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# Trees, trees everywhere

by Sean James

Rarely does one meet an individual who has knowledge, integrity and the drive to run a business. Thomas Wright is one of the few.

Mr. Wright runs Timberwolf Tree Care and Consulting, a small company serving Halton, Hamilton & Mississauga. He's been working in arboriculture since graduating from Sir Sanford Fleming College in 1996 and started the business because he "wanted to do it right." From the looks of it he's succeeding.

Today, everyone is looking for experts to help with their landscapes and their lives in general. Mr. Wright is one of those people who can put you and your trees on the right track, while providing useful knowledge for future dilemmas.

When you go out into your yard, take a look at your trees, he says. Look for hazards such as dead branches and branches that could be easily damaged in a windstorm. Check the vigor of the tree, looking for new growth and large leaves at the top of the tree. If the canopy is looking sparse, or has dead wood in it, think about calling an arborist for a consultation, he says.

If you're looking through the yellow pages at the many different tree care companies, Mr. Wright recommends choosing an arborist that is ISA certified. Certified arborists will have an ISA Certification number that should be referenced by checking the ISA

website at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).

One of the many advantages to hiring a certified arborist is if a problem occurs with the job, the Society can check the work, mediate a solution and if fault is found, they can revoke certification or put him on report endangering future job prospects.

Mr. Wright said one thing you should never do is let anyone top a tree. Topping is a process whereby "tree branches are cut back to stubs or lateral branches that are not large enough to assume a terminal role."

Many people are looking to have a tree topped to reduce the size of a tree or let light into a yard. Topping is the most harmful tree pruning process known. It stresses trees, creates long term safety and structural problems and aesthetically destroys the tree.

The alternative to topping is to thin the canopy and/or reduce the size of the branches by cutting back to a lateral branch that is at least one third the diameter of the limb being removed. Sometimes it may simply be necessary to remove the tree and plant a species better suited for the site in size and culture.

What kind of trees should we be planting? "Not Norway Maples!" proclaims Mr. Wright. They are an invasive species with many health problems which will die in 10 - 20 years in 80 per cent of the cases, often through a condition known as girdling roots (the roots wrap around its trunk and effectively strangle the tree).

Several better alternatives, depending on the quality of your soil, are native trees such as Sugar Maple or Black Locust or ancient trees such as Ginkgo or the lovely Dawn Redwood (the author's favorite tree). Be patient with trees and try to choose a tree which will be the right size in the landscape

when it matures.

With the ever evolving world, there's always something new to try and Timberwolf Tree Care and Consulting is on the breaking edge of technology. It is currently working with a fairly new system for fertilizing trees and treating insect problems.

The system is a micro-injector that uses a very small hole (11/64ths) to apply chemicals directly into the circulatory system of the tree. This new method has several advantages including safety to the environment since chemicals are not sprayed into the air where they could affect birds and humans. The tree is able to heal quickly since the hole is so small.

Problems that were previously untreatable such as Bronze Birch Borer now have a much better chance of being controlled. Other insects which can be controlled this way are Magnolia Scale, Larch Case Borer, which affects are native Tamarack and Spruce Bud Scale, which is a fairly new problem in this area.

According to Mr. Wright, another new system should be available in the next year or so for treating Dutch Elm Disease. The system uses a non-virulent strain of the disease to inoculate the tree. That protects it for about two years before another application is required.

Trees are one of our most precious resources and a heritage we can leave to future generations. A tree can add \$20,000 to the value of your house. Besides that, they're good for the environment and when properly cared for they are things of great beauty. Take the time and spend the money to look after them properly.

Thomas Wright is available for consultations by calling 905-336-5979, or send him an email at [tmbrwlftc@on.aibn.com](mailto:tmbrwlftc@on.aibn.com).

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