

Office of the Mayor

ROBERT G. ORTT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Ortt Announces Tree Nursery Established at Botanical Gardens

NORTH TONAWANDA—Mayor Robert G. Ortt announced that a tree nursery was established at the Botanical Gardens to support the growth of approximately 230 tree seedlings. The Mayor's Environmental Committee, along with the support of the Parks & Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, and North Tonawanda School District provided materials and assistance to establish a seedling nursery at minimal cost. The Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts worked together last Saturday on establishing this nursery.

The nursery project was initiated by Steve Behrns of the Mayors' Environmental Committee. An Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse University graduate, Behrns was aware of free trees for schools program through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Planting and caring for a seedling tree can help young people learn about the natural world and the value of trees in it. DEC's School Seedling Program provides New York State school students with this experience.

While the trees – some 230 of them - were free, it was recognize that the harsh growing conditions with some North Tonawanda soils and the need to water and protect from unwitting lawn mower damage made it desirable to grow the seedlings for a couple of years to develop height and root systems to sustain them. Paul Lehman, volunteer member of the Environmental Committee stated, "This project is an example of cooperation between multiple entities making something happen to increase our urban forest without spending a lot of money."

"Students become aware that they can play a role in protecting the environment through personal involvement in establishing a grove of trees. Ultimately, it is hoped that the experience will help them make intelligent decisions about conservation and use of natural resources," stated Mayor Ortt.

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