

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

August 16, 2006

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

From: Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Subject: 17 Elsfield Road – Removal of One (1) Privately-owned Tree
Ward 5 - Etobicoke Lakeshore

Purpose:

To report on an application that has been received for a permit to remove one privately-owned tree located at the rear of 17 Elsfield Road.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

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

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the request for permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree at 17 Elsfield Road be denied; and
- (2) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

In accordance with *Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III of the City of Toronto*, 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 17 Elsfeld Road. This application has been made in order to enable construction of a rear yard addition to the existing house at 17 Elsfeld Road.

Comments:

An application for permit has been received from Judith Wright of Judith S. Wright Associates on behalf of the property owners of 17 Elsfeld Road for the removal of one (1) privately-owned 64-centimetre diameter white pine tree (*Pinus strobus*).

Inspection of the tree by staff revealed that the tree is healthy and in good condition. The tree has a well-developed crown with very little deadwood throughout. 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.

This application has been made to allow for the construction of a rear yard addition. The proposed addition will increase the footprint of the residence by approximately 60%. The tree is located within the footprint of the proposed addition.

After visiting the site and reviewing the information provided by the applicant, Urban Forestry staff are of the opinion that it would be feasible to construct an addition onto the existing home without removing any trees and that given the significance of this tree in particular, options for reducing and/or adjusting the shape of the proposed addition should be explored.

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. Three (3) letters of objection were received in response to the posting.

The property owners have identified that they would be willing to plant two (2) tulip-trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) measuring 50 millimetres in diameter, should they be granted authorization to remove the white pine tree in question.

Should the request for permit to remove the privately-owned white pine tree located at 17 Elsfeld Road be approved, approval must be conditional upon the owner implementing the planting plan on file with Urban Forestry.

Conclusions:

This tree is very significant and is a valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. 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 as it is our opinion that this tree is significant and should be accommodated in the proposed plans.

Contact:

Richard Ubbens
Director, Urban Forestry
Tel: 416-392-1894
Fax: 416-392-1915
Email: rubbens@toronto.ca

Brenda Librecz
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

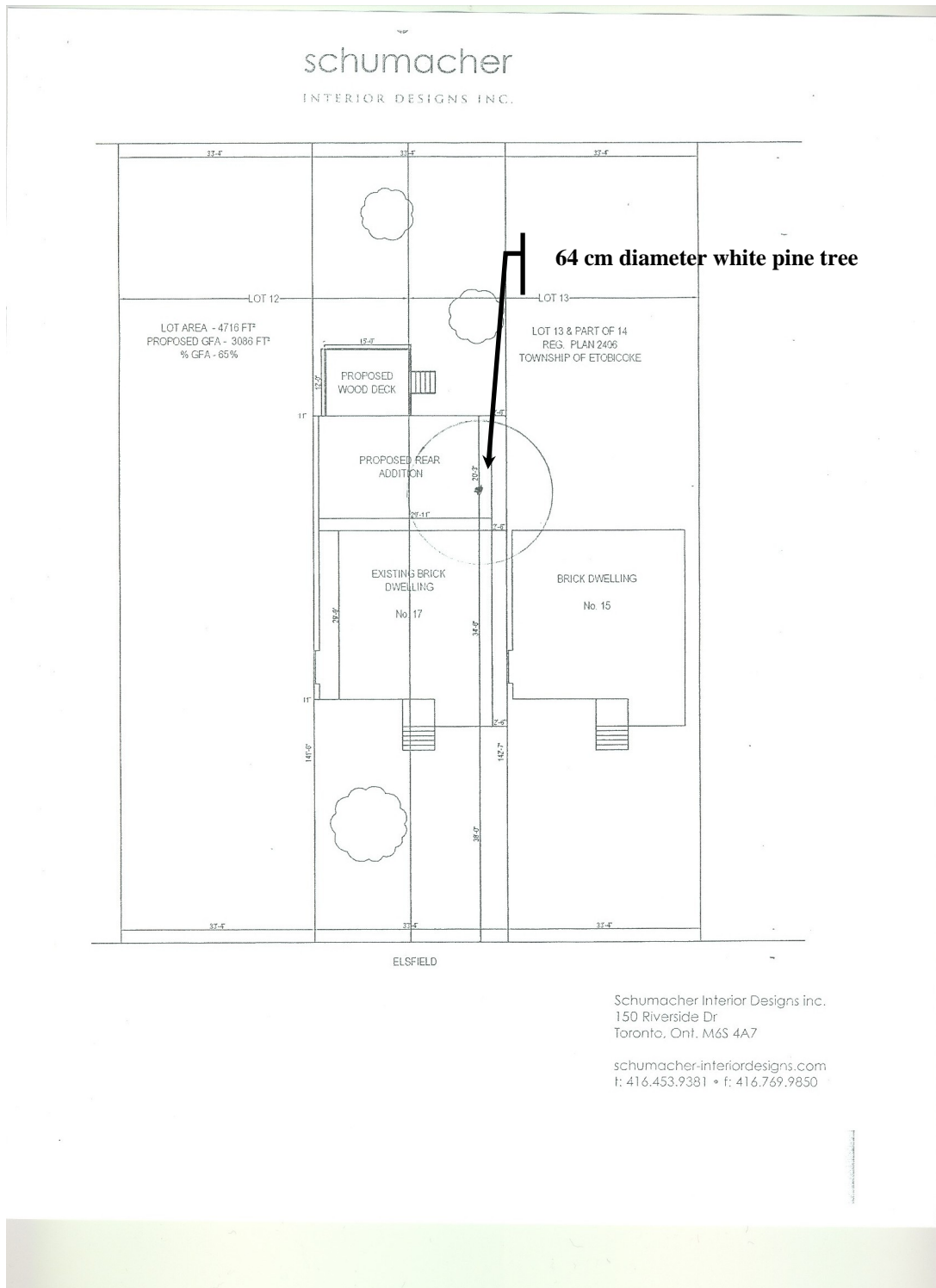
List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Photograph of 64-centimetre white pine tree
Attachment 2 – Photograph of 64-centimetre white pine tree
Attachment 3 – Site plan of proposed addition
Attachment 4 – Letter of objection
Attachment 5 – Letter of objection
Attachment 6 – Letter of objection



64 cm diameter white pine tree





06/29/2006 08:48 FAX

001/001

RECEIVED JUN 23 2006

Fax

To: Daniel Boven (Urban Forestry Services) **From:**
Fax: (416) 392-0963 **Pages:** 1
Phone: (416) 392-0970 (Inquiries) **Date:** 29/06/2006
Re: Removal of Tree at 17 Elsfield Rd. **CC:**

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Daniel,

I am writing to express my objection to the tree removal request by the property owners at 17 Elsfield Rd. in Toronto (Etobicoke).

The tree in question is a very tall, healthy, beautiful white pine. I'm fairly certain that it's the tallest tree on the block and certainly one of the tallest in the area. This is an area with many older, established trees.

According to the arborist, this is one of the nicest white pines she has seen in the city.

The owners of 17 Elsfield Rd. bought this property not to reside on it but to build a new house to make a profit. The tree is not preventing them from renovating the house and profiting from their investment. It does prevent them from building a significantly larger house to make a significantly larger profit. Were they to live on this property I would not object to their request to remove the tree as much.

The private tree bylaw was passed so that trees like this would be protected. Please use this bylaw to protect it.

Sincerely,

July 4/06

To: whom it may concern

Re: Majestic white Pine Tree

17 Elsfield Road

Etobicoke

RECEIVED 2006

The majestic pine tree is a landmark in this Sunnyvale neighborhood. The tree serves the neighborhood to provide beauty and cleaner air for our fragile eco-system. With global warming so much in the forefront at this time, why would one cut down a tree which takes so much CO₂ out of our air.

A speculator-developer has bought the property and intends to cut down all trees and build a huge house. The greed of these developers and disregard for nature is legendary.

This tree should not be cut down so that huge amounts of money could be made by a developer. The character of this neighborhood is enhanced by its trees. We need to protect them.

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RECEIVED JUL 06 2006

July 6, 2006

SENT VIA FAX: (416) 392 0963

Urban Forestry Services
18 Dyas Road, 1st Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M3B 1V5

Attention: Daniel Boven

Dear Sir:

Re: 17 Elsfield Road - proposed tree destruction

I am not in favour of the destruction of the tree on the adjoining property.

The tree in question is a very mature, healthy white pine, probably 40 feet high and the largest tree in the immediate neighbourhood. If it is the intent of the private tree by-law to protect tall, old, healthy trees that developers want to destroy for the sake of building, then this tree is a classic example of what the by-law is seeking to protect.

I understand that a developer has purchased the subject property with the intent to build the largest possible house on the property and sell it. The developer has no connection to the neighbourhood nor has he discussed plans for development of the property or the destruction of the tree with the neighbours in general. Being owners of , we were informed of his intent to build but have not been provided with any specifics.

Our family enjoys the beauty and the view of the tree from our property, especially my son from his bedroom window and do not want to see it destroyed and replaced by a brick wall.

Yours truly,