

## **Tree Removal - 486-488 Russell Hill Road (Midtown)**

*(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)*

**The Toronto Community Council recommends that City Council issue a permit for tree removal at 486-488 Russell Hill Road, conditional on:**

- (i) the tree in question not being removed until permitted construction and/or demolition related activities in accordance with plans approved under the building permit application for the subject project commence which warrant the destruction of the tree;**
- (ii) the applicant implementing a landscape plan acceptable to the Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; and**
- (iii) the applicant making a contribution of \$1,500.00 to the Urban Forestry Division for the planting of large growth shade trees in the neighbourhood.***

**The Toronto Community Council submits the following report (September 20, 1999) from the Commissioner, Economic Development , Culture and Tourism:**

**Purpose:**

An application for a permit to remove one tree on private property has been filed by Mr. Davide Carnevale, The Tree Specialists Inc., agent for the owner of 486-488 Russell Hill Road, Mr. David Cynamon, 98 Dunloe Road, Toronto, M5P 2T8. The owner would like to demolish the two existing houses and construct one new home on the properties.

**Financial Implications:**

N/A

**Recommendations:**

Either 1, or 2 below

- (1) refuse to issue a permit for tree removal requiring the owner to redesign the proposed new home to incorporate the private tree; or**
- (2) issue a permit for tree removal conditional on: i) the tree in question not being removed until permitted construction and/or demolition related activities in accordance with plans approved under the building permit application for the subject project commence which warrant the destruction of the tree. ii) the applicant implementing a landscape plan acceptable to the Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism.**

Comments:

The tree in question is an 84 centimetre diameter white oak in fair condition. The arborist report prepared by the Tree Specialists Inc. which accompanies the application states that the white oak previously suffered a large storm break resulting in the loss of its central leader. The report states that the crown consists mainly of suckergrowth and there is minor shoot tip dieback throughout the crown. The report concludes that the owner does not wish to maintain this tree and has committed to planting two 80 millimetre caliper native shade trees if approval is granted to remove the white oak.

The white oak tree is under stress due to its location in the driveway and the drought conditions we have experienced this summer. The leaves are chlorotic and there is evidence of the leaf fungus anthracnose. Having noted the difficulties the tree is experiencing, it is a significant native species that is still viable and significant in the community. The proposed construction will be extensive and without making substantial changes to the proposed new house, the white oak will be impacted significantly and the likelihood of the tree surviving is minimal.

There is a magnificent 135 centimetre diameter red oak at the rear of 488 Russell Hill Road near the north property line. This tree will be protected during construction with the installation of plywood hoarding at a radius of 5 metres from the main stem. The arborist has been contracted to ensure that this tree is protected during all phases of construction.

A notice of application sign was posted on the property for the required 14 day posting period, in order to notify the neighbourhood and provide an opportunity for objection to the application. No written objections were received in response to the application to remove the tree in question.

Contact Name:

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Mr. David Carnevale, The Tree Specialists Inc. appeared before the Toronto Community Council in connection with the foregoing matter.