



## PRESS RELEASE:

# Professor Pricklethorn is coming to Town

The Town of Cheektowaga has started working on a 20 year urban forestry management plan (UFMP). An urban forest is system of trees, and other vegetation within in our community, including street trees, trees within residential yards and commercial spaces, vegetation within public parks, along our thruways / public right of ways and along our water ways. Cheektowaga's urban forest provides environmental, economic and social benefits to its residents and all whom work, live and play in our community. The preparation of an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) will allow the town to determine the most efficient way to grow and sustain its forest community.

A major component of the Town's proposed UFMP will be public outreach and education, with particular emphasis on school aged children. The Town has solicited support from each of its (5) five school districts, with the desire of having a plan that fosters support of the urban forest at an early age. Public outreach will encourage youth participation in the preparation of the plan. Additionally, the plan will try to incorporate a lesson plan for educators highlighting the importance of Cheektowaga's urban forest. Outreach directed at school aged children will include promoting school participation in neighborhood reforestation efforts, enabling young adults to have a life experience at planting trees and being an integral part of their urban forests growth.

This Friday, two of Cheektowaga's schools - Maryvale Intermediate and Cayuga Heights Elementary will have a special guest visiting to teach the importance of trees in our lives. Professor Pricklethorn will be the guest educator spreading the good news about our urban trees and their secret lives. In addition to the Professor's lecture, the school children will also participate in a tree planting demonstration on their school grounds.

The Town will be developing its Urban Forestry Management Plan over the next 12-18 months. Information on the plan as it develops will be made available on the Town web site at [www.tocny.org](http://www.tocny.org)