HERITAGE TREE REGISTRY

CENTRE WELLINGTON

elora environment centre

treetrust.ca

About Tree Trust

Tree Trust is a grassroots organization that works to ensure the health and longevity of urban trees through education, advocacy, community engagement, and collaboration. We are a program of the Elora Environment Centre, a registered charity. We have cared for over 100 trees across our 12 chapter communities in Ontario. Our work is made possible by the dedication of professional arborists and support from hundreds of volunteers across the province.

About the Heritage Tree Registry

The Centre Wellington Heritage Tree Registry is a record of the remarkable trees that shape the character of our community. Each tree in this collection has been recognized for its age, size, ecological value, or place in local history. Together, they tell the story of a landscape that has been growing, changing, and enduring alongside the people of Centre Wellington for generations. This booklet celebrates those trees and the community effort required to keep them standing.

Glossary of Terms

Arborist - A specialist in the care and maintenance of trees

Canopy - The upper layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above

Cavity - Hollow structures found in trees, which can vary in size from small galleries created by wood-boring insects to entirely hollow trunks

Centre Wellington Tree of the Year Contest - An annual community competition that recognizes and celebrates urban trees

DBH - Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), a standard measurement taken at 1.3 meters from the ground, records a living trees diameter

Emerald Ash Borer - Small beetle indigenous to East Asia, invasive in Canada to Ash trees

Mature Tree - A tree that has completed its primary growth and is no longer growing at a rapid pace

Pruning - Cutting away dead, damaged, diseased, or overgrown branches to promote healthier growth and ensure a tree's long-term vitality

Scientific Name - Two-part taxonomic name of an organism consisting of genus and species, often derived from Latin or Greek language

Sucker - Adventitious shoots that grow from the roots or the base of the trunk, sometimes appearing several feet away from the main tree

Vigor - A trees ability to withstand environmental stressors

The Registry

Tree #	Common Name	Scientific Name	Address
1	Red Oak	*Quercus rubra*	390 Provost Lane, Fergus
2	Black Cherry	*Prunus serotina*	Victoria Park, 199 Hill St W, Elora
3	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*	85 McNab St, Elora
4	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*	29 David St W, Elora
5	Red Oak	*Quercus rubra*	35 Wellesley St, Elora
6	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*	70 Mary St, Elora
7	Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*	70 John St, Elora
8	Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*	St. Mary's Cemetery, 343 Wellington Rd 7
9	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*	55 Chruch St, Elora
10	Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*	Wellington Co Museum, 536 Wellington Rd 18, Fergus
11	Black Walnut (x3)	*Juglans nigra*	279 Garafraxa St E, Fergus
12	Black Walnut	*Juglans nigra*	249 Garafraxa St E, Fergus
13	Manitoba Maple	*Acer negundo*	22 York St, Elora
14	Red Oak	*Quercus rubra*	200 Smith St, Elora
15	Black Walnut	*Juglans nigra*	136 Chalmers St, Elora
16	White Ash	*Fraxinus americana*	94 Colborne St, Elora
17	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*	73 McNab St, Elora
18	Bur Oak	*Quercus macrocarpa*	698 St Andrew St, Fergus
19	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*	138 Sideroad 18, Fergus
20	Eastern Cottonwood	*Populus deltoides*	8725 Sideroad 10, Centre Wellington
21	Norway Spruce	*Picea abies*	104 Church St, E., Elora



Common Name: Red Oak
Scientific Name: *Quercus rubra*
Age (years): 160
DBH (cm): 121
Address: 390 Provost Lane, Fergus

Standing at the corner of Provost Lane and Hill Street West in Fergus, the "Hugging Tree" is a 160-year-old Red Oak, 30 meters tall with a 121-centimeter trunk, beloved by the community for generations. Locals, including children who can barely link arms around its massive trunk, are drawn to stop and hug it. It was named Centre Wellington's Tree Trust Tree of the Year in 2024, and for the Wilson family who live beside it, and for the neighbourhood, the tree has become a quiet symbol of strength, connection, and belonging.

Common Name: Black Cherry
Scientific Name: *Prunus serotina*
Age (years): 130
DBH (cm): 154
Address: 98 James St, Victoria Park, Elora

On Earth Day 2024, the community of Centre Wellington gathered in Victoria Park, Elora, to celebrate and care for a remarkable 130-year-old Black Cherry tree. The event, hosted by Tree Trust, included haikus from local school children, live music, and a ceremony led by the mayor and a local historian. Arborist Phil Guenter of Baum Tree Care carried out preservation work on the day, removing deadwood and stabilizing the aging tree to secure its future. The restoration was sponsored by Scott Giddy and stands as a reminder of the community's commitment to protecting its oldest trees for generations to come.





Common Name: Sugar Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*
Age (years): 150
DBH (cm): 114
Address: 85 McNab St, Elora

This 150-year-old Sugar Maple measures 114 centimeters in diameter and is one of the village's quiet legacy trees. Known for its brilliant fall colours and its importance to local wildlife, this tree is hard to miss. Centre Wellington Tree Trust sponsored restoration work in May 2022 to address the structural concerns in the tree, carefully pruning and rebalancing the canopy so the maple can continue shading and beautifying the neighbourhood for years to come.

Common Name: Sugar Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*
Age (years): 160
DBH (cm): 94
Address: 29 David St. W., Elora

The Tree Trust Launch Tree is a mature Sugar Maple whose roots trace back to 1870, when the Elora Park Company planted a double row of maples along what was then a horse-racing ground. On June 1, 2019, it was the site of Tree Trust's inaugural tree care event. Community members gathered to observe professional arborist care aimed at extending this tree's life. Though the program has since grown, this tree remains the one that started it all, a living link between Elora's historic past and a growing movement to protect the mature trees that anchor our communities.



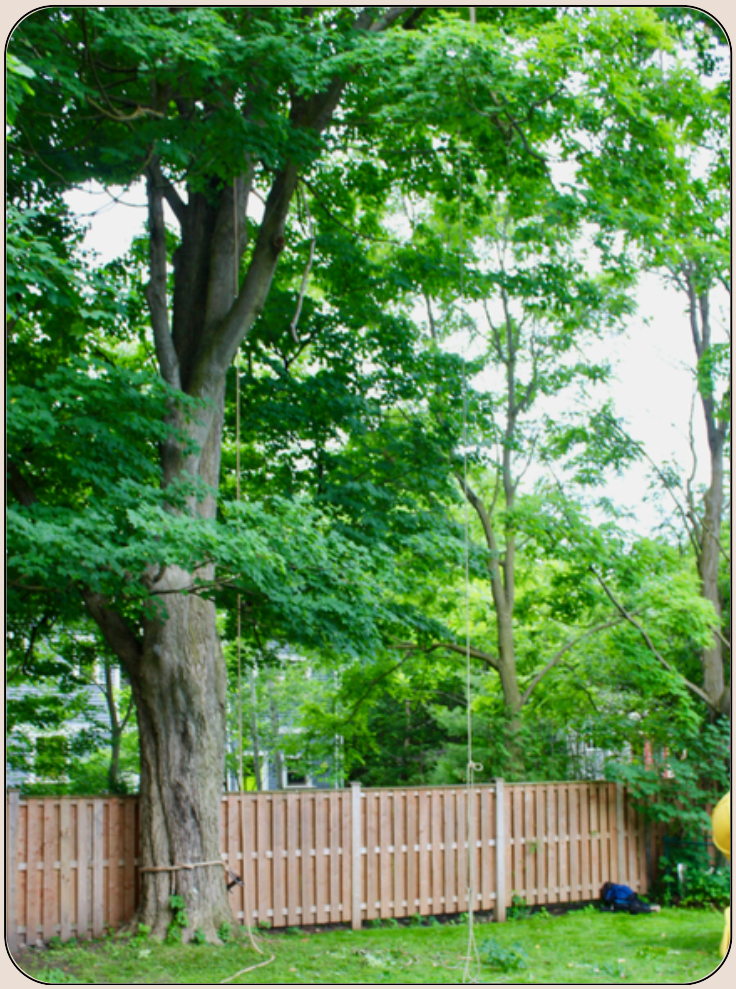


Common Name: Red Oak
Scientific Name: *Quercus rubra*
Age (years): 175
DBH (cm): 105.5
Address: 35 Wellesley St, Elora

Standing at the busy corner of Wellesley and Mill Street East in Elora, this 175-year-old Red Oak became the sixth tree cared for through Tree Trust funding when Baum Tree Care's crew spent a day working on it in February 2020. A major lateral branch had been removed years earlier, leaving the tree with internal decay and an unbalanced canopy. Four years later, in March 2024, Baum returned to find the tree stable but still showing signs of uneven growth. Targeted pruning reduced crown load and improved balance, leaving the tree in better shape and set up for continued monitoring and care.

Common Name: Sugar Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*
Age (years): 125
DBH (cm): 98
Address: 70 Mary St., Elora

Tucked behind a Mary Street home, a 125-year-old Sugar Maple has shaded generations of backyard life. When Certified Arborist Phil Guenter assessed the tree in 2020, he found impressive vigor but some serious concerns: heavy outer growth, a large dead branch, a wound and canker on one stem, and active decay. That June, Centre Wellington Tree Trust sponsored preservation work by Baum Professional Tree Care. The Baum team worked to reduce key stems, rebalance the canopy, and remove major deadwood. The result is a tree standing stronger and better prepared for the decades ahead.





Common Name: Silver Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer saccharinum*
Age (years): 175
DBH (cm): 254
Address: 70 John St., Elora

This 175-year-old Silver Maple shades the home and neighbourhood beneath its sweeping canopy. Tree Trust sponsored conservation work in September 2021, at a moment that felt especially meaningful: the homeowners had just welcomed their first baby, and for their growing family, this ancient tree is a guardian and a living gift to pass on. Funding came from "Tunes for Trees," a benefit concert organized by music professor Brent Rowan and his students at Wilfrid Laurier University, whose generosity helped ensure the tree endures for generations to come.

Common Name: Silver Maple
Scientific Name:
Acer saccharinum
Age (years): 125
DBH (cm): 214
Address: 343 Wellington Rd. 7, Centre Wellington

This Silver Maple's origin is a small mystery. Different theories from arborists suggest that the trunk may be a sucker that sprouted from an even older tree, making it a living continuation of something that came before. Estimated at around 175 years old, it has offered shade and solace to generations of visitors. In 2022, careful pruning helped ease strain on the heavy outer limbs, ensuring this quiet, enduring presence carries on, thanks to the generosity of Giddy Funeral Home.





Common Name: Sugar Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*
Age (years): 150
DBH (cm): 123
Address: 55 Church St., Elora

Church Street in Elora is home to an abundance of large trees, including a 150-year-old Sugar Maple that is a defining feature of the neighbourhood and a living link to the town's early days. When Baum Tree Care assessed the tree in May 2022, they found it in good health overall but with a pocket of decay, a large interior cavity, and some squirrel damage developing in the structure. Careful restorative work that month addressed these concerns through selective pruning and deadwood removal, leaving the tree better balanced and stronger for the years ahead.

Common Name: Silver Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer saccharinum*
Age (years): 100
DBH (cm): 138
Address: 0536 Wellington Rd. 18, Fergus

At the entrance to the Wellington County Museum in Fergus, a 100-year-old Silver Maple has shaded generations of visitors above the historic grounds. Old storm damage has left a cavity and torsional crack along a major limb over the driveway, but careful pruning by Baum Tree Care in April 2023 lightened the load and improved the canopy's balance. It continues to stand as a living landmark, connecting today's visitors to a century of community history, and has even been nominated for Centre Wellington’s Tree of the Year award.





Common Name: Black Walnut (x3)
Scientific Name: *Juglans nigra*
Age (years): 110
DBH (cm): 122
Address: 279 Garafraxa St. E., Fergus

Along this property stand three Black Walnuts, each more than a century old, shading a neighbourhood and the adjacent daycare. When the daycare owner raised concerns about the trees' structural integrity, the response was not removal but care. In early 2024, Tree Trust sponsored tailored conservation pruning on each tree to stabilize them. Thanks to that thoughtful intervention, these three quiet treasures will continue to shade the street, support local wildlife, and stand as living landmarks for years to come.

Common Name: Black Walnut
Scientific Name: *Juglans nigra*
Age (years): 120
DBH (cm): 95
Address: 249 Garafraxa St. E., Fergus

Named Centre Wellington's Tree of the Year 2023, this remarkable Black Walnut has likely watched over the neighbourhood for nearly 120 years. With a trunk measuring 95 centimetres in diameter and a canopy stretching from one edge of the property to the other, it has become a beloved landmark in Centre Wellington. Residents describe stopping to admire its beauty and power, especially from the corner of Gowrie Street where its full scale comes into view. Through every season, the tree offers shade, habitat, beauty, and a strong sense of place, reminding the community how deeply mature trees shape the character of a neighbourhood.





Common Name: Manitoba Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer negundo*
Age (years): 60
DBH (cm): 108
Address: 22 York St., Elora

When sidewalk construction threatened the removal of this Manitoba Maple in 2022, homeowners Curt Hammond and Melanie Anderson worked with Township staff and an arborist to redesign the sidewalk around the tree, protecting its roots while maintaining accessibility. For over 20 years, the tree has been part of what the family calls “The Blue Door Community”, shading gatherings and anchoring a multigenerational home. Chosen as Centre Wellington’s Tree of the Year for 2025, the Manitoba Maple became a symbol of collaboration and showed the value of preserving mature urban trees.

Common Name: Red Oak
Scientific Name: *Quercus rubra*
Age (years): 200
DBH (cm): 132
Address: 200 Smith St., Elora

Named Elora’s first Community Heritage Tree in 2005, this Red Oak inspired a community celebration that included local dignitaries, students from James McQueen Public School, and a parade to council chambers. In 2010, it was also recognized by Trees Ontario as a Recognized Heritage Tree, the only tree in Centre Wellington to receive that honour. Believed to date back to around 1850, this oak has stood for generations as a striking landmark in one of Elora’s historic neighbourhoods.



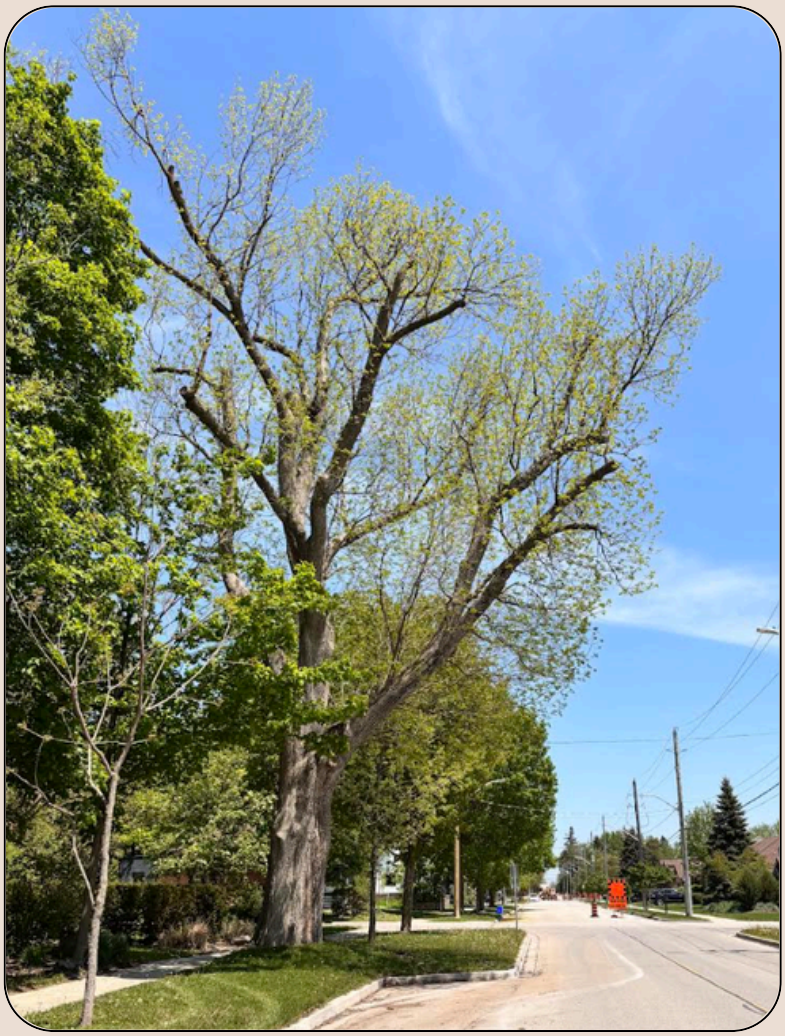


Common Name: Black Walnut
Scientific Name: *Juglans nigra*
Age (years): 100
DBH (cm): 99
Address: 136 Chalmers St., Elora

Homeowner Judy Lowry reached out to Tree Trust for help saving her Black walnut, which was at risk of removal. Arborists from Baum Tree Care found that the 100-year-old tree needed essential care to improve its long-term health, but the cost was prohibitive. Donor Scott Giddy stepped in to fund the work, helping preserve a tree whose broad canopy stretches across several neighbouring yards, providing shade, habitat, and beauty to more than one home. This Black Walnut is a symbol of community efforts and working together to protect our big trees.

Common Name: White Ash
Scientific Name: *Fraxinus americana*
Age (years): 100
DBH (cm): 118
Address: 94 Colborne St., Elora

Ash trees were once widely planted across Ontario after the loss of many elm trees, valued for their ability to thrive in difficult urban conditions and fast growth. That changed with the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer around 2012, when millions of ash trees were lost across Canada. This surviving ash has managed to endure thanks to ongoing treatment and care from the homeowner and a local tree service. This large ash shows good resistance to Emerald Ash Borer and stands as a rare reminder of a species that was once a defining part of many urban landscapes.



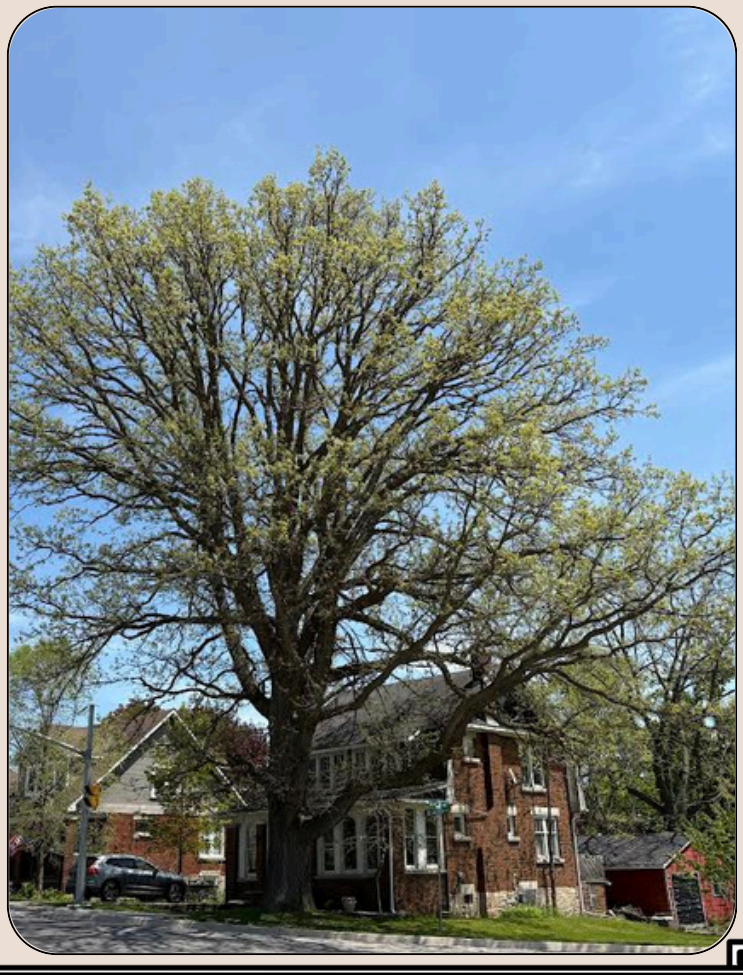


Common Name: Sugar Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*
Age (years): 150
DBH (cm): 130
Address: 73 McNab St., Elora

One of the largest Sugar Maples in the community stands at 73 McNab Street and is beloved by its residents. This tree has taken part in Centre Wellington's Tree of the Year contest for multiple years and is well known in the community. Originally planted as a shade tree on the south side of the property, the large canopy on this maple now covers most of the backyard. The homeowners say strangers stop by and visit this tree and are paying attention to the community's canopy. This strong and stoic Sugar Maple is a reminder of why this species was chosen as Canada's national tree.

Common Name: Bur Oak
Scientific Name: *Quercus macrocarpa*
Age (years): 150
DBH (cm): 117
Address: 698 St Andrew St W, Fergus

Affectionately known as "the FreshCo Oak" by all who admire this tree, this Bur Oak is a landmark at the corner of Beattie Line and St Andrew St. Conservatively estimated to be 150 years old, its trunk measures 117 centimeters in diameter and 12 feet around! Not surprisingly, this impressive Bur Oak has been nominated for Centre Wellington's Tree of the Year competition. Several years ago, road crews fixing the nearby sidewalk were alerted by Tree Trust to stand clear of the root zone. Township staff already had the tree roots on their radar, illustrating the tree's significance. While the FreshCo business is gone from the nearby plaza, its name remains affixed to this truly magnificent and unique tree.





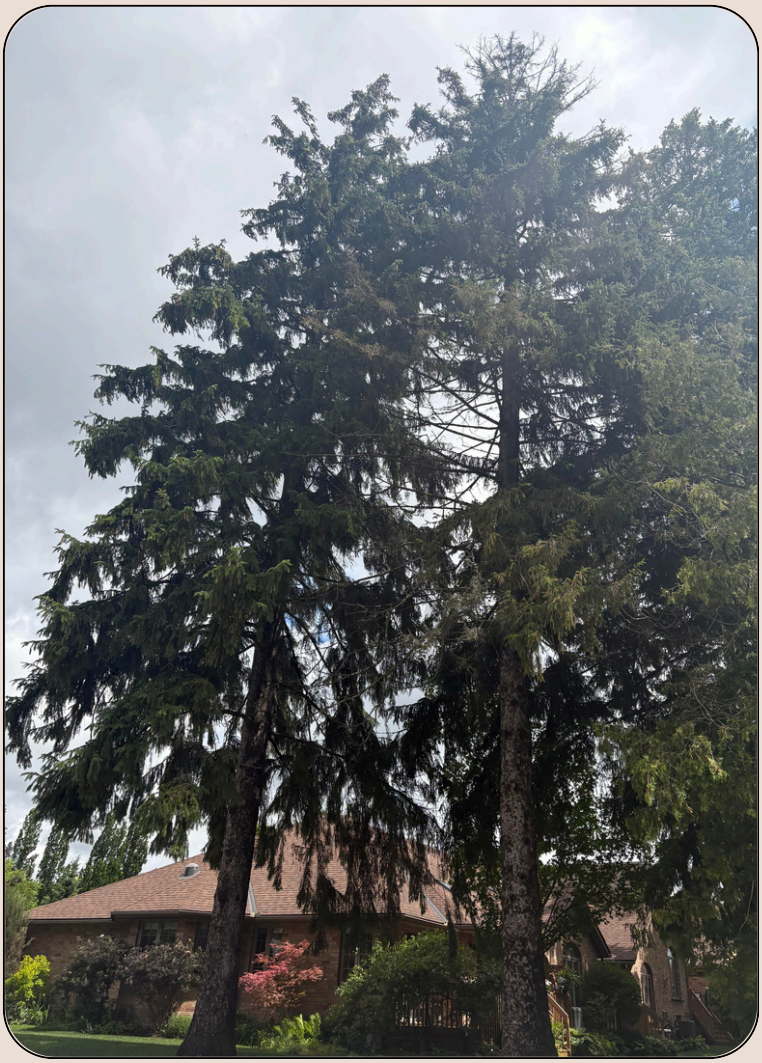
Common Name: Sugar Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*
Age (years): 150+
DBH (cm): 144
Address: 138 Sideroad 18, Fergus

The corner of Sideroad 18 and Vincent Street in Fergus is home to one of the largest urban Sugar Maple trees in Centre Wellington. With a trunk diameter of 144 centimeters and a canopy that stretches as wide as the tree is tall, this tree is surely hard to miss. Its cavities from injuries over time remind us of the importance of these legacy trees to urban wildlife. Despite its location beside a busy road and vulnerability hazards like snowplows, road salt and soil compaction, this ancient urban tree defies the odds and continues to flourish.

Common Name: Eastern Cottonwood
Scientific Name: *Populus deltoides*
Age (years): Unknown
DBH (cm): 175
Address: 8725 Sideroad 10, Centre Wellington

The Eastern Cottonwood in Belwood is so huge that an arborist's measuring tape could not fully capture its diameter. In fact, we estimate it to be 175 centimeters in DBH, making it one of the largest trees in Centre Wellington. This is significant because Cottonwoods are soft and typically succumb to wind and ice damage in Southern Ontario. A member of the poplar species, Cottonwoods provide valuable habitat and abundant seed source for local wildlife including squirrels and beavers. This tree is ideally suited to its wet habitat along the Grand River and withstands annual spring flooding that reaches up its trunk.





Common Name: Norway Spruce
Scientific Name: *Picea abies*
Age (years): 80
DBH (cm): 60-68
Address: 104 Church St, E., Elora

This stand of trees comes packed with local history and connections to the community. When Wilf Gerrie was a Boy Scout in the late 1940s, he assisted with planting a row of Norway Spruce. These are the trees that remain. Wilf, the son of the Elora Railway Station Master, lived in the family home at this location. He was a local fixture, collecting and reselling treasures, and feeding peanuts to his numerous crow friends. Upon his death at the age of 72 the house was razed to make room for the adjacent townhome development. Today, the trees stand at 30 metres tall. While Norway Spruces are not unique in Centre Wellington, what makes these trees special is that, unlike any of the other trees in this Registry, we KNOW who planted them.



Wellington County Museum and Archives, ph 51672

Support Our Work





If you want to honour a loved one, offset your carbon or support our green spaces, consider donating to Tree Trust.
Your contribution will go directly towards work that helps preserve Ontario's urban forest and allows us to care for more trees.

For more information or to donate to your **Centre Wellington Tree Trust** chapter, scan here.