



Ian Reid, a member of the Viewmount Allotment Garden in Nepean, rescued 24 shrubs and one tree from almost certain death last summer.

Gardener rescues 24 shrubs, tree from almost certain death

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Nepean This Week

For Ian Reid, gardening and forestry come naturally — which is to be expected since he has held a Bachelor of Science in Forestry since 1949.

But it didn't take his expertise last year to realize a number of small shrubs and trees were in danger of dying and being dumped at a local garbage depot.

A member of the Viewmount Allotment Gardens on Viewmount Drive, Reid would often ride his bicycle on the path which runs along the Nepean Creek Stormwater Facility.

One evening last summer, Reid came stumbling upon a number of almost dead shrubs and trees — ones that had not yet been planted along the Nepean Creek.

With last summer's dry conditions, Reid says the company responsible for watering the shrubs were simply "over worked."

"It is no fault of the watering company. Their services were stretched because of the extremely hot summer," he says.

But instead of watching the unplanted shrubs and trees die, Reid took matters into his own hands.

"I asked if I could take the shrubs back to the

Allotment Garden to have them planted there. They didn't have a problem."

So one by one, Reid transported the frail shrubs some with no leaves or sign of life at all, via his bicycle. In all, he was able to save 24 shrubs and one Ironwood tree. There were about 100 shrubs in total stashed away in the bush.

Since planting them last fall, Reid has continued to water and look after them.

The City of Ottawa has also provided wood chips to give some protection from the elements and small creatures.

"I feel the shrubs are a real contribution to the park," says Reid.