



MAPLE LEAVES  
FOREVER

## Spring 2026 News

- A message from our Executive Director
  - Spring Maple Tree Rebate Program
- Quality of Life (QOL) Podcast features MLF
  - Ontario Envirothon 2026
- Nursery Spotlight: Clearview Nursery Ltd.
  - Replenish your MLF Rack cards!
  - Spring Maple Planting and Care

## Spring Update from MLF Executive Director, Deb Pella Keen



As winter begins to loosen its hold, subtle signs of seasonal change emerge across the landscape. One of the most telling is the appearance of “thaw circles” – rings of melted snow that form around the base of trees. These patterns occur as darker tree bark absorbs the sun’s energy more readily than the surrounding snow, radiating heat outward and creating distinct openings in the snowpack.



These circles are often strikingly defined, sometimes resembling clean, circular cutouts. While similar features can be seen around conifers where branches limit snow accumulation, they are especially noticeable in deciduous forests as the late-winter sun grows stronger. Even when air temperatures remain low, these small openings signal that the ground beneath is beginning to warm and reawaken.

Beyond their visual interest, thaw circles play a quiet but important role in early spring. They create pockets where sunlight reaches the soil sooner, allowing early plants to emerge before the forest canopy fills in. In this way,

they offer both a glimpse of the earth below and a natural indication that the seasonal transition is underway.



Our late Founder Ken Jewett  
A Memorial Tree Planting is being planned in  
Mulmur, Ontario

This sense of renewal was evident last week during a visit to the Township of Mulmur, where plans are moving forward for a living tree memorial honouring Maple Leaves Forever founder Ken Jewett. Several native maple trees will be planted in a municipal park in Mansfield, creating a lasting tribute that reflects Ken's vision and commitment. A gathering to mark this installation is planned once planting is complete, and further details will be shared in the coming months.

Happy Spring, one and all!

Deb Pella Keen  
On behalf of the Maple Leaves Forever team

## Native Maple News



### It's Maple Sugarbush season in Ontario

April is a great time to visit our province's maple syrup festivals and events, and savour that Canadian maple syrup goodness!

Visit [destinationontario.com](https://www.destinationontario.com) for a listing of festivals throughout the province.

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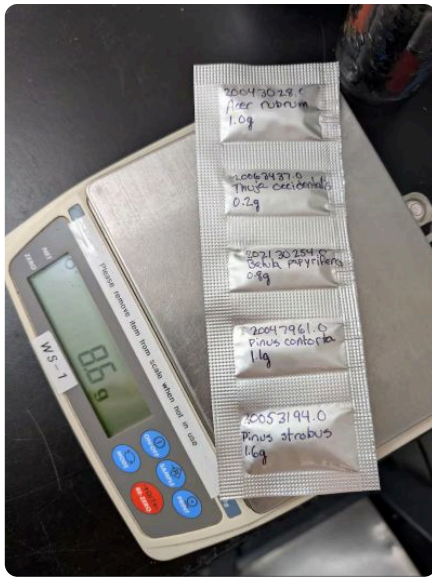
### Canadian Maple seeds on the moon mission!



From Global News:  
Thousands of kilometres from Earth, in an aluminum foil envelope, 2,600 Canadian seeds are on a voyage through outer space – along with the Artemis II crew.

“Looks a little bit like five aluminum ravioli stuck together, is what I’ve been telling people,” National Tree Seed Centre coordinator Darren Derbowka said.

The seeds include lodgepole pine, eastern white cedar, **red maple**,



white birch and eastern white pine...

“Right now, 25 per cent of Canada’s native trees are imperiled or threatened in some way. So this project is really to sort of build that awareness around the importance of seed...”

Learn more on [Globalnews.ca](http://Globalnews.ca)

## MLF News

*It's Planting Season!*

Maple Tree Rebate Applications  
DUE MAY 15 for Spring Planting!

**25% OFF  
NATIVE MAPLE  
TREES**

**Why plant native maples alongside farm fields?**

- reduce soil erosion and water evaporation
- naturally adapted to local climate
- better survive severe weather events, pests and diseases
- beautiful fall colours!

Learn more and apply for your **25% tree rebate:**  
[MapleLeavesForever.ca](http://MapleLeavesForever.ca)

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Visit [mapleleavesforever.ca/apply](http://mapleleavesforever.ca/apply) to review the qualifications and submit your application. Applications for Spring Planting are due May 15.

Try our [“Am I Qualified” quick survey](#) to check your eligibility before submitting an application form!

Trees must be planted by **May 15** for bare root stock, and by **June 15** for balled & burlapped and container stock.

**FIND OUT MORE & APPLY**

## Maple Leaves Forever featured on Hugh Kruzel's *Quality of Life (QOL)* Podcast



Hugh Kruzel's program Quality of Life (QOL) visits anywhere - and explores - any topic that improves your quality of life.

Our Executive director, Deb Pella Keen, had a great conversation sharing all about Maple Leaves Forever and our mission with Hugh Kruzel on the February 21 Episode of his QOL "Quality of life" Radio program/Podcast for [Sudbury's CKLU 96.7 FM](#).

Excerpt:

**HUGH:** One of the things Deb that has made me very sad is when I visit perhaps third generation farms in Ontario, on Manitoulin even, and a lot of the maples along these laneways, we had some friends near Hilly Grove that had a beautiful laneway. It was probably a good quarter mile long, but the trees themselves had achieved their, they were in senescence.

They were coming to the end of their time. You know, what we need to do is maybe really plan further ahead. I mean, a tree is for more than our lives.

...

**DEB:** There's one called the Comfort Maple down in Niagara that is estimated to be over 500 years of age... that one obviously exceeds expectations, but the normal native maple is 250 to 350 years old. So when you plant a tree today, it's for many, many generations past you.

It's such a gift to the future. So we encourage anyone to plant a tree. And obviously we want it to be a native maple, but it can be any species.

You can click below to listen to the whole podcast on:



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## Maple Leaves Forever proudly sponsors Ontario Envirothon 2026



For the past 11 years, Maple Leaves Forever (MLF) has been an integral supporter of the **Ontario Envirothon**. It's a unique program which engages high school students in environmental learning through hands-on training in resource management practices and technologies. Students are challenged to apply scientific knowledge and creativity to real-world environmental issues.

Hosted annually by Forests Canada, the 2026 competition will reach more than 515 students across 13 regional events - an increase of 10% over last year. The top performing team from each regional event will receive an invitation to advance to the Provincial Envirothon Championship, to be held at the University of Waterloo in May, where they will compete for the Ontario title. We wish all Ontario Envirothon teams the best of luck in this year's competition!

Learn more about Ontario Envirothon at [forestsCanada.ca/en/program/ontario-envirothon](https://forestsCanada.ca/en/program/ontario-envirothon)



2017 Provincial Envirothon



2024 Toronto Envirothon

## Nursery News

Nursery Spotlight:



Celebrating 30 Years in Stayner, Ontario



Clearview Nursery Ltd.

Address: 8257 County Road 91 RR4 Stayner, ON L0M1S0 [MAP](#)

Phone: [\(705\) 428-0063](tel:(705)428-0063)  
Email: [sales@clearviewnursery.com](mailto:sales@clearviewnursery.com)  
Website: [clearviewnursery.com](http://clearviewnursery.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/clearviewnurseryltd](https://facebook.com/clearviewnurseryltd)

Over the last 30 years, Clearview Nursery has built a reputation for producing high-quality plant material and landscape supplies, steadily evolving to meet the needs of both wholesale and retail clients across the Southern Georgian Bay region. Established in 1996 by Kevin and Gail Elwood, the nursery began with the planting of its first stock in 1997. What started as a young family venture soon became a true multigenerational operation, with their sons contributing in the early years and later bringing formal training and fresh perspective to the business.

Rooted in a background in landscape construction, the Elwoods were motivated by a lack of availability and consistency in large-caliper trees. This led them to acquire and rehabilitate a 100-acre farm near Stayner in Clearview Township—transforming a neglected property into a thriving nursery operation. Over time, the business expanded to include multiple growing sites, increased production capacity, and a broader range of plant material, all supported by a dedicated, long-standing team.

[Read more on the MLF Blog](#)

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## Put your Nursery in the MLF Spotlight!

Are you one of our Nursery Partners? We want to feature your Nursery in our E-News! We aim to include a feature article about one or more of our Partner Nurseries in each of our quarterly newsletters, on our blog and shared on our social channels.

If your nursery would like to participate with an interview, article or just share some news, please drop us a line at [deb.pellakeen@mapleleavesforever.ca](mailto:deb.pellakeen@mapleleavesforever.ca).

Our E-newsletter has a growing readership of over 2600 recipients, all of whom have expressly chosen to receive our notes to their email, and most of whom live in the Southern Ontario region. Take advantage of this free opportunity to grow awareness about your enterprise!

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## MLF Rack Cards for Rebate Season

Nurseries - let us know if you need more MLF Rack cards to help spread the word about our maple tree rebate program!

Email us at [info@mapleleavesforever.ca](mailto:info@mapleleavesforever.ca).

## Find out how to claim your 25% TREE REBATE

on eligible purchases of native maples  
from our Nursery Partners.

The distinctive maples that once lined  
the rural roadsides and laneways of  
Ontario are in decline. 



Help restore a part of  
Canada's natural heritage.  
Plant **Native Canadian Maples**  
along your roadside or laneway.

Start your Planting Plan  
& APPLY TODAY!

Rebate Applications due  
May 15 for Spring planting,  
early November for Fall  
Planting



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[www.mapleleavesforever.ca](http://www.mapleleavesforever.ca)

## How to Apply for Your 25% Maple Tree Rebate

### Quick Step-by-Step



#### 1. CALL NURSERY

Check availability of  
native maple trees at one  
of our Partner Nurseries

#### 2. APPLY FOR REBATE

Complete and submit online  
Rebate Application Form at  
[MapleLeavesForever.ca](http://MapleLeavesForever.ca)



#### 3. RECEIVE EMAILED CONFIRMATION

We will email you when  
your Rebate is approved,  
or if we need more info

#### 4. ORDER TREES

Contact Nursery ASAP to  
order your trees



#### 5. SEND PROOF OF PURCHASE & PHOTOS

Via Email to Maple Leaves  
Forever after trees are  
planted

#### 6. RECEIVE MAILED CHEQUE

For 25% of the tree cost



To learn more, visit  
[MapleLeavesForever.ca](http://MapleLeavesForever.ca)

Contact:  
[info@mapleleavesforever.ca](mailto:info@mapleleavesforever.ca)  
1-888-223-9181

# Maple Care and Planting

## SPRING Maple Planting & Care

### April

- [Apply for your Thank You Rebate](#) from Maple Leaves Forever (spring application deadline is May 15 - but you will get better selection if you apply and order your trees early!)
- pick up trees at nursery or take delivery of trees from nursery
- take care to properly [transport and deliver](#) your native maples prior to planting
- [new planting](#) - plant when soil conditions are favourable
- check for [Spongy Moth \(formerly known as Gypsy Moth\) egg masses](#)! Egg masses can be destroyed until the end of April
- [water](#) deeply and thoroughly; [add mulch](#)
- [stake](#) newly planted trees, if necessary
- prepare a plan for watering the trees through the growing season
- established plantings - [add or replace mulch](#) and clear surrounding weeds
- remove stakes from trees that have been staked for two or more years.
- do NOT prune at this time (mid-summer is best for maples)

### May

- [new plantings](#) - [stake](#), [water thoroughly](#), [add mulch](#) & clear surrounding weeds
- [water as needed](#), frequency & duration will increase in dry conditions
- fertilize established but not newly planted trees
- monitor for presence of insects or other pests

### Late May or when leaves have fully formed

- monitor the development of new growth & if necessary re-establish terminal leader
- remove (prune) any basal sprouts that may be present - prune to soil line
- [check for seeds on mature red, red/silver hybrid and silver maples if interested in harvesting](#) or know of others interested in collecting these varieties of maple seed  
(Seed matures in late May/early June)

[View our online MAPLE CARE CALENDAR](#)  
for more details, year-round maple care & planting advice

## How can you help?



### TELL A FRIEND!

If you recently received our Thank You Rebate, or you find our tree care information helpful - please share this email with your contacts and encourage them to plant native Canadian maples too!

### SHARE YOUR MAPLE PHOTOS

We love seeing photos and stories about your maple plantings - please email them to [info@mapleleavesforever.ca](mailto:info@mapleleavesforever.ca).

## Why did I get this email?

We've put together this email news list to inform, update and remind our subsidy applicants, nursery partners, and anyone else who might be interested in our activities and encourage the planting and ongoing care of more native maples in rural Ontario!

We only send 4 emails a year, in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. You can [unsubscribe](#) from these mailings at any time. No hard feelings.



### Maple Leaves Forever

160 Thermos Road, M1L 4W2, Toronto

Email: [info@mapleleavesforever.ca](mailto:info@mapleleavesforever.ca)

Toll-Free Voicemail: [1 \(888\) 223-9181](tel:18882239181)

Website: [www.mapleleavesforever.ca](http://www.mapleleavesforever.ca)

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subscribed to our newsletter.

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