



To Whom it may Concern June23, 2016

On May 26, 27, 28 and 29 of 2016, we had the pleasure of having Edith George on Manitoulin Island. The Manitoulin Nature Club and its Sub-committee (Notable Trees of Manitoulin) were embarking on a day filled with tree experts who spoke to adults and children. The focus was on Trees and Edith George was the “Keynote Speaker”. She presented her talk on “Heritage Trees”.

Edith gave a presentation for Gr. 7 and 8 students on Friday morning and in the afternoon for an adult crowd of over 86 people. Edith was well-prepared and told her remarkable story, complete with pictures, in a clear and unrushed manner. Her passion for her topic was such that the room was perfectly still with all ears listening.

We were a rural audience, and Edith’s topic was urban, but what a lot we gained from hearing it. Recently the Ontario Woodlot Association had published three articles on Urban Forests. What a timely presentation. Edith George comes highly recommended by our Club.

Nancy Kains, Manitoulin Nature Club and NTOM

21 Granlea Rd
Toronto ON M2N 2Z6

September 22, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

By way of this note I wish to confirm the integrity and sincerity of EDITH GEORGE in all her endeavours. She continues to prove her commitment to the well being of Toronto and elsewhere in Ontario. She is a past member of the Weston Historical Society and is currently an Advisor to the Ontario Urban Forest Council and the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance. She continues to provide valuable service to both organizations through her many presentations across Ontario showing the value of our cultural and natural heritage and encouraging listeners to take action for their preservation.

Edith self-initiated the design and presentation of her talks on heritage trees protection and their value in telling Ontario's human history. She is being well received. She has presented her light-and-sound show to libraries, historical societies, the Toronto Botanical Garden, Green Toronto, Waterloo Chapter of Landscape Ontario, Guelph Urban Forest Friends, seniors' centres, Toll Keepers Cottage, Royal Ontario Museum, schools etc. She continues to receive invitations. Any honoraria she receives she contributes same to worthy heritage projects.

Edith is an avid and active volunteer. She takes the initiative to be well informed about municipal matters that affect her local community and Toronto in general. She has made deputations to city council on an as needs basis. She has a natural interest and affinity to do research which she applies to any work she undertakes. She is entrepreneurial and a self-starter. And she does have a good sense of humour.

May she continue to find those activities to which she can contribute her energies, her enthusiasm and hard work.

Fran Moscall

Fran Moscall, B.A., M.Ed.,

Director, Ontario Urban Forest Council

Coordinator, Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance

hegilles@rogers.com



**Email of Steve Hounsell - President of Forests Ontario
dated Saturday, February 21, 2015 re “Heritage Tree - Preserving
Our Natural Roots” presentation at Forests Ontario Conference,
Friday, January 20, 2015 - Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, Ontario.**

Steve Hounsell 

To: Edith George

RE: Two Letters of Reference - Seen Below

21 February, 2015 3:27 PM

[Hide Details](#)

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It was wonderful seeing you yesterday. Your presentation was excellent and lived up to the wonderful letters of support which you have shared with me below. If only trees could talk, the stories they could tell! In the absence of that ability, you have woven a story that links the life history of heritage trees with the rich history of generations of people who too were touch by those very same trees. Such history deserves recognition and deserves protection. Thank you for making this history come alive one tree at a time. It is another way of “touching people” to become more respectful and caring for that which surrounds us. Please do continue your excellent work. You are a superb ambassador reminding us that our own history is closely intertwined with the non-human life that surrounds us. It is time we learned to respect and nurture that relationship.

Your stories need to be told. Although I do not have any direct links to schools in the GTA area, I will do what I can to think about ways of getting you and your stories “out there”. Stay tuned.

Again, “thank you”!

Best Regards,

Steve



June 27, 2012

After meeting Edith George, The Friends of Centennial Park Conservatory decided it was important to extend an invitation to our community in Etobicoke to learn about the ways in which old trees may and should be protected.

Edith George came to us with an excellent presentation that was both informative and stimulating. How a special tree may be a connection in history with people, places and events really was enlightening and gave us much food for thought.

We hope Edith and the Ontario Urban Forest Council will have many years of support in carrying her message throughout Ontario and beyond. Her message is important and communities everywhere would benefit from her story.

With thanks and appreciation Edith, for opening our eyes,

Romana Marconi
Chair
Friends of
Centennial Park Conservatory



October 5, 2014

To Whom it May Concern

Letter of Reference

I've had the pleasure of knowing Edith George since May 29, 2014 along with her passion for Heritage Trees and their protection.

Edith travels around the province of Ontario giving her power-point presentation about the story of a 250 year old red oak tree. She answers the questions "What is a heritage tree?" and "Why is it important to protect them?" Edith captivates her audiences of all age groups.

The community of Cabbagetown had the opportunity to be hear Edith's story "Heritage Tree - Preserving Our Natural Roots" at the Riverdale Farm Meeting Room on September 16, 2014. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period with experts from various fields participating; ie ravine management, foresters, teachers, built and natural heritage. The event was sponsored by both Cabbagetown ReLEAF and Cabbagetown Preservation Association.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

David Grant
Co-chair

Cabbagetown ReLEAF Tree Stewardship

COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT

Founded 1983, Incorporated 1987 Ontario # 729493, Registered Charity # BN 84699 8755
Mail: c/o Spadina Road Library, 10 Spadina Road, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S7
Offices and Archives: Scotiabank, Second Floor, 79 Queen Street East – 416-515-7546
Museum: Tollkeeper's Cottage, northwest corner Davenport and Bathurst, open Saturdays
www.tollkeeperscottage.ca



Edith George,
39 Verobeach Boulevard,
Toronto M9M 1P7

30 May 2011

Dear Edith,

This letter should come to you in multiple copies for each time evidence of your generous support of the Community History Project appears in the mail in the red envelopes but even more because of your interest and support over the long period preceding the “red envelope phase”.

Ever since you first appeared on CHP's horizon you have been a generous supporter, but what endears you to all is the passion with which you undertake to educate people about heritage trees and the need to preserve them. For so long, the built heritage has dominated preservation issues, throwing priorities out of line. If we cannot preserve the planet in a liveable condition, then what is the point of saving a building?

When I read descriptions of the primeval forest in the earliest documents – trees with a ten-foot diameter etc. – I ask myself, “What have we done?” We were given the Garden of Eden and are turning it into a garbage dump, depriving wildlife - and ultimately ourselves - of a chance to survive.

At Eleanor Roosevelt's funeral, diplomat Adlai Stevenson said of her that, “She thought it was better to light one candle than to curse the darkness”. I say the same of you, that it is better to save one tree than to merely lament the loss of the forest. Even if we save one tree, that tree gives more to us than we have given to it.

Thankyou for all you are and do . . .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane".

(Miss) Jane Beecroft, O.M.C.,
President.



Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forest
Improving city life one tree at a time

February 10, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Last week, LEAF was pleased to have Edith George deliver her lively and informative presentation entitled "Heritage Tree: Preserving our Natural Roots." Edith's presentation covered what a heritage tree is, addressed the process of evaluating a potential heritage tree, and was illustrated by historical stories of heritage trees in Toronto.

Participants found Edith's presentation engaging and inspiring. It would of great benefit to all citizens, as it offers a unique perspective on some of the great trees of our city. Forestry students, who learn about so many aspects of trees, would particularly benefit from this viewpoint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robyn Stewart
Education & Outreach Coordinator



BRUCE COUNTY
MUSEUM
& CULTURAL CENTRE

ARCHIVES • HISTORY • EVENTS

Barbara Ribey
Director/Curator

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email: museum@brucecounty.on.ca
website: www.brucemuseum.ca

July 19, 2010

RE: Edith George

To whom it may concern:

Recently, Edith George participated as one of a number of speakers in a series of lectures on forests and forestry issues for the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre. Edith spoke on the research of and benefits of historic trees, particularly in the Toronto area, but also touching on designated historic trees in other parts of Ontario. You can find the information on our website at <http://www.brucemuseum.ca/calendar/forestry-series-2010/>.

Edith was well prepared and organized, and spoke well on her topic. Especially of interest were the questions that came from the audience during the Q&A part of the presentation. I can always tell if the audience found the presentation interesting by the number of and type of questions asked. Edith's presentation was of great interest to the audience.

I would definitely recommend Edith's presentation to your group for an entertaining and interesting talk.

Sincerely,

Nancy White
Program Coordinator

Experience the Unforgettable

Dr Reese Halter
5525 Agoura Glen Dr
Agoura Hills, Calif.
91301
<http://DrReese.com>

Edith George
39 Verobeach Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario
M9M 1P7

August 10, 2010

To Whom it May Concern

I, Dr. Reese Halter, am a tree physiologist at Cal Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California. I have been in conservation biology for over two and a half decades in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. I founded the international conservation institute Global Forest Science in 1988 and oversee approximately 160 scientists working in seven countries short-circuiting ecological disasters and protecting fragile ecosystems in addition to providing children with ecological education. I am an author, syndicated science writer, television host and father.

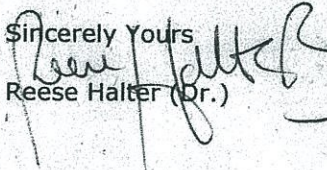
I met Edith George about four years ago when I was touring Canada on my book tour of "Wild Weather the Truth Behind Global Warming." Ms. George is an exceptional individual who is passionate and articulate, and has a deep respect and knowledge of how to designate trees that are called Heritage Trees. She has been involved with various non-profit groups in Ontario. Her recent project is to have urban trees recognized and protected all over the province of Ontario but particularly in the city where she was born and resides, Toronto.

Since the amalgamation of the City of Toronto, there have not been any trees recognized as a heritage tree by Toronto City Hall. Urban trees in particular ancient city trees are potent CO2 scrubbers, providing protection against smog, offering shade (for people and buildings) and habitat (for critters) and regulating the water table and storm water run-off; and they provide clean air for ALL life-forms. Trees are crucial in the fight against rising global temperatures.

These ancient trees require recognition and protection; in addition, they are a valuable seed source for future generations of urban trees.

I highly recommend Ms. George's presentation entitled "Heritage Trees - Preserving Our Natural Roots," which educates Ontarians about the importance of urban trees.

Sincerely Yours


Reese Halter (Dr.)

Ward 13

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councillor_doucette@toronto.ca



To Whom it May Concern:

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a presentation at the Gerard Ashdale Library by Edith George entitled "Heritage Tree - Preserving Our Natural Roots". Although the importance of preserving heritage trees within the City of Toronto was the strong focus of Edith's presentation, it was really so much more than that. Edith incorporated the history behind the old trees of our city, and her engaging presentation was fascinating from start to finish.

Edith chronologically told the story of prominent Toronto families and how they connected to the Nicholas Family Red Oak, providing photos throughout the whole presentation. Edith is extremely knowledgeable in her field, and her presentation demonstrated the time and effort she puts in to convincing others of the respect trees deserve.

I would highly recommend "Heritage Tree - Preserving Our Natural Roots". It is both interesting and educational and provides insight into the connections between trees and the history of Toronto. It is informative and entertaining for all ages, reminds everyone how important it is to have heritage status for trees, not only to preserve the trees themselves, but the incredible history they hold.

Sincerely,



Sarah Doucette
Councillor, Ward 13



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



Honourable Judy A. Sgro
Privy Council
Member of Parliament, York West

July 08, 2011

Re: Edith George

To Whom It May Concern

I have known, and had the pleasure of working with Edith George for many years. I am very familiar with the wonderful work she does and the many hours she has devoted to researching the history of the trees left as markers along the Toronto Carrying Place Trail.


Edith's commitment and passion can be seen in the way she refers to the trees as our treasures. She is a member of the Weston Historical Society and has repeatedly shown her determination in ensuring trees such as the great Red Oak found on Coral Gable Drive, are designated as a "Recognized Heritage Tree".

Edith has taken the information she has accumulated over time and converted it to a presentation she gives to community groups within our neighbourhood. I have heard the accolades bestowed upon her by those who attended and seen the thank you letters written. While I have not had the pleasure of seeing one myself, the passion she feels for this topic would guarantee an unforgettable experience.

Edith's accounts of the area's history are written as though the trees themselves speak of events they have witnessed. She takes the extra care needed to create productions geared to the participants. She familiarizes herself with their history and intertwines it in her tales. They listen to the stories she weaves and apply them to their own heritage.

I wish Edith success in her new venture as a speaker and presenter. I hope she continues her work with organizations such as Trees Ontario to preserve our historical treasures so they may be enjoyed by generations to come.

Sincerely



Hon. Judy A. Sgro, Privy Council
Member of Parliament, York West

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