



**Ganaraska Region  
Conservation Authority**  
2216 County Road 28  
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V8  
Phone (905) 885-8173  
Fax (905) 885-9824  
www.grca.on.ca

## **Township of Hamilton Trees for Rural Roads Program Guideline**

### **Purpose**

To enhance/replace trees along rural roads through a partnership between the Township of Hamilton 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with the municipalities, but a quarter century later, only ten percent of the money had been spent and the act was repealed.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 launched in the Township of Hamilton in 2022 and is modeled from the Municipality of Clarington Trees for Rural Roads Program to help replace and plant trees along rural roadways.



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

### **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.

## 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 roads, private roads, or unopened/unmaintained roads.

## 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.*

# TREES FOR RURAL ROADS APPLICATION FORM

Please submit application in **FULL** by **March 31, 2025** to

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority  
2216 County Road 28  
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V8

Phone: 905-885-8173  
Fax: 905-885-9824  
Email: [stewardship@grca.on.ca](mailto:stewardship@grca.on.ca)



<b>Property Owner Information:</b>							
Name:							
Mailing Address				Town			
Postal Code				Email			
Daytime Phone No.		(    )		Evening Phone No.		(    )	
<b>Proposed Planting Details:</b>							
Property Address (if different from mailing address):							
Road Name:				Closest Intersection:			
Lot:		Concession:					
Side of Road	North		South		East		West
Estimated Length of area to contain planting:					Soil Conditions:		
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Feet		<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Metres			<input type="checkbox"/> Dry <input type="checkbox"/> Wet Clay <input type="checkbox"/> Sand <input type="checkbox"/> Loam <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Replacing dead / dying trees (e.g., ash, Scot's pine or a replacement tree from a previous year allocation):							
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No					

- The required spacing between trees is a minimum of 40 feet (12 meters) from the centre of the tree.
- All hardwoods are 3-4' bareroot stock or potted (Oaks). Evergreens are 12-18" potted stock.
- A maximum order of 30 trees is allowed.

Tree Species	Site Description	# of Trees Requested	Tree Species	Site Description	# of Trees Requested
Sugar Maple	Prefers well drained sites		Burr Oak	Tolerates a variety of soil types and moisture.	
Red Maple	Prefers moist sites		White Birch	Prefers moist to well drained sites	
Silver Maple	Prefers moist sites		White Pine	Prefers well drained sites	
Red Oak	Prefers dry well drained sites		White Spruce	Prefers well drained sites	

**Please provide diagram for plantings:**



A large empty rectangular box for providing a diagram for plantings. A north arrow is located in the top right corner of the box.

**CONDITIONS**

Eligibility for involvement in Trees for Rural Roads program may be limited by overhead or underground utilities, site lines, drainage, or suitability of the planting site. Spacing and location will depend upon suitability of site for species requested, such as soil and drainage, location of existing trees on the property, etc.

It is understood that the survival of individual trees cannot be, and is not guaranteed.

The applicant agrees to pick-up the trees from the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and further agrees to plant the trees on his or her property and not in the municipal or county road right-of-way. It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that trees being planted do not in any way interfere with above and below ground utilities (recommended 8 metres from utilities).

Every effort will be made to inform the landowner in how they can increase the chances of survival and tree growth. Planting instructions will be provided at the time of tree pick-up.

The Township of Hamilton and the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority does not take any responsibility in the long-term care and maintenance of the trees planted under this program.

I consent to receiving email from the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_