

1,000 Trees Planted in the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region

In an effort to limit the environmental impact of the G7 Summit in La Malbaie, Quebec held this month, the Government of Canada entered into an agreement with the Charlevoix Biosphere Reserve to make the summit an environmentally responsible event by reducing its carbon footprint. One of the highlights of this agreement was the planting of 100,000 trees across 14 of Canada's 18 UNESCO biosphere reserves. The G7 tree planting project includes the UNESCO-designated Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) located on Vancouver Island.

Through this national initiative, the MABR partnered with the City of Parksville, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, TimberWest and Vancouver Island University to identify suitable lands which would accommodate the planting of 1,000 Douglas fir trees. In March, City of Parksville Council passed a resolution to support this collaborative partnership and the planting and fifty-year protection of 1,000 trees within Top Bridge Park. TimberWest Forestry Corp. committed to donating Douglas fir trees and to provide expertise in the field during the community exercise. Over the next few years, TimberWest will work with the MABR to ensure an 85% survival rate of planted trees.

On April 6, about 45 youth had the opportunity to participate in the project. Participant ages ranged from three to 25 and attended from Rivers, Oceans and Mountains School, the Collaborative Education Alternative Program from SD69, the VIU Forestry Department, and preschool children from Snaw-Naw-As First Nation. TimberWest and VIU forestry students provided assistance to ensure successful planting.

All partners are excited to announce the planting of 1,000 Douglas fir trees intended to offset about 143 tonnes of carbon dioxide. For more information about the initiative please visit Canada's 2018 G7 Summit website (<https://g7.gc.ca/en/>). To commemorate the planting, participants and partners gathered for the installation of signage adjacent to the tree-planting site on June 13.

Photo: Ken Epps, Island Timberlands; Graham Sakaki, MABRRI; Ashley van Acken, MABRRI; Councillor Kim Burden; Kayla Harris, MABR; Pam Jorgenson, TimberWest; and Warren Payne, City of Parksville.

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