

Extraordinary arboreal effort

With 300 acres of school grounds spread throughout Winnipeg, the Division is home to thousands of trees—many of which are vulnerable to cankerworms.

But thanks to an extraordinary effort, 2,754 Division elms, maples and ash trees have been banded to protect against the voracious pest.

The Division enlisted the non-profit Coalition to Save the Elms to guide the project, which protects trees on school properties and adjacent boulevards.

Ken Nawolsky, a volunteer and coalition board member, personally banded the trees through the month of August after work and on weekends.

“It was very rewarding,” said Mr. Nawolsky, who completed the banding before the start of the school year. “I got my exercise and lost a few pounds in the process.”

Banding involves collaring a tree with foil pipe insulation and then applying a sticky plant resin. The practice prevents the wingless female cankerworm moths from climbing the trees in the fall when they lay their eggs. Trees are banded before the first hard frost of the season.

Mr. Nawolsky said the project inspired residents to initi-



Ken Nawolsky dedicated all of August to banding 2,754 Division trees.

ate banding on neighbouring streets.

“We’re getting positive feedback from the community,” he said. “The school properties are quite large and very visible...this has got people thinking about the issue.”

To learn more about the Coalition to Save the Elms, visit www.savetheelms.mb.ca or call 775-6642.