

Rare and endangered tree makes its home in Halton

Halton greenbelt lands have been identified as the home of a rare tree recently classified as an endangered species.

A few specimens of the red mulberry tree, which is native to Ontario, are located on greenbelt property owned by Conservation Halton.

"This is an example of the greenbelt protecting the health, diversity and abundance of Ontario's natural heritage," said Jim Bradley, the minister responsible for the Greenbelt Foundation.

"The greenbelt is permanently protecting woodlands, wetlands, waterways and meadows that allow this and other rare and endangered species to survive."

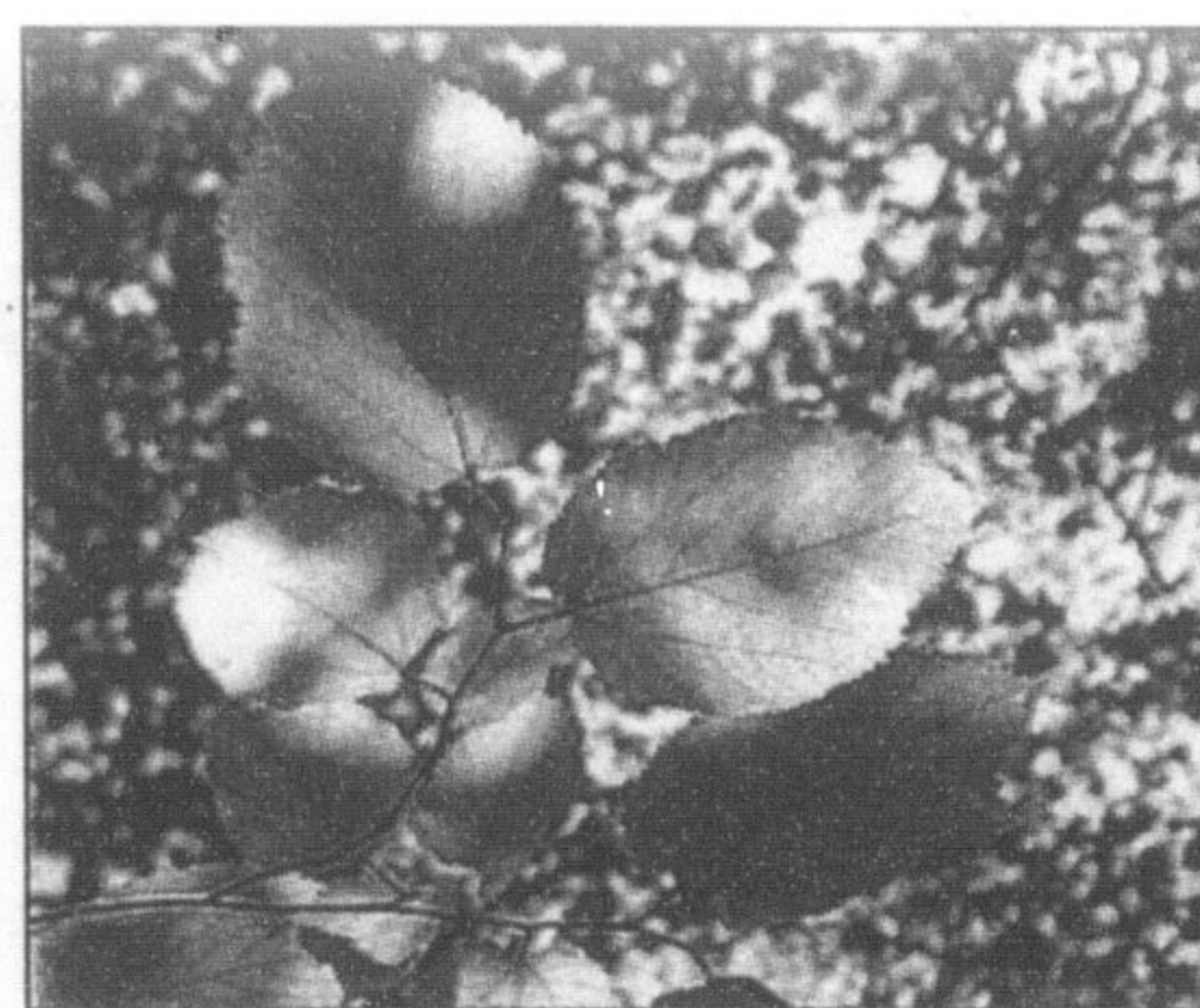
The red mulberry, a small tree with large

leaves and scaly, rusty-coloured bark, has been deemed an endangered species under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

It rarely grows more than 10 metres high and bears edible fruit that resembles a blackberry.

In Canada, it's found only in Ontario, growing at the base of slopes in deciduous forests that are largely within the greenbelt.

"Thicket by thicket and wetland by wetland, we were losing the Greater Golden Horseshoe's remaining wild-



ENDANGERED SPECIES: The rare red mulberry tree has been discovered in Halton.

ness and diversity of life," said Bradley.

"The greenbelt is stopping the loss of natural features and the species they host."

Besides Halton, greenbelt lands in Niagara and Hamilton also host the red mulberry. Specific locations aren't revealed to avoid placing the remaining trees in jeopardy.

"By stopping further loss of natural areas in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the greenbelt is protecting essential habitat for thousands of

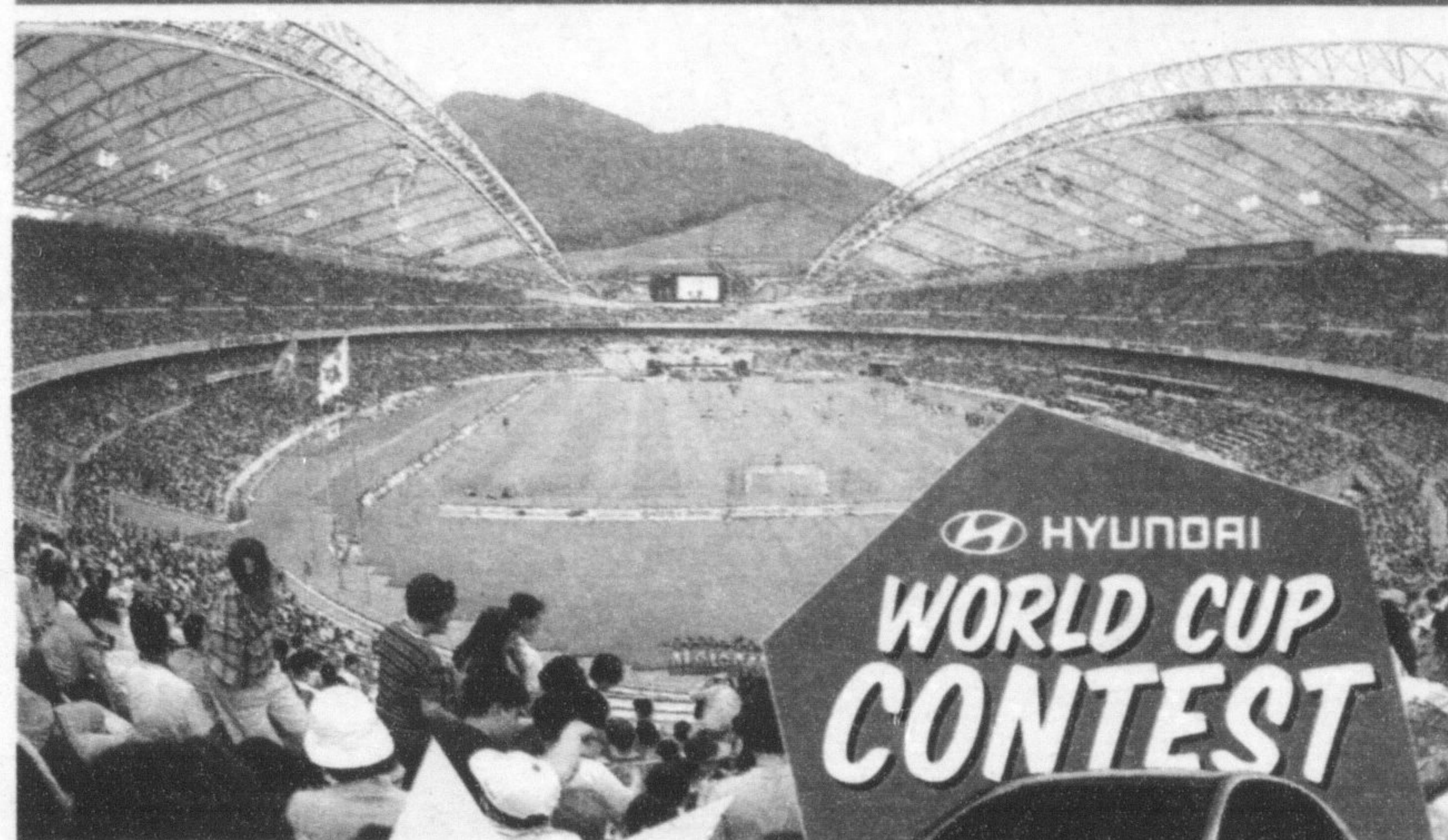
species of plants and wildlife — including some that are rare or endangered — and preserving our rich natural bio-diversity for future generations," said Minister of Natural Resources David Ramsay.

The red mulberry is threatened by habitat loss and the hybridization with the white mulberry, as Asian species that has been introduced into Ontario.

A study published last year by Environmental Defence Canada found that the greenbelt is home to 66 officially recognized species at risk.

"The greenbelt may be the last chance for survival for many of Ontario's species at risk," the report states.

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Milton has a HEART Thank You!

On behalf of The Royal Canadian Legion, Pt. U.J. (Joe) Waters Branch 136, Milton, we would like to thank the people and businesses of Milton, Campbellville and Hornby for their continued support of our Veterans.

The 2005 'Year of the Veteran' poppy campaign is winding down now and has been a wonderful success and testament to the generosity of our residents — over \$47,000 to date. (Donations are still gratefully accepted).

A special thanks to our VOLUNTEERS, our Government officials, our Police and Fire Departments, the Air, Army, Navy Cadets, Milton District Pipe Band, Parade Marshall Dave McNeill and the Ladies' Auxiliary who contributed their time to make the campaign, parades and banquets a success.

TO OUR VETERANS AND OUR VETERANS' WIDOWS, you are invited to come to the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre on Wednesday, April 5 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm to an information seminar on Seniors' affairs. ... Understanding the Veterans' Benefits. All are welcome. Please sign up at the centre prior to April 1 if you wish to attend or phone 905-875-4607.

Finally, my personal thanks to all for their support but especially to our VETERANS, it is an honour to work on your behalf.

Laurie MacNab Poppy Chair, 2005 RCL Branch 136.



Pte. U.J. (Joe) Waters Branch 136 Milton, 21 Charles St., Milton, Ontario L9T 2G5 905-878-9005

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