



## *Guelph's Great Tree Hunt 2008* *Stories of Trees*

**Sugar Maple, 83cm,**

**20 Bellevue St.**

**Janet Wood**

We understand that this tree is similar in age to the adjacent part of our house, which is >100 years old. It supports a variety of wildlife, including diverse birds and a succession of squirrels, chipmunks and once a whole litter of raccoons that were born there then transported to our neighbour's yard via a high wire act.

**Silver Maple, 136cm,**

**100 Westmount Rd**

**Jane Cabral**

On November 22, 1861, Mother Martha Von Bunning, Sister Ignatius Pigott and Sister Alphonsus Cashen traveled to Guelph by train to begin a new mission. They were taken to the western outskirts of town to a two-story stone farm house donated by the Hussey family. This was to become the first St. Joseph's Hospital and House of Providence.

Shortly after the Sisters arrived a peddler appeared on the doorstep. The Sisters could not afford to buy any of the saplings he was selling but they invited him in for a meal. Money was so scarce that even 75 cents for a tree was not to be had. In gratitude for the hospitality, the peddler planted a silver maple sapling near the Hospital. Silver maples are not normally very long-lived trees their normal life span is 75 years. The silver maple, now 146 years old, planted by the peddler is still growing at St. Joseph's. The tree has come to symbolize the strength, spirituality and caring characteristics of St. Joseph's. Several saplings have been planted on the grounds to ensure that there will always be a silver maple on the property.



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**Sugar Maple, saplings, 58 Albert St. Lynn Allingham**

Sugar maples are increasingly rare. Huge—we are losing them. Old specimens are dying. We need a significant planting of trees on Albert—so I got permission to plant them. They came from my woods.

**Maple, 99cm, 68 Cambridge St, Linda Hoffman**

Perfectly situated to block direct view into neighbour's livingroom (and vice-versa). From the second floor bedroom and bathroom, foliage is so full in the spring/summer that you feel like you are in a tree house.

**Bur Oak, 121cm, 303 Edinburgh RdS, Tom Bates**

This tree was saved from destruction by Guelph Hydro some years ago.

**Bur Oak, 102cm, Edinburgh RdW, Mimi Hamilton**

Driving north on Edinburgh Rd up hill from Waterloo Ave. this tree dominates majestically, appears to reach over the street.



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**Red Oak, 153cm,**

**Wellington St S**

**Bill Mungall**

There is a large lightning scar that the tree recovered from. It is the only oak in a cedar/buckthorn forest

**Tulip Tree, 44cm,**

**3 Blackbird Cr,**

**Magee McGuire**

Historical significance. A Carolinian species-perhaps future survivor for the climate forests. Absolutely amazing and unique flower.

**Tulip Tree, 89cm,**

**41 Grange Rd**

**Anne Bawden**

On the site/home of the Yeats family whose home was built in 1903, (owners of the Royal Dairy)

**Willow sp.,**

**Hanlon Blvd. west of Wellington Park Terrace**

**JeanFeasby**

From my fourth floor apartment at Wellington Park Terrace overlooking the busy Hanlon Expressway, I am fortunate to be looking out my window at a veritable forest of Willow trees, an endangered species in many places.

Apparently the reason they thrive here is because of the water table that runs along this side of the Hanlon. Since my view is to the west I have a magnificent view of the ever-changing sky where I can see the work of the creator as well.



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**Willow sp.,**

**Royal City Park, at foot of Mary St.,  
Leanne Piper**

The Two Willows

Near the foot of Mary Street, between the river and Water Street, are two old willow trees. These are the only two trees that remains of a grove of willows that formed part of the "flats", before the embankment of Royal City Park was built between Gow's Bridge and the Gordon Street Bridge.

At the bottom of Mary Street was a ditch between Water Street and the river, which was originally excavated as a mill race for Gow's Mill. The area was a popular swimming hole for the children of Brooklyn, and was referred to by the locals as "The Willows Bath House". In the 1870's, there was such an issue with naked children bathing in the river, that the Guelph Police employed Sgt. Dooley to patrol its banks. After the city bought the land, "The Willows" bathhouse was constructed as an officially sanctioned swimming area for "bathers wearing proper suits".

**White Elm, 119cm, Watson Rd SW side 700m above Conservation Rd,  
Stephen Kilburn**

This is an outstanding tree. It is all on its own on the roadside which has probably preserved it from Dutch Elm Disease. If you know it is there you can see its top protruding above all others from Jones Baseline. I'm not certain if it is officially within city limits or whether this matters for this contest.



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**Black Walnut, 99cm**

**33 Delhi St**

**Stephen Kilburn**

This is a wonderful tree. It seems to embrace you and the backyards of 29 and 33 Delhi St when you look up at it from underneath.

**Dawn Redwood, 78cm**

**St. George's Church**

**Ken Marchant**

This tree is critically endangered in the wild. It is a perfect specimen, best in Guelph. It was thought to be extinct but a small stand was found in 1944 in China.

**Birch/Hemlock, 48cm**

**Laird Rd. Hanlon Creek**

**Silvie Fojtik**

It is a real treat as it produces exceptional quantities and quality of fruit each year. Happy hunting.

This tree is unusual because it is two trees molded in one. Other: It is about to be cut if the city goes ahead with the business park.

**Butternut,**

**15 Aberdeen St,**

**Bunny Safari**

Best tree in Guelph. In the backyard at 15 Aberdeen Street. It is an English Butternut and is at least 60 years old. We recently had it lovingly maintained by Arbourist Doug Steel, who informed us it is the best example of this species in Guelph.





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**Ironwood, 57cm**

**81 Koch Dr**

**Gwen Weeks**

As an ecologist, I spend a lot of time outdoors surveying natural areas. My ironwood is by far the largest I have ever seen. Even more interesting is that it has survived (so far) in an urban backyard in a relatively new subdivision. It has exceptional knobs also. In speaking to a friend at the arboretum, he told me that a similar tree was estimated by an old-growth specialist to be approximately 500 years old. This beautiful old tree, who has already survived so much, deserves to be recognized and protected if possible. I have named the tree "Muriel", after a family friend who lived to 94 and was similarly gnarled with age : ) Please give me a call and come see it.

**Horse-Chestnut, 79cm**

**Quebec St, corner of Knox Church**

**Laura Murr**

In 1905, this tree was already of fair caliper. It has unique, contorted branches and buttressed roots typical of older trees.

**Dawn Redwood, 73cm**

**UofG War. Mem. Hall**

**Karen McKeown**

When I was a student at the UofG, and taking a treeID course this tree was the first Latin name that I remembered because I liked the sound of it. This course started me on my life-long love of trees.

**Catalpa, 62cm Riverside Park – near floral clock** **Adam Sanvido**

I like the shape of the leaves and that they are fuzzy feeling.



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**Basswood,**

**126 Ptarmigan Dr.**

**Janet Dalglish**

The tree is a mighty American Basswood (*Tilia Americana*), located on the back edge of our property line at 126 Ptarmigan Drive. We look over to the old Kortright Waterfowl Park, and the farmed land immediately behind us is owned by the GRCA. (see attached picture) Because of the sloping configuration of our lot, it has not been possible to ascertain the height of the tree...suffice to say it is big! There are three trunks which together have a radius of at least 6 feet (nearly 2 m)...I'm unable to measure more accurately as they are behind the fence and access is difficult. My reason for nominating the tree is its size and probable age. Before our area was developed, the land sloped down from the Niska hill to the ancient floodplain and judging from the quantity of stones excavated, the tree would have been part of the old hedge-line/field boundary, so I would judge it to be a remnant of the early cultivated landscape, if not even older.

**Manitoba Maple, 85cm**

**Mollison Park**

**Laura Murr**

Massive trunk with buttressed roots. Only tree in the park that produced seed in drought of 2007.

**Norway Spruce, 61cm**

**207 Speedvale Ave. E**

**M. Fortin**

Nominated for its contribution to quality of life at 207 Speedvale Ave.



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**Eastern Redbud,**

**7 Yeadon Dr.,**

**Anne Hendrie**

My favorite Guelph tree(s) (this doesn't actually meet the criteria of large trees for this year's contest, but I wanted to tell the story anyway)

The late Victor Chanasyk, who lived at 64 Woodside Dr., was the founding professor of University of Guelph's department of Landscape Architecture. His property backs onto mine at 7 Yeadon Drive. One day about 4 years ago, Victor dropped by and asked if I would like an Eastern Redbud to plant in my front yard. I accepted his offer with alacrity. We planted it and have nurtured it, and it is still just a wee thing that has not yet started to bloom.

However, it was only after he gave us that tree, that I realized that over the past several years, he has been distributing his carefully nurtured redbud saplings to each household on Woodside, and that he had only recently started beautifying Yeadon Drive. Sadly, he died before the whole of Yeadon had been blessed with Redbuds.

Each spring however, when the Redbuds along Woodside bloom, it is a sight to behold, and a wonderful gift of springtime beauty that Victor has given us. No doubt in his many years of landscape architecture, he has beautified many other places, but our neighbourhood owes Victor Chanasyk a debt of gratitude for his foresight. As his wife Lillian told me, these little trees were like his children. They are his legacy.



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**Silver Maple, 114cm**

**University Ave. E**

**Helen Marr-Cass**

Unusual, "its wrapped around a huge steel t-bar! It must be really OLD - it's HUGE!", this tree has amazing powers!!!

**Maple sp., 2 1/2 arm spans**

**Jean Little PS**

**Joanne MacKinnon**

This tree is in a group of trees dividing the school/park. It is a favourite place for shelter for kids, dog walkers, hidden fortress lovers, in a clearing in the trees where kids can hang out and hide."

**Red Oak, 66cm,**

**54 Talbot St,**

**June Crewson**

Reason for nomination: Two very long lower branches. Also unusual foliage that turns to a wonderful burgundy colour in fall. This tree was brought from the Maritimes about 1956 I was told. Acorns never mature?

**Magnolia, 23cm**

**2-4 Grange St,**

**Kelly Rupil**

I love the tree for its strength and beauty of its form. The amount of foliage throughout the summer is a cool retreat. I also enjoy watching all the creatures that thrive in its ecosystem.