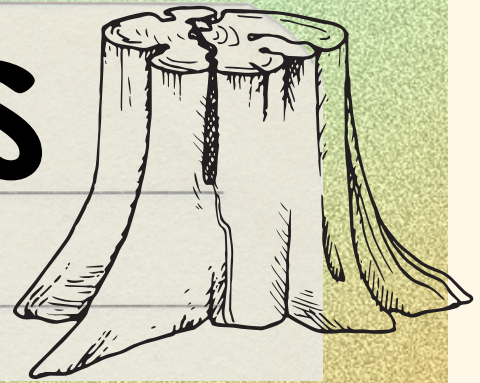


# Stump Stories

Vol. 1



May 2022, our region was hit by a derecho; a previously unfamiliar natural disaster and consequence of climate change.

In the aftermath of the derecho's destruction, we asked our community how their physical surroundings had been impacted.

We are excited to share these stories with you, interwoven with data on the role urban forests play in our cities.

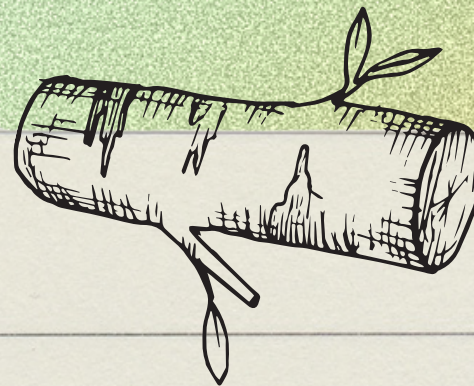
Swipe !!



**kwic**  
Kawartha World Issues Centre  
Connecting for Change



"May 21, 2022 our lives were forever changed. Our backyard was a beautiful urban forest that was decimated by the gale-force winds. The remains of over 30 mature maples, black walnuts and ash now lie on the ground."



## Ode to Our Trees

Beloved trees you have been such an important part of our lives.

You have been our daily connection to the natural world - full of grace and beauty that mankind so frequently fails to incorporate as part of our daily lives

Sharing the past 38 years with you has been a very special part of living in Peterborough

You will forever be a part of us.

-Nancy

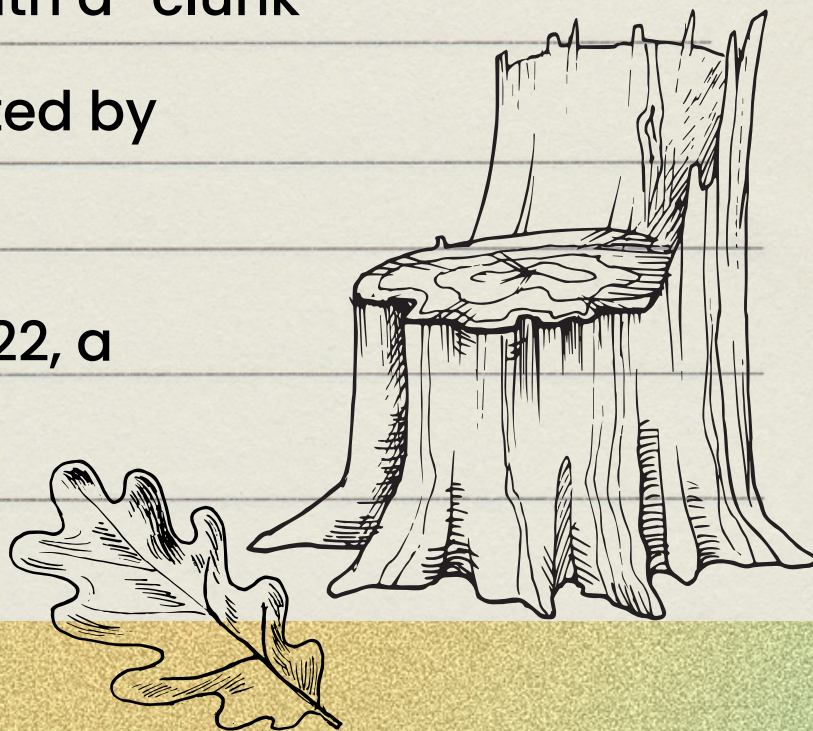


**kwic**  
Kawartha World Issues Centre  
Connecting for Change



## A Great Old Oak

I am a tree hugger! I live with my family on a lake north of Lakefield, Ontario. Our cottage is surrounded by trees. My favourite one was a majestic oak tree that chose to put down its roots a few feet from my back deck and over the years it grew taller and taller into the sky. I loved that oak tree: how it lived in harmony with the trees around it and with the animals and birds... and with me! Every springtime, it would sprout its buds and birds would build their nests in its branches and raise their young. very autumn, I would hear acorns dropping with a "clunk" onto my back deck to be collected by the squirrels and chipmunks for the winter ahead. On May 21, 2022, a derecho hit us. It was terrifying!

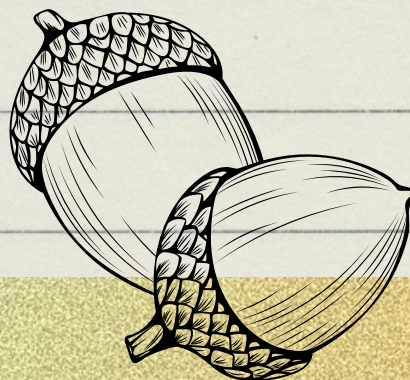


**kwic**  
Kawartha World Issues Centre  
Connecting for Change



•  
The rain fell horizontally because of the winds, which were far stronger than anything I had ever experienced in other big storms over the years. When the worst of it had passed, we looked out our back window and saw the great oak tree had been uprooted, and had crashed to the ground, broken. I noticed the roots of the oak tree could not grow strongly down into the earth because it was so rocky. Instead, its roots were forced to grow horizontally around large boulders. It is cold comfort but in the future, we will burn firewood from this oak tree to warm us! Hopefully, some of its acorns will grow into other oak trees which the next generations will love!

-Barbara McGregor



**kwic**  
Kawartha World Issues Centre  
Connecting for Change





Image courtesy of Barbara McGregor



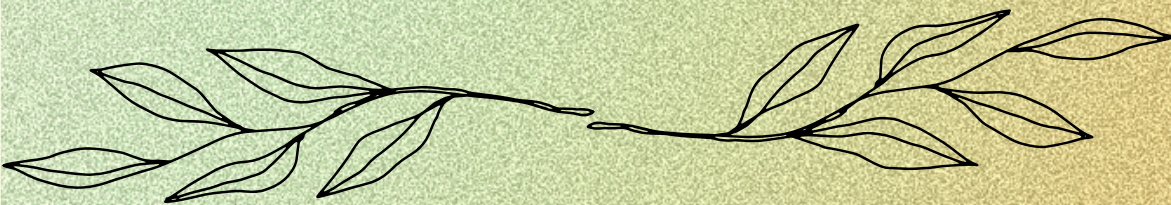
**kwic**  
Kawartha World Issues Centre  
Connecting for Change



# Urban Forests & Climate Change

- Trees have the great ability to absorb and store carbon via photosynthesis; generally the older and larger the tree, the greater the amount of carbon the tree is storing (Aziz, 2020). The carbon fallen trees had been storing will be released once they are burned or begin decomposing (USAD, n.d).
  - Trees also benefit cities and urban areas by providing a cooling effect, alleviating the need for air conditioners and other expensive cooling systems. A decrease in trees increases what's called the urban heat island effect making city centers drastically hotter than the surrounding area (Georgi and Zafiriadis, 2006)
  - Fewer trees in urban areas also increase the risk of flooding within the city since trees are responsible for uptaking excess water. Peterborough could also experience lower air quality due to fewer trees being present to filter the air and create oxygen.
- You can find more information about the benefits of having trees in Peterborough's Urban Forest Strategic Plan.

Psst! Don't forget the  
Municipal Election is  
occurring in the fall of 2022  
so research the candidates  
campaigns and ask them  
about their planting  
budget for the city.



**kwic**  
Kawartha World Issues Centre  
Connecting for Change



# What YOU can do

## (with suggestions from Ecology Park)



- 1. Check out Resources Specific to our Region**  
Before planting a tree on your property, it's necessary to consider the best species and placement. The tree will also require care and maintenance after it is planted. GreenUp has you covered with a list of everything you should do to ensure your planting is successful.
- 2. Download the iTree app**  
This app provides forestry analysis tools and educational resources to improve forest management practices and advocate for the wonderful things trees provide for us.
- 3. Learn about the Emerald Ash Borer**  
Rising temperatures have created the ideal conditions for tree diseases, including the Emerald Ash Borer. This invasive species continues to put our native Ash trees at risk of extinction. It's vital to know how to properly care for an ash tree and the treatment options available.



**kWIC**  
Kawartha World Issues Centre  
Connecting for Change

*Links to resources  
in the bio*

