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# Schools sprout trees thanks to program

A group whose aim is "a green schoolyard for every school and a better understanding of the environment by every student" planted trees in 36 York Region schoolyards over the past few weeks.

And with additional sponsors, many more local schools could have been included, said Wendy Lee, executive director of Environmental Earth Angels.

"There's such a tremendous demand," she said this week.

Most schools received 10 trees — 14 or 15-foot-high sugar maples, green ash or other indigenous species — but some were given only five because of high demand.

In many cases, hundreds of students were gathered outside their public schools in Aurora, Keswick, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Thornhill and Whitchurch-Stouffville to watch the plantings.

In the first year after planting, each of the trees will produce a tonne of oxygen and remove more than a tonne of pollution from the air, said the group, a Toronto-based charity sponsored by Environment Canada and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Students at Parkland Public School in Markham plant trees with help from Environmental Earth Angels. Doing the deed are from left: Mandeep Dhanda, 11, Grade 6, John Wong, 10, Grade 5, and Raj Kirubananthan, 11, Grade 5.

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