



**MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE**

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**TO: Environment and Climate Change Committee**

**DESTINATAIRE : Comité de l'environnement et du changement climatique**

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**DATE: April 21, 2026**

**21 avril 2026**

**FILE NUMBER: ACS2026-PMFS-PWD-0001**

**SUBJECT: Bytown 200 Celebrations – Tree Planting Feasibility**

**OBJET: Célébration du 200<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de Bytown – Analyse de faisabilité pour la plantation d'arbres**

**PURPOSE**

On Monday December 8, 2025, the Environment and Climate Change Committee met and discussed Ottawa's 2026 Budget. During this meeting, Vice Chair Carr on behalf of

Councillor Brockington [directed staff](#) to assess the feasibility of a 200-tree per ward planting project to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bytown in 2026 and to report back in Q1 2026. It was noted that the planting of trees would be in one designated location per ward, selected by each Ward Councillor.

This memo provides information regarding the feasibility of planting 200 trees per ward and offers an alternative planting project option.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Bytown 200 Celebrations**

In 2026, communities across the Nation's Capital are invited to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bytown. This milestone will be celebrated throughout the region as the City of Ottawa reflects upon two centuries of growth, culture and community. Under the theme *Celebrate Together*, the City of Ottawa, Ottawa Tourism and many local partners will welcome residents and visitors to join in a year filled with special moments.

The Strategic Initiatives Department is leading the celebrations with an approved budget of \$1.9 million. These funds will support signature festivals, Indigenous/community/artist led initiatives and will showcase the City of Ottawa's (the City's) creative energy and unique blend of history and modern spirit.

## **DISCUSSION**

The proposed project to plant 200 trees per ward is very similar in scope and scale to the Canada 150 Maple Grove project which was implemented as part of the Canada 150 celebrations. Staff leveraged experience with this tree planting initiative to determine the feasibility of the proposed planting project for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bytown.

### **Comparable Program – Canada 150 Maple Groves**

In 2017, as part of the Canada 150 celebrations, Forestry Services implemented a major planting project which resulted in 3,450 maple trees (150 per ward) planted in groves across 23 wards. From project initiation to project close, it took over three years to plan and plant the trees and required an additional three years of watering to ensure success. The total cost of the project was over \$400,000; this figure does not include significant staff time and other required support. In instances where the ward did not have sufficient City land for 150 trees, staff worked with the National Capital Commission (NCC) for approval to plant on NCC lands. In the case of one ward, 150

potted trees were delivered directly to residents for planting on private property as there was no suitable location on NCC or City land.

### **Bytown 200 Celebrations - 200 Trees per Ward Planting Project Feasibility**

Using the Canada 150 Maple Grove project as a comparable reference, staff created a high-level cost estimate and timeline that would be required to complete this project.

Details of the feasibility review are as follows:

- Number of trees to be planted: 4,800
  - This project would result in 200 trees being planted across 24 wards. A variety of tree species would be planted depending on locations within each ward.
- Estimated cost: \$750,000
  - The estimated cost was determined based on the larger scope, as well as cost adjustments to current pricing for the supply and installation of trees since the Canada 150 Maple Grove project.
  - As significant effort is required for site visits, consultation with Councillors, site approvals, establishment of contracts, and oversight of planting operations, staff would recommend implementation of the project through a consultant.
- Timeline for planting: 2028
  - Due to the planning required, as well as development of contracts for the planting and the procurement of trees, planting would begin in 2028.

Staff time would be required to oversee a consultant which is beyond the capacity of existing staff resources in Forestry Services. The estimated budget for this project would also require a separate funding source as the existing \$1.9 million allocated to the Bytown 200 Celebrations has been accounted for. There may be additional timeline delays as Forestry Services has not engaged with Parks Planning or other city Service Areas to determine whether their future workplans can accommodate the review and approval of the planting sites.

### **Bytown 200 Celebrations – Alternative Option – Leverage the existing Tree Dedication program**

Given the scope and cost of planting 200 trees per ward, an alternative option outlined below was presented to Councillor Brockington.

The following project can be completed in the fall 2026 planting season by leveraging the City's existing Tree Dedication Program.

- Number of trees to be planted: 24
  - One 50mm caliper tree would be planted in a park location within each ward.
  - Through the Tree Dedication program, a planting location has been identified in each ward. These sites have already been approved internally and are ready for planting. Staff will connect with each Councillor on the locations.
  - A special Bytown 200 black granite plaque would accompany the tree (see attached).
- Estimated cost: \$50,000
  - This includes the plaque, supply and installation of the tree, and watering for three years.
  - This cost would be absorbed within the existing tree planting budget.
- Timeline for planting: 2026
  - Given this option leverages an existing program, the trees would be planted in fall 2026 to celebrate the 200th anniversary this year.
  - Locations within each ward have already been determined, Forestry staff would reach out to Councillors with the location of the tree within their ward.

## **Conclusion**

The results of the feasibility review indicate that planting 200 trees in the same location per ward in 2026 is not possible. The alternative tree planting project presented can be implemented this year, and within current resources.

Regards,

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Public Works Department

CC: Senior Leadership Team  
Director, Public Information and Media Relations and Outreach  
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Coordinator, Environment and Climate Change Committee

Attachment 1 – Plaque Mock-up

