



**Ganaraska Region
Conservation Authority**
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Port Hope Trees for Rural Roads Program Guideline

Purpose

To enhance/replace trees along rural roads through a partnership between the Municipality of Port Hope and the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.

Background

The earliest large-scale, systematic planting efforts date back over 100 years. The Ontario Legislature passed an act in 1871 to encourage the planting of trees on “highways”. Municipalities were to pay landowners up to \$0.25 per tree for trees planted along the roads. The province was to cost-share with the municipalities, but a quarter century later, only ten percent of the money had been spent and the act was repealed. Although this would suggest failure of the program, trees from this era (or soon after) line many of our roads today.

The majority of trees farmers transplanted from their woodlots along the road side were maples. This gave rise to an important element in the rural landscape-lines of stately maples alongside roads. The legacy of tree-lined roads is embedded in many people’s memories and part of the rural aesthetic.

These century (and older) trees are succumbing to old age, exposure to wind, insects and disease. The program was developed in 2014, modeled from the Municipality of Clarington Trees for Rural Roads Program to help replace and plant trees along rural roadways.

Location of Roadside Planting

Trees are to be planted just inside the property line on private property, adjacent to the road right of way. Off set must be provided from power lines and other overhead or underground obstructions.



Figure 1 - White Spruce with 4 years growth, planted in 2012 as part of Trees for Rural Roads Clarington

Program Guidelines

The Trees for Rural Roads Program is available to all rural residents. The trees provided for free by the program, are to be planted along roadways by the private property owners on their land (being their contribution). If property owners desire more trees for laneway planting, and other locations, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority may be able to assist through other programs.

The Trees for Rural Roads program is not designed to plant along laneways, within private yards or for hedgerow replacement. Trees will not be provided to plant along Provincial roadways, private roads, unopened/unmaintained roads or urban areas (Port Hope bounded by Hamilton Road, Highway 401 and Baulch Road).

Tree Size

The program distributes bareroot and potted deciduous stock 1 to 1.5 metres in height (Oaks are in pots) and small potted coniferous trees (0.5 metre height). This size is easier to transport and plant and the growth will catch up to caliper stock over time. Tree guards for the deciduous trees and mulch mats for all trees are provided for free.

How many trees can I get?

The program allows the number of trees needed to plant 1 row along the roadway. The spacing requirement is 1 deciduous tree every 40 feet of road frontage, and 1 evergreen tree for every 20 feet of road frontage. This will allow for a full tree canopy to develop. A maximum of 30 trees per year are allowed. Replacement trees as a result of mortality are also allowed. You will receive planting instructions in advance of the tree pick-up date.



Figure 2 - Bundles of bare root trees at 2015 Trees for Rural Roads Pick-up

When do I get my trees?

You will receive notice when your application has been accepted. Trees are available to be picked up at the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority at 2216 County Road 28, Port Hope at the end of April. You will be notified of the exact pick up date and time and be provided with planting instructions. Please note that the bareroot whips come in a bag and other stock come in pots.



Figure 3 -Potted, deciduous trees were oak at the 2016 Trees for Rural Roads Pick-up.