



Ups and Downs

2002 has been a turbulent year. World events, the equity markets, and our weather have all been unusually volatile. Locally, unusual weather has had a significant effect on the health and condition of your trees.

You may recall, this spring we had above average rainfall from March through June. The abundant moisture was very beneficial to our trees. Rain helped restore plant vigor, after several prior years of below average rainfall had weakened many trees making them vulnerable to attacks from insects and diseases: insects and diseases from which healthy trees would normally be resistant.

Further, because this year's bountiful rain coincided with the period of time in which most of the trees in our area produce their new growth for the year, many trees have grown more than usual, some excessively.

By excess growth, we mean that trees with root systems already damaged by drought may not be able to provide enough water and nutrients to support an overly large canopy. This can be a significant problem if the weather turns suddenly dry. The diminished root system then has to try to provide adequate moisture from bone-dry soil: an impossible task. This of course is exactly the weather we experienced this year.

A further problem posed by the large flush of spring growth can be summarized as "Too much of a good thing..." Lush trees may be unable to support the weight of leaves and twigs. This can be true dur-

ing ordinary summer days, as well as during extreme weather conditions like hurricanes, wind and ice storms. In fact this year we experienced more instances of summer limb drop than we have in many years. Summer limb drop is the shedding of large apparently healthy live limbs by large trees. Almost unbelievably, this occurs during still mornings and afternoons.



Early coloration of single limbs is a sign of weak branches to your arborist.

What can be done for trees that are important to you?

First, see that the tree's vigor is maintained. This means if water or nutrients are limited, keep your trees watered and fertilized.

Weakened trees may also benefit from the application of mulch.

Further, you should ensure that valuable trees are protected against storm damage and limb breakage. Generally this is accomplished through structural pruning. Structural pruning early in a tree's life can aid in the development of a strong, damage resistant structure. Later in a tree's life, proper pruning will relieve weight and reduce mechanical advantage in vulnerable areas to help prevent storm damage.

Our arborists will help you understand the condition of your trees and formulate a management plan with you.



Unusually red full color of a healthy Sugar Maple.

Winter Tree Care

Scheduling tree care service to be performed during the winter months has many benefits for our clients and their trees:

- The dormant season is the preferred time for most pruning procedures
- Pruning during the dormant season is less disruptive to the surrounding landscape: especially turf and perennials
- Many operations can be completed more quickly in the winter, lowering costs
- Hartney Greymont is able to provide our usual experienced professional crews because we offer year-round employment
- Heavy equipment can move efficiently and without damage over frozen ground



Winter tree work on the golf course never slows down play.

A tree with poor structure in need of care is easily identified in the winter.



Aerial lifts can be brought close to many trees during the dormant season.

Vulnerable Time for a Tenacious Pest

Japanese Knot Weed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) often mistakenly called Japanese bamboo is an invasive and difficult to control pest. This weed will grow so aggressively and spread so quickly at times it seems supernatural. Often forming dense clumps, which crowd out all other vegetation, this perennial plant often reaches six-feet in height.

Young shoots in the spring.



Both manual and chemical controls are difficult. Fortunately, nothing is perfect and Japanese Knot Weed is more vulnerable to herbicide treatments in the fall than at other times of the year.

While in full flower in September, this pest can be effectively treated with a systemic herbicide called Roundup™. The Roundup travels to the root system and does its work. Try this timing if your garden is infested by this weed.



Japanese Knot Weed can run rampant and form large groves if left untreated.

Core Aeration—Many Benefits

Helping your lawn specialists get to the root of the problem.

Your lawn's ability to survive severe summer weather depends on the strength of its root system.

Core aeration helps improve your lawn's root system by:

- 1. Relieve compaction** Compacted soil and soils that contain much silt and clay can prevent a lawn's root system from fully developing
- 2. Increase oxygen to the root system** Your lawn's root system needs oxygen to thrive
- 3. Improve drainage** Water logged soil will prevent a lawn from rooting deeply

The deeper a lawn's root system is, the greater its stress tolerance.

The opposite of poorly drained or compacted soils are soils that are very sandy and dry out rapidly. Although this is beneficial during periods of heavy rain, during the summer months, the ability of soil to retain moisture is critically important. For sandy soils with aeration they should be top-dressed with compost adding organic matter which will:

1. Improve water retention
2. Build better soil structure
3. Increase microbial activity resulting in less thatch build-up and a potential reduction in disease infection. Fall is the best time to core aerate. Cool fall temperatures minimize stress, and allow maximum healing and root development.

Hartney Greymont will be core-aerating lawns throughout the fall season.



Core aerator pulls plugs from the entire lawn.



Plugs are left in place to break up and top dress the turf.

Fertilizer and lime applications reach the roots more quickly after core aerating.

A light raking to level any piled cores.





Moving a new European Beech to its new home for the next 100 years.

Fall Planting

Fall is a great time to plant many varieties of trees and shrubs. To borrow a format from Mr. Letterman:

Top 10 reasons fall is the time to plant trees and shrubs

10. Soil temperatures are warm, speeding root re-development
9. Late fall and early spring rains help carry the watering burden
8. Meet your schedule – many spring plants are not available until May
7. Roots can grow most of the winter if kept mulched
6. Less disruptive to your property than mid spring work
5. Beat the spring price increase from nurseries
4. Secure supplies of quality plants
3. Increased flexibility in scheduling
2. Many freshly dug plants are available
1. Start enjoying the beauty now



GUARANTEE OF SATISFACTION

If you are not satisfied with any treatment or completed job, let us know. We will resolve the situation to your satisfaction; no questions about it. Our goal is to not only make sure your trees, shrubs, and lawn are as healthy as possible, but also to provide you with the peace of mind a satisfaction guarantee can bring.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

In response to your requests, Hartney Greymont now accepts payment through Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express credit cards.

Notify your arborist when you schedule the work and he will see that your credit card is debited in lieu of invoicing when the work is completed.

Did You Know?

Hartney Greymont provides:

LANDSCAPE SERVICES

- Design
- Planting
- Large Tree Moving

TREE AND SHRUB CARE SERVICES

- Shade and Ornamental Tree Pruning
- Shrub Pruning
- Cabling and Bracing
- Tree and Shrub Fertilization
- Insect and Disease Diagnosis/Control
- I.P.M. and Plant Health Care Programs

LAWN CARE SERVICES

- Fertilization, Weed, Insect and Disease Control Programs
- I.P.M. Lawn Health Care Program
- Seed and Sod Installations
- Over-Seeding, Aeration, Thatching

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