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**COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT**



*Tree Amigos Landscaping's four partners. From left to right: Brian Roy, Tom Taylor, Drew Hutchison and Eric Olfert.*

**TREE AMIGOS LANDSCAPING INC.**

Design, construction and property maintenance firm celebrates ten years of serving all their clients' landscaping needs.

BY SCOTT LESLIE  
*The Business Link*

A beautifully landscaped yard is more than just something to sit back and admire—it's an inspiration. And the team at Tree Amigos Landscaping couldn't agree more. For the past decade, they've been dedicated to helping people enhance the value of their properties and keep them looking their very best.

Serving residential, commercial and industrial customers in St. Catharines and the surrounding Niagara area, Tree Amigos Landscaping is a full-service landscaping company providing a variety of year-round landscaping and property maintenance services—everything from grass cutting and snow removal to fencing and interlocking patios.

According to Drew Hutchison, the co-owner of Tree Amigos Landscaping, Tree Amigos Landscaping team prides themselves on their commitment to setting the highest of standards.

"It doesn't matter what the job is," he says. "We're not satisfied until our customers are. We strive to provide the highest quality workmanship. That's one thing we never compromise on—quality."

**A History of Growth**

Tree Amigos Landscaping Inc. is owned and operated by Drew Hutchison, Brian Roy, Tom Taylor and Eric Olfert. The four business partners have known each other for years, having first developed the idea for "Tree Amigos" when they were friends back in high school. The group of them went on to attend the Landscape & Horticulture Program at Niagara College. But their new business venture was never very far from their minds.

"We started with nothing," Drew says of their firm's early days. "The four of us all had part-time jobs, and we'd pool our money to buy a couple lawn mowers and trimmers while we were out pounding the pavement, trying to drum up business. We ran our company out of our parents' homes, saving everything we could to buy the next piece of equipment."

They officially launched their company in 2001 and became fully incorporated in 2004, opening up a permanent location on 27 Neilson Street in St. Catharines. Over time, the company would grow from a small lawn-cutting business into a full-service landscaping provider that was much in demand.

Today, Tree Amigos Landscaping boasts a staff of seven seasonal employees, many of them staying on full-time to help with their snow clearing operations. The four partners act as the core of the operation. Eric and Tom handle the day-to-day operations of their landscape construction crews while Drew acts as the firm's estimator and landscape designer, meeting with customers and formulating various designs and proposals. Brian is maintenance coordinator, and takes care of the property maintenance contracts for the summer and winter months.

"We've come a long way in the past ten years," Drew says of their firm's development, "but our vision hasn't changed—only the size of our business."

**A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES**

**1. Landscape Design / Build**

Over the years, Tree Amigos Landscaping has designed and built literally hundreds of Niagara-based landscape projects. Drew says their crews are dedicated to transforming their customers' properties into a thing of beauty. But that commitment starts with the customer.

"We want to make sure our customers are completely satisfied with the work we've done," he says. "We start by listening to our customers and working closely with them so we can produce something that will meet their every need and budgetary requirement."

After making a detailed site analysis, Tree Amigos Landscaping will produce a full scale concept of the property, using the latest in digital software and 3-D imaging. After the design has been completed, their team will work with the client to finalize concepts and design concepts so their construction crews can get down to business.



A sunny retreat. This is a cozy sitting area surrounded by nature, a great place to enjoy your morning coffee.



A place to entertain. This patio area includes stone wall accents and a built-in BBQ.

At Tree Amigos Landscaping, the average job can take anywhere from a couple of days to several weeks depending on the complexity of work involved. (During each assignment, their team always make it a point of keeping their customer's property clean and secure until the work has been completed.) Once the job is finished, their team reviews the work with the customer and provides them with a number of care tips so they can maintain their property for years to come.

"We have a wide range of options and features for their customers to choose from including water fountains, retaining systems, drainage and large scale installations," Drew says.

## 2. Property Maintenance

In terms of property maintenance, Tree Amigos Landscaping services a variety of upscale residential and commercial properties throughout Niagara. Their crews specialize in all aspects of grounds maintenance—everything from property clean ups, garden care and planting to mulching, fertilizing and lawn care.

Snow and ice removal is another big part of their business. Each winter, they provide a 24/7 snow and ice removal services for commercial and multi-unit residential properties including plowing, salting and de-icing, stacking, hauling and walkway clearing.

Tree Amigos Landscaping has a variety of customized arrangements available, whether their clients are looking for a simple one-time visit, a monthly program or a multi-year seasonal contract.

"We know how important it is to have a clear parking lot and provide safe driving conditions during the winter months," Brian explains, "so we're constantly monitoring weather conditions to provide the most proactive clearing solutions possible."

## Planning for the Future

Through the years, the Tree Amigos Landscaping team has earned several awards and accomplishments for their commitment to excellence. Their expertise and innovative designs have helped them win a number of Trillium Awards for their residential and commercial customers. They've won a series of Readers' Choice Awards in various newspapers across the Niagara Region.

Tree Amigos Landscaping is also an active member of the community, supporting charities like the CIBC Run for the Cure and a number of local hockey and baseball teams. Their crews have completed several community projects including restoring cenotaphs in Merriton and Port Dalhousie as well as completing a median restoration project on Glenridge Road for the Region of Niagara.

In recent years, helping Niagara's young people has become a big priority for the four partners.

"We often bring co-op students on board from local school boards and colleges," Eric says. "It's a great way to help them develop the skills they need to ease into the workforce—not to mention give a little something back to the community."

Their firm is involved with several prominent organizations within the landscaping industry. Tree Amigos Landscaping is a member of Landscape Ontario (the province's leading horticultural trades association) and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (a national federation representing over 3,600 members in the landscape sector). They're also an authorized Unilock contractor.

It's connections like these that have helped Tree Amigos Landscaping to experience incredible growth since it started just a decade ago. According to Tom, their company is always looking forward to taking

on new projects and new challenges.

"We're always looking to add new services that may benefit our customers and help us grow in the process," he says. "Right now, we want to expand our current woodworking and masonry crews into full-time crews within our company."

From the very beginning, Tree Amigos Landscaping has been built on a solid reputation for honesty and integrity—and a dedication to being the best they can be. And that commitment still stands tall.

"We're a one-stop shop for all our customers' landscaping needs," Drew says. "From lawn and garden maintenance to decks, patios and water features, we can do it all. And through our work, we'll continue to further the industry and set new standards." **BL**



Tree Amigos Landscaping Inc. is located at 27 Neilson Street in St Catharines. For more information call 905.937.5353, email [info@treeamigoslandscaping.com](mailto:info@treeamigoslandscaping.com) or visit their website at [www.treeamigoslandscaping.com](http://www.treeamigoslandscaping.com).

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