



Rotarians for Zhelevo
Toronto's Historic Red Oak

Help save the home of a tree older than Canada!

Zhelevo is a majestic Red Oak located in a residential community near the Humber River in Toronto. It is well over 250 years old and was recognized as a Heritage Tree in 2009 thanks to the incredible efforts of Edith George, its neighbour and friend.

This Red Oak has witnessed history unfolding as a lookout tree overseeing the First Nations' Carrying-Place Trail. Every year, it captures more than 2.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide and currently stores over 31 tonnes of carbon above ground.

Now the lot on which Zhelevo grows is up for sale and funds must be raised quickly to secure the tree and its home for future generations.



*The red oak in winter at 76 Coral Gable Drive
Photo credit: Edith George*

The City of Toronto has agreed to purchase the property and establish the space as a parkette to preserve and showcase this beautiful example of our natural heritage. However, the purchase of sale is conditional upon the City fundraising \$430,000 by December 12, 2020. **To date there is a fundraising gap of approximately \$200,000.**



**Turn
over
to see
how
you
can
help!**

How to Help!

Make a donation on the [Rotarians for Toronto's Historic Red Oak page](#).

Donations made on this site will be held in trust by the Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation. If the campaign is successful in raising the funds required to proceed, a tax receipt will be issued. If it is not successful, donors will be contacted to arrange the return or reallocation of funds to another project.

Make a donation on the [City of Toronto's website](#).

All donors will receive a tax receipt. If funds raised are insufficient to purchase the land, donations will go to Toronto Urban Forestry's programs to support tree planting and stewardship on private land and publicly accessible green spaces.

Make a club or company donation. [The Rotary Club of Toronto West](#) is making a Legacy Gift of \$10,000 to save the home of the historic red oak and create a peaceful parkette. Donations of all amounts are welcome and needed!

Join the "Rotarians for Zhelevo – Toronto's Historic Red Oak team."

Help us to spread the word and raise funds. Our team includes members from Rotary Toronto West, Rotary Etobicoke, Rotary Toronto Sunrise, and Rotary Toronto Eglinton. Contact us at Barry.Rotary@outlook.com.

Learn more about Zhelevo, the historic Red Oak.

Check out the links below and act now to help create a peaceful parkette and save the home of a tree that is older than Canada!

[Help us save Toronto's oldest tree – 15 September 2020 – Mark & Ben Cullen](#)

["Trees are Treasures" 10-year-old Sophia in a video by Filip Vukcevic, 2020](#)

[This Red Oak tree is older than Canada – Breakfast Television – 2 September 2020](#)

[Toronto seeks to save tree older than Canada – CTV News – 25 August 2020 \(with video\)](#)

["If this tree could talk:" The fight to save Zhelevo, Toronto's most iconic red oak – Canadian Geographic – 7 July 2020](#)

[Meet Zhelevo, Toronto's 'Rolls-Royce' of trees – Globe & Mail – 11 March 2020](#)

