

# Pelham's Ancient Maple Preserved for 1967

A sugar maple tree estimated to be over 450 years old will still be standing on a farm in North Pelham throughout Centennial Year, thanks to the imagination of its owners.

The sugar maple, already 100 years old when Champlain first came to Canada in 1603, is now 18 feet five inches in circumference at chest height, about 90 feet tall and has a crown diameter of about 70 feet.

The United Empire Loyalist farm on which the tree, Old Glory, stands was sold in 1946 by the Comfort family, who withheld the plot where the maple stands

along with the lane leading to it.

In 1960, Miss Edna Comfort turned the land over to the Niagara Peninsula conservation authority as a memorial, asking that the tree be protected and that visitors have access to it. Thanks to tree surgeons who have braced its branches, sealed its cavities and fertilized its roots, Old Glory will be there next July 1, dominating the pear and cherry orchards that surround it.

## THE CENTENNIAL SERVICE

### ELGIN PRESBYTERY

Hymn 17

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgive,  
Who like me His praise should sing?  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him still the same forever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless;  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him,  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes;  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him,  
Widely as His mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;  
Blows the wind and it is gone;  
But, while mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on;  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him,  
Praise the high eternal One.

Amen.

## A Brilliant Climax To An Exciting Year

### Bands, Rockets Accompany Queen's Park Tree Lighting

Choirs, bands, fireworks, excited children and the shimmering of thousands of lights on an avenue of Christmas trees was the impressive backdrop for the provincial government's climax to what has been one of Canada's most exuberant years.

A glittering array of Christmas trees donated by each of the provinces and territories provided a soft contrast to the Gothic lines of the provincial parliament buildings at Toronto's Queen's Park, at a ceremony attended by Premier John Robarts and James Auld, Minister of Tourism and Information.

### Impressive Ceremony in Ottawa

Last year — for the first time in many years — three large illuminated Christmas trees were erected on Ottawa's Parliament Hill, adding to the spirit of the season and contributing to the natural beauty of the area.

Similar trees have again been erected in this Centennial Year, with the addition of a special lighting ceremony at which Prime Minister Pearson launched the national "Help-a-Child" program (*full story on page 28*).

Busloads of children arrived on the Hill at 3.30 p.m., including Bobby Gimby and a school choir. Entertainment for them included Santa Claus, costumed clowns, a puppet show and sports celebrities. The Prime Minister and party was led onto the stage by Gimby and the choir, after which Mr. Pearson addressed the nation over national television and radio networks and activated a lever turned on the colored lights at the conclusion of his re-



An estimated crowd of 20,000 attended the Christmas tree lighting ceremony held in front of the provincial parliament buildings at Toronto's Queen's Park, December 6. Thousands of colored lights glittered from the avenue of trees, donated by each of Canada's provinces and territories.

# "The Maple Leaf Forever" tree scarred by storm, still stands proudly

An interesting story for the closing days of this last year of the present decade had its beginning in January, 1969 — and it had a happy ending insofar as two residents in a home located in the south-eastern part of Toronto were concerned.

It will be recalled that a severe snow and ice storm battered many parts of Ontario and a news item announced that the tree that is believed to have inspired the song, The Maple Leaf Forever, would probably have to be cut down. In the Toronto area the damage affected some 900 trees and the Maple Leaf Tree was feared to become the victim of the saw and axe.

The Toronto Parks Commissioner, Ivan Forrest, declared at the time: "We only hope we can save it. Many of those trees that were heavily hurt by the weight of wet snow will have to be sawed down."

But if the saw's teeth had to cut into the tree in front of 62 Laing Street, in east Toronto, there might have been a few tears.

"If it has to go, I'll feel bad — really bad," said Mrs. Margaret Francis, 60, when interviewed at the time. Her sister, Mamie Southam, 70, resided with her. The tree is on their front lawn.

One of the tree's largest branches snapped and fell to the street.

As it turned out, the sturdy maple survived its encounter with the elements of nature, and stands today in all its majesty with its mighty limbs reaching heaven-ward.

A plaque placed near the maple tree bears the following inscription:

Alexander Muir, 1830-1906, principal of nearby Leslieville Public School, who was inspired to write Canada's national song, The Maple Leaf Forever, by the falling leaves of this sturdy maple tree. Erected by the Grand Orange Lodge of British America, 1953.

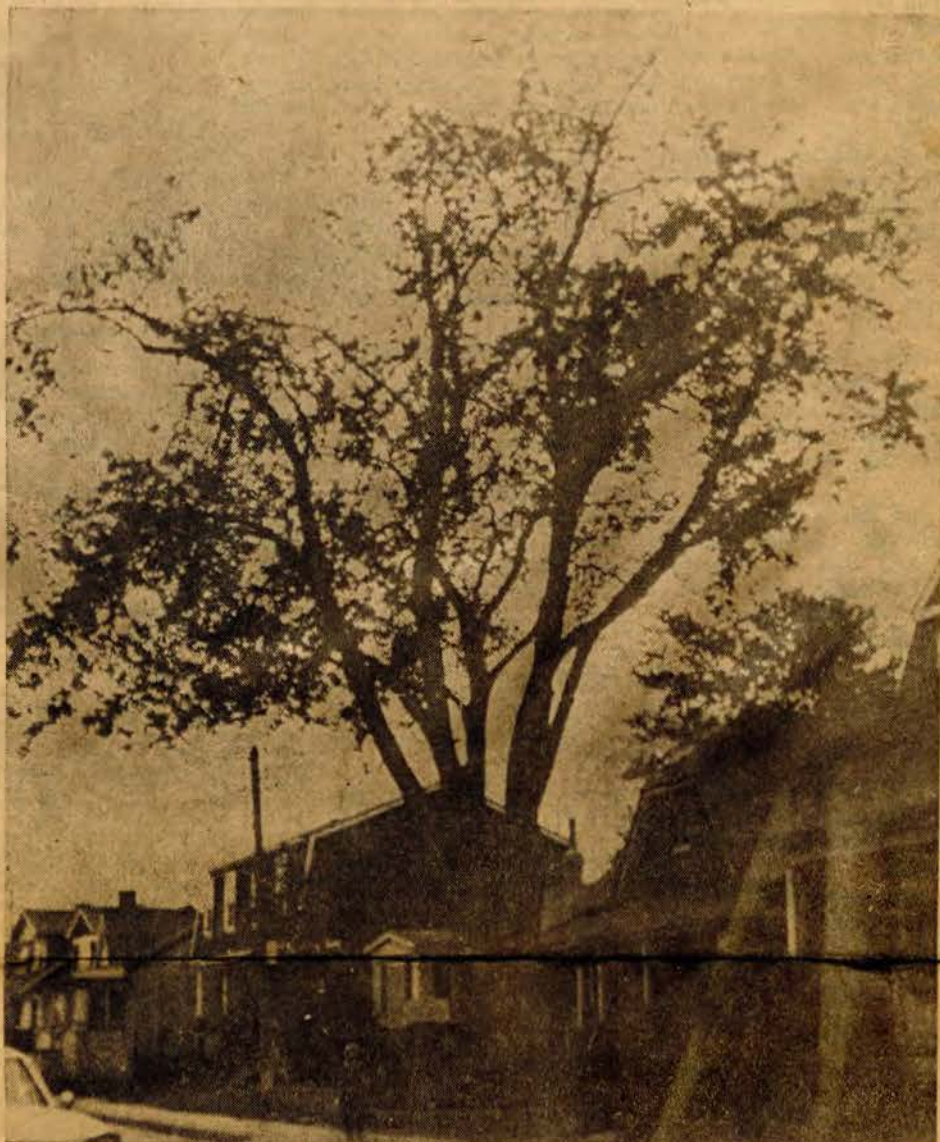
The tree has gained world recognition since Alexander Muir, wrote the words and lyrics to The Maple Leaf Forever in 1867. He lived at 62 Laing Street and it is believed he looked out at the same tree and received inspiration for the song. Some people feel that as we continue to make use of O Canada as the National Anthem, more use should be made of The Maple Leaf Forever.

Alexander Muir said it in these words:

The maple leaf, our emblem dear, the maple leaf forever; God save our Queen and heaven bless the maple leaf forever.



COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE—Attached to the iron fence surrounding the tree is a bronze plaque erected by the Grand Orange Lodge of British America commemorating Alexander Muir and his song.



INSPIRED SONG—This is the tree on Laing Street in Toronto that inspired Alexander Muir to write Canada's national song "The Maple Leaf Forever."

(1)

BLACK WALNUT TREE, brings \$5,050



*+ 12' above cut on trunk*

*34' from Base*

Gary Patterson of Lewis-  
ton, N.Y., arrived at the  
farm of Bev Finch, of RR  
1, Belmont, Sunday  
morning to claim a wal-  
nut tree he purchased for  
\$5,050. Mr. Patterson and  
an assistant didn't waste  
time in cutting down the  
large tree (at right), esti-  
mated to be almost 100  
years old. Mr. Patterson,  
above, shows his joy af-  
ter looking over the trunk  
of the tree and measuring  
it.

December 7, 1972

MAPLETON- A native black walnut tree  
on the farm of Erdley and Bev. Finch,  
just north of Mapleton, Ont. sold for  
\$5,050.00 Thursday, a Ministry of  
Natural Resources spokesman said this  
morning.

The spokesman said the tree measured  
some 32 inches in diameter at the four  
and a half foot level. The trunk  
measured some 32 feet to the point of  
limb growth and has some 750 feet of  
salable timber.

The tree was bought by Gary  
Patterson, of Niagara Falls, New York.  
Mr. Patterson out bid bidders from  
Michigan, Ontario, Montreal and New  
York State.

Mr. Patterson is expected to cut the  
tree sometime next week, the spokesman  
said.



Mapleton tree brought \$5,050

# Black walnut cut; ready for shipping

MAPLETON — A huge, 100-year-old black walnut tree, auctioned last week for \$5,050 was felled Sunday on the farm of Eardley Finch and his son Bev, a half mile north of here, under the close supervision of its new owner Gary Patterson.

The tree, sold in one of the first auctions of its kind in Canada, will be removed by Mr. Patterson, of Lewiston, New York (near Niagara Falls) and will be shipped to either Germany, Italy or Japan for processing.

Measuring 34 feet to the point where the trunk breaks into the

crown, the walnut will be split open and the deep chocolate colored wood it contains used to make veneer strips which will in turn be placed on such items as stereo cabinets, etc., as a finish.

The large tree, growing in a maple woodlot on the Finch farm, had been the centre of many tree buyers' interest for many years, according to Bev Finch.

"We have had people here looking at the tree since the late 1940's I suppose," he said, "but it was only recently that we decided it might be worth selling at auction."

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Aylmer branch, helped with the auction, by getting information about the tree to various buyers, and arranging for the auction to be held on the farm last week.

Mr. Patterson out-bid buyers from Ontario and Quebec, as well as Michigan and New York States.

The tree auctioned last week, is not the only black walnut on the Finch property, as some five more are growing in the maple woodlot and another planted by Eardley Finch about 30 years ago in the farmyard, is still flourishing. The other trees are not yet mature, but Bev Finch hinted that they too might be sold in auction at some later date.

The elder Finch's grandson Chris, a student at DeLasalle College in Toronto, is well versed on the subject of black walnut trees, having talked to many buyers, and he said that the price paid for the tree is not at all high.

"It is hard to say just how much profit will be realized from this tree," he told The Times-Journal Monday, "but it is certain to be considerable."

"The tree will not be touched at all in this country, according to what I have been told, and will go overseas before being cut," he stated. He explained the Japanese, for instance, have devised a method of manufacture, whereby the walnut wood may be cut into strips 7-16 of an inch thick, "which means that a tree such as this will go a long way in the manufacturing business."

The cutting operation is a very delicate one, because if the tree were to fall the wrong way, or come down too hard, the wood might split and become useless.

"If the black walnut interior split, all it would be good for would be fire wood," Chris stated.

On Monday afternoon, the main log of the huge tree, was removed from the woodlot behind the Finch farm buildings.

Logger Ken White of RR 2, St. Thomas, used his huge timber jack device to haul the log to the farmyard where it will lay until picked up for shipment.



TREE'S LAST FRUIT- Christopher (Finch) Ruscica holds a shovel full of walnuts, the fruit of a huge black walnut tree on his grandfather's farm, north of Mapleton, which last week sold for \$5,050.00 in an auction. (December 7th, 1972.)



BLACK WALNUT WOOD- Beverley Finch, son of Eardley Finch, owner of a farm north of Mapleton, points to dark, black walnut wood, in a huge tree which was sold last week at an auction for \$5,050.00 and will be used in the manufacture of walnut veneer. (December 7th, 1972)

BLACK WALNUT TIMBER SALE

By Public Auction  
December 7, 1972

Messrs. Finch, Wells, and Wells, the owners of three high quality walnut trees, have agreed to offer the timber for sale to timber buyers by public auction to be held at the base of the respective trees. Interested parties are urged to inspect the trees in advance, if possible, or on the day of the sale. Forest management technicians will measure the trees precisely for diameters, heights, log lengths, and provide information on quality. Buyers will be given an opportunity to make calculations in advance of the bidding.

The trees will be sold in four separate lots to the highest bidder, subject to a reasonable reserve bid. Payment is to be cash, certified checks, traveller's checks, or bank money orders following the knock down. If the high bidder is unable to satisfy the owners as to payment method, the trees may be reoffered immediately. Credit arrangements must be made at least one week in advance of the sale.

A local logging contractor will be on site at time of sale for the Finch tree and is prepared to give bidders a firm price for extraction of the tree in advance of the sale. The successful bidder will have until June 1, 1973 to remove the timber, and from time of payment to removal, the timber will be at the purchaser's risk. The trees are sold where is, as is, on the stump, and the landowner will be required to provide legal access only. Logging damage must be kept to a reasonable minimum. For further information, contact the owners - E. Finch, Mapleton; Wm. Wells, Paris; - or E. F. Johnston, Timber Supervisor 519-773-9241, , Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Aylmer West, Ontario.

Note: Check following sheets for exact location, lot number, time, and description of the trees to be sold.

BLACK WALNUT TIMBER SALE

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By Public Auction  
December 7, 1972

LOT NO. 1 - 9:00 a.m. EST

Owner: Erdley Finch and Son, R. R. 1, Belmont, Ontario  
Phone 519-644-1507

The general location is on Highway 74, 10 miles north and east of St. Thomas,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of the Village of Mapleton. This lot consists of one walnut tree growing in a hard maple woodlot. The tree is exceptionally well formed and measures 34' to the point where the trunk breaks up into crown.

Specifications: DBHOB\* 32", butt log 24' long with no blemishes in the bark, indicating a high grade log. Second log 10' to the first limb.

There are no problems in extracting this log. A local jobber will be on hand to give firm contract prices for cutting, skidding, and loading.

LOT NO. 2 - 1:00 p.m. EST

Owner: W. H. Wells, 64 Grand River South, Paris, Ontario  
Phone 519-442-2718

This lot consists of one tree which is growing on the second bottom land of the Grand River, immediately behind the Wells home. It is a massive tree containing approximately 2,800 bd. ft. of merchantable material.

Specifications: Butt log 57" DBHOB, length 16' to a heavy limb. Second log: 6' long, top diameter 36" inside bark. Note: Butt log could be cut 22' long and have three clear faces. Limb wood: There are five limbs with merchantable material ranging from 12-18" TDIB\*\* with a total volume of 400'.

\* DBHOB - Diameter Breast Height Outside Bark

\*\* TDIB - Top Diameter Inside Bark



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Note: A tree as large as this will require very heavy equipment for skidding and loading. It is possible to skid the tree along the river bank to town streets in two directions. It would also be possible to skid the tree across the Grand River using a long cable and suitable winches. The owner will provide legal access, but the successful bidder is responsible for logging and any damage incurred in the operation.

LOT NO. 3 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Owner: Ernest Wells, 60 Grand River South, Paris

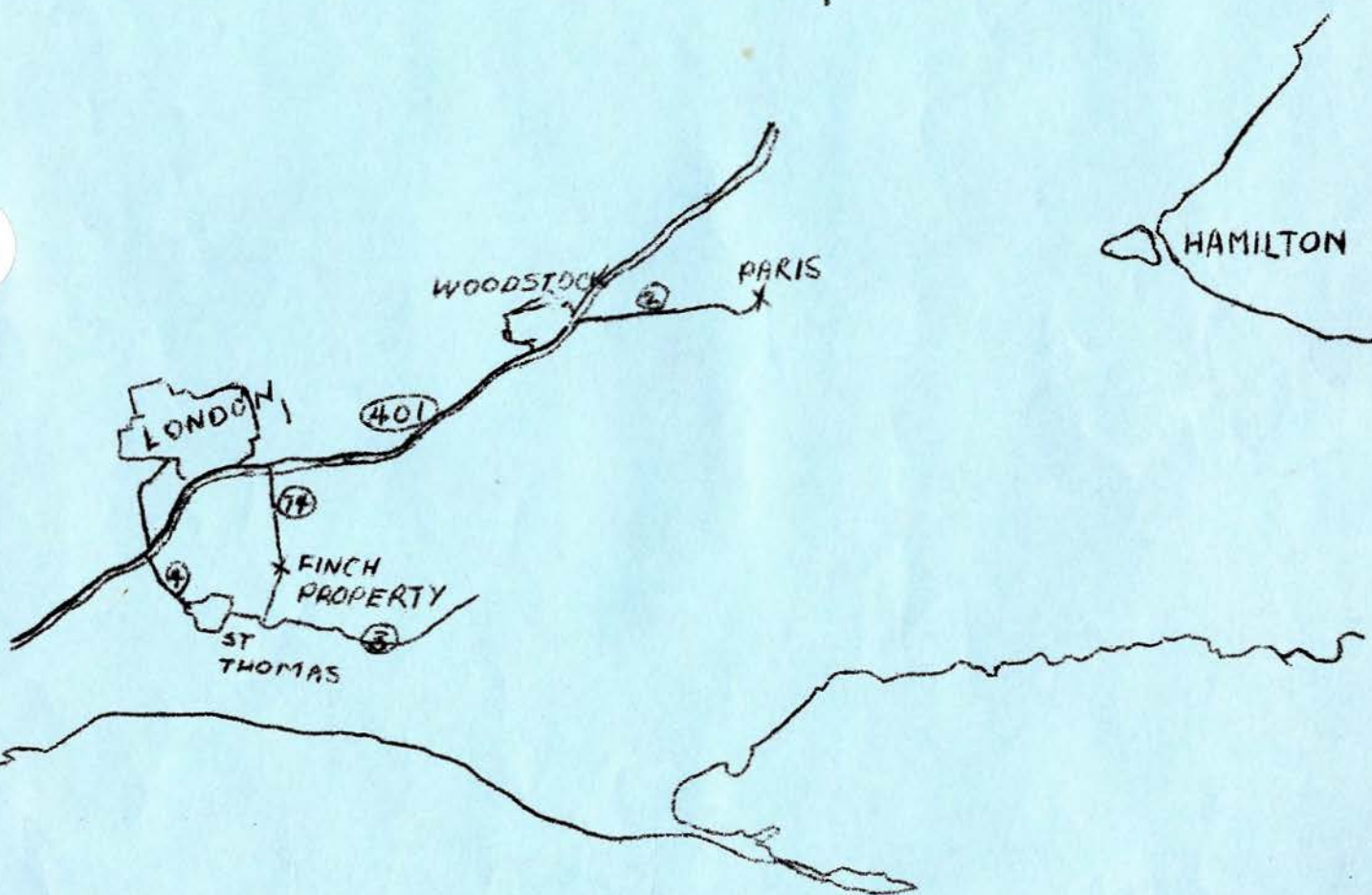
This lot consists of one tree and is located 100 yards upstream from Lot No. 2. This is a father-son relationship in the Wells family. The tree is on the steep bank of the river valley immediately behind the senior Wells home. This tree measures  $31\frac{1}{2}$ " DBHOB.

Specifications: Butt log: There is 10' of clear length to an estimated TDIB of 26". A heavy branch was cut off the tree a year ago, and if this is bucked out, a second clear log is possible. Second log: 10', 22" TDIB or it would be possible to cut a 22' log with one defect at 11'.

Note: This tree should be extracted along the same route as Lot No. 2, thus keeping logging damage to a minimum. There are no problems in felling.

Recommended Travel Route to Paris

From the Finch residence, go north on Highway 74 to Highway 401, east on 401 to Interchange 31, follow No. 2 Highway to Paris. If you become separated from the group, ask directions from any citizen.



November 15, 1972  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Aylmer West, Ontario



June 17, 1971 - Left to right: 272

Assistant Leader- Mrs. Russell Lunn

Leader- Mrs. Harold Jenkins  
(for Crossley Hunter Group)

Sect'y Treas. for 18 yrs. (Mrs.W.J.Free)

Hostess- for Crossley-Hunter Group of  
K.M.W.I. is Mrs. Russell Lunn  
for the disposal of our Bonds,  
Bank Acct., dishes, Cutlery, tables  
chairs etc. but wasn't con-  
cluded until Sept. 12, 1972 when  
our Bonds became due.

After a delicious lunch all three pictures  
were taken on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs.  
Russell Lunn at R.R.#1, Belmont, Ontario.



Those who attended the meeting:

Left to Right- front row

Mrs. Ernest Jenkins, Mrs. Max Zavitz,  
Mrs. W.J. Free, Mrs. Harold Jenkins,  
Mrs. Hiram Jenken.

Back Row: Messrs. Russell Lunn, Harold  
Davies, J.C. Jenkins, Roy Legg, and  
Bruce Rohrer, Lloyd McVicar, Roy McGregor.



Four of the Group's Life Members of  
the K.M.W.I. attending were,

Left to Right: Mrs. Bruce Rohrer,  
Mrs. J.C. Jenkins, Mrs. Roy Legg,  
and Mrs. Roy McGregor.

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4 of the Recently, Departed Life Members of K. M. W. I. taken at Mrs. Russell Lunn's residence during the closing of the Crossley-Hunter Group of the K, M. W. I. June 17th 1971 from left to right- Mrs. Mary Rehrer, Feb. 8th, 1978, Mrs. J. C. Jenkins (Leda) Oct. 22nd, 1977, Mrs. Roy Eegg July 1st, 1975, Mrs. Roy (Florence) McGreggor, charter member, July 11th, 1975, Mrs. Arthur Moore, Mar. 25th, 1974, and Mrs. Claude Hoover Nov. 1st, 1975 were absent when the picture was taken.

