



Department of Zoology, University of Toronto

25 September 1995

Editor,
The Varsity
University of Toronto

Dear Editor:

We cannot endorse the opinions of Mr. Jim Hodgins, former Chair of the Zoology Landscape Committee, as expressed in the article, "U of T greenspace replaces "biological desert"." Many of the statements attributed to him are misleading and need further comment.

The concept of "tearing out" trees is not part of the mandate of the Zoology Landscape Committee. We are concerned that the growing habits of the Norway Maple may overpower those of the many native tree species we have already planted and are trying to establish on the site. However, the question of a campus-wide balance between native and exotic species is under active discussion by the university's Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC). How ZOOWOODS ultimately develops will depend in part on the recommendations of this group.

We are particularly distressed with the implications left by Mr. Hodgins' comments that the university's administration neither offered adequate nor timely support and that Simcoe Hall was "slow" to respond to our proposal. Indeed, Simcoe Hall, at least as represented by Dan Lang and Elizabeth Sisam in the Planning Office, Janice Oliver of Business Affairs, and Phil Garment of Facilities and Services, has been enthusiastic and helpful from the beginning. They have expressed that enthusiasm verbally as well as monetarily. Of the total budget for this project, over 50% of the cost has come from Simcoe Hall and almost 30% from Business Affairs/Facilities and Services. Elizabeth Sisam deserves special mention for her hard work in putting together all of the funding, including a substantial private donation from Mr. Hugh Duthie in memory of his mother who was a student in the Department of Zoology.

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Again, many of the comments of Jim Hodgins do not reflect the sentiments of the Zoology Landscape Committee and we hope that they do not jeopardize all of the hard work that has gone into making this a successful joint venture.

Sincerely,



Zoology Landscape Committee,
Janet Mannone (Chairman)
Jacquie Bede
Scott Olan
Jim Rising
Steve Smith
Patricia Williams
Ann Zimmerman

Cc: Nancy Dengler, Chairman, Arboretum Committee
Phil Garment, Facilities and Services
Harold Harvey, Chairman, Zoology
Dan Lang, Planning Office
Janice Oliver, Business Affairs
Elizabeth Sisam, Planning Office