

FEEL AROUND TOWN

FEEL's **Haliburton Native Plant Sale**
Place online orders from
Thanksgiving - May Day.
www.haliburtonstewardship.ca

Look for FEEL's Rain Barrels throughout
Haliburton County.
Order them online and pick them up
during the spring and summer.
www.rainbarrel.ca/feel

Register teams of up to 5 members for
FEEL's annual **CHIC 2B GEEK** quiz night.
Register teams for the June event at
ecoenvirolearn@gmail.com
\$10 per person . \$40 per team

Volunteers needed for the
HMK Children's Water Festival
a free two day curriculum-based event
held annually every fall at
Kinark Outdoor Centre
www.hmwaterfestival.ca

FEEL's MISSION is to advance the
public's awareness, understanding,
and appreciation of ecosystems
through accessible education.

Join our crew or become a member

ecoenvirolearn@gmail.com
www.ecoenvirolearn.org



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK! TOOLS FOR LEARNING MORE

Great tools that will help you learn
more about planting and identifying
Ontario's trees and shrubs.

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Volunteer Tree Plantings. Spend
a day with volunteers planting a
restoration or improving a public
site. Visit your local conservancy,
land trust, lake association,
botanical garden, or township
website to find community projects.

Trees In Canada. *John Laird
Farrar. Published by Fitzhenry and
Whiteside. 1996.*

Shrubs of Ontario. *J.H. Soper and
M.L. Heimburger. Published by the
Royal Ontario Museum. 1982.*

Search for **Tree and Shrub
enthusiast groups** on Facebook.



FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING

F.E.E.L

THE SPRITE



A Publication for Kids and Their Families

Vol. 1, No. 2

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YOU CAN BE A FOREST HERO!

All it takes is a squish or two!

So you've purchased some native
trees and shrubs from a local plant sale
fundraiser, and in doing so, you've
likely supported a community
organization which promotes
environmental health and education.
Heroic indeed! Planet Earth can
breathe easier and many creatures will
have a new place to play thanks to you.

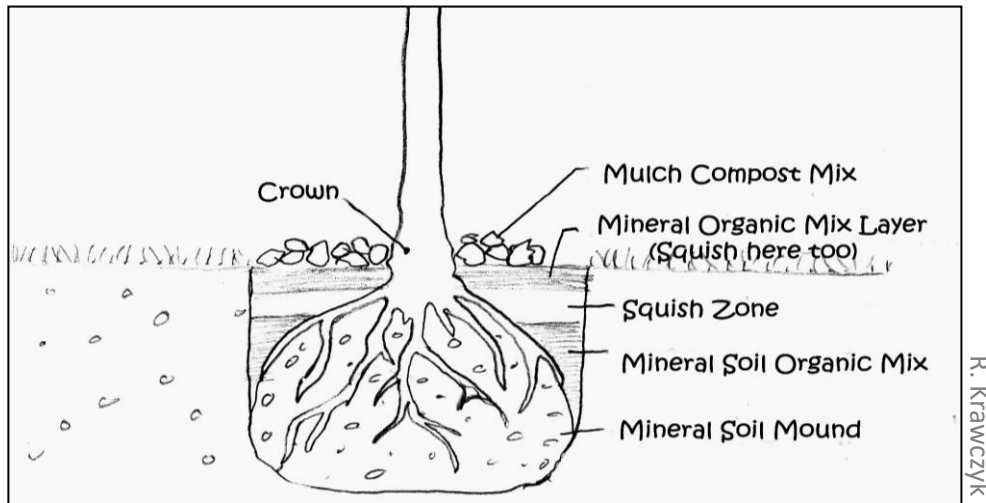
So, what is the next step? Many
fundraiser trees and shrubs are sold in
bare-root form, without soil and without
a storage vessel for transport, so you
need to be sure that the ride home is
cool and shady for your new trees and
shrubs. If bare-root seedlings are hit by



Native plant sale specimens are small
and need love and care their 1st year.

R. Krawczyk

The SPRITE is published by FEEL (Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning)
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For information about participation, memberships, and other publications, please visit
www.ecoenvirolearn.org.



- Step 1: Form mineral soil mound with soil from hole. Place roots over mound.
 Step 2: Backfill with soil from hole mixed with organics. Squish. Water.
 Step 3: Backfill. Squish. Water. Step 4: Mulch with organics and water.

Tree and Shrub Safety Protocol:

When you are planting new bare root trees and shrubs, handle them gently, without scratching them, and be sure to have plenty of water on hand to keep the roots cool and hydrated. Water regularly for year 1.

sun or wind, the fine root hairs of your new little friends will dry out, hindering their success and survival.

Try to plan your day so there is time to plant your trees as soon as you get home. If you've ordered a large number, be sure you can plant them all before they get stressed.

If you have a while to get home, have some damp newspaper on hand to wrap the roots and then place them in a shady spot in the car. If they are in the box of a truck or in a trailer, secure a damp blanket or

sheet around them to provide cool, shady conditions and then get your new friends home quickly.

Once you get your new plant pals back to your home space place them in a bucket of water in the shade while you prep the planting site.

When creating the planting hole, the forest hero keeps the anatomy of the plant in mind. Look for the 'Life Crown' flare, where the below ground parts meet the above ground parts (where the roots meet the stem). Be sure the hole you dig will allow the

centre of the crown to be level with the grade. If you must set the tree into the hole to measure, that's fine.

The crown must sit securely at ground level while the hole is being filled and for long after that - a lifetime even. This is why it is best to set a mound or 'bed' of mineral soil at the bottom of the hole for the bare roots to be arranged over.

A mineral soil mound is so important because organic matter beneath roots will decompose in a matter of years, the tree could then sink, resulting in a crown smothered and rotted by soil, unable to breathe.

After the tree is set properly, and you are ready to fill the hole, be sure to gently *squish* most of the air out of the soil, because large air pockets will dry out the roots. All roots need to touch mineral soil to exchange life-giving ions, though you don't want to squish so much that the soil has no oxygen at all. It is best to add water to the soil between squishes, like layering a cake or lasagna, but here we'll keep the layers at least 6 inches thick. Add soil, *squish*, water. Add 6" more soil, then *squish*, then water, taking care not to stomp or tear the roots.

Once the hole is filled, water again and sprinkle with rich compost mulch. Then water yet again – but no more squishing!

Your new trees will be most grateful if they are watered well during their first year in their new home.

Newly planted trees and shrubs are vulnerable to many dangers: Deer and rabbits, rodents playing under snow, and the noble beaver can all nibble at the new plantings; stripping the bark, and snipping new growth. It is best to place cages around your new leafy friends.

Hardware cloth (it is really wire), can be found at any building centre or hardware store. This fine welded mesh is better than chicken wire, which is easily snipped by the teeth of Mr. Beaver. Neglected chicken wire can also cut into trees if it is forgotten or if a property is sold to a new owner.

Hardware cloth and plastic zip ties work very well to protect any woody stem for the first five to ten years on a site. Make sure that the wire is not too tight, covers at least 2-3 feet up the stem of the plant, and is securely nestled in the soil surrounding the crown. This mesh tube must be checked annually and kept clear of mulch, which can rot the bark. If the hardware cloth is installed with a good 4 inches of overlap to the exterior, the zip ties can be adjusted as the tree grows.

If you follow this tree planting code to the letter, and water well, you should be able to hear your new forest friends singing in the breeze: 'Our Hero!' R.K.