

## Special Tree-Care Event Hosted By The Thornbury East Neighbourhood!

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Tree Trust TBM hosted a tree care day at 19 Elgin Street East in Thornbury. Truthfully, however, the homeowners who share the same ground as this majestic tree were the real hosts.

Often several ingredients magically come together to make a successful event and September 1<sup>st</sup> was one of those special occasions: a unique legacy tree plus dedicated homeowners as hosts plus neighbours who came out to support the effort plus highly skilled professional arborists to demonstrate the art of tree care.

**First, our hosts.** A few months ago, the homeowners at 19 Elgin Street alerted Tree Trust to a special tree in need of life-extending care on town property at the corner of their lot. Joanne and David are Tree Trust supporters and have volunteered in Tree Trust planting events. On the tree care day, they made all the accommodations necessary for safe access to the tree, welcomed Tree Trust and community members, and offered treats for participants to enjoy! Thank you, Joanne and David.

**Second, the tree.** At more than 19 metres tall, with a canopy spread of 18 metres and with a trunk diameter of 1050 mm, this beautiful sugar maple is estimated to be at least 100 years old, and potentially much, much older. It's a prime example of why tree care is so important. It's a sound and healthy mature tree with some structural issues that, if managed properly, will help extend its life by several decades.

**Third, the community.** Neighbours and Tree Trust supporters from all over TBM enjoyed the show and took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions and learn from the tree-care pros. Once again, community members demonstrated that residents have a deep commitment and interest in maintaining our legacy trees that provide us with so many aesthetic and ecological benefits.

**Fourth, our arborists.** The Tree Trust arborist team from Arboreal Tree Care showed off their climbing skills and expertise in tree pruning. Tobias Effinger demonstrated and explained some of the complex analysis and skillful care that goes into pruning older trees to ensure continued vitality.

Thank you to all our donors who help fund the expert care of special legacy trees across TBM. We couldn't carry out this specialized tree care without donor support. So far, we have cared for ten legacy trees since our inception in 2020. This includes three trees this year – two on Napier Street East earlier this summer, as well as the Elgin Street tree. For information or to donate go to [www.treetrust.ca](http://www.treetrust.ca) and go to the TBM chapter page or email [tbm@treetrust.ca](mailto:tbm@treetrust.ca)



## The Master Gardener's Corner

Things to do in your garden each month taken from the Ontario Master Gardener Calendar by John Hethrington, Past President, Master Gardeners of Ontario. For more information, or your copy of the 11" x 17" calendar of the full year's tips for a \$2 contribution to Master Gardeners, call 519-599-5846.



### October 2023

After a warm, no, it was a HOT summer, plus some lovely summer days in September, FALL is definitely here with a possible risk of FROST.

There is much talk in the fall about "Putting Your Garden to Bed", I think they mean preparing your garden for the winter. There is an annual argument among gardeners as to whether you should cut back your perennials, ornamental grasses, etc., in the fall, or leave them tall for "winter interest", and to feed the birds. However, up here, most perennials are covered by 2 feet of snow, so you can't see them anyway and there are no seedheads for the birds.

Spring Clean-Up can be daunting. There may be wet weather, or a late spring. For these reasons, I am opting for a BIG FALL CLEAN-UP again this year to get a jump on spring 2024.

I say it's time to trim back perennials and divide them as needed for your garden, or to give to your neighbours, or to pot them up now and put them back in the ground for the St. George's plant sale in June 2024. Plant donors get an Income Tax Receipt for the value their plants sell for, if you donate 15 or more plants.

- When digging and potting up, always make sure it is a cool, cloudy day and add bone meal fertilizer to the pots, or to your new plantings.
- Remember, October is a great time to plant perennials. They get a big jump on plants planted next spring.
- Buy and plant spring flowering bulbs. Add a little bulb fertilizer, like bone meal, to the bottom of the hole and add water to the hole to get the bulb's roots started. Your efforts NOW will bring big dividends in April and May 2024.
- For a longer bulb bloom season, plant a variety of bulbs, like winter aconite, snow drops and crocus to start the season. You can also plant early, middle and late blooming tulips and daffs for a much longer bulb season.
- Place chicken wire just under the surface of the soil over any tulip bulbs you plant. The squirrels will hate you. Daffs should not need this protection.
- If there is an early frost warning this fall, cover tender annuals overnight with an old bed sheet. They should make it through the night and keep on blooming.
- Bring in house plants when the evenings start to cool down, or if you get a frost warning. First, give them a thorough spray with insecticidal soap, so that there are no unwanted hitchhikers coming into your home.
- Fertilize lawns with a "high" first number, no "second" number and lower "third" number or with a "Fall Formula" fertilizer. Don't use that fertilizer left over from the spring.
- Start cutting your grass much lower than in summer to avoid winter matted long grass next spring that you will have to rake out.
- Water shrubs, evergreens and trees weekly and deeply at least until frost.
- Buy Triple-19 fertilizer NOW and store it, so you will have it to put on your garden beds right after the snow has gone next spring. It's available now at the Markdale CO-OP (519-986-2031) for \$29.40 for a 50-pound bag.



**tree trust.ca**  
**Tree-of-the-Year,**  
**Meaford**

One tree has stood out from among a half dozen trees that were nominated for the Meaford Tree Trust inaugural designation of Tree-of-the-Year, a lone super tall sycamore tree that towers over the monument to Beautiful Joe in Meaford's Beautiful Joe Park.



The tree's origin is a mystery. Its location this far north is surprising. The fact that it is thriving and that Tree Trust has chosen it as its Tree-of-the-Year is "auspicious", according to Tree Trust arborist Tobias Efflinger. "Not only is it a grand tree but choosing this sycamore is timely," he said. "Sycamores are Carolinian. The Carolinian trees are moving north, south, east and west - the change is not linear. The fact that we have a Carolinian species here suggests that we have good genetic soils and they will survive here."

Tree Trust is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the biggest and best urban trees. The organization raises funds to hire arborists who keep the trees healthy and extend their lifespans through measures such as pruning, fertilizing and insect control.

Legacy trees are key players in the fight against climate change. They are the carbon sequestering giants in the battle against climate change. Grey County is blessed with an assortment of legacy trees, some less notable than others, some in more or less healthy condition, yet so many of which loom tall in the hearts of those who have a personal connection to them. Meaford Tree Trust set out in June to designate one such tree as the 2023 Tree-of-the-Year.

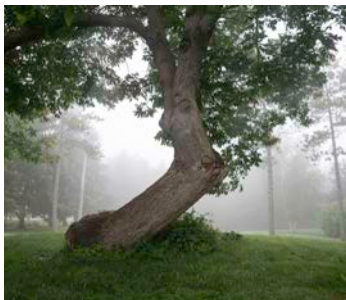
"The program was sponsored by Echo Foundation. We received six nominations, all of them certainly worthy, each with its own appeal. The nominations included a rare specimen of a sycamore tree, a spirited 'laydown' tree, a giant cottonwood tucked away on a side trail, a pine tree that conjured up a fantasy world, a statuesque willow, and a beech tree that glows in the late afternoon sun."

"Choosing one over the others was not an easy task."

**Pine Tree:** St Vincent Hwy 26 intersection: This pine tree stands in a cluster of pine trees that could date back a century or more. The tree's branches sweep upward seemingly to cradle woodland creatures, real or imaginary, and offer them sanctuary at this busy intersection.



**'Laydown' Ash:** Peggy's House: Property owner Peggy McIntosh speaks of a spiritual connection to this 'laydown' ash tree on her property on the escarpment. The tree seems to have twisted and turned to face the bay. Rather than reaching upward, the tree



trunk grew parallel to the ground, twisting and turning, till it faced the Georgian Bay, then extended upward, like a beacon.

**Gargantuan Cottonwood:** 22 feet in circumference: Cottonwoods are known to grow to be big trees but this one is a puzzlement. Why did this cottonwood remain standing when other trees in the area were

felled? This cottonwood is worth taking a short hike along one of the Bruce Trail side trails on the Bayview Escarpment Provincial Nature Reserve. Approximately one kilometre north of the junction of Sideroad 22 and the 11th Line, you will see, on the right, a blue sign that aptly reads Cottonwood Trail. Half to three quarters of kilometre in, look toward the southeast and you will notice the crown of the cottonwood looming over the other trees.



**Beech Tree:** Lakeview Cemetery: Slick bark, sprawling branches, and translucent leaves - this beech tree is a treasure to photograph in all seasons. The beech tree is precariously located next to the cemetery office at the edge of the pond. So far, it has stood fast despite the weight of its sprawling branches.



**Willow:** Grand, graceful: The Olivet Baptist Church is home to a grand and graceful-looking willow that claims a large portion of the property bordering on Ivan and Augusta Streets. Willow trees are not easy to maintain, but this one has been lovingly manicured over the years.



For information contact Pete Russell at [meaford@treetrust.ca](mailto:meaford@treetrust.ca).

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