

Shade Tree Injuries and How to Repair Them

Many large Trees not worth the High Cost of "Surgery" — Principles the Amateur should Understand.

By B. R. Morton, B. Sc. F., Dominion Forestry Branch.



In a beautiful and historic Nova Scotia town, Annapolis Royal. The elm trees shown in the photograph were planted by the late Mr. Justice Ritchie 150 years ago. The picture was taken early last Spring when the foliage had not yet attained full growth. A resident of Annapolis Royal writes to the Canadian Forestry Magazine: "This town will always hold Mr. Justice Ritchie in grateful remembrance for giving us these trees." Could any man desire a more enduring epitaph?

The history of tree repairing probably dates back as far as the cultivating of trees. It is only within recent years, however, that the present methods used in the work have been developed and a widespread interest created.

There is nothing mysterious about tree repairing. It can be undertaken by any careful man who is not afraid of hard work and who will take the pains to familiarize himself with the fundamental principles which underlie this work. Practice is of course a great advantage since it develops quickness in determining the proper thing to do, and speed in doing it. Many amateurs who undertake this work go wrong chiefly because they do not understand the reason for doing certain things. They will often give a great deal of attention to conspicuous injuries and overlook completely the smaller ones which will later become serious.

It will not be possible within the space available, to discuss fully all sides of tree repair work, but it is hoped here to point out a number of things which will give some of the readers of the Canadian Forestry Magazine a better understanding of the work and perhaps be of assistance to tree owners who are either obliged to take up the work themselves or employ some one of doubtful skill.

Trees Worth Repairing.

The question as to whether or not a tree is worth saving must be decided by the owner, even the expert tree repairer can only advise him as to the probable cost and the chance of restoring the tree to health. Most healthy, vigorous young trees requiring minor repairs are, as a rule, worth the effort. In the case of old

PRINCIPLES OF TREE REPAIR.

The fundamental principles which must be observed to secure the best result are briefly as follows:

1. All diseased, decayed, injured or dead material must be completely removed. This may necessitate the formation of large cavities.
2. All wounds must be sterilized and then made waterproof.
3. Deep cavities must be covered or filled, or left in such a condition that they will heal readily.
4. The tree must be kept under observation and immediate attention given to any defects that may appear in the work and to any new injuries that may be received.

Time for Repairing.

Tree repairing may be done at almost any time of the year except in the spring when the buds are swelling and the new leaves being formed. When the sap is running actively it may interfere with the work. If concrete is to be used the work must be done when there is no danger of frost.

trees that require the expenditure of a considerable sum of money and much labor, the owner, in the opinion of the writer, is often ill advised in making an effort to restore them. Unless it has historic associations or is a rare species, it would, in many instances, be better to



A graphic history of an Ontario sand dune. The marshy flat by the lake was once a mountain of sand which in the course of years was blown inland, submerging farms and buildings. The stumps of the original trees have been uncovered by the process and some vegetation is springing up in the moist soil.