

Heritage Tree Book Project Update for PACAC

Sheryl Loucks, an award-winning journalist has been hired by GreenUP on behalf of the project partners for the multi-faceted role of coordinating this project in addition to being the writer/editor. In the first few weeks of the project she has:

- Identified potential members of a steering committee and has started recruitment.
- A timeline for the different stages required in the publishing process has been established.
- Other volunteer roles for assistant researchers, story collectors, promotions, sales, and the book launch have been created and she is working with GreenUP's volunteer coordinator Laurel Atkinson to begin the recruitment process.
- The early stages of a marketing and promotions plan have been developed and she is working with GreenUP's communication's officer to identify prospects.
- A few possible printers for the book have been identified and requests for detailed printing estimates will soon go out.
- A brief comparative book review has been done.
- She is working with Vern Bastable at GreenUP to review the existing database about local notable trees, and has started choosing different trees to further research for the book.
- The research process is now underway.
- She is making contact with groups that may have an interest in the project like the Peterborough Historical Society.

Sheryl welcomes feedback and ideas and can be reached at sheryl.loucks@greenup.on.ca.

GreenUP is looking for stories about heritage trees for new book

Heritage trees have more tales to tell than just the number of rings in their trunks, which is why GreenUP is looking for stories about these living relics for a new book being produced this year.

This project, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, will highlight interesting stories about notable trees to encourage preserving these living landmarks of historical events that shaped the city of Peterborough as well as those that reflect cultural practices of its residents and the changing urban environment these trees have adapted to survive in.

The book is part of a multi-year urban forest program that has resulted in GreenUP staff, and their project partner the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, consulting with city staff on the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan. To support the goals of that plan, the program included the creation of an inventory of heritage trees, a seed propagation program, and a Treasure Tree Hunt that collected personal stories about neighbourhood trees from the public. The Peterborough Historical Society recognized the value of the hunt by awarding the Heritage Tree Project Committee the J. Hampden Burnham Award. The hunt also earned a natural heritage community recognition award from Ontario Heritage Trust in 2010.

Sheryl Loucks has been hired to coordinate the new non-profit book project. The goal is to collect stories this spring and publish the book in time for a December launch. There are several ways to participate in this book project. Loucks is encouraging PACAC members to contact her with stories they wish to share or if they would like to help research details about known heritage trees.

Appendix A

For this project's purpose, heritage trees are exceptional specimens representing the cultural or ecological history of the Peterborough region. Heritage trees are of importance by virtue of such qualities as age, size, form, genetics, rarity, prominence, location, culture, and/or history. This may include individual trees or groups of trees. Culture and history may include: the tree being a prominent community landmark; a specimen associated with an historic person, place, event or period; a representative of a crop grown by ancestors at risk of disappearing; a tree associated with folklore, myths and traditions; or a specimen identified as deserving heritage recognition.

The Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance has created a toolkit on how to assess these trees and other communities have successfully had trees protected with an official heritage designation. A key factor in preserving these heavy lifters in urban forests is collecting their stories. This new book will share some of the extraordinary feats of survival, fascinating facts, and touching stories about some of Peterborough's heritage trees. Readers will also discover how these trees are more than historical signposts as they continue to work for those who live beneath their branches.

For further details about this exciting project and how to participate, please email sheryl.loucks@greenup.on.ca or call 705-745-3238 ext 217.