



**NEWS RELEASE
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'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING

– Ted Collins Tree & Landscape to help reopen historic Saint Joseph's Park –

Rochester, NY (December 11, 2012) – Ted Collins Tree & Landscape is proud to announce that it will be working with the Landmark Society of Western New York in the re-landscaping and re-opening of St. Joseph's Park – a downtown park that has been closed for over ten years. Greg Frank, co-owner of the oldest landscaping firm in the Rochester area, became aware of this special site through a conversation with colleagues who shared their desire to see the park re-open. After visiting the area around the site, he realized that redevelopment was beginning to take place and so approached the Landmark Society about donating his company's services – along with plant and landscape materials – to bring the park back as a special place for gathering and contemplation.

Although once a beautiful oasis in downtown, St. Joseph's Park has suffered from inattention and misuse. "The park has been locked up and unused for quite some time", said Wayne Goodman, Executive Director of the Landmark Society, "and we are thrilled by the generosity of Ted Collins Tree & Landscape for choosing this landmark as its gift to us, and more importantly to the community. It is such a wonderful announcement to make, especially during this special holiday season."

"Like so many old church ruins scattered around much of Europe they not only reflect the past but are also aesthetically pleasing monuments that make a city rich and special," said Greg Frank. "Our firm has been looking for a special project that would allow us to do what we do best – landscape and create special garden spaces for people to enjoy. St. Joseph's seemed like an ideal project that not only allows us to be part of the re-development of downtown Rochester, but also to give back to our community."

With redevelopment of the downtown area and the beauty of the structure, it seems like a perfect opportunity to clean it up and re-landscape the site and make it available again to the public for intimate musical concerts, weddings, small presentations and other social gatherings.

Plans are underway and Ted Collins Tree & Landscape will lay out its vision for the planting of the park while the Landmark Society handles some improvements to the edifice and infrastructure. Re-dedication of the park and its reopening for the public is planned for early June – just in time for the outdoor event and wedding seasons as well as for the lively musical scene that takes place during the summer.

What better time to announce this special partnership between Ted Collins Tree & Landscape and the Landmark Society then during this holiday season. “We believe,” said Greg Frank, “that we have a wonderful – and special – opportunity to have a long-lasting impact on people living in and visiting downtown Rochester.”

About Saint Joseph’s Church and Park

The Redemptorists Fathers, along with the German Immigrants of the early 1800’s, purchased the site [today, where only a small skeletal fragment of the church still remains after a fire on October 18, 1974 nearly and totally destroyed the entire church] and spent over three years building the main body of the church. The quiet old building over the decades literally became known as the “Oasis of Grace”. In 1980, the church ‘ruin’ was dedicated as a park and enjoyed by many in the area. Over the next couple of decades, the park suffered from neglect due to financial challenges and a dearth of people spending time in that area.

About Ted Collins Tree & Landscape

Established in 1957, Ted Collins Tree & Landscape specializes in landscape design, planting, and maintenance; tree, plant, and lawn health care; hardscape design and outdoor lighting. Headquartered in Victor, New York, Ted Collins Tree & Landscape also sells a variety of garden and backyard supplies including plants, mulch, firewood and organic fertilizers. Ted Collins Tree & Landscape team of horticulturalists, landscape architects, technicians, arborists, and plant health specialists are ready and eager to employ their passion and expertise.

About Landmark Society of Western New York

The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc., is one of the oldest and most active preservation organizations in America. It is a not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving, interpreting and fostering interest in the architectural, historical and cultural heritage of our region. The Landmark Society’s service area covers nine Western New York counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

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