



MAPLE LEAVES
FOREVER

Fall 2026 News

- Ken Jewett Memorial Maple Grove
 - Fall Planting Rebate Program
 - Giving Tuesday Dec. 1
- Feature: U of Guelph Arboretum Maple Collection
 - Fall Maple Planting & Care Advice

Celebrating History and Heritage: The Dedication of the Ken Jewett Memorial Maple Grove

On September 26, 2026, a beautiful autumn day set the stage at Thomson Trail Park for a double celebration: the Township of Mulmur's 175th anniversary and the dedication of the Ken Jewett Memorial Maple Grove.

Nearly 200 community members, friends, family, local staff, and special guests gathered to mark the milestone. Highlights of the event included a moving performance of O Canada by 40 students from the Primrose Elementary School choir, as well as remarks from Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner, Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, and MP Kyle Seeback. Also in attendance were close friends, neighbours, and former caregivers of the late Ken Jewett, who gathered to honour his lasting legacy.



L to R: MLF Executive Director Deb Pella Keen, Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner, MLF Board Member Rob Keen and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones

A Living Tribute to a Conservation Leader

Ken Jewett, was a visionary conservationist and founder of Maple Leaves Forever, which he established in 2000. After moving to Mulmur in 2002 with his wife, Edie, Ken took active care of his own 77-acre woodlot and dedicated himself to encouraging the planting of native Canadian maples across the province. Today, his vision lives on through more than 1,200 kilometres of maple-lined roads and laneways across Ontario.

To celebrate Mulmur's history and honour Ken's lifelong devotion to native maples, Maple Leaves Forever donated a memorial grove of 15 native maple trees—10 Sugar Maples and 5 Freeman Maples—along with a memorial bench and plaque, while the Township of Mulmur provided the location at Thomson Trail Park.



The new Memorial Maple Grove with commemorative plaque

Speaking on behalf of Maple Leaves Forever, Board Member Rob Keen shared personal reflections from his two decades of knowing Ken, emphasizing how planting trees connects past, present, and future generations:

"There is something especially fitting about celebrating a community's history by planting trees. Trees connect generations. They provide shade and habitat, enrich the landscape, and continue to grow long after the people who planted them are gone. Today, these trees represent both the future of Mulmur and Ken's enduring legacy."

An Educational Legacy for Generations to Come

In addition to the newly planted grove, the ceremony featured the unveiling of the permanent memorial bench and educational plaque. Located near the park's playground, the plaque shares Ken's story and offers visitors an opportunity to learn about Ontario's native maple species and their ecological importance.

As the 15 native maples mature, they will serve as a living memorial to a man who always looked beyond the present moment to benefit future generations. Maple Leaves Forever extends its heartfelt thanks to the Township of Mulmur, Council, staff, and everyone in the community who helped make a place for this memorial grove, bench, and plaque possible.

Close up of the plaque design

MEMORIAL MAPLE GROVE

In Memory of Ken Jewett, Founder of Maple Leaves Forever

Entrepreneur and conservationist Ken Jewett (1930-2025) dedicated his later years to championing the native Canadian maple tree and restoring their presence along rural roads and laneways across Ontario. In 2000, he founded Maple Leaves Forever as a charitable organization to help promote and support the planting of native Canadian maples.

Ken's vision now lives on in more than 1,200 kilometres of maple-lined roads and laneways planted throughout the province.

The Mulmur Connection

Ken and his wife Edie (1933-2022), made their home in Mulmur since 2002. Since that time, Ken supported local planting initiatives and stewarded his own 77-acre woodlot.

In 2026, the Township of Mulmur partnered with Maple Leaves Forever to honour Ken's passion and vision through the creation of this memorial grove of 15 native maple trees.

About this Planting

This grove features 10 Sugar Maple and 5 Freeman Maple trees. Together, they provide shade for the playground, habitat for birds and small mammals, and a natural windbreak that helps reduce soil erosion.

Learn more about native Canadian maples and
Maple Leaves Forever's planting programs at
www.mapleleavesforever.ca



NATIVE MAPLES OF ONTARIO

Ontario is home to seven native maple species—Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Silver Maple, Manitoba Maple, Black Maple, Mountain Maple, and Striped Maple—as well as one naturally occurring hybrid, the Freeman Maple. Over thousands of years, these trees have adapted to Ontario's climate and ecosystems. They provide shade, support pollinators and wildlife, and enhance the beauty and biodiversity of our landscapes.

Maple Leaves Forever supports the conservation and planting of the following species.

Can you identify the maples planted in this grove?
Use the leaf shapes below to help recognize each species.



Sugar Maple / *Acer saccharum*

Ontario's most iconic maple, the Sugar Maple can grow more than 30 metres tall. It is recognized by its dark grey furrowed bark, leaves with three to five lobes, and brilliant autumn colours ranging from yellow and orange to deep red. Clusters of greenish-yellow flowers appear in spring as the leaves emerge. Sugar Maple sap is the primary source of Canadian maple syrup.

Red Maple / *Acer rubrum*

The Red Maple is among the fastest-growing native maples, reaching heights of up to 25 metres. Young branchlets and buds are reddish, and dense clusters of red flowers bloom in early spring before the leaves appear. In autumn, its foliage turns vivid shades of scarlet and crimson, making it one of Ontario's most colourful native trees.



Silver Maple / *Acer saccharinum*

A fast-growing maple that can exceed 30 metres in height, the Silver Maple is distinguished by its deeply lobed leaves and shimmering silvery undersides, which flash in the wind. Its bark becomes shaggy and furrowed with age, while greenish-yellow flowers appear in very early spring. In fall, the leaves typically turn soft yellow or bronze.

Freeman Maple / *Acer x freemanii* OR *Acer rubrum* x *saccharinum*

Freeman Maple is a naturally occurring hybrid between the Red Maple and Silver Maple. Found in parts of southern Ontario, it combines characteristics of both parent species, including vigorous growth and exceptional fall colour. Its leaves may display blends of yellow, orange, and red at the same time, creating a distinctive and vibrant autumn display.



Maple Leaves Forever Founder, Ken Jewett
September 23, 1930 - November 26, 2025

APPLY NOW for your 25% Rebate on Native Maple Trees

FALL APPLICATIONS DUE Wednesday, November 4.

Trees must be planted by November 15.

Restrictions apply. Visit mapleleavesforever.ca/apply-now/ for details.

FIND OUT MORE & APPLY FOR REBATE

If you applied and received a MLF planting rebate this year or in years past,
we'd love to hear from you and see photos of your native maples!

Planting Rebate Update

The total number of maple trees supported by Maple Leaves Forever to date is 138,178 trees - equivalent to **1271 km (790 miles)** of maple-lined Ontario roadside. That's the driving distance from Toronto to Thunder Bay!



**Join us for GIVING TUESDAY,
December 1st, 2026
with Canada Helps**

Maple Leaves Forever is a Registered Canadian Charity, which means your donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt! Giving Tuesday is an annual event to encourage waste-free, ecofriendly, charitable gifts, just in time for Christmas!

Consider donating to Maple Leaves Forever as a gift on behalf of your loved ones - you can even send them one of our custom Maple E-cards available through Canada Helps.

Donate Today!

Feature Article

Growing the Maple Collection at the University of Guelph Arboretum

The following special feature was submitted by Justine Richardson, Director and Alison Morrison, Arboretum Manager, University of Guelph Arboretum.

The University of Guelph Arboretum's Maple Collection has been at the heart of our living museum of trees for more than 50 years. Established in 1971 as the Arboretum's very first botanical collection, it reflects our long-standing commitment to documenting, studying, and celebrating the diversity of the genus *Acer*. Today, it remains one of more than 40 curated woody plant demonstrations that support research, teaching, conservation, and public engagement here at the Arboretum.



Black maple turning in fall

Over these past 50 years, our understanding of which maples are best suited to Southern Ontario landscapes has evolved, along with our knowledge of invasive species, climate resilience, and the diversity of cultivated selections. As a result, the University of Guelph Arboretum is undertaking a comprehensive curatorial review of the Maple Collection to ensure it continues to represent the best of the genus *Acer* for conservation, education, and horticulture.

This work includes evaluating every individual tree accessioned into our collection, improving documentation, creating targeted plant care plans, and removing some accessions now recognized as invasive. At the same time, we are introducing carefully selected native cultivars, additional species, and other noteworthy members of the maple family to better showcase the breadth and diversity of *Acer*.



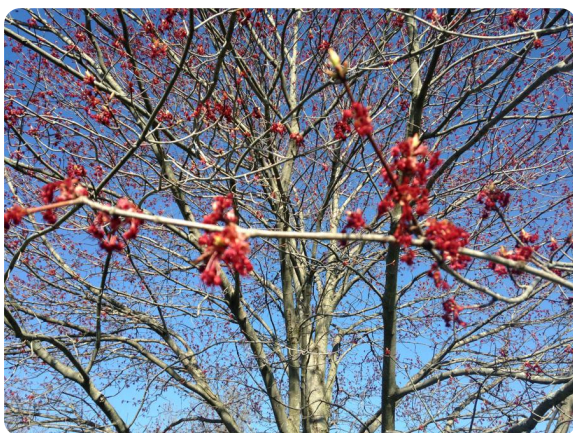
Acer griseum bark frills



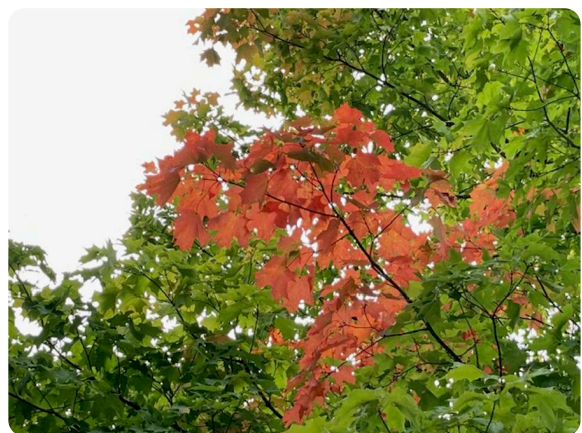
Acer negundo seed clusters

As a living collection, the Maple Collection will continue to grow and evolve. While many of these changes will unfold gradually over the coming years and decades, they reflect the ongoing stewardship required to maintain a collection that is botanically relevant, scientifically valuable, and ecologically meaningful. By cultivating a diverse range of maple species and selections, the Arboretum helps demonstrate the important role maples play in supporting biodiversity, building resilient urban forests, and inspiring future generations of tree stewards. We look forward to sharing this next chapter with maple enthusiasts as the collection continues to grow and evolve.

Readers can visit the Maple Collection at The Arboretum in Guelph, which is free and open to the public 365 days a year. Find out more at arboretum.uoguelph.ca.



Freeman maple flower promenade



Sugar maple turning

Nursery News

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 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 a line to Deb at deb.pellakeen@mapleleavesforever.ca.

Our E-newsletter has a growing readership of nearly 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!

FALL Maple Care and Planting

late September/early October

- continue to [water](#) trees as needed during dry weather conditions
- fall is the second best time to [plant trees](#); plant early enough that trees can establish before winter sets in
- [water newly planted trees](#) slowly & deeply, before [adding mulch](#) & [staking](#) (if necessary)
- [apply for your Thank You Rebate](#) after receiving approval of your application form & purchasing your native maples
- [collect mature seed](#) from sugar maple trees, if present & plans include its collection
- monitor for the presence of voles, rabbits & deer
- enjoy the fall colours!

Late October/ November

- Rake & dispose of fallen leaves if foliar disease was a problem during the growing season. This reduces the potential for re-infestation next year.
- [Prune](#) to remove dead, cracked or broken branches. Minor pruning that was overlooked during the summer pruning can be corrected at this time. Late October through early November is the recommended timing, as the pruning wounds need time to heal before the cold winter conditions set in.

- [replenish the mulch](#) ring around the base of the trees
- inspect trees for presence of insect-damage, disease or vandalism
- after leaves fall is a good time to [inspect for LDD Moth](#) (also known as Gypsy Moth) egg masses, scrape them from your trees and soak them in soapy water for 48 hours, to reduce chances of infestation next year - this can be done any time from August through the fall and winter to mid-April
- initiate [plans for spring planting](#) if considering planting native maples next year
- contact [nurseries](#) to confirm availability of native maples for spring planting
- begin monitoring for animal damage when alternate food sources become scarce
- [install rodent & deer protection](#) as needed
- wrap the trunk of trees to prevent frost cracks, if recommended for your geographic area

[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.

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.



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