

PHOTO BY NIGEL LAING

#6408
Hungarian Oak
Quercus frainetto
Beside the picnic table near café
49 16′ 19″ N, -123 11′ 29″ W

BEAT A PATH – ALL THE TREES

PART OF THE ARTIST IN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM WITH THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST POINT GREY COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE JERICHO STEWARDSHIP GROUP. THE LEGACY POSTER PROJECT AND EXHIBITION ARE SUPPORTED BY THE ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE.

AN ARTIST PROJECT BY HOLLY SCHMIDT | BEATAPATH.CA/ALL-THE-TREES

EMAIL TO TREE #6408

Dear Oak Tree,

I just wanted to let you know that I so much appreciate you. You are so beautiful, and you provide lovely shade and make this picnic area so welcoming.

You also remind me of my childhood. When I was a little girl, every fall I would go for a stroll in the Oak Alley with my grandparents. We would collect beautiful colourful oak leaves from the ground and then dry them in between the pages of albums. It was in Kiev - another country, another continent, but your brothers and sisters in that area are just as beautiful.

My grandparents are not with me anymore, and I don't have those albums filled with dry leaves but looking at you brings back some of my most cherished memories.

— ANONYMOUS

RESPONSE FROM TREE #6408

Thank you for your beautiful message. I'm so pleased that you enjoy spending time under the shade of my branches.

Your story about collecting leaves and preserving them between the pages really touched me. As a tree, I witness humans of all ages coming and going, aging and changing. Perhaps time passes differently for me because I am rooted to one place. But it does pass, and I grow taller as seasons change.

I thank you for the image of sibling oak trees in Kiev. It's nice to imagine their leaves turning colour in the fall at the same time as mine. If you are passing by again in the fall, please take some of my leaves to press in a book.

Warm regards,
Holly Schmidt on behalf of Hungarian Oak