

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF SUDBURY

LAND RECLAMATION PROGRAM

1996 ANNUAL REPORT

The Regional Municipality of Sudbury - 1996 Land Reclamation Program was very successful. A record number of trees were planted and several sites were "greened" (limed, fertilizer and seeded) including a major liming effort at the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area.

In addition, several monitoring projects occurred to examine our progress with the program and identify any possible program improvements. The following is a summary of the activities that occurred.

1) PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS - SUMMARY

TASK	RESULT	YEAR TO DATE
Area Limed	24.0 ha (59.30 acres)	3,147.50 ha
Area Fertilized	3.5 ha (8.65 acres)	3,021.04 ha
Area Seeded	4.0 ha (9.88 acres)	2,955.58 ha
Trees Planted	365,735	2,703,386
Volunteers	877	
Funding Partners	Federal (Section 25, Summer Career Placements Program) Provincial (Ministry of Education and Training) INCO Limited Falconbridge Limited	
Other Partners	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Sudbury Board of Education (Alternative Adventure Program) YMCA Employment Services Nickel District Conservation Authority	

2) BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Several changes to the program occurred in order to minimize expenses while maximizing efficiencies and program results. With an operating budget of 20% less than that in 1995, several cost-saving initiatives were implemented. These included:

- bulk purchases of lime, fertilizer and seed.
- renting a bus, and hiring an individual to drive the bus in addition to being a labourer instead of leasing the bus and driver. This generated a savings of more than 50% to our transportation costs.
- utilizing Regional vehicles where possible.
- change of suppliers where materials could be purchased for less cost.
- work with suppliers and other "partners" to eliminate "shipping" costs of trees by "piggybacking" on others orders and sharing resources.

3) FINANCIAL SUMMARY

PROGRAM	POSITIONS	WORK WEEKS	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
<u>CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTHERS</u>				
LABOUR				
• Section 25	22	398	Federal	\$160,200.00
• Summer Career Placements Program	2	20	Federal	\$ 3,000.00
• YMCA Employment Services	8	64	Provincial	\$ 16,000.00
CASH CONTRIBUTION				
• INCO Limited				\$ 25,000.00
• Falconbridge Limited				\$ 10,000.00
Sub-Total	32			\$214,200.00
<u>CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF SUDBURY</u>				
LABOUR	9			\$ 52,600.00
MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT				\$ 93,000.00
Sub-Total	9			\$145,600.00
GRAND TOTAL	41			<u>\$359,800.00</u>

4) ANNUAL TREE GIVE AWAY

The annual Tree Give Away was held Friday, May 10/96 and Saturday May 11/96 at the New Sudbury Shopping Centre. 17,896 tree seedlings were handed out by more than fifteen volunteers. The tree species given out included Red pine, White Pine, White Spruce and the ever popular Cedar. Over 6,000 individuals received trees.

This year was the first year a "collection" box was put in place for volunteer donations. Over \$650.00 was collected during the two days. This money was deposited to the Sudbury Regional Tree Foundation.

We also had an opportunity at this event to promote our program, answer questions and hear first hand from individuals how important they feel this program is.

5) JOB CREATION

The program created employment for more than 40 people. Various organizations and agencies provided individuals and/or funding.

PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS	COST TO PROGRAM
Regional Municipality of Sudbury - Temporary/Summer Students	9	full
Human Resources Development Canada - Section 25 Program (Labourer)	20	nil
- Section 25 Program (Crew Leader)	2	\$1.25/hr
Human Resources Development Canada - Summer Career Placement Program	2	50%
YMCA employment Services - Summer Employment Experience Program	8	nil
TOTAL	41	

In addition, over 8 students in the Alternative Adventure Program, Sudbury Board of Education participated in the program at various times during tree planting.

6) VOLUNTEERS

Almost 900 volunteers assisted with this years program and planted almost 39,000 trees. These volunteers ranged from children in elementary school to adults with the Lions club. The volunteer program provides; educational opportunity on environmental issues; information on the Region's Land Reclamation Program; in addition to the tree planting experience.

Keating Educational Tours Limited again included tree planting as a part of their itinerary for the more than 330 students from the Toronto area, who visited the Sudbury Region.

7) TREE MONITORING SURVEY

A survey of previously planted sites was completed during July & August/96. This survey analyzed trends and success rates of the various species of trees that have been planted for the past several years. A report outlining the results of this survey has been prepared. The information from this exercise will help to determine what and where different species of trees should be planted in the future.

8) SUCCESS RATE MONITORING

A survey to determine success rates of planted sites commenced during the summer of 1996. Several sites were identified and a count of trees in predetermined plots occurred. This count will take place again in the spring of 1997 to try to determine the number of trees that survive their first winter. This information will help us determine the survival rates of the various species of trees that we plant.

9) NICKEL CENTRE WELCOME CENTRE - LAND RECLAMATION DEMONSTRATION PLOT

Planting of all species of trees that are used in the land reclamation program commenced at the Nickel Centre Welcome Centre site. It is anticipated that additional trees will be planted in future years. It is the intent that these plantings will become part of an outdoor educational walk illustrating the various tree species planted in the Land Reclamation Program.

10) EMPLOYEE INPUT - PROGRAM EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION

On August 29, 1996 all employees who worked on the Land Reclamation Program were invited to an informal "Program Evaluation and Discussion" session. The purpose of this session was to gather information from these employees on their recommendations for improvement to the delivery of the program as well as any potential efficiencies and cost saving ideas.

Several worthwhile items were presented by the employees that will create efficiencies in the program as well as potentially save dollars. These efficiencies will be investigated and implemented where applicable.

CHALLENGES FOR 1997

- we have been advised that our tree costs will increase from approx. \$.09 per tree to approx. \$.29 per tree
- we have been advised that Ministry of Natural Resources, in the next few years will no longer tender our trees. We will have to initiate discussions and tendering in 1997 for the trees we will require in 1998.
- additional "greened" areas are required for tree planting.
- the Land reclamation program may become a project under the "workfare" program.
- the actions as identified in the "Long Term Restoration Plan - Action Plan" must be addressed.