

**Tree Removal - 3 Devonshire Place -Trinity College,
University of Toronto (Munk Centre for International Studies)
(Downtown)**

(City Council on June 7, 8 and 9, 2000, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Toronto Community Council recommends that the request for the removal of the subject tree at 3 Devonshire Place be denied.

The Toronto Community Council submits the following report (May 3, 2000) from the Commissioner, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism:

Purpose:

A request has been filed under the provisions of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 331, Trees, Article III, for permission to remove one tree situated on the private property of the subject site. The request has been received in connection with Site Plan Approval Application No. 398021 for which Undertaking/Statement of Approval U398021 was executed in 1998. Construction of the approved Munk Centre for International Studies is now nearing completion. The request has been filed on behalf of Trinity College, owner of the subject property, by Mr. Lewis Arnold, Shady Lane Expert Tree Care Inc., 17468 Warden Avenue, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4W1 and has been filed in connection with a proposal to revise the landscape design of the courtyard for the new Munk Centre.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement :

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations :

It is recommended that:

- (1) Toronto Community Council deny the request for the removal of the subject tree; or
- (2) If Toronto Community Council approves the request for the removal of one tree situated on private property indicated in this report, that such approval be conditional on:
 - (i) the tree in question not being removed until permitted landscaping activities in accordance with plans approved under Site Plan Approval Application No. 398021 commence which warrant the destruction of the tree;
 - (ii) the applicant planting a minimum of four (4) large growing shade tree species in accordance with Site Irrigation and Planting Plan A1.2 prepared by Janet Rosenberg & Associates, date stamped as received by Urban Development

Services on July 21, 1998 and on file with the Commissioner of Urban Development Services.

Background:

This request for tree removal has been received in connection with Site Plan Approval Application No. 398021 for which the Undertaking/Statement of Approval was executed in 1998. Construction of the approved Munk Centre for International Studies is now nearing completion and Trinity College anticipates that the landscaping of the building's courtyard will take place this coming summer. Trinity College will be filing a revised landscape plan to the City in connection with Undertaking/Statement of Approval U398021 which precludes the retention of the tree in question for symmetry, aesthetic and design purposes of the courtyard of the new Munk Centre.

Comments:

The Department is in receipt of a request from Mr. Lewis Arnold, Shady Lane Expert Tree Care Inc., 17468 Warden Avenue, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4W1, on behalf of Trinity College, owner of the above noted property, that the City consider the removal of one tree situated on the private property of the subject site.

Mr. Arnold has made an application under City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 331, Trees, Article III, for the removal of the one tree situated on private property.

The tree in question is a 55 cm diameter Littleleaf Linden which is in fair condition. The Arborist Report dated January 20, 1998 prepared by Bruce C. Bostock of Bostock Tree Service, indicates that the trunk of the subject tree bifurcates (divides into two stems) at 7 feet above ground level and should therefore be cabled. It is a common practice to cable Lindens where multiple stems exist. The report continues to say that the tree is otherwise in good condition and requires extensive pruning to remove rubbing and crossing branches and for elevation.

As required under Section 331-13.B. of Municipal Code, Chapter 331, Trees, Article III, a Notice of application sign was posted on the property for the minimum 14 day posting period. No letters were received in response to the notice of application to remove the trees in question.

The existing Site Plan Approval agreement (Undertaking/Statement of Approval) and approved plans for the Munk Centre indicates that the subject tree will be retained and protected as part of the newly landscaped courtyard of the Centre. It was agreed upon by the applicant and the City during the Site Plan Approval process in 1998 that the subject tree would be retained, protected and incorporated into the landscape design for the Munk Centre courtyard.

The request for the removal of this tree has recently become an issue given that Trinity College is in the process of developing a revised landscape design proposal for the courtyard of the Munk Centre. The proposed landscape scheme in its revised form precludes the retention of the subject tree for aesthetic, symmetry and design purposes. The tree in question is of a size which does not permit its relocation. I have attached to this report a copy of a letter dated March 29, 2000 which I have received from Trinity College pertaining to the reasoning for the request for the removal of this tree.

Conclusions:

That if Toronto Community Council recommends that the request to remove the tree in question be approved, such approval should meet the conditions outlined in the recommendations.

Contact:

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Mr. Geoffrey Seaborn, Bursar, Trinity College, University of Toronto, appeared before the Toronto Community Council in connection with the foregoing matter.

(A copy of the communication (March 29, 2000) from Mr. Geoffrey Seaborn, Bursar, Trinity College, referred to in the foregoing report was forwarded to all Members of the Toronto Community Council with the agenda for its meeting on May 23, 2000, and a copy thereof is on file in the office of the City Clerk.)