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Hampton Falls plants 100 new elm trees to mark 300th anniversary

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HAMPTON FALLS – The goal of planting 100 disease-resistant elm trees along Hampton Falls roadways, public spaces and yards became a reality on Saturday, April 24.

With the help of the Hampton Falls Town Improvement Committee, residents who ordered trees in 2017 could finally bring them home. The delivery date was delayed a year because of the pandemic, but the good news is that each tree is now larger and fuller, with an additional year to thrive.

Elm trees were once abundant in Hampton Falls. Old photos show elms along Route 1 near the Town Common, at Town Hall, along town roads, and in private yards.

The elm tree restoration project started in 2007 with the planting of donated disease-resistant elms at Governor Weare Park, as well as the large elm tree planted on the Town Common. An anonymous gift will help restore elm trees along Route 88. Elms are ideal for roadways because they do not interfere with power wires and are salt-resistant.

Town Improvement Chairman Larry Smith worked with the nonprofit Elm Research Institute in Keene, which has developed a Dutch Elm disease-resistant tree that comes with a written warranty. Elms can live between 200 to 300 years.

Smith said the 100 new trees will help mark Hampton Falls' upcoming 300th Anniversary in 2022.

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