



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY/MEDIA ADVISORY

Great White Oak Celebrates Founding Family of Leaside

First tree to receive recognition through Heritage Tree 150

On Saturday, March 25th, the great white oak at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church in Toronto will be recognized through the Forests Ontario *Heritage Tree Program*.

In 1890, William Lea designated half an acre of his land in Leaside to build the Leaside Mission, which was later replaced by St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church. At the time, St. Cuthbert's was the only public building in the area and served as the City Hall of the newly incorporated Town of Leaside in 1913. Historical photographs show the great white oak witnessing countless community events, including a homecoming celebration for soldiers returning from WWI. The tree has survived hurricanes, ice storms, and drought. St. Cuthbert's and its great white oak have been the center of generations of change and growth in the Leaside community.

Trees are not just beautiful landmarks and the heart of healthy ecosystems, but characters in the stories that form our history. In celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial, Forests Ontario and the TD Bank Group invite Ontarians to help us collect and tell the stories of 150 heritage trees across the province.

We invite you to join us at this celebration in honour of the first heritage tree recognized through Heritage Tree 150 and encourage more Ontarians to share their heritage tree stories with us.

- WHAT:** Leaside's Great White Oak recognized as a Heritage Tree by Forests Ontario and TD Bank Group, launching 150 heritage trees recognized during 2017
- WHO:** Forests Ontario, TD Bank Group, St. Cuthbert's Church Primate
- WHEN:** Saturday, March 25th, 2017
3:00 pm
- WHERE:** St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church,
1399 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4G 3A6

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For more information, photos, or to arrange an interview please contact:

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ABOUT FORESTS ONTARIO

Forests Ontario is the voice for our forests. Working to promote a future of healthy forests sustaining healthy people, Forests Ontario is committed to the re-greening of Ontario through tree planting efforts on rural lands and in urban areas, as well as the renewal and stewardship of Ontario's forests through restoration, education and awareness. Visit www.forestsontario.ca or follow us @Forests_Ontario.

ABOUT THE HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM

Forests Ontario's Heritage Tree Program collects and tells the stories of Ontario's diverse and unique trees and brings awareness to the social, cultural, historical, and ecological value of trees. Trees are nominated for recognition based on distinctness in size, form, age, rarity, or their connection with historically significant events, individuals, or locations. More about the Heritage Tree Program can be read [here](#).

ABOUT TD BANK GROUP

The Toronto-Dominion Bank and its subsidiaries are collectively known as TD Bank Group ("TD" or the "Bank"). TD is the sixth largest bank in North America by branches and serves 25 million customers in three key businesses operating in a number of locations in financial centres around the globe: Canadian Retail, including TD Canada Trust, TD Auto Finance Canada, TD Wealth (Canada), TD Direct Investing, and TD Insurance; U.S. Retail, including TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, TD Auto Finance U.S., TD Wealth (U.S.), and an investment in TD Ameritrade; and Wholesale Banking, including TD Securities. TD also ranks among the world's leading online financial services firms, with approximately 11 million active online and mobile customers. TD had CDN\$1.2 trillion in assets on October 31, 2016. The Toronto-Dominion Bank trades under the symbol "TD" on the Toronto and New York Stock Exchanges.