**We Should Plant More Trees**

Have you ever considered why we plant trees? Most of the trees and shrubs in communities are planted to provide beauty or shade. These are excellent reasons for their use however there are other important environmental benefits.

Trees change the environment by moderating the effects of sun, wind, air and rain. The radiating energy from the sun is absorbed or deflected by leaves, making it cooler and less exposed to the harmful effects of direct sunlight in the summer months.

Wind speed and direction can be affected by trees. Dense foliage or groups of trees create windbreaks; protecting people, pets and buildings.

Rainfall and hail is absorbed or deflected by trees, which also provide some protection for people, pets and buildings. Trees store some of the water; reduce storm water runoff and erosion thereby lessening the chance of flooding.

Leaves filter the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles. They absorb carbon dioxide from the air to make carbohydrates needed in the plant’s structure and function. In this process, leaves absorb other air pollutants and give off oxygen.

Planting more trees will not only beautify an urban environment but will also create a sustainable and safe ecosystem for the survival of native animals, birds and insects.