

## CONIFEROUS TREES IN RESTON MEMORIAL PARK 2017

### SCOTS PINE – *pinus sylvestris* ;

Originates in Europe and Asia and is the most widely distributed pine species in the world. Leaves are stiff, twisted evergreen needles in bundles of two. Seed cones of different ages are often visible pointing backwards at yearly intervals along a branch. Bark is orange red and papery on upper sections of older trees and gray and scaly of the lower trunk. Seed cones take 2- years to reach maturity and release their seeds and fall to the ground.



### EASTERN WHITE PINE – *pinus strobes* L; native to Manitoba

Ontario's provincial tree and the tallest tree in eastern North America; it was key to settlement of eastern Canada used to build homes, barns and ships. It makes a conifer tea high in vitamin C content and was believed to be the scurvy treatment offered to Cartier's men in 1535 by the St Lawrence Iroquoians of Stadacona.

Soft Needles in bunches of 5 [ 5 to 15 cm long] and mature seed cones 8 to 20 cms long grow on the eastern white pine. Seeds in the cones are eaten by birds. These trees can live to be 400 years old.



**BLACK SPRUCE** –*picea mariana*; native to Manitoba. GPS- N 49 33 21.5; W 101 05 19.6

This spruce has a cluster club at the top and is slow growing- about 20 meters tall and 25 cm diameter at maturity. Needles are stiff, blue green and 4 sided. Cones are small, egg shaped and purple staying on the tree more than a year. Bark is thin, scaly and dark green- brown. This is the provincial tree of Newfoundland/ Labrador.



**EASTERN RED CEDAR** - *juniperus virginiana* GPS – N 49 33 21.4; W 101 05 19.0

This eastern North America native evergreen's needles are blue green and cone looks like a bluish white berry. It is slow growing and old bark peels off in long fibrous strands. It grows up to 10 meters tall – one specimen at the red library and 3 around the playground one of which is about 40 feet tall.



**EASTERN WHITE CEDAR** – *Thuja occidentalis* - native to Manitoba

In the distant past a leaf or inner bark infusion was a cough medicine and vapours inhaled help colds, headache, fever and rheumatism. Today cedar oil from foliage is used medicinally and thujone is the primary active ingredient.

The cedar cone is oblong and about a cm long with 4 to 6 pairs of thin brown cone scales.



**TAMARACK** - *Larix laricina* GPS – N 49 33 22.0 W 101 05 18.6

the only native Manitoba conifer to lose its needles each autumn.

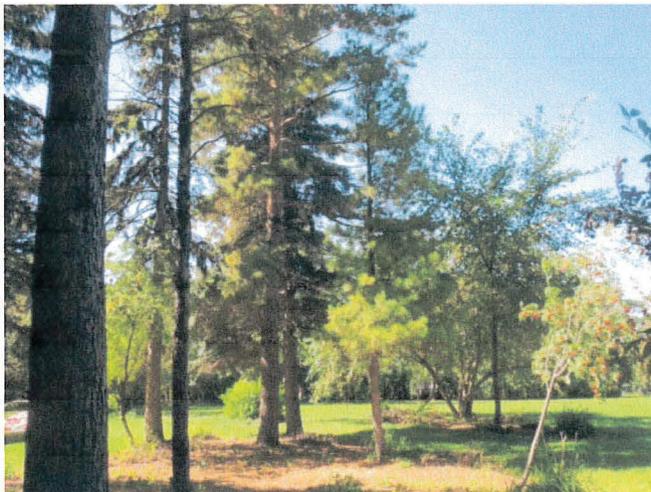
Tamarack is an Algonquian word that means 'need for snowshoes'. There are several tamarack trees around the playground and the tallest is about 67 feet.

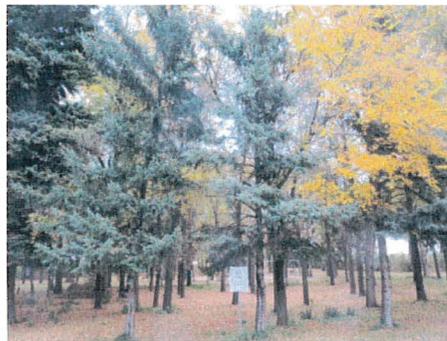
The provincial tree of the North West territories and it survives -65 degrees C. The tree produces small pink flowers in summer on the soft, short, tender, pale green needled branches. Supers soft needles turn yellow in October before falling to the ground. Cones are erect, round and about 2 cm across with 20 rounded thin scales.



**JACK PINE** – *pinus banksiana*; native to Manitoba

2 to 4 cm Needles are in clusters of 2 with a brown sheath at the base. Yellow or purple flowers are near the tip of the twig. Cones are 1 – 3 inches long and curved and in pairs persisting on trees and usually remaining closed. There is one Jack pine in the park. The Jack pine is the skinny dark tree in the middle in this photo.





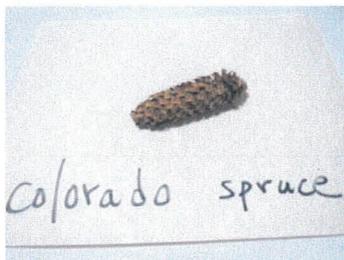
**WHITE SPRUCE** - *picea glauca*

Manitoba's provincial tree can grow up to 40 meters with one meter diameter. Manitoba's provincial tree and the most northern tree found in Canada. It has beautiful short skunk-like smelling needles and small cones 2 to 4 cms. The biggest white spruce close to the cenotaph measures 72 years old with a 16 inch diameter.

Commercially it is the mainstay of the pulp and paper industry and construction lumber. It is food for crossbills, grosbeaks, nuthatches with grouse, rabbits and deer eating foliage and red squirrels eating seeds and tender spruce shoots in the spring. The bark is eaten by porcupines and black bears ...but not in the park !

When Jacques Cartier sailed up the broad St Lawrence River in 1535, he became the first European to see North America's white spruces. He proclaimed " the trees are as beautiful as one could wish for – the finest trees in the world."

White spruce provide shelter and fuel for early settlers; roots for lashing birchbark in baskets and canoes; spruce pitch [ resin] for water proofing and extracts from boiled needles for medicinal purposes [ treat colds and settle stomach upset] .



**COLORADO SPRUCE** – also known as Blue Spruce - *Picea pungens* [pungens means sharply pointed referring to the leaves].

The state tree of Colorado and native to the rocky mountains. The Colorado spruce often grows 23 meters tall and has pale brown cones up to 10 cm long and grows 50 to 100 years.



**SWISS STONE PINE** - pinus cembra

Native to Switzerland these trees are planted near houses and in gardens as symbols of good fortune. One was planted in the park when it was first developed and it is nowhere to be found now so this tree was planted in 2017.

Dark green soft needles in bunches of 5 stay thick and dense right down to the ground. The pine seed / nut is easily extracted from the cone, tasty and highly nutritious. All pine nuts are edible and these are the largest.