

1986

# ALBERTA TREES OF RENOWN

An Honour Roll of Alberta Trees



A project of the



ALBERTA FORESTRY  
ASSOCIATION

# Alberta Trees of Renown

## An Honour Roll of Alberta Trees

Second Edition  
May 1986

A project of the  
Alberta Forestry Association  
Suite 311  
10526 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 1Z5

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# Alberta Trees of Renown

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# Alberta Trees of Renown

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## Introduction

Alberta has a rich heritage in its trees and forests — a productive and renewable resource that benefits all Albertans, now and in the future.

The commercial benefits of our forests are well known. They include lumber, pulp and paper, and employment for thousands of people. But equally, if not more important, is the impact of the forest on outdoor recreation, wildlife, rivers, streams and the sheer beauty of Alberta's outdoor environment.

Trees of course have been growing in Alberta for centuries, but the history of harvesting forest products is relatively recent. The Hudson's Bay Company, for example, commenced operations of the first sawmill in this province at Edmonton in 1880.

In addition to historic harvesting activities, many exotic or introduced trees have been planted in Alberta. Their adaptability and survival make an interesting study. Other trees are unique because of their record size or location.

## Purpose of the Honour Roll

Whether a tree becomes noteworthy because of its age, size, location, historical background or other interesting characteristics, it seems worthwhile to record its claim for recognition — to identify it in an Honour Roll of Alberta Trees.

Alberta Trees of Renown was therefore adopted as a project of the Alberta Forestry Association — designed to gather and record information about unique trees, to help identify and locate them, and to protect them as much as possible.

The Trees of Renown program was announced by the Alberta Forestry Association (AFA) in May 1983. The first edition of the Alberta Forestry Association's Honour Roll was published in May 1984, and described 27 trees nominated and approved during the first year of the project. It was a most interesting collection which was indicative of the kinds of trees the program sought to recognize.

This second edition is substantially augmented, including a total of 115 trees, of which 58 are in the 'record' size category, 12 at extremes of their ranges, and 45 'notable.'

AFA believes you will enjoy reading about them, and hopes that this publication will inspire still others to send nominations of their own. There are certainly many more 'honourable' trees out there waiting to be recognized.

## Record Trees

The Honour Roll is now divided into three categories. The first one recognizes Record Trees, those with the largest diameters, tallest heights and widest branch spreads for each species. This category begins with a special sub-category, 'A Reverence for Age', paying particular tribute to the oldest trees so far discovered.

The largest trees are listed in two Tables, one each for native and non-native species. Also included in this section are two new interesting categories—beaver-felled trees and burls. To be included in the next edition will be a larger section describing trees growing at the extremes of their ranges — the most northerly, easterly, westerly, and southerly, and at the highest elevation.

## Notable Trees

The second section comprises notable trees, trees or groves of trees that have gained prominence or renown for any one of many reasons. These include historic trees, landmark or distinctive trees, mutations, and the one which has survived the most forest fires as indicated by fire scars. Still further types may be added in response to new nominations. AFA invites your suggestions.

## Trees of the Past and Legend

Trees are very impressive but living plants and are subject to the same natural forces as all living creatures. In natural forests and in managed forests mortality is expected, and processes for renewal must be provided for. In natural forests as the old trees die their spaces are usually filled by seedlings from the original stand or, after forest fires, the new stand may be replaced quickly by seed from serotinous cones as in the case of lodgepole and jack pine or black spruce, or by suckering as in the case of the poplars. However, for lone trees the replacement is not always assured.

Two of our notable trees from the first edition have been lost within the last two years—the Tall Spruce at Mirror, and the Tree-in-the-Road in Banff National Park. Both blew down during strong windstorms. There is an interesting sequel to the one at Banff. To commemorate these and other notable Trees of the Past, this third section has been added to the list.

## In Appreciation

This second edition represents the cumulative effort of a large number of people, the most important of whom are those who have sent in nominations. Our thanks to those of you who have shared your favorite trees with us.

The Trees of Renown is a project of the Alberta Forestry Association. It was originally suggested by C.H. Geale, and has been actively encouraged by successive presidents J.A. Brennan, A.D. Kiil, and J.A. Beck, Jr. Wide distribution of our first edition has stimulated latent interest in other provinces. The Saskatchewan Forestry Association has printed an edition of its own, and active programs of compilation are underway in New Brunswick and British Columbia. Other provincial forestry associations are also considering similar projects.

In the preparation of this second edition of Alberta Trees of Renown, support from the resources of the Alberta Forest Service and Canadian Forestry Service in getting it off the ground is greatly appreciated. Publication costs of this Second Edition were covered in large part by the Canadian Forestry Service through the Forestry Information Component of the Canada-Alberta Forest Resource Development Agreement.

The booklet was compiled and written by members of the AFA Trees of Renown Committee. Design and layout were effectively done by Jim Pearse, Chairman of the AFA Public Relations Committee, Lorna Bailey, and the Extension Services group.

An **ad hoc** group of individuals, generally referred to as the Trees of Renown Patrol, was responsible for taking verification measurements, photographs, suggesting candidate trees, and initiating some of the nominations. Names of these individuals are recorded in a separate list at the end of the booklet.

The important role played by the Department of Forest Science, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Alberta, is also acknowledged. The department is maintaining all records for the Honour Roll and arranging for verification of candidate trees.

We are pleased to share this collection with you, and look forward to adding to it with your further suggestions.

## **Trees of Renown Committee**

B.P. Dancik  
A.D. Kiil  
J.G. MacGregor  
F.W. MacDougall  
P.J. Murphy, Chairman  
February 1986

## Thousand-year-old Tree — The Whirlpool Point Pine

**Species:**

Limber pine  
*Pinus flexilis*

**Location:**

Upper North  
Saskatchewan River

**Nominated by:**

Betty & James H.  
(Harry) Horton

Among the scenic features along the David Thompson highway west of Nordegg are the gnarled and windblown limber pines growing on exposed rocky ridges. The name "limber" comes from the nature of the small branchlets which are usually quite flexible and can be gently bent without breaking.

There are two schools of thought about their distribution. One is that limber pine needs plenty of "elbow room" in which to grow so it is normally found at timber line where there is lots of space between trees. At lower elevations, the tree and brush competition is usually too severe, but in a few exposed rugged sites like these, too harsh for other species, limber pine may also find its needed growing space. The other story is perhaps more interesting. Ecologists have noted that the ranges of Clark's Nutcracker and limber and whitebark pine are the same. The major food of the birds is the seeds of these pines. The birds collect seeds when they ripen in late summer, and store them where they can be relocated during the winter — on the rocky, windblown ridges where the snow blows away — coincident where these trees are found. The trees therefore may be dependent on the birds for their growing locations.

However it happened, this tree found rooting space in a crack in the rock along the North Saskatchewan River. Because the soil was so limited and poor, it grew very slowly. It was nominated by the



Hortons because of its unique and picturesque shape, a tree they had come to admire over the years.

When the "official" measurements were taken by Fred Sutherland and Ted Loblaw, they sampled for age but found it had the expected heart rot. However, the coring of the sound wood from the outside 10 centimeters showed an astounding age of almost 400 years! Since the outer core is only less than one-fifth of the total radius, it is likely that tree is well over one thousand years old!

Assuming a conservative 1000 years, the tree would have been firmly established in its niche for 80 years when William the Conqueror landed in England, and would have been a venerable 500 years old when Columbus set sail in 1492. David Thompson would have seen it in virtually its present size and shape when he explored his way up the North Saskatchewan valley in 1801. Further studies will be made to try to estimate the total age more closely.

The close-up picture of the trunk shows how the pattern of branches tells a graphic story of a long life of struggle in that harsh exposed environment—but a story of survival and tenacity of life.



## Oldest Spruce

**Species:**

Engelmann spruce

*Picea engelmannii*

**Location:**

Near Columbia Icefields,  
Jasper National Park

**Nominated by:**

L.R. Jozsa

What may be the oldest living sound tree in Alberta is this 720-year old Engelmann spruce, growing near the Columbia Icefields in Jasper National Park. Despite its age, it is only about 38 centimetres (15 inches) in diameter and stands slightly over 12 metres (40 feet) tall. This is a reflection of the cold exposed conditions under which it has lived.

As a result of its very slow growth, the annual rings are extremely close to each other, yielding a high-density wood which is relatively decay-resistant. The grove in which the tree is growing is effectively isolated from other forest stands by bare rock and rock slides, making it difficult for forest fires to run into it from the outside. Frequent showers and low lightning incidence in the area has kept the stand free from fire.

The tree began its life about the year 1265, so it was already almost 230 years old when Columbus discovered America. It has certainly lived through a period of great change in human activities.

This ancient spruce was discovered during the summer of 1982 by L.R. Jozsa, a scientist with Forintek in Vancouver who was searching for old trees to sample for tree-ring studies at their research laboratory. A core of solid wood was taken at the base of the tree giving a complete tree ring record from the pith to the bark. The core has since been analyzed through an x-ray process to yield ring-width and wood density information which will give us insights about the climate since the year 1265.



## Old Douglas-Fir

**Species:**

Douglas-fir

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*

**Location:**

Banff National Park

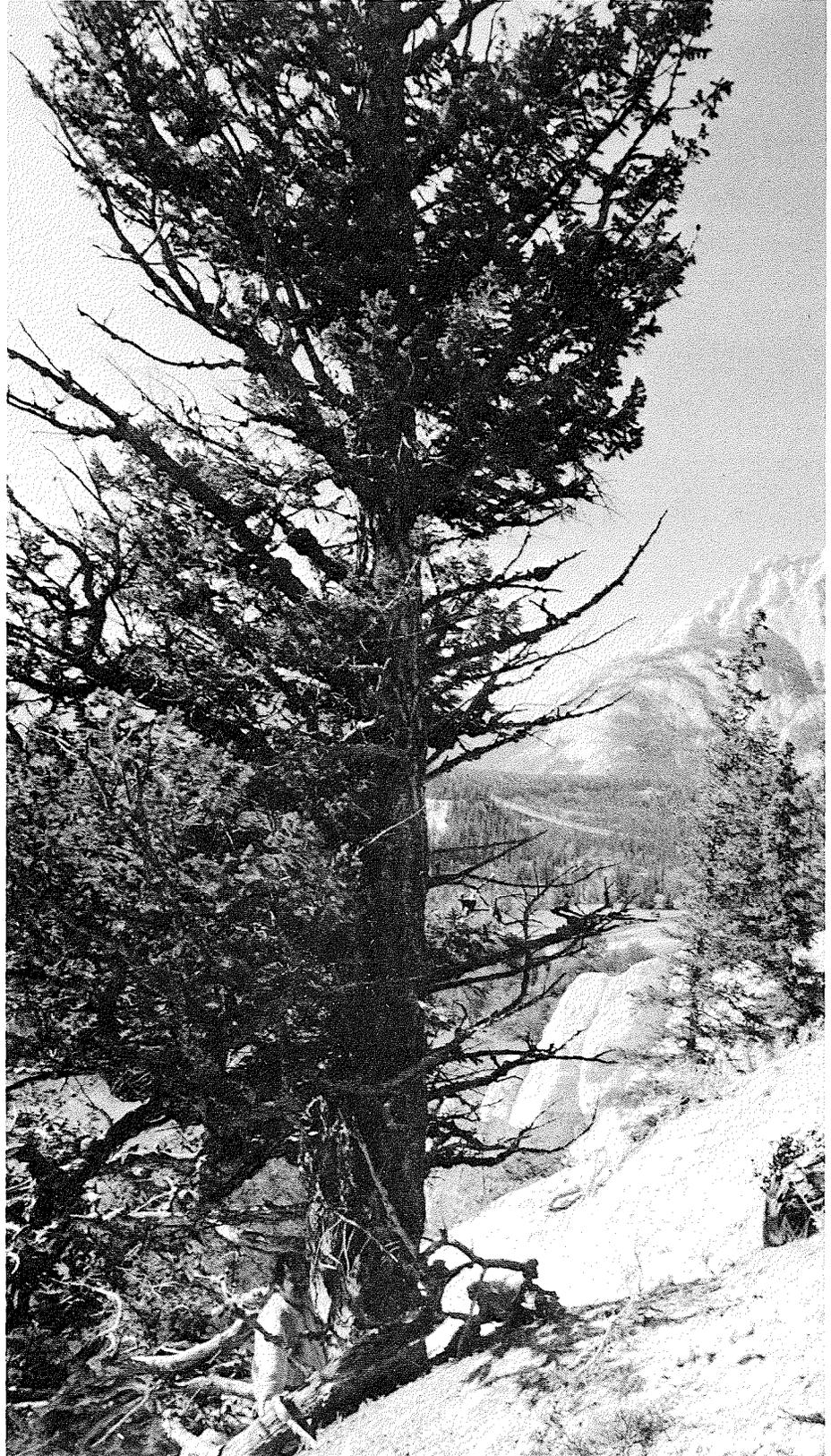
**Nominated by:**

L.R. Jozsa

This tree is currently the record holder as the oldest Douglas-fir in Alberta. It began growing about the year 1310, and was 182 years old before Columbus discovered the Americas. The tree is now 674 years old and still living.

A major reason for its longevity is the site on which it grows. It is situated, along with several other Douglas-firs, all over 500 years old, on the very edge of a dry, grassy knoll atop a number of hoodoos. The fact that these trees are not surrounded by either dense forest or underbrush means that they have been exempt from any major forest fires in their lifetimes. Furthermore, the dry conditions of the site preclude attacks from the many fungal agents that often occur in wetter conditions.

This old Douglas-fir is situated within the boundaries of Banff National Park. Because of this protected environment, it is likely that it will grow to be much older still.



## Oldest Lodgepole Pine

**Species:**

Lodgepole pine  
*Pinus contorta* var *latifolia*

**Location:**

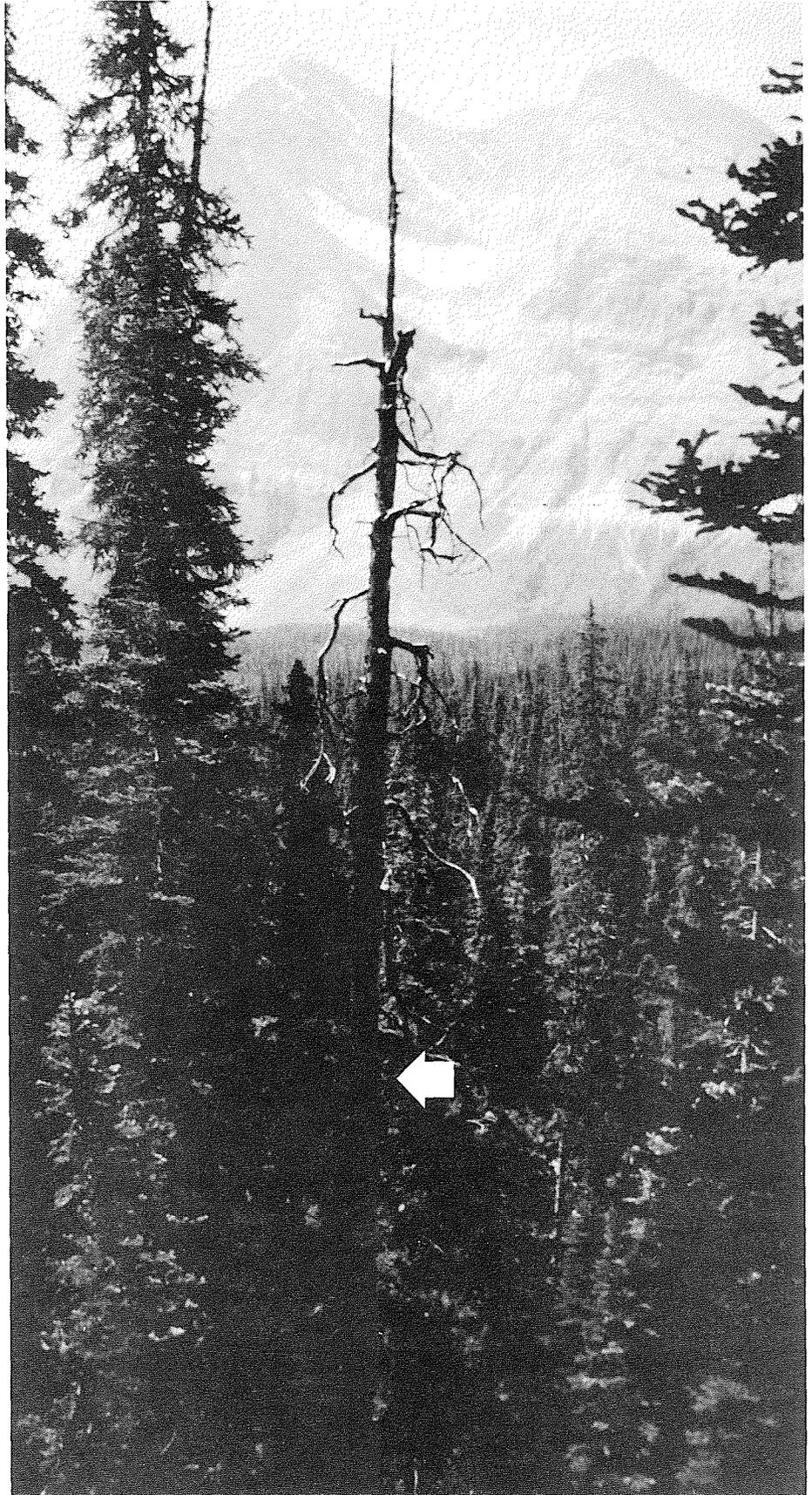
Upper Kananaskis Lake

**Nominated by:**

Brad C. Hawkes

This lodgepole pine is 400 years old — a most venerable and remarkable age for this species. It, the dead-looking snag in the photo, and the several others of the same age in this stand, is showing the effects of the years — dead tops and spiral-grained trunks with a very few short live branches with small sparse clumps of needles. These trees are “hanging in,” but barely.

A fire history study revealed that a stand of lodgepole pine originated here after a fire in 1586. The location is a high-elevation site, cool with a short growing season, so the trees grew very slowly. The pines probably became a fairly respectable stand at about 150 years of age. However, later-starting spruce had started to grow among them, and by the time the pines were about 200 years the spruce would have begun to dominate. Gradually the spruce took over and, except for these few beleaguered veteran pines, the spruce prevails — typical of forest succession in this area.



## Old Black Spruce

**Species:**

Black spruce

*Picea mariana*

**Location:**

Cache Percotte Forest near Hinton

**Nominated by:**

Peter J. Murphy

This Black Spruce was 362 years old in the spring of 1984, probably having started to grow in the year 1622. It is only a few years younger than the largest Douglas-fir, yet is considerably smaller with a diameter of only 29.5 centimetres (11.6 inches) and a height of 15.5 metres (51 feet). This old black spruce is growing on a cool wet site on a north-facing slope. The combination of a high water table and cool temperatures has resulted in poor growing conditions.

Because it has grown under the shade of a few larger trees, development of this tree has been further suppressed. However, the presence of moisture in that stand probably helped it to escape the many forest fires which have burned through the Athabasca Valley during its lifetime.



# Record Trees

## Native Species

Most of these specimens are very

impressive, but we know there probably are many other trees which surpass them. We encourage our readers to help

to locate the ones which excel, and to send in nominations so they may be recognized.

| Species   | Diameter<br>cm    | Height<br>metres  | Crown<br>Spread<br>m | Total<br>Points | Age<br>years   | Location                         | Nominator   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Balsam fir<br><i>Abies balsamea</i>                               | (45.0)            | (28.0)            | n/a                  | n/a             | n/a            | Calling Lake                     | L. Huberdeau  |
| Subalpine fir<br><i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>                          | (55.8)*           | (31.0)*           | (4.2)                | (174)*          | (225)*         | Hidden Creek                     | Alberta<br>Wilderness<br>Assoc.<br>M. Dover                 |
| Water birch<br><i>Betula occidentalis</i>                         | 11.1*             | 7.3*              | 5.9                  | 42*             | n/a            | Midnapore                        |   |
| White birch<br><i>Betula papyrifera</i>                           | (38.9)*<br>(36.0) | (14.0)<br>(20.0)* | n/a<br>n/a           | n/a<br>n/a      | n/a<br>n/a     | Calling Lake<br>Footner Lake     | L. Huberdeau<br>C. Leary                                    |
| Tamarack<br><i>Larix laricina</i>                                 | 73.9*             | 29.5*             | 6.4                  | 194*            | 222*           | Swan Hills                       | W. Fairless   |
| Alpine larch<br><i>Larix lyallii</i>                              | 61.6*<br>54.0     | 17.2<br>18.6*     | 9.0<br>8.6           | 141*<br>135     | n/a<br>n/a     | Pocaterra Pass<br>Pocaterra Pass | P. Murphy<br>P. Murphy                                      |
| Western larch<br><i>Larix occidentalis</i>                        | 54.5*             | 28.5*             | 8.4                  | 142             | 188*           | Kananaskis                       | P. Murphy   |
| Engelmann spruce<br><i>Picea engelmannii</i>                      | 138.4*<br>(102.9) | 34.0<br>(38.1)*   | 3.0<br>(3.5)         | 286*<br>(255)   | 200 +<br>396 + | Lynx Cr.<br>Hidden Cr.           | H. Ganske<br>Alberta<br>Wilderness<br>Assoc.<br>L. Jozsa    |
|   | 47.1              | 12.2              | n/a                  | n/a             | 722*           | Jasper                           | B. Simpson  |
| White spruce<br><i>Picea glauca</i>                               | (106.6)*          | (45.6)*           | (3.3)                | (284)*          | n/a            | Hinton                           |   |
| Black spruce<br><i>Picea mariana</i>                              | (30.7)*<br>28.5   | (18.0)*<br>20.4   | n/a<br>n/a           | n/a<br>n/a      | n/a<br>364*    | Calling Lake<br>Hinton           | L. Huberdeau<br>P. Murphy                                   |
| Whitebark pine<br><i>Pinus albicaulis</i>                         | 110.0*            | 18.4*             | 13.0                 | 207*            | 200 +          | Racehorse Cr.                    | H. Ganske   |
| Jack pine<br><i>Pinus banksiana</i>                               | (54.6)            | (24.5)            | n/a                  | n/a             | n/a            | Calling Lake                     | L. Huberdeau  |
| Lodgepole pine<br><i>Pinus contorta</i>                           | (62.6)*<br>(30.0) | (26.8)*<br>(15.0) | (3.3)<br>(1.5)       | (168)*<br>n/a   | n/a<br>(400)*  | Hinton<br>Kananaskis             | M. McDonald<br>B. Hawkes                                    |
| Limber pine<br><i>Pinus flexilis</i>                              | 104.0<br>106.7*   | 11.1<br>15.2*     | 14.0<br>30.0         | 152<br>189*     | (1000)*<br>n/a | N. Sask. R.<br>N. Sask. R.       | B. Horton<br>B. Horton                                      |
| Balsam poplar<br><i>Populus balsamifera</i>                       | 164.5*<br>103.3   | 27.3<br>39.6*     | 16.5<br>14.6         | 306*<br>270     | n/a<br>n/a     | Niton<br>Edmonton                | Cold Cr. Ranger<br>Station<br>Edith Sellers<br>R. Dickinson |
| Trembling aspen<br><i>Populus tremuloides</i>                     | 80.0*             | 28.0*             | 12.5                 | 201             | (125)          | Swan Hills                       |   |
| Chokecherry<br><i>Prunus virginiana</i>                           | 17.0              | 12.5              | 7.8                  | 68              | n/a            | U of A Campus                    | N. Daintith   |
| Douglas-fir<br><i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i><br>var. <i>glauca</i> | 83.8              | 13.7              | n/a                  | n/a             | 676*           | Banff N.P.                       | L. Jozsa  |
| Diamond willow<br><i>Salix sp.</i>                                | 49.5*             | 4.5               | 6.8                  | 82              | n/a            | Midnapore                        | M. Dover  |
| Western red cedar<br><i>Thuja plicata</i>                         | n/a               | (3.0)             | n/a                  | n/a             | n/a            | Jasper N.P.                      | P.L. Achuff   |
| Western hemlock<br><i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>                      | (4.7)             | (3.0)             | (1.0)                | n/a             | n/a            | Jasper N.P.                      | I.G.W. Corns  |

\* Indicates record for which the tree qualifies  
( ) Indicates measurements not yet "official"

## Non-Native Species

Alberta is a varied but generally hospitable land. From the time of the first traders and settlers, many new species of trees have been brought in by

the new arrivals. Some were brought by immigrants as reminders of "home", others were tried for sake of curiosity or for variety. Many species have adapted quite well, while others fared less well or survived not at all. There have been

many surprises, too, with some trees thriving despite conditions in our northern latitudes. This list is interesting, and will certainly increase in length as more introduced species are identified and larger specimens are found.

| Species   | Diameter<br>cm | Height<br>metres | Crown<br>Spread<br>m | Total<br>Points | Age<br>years | Location      | Nominator                 |
|---|----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Manitoba maple<br><i>Acer negundo</i>           | 63.8*          | 9.2              | n/a                  | n/a             | n/a          | Spruce Grove  | L. Erickson               |
| Norway maple<br><i>Acer platanoides</i>         | 31.5           | 7.2              | 8.7                  | 43              | n/a          | U of A Campus | R.H. Knowles              |
| Silver maple<br><i>Acer saccharinum</i>         | 92.9           | 16.2             | 10.4                 | 148             | 98           | Edmonton      | W. Kurany<br>family       |
| Sugar maple<br><i>Acer saccharum</i>            | 34.2           | 10.8             | 10.4                 | 57              | n/a          | Edmonton      | R.H. Knowles              |
| Ohio buckeye<br><i>Aesculus glabra</i>          | 22.2           | 10.0             | 7.0                  | 66              | n/a          | U of A Campus | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol |
| White ash<br><i>Fraxinus americana</i>          | 44.0           | 13.5             | 11.3                 | 71              | n/a          | Edmonton      | R.H. Knowles              |
| Black ash<br><i>Fraxinus nigra</i>              | 30.0           | 14.1             | 7.7                  | 90              | n/a          | U of A Campus | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol |
| Green ash<br><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>      | 43.0           | 15.3             | 12.6                 | 114             | n/a          | U of A Campus | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol |
| Butternut<br><i>Juglans cinerea</i>             | 41.5           | 10.4             | 10.7                 | 94              | n/a          | U of A Campus | R.H. Knowles              |
| Siberian larch<br><i>Larix sibirica</i>         | 46.5           | 19.6             | 12.6                 | 132             | n/a          | U of A Campus | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol |
| Siberian crabapple<br><i>Malus baccata</i>      | 57.9*          | 7.2              | 8.5                  | 88*             | 75           | Olds College  | Hort. Class '86           |
| Amur cork tree<br><i>Phellodendron amurense</i> | 53.5           | 7.6*             | 9.3                  | 86              | 75           | Olds College  | Hort. Class '86           |
| Norway spruce<br><i>Picea abies</i>             | 82.0           | 8.4              | 7.3                  | 66              | n/a          | U of A Campus | R.H. Knowles              |
| Blue spruce<br><i>Picea pungens</i>             | 65.6           | 21.0             | 9.4                  | 158             | 50           | Lacombe       | B.J. Godwin               |
| Bristlecone pine<br><i>Pinus aristata</i>       | 40.7           | 14.1             | 5.5                  | 101             | n/a          | U of A Campus | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol |
| Swiss stone pine<br><i>Pinus cembra</i>         | 3.0            | 2.0              | 0.5                  | 12              | 20           | Midnapore     | M. Dover                  |
| Mugho pine<br><i>Pinus mugo</i>                 | 50.6           | 14.0             | 6.6                  | 114             | n/a          | Lacombe       | B.J. Godwin               |
| Ponderosa pine<br><i>Pinus ponderosa</i>        | 28.6           | 9.2              | 13.3                 | 76              | n/a          | Edmonton      | R. Nyroos                 |
| Eastern white pine<br><i>Pinus strobus</i>      | 39.0           | 19.2*            | 8.0                  | 118             | 65           | Rich Valley   | G.E. Parker               |
| Scots pine<br><i>Pinus sylvestris</i>           | 56.0*          | 17.4             | 9.0                  | 134*            | n/a          | Edmonton      | R. Nyroos                 |
| Cottonwood<br><i>Populus x hybrid</i>           | 48.1           | 15.6             | 9.4                  | 117             | n/a          | U of A Campus | B.P. Dancik               |
| Pear<br><i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>                | 53.5*          | 19.8             | 10.6                 | 140*            | 65           | Rich Valley   | G. Grainger               |
| Bur oak<br><i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>            | 40.5           | 23.0*            | 10.0                 | 134             | 65           | Rich Valley   | G. Grainger               |
| Red oak<br><i>Quercus rubra</i>                 | 133.0          | 22.5             | 17.8                 | 253             | n/a          | Edmonton      | R. Nyroos                 |
|   | 49.3           | 10.2             | 9.4                  | 102             | (50)         | Olds          | B.J. Godwin               |
|   | 37.5           | 16.1             | 10.7                 | 108             | n/a          | U of A Campus | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol |
|   | 37.8           | 9.0              | 7.2                  | 50              | n/a          | Edmonton      | R.H. Knowles              |

## Record Trees

| <b>Species</b>                               | <b>Diameter<br/>cm</b> | <b>Height<br/>metres</b> | <b>Crown<br/>Spread<br/>m</b> | <b>Total<br/>Points</b> | <b>Age<br/>years</b> | <b>Location</b> | <b>Nominator</b>                         |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Laurel-leaf willow<br><i>Salix pentandra</i> | 228.2                  | 16.0                     | 11.6                          | 354                     | n/a                  | Red Deer        | M. Podgurski                             |
| American basswood<br><i>Tilia americana</i>  | 36.3                   | 17.4                     | 6.2                           | 107                     | n/a                  | U of A Campus   | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol                |
| Little-leaved linden<br><i>Tilia cordata</i> | 36.1                   | 13.3                     | 7.8                           | 95                      | n/a                  | U of A Campus   | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol                |
| American elm<br><i>Ulmus americana</i>       | 98.7*                  | 20.4                     | 23.1                          | 125                     | n/a                  | Edmonton        | D. Krystofiak                            |
|  | 73.4                   | 19.4*                    | 17.6                          | 169                     | n/a                  | U of A Campus   | Q G. Fenton<br>Trees of<br>Renown Patrol |
| Siberian elm<br><i>Ulmus pumila</i>          | 62.8                   | 17.6*                    | 16.4                          | 149                     | n/a                  | U of A Campus   | Trees of<br>Renown Patrol                |
|  | 97.9*                  | 14.7                     | 21.1                          | 188*                    | n/a                  | Edmonton        | R. Nyroos                                |

\* Indicates record for which the tree qualifies

() Indicates measurements not yet "official"

## Trees at the extremes of their ranges

Following the retreat of the last major glaciers about 10,000 or so years ago, plant communities re-established themselves on the newly-exposed soil, and forests eventually returned. Some tree species probably are still slowly extending their ranges. We do not yet have enough entries in this category to develop a major category in Trees of Renown. However, we have some very interesting nominations which we summarize here to give an idea of what we are looking for. We encourage more nominations of this kind.

Two interesting finds were reported in the mountain national parks. Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) was nominated by P.L. Achuff — the furthest north and west at 53° 20' N, 119° 12' W in Jasper, and at the highest elevation at 1900 m in Banff. Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) was entered by I.G.W. Corns, the most southerly and easterly at 52° 02' N, 117° 08' W, and most northerly and westerly at 52° 37' N, 118° 01' W.

An alpine larch (*Larix lyallii*) was reported by P.L. Achuff at 51° 43' N in the north end of Banff National Park, the most northerly so far. Tamarack

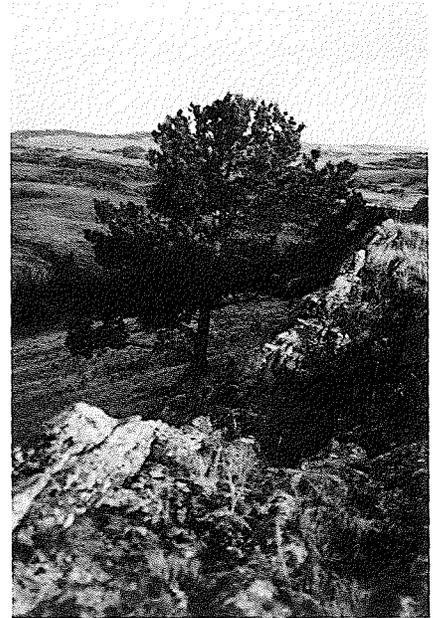
(*Larix laricina*) is most commonly found in low-level boreal forests, but I.G.W. Corns nominated one along the Miette Hotsprings road in Jasper at 1365 m — the highest elevation.

Limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) is featured elsewhere in a story of the oldest tree in Alberta. The most northerly tree, at 52° 12' N, 116° 28' W, over 35 km north of Whirlpool Point on the North Saskatchewan River, was nominated by P.L. Achuff and I.G.W. Corns, and most westerly at 51° 04' N, 116° 58' W in Banff by P.L. Achuff. P.J. Murphy nominated one in the Bow River about 4 km west of the Cochrane junction on Highway 1 which may be the most easterly. We invite other nominations in the Bow River valley further east, and also for the most easterly trees in the valleys of the North Saskatchewan and Crowsnest Rivers.

Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*) occurs in the montane valleys of the Athabasca, North Saskatchewan, Bow and Crowsnest Rivers. J. Forsdick nominated what may be the last major stand of large trees at Bowness, remnants of the logging by the Eau Claire Lumber Co starting in the late 1800's, and J.A. Kinnear suggested a stand in the Crowsnest Pass. But how far east do individual Douglas-fir range

in these valleys?

Western larch occurs in the Kananaskis and Crowsnest River Valleys — but what are the limits of their ranges? J.R. Martin nominated a solitary birch in a forest of lodgepole pine in the Cypress Hills — a distant outlier from the Rocky Mountains which will also have to be checked.



Easterly limber pine Bow River Valley

## Other Categories

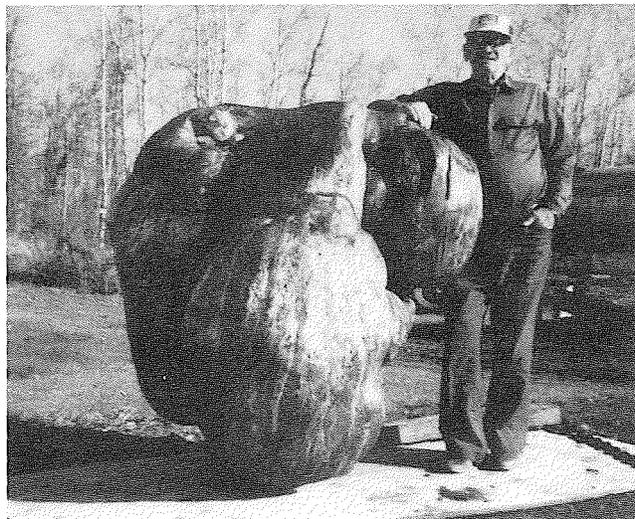
Two interesting nominations have suggested other categories to challenge woods travellers.

Evidence of beaver activity is common along waterways throughout the forest, but some beavers appear to be much more ambitious than others. Mary Bond reported a beaver-chewed stump near Brule over 30 cm in diameter, but Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Kilgour topped it with the nomination of a balsam poplar 68 cm (27 inches) in diameter felled by beaver near Thorsby. Can anyone better this?

Burls are lumps or swellings on tree trunks, most commonly occurring on spruce. They are caused by accelerated growth in the cambium layer under the bark, which results in the swollen stems or lumps, often quite irregular. What brings this about is not known.

Suggestions range from bacteria or viruses, or genetic quirks, to soil or environmental factors. Most are small, but a few become quite large.

Alex Taje found an interesting burl 123 cm (48 inches) in diameter about 140 km south of Grande Prairie. Are there larger ones out there?



# The Provincial Tree

### Species:

Lodgepole pine

*Pinus contorta* Dougl. var. *latifolia* Engelm.

### Location:

Central and Western Alberta

### Nominated by:

Trees of Renown Patrol

The lodgepole pine is a tree of the western Alberta foothills and mountains, ranging from the southern border in the Cypress Hills and along the Rocky Mountains to the north Peace River country and the boundary with the Northwest Territories. Typically tall, slender and straight, it was used by native Indians for lodge poles, teepees, and making the travois to pull behind their horses. The inner bark was also edible in the spring, and the pitch mixed with fat was used as a salve. The lodgepole pine was there to welcome early settlers who used its timbers for log home building, rafters, corral rails, fence posts and sawtimber. It is an attractive tree and its extensive stands are a distinctive feature of the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

On May 30, 1984, the Legislature gave third and final reading to the Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act which adopted the lodgepole pine as the official tree of the province. The bill became law upon receiving royal assent the following day. The action was initiated by the Junior Forest Wardens of Alberta, the forest resource-based youth organization for 6-18 year olds. The idea was put forward by the JFW Provincial Advisory Committee in 1980, encouraged by them, and agreed to by the major forestry-related organizations in the province.

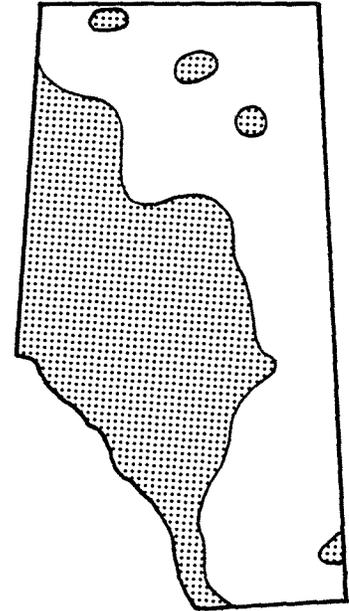
The common name 'lodgepole' was derived from its tall straight form, but interestingly the latin name **contorta** means twisted or contorted. It was first named from the shore pine form on the west coast by the noted botanist David Douglas after whom the Douglas-fir was named. The west coast variety, of

course, was quite scrubby, in no way resembling the form of our inland variety. Ours was later confirmed as a variety of the same species by George Engelmann, another noted early botanist whose name was given to our mountain-dwelling spruce. The Alberta variety **latifolia** means "with broad leaves," referring to its slightly wider needles. Lodgepole pine is closely related to the boreal jack pine (**Pinus banksiana** Lamb.) and the two interbreed to form hybrids where their ranges overlap in central Alberta from Edmonton to Slave Lake and north into the Peace River country. Two interesting small populations of lodgepole pines with 3-

4-, and 5-needle clusters have been reported in Jasper National Park. One at the north end was nominated by I.G.W. Corns, the other, south of Jasper townsite, described by J. Pollack and B. Dancik. A feature on these will be developed for the next issue.

This two-needled hard pine is probably best known for its special adaptation to reseeding after forest fires. The distinctive feature is its cone which is sealed closed with a resin bond. The tree flowers early in the season, and extensive clouds of its yellow pollen released in the spring are often mistaken for drifting smoke. After it matures in its second year, the "serotinous" cone can





remain sealed, so that up to 30 years or more of seed may be stored in the crown of each tree. The bond is not broken until temperatures above 40 or 45° C are reached. Not all trees have this closed-cone habit, but the proportion of closed-cone pines appears to be greatest on sites that have experienced repeated burns in the past. During a typical forest fire many of the cones may be burned, but others will just be heated sufficiently so that the resin melts; the dry cone scales will later reflex and separate like they do on ripening in other pines. Hours or days after the fire, the open cones allow release of the winged seeds which can be dispersed by the wind across the recently burned site. Lodgepole pine then can become established readily on this bare seed bed, free from other competing vegetation. Germination is often so good that the resulting tangles of pine ('dog hair stands') are difficult for any man or beast to traverse.

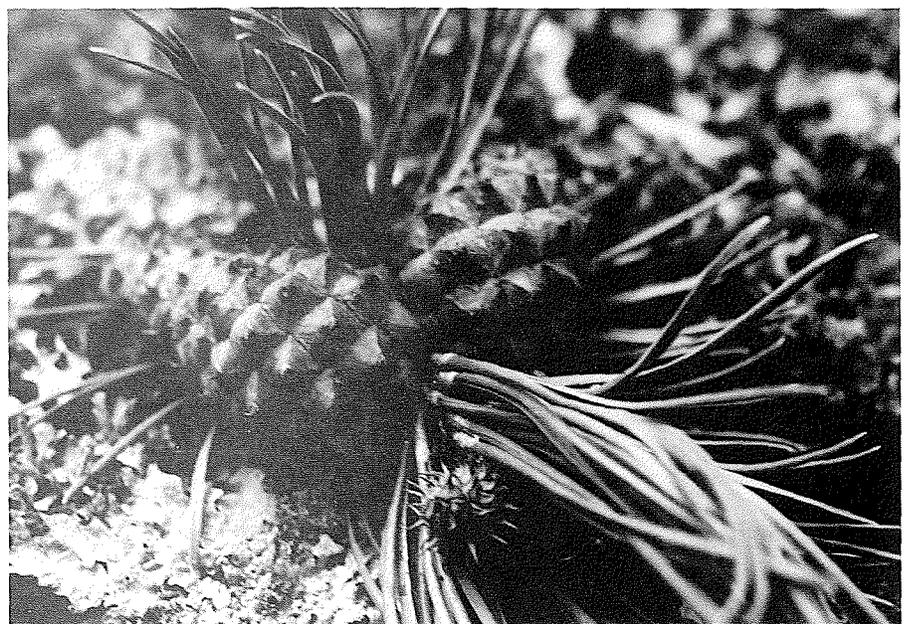
This instant seeding results in the typical 'even-aged' stands of pine of closely-spaced trees with a narrow range of diameter and with trees all about the same height. The size and shape of these stands can tell us about the

occurrence of fires in the past. Age-class information from the east slopes area indicate extensive areas of stands which originated after major fires in the 1880's and early 1900's.

The maximum recorded ages are among a few trees 400 years old located in a cool, moist location in high country

at the head of the Kananaskis Valley. To grow to pulpwood size usually takes only about 60-80 years, and that time will become less with selection of genetically superior strains in the future. Individual trees have reached heights of over 30 metres and diameters of 60 cm or greater. It is an important tree in our economy, used on a managed basis for pulpwood, lumber and ties, and some plywood.

It is an appropriate selection for the Provincial Tree.



## Burmis Pine

**Species:**

Limber pine  
*Pinus flexilis*

**Location:**

Highway 3, near Burmis

**Nominated by:**

Robert J. Coleman,  
and A.D. Hall

Anyone who has ever driven on the highway through the Crownsnest Pass will recognize this very distinctive and picturesque pine. In fact, even those who have not travelled there may recognize the tree as one that has appeared on a large number of postcards and calendars over the years.

At one time there were actually two of these trees (the weathered stump of the other one appears in the lower left of the photograph). Together, they have been photographed, painted and sketched

countless times by tourists and artists alike. The strange yet beautiful shape of the trees is a result of both the genetic makeup of the species and the environment in which they are growing.

The limber pine generally produces a short, thick, crooked and irregularly limbed trunk as observed in this Burmis Pine. However, there is the additional factor of exposure to the high chinook winds which have produced this beautiful "swept back" effect of the branches on the Burmis Pine.



## Burns Trees

### Species:

Russian poplar

*Populus x petrowskyana* Schneid.

### Location:

MacLeod Trail, Calgary

### Nominated by:

Jo Ellen Floer

In 1929 Senator Patrick Burns arranged to have his gardener plant a row of poplars along both sides of a three-mile section of the MacLeod Trail (Highway 2) south of Calgary. These trees grew to shade the highway south of Midnapore creating an aisle of green beauty in summer and welcome shade in contrast to the open prairie to the south. This stretch of highway was dedicated as 'Burns Trail' in 1943 in tribute to the late Senator and his interest in beautifying Alberta.

William Mayhew, Pat Burn's gardener, purchased 1850 poplar from the Lacombe, Bowden and Calgary areas. His daughter, Christine Logan, explained how they had to haul water so the trees would survive their early years, and about 1300 did pull through that first difficult year.

Patrick Burns was born in 1855 as one of 11 children of an Irish couple in Ontario. The family name was changed from O'Buirne to Byrne, then later to Burns. The story of his humble beginning was that he worked in the eastern Ontario bush to pay for his western journey, and his wages came in the form of two aging oxen rather than cash. He slaughtered them, expecting to raise about \$70 but by the time he had sold the various cuts at different prices he found himself \$140 in hand. He then homesteaded in Ontario and in 1886 got involved supplying meat for railroad construction crews. The business succeeded and he soon found himself supplying meat to mining, construction, and lumbering camps as well. He moved further west to Calgary in 1890 when work began on the railway connection between Calgary and Edmonton, a project which led him to start the first meat packing plant in western Canada.



Burns Foods, as it became known, steadily grew to supply meat through more than 100 wholesale and retail outlets throughout the west and north. He even delivered beef to miners in Dawson City, Yukon in 1898 during the gold rush, shipping cattle from Vancouver, driving them inland and slaughtering them beside the Lewes River to float down to Dawson City. At this time, too, he became interested in the production end of the cattle industry and became a major rancher — by 1912 owning six large ranches from Red Deer to the Milk River. He was one of Alberta's 'big four' cattlemen who in 1912 backed the first Calgary Stampede. He was appointed Senator in his senior years, and passed away in 1937 at the age of 82.

The trees grew to cover the highway, but as Calgary grew and highway traffic increased, successive highway widenings required progressive removal of the trees. The last blow was in 1977 when it was modified to a 6-lane divided highway which resulted in removal of all the trees on the east side. Today there are but 139 of the original trees remaining. The trees are now 57 years old, near the end of the normal life for these fast-growing hybrid trees. Some thought had been given to transplanting some of the trees rather than cutting them, but it was decided that they were showing too much sign of their decadent state with heart

rot and dying tops. The fate of this lovely aisle of trees illustrates the importance of sustained programs of renewal and management in tending trees and forests since they are a living, dynamic resource. Programs of replacement plantings should be begun to retain the memory of this prominent historic Albertan who contributed so much, as well as maintaining the beauty along the 'Burns Trail.'

## Calgary Stampede Trees

**Species:**

Bayleaf willow and Manitoba maple  
*Salix pentandra* and *Acer negundo*

**Location:**

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Grounds

**Nominated by:**

Brad Berglund for the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede

The "Calgary Stampede" and Alberta are virtually synonymous, one evoking images of the other. This notable annual event focuses worldwide attention on Alberta, evoking the flavour of our western heritage.

The first Stampede was held in 1912. As outlined in the Canadian Encyclopedia (Hurtig 1985), it was promoted by Guy Weadick who felt that the growing community of Calgary was ready for a major rodeo. With the help of H.C. McMullen they convinced A.E. Cross, George Lane, A.J. McLean and Patrick Burns — who later planted the Burns Trees also featured in this edition — to put up the financing. The first Stampede was a great success. The spirit of the event, which was to become a tradition, was conveyed by the Canadian Encyclopedia:

"The parade, combined with the annual Labour Day parade of the Calgary Trade and Labour Council, was enriched by the inclusion of rodeo competitors, the duke and duchess of Connaught and Lady Patricia, and 2000 Indians in full dress — and some 14,000 spectators. Prizes totalling \$16,000 were provided for the rodeo events, which were highlighted by an electrifying bronc ride by Tom Three Persons on the famous Cyclone."

Exhibitions and competitive participation by the Indians dated back to 1886 when the Stoney and Sarcee Indian tribes camped on what became the Stampede grounds. Two groves of trees, probably originating about that time, grew to separate the two camps, and remain



as green oases in the original traditional Stampede village area. The groves are 11 to 13 metres in height, and about 40

centimetres in diameter. The 30 metre spreading crowns provide a welcome shade.



## Windbreaks and Shelterbelts — Charlie Parker Windbreak

### Species:

Northwest poplar  
*Populus x deltoides* Barts. cv.  
'Northwest' (male)

### Location:

Red Deer

### Nominated by:

M. Flewwelling

When the fledgling Canadian government took over the vast western Rupert's Land Territories from the Hudsons Bay Company in 1870, officials were concerned about the lack of trees, a deficiency which might hinder settlement. After a visit to the prairies, David Laird, Minister of the Interior, wrote in 1870:

"Nothing impressed itself upon my mind more than the treelessness of a vast portion of the country over which I passed. Day by day, as I crossed the wide extent of the prairies utterly destitute of trees, the question presented itself; How is the settlement of these prairies possible, if the settler is without wood for fencing, building, or fuel?"

J.H. Morgan, appointed as a federal Forestry Commissioner, commented in 1884:

"The climate of this vast territory is one of the healthiest in the world, but it is very dry and ought, therefore, to have a large proportion of its area in woods. Woods would have a most beneficial and ameliorating effect on the climate. They would temper the cold winds of the spring and retard the autumnal frosts..."

William Pearce, the energetic and effective inspector of mines in Calgary also supported tree culture as early as 1890 and advocated the establishment of local nurseries to grow trees from seeds obtained from districts where climatic and other conditions were similar to those of the Northwest Territories. As a result of sustained representations by these and other individuals, the Federal



Department of the Interior established a tree nursery at Indian Head, Saskatchewan in 1903 to grow trees for farmstead plantings on the prairies, and a major program was begun.

A fine example of plantings of this sort is a prominent landmark known and enjoyed by countless Albertans and visitors to Alberta located along Highway 2 south of Red Deer. This windbreak was planted by Charlie Parker about 1933. Charlie was raised on his father's homestead east of Penhold and learned about tree planting from him. During the dry years of the early 30's he became concerned about soil drifting on one of his fields which left a ridge which is still visible. He obtained planting stock from the Bergwin brothers at Bowden and planted these poplar cuttings after summer following the site for two years. It took the trees three years to get established, but virtually all of them survived reflecting the care they were given, even surviving a severe hailstorm when they were 12 to 14 feet in height which stripped them clean of leaves.

This majestic windbreak is now over 50 years old, the trees having reached diameters of 60-70 cm and heights of 28 metres. They are all of very similar size and form because they are the same age, and all are cuttings from a single clone — so all are genetically identical, and all are male trees so do not shed Poplar 'fluff' in the spring.

The results of earlier plantings around the farm buildings can be seen in the background. That stock was obtained from the Indian Head Nursery around 1925.

These trees also illustrate the lasting benefits conferred to present and future generations through tree planting and care. We would welcome additional nominations of windbreaks and shelterbelts from some of the early 1900's plantings from Indian Head stock.

### Crooked Trees

**Species:**

Lodgepole pine  
*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

**Location:**

Jasper National Park

**Nominated by:**

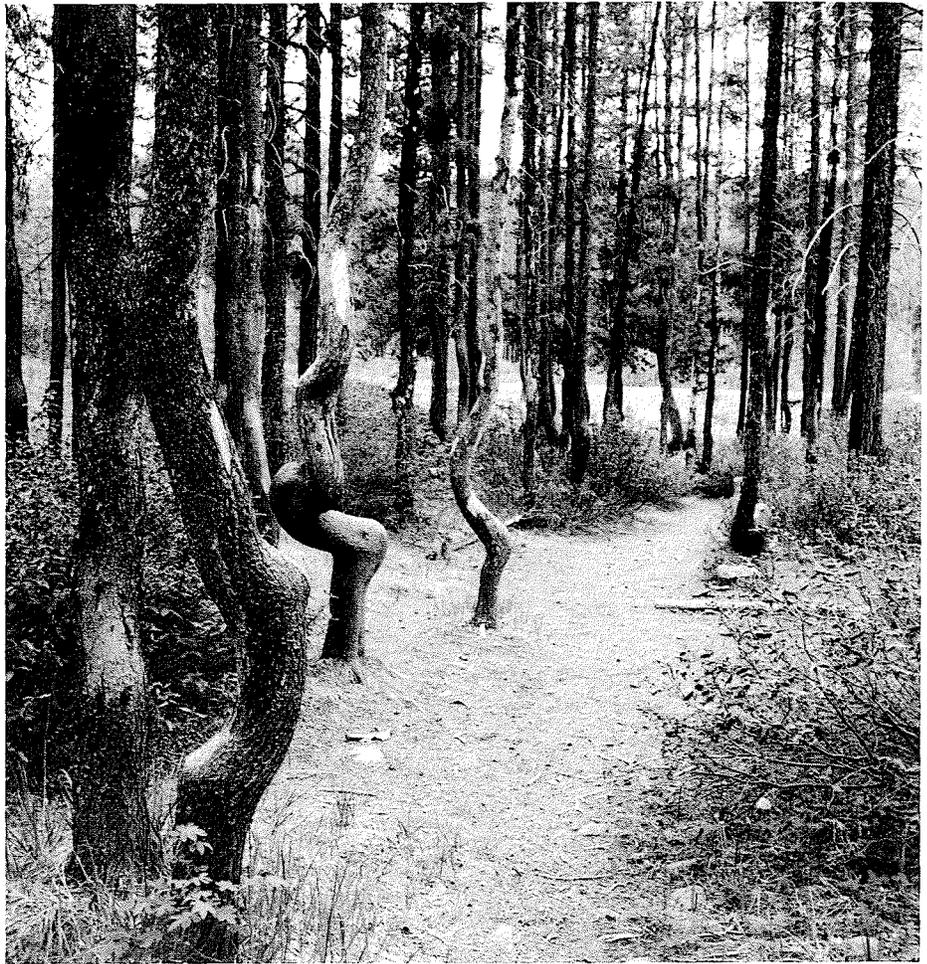
A.D. Hall

The Valley of Crooked Trees is a small area near Jasper, in which is growing a group of lodgepole pines whose trunks are strangely bent and misshapen. Most of the pine in this valley have their trunks displaced in sharp 90-degree angles at a point about three feet from the ground, above which they twist or quickly regain their vertical orientation. The trees, like those normal ones surrounding them, appear to be 60 to 80 years old.

There have been a number of explanations for the occurrence and concentration of these crooked lodgepole pines. They could have been malformed by a local drift of snow accumulating in the depression, or side branches may have taken over when terminal buds were injured by colder air in a local frost pocket. Some observers believe that years ago one of the many fires which have swept the area killed all the trees, following which young pine seeded in and became established in the burn.

Early in their life, the developing saplings were bent over as the still-standing fire-killed trees were blown down to form a mat of interlaced trunks. The young bent or partially broken pines reached for openings to escape the covering blowdown, and eventually new growth found its way through the layer of dead trees. The fallen ones decayed with time, removing all evidence of the cause.

A more likely cause has been recently brought to light by research on the west coast of Vancouver Island. A similar problem was spotted there, and subsequently researched. The researchers found that the stand was suffering under a nutrient imbalance, arsenic toxicity and boron deficiency. It is not known whether one or all three of these occurrences caused the problem. However, it is known



that the problem was not of a physical nature. Unless research is done on the Jasper trees, we can only continue to speculate.

A sketch of the Valley of Crooked Trees and a description of them can be found in **The Banff-Jasper Highway** by M.B. Williams. This publication is an excellent description of the route followed by the Icefields Parkway from Banff to Jasper with colourful information for the traveller on the landscape, early exploration and use of the surrounding area. In the account of this unique valley, the author, Mabel Williams, writes that it is "so narrow that you are apt to pass by without noticing it," and that there "every bole is bent, twisted, contorted out of shape. Some have gnarled and knotty elbows as if they had been attacked by some sort of arboreal arthritis. Others are twisted like corkscrews or bulge like the neck of a cormorant which has a half-swallowed fish in its throat."

The Valley of the Crooked Trees is not widely publicized, even though it is within the protecting confines of Jasper National Park, because it is readily accessible to passers-by on the highway. Those few thoughtless people who vandalize parks and other treasured places will easily pass the area without noticing it, while the more observant, careful users of the park can readily find and explore it.



## Dunvegan Maple

**Species:**

Manitoba maple  
*Acer negundo*

**Location:**

Dunvegan

**Nominated by:**

Jerry Tanner

This historic maple comes to us from the "Land of Twelve Foot Davis" in Peace River Country. The tree is not only interesting for its history but, as you can see, it is also rather oddly formed.

The Dunvegan Maple was brought to the flat above the Peace River behind the Dunvegan Catholic church by James McDougall in 1883. McDougall was chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company at Dunvegan who, upon returning from a trip to the east, brought with him the Manitoba maples which surround the sites of the old buildings of the post. Little did he know that these trees would eventually provide welcome shade throughout the Peace River area.

Others from the surrounding area took cuttings from the Dunvegan maples and planted them all over Peace River Country. Tom Kerr, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company and a good friend of James McDougall, took some cuttings all the way to Sturgeon Lake (near Valleyview) and started them there in 1911.

The Dunvegan Maple is now 101 years old and still growing. The original trunk long since lay down on the ground, with the result that several of the branches themselves grew into full-size trees. Even if the original maple at Dunvegan should die, it will live on for many years through its progeny which have put down roots just as surely as the hardy pioneers who have settled the Peace River Country.

## Dwarf Lodgepole Pine

**Species:**

Lodgepole pine  
*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

**Location:**

Gregg River area near Hinton

**Nominated by:**

D.I. Crossley

Genetic mutations can cause dwarfism in trees. This mutation was spotted along the Gregg River by Desmond I. Crossley, chief forester for St. Regis (Alberta) Ltd., who recognized the dwarf because of its relatively small size among the others within the stand. The age of the tree was 42 years in 1983, yet it stood only 1.83 metres (six feet) in height.

Crossley successfully transplanted the tree to his home in Hinton where he could protect it. He donated it to the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry in 1983 when he moved away. The tree is now located on the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden near Devon.



## Entwined birch

**Species:**

Paper birch

*Betula papyrifera*

**Location:**

St. Albert

**Nominated by:**

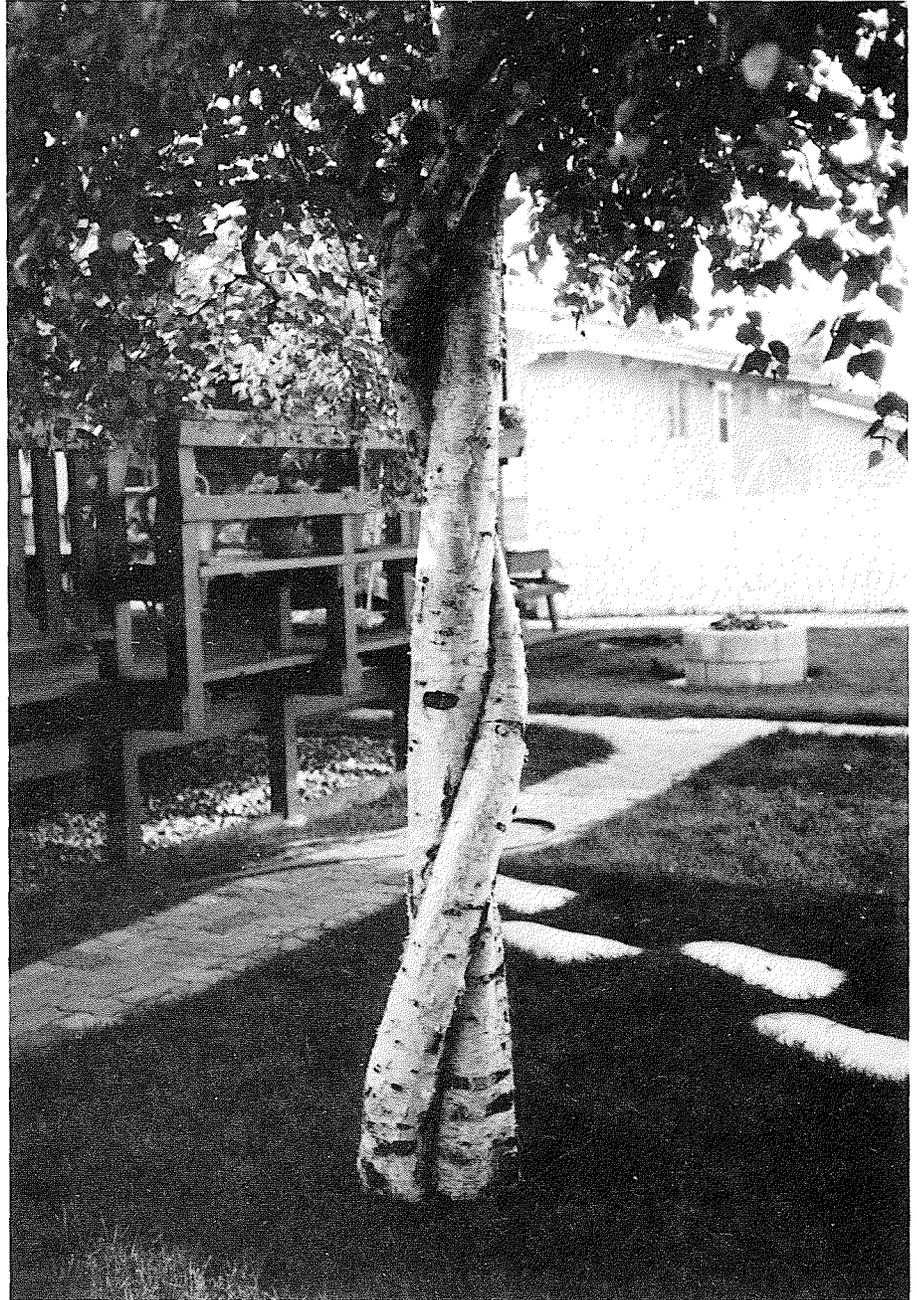
J. Tyson Spence

This tree was a gift to the Tysons shortly after they moved into their new home in St. Albert in 1964. It was transplanted on 19 June 1985 from wild stock located northeast of Nestow.

The Tysons discovered that the stems were entwined when they planted it, and noticed even then that the main trunk was indented with a groove where the smaller stem wrapped around it.

What caused it? We can only speculate — perhaps an animal rubbing, or gusty turbulent winds, or even a small dust-devil or twister when the stems were small and supple — or perhaps a genetic quirk.

The main stem now stands at over 8 meters tall at about 25 years of age.



### Fire Fir

**Species:**

Douglas-fir

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*

**Location:**

Jasper National Park

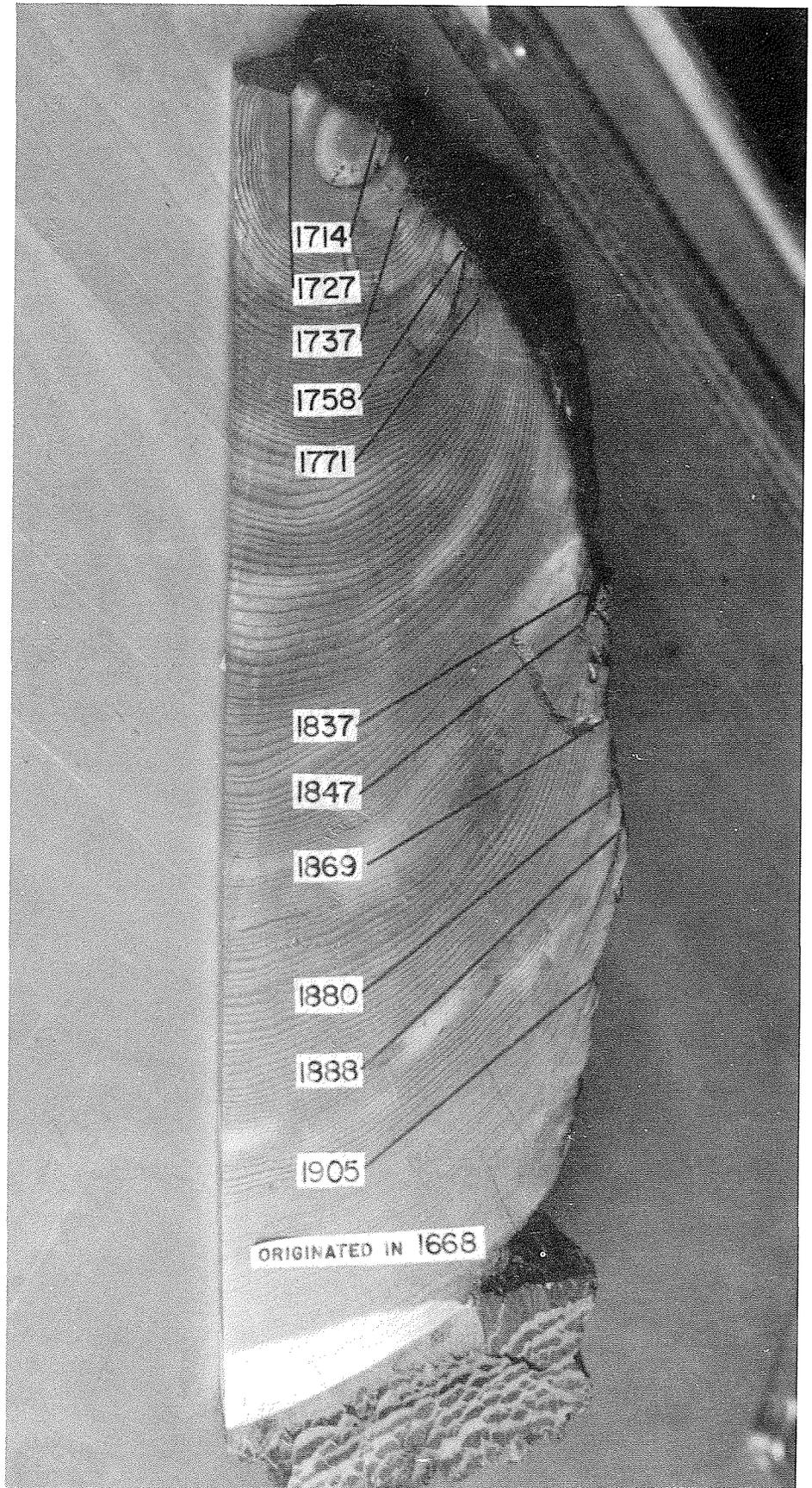
**Nominated by:**

George LaRoi

This section from a 316-year-old Douglas-fir graphically illustrates the ability of the species to withstand fire. Each line (with associated date) points to a fire scar. In other words, the tree has survived the onslaught of no less than eleven fires during its lifetime. The tree was discovered by G.F. Tande (now of Fairbanks, Alaska) during fieldwork for his Master of Science thesis (Botany Department, University of Alberta) in 1975-76.

Douglas-fir has developed an adaptive feature which provides it with a major advantage over competing trees: a thick, corky, fire-resistant bark on the lower trunk. The major advantage, of course, is the ability to survive fires. A second advantage is that fires remove underbrush and other competing vegetation in the process, thus allowing the trees to grow uninhibited. The frequent surface burns help to create the familiar open park-like conditions under the stands of Douglas-fir.

This section of the tree was removed almost entirely from a dead, unproductive portion of the trunk. The Fire Fir is still standing and growing (perhaps to survive yet another fire) in Jasper National Park.



## Garneau's Tree

**Species:**

Manitoba maple

*Acer negundo*

**Location:**

Edmonton

**Nominated by:**

A.D. Hall

Garneau's Tree is a living memorial to Laurent Garneau and his wife who were early pioneers in Alberta. It is growing near the southwest corner of 111th Street and Saskatchewan Drive in Edmonton. At its foot is a plaque with the likenesses of Laurent and Eleanor Garneau who homesteaded the property in 1874, and planted the Manitoba maple which survives today.

Laurent Garneau was born in 1840 at Bay's Mills, near Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. He was the son of an Ojibway mother and a French-Canadian fur trader who worked for the old North West Company. Following in his father's footsteps, Laurent teamed up with two companions to fur trade on the Missouri. After many adventures and hardships, he joined up with Metis buffalo hunters who eventually found their way to Fort Garry, Manitoba. It was there he met his future wife, Eleanor Thomas, who lived in the Scottish settlement of Kildonan. She spoke English and Gaelic, while Laurent spoke French and Ojibway.

Garneau was one of Louis Riel's soldiers in the Red River insurrection of 1869, and joined the westward migration of Metis that followed. He settled in Strathcona (now part of Edmonton) in 1874 where he took out his homestead. Garneau's Tree was planted at the rear of the original home. During this time, he worked for the Hudson's Bay Company as a charcoal burner, and later freighted to Athabasca. In 1901, the Garneau family moved to nearby St. Paul de Metis (now known as St. Paul). From there he carried on an active ranching and trading business. His original homestead was absorbed by the expanding city of Edmonton and the developing University of Alberta.



Laurent Garneau was active in commercial and community affairs. He ran in the 1913 election in the riding of St. Paul as an independent Liberal, but was defeated. He was a supporter of the Hon. Frank Oliver during his split with Premier A.C. Rutherford. Garneau was a true western pioneer from fur trader and plainsman to businessman and community leader.

In 1952, the City of Edmonton Archives and Landmarks Committee approved erection of a pedestal and plaque, subsequently located at the intersection of 90th Avenue and Saskatchewan Drive. The plaque bore these words: "Laurent Garneau, farmer, community organizer and musician, who acquired the property in 1874. His original home was on the lane at the rear of 11108 - 90 Avenue. A maple tree planted by him still grows there. Erected 1953."

At the same time that approval was given for this memorial, it was also approved to mark Garneau's Tree. This was not done until 1982 when a grant from the University of Alberta's Skarin Fund made it possible to fulfil this long-standing commitment.

Today, at the foot of Garneau's Tree is a metal marker with the etched likenesses of Laurent and Eleanor Thomas Garneau and the inscription, "Garneau's Tree. This tree, planted about 1874, marks the homestead of Laurent Garneau (1840-1921) after whom this part of the city is named."

# Georges Bugnet Plantation

### Species:

Scots pine and Ponderosa pine  
*Pinus sylvestris* L. and *Pinus ponderosa* Laws.

### Location:

Rich Valley

### Nominated by:

George Grainger

Georges Bugnet homesteaded near Rich Valley in 1905. He was born in the Burgundy region of France in 1879, and brought with him a keen interest in trees and horticulture. The thing he missed most when he and his wife and small daughter first arrived was the beautiful and lush vegetation of their home. So keenly did he feel, that he decided then and there to do something about it. He began by searching for seeds of trees and shrubs hardy enough for the prairies. His initial success with a number of these from North America prompted him to go further afield in his quest.

One of his early and most prominent trials was a plantation of Scots pine and ponderosa pine, along with a few jack pine and lodgepole pine to try to compare how well they would do in that north-central area.

The trees were planted in rows in the shape of a block between 1920 and 1924. He obtained seeds of Scots and ponderosa pine from the Botanical Garden in Leningrad, U.S.S.R., and also obtained some Scots pine from the Indian Head Nursery in Saskatchewan. He tried several 'provenances,' the term referring to regions from which the seed sources came and which have distinctive genetic characteristics. Consideration of provenance is important to geneticists in tree improvement programs. In the Bugnet Plantation, for example, there was a 42% difference in diameter growth between two of the Scots pine strains. Provenances also affected height growth, tree volume, and straightness of stem. Georges Bugnet observed that the 'Ladoga' Scots pine from the Russia-



Finland border area grew at three times the rate of the pine from Indian Head. The 'Ladoga' Scots pine produced over two times the volume of the local lodgepole pine in the same time, but the introduced species were more susceptible to damage from porcupines and sapsuckers.

At their present age of almost 65 years, the trees have diameters up to 50-55 cm and heights of 20-23 metres. The plantation has been reserved by the province as a seed production and study area.

Mr. Bugnet was probably best known for his hybrid rose, the Therese Bugnet, which produces a profusion of double pink blossoms that last from about the middle of June to mid-September. It took him 25 years of continued crossing between the Alberta wild rose, the rose of Kamchatka and wild rose from Siberia and Japan, using techniques he learned from Luther Burbank, N.E. Hanson and Seage Wheeler. Other varieties developed by Mr. Bugnet are growing as far north as Great Slave Lake. He received the Certificate of Merit from the Western Society of Horticulture for his many contributions.

But further, he was a scholar, and author of the novels *Nipsya* and *La Foret*, both of which have been translated into English, and several other books and poems. He was named "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques"

from France, and given recognition from Alberta for his literary achievements. In 1978 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta at a special ceremony in Saint Emile Church in Legal — the first time a Convocation had been held outside Edmonton.



## 125th Street Maples

### Species:

Silver maple and American elm  
*Acer saccharinum* and *Ulmus  
americana*

### Location:

Edmonton

### Nominated by:

Wendy Kurany and family

Street-side planting of trees in towns and cities was a well-established tradition in Europe long before the Canadian west was settled. However, it was a great custom brought by early pioneers who wished to beautify their communities and provide summertime shade.

An excellent example can be found on 125 Street in Edmonton between 102nd and 103rd Avenues. Silver maples and American elm were planted along the boulevards in 1910 as shown in the old photograph. By now the lovely mature shade trees are over 75 years old, over 50 feet in height with diameters up to 90 cm and more. They contribute greatly to the pleasant atmosphere of the neighbourhood. Tree planting gives both immediate satisfaction as well as long-term benefits to future generations.



### Jasper and Banff Horse-camp trees

**Species:**

Engelmann spruce

*Picea engelmannii*

**Location:**

Banff and Jasper National Parks

**Nominated by:**

Betty & James H.

(Harry) Horton

Trail blazes and camp markers were extensively used by the early guides and outfitters from the late 1800's. As they developed trails and camps, they left records on the trees for the guidance of future travellers and to identify the places they had been. Some with artistic talents also carved pictures, as illustrated. These early packers played an important role in our history, locating trails and camps. Some of these later became roads and campgrounds, but many remain as backcountry routes enjoyed by present-day backpackers and horsemen alike.

Agnes Truxler was one of these early packers in the Jasper area. She along with her sister the late Mona Matheson earned a deserved reputation as excellent guides and outfitters, and also demonstrated that women were at least equals in this previously male-dominated activity. Agnes explained the tradition of these blazes in a letter written in November 1985: "In our day, outfitters, crews and parties almost always wrote or carved a record of their travels before leaving camp, thereby recording history for those following in the future". This is no longer done these days because of the much greater number of travellers, and concern about too extensive damage to the living trees. But the old record of these pioneers is interesting as these photos from Camp Parker show.

Names recorded on these identified blazes include those of Jack Brewster, Charlie and Mona Matheson, Leonard Jeck, Joe Cosley, Stewy Cameron the noted cartoonist, L. Gilman, H. Smith, guide, and A.V. Wynn, packer. Mary T.S. Schaffer also stopped at some of these camps on her 1911 expedition to



Maligne Lake and other trips.

## Cosley Tree

**Species:**

Trembling aspen  
*Populus tremuloides*

**Location:**

Waterton Lakes National Park

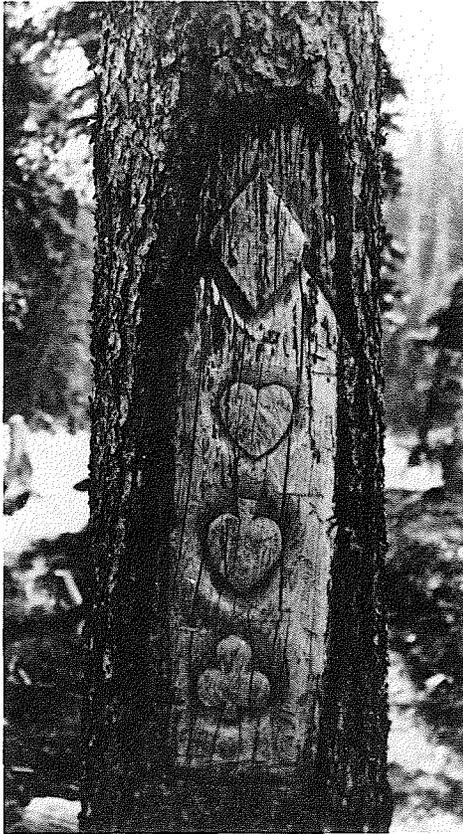
**Nominated by:**

D.W. Barrus, K. McDougall,  
E.K. Goble, and Waterton Park  
staff

Another interesting example of an historical blaze is found on The Cosley Tree along the Snowshoe Trail in Waterton Lakes National Park. The blaze is scribed:

J.C. Cosley  
May 9  
1897

Joe Cosley was a renowned, even infamous, trapper and part-time ranger in the Waterton-Glacier area of the southern Rocky Mountains. Two Goble brothers, Ken and Frank, found a blaze on another aspen in the Belly River area with Cosley's name carved in 1903, but that tree had been previously carved by a 'R.M.' in 1878. Joe Cosley's name was found in the Parker Ridge area in the north end of Banff Park as well.



### Lobstick at Jasper

**Species:**

Douglas-fir

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*

**Location:**

Jasper National Park

**Nominated by:**

A.D. Hall

There is a Lobstick Tree on the west bank of the Athabasca River, about 1.5 kilometres (one mile) north of the townsite of Jasper, along the Yellowhead Highway. It has been dead for at least 30 years, but is still standing beside a much larger, living tree from which most of the crown has broken off. The Lobstick — a Douglas-fir like its neighbour — can be readily identified since most of the lower branches had been cut off in the manner of marking such trees, and two railway spikes had been driven into the lower trunk. The tree is a record of historical significance.

A lobstick (or lopstick) according to **Webster's Third International Dictionary** is "a tree with branches trimmed so that it may serve as a landmark or memorial." A more complete description is found in **A Dictionary of Canadianisms** which notes that a lobstick is "a tall conspicuous spruce or pine denuded of all but its topmost branches to serve as a mark of honour for a friend, as a monument, or often as a living talisman of the man for whom it was made" or as a "landmark".

While the Jasper Lobstick was made by trimming all but the upper branches, other means of marking them included leaving the lower branches as well as the top while removing the limbs between, sometimes leaving live branches in the intervening space. The lower trunk often was blazed, engraved or otherwise marked. Lobsticks were found in the area north of the North Saskatchewan River and were usually made by northern Indians or Metis.

It is believed by many that the Lobstick at Jasper was cut in 1872 to mark the spot where Sir Sanford Fleming was to meet Walter Moberly who was in charge

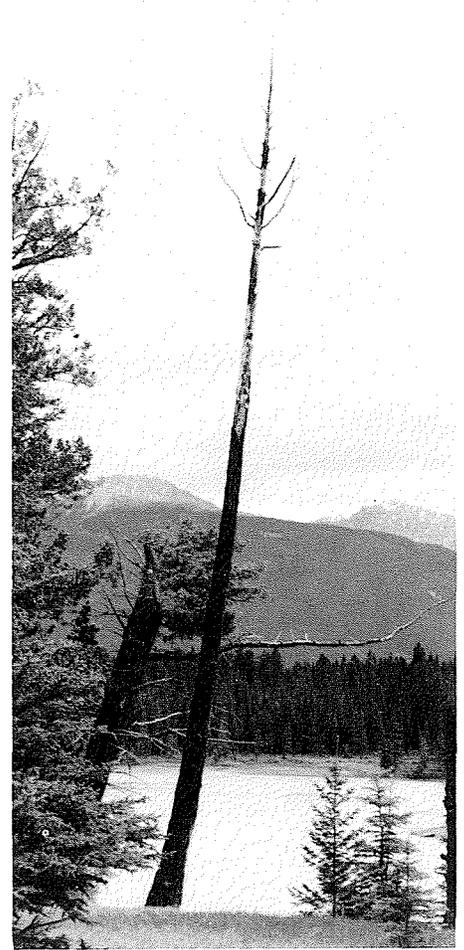
of the CPR survey in the area. At that time, a search for a transcontinental railway route through the Rockies was underway to fulfil a commitment to British Columbia which had entered Confederation the previous year.

A number of northern routes and passes were being investigated on the strong possibility that the railway would pass through Edmonton. Moberly was surveying from British Columbia through the Yellowhead Pass from the west, while Sir Sanford Fleming, chief engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was approaching Jasper House from the east. Even though political and other considerations eventually resulted in the CPR transcontinental railway being built through Calgary and across the Kicking Horse and Rogers passes, the Yellowhead route recommended by Sir Sanford Fleming was chosen for the later construction in the early 1900s of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and Canadian Northern Railway, amalgamated in 1916 as the Canadian National.

There have been some suggestions that the Lobstick at Jasper was cut for other reasons, such as to mark a ford across the Athabasca River, but the railway spikes embedded in the trunk of the Lobstick help to support the former explanation.

There is another explanation for the Lobstick at Jasper. Ed Moberly, a highly respected guide and outfitter in the Rocky Mountains, refers to the tree as a symbol of truce between two Indian tribes. According to his oral history of the region during the last century, bands of Stoney and Cree Indians in the mid 1800s were camped some distance apart on the plains east of present-day Jasper.

The chief of the Stoney Indians, accompanied by four of his warriors, approached the camp of the Crees and made a truce. The two bands then moved closer together and continued to hunt in peace. Mr. Moberly recalls hearing of only two lobstick trees in the region — the other at Lobstick, on the Jasper-Edmonton trail. According to the history of the lobsticks, as passed down to him by his father, John Moberly, these were always pruned in the fashion of that at Jasper, and always marked a pledge of friendship or truce.



Ed Moberly with his family lived near the present site of the airport in Jasper Park when it was created in 1907, and were moved outside its boundaries to homestead grants east of Hinton where they have lived since that time.

Many other lobsticks were made in Alberta and northern Canada. Lobstick Creek, which appears on the Palliser map of 1865 was named after a tall lobstick on its bank which marked the spot where it crossed the trail leading from Edmonton to the Athabasca and Yellowhead passes. Alexander Mackenzie in his northern and western explorations observed a great number of trees, in different places, whose branches had been lopped off to the tops, as did many other early fur traders and adventurers in the Mid and Far North.

Lobsticks have marked the way or the stay of many trailblazers in Alberta's history. The Lobstick at Jasper is a significant sign post of the past.

## Lord's Willow

**Species:**

Bayleaf willow (Laurel-Leaf)  
*Salix pentandra* L.

**Location:**

Red Deer

**Nominated by:**

Michael Podgurski

This majestic specimen is a sentimental favorite of the residents of Red Deer. The magnificent spreading crown reaches a full 25 metres (82 feet) at the widest point, and has a diameter of 228 cm (7.5 feet), making it very impressive indeed.

It was planted by W.E. Lord, a Red Deer merchant, about 1906 in front of what became known as the Lord home, or mansion. The home had been built by a Mr. Wright and later purchased by Mr. Lord. It is not certain who planted the tree — Wright or Lord — but it is very much a part of the property.

When the Lord home was demolished in the 1970's to make way for a new apartment building, the tree was not only spared, but gave its name to the "The Willows", the apartment building which now occupies the site. With increasing traffic on 55th street, two of its overhanging limbs were removed to provide clearance — the limbs some 60 cm each in diameter. An interesting feature of the tree is a natural 'bridge graft' where two of the trunks have crossed and joined together.

The special feelings towards the tree were warmly caught by Heather Wood who wrote the **Advocate** in the 1960's:

"It is an odd tree people say. No other Red Deer tree can compare to it. Someday, maybe soon, someone will chop it down. And when it falls, the last of the landmarks will have gone.

This is the Lord tree. A laurel-leaf willow, it was planted shortly after W.E. Lord built the house during the boom prior to the First World War.

Since then it has grown into a monument. Strangers as well as city



residents remark on its size and foliage. With each change in the season, the tree presents a different picture. In the spring citizens watch for the first green dusting to appear on the willow before finally rejoicing at the end of winter.

To a child, the tree is the greatest mystery. Each branch invites a climb, each clump of leaves a hiding place. And every child who gazes at the tree knows that a swing is out of place.

This is a tree for dreaming — a tree from which a man, or a boy, can survey the world, and yet reach for the sky.

To an adult, the tree is a silent symbol of

the strength and beauty associated with nature.

The tree has seen much life pass by. It has watched young mothers wheel their children to town. It has heard the children playing on the banks of the creek nearby. It has felt the touch of youthful hands as those same children wandered to school.

It has seen Red Deer and felt the pulse move faster as the town grew. It has been Red Deer, with the same quiet grandeur of the little parkland city. It is the greatest, and the last, of the landmarks."



### Peace Tree

**Species:**

Trembling aspen  
*Populus tremuloides*

**Location:**

Midnapore

**Nominated by:**

Mary Dover

During the uncertain times of the Riel Rebellion of 1885 the communities of Calgary and Edmonton were considered to be at risk if a general uprising developed. Col. Sam Steele was asked to form a company of troops comprised of former North West Mounted Police members and ranchers as a defensive unit. The Steele Scouts, as they became known, rode north to Ft. Edmonton in 1885 where they found it to be safe. During this time the Chiefs representing Treaty No. 7 around Calgary announced that they would not rise with Riel, so the Steele Scouts were then directed to Batoche where they participated in the final battle.

In 1976 a group of Calgary-area residents reestablished the Steele Scouts as a ceremonial and commemorative unit. Elected Commander was Lt. Col. Mary Dover of Midnapore, who had earned that rank in the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War. Mrs. Dover, granddaughter of Col. James Macleod CMG who had led the first NWMP detachment west, had long-standing friendships among the local native Indian leaders. When it was suggested that the Steele Scouts reenact the march to Batoche on the 100-year anniversary of the Rebellion in 1985, Indian leaders suggested to Mary that they should first smoke a pipe of peace — a suggestion to which there was quick agreement.

A special pipe was made of stone by Lydia and Ruth Brass, Blackfoot Elders of the Glieshen Reserve at Arrowwood. These Elders told the Steele Scouts that the pipe must never be smoked except on ceremonial occasions, that it must be kept in a secret place, and kept wrapped in a special pure cotton cloth. Mary Dover donated one of her mother's head

scarfs for the purpose. A final condition was that there had to be a proper sendoff for the pipe, a ceremony which was held at the Dover home place near Millarville southwest of Calgary on 1 June 1985. Tribal representatives Gordon Crowchild, A. Youngman, Lazarus Wesley and Frank Longspot smoked the pipe ceremonially with Lt. Col. Mary Dover, and the Sarcees presented a special beaded bag in which to keep the pipe. During the ceremony a white cotton cloth was draped on a forked stick and, at the conclusion of the event when the pipe had been placed in its beaded bag, Gordon Crowchild stated that the cloth must be tied around a tree of his choosing to be left there as a sign, not of a truce but of peace. Chief Crowchild then tied the cloth around what is now known as the Peace Tree to

symbolize the reaffirmation of peace among the peoples of western Alberta.

During the fall of 1985 the Steele Scouts rode from Fort Saskatchewan to Frog Lake and Onion Lake accompanied by Mary Dover, meeting with Indian leaders and local people along the way. The highlight of the trip occurred at Frog Lake, site of the Frog Lake Massacre. The Indian leaders agreed, after a great deal of deliberation, to smoke the pipe of peace with the Steele Scouts and Mary Dover. They explained during the ceremony that their tribe had been unjustly blamed for the tragedy at Frog Lake in 1885, that it was a small renegade group which had brought it about. They hoped the 1985 ceremony would mark the beginning of a better understanding — one emanating from the Peace Tree near Millarville.



## Pinto Lake Trees

**Species:**

Lodgepole pine  
*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

**Location:**

Pinto Lake (near White Goat Wilderness area)

**Nominated by:**

T.C. Loblaw

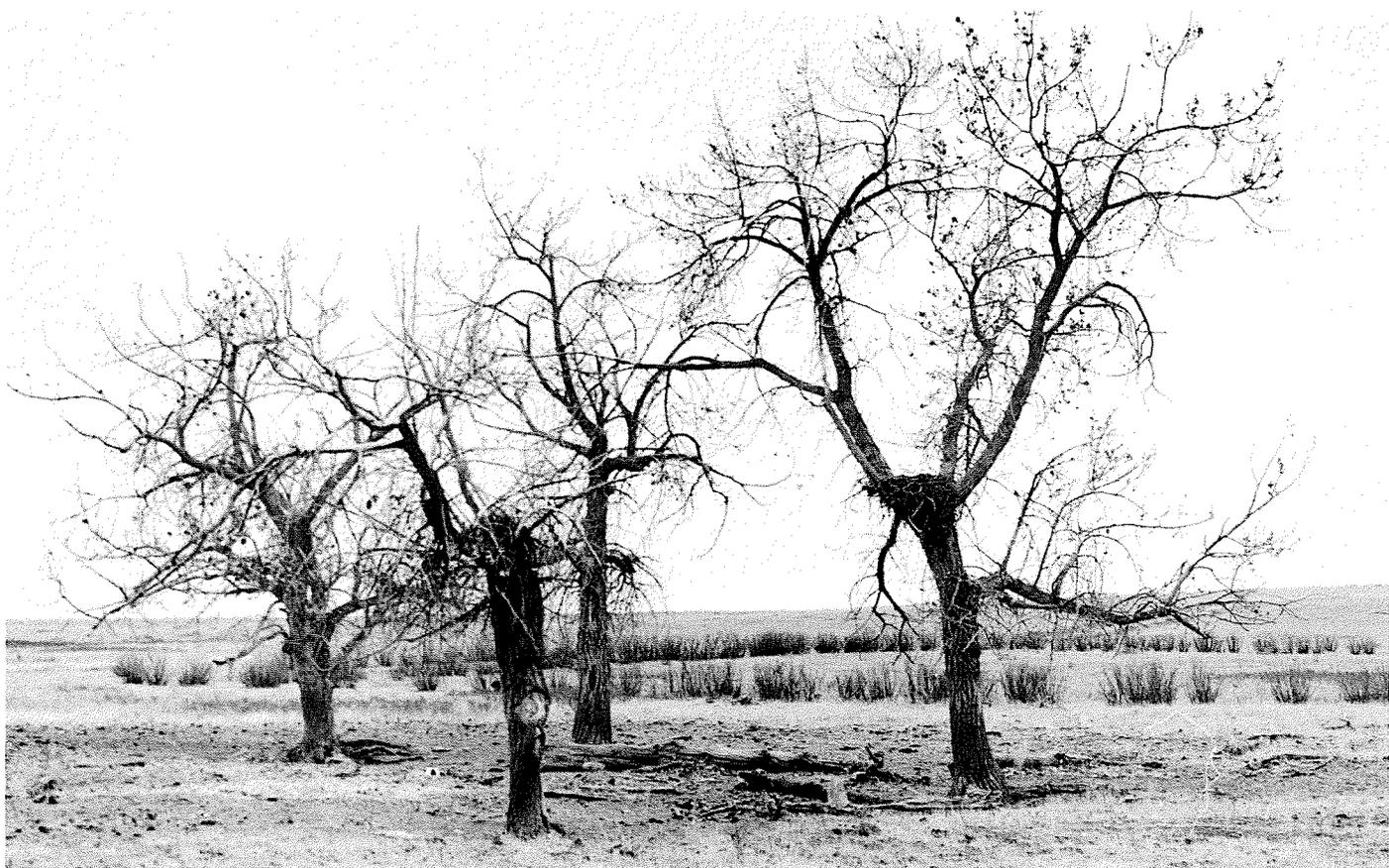
In the fall of 1923, Frank Pierce, his wife, daughter Maxine, and one cow moved out to his trapline cabin located on the east shore of Pinto Lake, headwaters of the White Goat River, later renamed the Cline.

During early winter, tragedy struck. Frank Pierce accidentally shot himself in the arm with a shotgun. Because of complications and the remoteness of the area, Mrs. Pierce was forced to amputate his arm. The family was then forced to remain where they were with no hope of getting out at least for the entire winter. Through it all, the remarkable Mrs. Pierce was able to carry on as doctor, nurse and family provider until someone chanced upon them.

In early June of 1924, the nearly impossible happened when the family was discovered by a party of natives. The natives in turn notified authorities in Nordegg, where a rescue party was quickly formed. The rescue party, consisting of three officers of the Alberta Provincial Police named English, Holmes, and Watson, removed the Pierce family on June 24, 1924.

The inscriptions carved by the rescuers are monuments which still stand to one family's brush with fate and their spirit to carry on.





### Sentinel Trees

**Species:**

Plains cottonwood

*Populus deltoides var. occidentalis*

**Location:**

North of Enchant

**Nominated by:**

Mrs. Guri Opstad

The Sentinel Trees were a gift from the drylands to a girl of the Alberta Prairies for several wonderful years of childhood. How they came to be there was of no concern to a child of the plains who loved them secretly and silently for their beauty. That was way back between 1916 and 1923.

At that time, the little girl's Sentinel Trees were a landmark known to all the homesteaders for miles around the community. The little girl moved into a house built in 1904 by a wealthy philanthropist, carpenter and rancher of the Kinnondale area, formerly from California, named Salisbury. The Salisbury house was directly across the

fence from the Sentinel Trees, and neighbours used to tie their only child to one of the trees by their backyard gate to keep the little boy from wandering off.

The area in those times was coyote country but, with such fine trees to keep a fellow home, the parents did not need to watch over their baby at all times. They could leave him safely and happily in the shade of a Sentinel where the girl who loved the trees came to play with the boy next door.

Those enduring sentinels have lasted for four eras since they were planted by some enterprising immigrant during the heyday of the transient American ranchers. These men moved north from the United States for summer pasture to feed the growing herds of the western cattle kings but were later crowded out by the inrush of homesteaders.

Through all this, the trees by the Salisbury house flourished on the drylands of Kinnondale, where no other trees existed at the time. As far as one could see in all directions, and the view was extensive, there were naught but the little girl's Sentinel Trees, alone and superb.

Even in 1975, the trees still endured remarkably well. The settlement had long since been replaced by open plain because most of the original settlers had moved out by 1925. The area was now a vast community pasture, but the trees remained, mute sentinels of the open plains. The trees which had witnessed the cattle barons, the wild horse bands and the settling of the West, guided the little girl, long since grown up, back to the place they had always charmed for her when she was young.

Irrigation is shrinking the drylands of Kinnondale. As cattle have uprooted much of the Sentinels' roots, they are giving way to time. Still standing on the open plain north of Enchant, these noble Sentinels certainly belong in a history of trees for they are surely among the hardiest of trees on the drylands of southern Alberta.

Give me trees, oh, give me these.  
Give me sunlight give me moonlight,  
Give me trees, leaves a flutter  
And a whisper in the breeze.  
Oh, give me trees.

— Guri Opstad

## Son-of-Jenning's Tree (Tree-in-the-road)

**Species:**

White spruce  
*Picea glauca*

**Location:**

Banff National Park

**Nominated by:**

Cliff White

Tree-in-the-road, or Jennings' Tree as it was known locally, was featured in the first edition. It had an interesting story as outlined by its nominator A.D. Hall.

The Tree-in-the-road was saved during construction in 1947 of a section of what was then the Trans-Canada Highway, now Highway 1A about 19 km west of Banff. As described by Senator

Donald Cameron in his book 'The Impossible Dream' he and Major P.J. Jennings, who was then superintendent of Banff National Park, first noted the great tree when they were travelling the original highway at a place where roadwork was underway. Survey lines marked the new location and grading was about to begin. Lying squarely in line with the proposed clearing was a towering spruce, fair of shape and great in size. Could this beautiful specimen not be saved?

There were many reasons why the tree should come down. The position of the new road had already been decided and staked out. The only alternative to curving the road around the tree was to split the two-lane highway to leave a central oasis and this would surely create a traffic hazard. There were many arguments as to why the tree must go — yet it was a truly outstanding spruce and, after all, were National Parks not meant to save some notable examples of the natural world even if this required actions

not normal or even possible outside park boundaries?

The tree won out. The road was split. The mighty spruce was left to grow in a green patch bracketed by the embracing arms of the divided highway. Since that time it has been admired by many visitors. A traffic problem did not develop, and the 'Tree-in-the-road' stood as a living monument to the unique values of the national park system and those who developed it.

Tree-in-the-road prevailed for almost 40 years, but nature intervened during the night of June 28-29, 1984 when unusually strong easterly winds of up to 50 km per hour hit the tree. By then it was probably over 200 years of age, had developed severe heart rot which left it structurally weakened, and it blew down. But nature had already provided for renewal. At the east end of the 'oasis' are three vigorous young spruce, the largest of which is already 7.6 metres in height. Now free to grow, this Son-of-Jenning's Tree will carry on the tradition through its generation.



## Spirit Island Trees

### Species:

Engelmann Spruce and  
Lodgepole Pine

*Picea engelmannii* and *Pinus contorta*  
var. *latifolia*

### Location:

Maligne Lake, Jasper National  
Park

### Nominated by:

W.C.M. Robson

Much-photographed, and perhaps one of the most widely publicized scenes of Alberta, is Spirit Island with its distinctive stand of trees, at the upper end of Maligne Lake in Jasper National Park.

Maligne Lake was known to the Stoney Indians as Chaba Imne, or Great Beaver Lake. M.B. Williams (1949) explained that the Indians trapped beaver and marten along its shores, but that the beaver were largely gone by 1850. Henry MacLeod was thought to have been the first white man to have explored the valley in 1875 looking for possible locations for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Mary Schaffer, the noted early guide and outfitter, was given a description of the lake by Sampson Beaver, a Stoney Indian and friend of long standing. In June 1908 with two friends, three guides and 22 horses she left from Lake Louise and travelled north to look for it. They built a raft when they arrived at the north end of the lake and travelled up to the south, discovering the Narrows which Sampson had described, and the Spirit Island. She named two adjacent mountains on the east shore Sampson Peak, and Leah Peak in honor of his wife.

The trees on the island are a mix of Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine. The oldest trees are about 220 years. In a study of fire history in the Athabasca Valley around Jasper townsite, Gerald Tande found that over half of his study area had burned in a major fire in 1758 — about 225 years ago. It is quite possible that this Maligne lake area also burned then and that the beaver in the lake fed on an early growth of poplar



and willows which followed the fire. The disappearance of the beaver after 1850 may have been a combined result of the trapping and replacement of the willow and poplar by the pine and spruce which are now predominant.

Maligne Lake takes its name from the river which drains it north to the Athabasca River. It was thought to have been so named because of a difficult crossing referred to by early 'voyageurs' as "la Maligne traverse." Spirit Island was so named because it was used by Indians as a site for purification and communication with the spirits. As Mable Williams (1949) put it:

"A little island, charmingly wooded with lance pointed spruce, guards the narrow postern. Within lies a calm lagoon, shadowed by over-hanging peaks and set with rocky shoals and tiny islets. This narrow passageway extends for perhaps another quarter of a mile. As one approaches its end, a green peninsula thrusts out from the western shore, long and slender like a sword held in front of a king's tent. So well guarded, so defended, indeed, is this upper lake that it seems as if it were meant to be shut away forever from the touch of the profane and one does not wonder that among the Indians it was regarded as a sort of sacred spot, fit place for those

long vigils of purification in which they held communion with the great spirits of the forests and mountains."

## Stockdale Maple

**Species:**

Manitoba maple

*Acer negundo*

**Location:**

Provost

**Nominated by:**

Colleen Ferry

This Manitoba maple is unusual mostly for its association with an Eaton's mail order house built by James Stockdale of Provost, Alberta, in 1918.

Mr. Stockdale came from England in 1909, homesteading on a quarter section near Provost. When he married, it was eventually found that the old homestead shack was too small to contain his new family. With that in mind he purchased, for the grand sum of \$833.81, a house package from the 1917-18 Eaton's Building Supplies Catalogue. The package was shipped from Eaton's in Winnipeg to Provost by railroad, and was then built on a foundation of rocks gathered locally.

Upon completion of the house, protection was needed from the constant, harsh prairie winds. One of the shelterbelt trees, a Manitoba maple, received a choice spot close to the front porch. Through drought, hail, wind, insects and hard times the maple grew. One branch provided a swing for the children, another dipped towards the upstairs window, providing shade and an unique but adequate fire escape. Stories say the branch was also handy as a means for the farmer's daughters to slip down from the upstairs window, and meet their sweethearts on the front porch.

The unusual growth of this tree not only proved useful but also provided an interesting sight when viewed from a distance. It initially bends to the east so as not to damage the house, then swings back to the west to protect it. The tree and the house complement each other like two elderly prairie matrons.



## Superior Lodgepole Pine

**Species:**

Lodgepole pine  
*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

**Location:**

Grande Prairie

**Nominated by:**

C.A. Dermott

This Lodgepole pine could well have been the fastest growing pine in Alberta. It was discovered by the Reforestation and Reclamation Branch, Alberta Forest Service, as part of its program to identify genetically superior trees for use in the improvement of forest growing stock.

What set this tree apart from its neighbours is that it was 48 per cent higher (22 metres in height) and 40 per cent bigger around (26.2 centimetres diameter at breast height). The amazing thing about this is that the tree at age 69 was actually four to eight years younger than its fellows. Such a tree has the potential to be extremely valuable as a source of genetically superior seed which can be used to significantly increase timber production.

Before this tree was felled, the Alberta Forest Service carefully followed its life, and studied cuttings to determine whether it could ultimately be used as a source for future superior trees.



## The Suntree

**Species:**

Balsam poplar

*Populus balsamifera*

**Location:**

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Grounds

**Nominated by:**

Brad Berglund

This lone tree was the centre of the Indian Village in the Stampede Grounds from 1908 to 1975 when the Indian Village was moved to its present site.

The tree had been surrounded by a stage where the Indians performed traditional dances. It was also the site where honours were conferred to visiting dignitaries such as the Late Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker who was made an honorary chief. Other distinguished visitors honored at the Suntree included the Royal Family during their visit in 1939. Walt Disney and Bing Crosby.

The Suntree is 81 centimetres in diameter and 19 metres in height. In 1975 the Samaritan Club of Calgary constructed Suntree Park to commemorate Calgary's 100th birthday and the Suntree itself.



## The Survival Tree — Cypress Hills

**Species:**

Lodgepole Pine

*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

**Location:**

Cypress Hills Park

**Nominated by:**

Betty & James H.

(Harry) Horton

“This Lodgepole Pine has withstood the onslaughts of nature and man. Bent by winds, frozen under heavy snows and parched by summer drought, it has survived. Early settlers even started to cut it down . . . yet today it still grows, clinging to life in the fescue grasslands of the Cypress Hills”.

Another great example of a tree's tenacity for life is this widely-known Survival Tree in the Cypress Hills Provincial Park in southeastern Alberta. When it fell over, the branches on the upper side became separate trunks growing upward out of the fallen main stem. The Alberta Parks plaque tells the story succinctly:



## Spruce Grove Medicine Tree

crown is only 9.2 meters and the largest stem 64 centimeters. Its spreading trunks have made it an ideal climbing tree for countless children.

### Species:

Manitoba Maple  
*Acer negundo*

### Location:

Near Spruce Grove

### Nominated by:

Lisa Erickson

This interesting grove illustrates the sprawling form which the Manitoba maple may take after years of hardship including lightning damage and heavy snow loads. The age and origin could not be determined, although legend has it that the grove was used as a medicine or spiritual site by Indians in times past.

The grove is 29 meters long and 20 meters at the widest point. The tallest



### Carved Tree

**Species:**

Lodgepole pine

*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

**Location:**

Near Lower Kananaskis Lake

**Nominated by:**

J. Dexter Champion

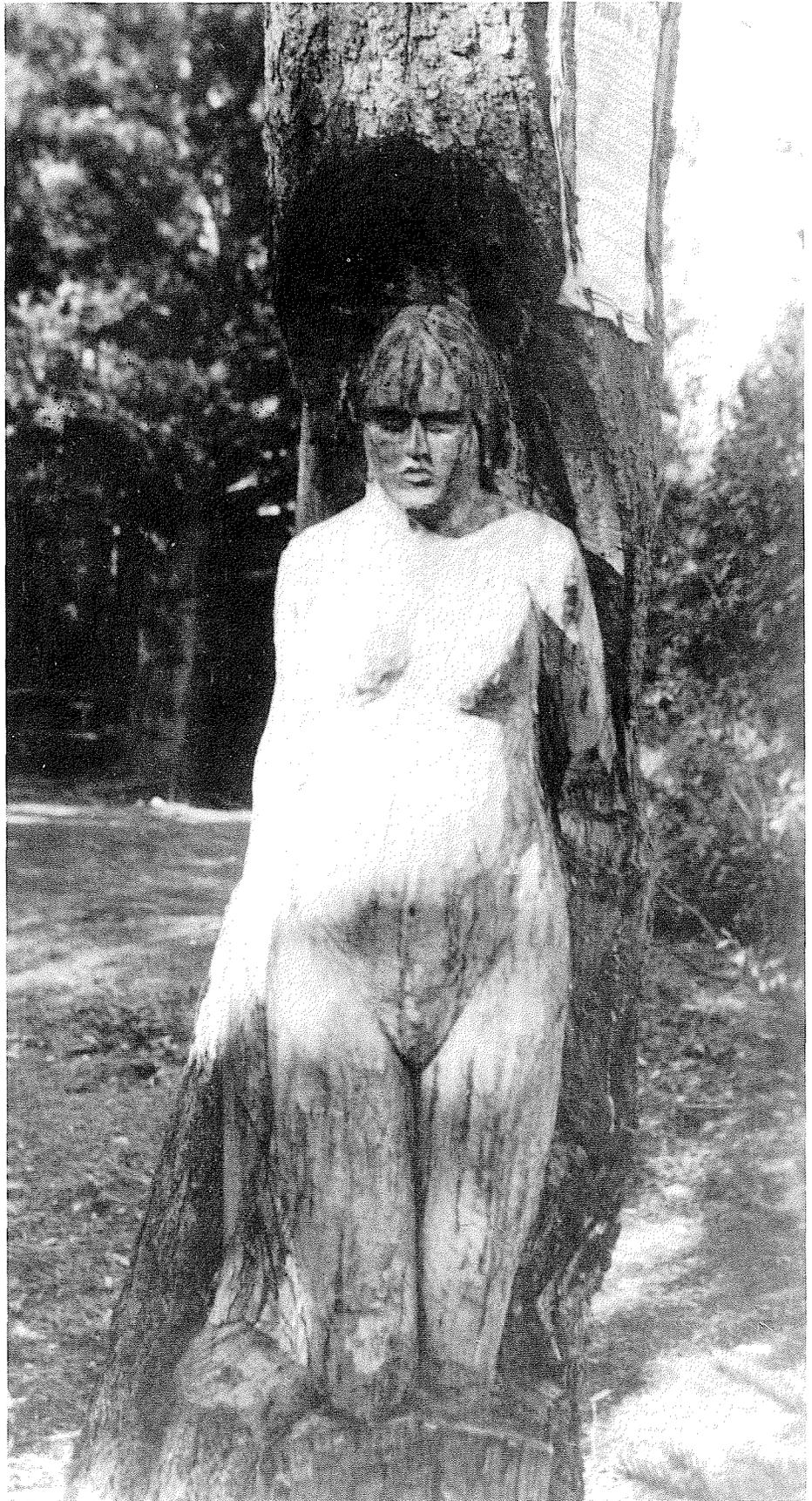
Located near lower Kananaskis Lake, this tree was carved by Jack Fuller who was a talented guide and outfitter from Banff. It was created about 1926 when it was a live lodgepole pine about 35 cm (14 inches) in diameter.

Dexter Champion was forest ranger at the Kananaskis Lakes cabin at the time this photograph was taken in 1935. He did not see Jack Fuller at work on the Carved Tree, but had talked to someone who did. Fuller would evidently take to carving in the evening when his party was out fishing. The work was done with an axe and a jack-knife. Champion described how he kept an eye on the tree for the three years he was there, at one time speaking sternly to a group of ladies who tried to "improve" on it, imploring them to leave it alone.

The tree was apparently felled at the time the lake was cleared for the Calgary Power Reservoir. Champion believes that the carving was saved, but its whereabouts are unknown.

Dexter Champion understands that there were as many as seven of these carvings at one time, but he himself knew only three: this one at the lower Kananaskis Lake, one at Marble Creek in the Spray Lakes-Mount Assiniboine area, and one at the head of the Spray River.

We would welcome word on the present location of this "Carved Lady", and any of the other carved trees in our mountain camps.



## Hardisty Tree

**Species:**

Manitoba maple

*Acer negundo*

**Location:**

Edmonton

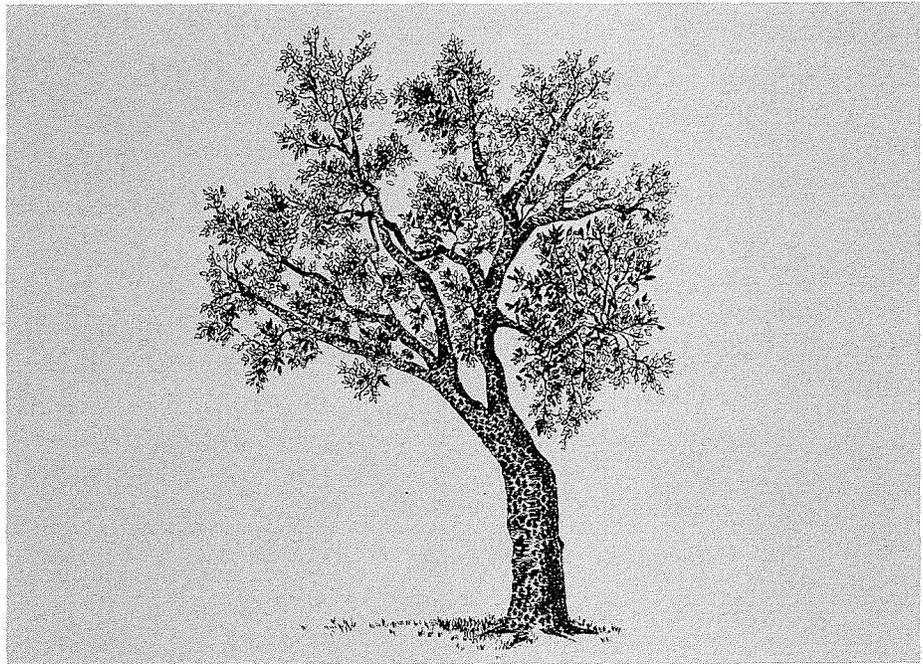
**Nominated by:**

A.D. Hall

The Hardisty Tree was a Manitoba maple planted at old Fort Edmonton by Alberta pioneer and Hudson's Bay Company trader Richard Hardisty. It was planted with a row of maples along the north boundary of Chief Factor Hardisty's garden in 1875, and survived as its companions fell to old age or were uprooted to make way for the developing City of Edmonton and its new Legislative Building. The tree died in 1955, but not without a final struggle.

Richard G. Hardisty was born in 1831, probably at Eastmain near James Bay. His father at that time was a clerk (later chief factor) with the Hudson's Bay Company. Richard Hardisty Sr. and his wife, Marguerite, had six sons and four daughters. Of the sons, two became chief factors, two factors, and one a steamboat purser. Richard Jr. attained the highest position of all as the company-inspecting chief factor. One of the daughters married Chief Factor Donald A. Smith who was to become governor of the company and be named Lord Strathcona. The second son, William Lucas, was the father of Lady Lougheed of Calgary.

Richard Hardisty followed in the fur-trader steps of his father. After attending the River River Academy at Fort Garry, he entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1849 and progressed steadily with it, working out of Manitoba House, Cumberland House, Rocky Mountain House, Fort Carlton, Victoria and Edmonton. He was made chief factor at Edmonton House in 1872, and in 1887 was appointed inspection chief factor with duties extending from Moose Factory on James Bay, across the prairies and north to the mouth of the Mackenzie. That year, too, he was appointed first senator from Alberta. The Hon. Richard Hardisty died in 1889 from injuries



received earlier the same year during an inspection tour of the far-flung fur empire.

Richard Hardisty was renowned as a fur trader and factor, but he was also farsighted and progressive in many other ways. It was under his leadership that the Hudson's Bay Company became pioneer cattle ranchers in the Northwest soon after the last great southerly migration in 1878 of the rapidly diminishing buffalo herds. He was also responsible for building lumber and flour mills to serve the needs of increasing numbers of new pioneers venturing westward. He was widely respected by Indians, Metis and white people, and was a major influence in the development of the West.

In 1866 Richard Hardisty married Eliza Victoria McDougall, a daughter of the Rev. George McDougall. She was a remarkable woman in her own right, and was to outlive her husband by 40 years. At that time he was chief trader in charge of the post at Rocky Mountain House. Following other short-term postings, they settled down at Fort Edmonton in 1871 where Richard became chief factor the next year. They lived in "Rowands Folly", the 40-year-old big house built by the legendary John Rowand during his long reign as chief factor.

It was not long before a new imposing residence was built farther up the embankment, outside the fort palisades. In 1873 the family moved into the

"Hardisty Big House" which was to become widely known for the warm welcomes given there to visiting friends and officials. The grounds of the residence got special attention, and in 1875 a row of Manitoba maples was planted along the north side of the garden.

No doubt some of these maples lived for many years, but time and construction took their toll. The Hardisty Big House stood until 1906 when it was destroyed by fire. In its place the new Legislative Building arose in 1912 with its east wing about where the home had been. The old buildings of the fort were demolished in 1915 as the capital grounds were landscaped. The surviving maple — the Hardisty maple — lived through all this until the new highways building was constructed near it in 1954. Even then it was given one more lease on life and was transplanted that winter to the southwest corner of the legislative building grounds. But it was too late and too old to be readily moved. The shock was great and it died soon after.

The Hardisty Tree lived through the most influential period of Richard Hardisty's productive career. For 65 years after his death, it was a living reminder of the part played by this great man in the building of the West. The tree, like the man, has found its place in Alberta's history.

### High River Medicine Tree

**Species:**

Black cottonwood  
*Populus trichocarpa*

**Location:**

High River

**Nominated by:**

A.D. Hall

The Medicine Tree witnessed many changes in southern Alberta. Growing on the north bank of the Highwood River, just a few miles west of the present townsite of High River, the Medicine Tree was, in fact, two cottonwoods growing side by side and joined by a branch of one tree which had grafted to the trunk of the other about ten feet off the ground. It was well known to the Indians and white traders, and to settlers who followed. It blew down during a high wind in 1958.

The tree was considered by the Indians to have great powers. It flourished in the heart of Blackfoot territory, and many Indian bands camped close by because of the revered tree and the natural campsite afforded by the proximity of good water, ample grazing and wild game. At the foot of the tree, they offered gifts and prayers of thanks for the good fortune of hunting or warring parties, or sought help for the sick or wounded.

An early fur trader, Howell Harris, told Dan Riley (later Senator Riley) on whose 1883 homestead the tree grew, that when he first saw the Medicine Tree in the early 1870s the ground underneath was trodden bare. Beside it were gifts of tobacco twists, trinkets and bundles left for the Great Spirit.

Because Indians often camped close to their Medicine Tree, it had an indirect role in a less savoury part of the history of the province. From 1869 to 1873, free traders from the United States moved into the territory and tried to take trade away from the Hudson's Bay Company whose presence was waning. Whiskey was openly and freely offered in exchange for furs.

The American traders built over a dozen trading posts in this time and these



“whiskey posts” had colourful names such as Fort Whoop-Up (near Lethbridge), Standoff, and Slide-Out. Fort Spitzee was built during the winter of 1869-70 by the T.C. Powers Company on the north side of the Highwood River, about one mile west of the Medicine Tree. A year or so later another fort was built nearby by free traders, Akers and Johnson, on the south side of the river about two miles downstream from the tree.

In 1871, a third fort was put up about 75 yards from the Medicine Tree by Howell Harris for the I.G. Baker Company. This five-year period had a devastating effect on the Indians, and was a major reason for the establishment of the North West Mounted Police in 1873 and their historic march across the Prairies one year later to establish Fort Macleod.

Development of the area around the Medicine Tree began in earnest when ranching got underway in the late 1870s in that part of the Northwest Territories which was to become southern Alberta. Rental leases for open grazing were set at one cent an acre in 1881, and increased in certain areas to two cents per acre five years later.

Cattle ranching got underway on a grand scale. Pioneer ranchers developed large herds and adopted uniquely Canadian styles — often combining the range expertise of the American West with the more genteel customs of landed English gentry. By the turn of the century, homesteaders started to move in and build fences which cut off cattle from valuable feeding grounds. The decline of the great Canadian cattle empires was capped by a disastrously cold winter in 1906-07 which decimated large herds and marked the end of an era.

The Medicine Tree presided over these great changes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, surviving to witness the High River area become the centre of a prosperous farming and ranching country. When the tree blew down in 1958, residents of the town salvaged part of its great trunk and main branch, and took them to George Lane Memorial Park where they built a display shelter for the remains.

Here also a smaller scale replica of the Medicine Tree was erected to remind all visitors to High River of the important pages of Alberta history which had been turned during the life of this historic tree.

## Largest Douglas-Fir

**Species:**

Douglas-fir

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*

**Location:**

Porcupine Hills west of Nanton

**Nominated by:**

Eric S. Huestis

What is commonly believed to have been the largest-diameter Douglas-fir in Alberta in recent times was found in the Porcupine Hills. The tree was well-known locally and frequently visited, measuring over 176 centimetres in diameter (69.5 inches) with a height of almost 30 metres (98 feet). Its bark was 20 centimetres (7.5 inches) thick, making it virtually fireproof to surface fires which burned through the semi-open forest.

Estimated at 381 years of age, the tree sprouted from seed about 1538, the year Sir Humphrey Gilbert landed in Newfoundland and claimed it for Britain. Its early growth took place during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, and it stood about 15 centimetres (six inches) high in 1588, the year in which Sir Francis Drake defeated the Spanish Armada.

The tree died in 1964, and was felled on July 9, 1965, so that sections of it could be preserved. Specimens are on display at the Forest Technology School at Hinton and the Alberta Forest Service Depot in Edmonton.

Eric S. Huestis had his photograph taken in front of this tree in 1928, shortly after he began his career with the old Dominion Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior. Huestis joined the Alberta Forest Service in 1930 with the transfer of resources to provincial jurisdiction, later becoming Director of Forestry and Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests for Alberta.

There are reports of larger Douglas-fir in earlier days in the Aura Creek and Wildcat Hills area, and along the Bow River Valley west of Calgary. Those stands were logged by the Eau Claire



Lumber Company which drove logs on the Bow River to its sawmill in Calgary.

The search for Alberta's largest living Douglas-fir continues.

### Pangman's Pine

**Species:**

Probably Lodgepole pine

*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

**Location:**

Near the confluence of the North Saskatchewan and Clearwater rivers

**Nominated by:**

A.D. Hall

Pangman's Tree (or Pangman's Pine) was an historic Alberta tree named after early fur trader, Peter Pangman, who carved his name on it in 1790. It was located on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan river, 4.5 miles above the mouth of the Clearwater River and three miles above the first of five trading posts which would be erected at Rocky Mountain House beginning in 1799.

Alexander Henry the younger, a fur trader of the North West Company, when he saw the tree on November 9, 1810, noted in his famous journals that it was "the spot where we get the clay to whitewash our houses, the best I have seen in the country", and that the rising ground where the tree grew "was then the utmost extent of discoveries on the Saskatchewan towards the Rocky Mountains".

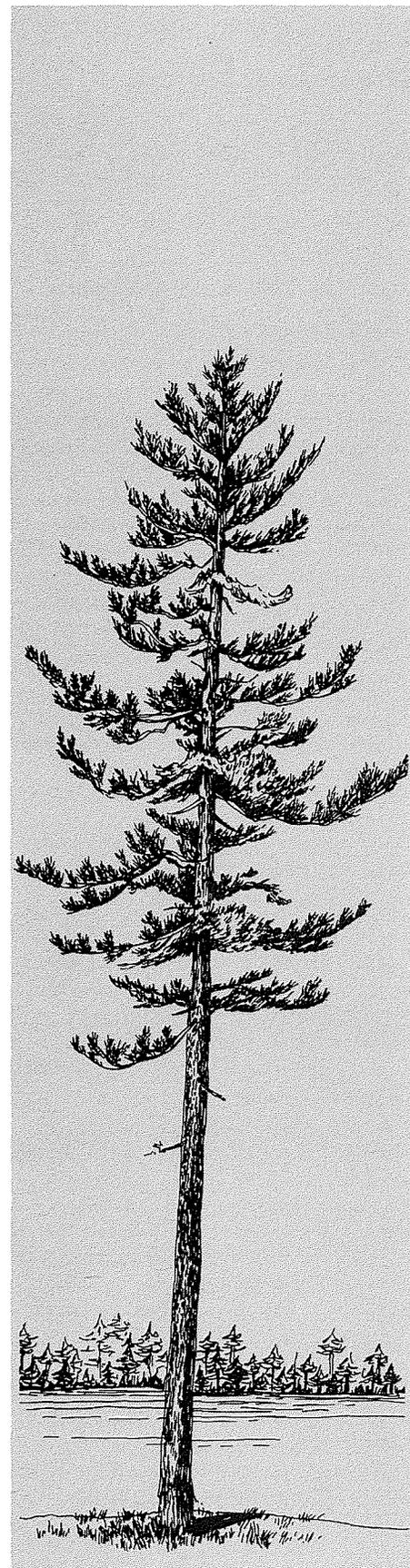
Peter Pangman was one of the intrepid pioneer fur traders who opened up the North and West frontiers. Born in New England about 1744, and early engaged in the fur trade, his name appears in 1767 in the Michilimackinac licences as trading to the Mississippi, and from 1774 to 1790 he was mainly occupied on the Saskatchewan River. He worked with various partners. In the spring of 1784 he went to Grand Portage as a member of a company that had a claim to partnership in the formation of the North West Company. But since no provision had been made for his alliance, he went on to Montreal where he joined Gregory, McLeod & Company, a competitor.

Pangman and John Ross established a trading post for his new partners at Grand Portage in 1785. Two years later, the McLeod partnership was absorbed by the North West Company, and Pangman was finally united with this great association of independent traders. It was while he was a member of the Northwesters that Pangman journeyed up the Saskatchewan to within sight of the Rocky Mountains, where he blazed the tree which would bear his name and serve as an historic landmark to Alexander Henry, David Thompson and other early visitors to the area.

Pangman retired from the fur trade in 1793, buying the seigneurie of Mascouche in Lower Canada where he lived the life of a prosperous gentleman until he died in 1819.

Peter Pangman was one of that select group who have contributed much to the development and romance of early Canada. In his fur trading activities he was resourceful, daring and strong-minded. He ventured into lands still unexplored by white people, and left his mark on Alberta and Canada.

When this trader and adventurer carved his name and the year on Pangman's Tree in 1790, the pine must then have been of considerable size and age. It survived as a living historic reference point for another 133 years until it was cut down in 1923 during a logging operation. Peter Pangman's contribution to early exploration and trade has been widely recorded. The tree named after him has its own special niche in the annals of this pioneer fur trader.



## Pine That Was Napi

### Species:

Probably Lodgepole pine

*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*

### Location:

Somewhere on the banks of the Highwood river

### Nominated by:

A.D. Hall

The Pine That Was Napi is said to be still standing, somewhere along the banks of the Highwood River. It is difficult to say exactly where, since the tree is reported in the legends of the Blood Indians, and its location has not been recorded precisely. To learn more about the tree, it is necessary to learn more about the legends of Napi as passed down from one generation to another by the wise old men of this Indian tribe.

The old man of legend was called Napi by the Blood Indians. He was sometimes called Ke-nue-a-cah-atsis by the Piegans, Me-ki-ki-a by the Blackfeet, and different names by other tribes. Early in time, after the great flood, women and men lived separately in two different camps. Napi had taught the women to skin buffalo and tan their hides, where to find wild edible berries, how to make wooden bowls and dishes, and many other ways to make their life better. The men, however, he had taught to hunt, but not how to prepare food properly, or how to live in comfort. When Napi visited the chief woman and told her that he came from a camp of men, she was much interested and asked him to invite them to her camp.

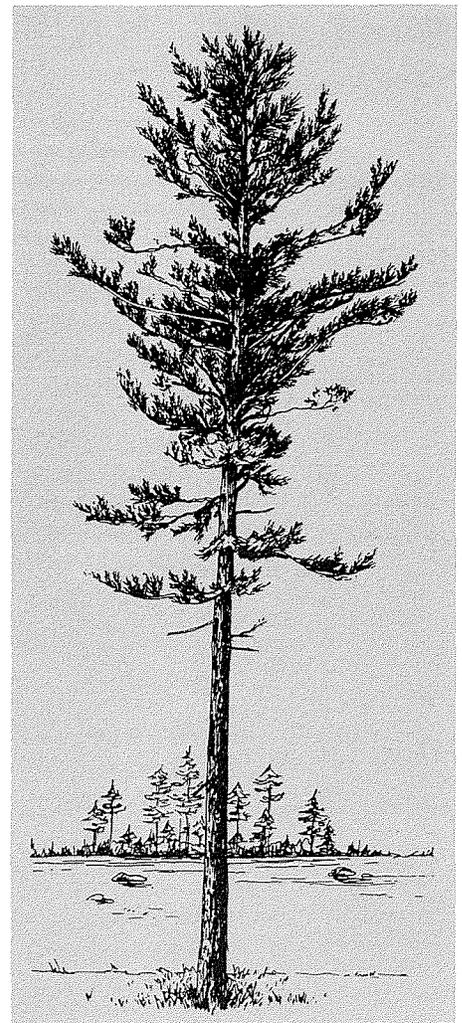
The visit is described by R.N. Wilson in his papers containing extensive information about the life and legends of the Indians of Alberta:

When they had all arrived, he (Napi) stood them in a row outside of the women's camp, and the female dressed herself up in torn clothes, and covered her apron with dirt, and went towards the waiting men, for it had been decided that each woman would choose a husband, and she disguised

herself so as to test Napi, to whom she at once advanced, and taking him by the hands, tried to lead him off. But 'no', Napi cried, 'Go away you dirty woman, I will not marry you.' She caught him and held him hard but he struggled and broke away, at which she became angered and returning to her lodge dressed up in her finest garb and ornaments, and again came towards Napi who admired her beauty and fine clothes and cried, 'O what a fine woman. How I would like to marry her.' She came right up to him and he was sure that his wish was about to be gratified when she turned and going past him chose another and said to her followers: 'Each one of you choose a husband, but let none take Napi, he of the wolf clothes, he refused me when I was in rags and dirt and now he will remain single.' They each chose a husband and left him standing alone. In his rage he tore open their buffalo pound and stood on its site, transforming himself into a pine tree where it stands yet.

Because the legends of Napi were passed by word of mouth from one generation to another, the details vary, depending upon the teller, but the essential account remains the same. Mike Mountain Horse, in **My People the Bloods**, recorded that when the chief woman was refused by Napi when she was dressed in rags, and when she in turn spurned him when she returned in her finery, she shook her fist at him and said, "You have made me ashamed in the eyes of all other women by not coming with me when I chose you for a husband. Now you will remain standing on that spot, but not as Napi, for I will prepare a charm which will turn you into a pine tree." And this huge pine tree is still standing in solitude somewhere along the banks of the Highwood River. This version is repeated by Johnny Chinook in his **Tales of the Canadian West**.

A more precise location and a somewhat different interpretation of the pine tree was written by Adolf Hungry Wolf in **The Blood People**. In this interpretation, the author had read the account of the wedding from the R.N. Wilson papers to Mokaking, a wise old teacher. Mokaking had made some changes to Wilson's version of the outcome of the wedding between the



braves and the women. According to Mokaking, after the chief of the women had turned Napi aside, "Napi was left alone while all the others became husbands and wives. For many centuries a large pine tree stood at the women's buffalo jump. People said that it was the ghost of Napi mourning because he had no wife." In this account, the women's buffalo jump was described as being in the Rocky Mountain foothills, west of Claresholm.

Many are the stories about Napi and his part in the religion and legends of the Blood people. Their culture, as well as the more recent white culture, is enriched through better awareness of the ways of those who lived in the West long before the recent coming of the fur traders, settlers and ranchers.

The Pine That Was Napi is a unique tree with a special place in Alberta's history.

## Simpson's Register

**Species:**  
Unknown

**Location:**  
Banff — Natural History Museum,  
Parks Canada

**Nominated by:**  
A.D. Hall

Many historic events in Alberta's history are recorded in tree blazes. One of particular interest is known as Simpson's Blaze or Simpson's Register.

Simpson's Register has the inscription "GS JR 1841". The initials were carved in a living tree on a "blaze", the flat surface made with an axe on the trunk to serve as marker or record for those who followed. The initials stand for Sir George Simpson and John Rowand, and the year the tree was blazed was 1841.

At that time Sir George was governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and John Rowand was chief factor of Edmonton House, the company's fur headquarters for all the Western Prairies. The blaze was found on a tree at Shuswap (now Simpson) Pass at a point where it crossed the Continental Divide. It was made when the two traders and explorers passed through in 1841 on a trip which originated in Fort Garry, and which was to take Simpson right around the world and Rowand as far west as the Hawaiian Islands.

Simpson's Register was found in 1904 by Lade Brewster, wife of Jim Brewster of the well-known Brewster family so closely identified with the Banff area. In his book **Weathered Wood**, F.O. Brewster described how Lade had accompanied his brother Jim on a hunting trip in the Simpson Pass area. While the men were hunting, Lade stayed around camp, and one day noticed a tree which had fallen, almost hiding a distinctive blaze with markings on the side facing the ground. The importance of the blaze was recognized, and it was cut from the dead tree.



Simpson's Register, as it came to be called, was kept by Jim Brewster for many years as a prized possession among his famous game trophies. It was subsequently donated by Mr. Joe Brewster to the Natural History Museum, Parks Canada, in Banff for safekeeping.

## Tall Spruce

### Species:

White spruce

*Picea glauca*

### Location:

Mirror

### Nominated by:

Margaret MacLeod and A.D. Hall

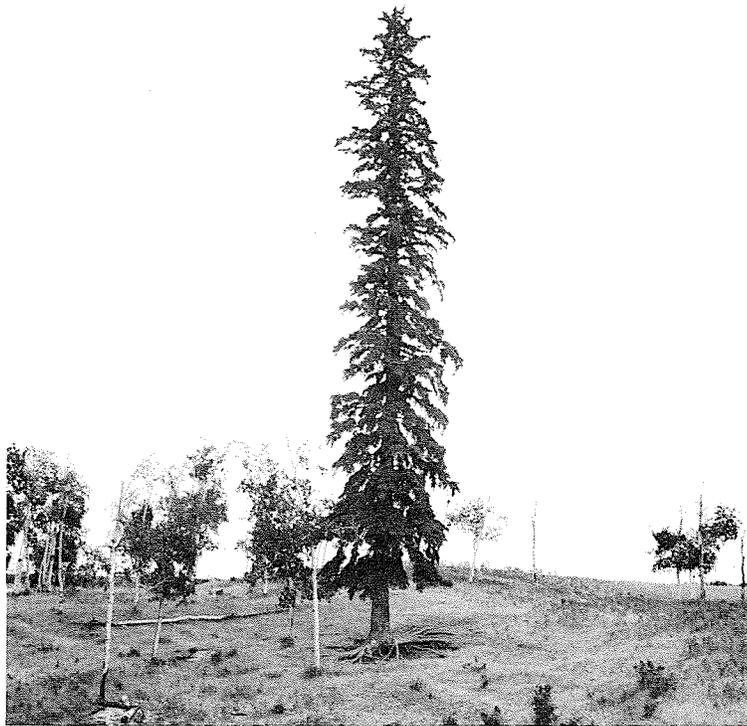
This noted landmark tree blew down in a violent wind and rainstorm at 5:30 p.m. on the 4th of August, 1985. It was a sad occasion, ending the life of this historic tree. The spirit of the occasion was well conveyed in a letter to the Editor written by Ward Barritt, a 74 year old resident of Mirror, who remembered the tree as a landmark when he was a boy:

"Sunday, August 4, marked the end of life for a tree which, if it could have talked, would have no doubt told more of the history of the area in which it had stood for so many years than all the archives and books had ever written.

A tall spruce which had towered above the surrounding trees in the area, originally known as the Tall Spruce District and later the Ripley School District succumbed to onslaught of a violent wind storm which swooping in from the west laid it flat on the ground from which it had sprung, perhaps 125 to 150 years ago.

Used as a landmark by early explorers and settlers coming to or through the area, it was mentioned historically in the books: *To the Future Your Heritage Ripley and Pioneers and Progress*, Published by the Alix-Clive Historical Society, and last year was recorded and listed in the publication *Alberta Trees of Renown*.

About 15 years earlier another violent wind from the west had left the tree, which had originally stood very upright, with a noticeable list to the east but it had appeared to be still standing until today. The surrounding trees had gradually been dying out and leaving it more exposed as time passed. Also some of the roots were becoming exposed and undermined by the tramping of cattle.



With encouragement from Morris Flewwelling of the Red Deer museum and the Lacombe district agriculturist, some residents nearby who had grown up in its shadow, took action to help preserve the tree, one of their earliest school day memories, as the tree was always in sight of the Ripley School yard. Earth fill was put over the exposed roots and a fence from material supplied by the County of Lacombe was built around it.

Now a little over a year later the tree lies stretched across the fence that had been built to protect it.

A book, *To the Future Your Heritage Ripley*, written in 1963, ends with these lines: "Tho much has changed the Tall Spruce still stands, a monument to the past and a sentinel for the future." Now 22 years later it is gone, as are so many of the people who knew it and depended on it always being there. As many as six generations of some families had lived or been born under its reign and its end leaves us, the remaining, with a great feeling of sadness. Ward Barritt, Mirror."

The tree ring record indicates that it started life at least as early as 1860, so

it would have witnessed many changes. It would have been seen by the wandering Cree Indians whose trails led to nearby Buffalo Lake and the Red Deer River. Not far to the south was the land of the Blackfoot, and no doubt warring parties of both tribes passed many times within the site of the Tall Spruce. Close, too, was the town of Tail Creek, location of one of the largest Metis settlements in the west where up to 400 hunters gathered in the years before 1877 when the last great buffalo hunt took place in the region.

In 1883 Matthew Cook came west as an employee of the C.P.R. and later became a land dealer. He built a log cabin near Buffalo Lake where he lived with his wife, three sons, and a daughter for 18 years. The second permanent settler in the area was a bachelor named James Brindle. He arrived in 1890 to settle in a cabin he built a half mile east of the Cook home on Buffalo Lake. He married Kate Cook, only daughter of Matthew Cook, in 1897.

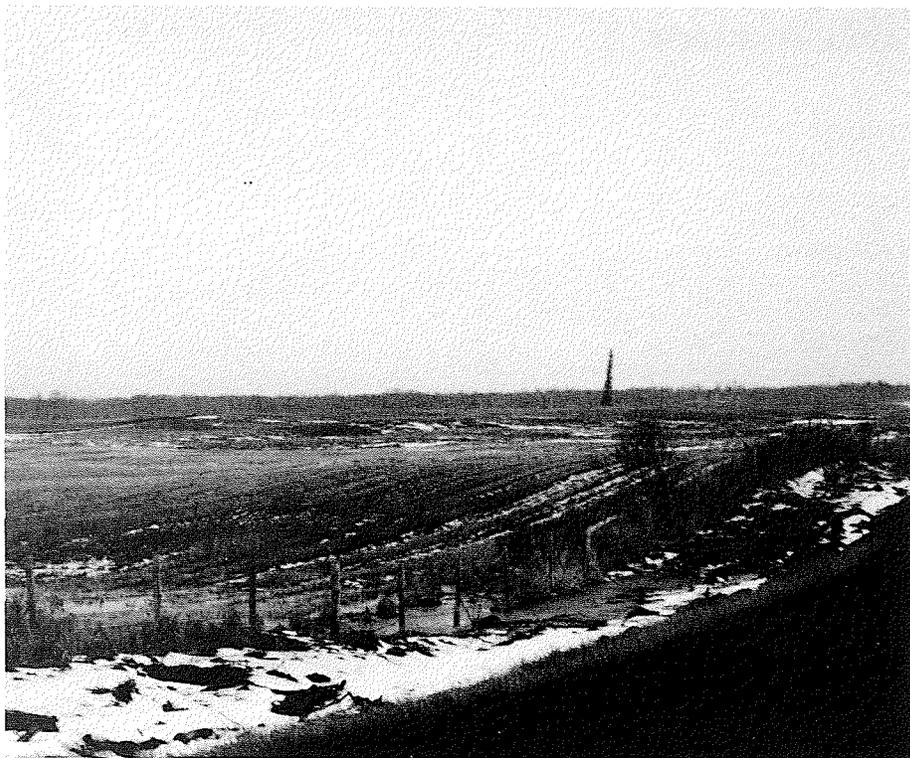
The tree was noted first in 1883 and the district became known as the Tall Spruce District. The "nearest post office was Lamerton, N.W.T. The name Tall

## Trees of the Past and Legend

Spruce was changed to Ripley when the school was registered as School District #973 on March 7, 1904.

In 1902 Bob and Jemima Curr took a homestead on the same quarter as the Tall Spruce. It was treasured by this pioneer family and by all those who occupied the land in later years. It stood proudly as droughts, depression, two world wars and technology have wrought their changes on the people and the countryside.

When the tree was inspected for the Trees of Renown program by Jim Emond of the Canadian Forestry Service, he recommended action to control a carpenter ant infestation, refilling with topsoil over the exposed roots, and fencing to keep livestock from trampling around the tree. With help and encouragement from Morris Flewwelling of the Red Deer and District Museum and Archives and Stewart Tucker, the district agriculturist, the Present landowners Roy and Iris Oslanski agreed to these actions, and the County of Lacombe assisted with the work. It was inevitable that the tree would one day fall, but it was unfortunate that it was caught by that particular storm when it may have survived for several decades more. However, it illustrated the importance and distinctiveness of trees, and served to illustrate that the cooperative attitude among people of the west which characterized its development still prevails. Perhaps that testimony to the Tall Spruce District community spirit will be its most lasting legacy.



## “Wright” Spruce

**Species:**

White spruce

*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss

**Location:**

Hinton (St. Regis Forest Management Area)

**Nominated by:**

J.C. Wright

This gigantic White spruce was discovered in 1961 by J.C. Wright, who is now chief forester of St. Regis (Alberta) Limited. It is at this point the tallest tree in Alberta, past or present, which has been nominated for Trees of Renown.

The tree was 44.8 metres (147 feet) tall, 88.9 centimetres (35 inches) in diameter at breast height, and about 250 to 275 years old at the time it was felled in 1980. The size of this tree is significant even by British Columbia coastal standards, clearly demonstrating the potential of this common Alberta species which usually averages around 20 to 25 metres in height.

When the tree was originally discovered in a research plot for growth studies in 1961, a plaque was affixed to it requesting that the tree not be cut. However, when the surrounding stand was harvested in 1980, it was felt that the giant could not stand alone after being exposed to the force of the wind. Indeed, the tree already bore the scars of exposure from simply being so much taller than its neighbours. In the past, it had been damaged by wind or lightning with the result that it grew in three large forks rather than the typical single stem of the White spruce.

The tree was then harvested because of these and other factors.



## Acknowledgements

We are pleased to acknowledge with thanks the further nominations and suggestions sent in by the following. We look forward to doing the "official" assessment and evaluation of these, and regret we have not yet been able to follow them through.

N. Bagley  
T. Boyko  
D. Cockerton  
R. Dickson  
V. Drakeford  
A.H. Edgcombe  
A. Epler  
H. Farrell  
J. Forsdick  
B. Godwin  
L. Green  
G. Griffiths  
B. & J. Horton  
E. Huestis  
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Kilgour  
J. Kinnear  
T. Loblaw  
J. Martin  
W. Michalsky  
C. Montgomery  
S. Murphy  
J. Nelson  
W. Nimco  
A.J. Peter  
J. Plews  
J. Simonson  
L. Tucker  
J. Walker  
Alberta Wilderness Association  
City of Calgary

This loosely-knit group of enthusiastic and dedicated individuals has given yeoman service to the Trees of Renown Program through instigating nominations of candidate trees, locating them, doing verification measurements and taking photographs. Our thanks to this great "Patrol."

Gordon Barth  
Nola Daintith  
Bruce Dancik  
Dale Darrah  
Dave Dodge  
Linda Ehrler  
Bill Fairless  
Greg Fenton  
Ron Hammerstedt, Crew Boss  
Cliff Henderson  
Betty and James H. Horton  
Judy Jacobs  
Gordon Japp  
Ed Johnson  
Doug Krystofiak  
Ted Loblaw  
Jim Molnar  
Jim Nowasad  
Wes Pinsent  
Fred Sutherland

## How to Nominate Trees of Renown

Simply — we are eager to have your suggestions, so just need to find out a few details so we can have one of our Trees of Renown Patrolers get in touch with you and to size it up.

Write or phone the Alberta Forestry Association, and let us know:

1. Your name, address and phone number so we can get back to you, and to credit you properly.
2. Location of the tree or grove.
3. Kind or species of tree.
4. a) If it is a 'record' tree, measure the girth or distance around the outside of the trunk at a point 1.4 metres or 4.5 feet above the ground.  
b) If it is a 'notable' tree — tell us a little about it, and we'll be in touch with you to talk about further details.

We look forward to hearing from you

The Alberta Forestry Association is a working partnership made up of individuals, companies and governments, all of whom are vitally interested in, and dedicated to, maintaining Alberta's forests as a productive and renewable resource.

Because of the unusual blending of its membership, the Alberta Forestry Association (AFA) reflects the different viewpoints of forest environmentalists and conservationists, recreational users, timber harvesters and tree growers, educators and governmental planners and managers of the forest resource.

AFA has its roots in the Canadian Forestry Association, of which it is a member. The Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) was formed in 1900, with strong western support for forest conservation action. CFA is one of the oldest environmental groups in Canada.

Underlying everything the Alberta Forestry Association does is the desire to increase public awareness and understanding. The Association is trying to bring about a better understanding of the forest among Albertans of all ages and backgrounds. It sees the forest as a living entity, not just a mass of trees, but a complex ecosystem in which the inhabitants are born, live, have good times and bad, and finally die, with new generations coming after to renew the process.

## Association Objectives

- Working in full co-operation with any industry, association, public group, or individual, sharing our concern for the forest resource;
- Serving as an educational resource to the school system, helping to provide Alberta students with the most up-to-date information possible on this important renewable resource;
- Promoting widespread public awareness of Alberta's forest resources: their present and future importance, their protection from wildlife and other destructive forces, user conflicts and issues, and the skills and value of planned forest management;
- Serving as a sounding board for public concerns regarding present and future uses of Alberta's forests;
- Taking a leadership role in developing common objectives and appropriate co-operation among the various groups which use Alberta's forests;
- Helping people enjoy and look after Alberta's trees and forests.

## An Objective View

Because AFA membership is made up of tree growers and tree harvesters, conservationists and environmentalists, planners for future growth and planners for today's timber harvesting, hunters, bird watchers, recreationalists, profit-producing forest industry managers and governmental long-range planners, it has access to the thinking of everyone concerned with the forest resource. This broad perspective permits the Association to make important contributions to the management and use of Alberta's forests in the future.

## **Telling the Story in the Classroom**

The Association has brought the forest conservation story to classrooms throughout the province for many years. AFA school programs, for both junior and senior grades, have helped develop attitudes and understanding about the living forest — and Alberta teachers have applauded our efforts.

## **Increasing Public Awareness**

The Alberta Forestry Association helps people understand and appreciate the important role of trees in their lives — and in their landscapes. In this important work, Alberta's newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations have been very helpful. AFA's Trees of Renown project is one which has generated considerable public interest.

## **Membership**

AFA needs your help — to help Alberta's forests help you! Anyone interested in the future of Alberta's forests may become a member of AFA. Contact the Executive Director at the following address:

**Alberta Forestry Association  
Suite 311  
10526 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 1Z5**

**Telephone: (403) 428-7582**

AFA is registered by Revenue Canada as a charitable organization and, as such, is able to provide receipts for tax-deductible membership donations.

| <b>Tree</b>                 | <b>Photographer</b>             |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Thousand-year-old tree      | F. Sutherland                   |
| Oldest spruce               | F. Sutherland                   |
| Old Douglas-fir             | Forintek Canada Corp.           |
| Oldest Lodgepole pine       | Forintek Canada Corp.           |
| Old Black Spruce            | P.J. Murphy                     |
| Easterly Limber Pine        | P.J. Murphy                     |
| Large Burl                  | P.J. Murphy                     |
| Provincial Tree             | A. Taje                         |
|                             | Chris Bruun                     |
|                             | Canadian Forestry Service       |
|                             | B.P. Dancik                     |
| Burmis Pine                 | Alberta Government              |
| Burns Trees                 | J.E. Floer                      |
| Calgary Stampede Trees      | Glenbow-Alberta Institute       |
|                             | Calgary Exhibition and Stampede |
|                             | Calgary Exhibition and Stampede |
| Suntree                     | P.J. Murphy                     |
| Charlie Parker Windbreak    | Alberta Government              |
| Crooked Trees               | Jerry Tanner                    |
| Dunvegan Maple              | D.I. Crossley                   |
| Dwarf Lodgepole             | R.W. Hammerstedt                |
| Fire Fir                    | J.T. Spence                     |
| Entwined Birch              | Alberta Government              |
| Garneau's Tree              | G. Grainger                     |
| Georges Bugnet Plantation   | P.J. Murphy                     |
|                             | Provincial Archives of Alberta  |
| 125 Street Maples           | B.P. Dancik                     |
| Jasper and Banff Horse-Camp | H. Webb                         |
|                             | H. Webb                         |
|                             | J.H. Horton                     |
| Lobstick at Jasper          | Alberta Government              |
| Lord's Willow               | P.J. Murphy                     |
|                             | P.J. Murphy                     |
| Peace Tree                  | B.P. Dancik                     |
| Pinto Lake Trees            | James Simpson                   |
| Sentinel Trees              | Canadian Forestry Service       |
| Son-of-Jenning's Tree       | P.J. Murphy                     |
| Spirit Island Trees         | Alberta Government              |
| Exposed-root Pine           | D.I. Crossley                   |
| Spirit Island Survival Tree | P.J. Murphy                     |
| Stockdale Maple             | Alberta Government              |
| Superior Lodgepole Pine     | N.K. Dhir                       |
| The Survival Tree           | Alberta Government              |
| Spruce Grove Medicine Tree  | L. Erickson                     |
| Carved Tree                 | J. Dexter Champion              |
| Hardisty Tree               | Barbara J. Armstrong            |
| High River Medicine Tree    | A.D. Hall                       |
| Pangman's Pine              | Barbara J. Armstrong            |
| Pine That Was Napi          | Barbara J. Armstrong            |
| Simpson's Register          | Alberta Government              |
| Tall Spruce                 | Alberta Government              |
| "Wright" Spruce             | Champion Forest Products        |