

Tree Site 13: *The Polish Soldier Tree*



In 1942, a Polish soldier carved a heartfelt message in the soft bark of this Beech.

Signing *zolnierz*, or soldier, the man also included the first words from the Polish national anthem, which translates as “Poland has not yet perished.”

This old Beech is a rare glimpse into life at the Tadeusz Kosciuszko Polish Army training camp based in Owen Sound during the early years of the Second World War.

Although this is a unique find, please refrain from carving into the bark of any tree.

Sensitive layers of tissue lie just inside the outer bark of a tree. This area should be protected from wounding, since open areas of tissue provide an opening for disease, rot, animal and insect invasion. Carving also damages the food and water conducting tissues of the tree.

How to find this tree on the Bruce Trail:

Bruce Trail Section: Sydenham

Closest town: Owen Sound

Bruce Trail Reference Guide: Map 31

Parking Location:	Tree Site Location:
44.579428, -80.874250	44.58071637, -80.87189498
From Owen Sound follow Highway 26 east. Turn left (north) on to Clearview Crescent, just past Grey Road 20. Roadside parking is along Clearview Crescent (Do not park along Hwy 26).	From Clearview Cres, head E on Hwy 26 until you reach the white-signed access for the main Bruce Trail. Head North along the white-blazed main Trail. Approximately 150 m south of the first footbridge you'll find this unique tree.

This tree is on the **Clearview property**, owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust and managed by The Bruce Trail Conservancy as part of its mission to create a Conservation Corridor along the Niagara Escarpment.

I found this tree! Code word: _____
 (Look for the code word on the sign by the tree. Submit your code word to forests@bruce-trail.org for a chance to win)