

Office of the Mayor

ROBERT G. ORTT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Ortt's Environment Committee Members & Volunteers Plant Trees at NT Middle School And Other Sites

NORTH TONAWANDA—Mayor Robert G. Ortt announced that a total of fifty (50) trees were planted at various sites throughout the City over the past two weekends. The trees were donated by Re-Tree WNY, a program that was established to reforest Buffalo and the surrounding areas as a result of the devastating October surprise snowstorm in 2006.

Environmental Committee Chairman Brian Murphy organized this year's effort, and was assisted by committee members Ray Gang and Paul Lehman. Additional volunteers from the Girl Scouts, NT High School and Middle School Students, and Second Ward Alderman Rich Andres participated in this year's planting initiative.

Tree species received were Princess Diana Serviceberry, Red Oak, Tulip tree, Plane Tree, Eastern Redbud, Prairie Fire Crabapple and Cascade River Birch. Various locations throughout the City were selected for planting the trees including; North Tonawanda Middle School, along Ruie, Vanderbilt and Deerfield Streets, Oliver Street, and also at the Botanical Gardens.

"We had noted the lack of trees around such a large public building, and with the support of school administration, gone ahead and planned for a majority of the trees to be planted at the Middle School site," said Chairman Murphy.

Re-Tree WNY was established on November 3, 2006 by a group of 40 Western New York residents who saw first-hand the devastation done to our beautiful Western New York living resource, our trees, and decided to take action to re-forest every public area that was destroyed by the freak October snowstorm that year. Their mission is the same as their name, to re-tree WNY with a goal to replace the approximately 30,000 trees in Western New York that were damaged or destroyed. To date, they and volunteers in the community have planted 24,500 trees towards that goal.



(L - R) Ray Gang, Paul Lehman and Brian Murphy, members of the North Tonawanda Environmental Committee poses during their volunteer efforts at planting trees from Re-Tree Western New York at North Tonawanda Middle School. Over 30 trees at this site will improve the landscape at the facility.



(L-R) Stephanie Mitschang, Girl Scout Samantha McCreedy, Danielle DalPorto NTHS, Girl Scout Monique Tipton , Shane Murphy NTHS, Samantha DalPorto, Girl Scout Ashley Felvus, Brian Murphy, Vicky Hecei - Girl Scout NTMS Troop 70720 Leader, Olivia Hecei, Girl Scout Noel Nickerson (Girl Scouts not pictured Meghan Fisher and Maria Davis).

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