



The Great Urban Tree Hunt

by Dr Andy Kenney, Past President

Heritage buildings are recognized as important links to the historic past of many communities. Heritage trees can play a similar role. Paul Aird, Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto has defined a heritage tree (or plant) as:

"an outstanding specimen because of size, form, shape, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution, or other distinctive features; a distinctive community landmark; a specimen associated with a historic person, place, event or period; a representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors that is at risk of disappearing from cultivation; a specimen recognized by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition."

The OUFC is embarking on a program to encourage communities to identify heritage trees within their jurisdiction. *The Great Urban Tree Hunt* will be a fun but informative way for neighbourhood groups to see how those special trees that add to the character of their neighbourhood measure up to those in other communities across the province. We hope to be able to link the results of *The Great Urban Tree Hunt* with the Ontario Forestry Association's Honour Roll of Trees. For more information about how you or your community can become involved, contact the OUFC.