



## Canada's Noble Specimens

One arboreal gem, a stand of fully-stocked old growth pure white pine 250 to 300 years old, was identified in a remote area of northern Ontario .

Another arboreal gem, a “scraggly, mangy-looking red spruce” 445 years old, was found in an undisclosed ancient grove in New Brunswick . These two finds represent nature’s ultimate survivors. They are part of our precious natural heritage and need our protection so that they will continue as a legacy for future generations.

Foresters working north of Thunder Bay found the glorious stand of white pine and acted immediately to enlist the support of many citizens, organizations and corporations to ensure its preservation. This stand is now protected and known as the Greenwood Lake White Pine Conservation Reserve. <http://www.borealforest.org/greenwood/>

Ben Philips, an environmental studies and geography student at Mount Allison University , discovered the other thriving ancient remnant which is reputed to be the world’s oldest red spruce. While he is not forthcoming about its location he tells his story in the January/February 2006 edition of *Canadian Geographic* .

Truly, these trees are living examples of the heritage trees definition adopted by the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance whose task is the production of a toolkit to assist communities in identifying and protecting heritage trees:

*Heritage Tree: a noble specimen because of its size, form, shape, beauty, age, colour, variety, genetic constitution or other distinctive features; a living relic that displays evidence of cultural modification by Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal people including strips of bark or knot-free wood removed, test hole cut to determine soundness, furrows cut to collect pitch or sap, blazes to mark a trail; a prominent community landmark; a specimen associated with a historic person, place or event or period; a representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors that is at risk of disappearing from cultivation; a tree associated with local folklore, myths, legends or traditions; a specimen identified by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition.*

(Courtesy of Paul Aird, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto )

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