## BGO's 2022 Tenure in Trees Program Plants Roots in

## **Ontario**, Canada

This 50 Million Tree Program plants and tracks millions of trees annually in Ontario on more than 500 sites. During this project, the team will work together with local landowners to provide technical expertise, resources and training in order to ensure the long-term survival of trees and healthy planting sites. The many resources provided ensure that partners and landowners steward new forests through successful planting, and tree maintenance. The trees selected are sourced from a network of local nurseries which greatly improves survival, optimizes carbon reduction, and ensures that new forests continue to provide benefits for generations to come.



Increasing forest cover is critical to ensuring healthy forests for our future, as well as their associated values. Many ecological benefits of planting trees and maintaining forests include eliminating harmful emissions, reducing flooding and providing a cooling effect for our cities and towns. Forests are also an integral part of ensuring our community has enough oxygen for us to breathe by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. In addition, when trees are planted along waterways, they can help to clean the water we drink and when planted in areas with poor soil conditions act as a form of erosion control. Forests are also essential to supporting our wildlife habitat and maintaining local plant and animal biodiversity.

Reforesting areas throughout Ontario is also an integral component to supporting healthy communities. Providing treed areas throughout our community allows for more outdoor recreation such as biking and hiking trails, opportunities for neighbourhood gatherings in our green spaces, and places to play in our local parks. In addition, our own mental and physical health and well-being are intricately interconnected with the health of our natural environment. Not only do green spaces encourage us to get outside and get active, but being around trees has proven to improve mood, memory, and cognition. Forests and green spaces have also been linked to a significant decline in stress, improved rehabilitation, faster hospital recovery rates, and a decrease in the severity of symptoms in attention deficit disorders.



**#TeamBGO** has donated 1,000 trees to this project, and we are excited to see our dollars put to work to maximize the many ecological and community benefits!

