

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Focus on urban forestry at joint Canadian Institute of Forestry/University of Toronto Conference

Tuesday, August 21, Toronto, ON – Today officially begins the Forests in Settled Landscapes Conference at the University of Toronto's St. George Campus. This two-day conference focusing on urban forestry jointly co-hosted by the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) and the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto will examine forests in settled landscapes and how privately-owned woodlands within the urban and agricultural matrix are in fact "working forests" that can provide a sustainable supply of high quality forest products, while still contributing significant ecological and social benefits.

"This conference will not only recognize the fact that forests in settled landscapes include the trees that grace our streets, parks and yards but will hopefully raise awareness that these urban forests improve the quality of life for the majority of Canadians by mitigating some of the negative impacts of urbanization on the environment within our communities and beyond," says Doug Stables, current Canadian Institute of Forestry President. "The Canadian Institute of Forestry is a strong advocate of forestry awareness and education across Canada and hopes by co-hosting this conference in the largest city on Canada that people will take notice that indeed forests do exist in urban centres too."

"As the University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry celebrates its centennial anniversary at the University, this conference helps magnify the fact the fact forestry and urban forestry has been both studied and preserved at the academic level within an urban setting for the last 100 years and continues to thrive and survive despite the ever-changing landscape of Toronto," says Andy Kenney, RPF, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto and conference organizing committee co-chair. "Through this conference, it is important to highlight and showcase that landowners, foresters and allied professionals, scientists, policy-makers, concerned citizens and others are addressing the rapidly evolving challenges and opportunities of a growing urban landscape in many exciting ways."

Over the course of the conference, three broad streams of urban forestry will be addressed in a series of plenary and concurrent sessions. The three streams will be Regional Landscape Planning, Private Land Forestry and Stewardship and Urban Forestry. Regional Landscape Planning will explore some leading edge science-based approaches that attempt to balance conservation of forests with other land uses in settled landscapes. Private Land Forestry and Stewardship will examine the growing public interest in our environment, the challenges facing Canada's private woodlot community and the next generation of woodlot owners, and using volunteer-based incentives to increase stewardship participation. Urban Forestry will provide insight into the ecological services provided by the urban forest: the green infrastructure of the community. A fourth "stream" will highlight the work of university students addressing these issues. Sessions will run from August 20th to 22nd, with field tours on August 23rd.

For more information, please contact:

CIF representatives John Pineau, (cell 705-495-9060), email jpineau@cif-ifc.org; Doug Stables (cell 250-818-8536) or Bruce Ferguson (cell 519-257-8040) or Andy Kenney, Faculty of Forestry, U of T (cell 519-835-3352)

Disponible en langue française: Anne LeBrun Ruff (cell 506-451-5121) ou Evelyne Thiffault (cell 418-455-2941)