Lake Bonavista Homeowners Association Ltd.
757 Lake Bonavista Drive S.E
Calgary, Alberta
www.lkbonavista.ca

Re: Tree Removal and Replacement Program

Dear Members,

The Lake Bonavista Homeowners Association is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and sustainable park environment. An important part of this responsibility is the ongoing management and replacement of our aging tree population. We would like to provide an update on these efforts and outline how members can participate.

Tree Management and Removal

Many of the poplar trees throughout the park are now more than 50 years old and are approaching the end of their natural lifespan. We are seeing increasing signs of deterioration, particularly in the upper canopies, where dead or weakened branches can present safety concerns.

Over the past three years, the Association has removed nearly 400 trees. Despite this significant effort, many aging poplars remain. We anticipate that the removal and replacement process will continue over the next decade as we gradually transition to a healthier and more sustainable tree population.

Our approach prioritizes public safety while preserving the park's mature tree canopy wherever practical. Tree removals are undertaken progressively, based on condition, risk, and long-term landscape planning.

Tree Replacement and Reforestation

The Association has been actively planting replacement trees for more than a decade and is now accelerating these efforts.

Many trees planted over the last decade are becoming well established and beginning to demonstrate substantial growth. Some remain relatively unnoticed beneath the existing poplar canopy but will become increasingly prominent as older trees are removed.

Replacing mature trees presents several challenges. Available space, sunlight, established root systems, and soil conditions all influence where new trees can successfully grow. In some locations, aging poplars must be removed before replacement trees can be planted or existing younger trees can reach their full potential.

Our long-term objective is to establish a diverse, resilient tree population that will provide lasting environmental and recreational benefits for future generations.

Free Firewood for Members

As part of our tree removal operations, the Association makes suitable poplar firewood available to members free of charge. We currently have an abundant supply, and members are welcome to collect as much as they wish.

To ensure safe and orderly collection, the following guidelines apply:

1. **Security Check-In:** Members must check in with Security at the main park entrance before collecting firewood. Security is aware of the program and will direct members to the designated collection area.
2. **Collection Hours:** Firewood collection is permitted during daylight hours while the park is open.
3. **No Quantity Limits:** Members may collect as much firewood as they wish, with no restrictions on quantity.
4. **Loading and Transportation:** Members are responsible for loading and transporting their own firewood. Vehicle access must be authorized by Security, and loads must be safely secured.
5. **Safety and Park Protection:** Members must follow staff instructions, avoid damaging park property, and remain clear of maintenance operations. Cutting down trees or using powered cutting equipment is not permitted.

The Association may temporarily restrict collection when required for safety or operational reasons.

This initiative provides a practical way to repurpose material generated through our tree management program while offering a benefit to our membership.

Tree Donations

The Association welcomes donations of suitable trees from members and other interested parties throughout the planting season.

Anyone interested in donating a tree is encouraged to contact the Lake Office. All donations are subject to suitability and the Association's landscaping requirements.

Tree Dedication and Sponsorship Program

Members wishing to make a lasting contribution to the park may also participate in the Lake Bonavista Dedication and Sponsorship Program.

The program offers opportunities to dedicate trees or park benches in memory of a loved one, commemorate a special occasion, or recognize an individual or family. Personalized commemorative plaques are available, and dedications are offered on a 10-year term, with renewal opportunities.

Tree dedications provide a meaningful way for members to contribute directly to the ongoing renewal and enhancement of our park.

For program details, costs, and application information, please visit:

Lake Bonavista Dedication and Sponsorship Program

Looking Ahead

We understand that the removal of mature trees can be concerning, particularly when they have been part of the park's landscape for generations. However, proactive management is essential to address aging trees, reduce potential hazards, and create opportunities for new growth.

The Association remains committed to balancing public safety, environmental stewardship, and the preservation of the park's natural character. While this transition will take time, the investments we make today will help ensure that Lake Bonavista remains a beautiful and welcoming environment for decades to come.

We appreciate our members continued understanding and support of this important long-term initiative.

Sincerely,

Lake Bonavista Homeowners Association Ltd.