

KENDAL CROSSLANDS ARBORETUM (KCA) 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Arboretum Teams and the KCA Committee became accomplished at Zoom meetings during the Covid pandemic shut-down. However, it was not possible to hold the usual Annual Meeting in April at which Officers and six resident representatives from each community are elected. Fortunately, the slate of nominees agreed to serve in an acting capacity. After six years at the helm, Jennifer has enjoyed handing the tiller to Bob Shipman who has agreed to continue in the role of KCA Chairperson for the coming year.

In April, an inventory of trees on the landscaped areas on both campuses was completed by arborist Mike Dunn. An electronic map of the 2,457 trees was accompanied by a 74-page report with management recommendations for the Arboretum. These include close monitoring of many large, old, and diseased trees and their early removal to make way for species that will be less vulnerable to climate change. To illustrate other recommendations, three slide shows were shown to residents in each community.

To assist KCA Curator Casey Groff, Arboretum Assistant Nicole DeLizzio started work late last year and we are delighted to be working with her.

Donations of Gift Trees continue to grace both our campuses and to provide income for related expenses. A recent idea will provide more visible dedication display tags for the 75+ Gift Trees.

Plans for the coming year include continued implementation of the KCA Strategic Plan. Two new initiatives are tree protection methods for upcoming construction projects and the ways in which best management practices could be adapted to address the likely impact of climate change on trees.

In spite of continuing Covid uncertainties, we are grateful for the excellent care we (and our trees) have received during these difficult months. Residents are now protected by vaccination, so we can soon look forward to getting out and about and gathering with others among our lovely trees.

As of 19 Mar 21