

Heritage Trees

Existing trees may be protected from removal by being identified as having or potentially having heritage status. A tree designated as a “Heritage Tree” may not be removed. There are a variety of methods available to designate or recognize a tree with heritage status.

Ontario Heritage Act

A tree can be “designated” under Part IV s. 27 (1.2) and Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). The tree itself can be designated, or it can be included within the designation for a Heritage District or Heritage Designation for an area or for a single property. In the Town of Whitby, there are a variety of Heritage “designated” properties and “designated” Heritage District Areas.

The Heritage Planner in the Planning and Development Department will provide guidance through the Heritage Permit process and can be reached at 905.430.4306 or via email at: planning@whitby.ca.

More information about the Ontario Heritage Act is available here: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90o18>. Follow the link for more information about the [criteria for determining cultural heritage value](#).

Werden’s Plan Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District

The **Werden’s Plan Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District** ([Werden's Plan Neighbourhood HCD](#)) provides a framework for managing physical change to the District with a goal to preserve the neighbourhood’s small-town historic character. The Werden’s HCD Plan recognizes trees as heritage assets and includes objectives directly related to the protection and management of trees within the designated boundaries. The maintenance of a mature street tree canopy through a rural-road cross section (versus curbed roadways) throughout the district is preferred. The preservation of trees in private yards is encouraged. Residents considering removal of a “significant tree” within the Werden’s Neighbourhood Heritage District Plan area must first obtain a Heritage Permit.

Significant Trees:

- Are defined as a mature tree that is visible from the street and whose trunk measures 30 cm (1 foot) or more in diameter at 1.4 m (4.5 feet) above grade
- will not be removed unless dead, diseased or hazardous or unless property owner is authorized to remove the tree

- will be replaced with another tree on the site or in the neighbourhood when a property owner is authorized to remove a significant tree

Permits to injure or remove a significant tree should be forwarded to the Heritage Planner in the Planning and Development Department.

The planting of trees, shrubs or other vegetation on private property is exempt from requiring a Heritage Permit. The planting of new trees on town property within the designated Heritage District (such as boulevards, open spaces, parks, etc.) must also obtain a Heritage Permit. There is no fee for a Heritage Permit and approval for minor alterations can generally be expedited. More detailed information about the Heritage Permit process is available on the Town website at: <http://www.whitby.ca/heritage>.



Brooklin Heritage Conservation District Plan (2007)

The natural landscape, including trees, vegetation and green space within the [Brooklin Heritage Conservation District Plan \(2007\)](#) (Brooklin HCD) are also recognized as an important part of the cultural heritage of the district, and an important consideration in the preservation and protection of its historic landscape character. Conserving Brooklin's landscape heritage character is as important as conserving its buildings and streetscape. Both conservation work and new development proposals need to take into account the heritage landscape characteristics in the district. For more information about the Brooklin HCD, consult the **Brooklin HCD, Chapter 9: Guidelines for Landscapes**.

For more information, contact

Planning and Development

905.430.4306

planning@whitby.ca

Heritage Tree Program

A tree can also be “recognized” under the Heritage Tree Program (HTP). The HTP is administered by [Forests Ontario](#) (formerly known as Trees Ontario) in partnership with the [Ontario Urban Forest Council \(OUFC\)](#).

This program brings awareness to the social, cultural, historical and ecological value of trees. Historical or cultural significance of the tree is of the greatest importance. For a tree to qualify, it must be associated with an historic person or event, or be growing on historically significant land. The tree’s prominence within the surrounding community and/or use as a landmark is also taken into account. Trees are assessed for their form, shape, beauty, age, colour size, rarity, or other distinctive features by volunteer evaluators from the forest industry. More information is available at the Forests Ontario website: <https://www.forestsontario.ca/community/in-the-spotlight/heritage-trees/>

Forests Ontario offers information about how to prepare an application for recognition and how to nominate a tree:

- [Forests Ontario Application Preparation.pdf](#)
- [Heritage Tree Recognition Nomination Process](#)

More information about Heritage Trees in Ontario is available here:

- [A Synopsis of Heritage Tree Protection and Commemoration Options \(Jan.2016\) by B. Heidenreich, Heritage Tree Advisor, OUFC, Forests Ontario](#)
- “Securing the Future of Heritage Trees: A Protection Toolkit for Communities, 2011” is available by contacting the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance/Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC).

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