

I hope you are well and busy with many great projects in town. I'm writing today for two purposes :

### **1. Crimson King Norway Maple**

In the past few years I have completed a diploma in Horticulture at Guelph with specialization in trees, as well as landscape restoration, along with arborist training.

I'm a member of the OHS, although not very active because of my busy life, but I did read that there was a memorial tree that was planted at Crozier Park, and wanted to make you aware that the tree is in fact, and unfortunately, invasive.

It's really a delicate situation, where a tree was chosen by someone for a memorial, which makes it really difficult emotionally. The selection was not an educated choice (although very pretty) and therefore trees were added to the public space most likely without the knowledge that this tree was invasive. The municipality's generosity is absolutely amazing and again, it is just an unfortunate choice that was made. I wanted to bring this to your attention, because I am sure that as the mayor, you would not want to advertise that the municipality is supporting the planting of invasive trees (even in the name of a loved one). Just like releasing goldfish in a lake, planting invasive trees can affect the surrounding environment. Invasive species tend to proliferate and spread seeds, and are less beneficial for wildlife than their native counterparts. There are no laws yet in Ontario that prevents nurseries from selling them, education is key.

I'm also certain that the couple who requested a 'Crimson King' Norway didn't have the knowledge that it was invasive, and would have chosen a different tree if they had known.

I did notify the OHS about this, I think they are feeling a bit embarrassed to tell you as they already were so thankful from your generosity. They also don't have the funds to pay for a different tree.

I figured you would prefer to know this, as trees are structures that can last quite a long time, and having to remove a tree in 20 years is much more costly than having to replace a tree in it's early years.

Whatever you choose to do, in case you do choose to replace with a native tree, here is a list of superstar trees for this area, I'm not sure where the tree is planted (if it's moist or dry..) and if there is a lot of traffic underneath or not :

- American beech
- Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)

- Eastern white pine
- Red pine
- White spruce

Lowland trees :

- American elm
- Red maple
- Black ash
- Bur oak
- American basswood
- Yellow birch
- Bitternut hickory
- Butternut
- Northern red oak
- White oak
- Common hackberry
- Blue beech
- Swamp white oak
- Shagbark hickory
- Black maple

If ever, as a municipality, you are looking to hire a consultant for these types of situation and prevent mishaps, I'd be happy to help out.

## **2. Neighbourhood gardens**

I live in Settlers Grant and along with neighbours, we have been upkeeping the garden at the front entrance. I was wondering if the municipality would be interested in hiring for pruning, designing, and upkeeping of gardens on a sporadic basis. I already have a full-time job, but I love taking care and planning gardens, and definitely love to make sure trees are growing to be beautiful and safe structures. I do not prune large trees, I can help with smaller ones, I can maintain shrubs as well and plan pruning on the type of species. I also have knowledge on how

to plant trees in an urban setting (meaning how to do it when there are sidewalks and roads all around).

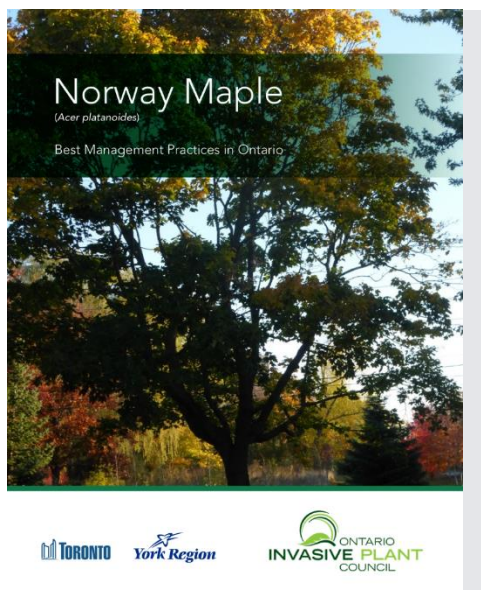
Although it's nice to volunteer, I feel like this could be a job on its own. There is quite a bit of work that can be done in municipal gardens and parks.

Following are some links to documents that support the findings.

I'm sorry to bring such news, but I cannot go about turning my back on this. I wish you an excellent day,

Caroline

"The 'Crimson King' cultivar has bright red foliage throughout the growing season, and 'Emerald Queen' has dark glossy-green leaves and yellow fall colors. Although beautiful, cultivar seedlings can spread into natural areas and become invasive, outcompeting native species and impacting wildlife. See page 5 to learn more about Norway maple cultivars. With its potential for being a serious invader, preventing this invasive maple species from entering and damaging natural areas is an important priority for land managers land use planning, and landscape design. «



[BMP\\_NorwayMaple\\_April2021\\_WEB](#)

[PDF Document - 3.6 MB](#)



[Norway-Maple](#)

[PDF Document - 1.1 MB](#)



[Invasive Species Norway Maple - The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority](#)

[nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca)



[Rethinking the Norway Maple -](#)  
[adirondackalmanack.com](http://adirondackalmanack.com)