



Heritage Trees Designated in Highland Creek

The first trees in Ontario to be designated under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act were several century old Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) in Highland Creek, Scarborough.

When first proposed for designation, legal opinion stated that living things such as trees could not be designated under the Heritage Act. Rick Schofield, Chairman of the Scarborough LACAC since 1974, challenged that opinion stating that only "property" could be designated and that could include buildings, trees and landscapes. "Property" is designated and then the reasons for designation describe what on the property is to be protected.

The designated "property" in Highland Creek contained five heritage trees, four black walnut trees having a diameter of at least 700 mm and one sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) having a diameter of 600 mm. Several tree experts examine the site and all agreed the trees were special.

The five trees are now protected by City bylaw under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act and all proposed invasive activity beneath the drip line must be approved and monitored by the City, just as alterations to a building must be approved.