



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

14 Symons Street – Private Tree Removal

Date:	January 23, 2007
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 6 - Etobicoke Lakeshore
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

To report on an application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned 43-centimetre diameter white pine tree (*Pinus strobus*) located at the rear of 14 Symons Street that has been filed by the agent for the owner of 14 Symons Street. The application has been made due to concerns expressed by the property owner that the tree leans towards the home and could fail and fall on their home.

A planting plan has been submitted with the application that shows the planting of one (1) basswood tree (*Tilia americana*) should approval be granted to remove the white pine tree.

Inspection of the tree by staff revealed that the tree is in good condition and shows no outward signs that would indicate that it is hazardous to people or property. The white pine is Ontario’s Provincial tree and is part of a large majestic community of trees that contribute to the character of this neighbourhood. With proper care and maintenance, the tree should continue to provide benefits to the community for years to come. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of this tree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that the request for permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree at 14 Symons Street be denied.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In accordance with *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, an application has been made for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at the rear of the property municipally known as 14 Symons Street. This application has been made due to concerns expressed by the property owners that the tree could fail and fall onto their home.

COMMENTS

An application for permit has been received from West/End Power Tree Service Inc. on behalf of the property owners of 14 Symons Street for the removal of one (1) privately owned 43-centimetre diameter white pine tree (*Pinus strobus*).

This application has been made due to concerns expressed by the property owner that the tree leans towards the home and could fail and fall on their home.

After visiting the site and reviewing the information provided by the applicant, Urban Forestry staff are of the opinion that the tree is healthy and can be maintained in good condition. The tree has a well-developed crown with very little deadwood throughout. The tree has a minor bend along the main stem which is naturally occurring and is of no structural significance. This tree does not show any outward signs that would indicate that it is hazardous to people or property.

As required under *Section 813-17, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a 'Notice' of application sign was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14-day posting period. The posting of notice serves to notify the community of the application and provide an opportunity for objection. Four (4) letters of objection were received in response to the posting.

The property owners have identified that they would be willing to plant a basswood tree (*Tilia americana*) should they be granted authorization to remove the white pine tree in question. A satisfactory planting plan has been submitted with the application.

Should the request for permit to remove the privately-owned white pine tree located at 14 Symons Street be approved, approval must be conditional on the owner implementing the planting plan on file with Urban Forestry.

This tree is very significant and is a valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. This tree does not show any signs that it is in hazardous condition. The

white pine is Ontario's Provincial tree and is part of a large majestic community of trees that contribute to the character of this neighbourhood. Established and healthy, white pine trees such as this one have the ability to live up to 200 years. With proper care and maintenance, the subject tree should continue to provide benefits to the owner and to the community for many years to come. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Brenda Librecz
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Photograph of white pine tree – 14 Symons Street

Attachment 1 – Photograph of white pine tree
14 Symons Street

