FLAMBOROUGHTODAY.com

Waterdown high school class restores Platinum Jubilee Treaty Forest

Cara Nickerson
about 8 hours ago

1 / 6 Students in Nathan Tidridge's Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity class spent Wednesday morning planting trees in the Treaty Forest at Joe Sams Leisure Park. The class found that planting in the fall is better than the spring, because the summer can be too hot for saplings and kill off young plants. | Cara Nickerson

Listen to this article
00:01:47

About 25 Waterdown District High School students put shovels in the dirt Wednesday morning to re-plant the Platinum Jubilee Treaty Forest in Joe Sams Leisure Park.

The Treaty Forest is an ongoing project with the Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity class offered at the high school. The grove of native tree species along the walking path at the Centre Road park was originally planted four years ago, said teacher Nathan Tidridge. Since then, about 40 of the 70 trees have died.

"We're doing it now in the fall because it's prime tree planting time. They'll get a lot of water over the winter, especially with the spring thaw, and then they'll have a full season for their roots to get into the earth," Tidridge said.

The Treaty Forest was a project created in partnership with the City of Hamilton, the Rotary Club of Waterdown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. It was first planted in May 2022, with 69 trees donated by the city and planted by Environment Hamilton volunteers. The 70th tree, a white pine, was donated by the Prince's Trust, one of the last acts by King Charles before ascending to the throne.

While about half of the original trees from 2022 are still growing strong in the Treaty Forest, half of the native tree species planted in the grove were killed by drought, Tidridge said.

On Wednesday, the current Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity class joined Tidridge and two City of Hamilton forestry employees to re-plant 40 trees, like bur oak, blue beech and white birch, that have died since the project began.

"We're looking generations in the future. The hope is this becomes a forest no different than the rest of the forest around it," Tidridge said.

Comments (0)

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts. We ask that you be respectful of others and their points of view, refrain from personal attacks and stay on topic. To learn about our commenting policies and how we moderate, please read our Community Guidelines.

If you would like to apply to become a **Verified Commenter**, please fill out this form.