

# **Growing Community Roots: Chatham Kent Kiwanis Tree Planting Initiative**

The Chatham Kent Kiwanis Club continues to make a lasting impact on our local environment through dedicated tree planting efforts. Over the past three years, our Tree Planting Committee has successfully planted more than 50 native trees in public spaces and schoolyards, working closely with municipal representatives and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority to ensure every tree supports our local landscape and biodiversity.

This spring, our club joined forces with Sydenham Field Naturalists and Re-Leaf Chatham Kent to enhance the Demonstration Garden in a community greenspace near a local high school. This collaborative project brought much-needed canopy, beautification, and educational opportunities to the area, making it a highlight of our year.

Youth engagement remains at the heart of our mission. Several young members, including participants in Kiwanis youth leadership programs and Aktion Club partners, enthusiastically contributed to our planting events. In 2023, Aktion Club members helped plant trees at three locations, including a site across from their facility, where they continue to be excellent stewards.

This fall, we partnered with an Enbridge employee to plant 30 trees in a busy downtown park, revitalizing an area where mature trees are nearing the end of their life cycles. These new trees will provide shade for vendors and visitors during community events throughout the warmer months.

Looking ahead, our matching grant dollars will help us return to elementary schools and support the new Children's Treatment Centre, ensuring children can enjoy outdoor spaces with protection from the sun. We remain committed to working with our partners to further beautify our community and foster environmental stewardship.