

# Third Stop – Park Blvd. & Long Branch Ave.

A feature of life in Long Branch, as elsewhere in Toronto, is that some of the trees are much older than any of the people currently living in the community.

Such is the case with the 80-foot-tall, 200-year-old red oak tree, which has been recently designated as a Heritage Tree.

We owe thanks to the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association for taking the initiative, and doing the research, that led to the official designation, of this Heritage Tree.

At 200 years of age, the tree would have been a sapling 200 years ago, in 1818, a few years after the War of 1812 ended, in North America.

And it would have been about three years old in 1815, when Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo, and the Napoleonic wars came to an end.

This tree is the first officially designated Heritage Tree in Long Branch. Students from James S. Bell Junior Middle Sports and Wellness Academy were on hand on April 30<sup>th</sup>, at the official unveiling of the tree.

At the ceremony, it was noted that a municipal bylaw protects Heritage Trees in Toronto, the only bylaw of its kind in Ontario.

The tree would have been around 66 years old, in 1884 when the Long Branch Park exclusive summer resort was founded.

As was noted at the unveiling ceremony on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the tree stood in full view of the Long Branch Hotel, along with other key features of Long

Branch Park, including a carousel, a ballpark, dance pavilions, and a water slide on the lakefront.

It is the tree that has remained standing, long after other features of the park have disappeared.