

## Planting the New Shelterbelt – June 2008

### **BACKGROUND:**

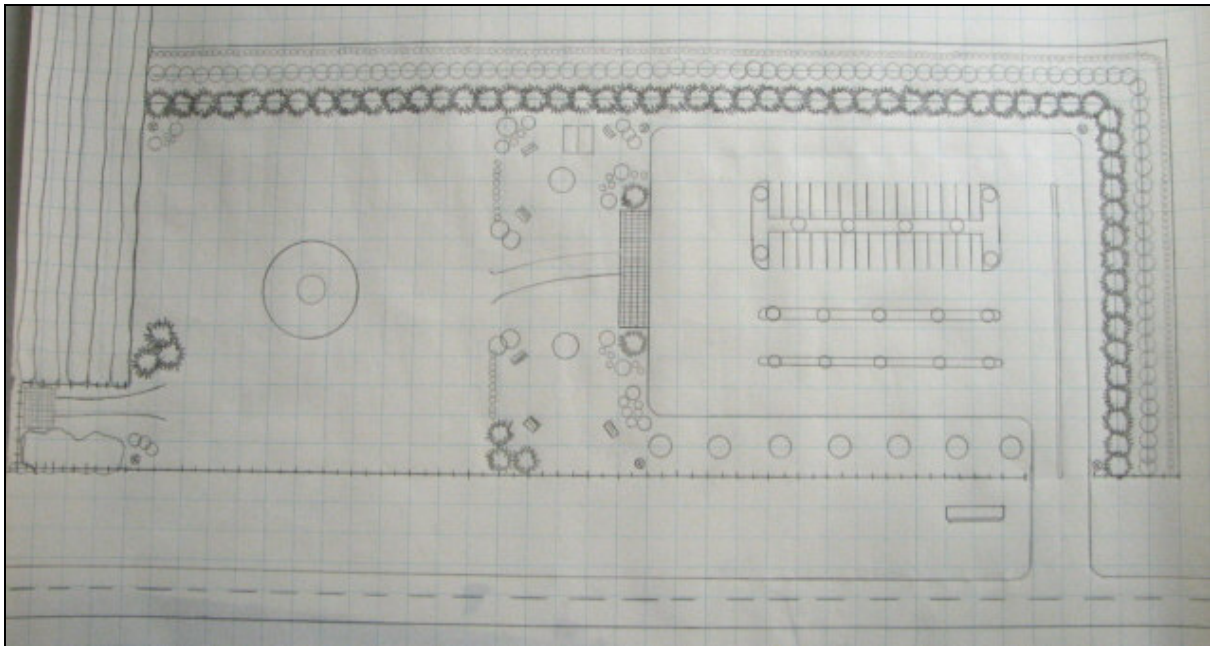
For those of you who are not familiar with our prairie landscape and climate, life on the open prairie can be quite a challenge at times, as the prevailing northwest winds blow with considerable force. To make life more bearable, farmers planted trees and shrubs around their farmyards, sometimes on all sides, but at least along the north and west sides.

At the new bell barn site, which sits on the bald, open prairie, we have also planted a shelterbelt. While it will take at least a decade for the benefits of this planting to become noticeable, those who come to visit the site in the years to come will appreciate the initiative that the Society took in 2008 to plan for this future requirement.

The work of planting the rows of trees and shrubs was done by volunteers – staff who work at the nearby PFRA Shelterbelt Centre – (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration). Both the Indian Head Research Farm and the PFRA Shelterbelt Centre at Indian Head were themselves created from lands that originally belonged to the Bell Farm. The Research Farm is located east of town; while the Shelterbelt Centre is located to the south. More information on the PFRA operations may be found at:

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1186517615847&lang=e>

### **The Bell Barn Shelterbelt Project:**



*A preliminary site plan, drawn by Dan Walker in 2006, clearly shows the location of the proposed shelterbelt along the west (top) and north (right) sides of the new barn site.*

This project was initiated, designed and supervised by Dan Walker, a member of the Bell Barn Society, former owner of the Barn, and an employee of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at Indian Head.

The work itself was performed by Dan Walker, Denny Curts, Jesse Gheysen, Rebecca Palmer, Laura Poppy, Carly Warnez, Natalie Ryan, Riley Jasper, Megan Shiplack, Garth Inouye and Ivan Moya.

The outer row of the plantings is a mix of green ash and villosa lilac, the middle row is a combination of Siberian larch, white spruce and Colorado spruce, and the inner row is all Scots pine.

Following is a series of photos that Laura Poppy took to illustrate the work undertaken that day, as well as two views several weeks later taken by Dayle Bowman.



*The shelterbelt will be about 20 feet wide when completed, providing room for at least three rows of trees and shrubs.*



*Mechanized planting*



*Supplies of trees and shrubs on the machinery*



*One row of trees already planted in it (to left of arrows)*



*The mulch applicator applying the mulch after the tree planting operation was completed.*



*Applying the plastic mulch*



*Applying the mulch and poking holes for the plants*



*Detail of the tool used to cut slits in the plastic mulch*



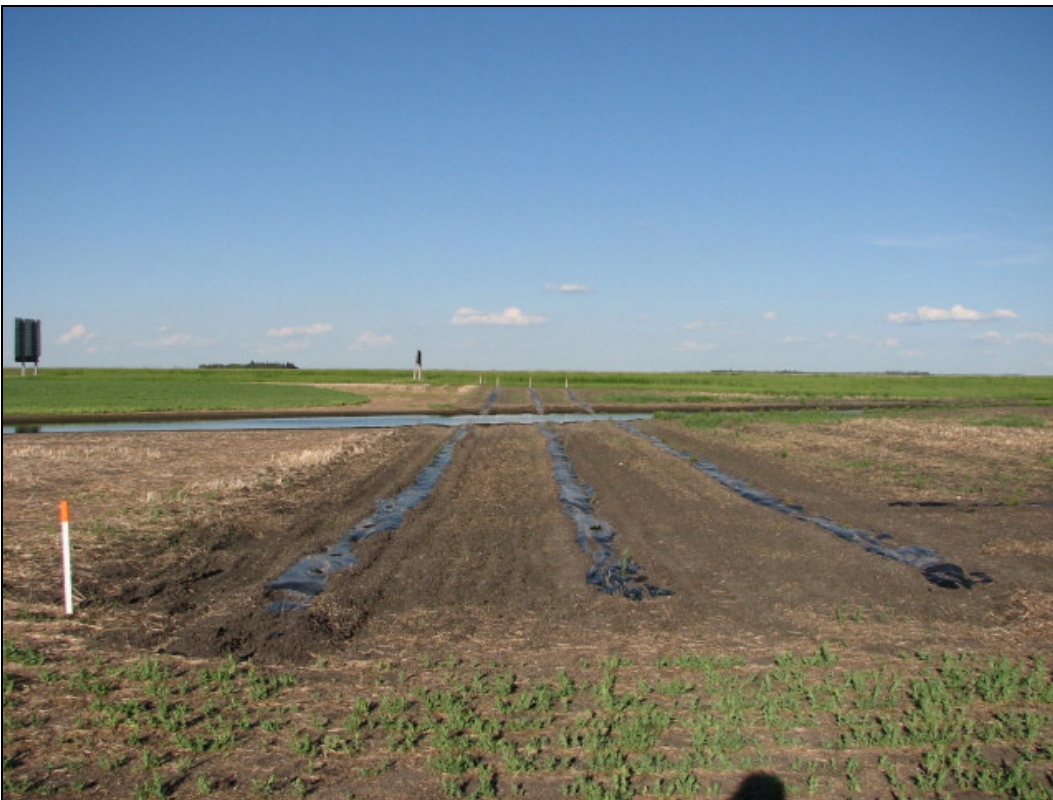
*Pulling trees through holes in the plastic mulch*



*Two rows of trees and shrubs planted and covered with mulch.*



*Close-up view of one of the tree plantings (Photo: Dayle Bowman)*



*View of the three rows of planting along the north site boundary (Photo: Dayle Bowman)*