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## Local beautification efforts catching on: Rodriguez and Cimino



Ward One Community Action Network chair Tom Murphy and Pam Cranston, Greater Sudbury Parks Services manager, show off hardy fall mums and salt resistant eunonymous shrubs on a newly landscaped section of Lorne Street. Photo by Bill Bradley.

**Oct 19, 2009**

**By: Bill Bradley - Sudbury Northern Life**

A major thoroughfare in Greater Sudbury's west end, Lorne Street, is being beautified, thanks to the efforts of residents and their partners, said Ward One Coun. Joe Cimino Saturday.

"I am pleased there is so much excitement building over the beautification of Lorne Street," said Cimino

He was present at a Ward One barbecue for about 50 residents and business persons at the parking lot of Weston Bakeries Saturday at noon. They were celebrating the establishment of a berm along a section of Lorne Street and, in it, the planting of salt resistant trees, shrubs, perennial grasses and flowers along 850 feet of mostly city property.

"People are telling me wow this can really happen if we get together," said Cimino.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the partnerships that have made this all happen," said Ward One Community Action Network (CAN) chair Tom Murphy.

Though the CAN steering committee came up with the initial landscape design, with the help of a landscape architect they hired, it was the city parks staff organized by Pam Cranston that finalized it and then moved to implement it here on Lorne Street, noted Murphy.

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Cranston, a parks services manager, said many local residents came to positively comment on the work while the city crews were installing the turf and plants this fall. She said the vegetation was chosen for its resistance to salt coming from the roadway in winter.

"We chose Russian olive, ivory silk lilacs and Newport plum trees, and hydrangea and ninebark shrub varieties," she noted. Ornamental grasses, yellow red and white fall mums and perennial euonymus were added for aesthetic appeal.

"We will replace the annual fall mums in the spring with other annuals for a consistent colour," said Cranston.

The landscaping is attracting attention.

"Now people taking ownership of the area. I have seen people stopping to pick up garbage in the ditch (by the landscaped area)," said Murphy.

Mayor John Rodriguez, who was present, said beautification projects like this were catching on in the city. He had just come from the Minnow Lake area.

"I was at a re-opening of a Rexall Pharmacy in Minnow Lake. It was rebuilt and they beautified the corner. While there I noticed a business across the street was fixing up their property too."

Another partner was Weston Bakeries. A portion of the landscaped area is on their property. They contributed \$10,000 towards the landscaping effort, said Ed Scopazzi, plant manager at Weston.

Rodriguez ventured that other properties along the Lorne Street strip may catch the beautification bug

"Ron Arnold (a Lorne Street property owner) is very civic minded," he said.

Cimino said the Dalron property owners are following the landscaping theme on their property at 22 Pacific Avenue further to the west along Lorne Street. Ron and John Arnold participated at the barbecue celebration.

Cimino said the city participated in funding the Weston site work as part of a \$67,000 beautification project for Lorne Street. The CAN also contributed \$3,000 out of their budget for the Weston site project.

Another \$2,000 was raised from a concert organized by Joe Natalie. Musicians participating either lived in the area or had ties to Gatchell. The event was held in the Beef and Bird restaurant and bar, located near the landscaped site last spring, noted Cimino. He said the Lorne Street beautification efforts had arisen out of recommendations in the West End Improvement Plan advocated by local residents and developed by city planning staff ten years ago.

He said other property owners to the west were showing great interest in the beautification work.

"A number of business representatives came out to the barbecue that were new to us," said Cimino.

Attention now was being directed by CAN members to the lands owned by CP Rail, east towards Regent Street.

"We have already had a number of clean-ups with their cooperation in 2008 and 2009."

The project is not the only Ward One project.

"There is a lot happening in the Ward One CAN now," said Murphy. A new project, spearheaded by CAN fundraising chair Colleen Zilio is to develop a community garden in Gatchell.

"We talked about over some discussions in the summer. We want to create a project with intergenerational learning," said Zilio.

She said the Gatchell area was known for its gardeners who have an abundance of vegetables and even fruit trees on their properties.

"There is a tremendous amount of knowledge here (in Gatchell) to share with youth."

For more information on the projects developing in Ward One email [ward1can@gmail.com](mailto:ward1can@gmail.com) or visit [www.ward1can.com](http://www.ward1can.com).

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