



SONGS OF PRAISE: Students of the Vacation Bible School held at Bethel Church this past week held a barbecue on Thursday night. After which they put on a wonderful concert inside the church with all the age groups singing and dancing to the songs they learned. The children were sad to see the week end and can't wait for next year's week of songs, crafts and all around fun. — Tracey Gardner Photo

Royal Oak at Speyside designated Ont. Heritage

By Frances Niblock

Thanks to heritage designation, hundreds of years from now an English oak tree sprouted from an acorn from a tree in Royal Park in Windsor, England, should still be growing at Speyside School on Highway 25.

An Ontario Heritage Acton designation – requested by Heritage Halton Hills and backed by Town Council – led to the tree being recognized for its cultural and historical value.

Students planted the royal acorn – sent across the Commonwealth to commemorate the coronation of H.M. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth – in 1937 at the Dublin School where it flourished and grew.

In 1960, when the overcrowded Dublin School closed and the new Speyside School opened, tree surgeons moved the then 20-foot high oak tree from the Dublin schoolhouse to its new home beside the gym of the now vacant school.

Speyside School closed in 1986, and acorns from the Royal Oak were planted at each school where former Speyside students would now study – Brookville, Limehouse, Pineview and Stewarttown schools.

Heritage Halton Hills chairman Mark Rowe said the heritage designation means that the tree can't be cut down and must be maintained by the owner, the Halton District Board of Education.

Rowe said changes to



ROYAL OAK: An official designation under the Ontario Heritage Act means an English oak tree (seen below), grown from acorns from a tree in England to mark the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, will be preserved for its cultural and historical significance. This plaque (above) commemorating the planting of the tree in 1937 was unveiled at a ceremony on the grounds of the vacant Speyside School recently. — Submitted photo

the Ontario Heritage Act in December for the first time allowed designation of heritage trees – trees that have cultural or historical value.

“The tree has value to the community, not only because it marks the Coronation, but the Dublin School community thought it important enough that they planted it at a special evening ceremony



The Royal Oak at Speyside

in 1937, and then they raised money for a tree surgeon to move the tree,” Rowe said, adding the students paid for a small plaque on the tree.

A new plaque, bolted to a large stone donated by the Town, was unveiled at a ceremony last month at Speyside School where the Royal Oak continues to grow.

Rowe said they've heard of, but not yet investigated, reports of other Royal Oak trees in the Esquesing area, and they are also looking at possible heritage designations for “outstanding rows of planted trees, like in a farm entrance way,” for possible heritage designations.

Rowe said an arborist said the Speyside Royal Oak was not 100 per cent healthy, but was in good shape and could live for 500 years.

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Don't Be Late

Put your waste at the curb by 7 a.m. the morning of your collection day, but no sooner than 5 p.m. the evening before.

Collection times can vary from week to week due to route changes, weather conditions and equipment maintenance.

Collection Tips

- Don't be late. Put waste at the curb by 7 a.m. the morning of your collection day, but no sooner than 5 p.m. the evening before.
- Keep the weight down. Containers and bags should weigh no more than 23 kg (50 lbs). Items that are too heavy will not be collected. Do not put material out in cardboard boxes.
- Plastic bags don't go in the Blue Box. Don't use plastic bags for your recyclable materials.
- Cardboard boxes are not accepted as garbage or yard waste containers. Please flatten cardboard and tie it in bundles no larger than 90 cm x 90 cm x 30 cm (3 ft x 3 ft x 1 ft) and place beside your Blue Box.
- Do not place your Kitchen Catcher or compostable bags at the curb; the Kitchen Catcher is more likely to blow away in the wind and compostable bags may leak or break apart, they are only meant as liners. Only put your GreenCart at the curb.
- Residents can place a maximum of three large items at the curb on their scheduled bulk day.



23 kg (50 lbs)

Make Collection Easier

- **Squish it!** Squish aluminum pop cans, plastic pop and water bottles, beverage cartons and Tetra Paks.
- **Flatten it!** Flatten box board before placing inside your Blue Box.
- **Tie it!** Tie corrugated cardboard in bundles no larger than 90 cm x 90 cm x 30 cm (3 ft x 3 ft x 1 ft) and place beside your Blue Box.
- **Secure it!** Stack your Blue Boxes and place heavier items such as phone books and magazines on top of loose containers.

Remember, put your waste at the curb by 7 a.m. the morning of your collection day.



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