

KELOWNA TREE PROTECTORS 2022 TREE IDENTIFICATION SIGN PROJECT

On Sunday, October 16, 2022, 4 teams of people installed 37 tree identification signs throughout the city of Kelowna.

In the spring and summer of 2022 we targeted two Kelowna neighbourhoods where there are many mature trees and where the pressures of development are resulting in the loss of single family residences and the trees on the property as they are replaced by 4-plexes in order to provide more housing in those two neighbourhoods.

Kelowna does not currently have a tree protection bylaw for trees on private property. This project of putting up tree identification signs in these two areas is to bring attention to the mature trees that live there, and ultimately more willingness by Kelowna residents, Mayor and Council and city staff, to create an attitude that will preserve as many mature trees as possible as we also find suitable places for people to live.

We canvassed the neighbourhoods and dropped off contact letters at private properties with big trees, telling about our project and asking them to respond if they wanted to have us create a sign to honour their tree.

For those that responded, (about 4 out of every 40 letters we dropped off) we then visited the tree, took photos and identified the species of tree that was there. We also asked if there was any special history with that tree.

In August we researched information about each variety and created the text to be on each of the signs. Our focus was to include information that would be interesting for children to read as well as pointing out special features of that particular kind of tree. We added 3 photos as well that would point out features of the tree that you might not notice all year round, like the leaves on deciduous trees, the flowers, the cones.

We had anticipated finding about 25 people who would want a sign, but were delighted when 37 people responded. Prosign helped us design the 12"x12" aluminum signs and Kelowna Steel Fabricators made the steel posts for us. As with everything else these days, things took longer and cost more than we expected. But they were both able to deliver their product to us in time for us to install the signs in October.

We took photographs of several of the homeowners beside the tree they love showing the sign we had just installed for them and I have included a few of those photos for you to see.

Thank you so much for your assistance!
Beverley Kalmakoff
Chair, Kelowna Tree Protectors





