BEAT A PATH – ALL THE TREES



PHOTO BY NIGEL LAING

#6404
Purpleleaf Plum
Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea'
Path near the road
49 16′ 13″ N, -123 11′ 35″ W

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

EMAIL TO TREE #6404

Dear Beautiful Tree,

We ask you this question knowing you are wise beyond recognition. What we want to know is this:

How did you get so old?

— ANONYMOUS

RESPONSE FROM TREE #6404

Thank you for your question.

I appreciate that you think I hold so much wisdom. I guess age is about perspective. Compared to a lot of the trees in Jericho Park my lifespan is much shorter. Some of my neighbours could live up to two hundred years or more. Sometimes I try to imagine what changes might happen over that time, but then I'm distracted by the beauty of the marsh. There are so many birds, frogs and insects chattering away that I find myself caught up in the moment rather than contemplation of the future.

I've struggled with a few ailments over the years. If you look closely at my branches there are some sites of decay. As a tree I can build up a wall of cells that will protect me from any wounds or damage. Sometimes these old scars provide life for someone else. Near my base and to the back there's a shelf fungus happily thriving.

Anyway, I hope you are all thriving too!
Holly Schmidt on behalf of Purpleleaf Plum

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.