



Guelph's Great Tree Hunt 2018

All submitted stories

Diameter in cm Submitted by

Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum

16 Harcourt Drive

Simon Wildeboer

The tree originally belonged to Summer Hill Estate with its house at 25 Harcourt Drive. The Sutherland Family who started the insurance company established the property. Later the Neeve brothers took over the holding. The maple may have originally been a marker for a field or a laneway.

Silver Maple

Acer saccharinum

146 Marksam Road

Charlotte Coates and Susan (2 nominations)

Youth in the neighbourhood would hide in this tree during games after school, it was a gathering point for the youth attending Westwood Public School.

556 circumference

785 York Road

Norah Chaloner

over 100 years ago, this tree was left alone and not harvested for lumber needed to build the Ontario Reformatory here (which housed up to 100 inmates who learned maybe trades as they served their sentence) Why was the tree left? It provided shade for the inmates after working in the fields growing all the institutions food. It gave shade to hundreds of wounded veterans of WWI! As they walked the grounds of the site when it was used alternately as the Speedwell hospital. This was a federal military hospital from 1916 - 1921 since it was already set up with trade training for rehabilitating men. The tree is now in full beauty and various groups enjoy its shade while walking along the Blue dot trail of the future Yorklands Greenhub

785 York Road

Norah Chaloner

this beautiful tree was here before the Ontario Reformatory was established in 1911. It was on one of the original farms outside of Guelph that were bought up to establish this site for inmate reformation. It sits on the blue dot trail of the proposed Yorklands Green Hub and is a beautiful specimen at the southern corner of the elliptical trail that would have been used by guards on horseback supervising the inmates working the fields of vegetables. Most of the trees on this property were removed for the building material and for agriculture. Since the reformatory was turned into a military hospital from 1916-1921, I imagine some of the returning wounded veterans from WWI, who were rehabilitated on this site, enjoyed some cool shade and calm under this tree.

White Elm*Ulmus americana*

63 Alice Street

Mike Darmon

I assume it is one of the few surviving large Elm trees in Guelph
It is located beside the sidewalk and according to the homeowner is both on private and city property.
It is so large that it hard not to notice it when you walk down the Street.

Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation(GCATO and 2 Rivers Festival recently co hosted " TREES ,Bkes and a Pint ,a tribute to the late Henry Kock"

About 50 people rode to various locations including the Arboretum to listen to Sean Fox from the Arboretum tell stories about the different trees.

We rode to Alice St and one could not help but notice even from a distance the unique shape of this grand elm .The homeowners were enjoying a drink with some friends under the shade of the tree which is situated by the sidewalk .Sean explained to us about the loss of the Elms and how the Arboretum is trying to breed Elms that are resistant to disease.

He also spoke about Henry and his love for trees ,bikes and a great pint of beer.

I recently biked back to measure the Elm but first knocked on the door of the homeowner to her permission.I met the mother and daughter.The mother said that at some point someone tried to kill the tree(unsuccessfully) and that it had survived the recent road rebuilding .Its circumference is so large at just over 13 ft that I had to ask a young man to assist me to hold on

Bur Oak*Quercus macrocarpa*

59 Martin Avenue

Cathy downer

This magnificent Bur Oak resides on the same property as our house, known as 'The Haven' built in 1913. The tree is in the Brooklyn and College Hill Heritage District – Guelph's first heritage district. I believe it to be a tree of heritage significance as bur oaks are the only native oak species that are indigenous to the Guelph area and this one is very large in size and is within a heritage district. We have photos from the 1940's showing this tree standing beside a laneway leading to the barn in the centre lot behind our house. On many of the surrounding properties, there are younger bur oaks which I am sure are offspring to this grand lady. The largest Bur Oak in the 1991 Great Tree Hunt is just a stone's throw from our house in Royal City Park. Unfortunately the bur oak in the park is no longer alive but is recognized by the large tree stump left behind as a monument. Our tree stood much taller at that time, reaching at height of 33.5 metres versus 29 metres for the one in the park. We don't have current data on height. I am sure these 2 trees are related. The significant height and spread of limbs across our back yard and into neighbouring yards create a sense of being in a natural, green cathedral. The stately bur oak, due to its strong overarching presence, was the major factor in purchasing our home, aptly named 'The Haven'.

Tulip Tree*Liriodendron tulipifera*

50 Stone Road E

Laura Lee Mazzocca

This beautiful tree is located across from the Italian Garden in the Arboretum, University. It's beautiful flowers bloom in the late spring, early summer.

Maple sp.*Acer sp.*

146 Marksam Road

Susan

I am nominating a huge tree in Marksam park about 100 yards in on the path from Westwood Road. It is a straight up and down tree and we measured approximately at 5 feet height
It measures 17 feet around
This is the silver maple that was also nominated by Charlotte Coates

500 Wellington Street W

Nadine Maloney

I tend to never take pictures of trees but I made an exception on July 20th, 2017 when my family and I went out for a late afternoon walk along our favourite trail- the Guelph Humane Society Trailhead and this beauty caught our eye. We all stopped and agreed that this tree was particularly expansive and beautiful. The "King of the Forest" we told my two year old son, who especially loves to stop and look up at big trees and look for the animals and birds that hide in them. I snapped this picture on my android phone of my husband and 6 month old son admiring its beauty. I saw this competition advertised on Facebook shortly afterwards so I figured, why not!
452 circumference??

Catalpa*Catalpa speciosa*

29 Hastings Boulevard

Brenda Plater

This tree was grown from seed in Collingwood by a friend of my mother-in-law who planted it in her back yard in the early sixties. When their house was going to be torn down we dug up the tree and planted in our back yard where it has thrived. It is covered in beautiful flowers every year in mid to late June after which the beans start to grow. (323 circumference?)
It provides shade in our back yard which has allowed me to create a lovely perennial garden under the tree.
We have had robins and doves nest in our tree. The squirrels and chip monks love it. In the spring when the flowers under the tree are blooming we have humming birds flitting about as well as bees.
I will submit a picture as well

Purple Beech*Fagus sylvatica 'purpurea'*

785 York Road

Norah Chaloner

this tree has embellished the property of the Guelph correctional Centre for many decades 80 or 90 years . It is the only beech left on the property which once had hundreds of beech and maple and other native species. It is opposite the superintendants house at the edge of the circular drive

Corkscrew Willow*Salix matsudana*

348 Kathleen Street

Janice Holley

She's a gem! Perfectly situated on the property we were viewing to purchase, a spectacular corkscrew willow really defined the space with majesty. And sealed the decision! The tree (and house) was ours. We already appreciated how corkscrews complimented the urban forest with interesting texture, landscape value and drought tolerant features from growing a seedling to maturity on previous property. This beauty had not been pruned for years but we owned it now, and refurbished her to glory.

Providing filtered shade for pool, trampoline and hot tub activities, a vista to behold whether lying on the trampoline stargazing underneath through airy branches, or the bedroom view of its ornamental multi-stemmed base, it provides an oasis for relaxation. As a habitat tree for squirrels, chipmunks, robins, cardinals, blue jays, woodpeckers, sparrows, black birds and chickadees, its long willowy branches are perfect for leaping and flying.

The 2013 ice storm claimed one-third of the upper branches. We thought the shape of the tree was lost forever. After recycling its distinctive twisted fallen branches for attractive ornamental home décor, we witnessed full tree regeneration by 2015 with abundant growth of new branches. One would never know that damage occurred.

The 2017 wet spring spread canker quickly. An arborist advised that our leafless tree was dying or already dead and acknowledged that this was a rare find in Guelph for its age, 49 years, and size, 60'. Despite this grim prognosis, our resilient and beloved tree was restored to splendor within a month and continues to thrive! Given its 30-50 year lifespan, we are nurturing her offspring with potted seedlings. They too, shall salute a matriarchal majesty for years to come!
