

### **Location of Tree:**

*The driveway in front of Crysler Hall in Upper Canada Village, St Lawrence Parks Commission, 13740 County Rd 2, South Dundas County.*

### **Description of area:**

*Living History Museum, provincial heritage site comprised of historic houses, mills and trade shops recreating life in the 1860's.*



### **Type:**

*Semi-circular line of 8 trees*

### **Species:**

*Maple*

### **Why:**



*These trees are admired every day of the Upper Canada Village tourist season by visitors from around the world. In 2007 a sampling of those paying admission recorded visitors from 73 countries. Many others came as guests of Canadians or members of groups.*

*Planted in the late 1950's as saplings, the trees have matured to be significant symbols of Canada, they have survived the heat and drought of summers, the cold and ice of winters. Each day visitors pick up and carry with them a leaf from these trees, a treasured souvenir to take home and remind them of the wonderful time they have spent in our country. Each year there is one or two, maybe a week, of very special days. The trees change colour! But not all at once. Those closest to the river start first. By the time they are brilliant red, the next are orange, the third are yellow and the those closest to Crysler Hall are still green. It is an artist's dream. During that week, when I am on the street, I stop and absorb the wonder that is Canada, these beautiful trees, that protect us, give us syrup, and a national emblem. If I am lucky enough to have a group of visitors around me, I direct their attention to the trees, and we all admire the spectacle. Out come the cameras. Are there any other trees more photographed in that week than Mr. Crysler's maples? I doubt it.*

*Snow still lies thick on the ground now, April 4, 2008 but I can see buds on the trees and patches of earth close to the trunks. It is spring. The trees are generating heat. They are coming back to their leafy, summer splendor and will provide picnic shelter for families. Then all too soon it will be autumn and their green will fade. But for a brief time, they will thrill me, and visitors to Canada, with they're showy colourful spectacle.*