

Colonial trees helps preserve back yard environment

You may not be able to personally save the rain forests of Brazil, but you can do something to protect the environment right in your own backyard. Trees of any kind, in any place, are important to the planet. Brian Butler, president of Colonial Tree Service, intends to help us do our best to conserve what we have, despite the hazards of acid rain, bugs, and diseases.

Mr. Butler started working full-time on his own company last August, after working for Hydro for 18 years. He brings a wealth of experience and training to his work. He has served two four-year apprenticeships: one as a forester and one as a lineman. After starting out with Ontario Hydro he moved to Brampton Hydro, where he helped form their forestry

department.

Colonial Tree Service offers pruning, shaping, removal, stump clearing, fertilization, and diagnosis of tree diseases. Mr. Butler has bought a specially designed forestry truck, an Asplund Trimlift with a 40 ft. reach. It is equipped with a hydraulic chipper. He has Vermeer 186 stump machine, which will plane a stump down without destroying everything else; there is less than a foot more than the width of the stump area disturbed. A second vehicle, a one-ton pick-up, completes his fleet.

Although spring and summer are his busy seasons, Mr. Butler points out that winter is really the best time to work on trees. "The ground is harder, there's less damage

done to the lawn, and there are no leaves to contend with. Besides, the rates are lower."

This winter he and assistant Mark Watson were kept occupied planting 500 trees at the new Civic Centre on Maple Avenue. They also took courses to upgrade their knowledge of various areas of the business. Tree servicing is a complicated business; the complexities of disease and environmental problems keep Brian on his toes.

"Acid rain isn't the primary cause of dying trees; it's disease. Deciduous trees are especially prone to them. There's a fairly recent disease called vacillia that is wiping out sugar maples. It's transmitted by insects." Birch trees and bass wood trees are not doing well either.

Although he has a certificate in hazard tree diagnosis, he doesn't yet have the equipment to really administer insecticide. He is hoping to eventually obtain his license in the field.

The area of tree servicing is understaffed and not properly publicized, Brian believes.

"This is an up and coming field but people aren't aware of it.

There's nothing in the high school to really direct you into the area. We need publicity; trees are very important, and we need to save them. People fertilize their lawns all the time; how often do they think of fertilizing the trees?" Acid rain is causing acidity in the soil and the need to counteract that is growing ever more important.

The trend these days is to smaller trees on new properties.

"People don't want trees to overpower their property. They don't want to get into a maintenance problem later on. Nursery growers are catering to that, providing a greater variety of smaller species."

Brian and his wife Debbie have lived in the area for 15 years now. He is a member of the Ontario Shade Tree Council.

"Almost everything" has to be labelled

Carlos Naguera, owner and president of The Label Factory, at 55 Sinclair Avenue in Georgetown, said of his business that he sees great potential. After all, as he puts it, "almost everything has to be labelled."

Currently the company is highly specialized dealing only in the production of pressure sensitive labels. Mr. Naguera said the manufacturing company fills orders ranging from small and simple to large and multi-colored custom labels.

Wardair, American Express, Kodak and Maple Lodge Farms in Halton Hills on Winston Churchill Boulevard, are some of his customers.

However, he explained, there are a number of other companies in industries ranging from computer technology to pharmaceuticals he has yet to tap into. But Mr. Naguera is currently unsure of how he will take advantage of these opportunities. "There are always different avenues opening and whichever one presents itself and is best suited to the company, is the one we'll take," Mr. Naguera said.

Mr. Naguera expects that within the next five years the company will be expanding. Expansion will include the addition of a label printing machine; he has two rows that operate 16 hours a day, and a move

to a larger location.

But he will only move once the market stabilizes.

During its short life span, the company has already experienced significant growth. Mr. Naguera founded the company four years ago, as a one man, one machine, operation, that did \$5,000 a month in business. Since then the company has grown to include eight employees and it does 10 times the business it initially did.

Although the company is based in Georgetown it services all of Southern Ontario. Mr. Naguera said he sees this fact as an example of the company's stability and growth potential.

The company's only setback resulted from the purchase of a full-color laser copier, that is able to copy an original to its exact color. It can also reduce and change the colors of an original print. However, Mr. Naguera said the cost of the copier for large volumes is too much, relative to the price printers can offer.

Mr. Naguera said the market he was aiming at never materialized. Mr. Naguera, however, will not let one setback pull him down. He will have a display booth set up at the Canadian Business Forms Distributors Association trade show, May 12, to show off the company's wares.



Brian Butler, owner of Colonial Tree Service, stands behind some of his tools of the trade. From left to right are a Brush Chipper, which churns branches up to four inches in diameter, mulching them into chips, a chain saw, and a Vermeer Stump Machine which is used to remove and mulch tree stumps. (Herald photo)

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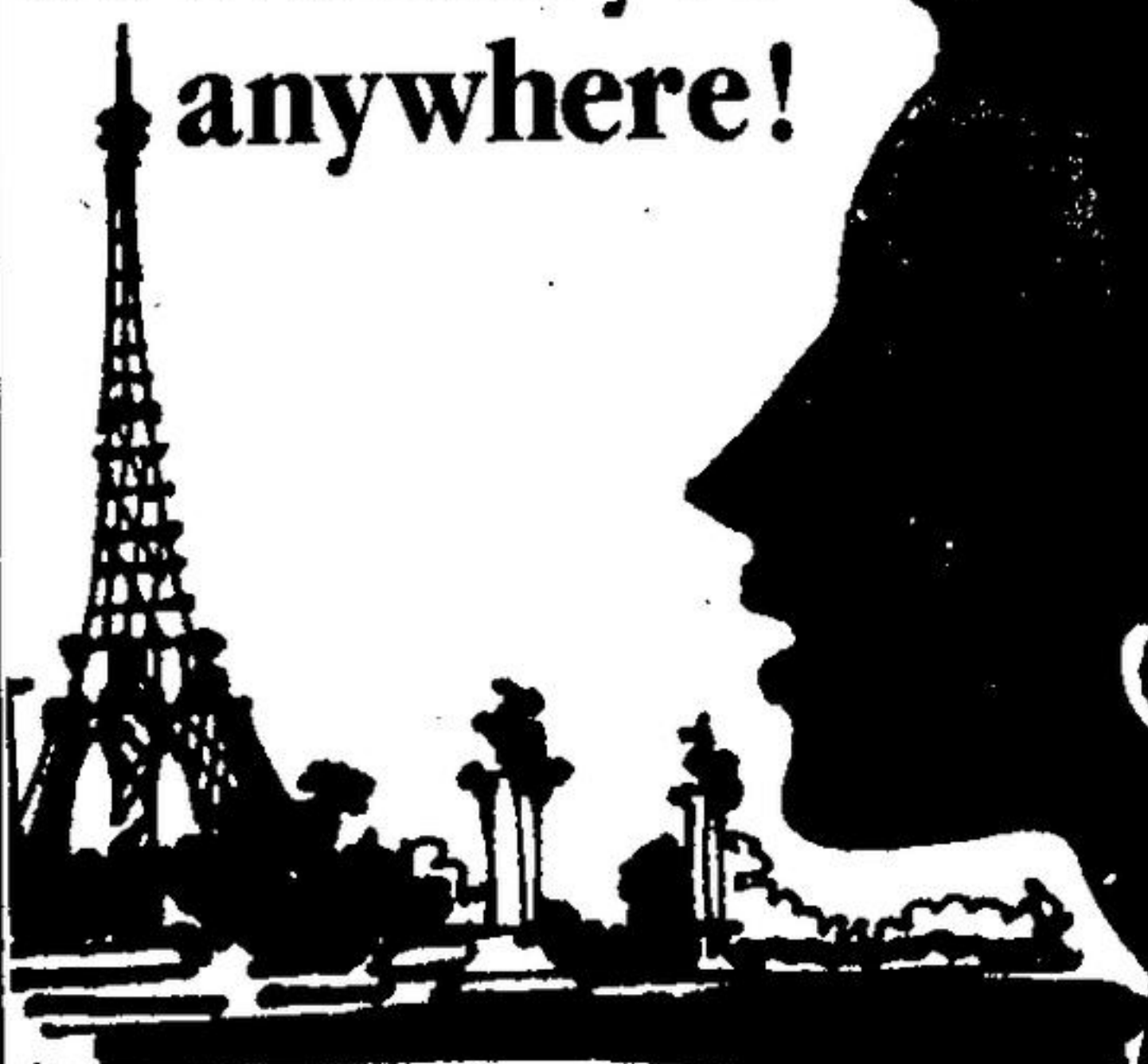
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