FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICIAL PENFIELD TREE ANNOUNCEMENT
-Voting results in for Bicentennial tree-

PENFIELD, N.Y., DECEMBER 10, 2009 – The Town of Penfield’s Conservation Board and Bicentennial Committee are pleased to announce the results of the town-wide vote for an official tree to honor Penfield’s Bicentennial in 2010. The tree chosen to hold the distinction of “Official Town of Penfield Tree” is the Red Maple.

"We are pleased with the voting turnout and especially the active participation from the students in Penfield High School," said Bob Kanauer, Conservation Board liaison to the Bicentennial Committee. A few people who voted for the Red Maple offered these reasons for their choice: "We always had red maples in our yard growing up in Penfield. They tend to be the most colorful autumn tree" … "Red is the color of our Patriots" …"It's Penfield's colors."

The Conservation Board developed a ballot of 12 trees for consideration with the guidance of the Town’s landscape consultant, Bruce Zaretsky. Nominated trees were species that would have been present in Penfield in 1810, well-suited for Penfield’s environment, and easy to find in local nurseries. The Red Maple is a deciduous tree that often grows to between forty and sixty feet tall. The leaves are shiny green on top and pale green beneath. In the fall, the foliage of red maple trees glows a bright crimson-orange.

“I appreciate Bob Kanauer and Rosanne Cohen from the Penfield Conservation Board for their coordination of the effort to survey residents as to their choice of an official town tree,” said Linda Kohl, Penfield Town Councilwoman and Chair of The Bicentennial Steering Committee.

The Red Maple will be featured in upcoming Bicentennial events throughout 2010, including Earth Day.

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