



Digging in. Joyce Murray, Eric Brinkman and Dirk Brinkman plant native shrubs in Queen's Park Thursday. The city-based business donated, and planted, 250 native bushes and shrubs along the Millennium Trail. See story at left for details.

Lori Pappajohn/The Record

600 million and growing

BY LORI PAPPAGOHN
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Amidst flurries of snowflakes, Brinkman and Associates Reforestations celebrated planting more than 600 million trees across Canada by planting a dogwood in Queen's Park Thursday.

The New Westminster firm, started in the 1970s, has planted more trees in North America than any other organization.

Its celebration Thursday also included planting 250 native bushes and shrubs in an area along the Millennium Trail below Centennial Lodge.

Brinkman and Associates, which was founded by New Westminster resident Dirk Brinkman and his wife Joyce Murray, has brushed, pruned, thinned, cleaned and surveyed hundreds of thousands of hectares across Canada.

What is 600 million trees equivalent to? asks Brinkman — 600 million trees would cover a strip more than a kilometer wide across Canada — or, in a row the trees would stretch 46 times around the globe.

"This represents one tree for every 10 people on earth," notes Brinkman.

During the ceremony, Brinkman pointed out that for thousands of years the three major streams of civilization were built by removing the forest eco-system.

"Our generation has had the privilege in changing direction — in turning the tide," he said about the concept of reforestation.

"We're starting to re-expand forests in the Northern Hemisphere. Our goal is to do that in the tropics as well," said Brinkman, whose company has been involved in international projects in a number of countries including Guatemala and Costa Rica.

One of the speakers at the tree planting celebration noted: "He who plants a tree plants hope. Now there are 600 million more reasons for hope — thanks to the Brinkman team."