



Category: 2b Widest

Name: Popoff tree

Location: Petrofka ferry

Species: Poplar - P. jackii

History/Description:

This stands on the river bank close to where the Laird ferry once ran at Petrofka.

It was originally on an island, and the crossing was a 2-ferry journey. However in 1941 a dam was built along which one of the trails ran, requiring only one ferry to cross.

A small hole in the trunk was determined to have held a spout designed to collect sap in spring.

The ferryman's house stood close to the tree, and it is recalled that in 1937 he shot a bear from its branches.

Height: 68 feet 8 inches

Diameter: 5 feet 1 inch

Spread: 104 feet 6 inches

Sam Popoff was one of a party of Doukhobors who came down the North Saskatchewan river by boat, and settled in the valley to the north in 1905, and survived for 2 winters in "caves" - dwellings which were part excavated into the hillside - until the community was built on the flat above.

Nominated By: Murray Little

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