

Planting Instructions

Step 1 — Choose Your Site

White oaks prefer to be planted in sunny locations. The trees can tolerate many soil conditions but prefer a moist, well-draining and acidic soil. Be sure when choosing a site to select a location that has plenty of room for the tree to grow and mature. Though slow growing, white oaks can live for 400 to 600 years and can reach 100 ft tall with canopies stretching from 50 to 80 feet in circumference so the trees should be planted at a minimum of 25 ft from buildings.

Step 2 — Dig In

Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the sapling's entire root structure.

Step 3 — Root Care

Place the sapling firmly but gently in the hole. The area on the sapling that was flush with the earth in the pot should be absolutely level with the surface of the soil in the ground. Do not plant any deeper or any shallower. The bottom of the root ball should rest solidly on the earth, but take care not to crush the root system by pushing it down into the ground too hard.

Step 4 — Securing The Sapling

Fill the hole in with the surrounding dirt. Pack the dirt down gently but firmly, and then use your foot to lightly press the soil down around the tree being careful not to touch the trunk. This ensures no air pockets remain around the roots that will encourage rot.

Step 5 — Water

Water the white oak sapling thoroughly immediately after planting so it can begin to establish roots in its new location. Although oak trees will not need to be watered after becoming established, they should be watered regularly during the first two growing seasons if there has been no rain.

Step 6 — Mulch!

Mulch the tree well. Mulch should be placed in a donut shape with no mulch touching the trunk of the tree. The mulch should be

several inches thick and the diameter should be about 4'. The tree should be kept well mulched for several years.

Step 7 — Lawn Equipment

Keep weedwackers and lawnmowers away from the delicate trunk. Damage from weed whackers and lawnmowers are the main causes of death to young trees.

Resources

To learn more about the how the Great White Oak on Bronte was saved by 86-year-old retired schoolteacher Joyce Burnell and her committee go to the short documentary 'The Last Oaks in Oakville' by Susan Poizner at <http://treestory.wordpress.com/episodes/>

For a short video by Andy Stark about the saplings go to <http://vimeo.com/25483801>

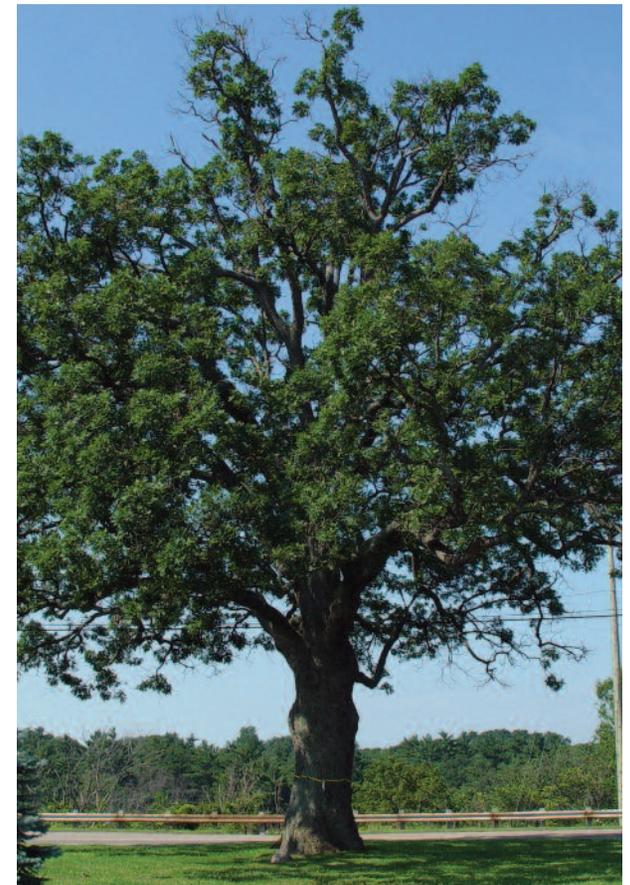


 **Oakvillegreen**
Conservation Association

Protecting nature where you live

**For info or to join go to:
www.oakvillegreen.org**

Your Sapling From Bronte's Great White Oak



**Thank you for preserving
our living history!**

History of the Great White Bronte Oak

The Great White Oak Sapling you have purchased was grown from seed collected by Oakvillegreen members in the fall of 2009 from the officially designated historic Great White Oak at 1179 Bronte Road in front of the Regional Centre.

This 260-year-old tree is one of only five white oaks remaining in Oakville that predate European settlement.

In 1750, when this tree began to grow, the industrial revolution was just beginning in Europe, the American revolution hadn't started and Canada was still 117 years away from becoming a country. Oakville hadn't yet been founded but when it was, more than 50 years later, it was partly because of the many white oaks in the area that the British prized for shipbuilding.

The Bronte White Oak was lucky to have survived the logging that felled virtually all of its contemporaries. However you might say, that even though it was out of the woods, it wasn't out of danger.

In recent decades, the magnificent Bronte Oak was twice saved from destruction through the hard work of citizens.

In the 1970s, when the tree was threatened by utility work, property owner George Atkins got the Province to agree that "every possible precaution will be taken to guard the safety of the tree."

The tree survived and became a significant Oakville landmark with its prominent position in front of the Regional Centre.

But in 2006, a new danger loomed. The Region wanted to expand Bronte Road and they said the tree would have to come down.

That's when an 86-year-old retired school teacher, writer and historian Joyce Burnell stepped into the fray. Encouraged by Ward 4 Regional Councillor Allan Elgar, Burnell rallied support and funds to save the tree. School children collected coins, singer Sarah Harmer



Children on a Oakvillegreen-sponsored Urban Forest Tour help gather acorns of the Bronte Oak in the fall of 2009

held a concert and finally the Town, the Region and the Province came together to save the tree.

Today, Bronte Road divides and flows around what former University of Toronto forestry professor Erik Jorgensen described as "a most beautiful and valuable tree".

White Oaks: Interesting Facts

- The White Oak feeds almost 500 species of insects and animals. White Oaks are air-pollinated.
- The oldest surviving White Oak in North America is the 400-year-old tree in Tanglewood Park North Carolina.
- The oldest recorded White Oak in Canada was 560 years old when it was cut down in Hamilton in 1837.

At right: retired teacher, historian and activist Joyce Burnell

