

Recognized Heritage Tree

Red Oak, *Querus rubra*

Ontario Heritage Tree Program HT-2017-207-228

A Program of Forests Ontario and the Ontario Urban Forest Council

This red oak grows on land set aside in 1882 by Sir Peregrine Maitland, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, to become the capital. Although that never happened, the land was designated as 'government land'. In 1878, Sir James Edgar, a lawyer and member of the House of Commons, bought the property and commissioned a summer house to be built.

The heritage tree, located at the end of the driveway is of a size consistent with having its beginnings at the same time as the Edgar family. If that is so, it would have been seen by various government figures such as Sir Wilfrid Laurier on his first Ontario speaking tour in 1888.

As well Sir James Edgar became the Speaker of the House of Commons in 1893 while his wife, Lady Matilda met Lady Aberdeen, wife of the Governor General, at the founding meeting of the 1893 National Council of Women of Canada in Toronto. The two women worked closely to promote the National Council and Victorian Order of Nurses. Lady Aberdeen presided at the 1909 International Council of Women. Lady Matilda supervised the logistics of this gathering, and hosted a reception at her Lake Simcoe summer home, The Pines. Later, under her leadership, the National Council endorsed votes for women.

Circumference: 346 cm Height: 25 m

Loretto Maryholme Spirituality Centre