



News from
State Senator Antoine Thompson

Chair, Senate Environmental Conservation Committee

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**2006 SNOW STORM REMEMBERED WITH TREE PLANTING CEREMONY
AND CHECK PRESENTATION BY SENATOR ANTOINE THOMPSON**

*Thompson to donate \$20,000 to Re-Tree WNY to replenish trees throughout
Buffalo destroyed in 2006 snow storm*

Buffalo, NY – State Senator Antoine Thompson (Parts of Erie and Niagara counties), chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee, is committed to preserving the natural resources of Western New York. Teaming up with Re-Tree WNY and Keep WNY Beautiful for a tree planting ceremony, Senator Thompson takes the opportunity to donate \$20,000 to Re-Tree WNY to help with ongoing efforts to replenish trees that were damaged or destroyed when Buffalo was hit with a surprise snow storm on October 12, 2006.

The snow storm was considered unique because of the extensive destruction of trees, the power outages and because the weather was out of season. Almost a million residents of the Niagara Frontier lost power, some for as long as a week, and tree damage was the worst in memory, especially to the lush vegetation in the many historic parkways and parks in the Buffalo area.

Senator Thompson said, “This grant money will allow Re-Tree WNY the opportunity to further efforts already underway; restoring the emerald landscaping in parks and residential neighborhoods that were so prominent prior to the unforgettable 2006 snow storm. I thank Paul Maurer for leading the charge to tackle this issue head on and to Jim Pavel for his efforts in beautifying Western New York one neighborhood at a time.”

(more)

(TREE PLANTING CONTINUED)

Paul D. Maurer, chair, Re-Tree WNY said, “This generous grant procured for us by Sen. Thompson will help us buy 300 more trees for our Re-Tree WNY volunteers to plant in the parks and along the streets of our area, and we are very grateful”.

Jim Pavel, chair, Keep WNY Beautiful said, “I would really like to thank Senator Thompson. He has been a great friend in Western New York for environmental efforts. His contributions have made WNY a cleaner and greener place to live.”

ABOUT SENATOR ANTOINE M. THOMPSON

Senator Antoine M. Thompson currently represents the State of New York’s 60th District, which includes parts of Erie and Niagara counties and the cities of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Tonawanda and the town of Grand Island. Successfully serving two terms, Senator Thompson has championed many issues including environmental conservation. As the chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee in the senate, Thompson has accomplished legislative victories, enacting laws that have a positive impact on air, water and green space quality, as well as the health of all New Yorkers. Recently, Senator Thompson was named ‘Legislator of the Year’ by Environmental Advocates of NY. Other top priorities for Senator Thompson include education, healthcare, transportation, small business, minority and women business enterprises, economic development and public safety. He is responsible for bringing millions of dollars into the district to support these priorities.

ABOUT RE-TREE WNY

Re-Tree WNY, a program of Keep WNY Beautiful, was established on November 3, 2006 by a group of about 40 Western New York residents who saw first-hand the devastation done to Western New York’s living resource -- trees -- and decided to take action to re-forest every public area that was destroyed by the October 12-13 snowstorm. Its mission is the same as its name, Re-Tree WNY. The organization is working on this project as a five-year plan with a goal to replace the approximately 30,000 trees in Western New York that were damaged or destroyed. Re-Tree WNY’s first planting was on Arbor Day, April 27, 2007 where the organization planted 2,000 trees to get the project a strong jump-start.

ABOUT KEEP WNY BEAUTIFUL

KWNYB exists to promote beautification of the environment and to empower citizens by providing them with the resources and education to achieve natural resource conservation, solid waste reduction and the planting of community gardens, trees and other greenery. It is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. Established in 1953, Keep America Beautiful is the nation’s largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. With a network of over 1,200 affiliate and participating organizations, Keep America Beautiful forms public/private partnerships and programs that engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments.

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