

# Chautauqua Community Tree Plan

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# Chautauqua Community Tree Plan

The layers of our history are evident in our landscape. Let our era be the one that ensures the future of the Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy.

The following is based on the findings made in the 2016-2017 Chautauqua Tree Inventory.

## Community Tree Plan Intent

To provide guidelines for future municipal street tree and park plantings.

To provide recommendations for private property plantings.

To be used in conjunction with any tree protection bylaws or polices by providing area specific guidelines for discretionary decisions regarding trees.

## Mandate

To maintain the distinctive landscape of Chautauqua:

- Respect the unique beauty & harmony of the Chautauqua tree canopy.

- Respect the historical layers while accommodating contemporary conditions.

- Retain distinctive streetscapes, vistas, focal points & landscape gestures.

- Identify and protect the Iconic landmark heritage trees.

- Recognize that, in addition to healthy habitat & public safety, the aesthetic & experiential aspects of the landscape are essential considerations.

## Distinctive Qualities

**Atmosphere:** Throughout Chautauqua there is a relaxed ambience. Although year round residences predominate the area, it still maintains a cottage resort atmosphere. The architecture is eclectic and the curb free roads feel more like large sidewalks. The epic tree canopy, however, is responsible for the strong 'sense of place'. It has been nicknamed the Cathedral of the Everyday. The feelings it evokes are paradoxical ....majestic & cozy....uplifting & grounded. Dichotomy is the key to the distinct quality of Chautauqua.

The majestic, uplifting aspect is achieved by the signature 'regal' form of the native Oaks,.... the predominant trees of Chautauqua. The high limbed, soaring trunks culminate in a canopy of large, artfully meandering branches that draw the eye upward.

The cozy, grounded aspect is created by the understory of 'cottagey' flowering shrubs and small trees. The multi-stemmed mounding forms create a comforting nest from which to view the majestic Oaks.

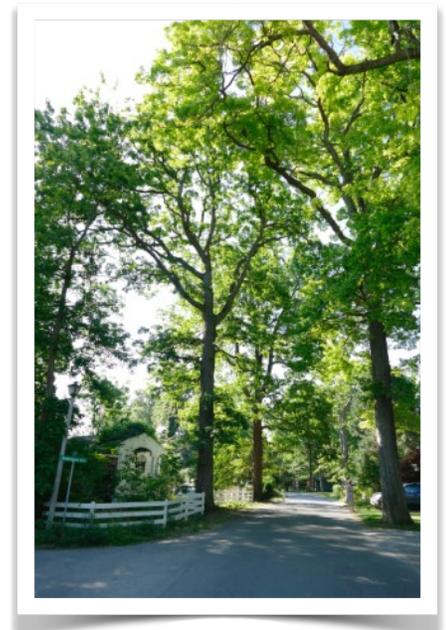
It is the strong contrast between the cozy and the uplifting that makes the big impact. Key to this, is the minimal presence of low branches or mid sized trees that would undermine the effect. This remarkable relationship needs to be preserved.

**Arrangement:** The elegant, noble trees are in a random arrangement scattered across many properties. It implies a natural forest setting rather than developers' regimentation. Formal silhouettes, layouts, and arrangements recall urban formality and are at odds with the relaxed informal atmosphere of Chautauqua.

**Harmony:** A very limited range of species creates this very harmonious canopy. Widespread planting of other species will dilute the tranquil unity of this arboreal wonder.

Specific species in a specific relationship defines the The Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy.

Please refer to the Design Guidelines & Recommended Planting lists for information on how to retain the distinctive Chautauqua landscape. For more information on the history and distinctive beauty of Chautauqua please refer to the Chautauqua Tree Inventory Report and [ChautauquaOaksProject.ca](http://ChautauquaOaksProject.ca)



# Chautauqua Community Tree Plan

## Recommended Species for Private Property Plantings

The following list provides choices for homeowners to plant on their own property. It includes native species as well as species now naturalized and deemed compatible with the native species. The rationale for this list is explained in the Chautauqua Tree Inventory Report. Please refer to the Recommended Design Guidelines for the relationships within which they should be planted. Please also visit [ChautauquaOaksProject.ca](http://ChautauquaOaksProject.ca) for more information on planting in Chautauqua. \*\*\*\* Denotes those species particularly iconic of the distinctive Chautauqua landscape.

### Major Deciduous Trees:

#### Native to Chautauqua Oak Savannah:

Sugar Maple	Acer saccharum 'Green Mountain'
Shagbark Hickory	Carya ovata
Shellbark Hickory	Carya lacinoisa
American Beech	Fagus grandifolia
Black Walnut	Juglans nigra
Sycamore/Buttwood	Platanus occidentalis
Black Cherry	Prunus serotina
White Oak	Quercus alba ****
Swamp White Oak	Quercus bicolor
Pin Oak	Quercus palustris ****
Red Oak	Quercus rubra ****

#### Naturalized & Compatible:

Silver Maples	Acer saccharinum
Northern Catalpa	Catalpa speciosa ****
Purple European Beech	Fagus sylvatica
Columnar Oak	Quercus alba fastigiata
Scarlet Oak	Quercus coccinea

### Major Evergreen Trees:

#### Native to Chautauqua Oak Savannah:

Balsam Fir	Abies balsamea
White Pine	Pinus strobus ****
White Spruce	Picea glauca ****

### Small Deciduous Trees: Note.....Multi-stem versions are recommended

#### Native to Chautauqua Oak Savannah:

Service Berry	Amelanchier ****
Pawpaw	Asimina triloba
Paperbark Birch	Betula papyrifera
Blue Beech	Carpinus caroliniana
Flowering Redbud	Cercis canadensis ....including purple cultivar 'Forest Pansy' ****
Flowering Dogwood	Cornus florida ****
Pagoda Dogwood	Cornus alternifolia
Witch Hazel	Hamamelis virginiana
Ironwood or Hop Hornbeam	Ostrya virginiana
Sumac	Rhus typhina

#### Naturalized & Compatible:

Japanese Maples	Acer palmatum
Magnolia	Magnolia soulangiana and
Mock Orange	Philadelphus coronarius ****
Ornamental Purple Plum	Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea' Pissard Plum
Ornamental Cherry	Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis' or serrulata 'Kwanzan'
Lilac	Syringa ****

### Small Evergreen Trees:

#### Naturalized & Compatible: Note.....good for hedges & walls

Yew	Taxus cuspidata
Emerald Cedar	Thuja occidentalis 'smaragd'

# Chautauqua Community Tree Plan

## Recommended Design Guidelines

It is recognized that specific species in a specific relationship are the key to the unique harmony of the Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy. It is also recognized that within this harmony, individual streetscapes provide variations on the theme. The following outlines the general framework.

## Design Guidelines.....General Arrangements:

### Canopy Trees:

Maintain 'remnants of the forest' quality with non formal, scattered arrangements that create the effect of a grove of trees spanning many properties.

Achieved best with staggered groups...clusters of 'a pair and a friend nearby'.

Street Trees: Placed off centre and not rigidly aligned along the street.

Private Property: Placed at the edges & corners of the property will preclude interference with the house, and safeguard against future removal for renovations and rebuilds.

### Mid story Trees:

Street Trees: None should be planted on the road allowances.

Private Property: Best placed in back yards or closer to houses.

### Understory Trees:

Street Trees: None should be planted on the road allowances.

Private Property: Clusters of multi-stemmed or mounding small trees & shrubs creates the comforting nest aspect of Chautauqua.

## Design Guidelines.....General Trimming:

### Canopy Trees:

Street Trees: Prune as high limbed to maintain the iconic Cathedrals of the Everyday, and to prevent interference with large municipal vehicles such as garbage trucks and ploughs.

Private Property: There are some exceptions but generally prune to high limbed as well. This is more compatible with small lots by allowing large trees to 'live above' the houses. It also allows air movement and prevents claustrophobia.

All pruning should be done by a certified arborist.

*UPDATE 2023 Please visit [ChautauquaOaksProject.ca](http://ChautauquaOaksProject.ca) for more information on the distinctive Chautauqua landscape.*

