

Canadian Tree Fund
171 Bella Vista Dr
Allison, ON, L9R 2G7
November 5, 2023



Re: 2023 Jack Kimmel grant to Kelowna Tree Protectors

Thank you again for funding our Significant Tree Sign project for 2023. As requested, this is our report advising that our project has been completed and the signs have been installed.

In the spring several volunteers canvassed their neighbourhoods, dropping off contact letters telling residents about our tree sign project and asking them to contact Kelowna Tree Protectors if they were interested in having us prepare a tree identification sign to honour the important and much loved tree in their yard. This year we expanded our search to areas in the city we had not covered in our previous two years of doing this, and were successful in finding more interested Kelowna residents.

Once we had a list of 26 interested people, we ended our search for locations. We then had a qualified horticultural expert, Robert Hogue, MSc confirm the species of each tree so they were properly identified. This part of the process was completed in August of 2023.

We then created the wordings for the 15 different varieties of trees represented by this years' sign project and had the signs and signposts manufactured in September. See the example photo below and note that we have included your logo this year.

On Sunday, October 29th, four teams of volunteers installed the 26 signs and in most cases were able to interact with the homeowners and share their stories and their love of trees. We also took photos to share on our social media sites. For volunteers, this final piece of the project is a positive activity which fills our hearts with joy and gives us the motivation to continue with all the work we do throughout the years to support the trees in our community. It is a visual reminder of the successes we have achieved.

These signs do so much for our community. In addition to educating the public about the tree it represents, it alerts residents to all the other trees in the neighbourhood. They generate calls to Kelowna Tree Protectors about tree related issues. Our Mayor and Council are aware of the tree signs in the city. Our Parks Department supports us in our endeavours and refers Kelowna residents to us when appropriate. The signs help people who love trees know that there is a group in our community who is actively working at preserving our mature trees and helps make them feel they are not alone in their love of and concern for the trees we are losing because of the heavy pressures of residential development here. They contribute to our reputation as a positive and cooperative force in the community. They have generated several speaking opportunities. In all they have an impact and influence far beyond just identifying one specific tree.

Beverley Kalmakoff



