

# Ginkgo trees ancient, majestic

May 26, 1995

By Claire Mowat

Port Hope is blessed with a wealth of trees. Almost every kind of tree which grows in this climate can be found here.

One of the most interesting is the Ginkgo tree. There are about eight Ginkgo trees in our town and they can be found at locations on Walton Street,

Ontario Street, Bedford Street, King Street and on the grounds of Trinity College School.

Most of these trees are between 100 and 200 years old. That means that

some of them were growing here at the time of the first European settlement of this community.

Even more amazing is the fact that the Ginkgo is known to have existed as far back as the Jurassic period (150 million years ago) during the era when great dinosaurs walked the earth.

It's awesome to consider that this ancient species of plant life — which you can see any day right here in your home town — can trace its direct ancestry back that far.

Originally the Ginkgo tree was cultivated only in China and Japan and it didn't reach Europe until the 18th century.

We'll never know the name of the first person to bring them to Canada, and to Port Hope, but they have obviously

flourished here ever since.

Ginkgo trees can grow to an immense size and they have been known to live to be 1,000 years old.

In England the Ginkgo is known as the Maidenhair tree because of its graceful branches and delicate fern-like foliage.

The sturdy, ridged leaves are distinctively fan-shaped. In the fall they are unmistakable when they turn a brilliant golden colour.

Another unusual fact about the Ginkgo is that

each tree is either a female or a male.

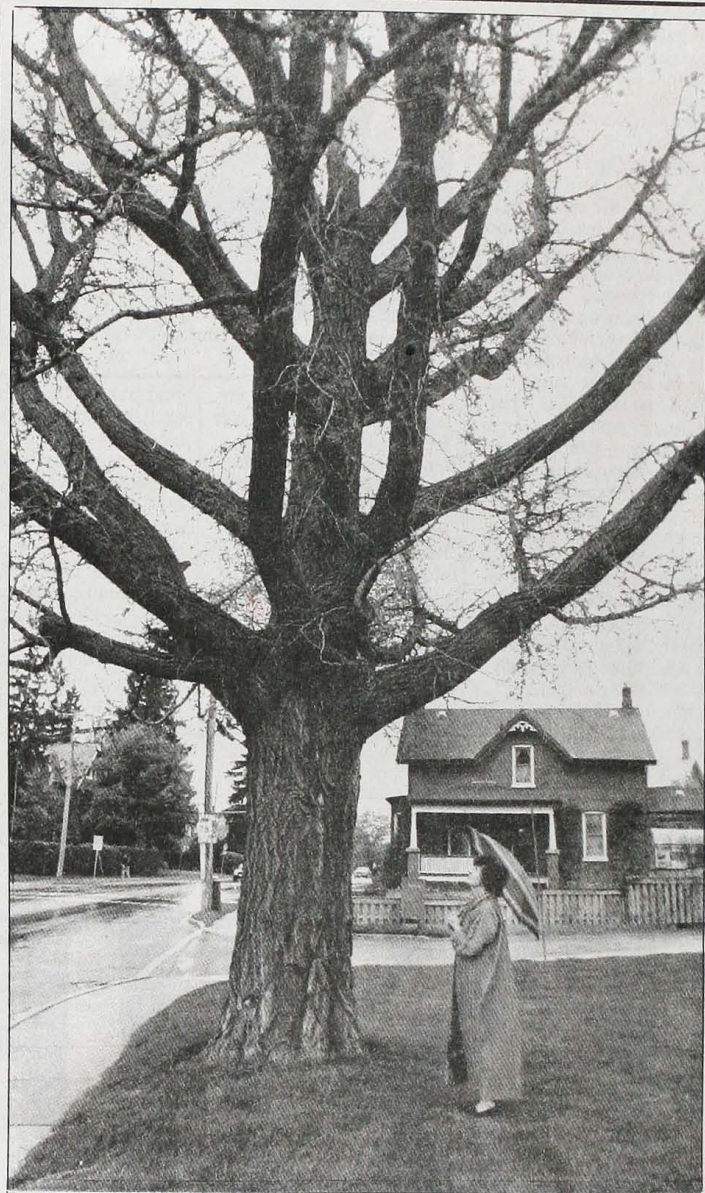
The female tree produces the seeds. The male tree contains male cells or sperms. In the Orient the white seed kernel is regarded as a culinary delicacy.

In the Buddhist faith the Ginkgo is regarded as a sacred tree. I'm not a Buddhist but I admire that concept.

All the majestic trees in our lovely town deserve to be cherished. I hope many people will discover and admire the unique Ginkgo trees which live in our midst. They are radiant in summer, spectacular in the fall and in winter the elegant branches are starkly beautiful.

*First in an occasional series on the majestic trees of Port Hope.*

*Do you have a favourite tree or species of tree which can be seen in Port Hope? Readers are invited to contribute facts and reflections about them.*



The writer shown with Ginkgo tree in front of Allison's Funeral Home

## Last recitals on old Trinity organ

July 13, 1995

By Cecilia Nasmith

Ian Morton's second summer organ recital series is also local residents' last chance to hear recitals on the old organ at Trinity United Church in Cobourg.

The latest word the church's music director has received gives him to understand that Trinity's new organ will be ready about six weeks sooner than expected, possibly as soon as October.

"All the main parts are in the factory except the console, which is being built by a separate woodworking shop," Mr. Morton said.

This grand organ, with its accessories, 71 speaking stops, 120 additional voices and computer capabilities, will be the biggest one between Cobourg and Kingston.

For the church, it is not a matter of wheeling the old organ out and the new one in.

Church members must enlarge the present organ pit, shift some of the electrical wiring, run in a new power supply to the central organ and extend this power to the amplifiers and speakers behind the pipes and to the auxiliary equipment in the back gallery.

This organ has already stirred a lot

of public interest, and Mr. Morton is planning a Christmas concert to introduce it to the community.

He says the new equipment will make music that is "more interesting, more colourful, more varied."

Until then, the 1995 summer organ recital series will go on using the old 17-stop model that has been in place since 1901.

This series will continue what Mr. Morton says was a pilot last summer to test the waters.

The recitals take place series each Thursday through July and August at 8 p.m. at the church. Tickets, at \$5 each, are available at the door.