



# Dundas Valley Tree Keepers' HERITAGE TREE HUNT May-September 2009



The hunt is on to find the most notable trees in the Dundas valley. The Dundas Valley Tree Keepers (DVTK), with support from Environment Hamilton, are organizing a Heritage Tree Hunt. The DVTK is a group of community volunteers who are passionate about the trees of the Dundas Valley, an area endowed with a large number and variety of trees in both urban and rural settings. Over the past two years the DVTK has organized several public information sessions on the appreciation and care of trees. The sessions about gypsy moth control were especially popular. The DVTK's main project for 2009 is the Heritage Tree Hunt. Oakville, South Simcoe and Centre Wellington have all conducted successful heritage tree hunts and the DVTK is building on the experience of these groups.

The aim of the Heritage Tree Hunt is to identify important local trees and to make us all more aware of these community treasures. The DVTK invite the public to nominate any tree that is treasured for its beauty, place in history, flower, fruit, ecological importance, association with special memories, or because it provides a special spot to relax or play.

The Heritage Tree Hunt covers the town of Dundas, the surrounding valley and adjacent parts of the escarpment comprising urban, rural and natural areas. This area includes the Dundas Valley, Spring Creek, Borer's Falls, Spencer's Gorge, Crooks Hollow and Christie conservation areas.

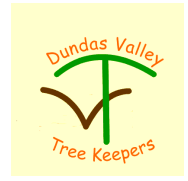


The area is bounded:

- on the north, by Hwy #5 (from Hwy #52 to Hwy #6);
- on the east, by Hwy #6 (from Hwy #5 south to Hwy #403), the North Shore of Cootes Paradise (to Cootes Drive) and Cootes Drive (to Main Street West);
- on the south, by Main Street West (to Wilson Street - Hwy #2), Wilson Street (to Jerseyville Road) and Jerseyville Road (to Hwy #52);
- on the west, by Hwy #52 (from Jerseyville Road to Hwy #5).



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People living in this area are invited to nominate one or more of their favourite trees in the following categories:

- Native tree (e.g., American basswood, silver maple, red maple, sugar maple, white pine, hickory, black walnut, oak, tulip tree, American beech)
- Rare tree (e.g., cucumber magnolia, Kentucky coffee tree, American elm, chinquapin oak)
- Large tree (wide &/or tall)
- Tree with distinct form
- Group of trees (pair, row, grove or collection of trees)
- Flowering tree
- Tree with outstanding fall colour
- Historical landmark (e.g., a tree that is very old; appears in early pictures of the area; is associated with an historic event, person or property, an old road or track, or an Aboriginal settlement)
- Tree with a story (People are invited to submit a story related to them, their family, the neighbourhood or local history. Did something historical happen around the tree? Does it fit prominently into your family history? Did it survive unusual odds?)
- Kid-friendly tree (a tree that is good to play in, under or around).

Nomination forms are available at the Carnegie Gallery (10 King St. West, Dundas), The Dundas Museum & Archives (139 Park St. West, Dundas) and the DVTK web site ([www.dundastrees.ca](http://www.dundastrees.ca)). Nominations may be dropped off at the Carnegie Gallery, The Dundas Museum & Archives or mailed to Heritage Tree Hunt, P.O. Box 89002, 991 King St. West, Hamilton, ON, L8S 4R5 or faxed to 905-628-6101. Entries will be accepted until September 15th, 2009. There are no limits on the number of trees that an individual may nominate and no cost to enter the contest.

Volunteers from the DVTK will examine nominated trees to record information about the tree (species, height, trunk diameter, canopy width, condition). Final judging will be conducted by a panel of experts who will determine the best trees in each category and overall. Winning entries will be announced at a public celebration in October 2009.

For more information about the DVTK and the Heritage Tree Hunt, or to volunteer to help identify and examine trees, go to the DVTK website where you can also send an email or phone co-ordinator Katie West at 905-628-3707.