture Major/Landscape Gardeners Apprenticeship Program/Utility Tree Worker Safety Training Course)

Please contact the SDEDA office for more information.

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**Tree Canada Program Smaller in 2002**

The Saskatchewan Urban Forest Diversification Program will continue in 2002, however it will be at a reduced level. The original funder of this Tree Canada program, Trans Canada Pipelines, decided to include Manitoba in the distribution which decreases Saskatchewan's share of the funding.

Murray Little, the coordinator of the program in Saskatchewan, indicated that 510 trees in seven gallon containers will be distributed in our province this year. Tree stock will likely include ash, crab apple, cherry, poplar, linden, oak, mountain ash, maple, lilac and amur maple.

Due to the limited number of trees available, smaller communities that

have had DED or have never received trees through this program will be the priority in 2002. If trees are still available once the needs of these groups have been met, additional stock may go to communities that have only received trees one time in the past two years.

Delivery will once again occur in September and the Association will be pleased to provide tree care information and pledges to those communities involved in this year's distribution.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Saskatchewan Urban Forest Diversification Program should contact Murray Little at (306) 764-0057 or [m.little@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:m.little@sk.sympatico.ca)

**President's Message**

The management of Dutch elm disease (DED) in Saskatchewan has always been a challenge. Initially it was a matter of convincing people that DED was a threat and then it was a case of persuading government and civic officials to invest money in their urban forests so that the disease would spread as slowly as possible. While the provincial program is not yet as comprehensive as we would like to see, significant improvements have occurred in the last few years with the result that we are seeing DED losses remaining very low in most infected areas of the province.

Of particular note in the past year has been the progress made in dealing with the outdated DED Regulations that have taken years to update. As the article on the next page explains, we now seem close to finding a new home for the regulations within the Forest Resources Management Act that will allow much better enforcement and

management of the disease. We have developed a unique working relationship between Saskatchewan Environment (SE) and the SDEDA that allows us to work in close association with each other while each of us focuses on specific areas of strength. Other provinces are now looking to Saskatchewan as a role model instead of the other way around.

We have also been busy on a number of other fronts including DED awareness, research into

an attractant for the native elm bark beetle (see last page of newsletter), as well as providing education and training to many groups and individuals through activities such as our annual spring workshop. Efforts are ongoing to get information about DED out to as many people in the province as possible.

*We have been particularly pleased to foster a closer working relationship with SaskPower . . .*

We have been particularly pleased to foster a closer working relationship with SaskPower who is a major employer of tree pruners in the province. On the one hand we have been helping them to improve their in-house tree trimming program, while we are also talking directly to regional staff across the province to provide a refresher on DED and the regulations

that relate to tree pruning. We are pleased that SaskPower has once again come forward as our main workshop sponsor.

This year marks the end of my time as president of the SDEDA and I would like to thank all of those people who have lent their support for our efforts to improve the DED management program in Saskatchewan. Let's also give our incoming President our full backing and I'm sure we will see even greater things in the future.

*D'Arcy Schenk*

## Executive Director's Report

It seems that life has been very busy in the SDEDA office this past year. Aside from the activities mentioned in the President's Message, we have been working on several projects, the largest being our contribution of \$9,500 to the Saskatchewan Urban Forest Diversification Program thanks to several outside sponsorships. We also organized a "Tree Care" program that consisted of providing information to participating communities and asked that they sign a "pledge" to care for their trees.

Communications and education continue to be a high priority for the SDEDA and we once again undertook an extensive communications plan that consisted of everything from print advertisements placed in

daily and weekly newspapers across Saskatchewan through to articles sent to a variety of newsletter editors. We expect that you saw evidence of these efforts on many occasions over the year. Other related activities and products are discussed in the article on page 7.

Through our committees we have also been assisting with coordination of DED related research (see pages 5 & 8), tree pruner training, (see cover article), and provincial regulation changes (see article below). Along with these efforts, we continue to meet with elected officials to keep them up-to-date on the status of DED in the province.

## What's happening with the DED Regulations?

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, we are hoping that the provincial DED Regulations will soon move under the authority of the Forest Resources Management Act (FRMA) from the Pest Control Act. In order for this to happen, the FRMA must be updated to allow the enforcement of regulations pertaining to the control of forest disease and insect pests. Work has been continuing on this process and we

are hoping that the revised FRMA will go before the Legislature in late spring for consideration.

Upon approval of the updated Act, work will need to occur on the DED Regulations to deal with the many insufficiencies that have been detected since they were first passed in 1992. For example, we will ask that the new regulations require commercial tree pruners have an endorsement to prune elms in Saskatchewan.

We will also ask that the revised regulations allow for more effective enforcement as this has been a major issue up to this point. We are also planning to look at the possibility of using elm wood under very controlled conditions, as well as allowing the option of treating infected elm as opposed to simply requiring that all DED positive elms be removed.



The SDEDA will be asking that all commercial tree pruners have an "endorsement" to legally prune elms.

Sometimes it seems to be quite a balancing act working on all of these fronts at the same time, however we seem to be making excellent progress in all of these areas.

Glenn Gustafson

## Dursban Turf still Available

While Westgro has informed us that they will no longer be selling Dursban Turf, Even-Spray out of Winnipeg has indicated that they will have a supply available for sale. If you want more information please contact Jim Shiells at 1-800-665-3836.

There has also been some debate about the label information on Dursban. While the introductory information on the label indicated that the chemical could not be used in residential areas or public parks, the section on elm bark beetle control suggested that it could be used in these situations. PMRA staff were able to confirm that using Dursban for elm bark beetle control is considered a minor use exemption that allows its use in more public areas.

It is becoming increasingly apparent, however, that an alternative to Dursban Turf must be identified and the SDEDA Research Committee will be making this a priority in the future.

## Genetically Modified DED Resistant Elms Developed

Scientists at the University of Abertay in Dundee, Scotland, have grown the world's first genetically modified elm trees resistant to the Dutch elm disease (DED) fungus. The achievement, say scientists, could lead to a reintroduction of the elm to its native habitat in North America and Europe.

"This is an example of environmentally friendly biotechnology," says Kevan Gartland, a professor in the school's Division of Molecular and Life Sciences. "Our work on elm trees could be used to tackle the damage to landscapes and ecosystems caused by tree fungal diseases, such as DED and chestnut blight throughout the world."

To produce the disease-resistant trees, the scientists transfer anti-fungal genes into the elm genome

in two ways: through the use of Agrobacterium and by firing minute DNA-coated balls at pieces of elm leaves using a helium-powered gun.

The findings, says the researchers, are promising because the elm, a popular landscape species, is prized for its shade, beauty, and ability to survive urban environmental stresses.

Over the past three decades, DED has killed more than 20 million elms in the United Kingdom. In addition, more than 70 percent of the mature trees in the United States have perished as a result of DED throughout the past 70 years.

Initially studied in Holland, the fungus responsible for DED is distributed by elm bark beetles, which



breed beneath the bark of elm trees. Once the fungus establishes itself, it spreads throughout the tree, eventually preventing the water and minerals absorbed by its roots from reaching the branches and leaves.

For more information contact Kevan Gartland at: [k.gartland@abertay.ac.uk](mailto:k.gartland@abertay.ac.uk).

*From the January 2002 Issue of "The Forestry Source"*

## DED Technician Hired by Province

We are pleased to welcome Corrinne Harris as the new provincial DED Technician. She is replacing Mary Pryznyk who is currently away on leave. Corrinne will be a real asset to the DED program as she is well versed in the "world of DED" having worked as the DED laboratory technician in the Crop Protection Lab during the summer of 2000.

Corrinne has a background in sociology and biology which might be just the right mix to deal with the many questions and personalities that she is sure to encounter in her time with Saskatchewan Environment. She will be working for a seven month term.

Corrinne will be assisting Steve Hyde in the operational aspects of the cost-share program and you will likely meet her as she visits communities over the summer checking on everything from pruning through to DED surveillance and tree removals.

The Crop Protection Lab has also hired a new technician this summer—Kyle Templeton. If you call the 1-800-SASKELM number you will likely get to speak to him directly.



*Corrinne Harris (on left) replaces Mary Pryznyk (on right) who is on leave from the DED Technician position.*

## New Bands Available

A new type of cankerworm band, called the "BugBarrier Tree Band" has recently been provided in limited quantities to the SDEDA for trial. The product was developed in Ontario and has proved in testing to have captured 9,500 female cankerworms on just one band.

The band differs from standard bands in that the sticky barrier is pre-applied on the inside of a green film barrier that applicators install over a rot resistant fiber barrier provided in each tree banding kit. This product is certainly neater in appearance than conventional bands, however we will need to test it under Saskatchewan conditions before they can be endorsed by the Association.

Any group or organization interested in trying this product should contact Paul Martin at Envirometrics Systems  
- (519) 657-3873 or  
- [info@environmetrics.ca](mailto:info@environmetrics.ca)

## Western Canadian Dutch Elm Disease Coalition Formed



*The WCDC will be coordinating information sharing and DED research across western Canada.*

In January of 2002, a group of DED practitioners from across western Canada met (some via conference call) in Saskatoon to see if there was sufficient interest amongst the group to form a Western Canadian DED Coalition (WCDC). Along with the goal of exchanging information,

the WCDC would work toward better coordination of DED research in western Canada. While there has always been fairly good communication between staff in the four provinces, a concerted effort to pool and/or seek funding to meet common research goals had never occurred.

It soon became apparent during the meeting that there was much to be

learned from the expertise found in the room. There was also a universal interest in forming a WCDC as the benefits of a unified voice from western Canada became readily apparent. Initial research priorities were identified as the need to identify an alternative to Dursban Turf

for the control of native elm bark beetles, as well the need to more closely study the beetle's life cycle.

Rory McIntosh, our Provincial Forest Insect and Disease Specialist, will act as the Chair of the organization. Three representatives are to be selected from each province to be part of the WCDC steering committee, however other interested individuals are welcome to participate as they are able. Along with Rory, we have nominated Glenn Chernick (City of Moose Jaw) and Ian Birse (City of Saskatoon) as the Saskatchewan representatives to the WCDC. They are planning to meet face-to-face once per year and communicate electronically for the remainder of the year.

Watch future issues of "Out on a Limb" for updates on the WCDC.

## Near miss for Alberta DED Program

It seems hard to believe, but the Alberta DED program came very close to being totally eliminated in a major downsizing that saw Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development cut by forty percent. As often seems to be the case in jurisdictions that have yet to battle DED, tree disease prevention is seen as just another luxury when the belt tightening starts. Officials do not seem to realize that the cost of doing nothing is far more than the cost of a comprehensive DED program.

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Alberta StopDED (the Alberta equivalent of the SDEDA) quickly mobilized DED practitioners from across western Canada to write letters of support for the retention of

the program. The SDEDA was one of the groups that responded and soon a number of letters began to flow into Alberta Agriculture. These letters, coupled with a meeting by StopDED, seems to have saved the day and a commitment was made to retain the program for another year.

While this is certainly good news, it suggests that the same proposal will resurface in 2003. It is therefore essential that we continue our efforts and information

sharing so that we can ensure continued support for the Alberta program. While Saskatchewan has generally been seen as a potential source of DED entering Alberta, the reverse might also become a problem if Alberta no longer actively manages DED within its borders. Let's hope that this never happens.

### Did You Know?

**Many different things have been made from elm:**

- Baskets
- Skateboards
- Barrels
- Hockey Sticks



- Keels & Rudders for boats
  - Fish Ladders
  - Sluice Gates
  - Flooring
  - Wall Paneling

## Feature Community: Yorkton

Based on 1999 inventory numbers, the City of Yorkton has some 9500 elm trees of which about 3800 are American elms. These elm trees are in relatively good shape with no reported DED infections and to date no removals due to the disease. Numerous calls on suspected disease cases have come in, but the wilting was due to the extensive dry conditions. Our trees seem to be quite stressed due to the lack of moisture.



Majestic American elms in front of the Court of Queens Bench building in Yorkton—Photo by Sheldon Kostyshyn

The City of Yorkton is committed to the cost-sharing program with the Province and continues to work with the Province on this program. The American elm pruning program was started in 1995 and by 2001 the citywide pruning was completed. A second go around will allow us to possibly prune trees on a quicker rotation as they have all been pruned relatively recently. The parks department works with a local contractor who provides excellent service and great workmanship. The City of Yorkton's trees are now fairly healthy and well maintained.

There are several other components to Yorkton's DED program. Staff put up beetle traps, monitored back-lanes for potential storage of wood, and performed tree assess-

ments throughout the summer looking for possible diseased trees. Staff were allowed the opportunity to attend workshops on tree pruning and other events to further their knowledge of DED and tree health.

The Parks Department is concerned about private American elm trees and the lack of a pruning program for them. Many years ago, American elm trees were given out to residents to plant on their

property. These trees are now mature and line the front lawns of many streets. Many of these trees are in need of a maintenance program that would clean them up. The Parks Department is looking at a program that will possibly allow the City of Yorkton to partner with the residents and put in place a maintenance program.

The private trees are part of the City of Yorkton's urban forest and they need to be looked at seriously.

The public is a key partner in our DED program. The public seems to be fairly well educated when dealing with the disease. The Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association should be commended for their work and continued efforts to provide educational information to the public. Residents can pick up information from City Hall and this year, all residents calling in with potential disease sites will be given information on the disease, pruning, and American elms.

The Parks Department is looking at options for replacement of trees and is seriously considering

establishing tree nursery sites and purchasing tree moving equipment. Trees are removed for various reasons and we are taking a proactive approach so that trees will be available when needed for replacement.

The urban forest is a great resource for the City of Yorkton and DED could have a major impact on it. The City of Yorkton is committed to protecting its urban forest and will continue with its efforts to partner with other agencies, departments and the public to ensure that DED management is part of the overall plan.

*Brian Dudar  
Parks Supervisor: City of Yorkton*

### Did You Know?

**The seven scientists who first identified Dutch elm disease were all women.**

**North American settlers called elms the lady of the forest .**



**In many farm kitchens, the white scrubbed elm-topped table was a sign of a housewife's cleanliness.**

## New from the SDEDA

The SDEDA has been actively working on a number of projects that may be of interest to members and to the general public:

- We have produced an attractive full colour bookmark (illustrated on the right) that shows the leaf, bark and seed of an American elm. The reverse side of the bookmark includes information about how to prevent DED. We can provide these bookmarks as hand-outs for DED awareness projects or activities that you may be organizing.
- If you are a young person or just young at heart you might want to check out our web site at [www.sdeda.ca](http://www.sdeda.ca) to see our new "Kid's Page". We've also added a links section and would be happy to consider linking to your web site if you would do the same for us. Just drop us a line and we'll go from there.
- Watch for the new Focus on Forests—Saskatchewan Activity Book. You will note that we are listed as one of the sponsors and that we have an "Elm Survivor" activity included within the book.
- While it isn't quite done yet, we are working on a new Fact Sheet that will focus on other insects and diseases of elms. It should be printed by early summer and will also be available on our web site. We have also prepared the first draft of "There's a Fungus Among Us" a curriculum unit for grades 3, 4 & 5. It is being sent to Saskatchewan Learning for review and will hopefully be available in schools by the fall of 2002.
- We have produced a new SDEDA table-top display that is ideal for use at smaller tradeshows or other display days. Saskatchewan Environment also has an impressive new floor display that we will use at larger tradeshows. Watch for the displays at a tradeshow near you!



## 75 Trees for 75 Years

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Old Age Security Pension in Canada. In partnership with Tree Canada, Human Resources Development Canada (H.R.D.C.) will be planting 75 trees at each of 75 locations across Canada. Trans Canada Pipelines is a major sponsor of the event.

There will be five tree planting locations in Saskatchewan. Four of these are at seniors residences in Lumsden, Humboldt, Dundurn, and Delisle, while the fifth location is yet to be determined. Due to the amount of funding available, 10 to 12 of the trees will be larger stock while the remainder will be smaller trees. The planting will take place either in June or September and will no doubt attract a good media response.

Murray Little, the local Tree Canada coordinator, is hoping that he can involve not only seniors, but also school classes. This will cover those receiving pension benefits today and those who will receive benefits when the trees are mature.

## Join the SDEDA Today!

If you or your organization are interested in the management of DED please consider joining the SDEDA. Simply fill out and send in the form along with your payment of \$25 for a one year membership.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Box #: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax# \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee      \$25  
 Donation              \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total:                    \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your cheque or money order to:**

Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association  
 102—112 Research Drive  
 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
 S7K 2H6

***"Preserving the  
 American elm in  
 Saskatchewan"***



Charitable Registration Number:  
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## Simon Fraser Research Project Up and Running

For some time now we have been providing preliminary reports on a proposed research project with Simon Fraser University (SFU) to isolate the kairomone that attracts native elm bark beetles (NEBB). A kairomone is essentially the "scent" of a tree that stimulates a response similar to that of a sexual pheromone in other insects.

We are pleased to announce that the project is now going ahead with at least some of the funding in place and a grad student, Geoff McLeod, signed up to do the research. Geoff, who currently works with the City of Regina, will likely begin the collection of materials for the project this summer, e.g. taking tree samples for determination of kairomone chemical profiles, before starting his graduate studies this fall. He will do his work

out of the new quarantine facility at SFU under the direction of Dr. Gerhard Gries who is world renowned for this type of research. Geoff will then return to Saskatchewan to do his field work each summer.

Another bonus of doing this research will be a more accurate understanding of the life cycle of the NEBB. While some work on their life cycle has occurred in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, there is still some uncertainty about such basic things as when overwintering adults actually emerge in the spring (this response is likely linked to temperature), as well as whether a second brood of NEBB can successfully survive our winters.

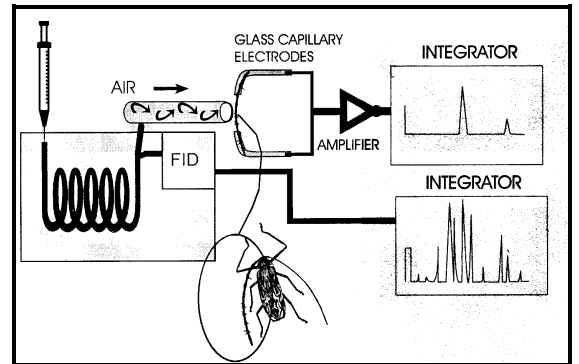


Diagram of detector system that will be used to determine which elm volatiles stimulate NEBB antennae.

As we will be cataloguing the kairomones of other urban species we should be able to connect to the Canadian Forest Service and a matching funding initiative. The SFU project will take three years to complete and should not only increase our knowledge of NEBB, but also add more options to our DED programs.

**For more information on DED in Saskatchewan check our web site at: [www.sdeda.ca](http://www.sdeda.ca)**



## Sponsor Recognition

The SDEDA wishes to thank the following sponsors who contributed to the organization since our last newsletter.

### 2002 Spring Workshop

- Lunch Sponsor:  
 **SaskPower**
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Bioforest Technologies Inc.
- Facility Sponsor:  
Saskatchewan Environment



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