

Island seeks Provincial Tree

BY ROSEMARY CURLEY



RED OAK

well, other groups such as the Rural Beautification Society will be contacted to help promote the idea.

Briefly stated, the symbol should be a native tree species which has played a significant role in Island life, either historically, or in the present. Trees already proclaimed as Provincial symbols, i.e. the Lodgepole Pine (Alberta) and the White Pine (Ontario) will not be considered as candidates. Further, the selection process should be used to increase public appreciation of trees, and such a process has been defined.

Candidates will be nominated by any individual or group, with the support of 20 signatures. The closing date for nominations will be October 15, 1986, so if the Natural History Society decides to nominate a tree, we will do so at our October meeting. A vote will be held in November after suitable lobbying time for the various nominees. Finally, a proclamation should be drafted by November 30, to be presented to the Legislature by the Minister of Energy and Forestry, Allison Ellis.

If you have a favourite tree that meets the selection criteria, be ready to state your choice in October and back it in a public vote in November! Dogs are excluded from the vote.

Just in case this newsletter gets out in record time, Terry Power is leading a field trip to the Townsend Woodlot near Souris on Saturday, July 26. Anyone interested should meet at 9 a.m. in the Provincial Building's parking lot, across from Beaconsfield, armed with lunch and binoculars. People living in the eastern part of the Island can meet Terry at Pooles Corner (9:30) or Dingwells Mills (9:50). The woodlot should be a good site for birds, wildflowers and of course trees.

For anyone interested in sending in bird sightings, articles or artwork for the September-October issue of the Island Naturalist, the deadline will be September 1.