



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 52 Harding Avenue – Private Tree Removal

<b>Date:</b>	September 25, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 12 – York South-Weston
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### SUMMARY

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This report requests Council's authority to deny the request for removal of one (1) privately owned tree located at 52 Harding Avenue. The application has been made to allow for the construction of a new single family dwelling and a detached two-car garage.

Inspection of the tree revealed that the tree is healthy and in good condition. This tree has a well developed crown with very little deadwood throughout. Alternative proposals should be explored that would allow for the protection of the walnut tree. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of this tree due to its viable condition.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that** Council deny the request for permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree at 52 Harding Avenue.

#### 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 requesting permission to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 52 Harding Avenue. The applicant's current proposal to construct a single family dwelling with a detached two-car garage would require removal of the tree.

## **COMMENTS**

An application for a permit has been received from the agent of the property owner of 52 Harding Avenue for the removal of one (1) privately-owned 54 centimetre diameter black walnut tree.

Urban Forestry Staff are of the opinion that an option for construction exists that would see the tree retained and protected on site. This option includes moving the proposed garage approximately 1.5 metres east towards the flanking street. Constructing the garage upon a supportive pier system will also further mitigate potential impacts below grade. Retaining the tree would not impact the house as currently proposed.

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. No letters of objection were received in response to the posting.

Should the request for permit to remove the privately owned black walnut tree located at 52 Harding Avenue be approved, approval must be conditional on the owner implementing a planting plan that includes the planting of at least 3 large growing native trees.

This tree is very significant and a valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. Established and healthy black walnut trees have the ability to grow to be 170 centimetres in diameter and live to be 250 years old. 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. The proposed construction can occur in conjunction with the retention of the black walnut tree.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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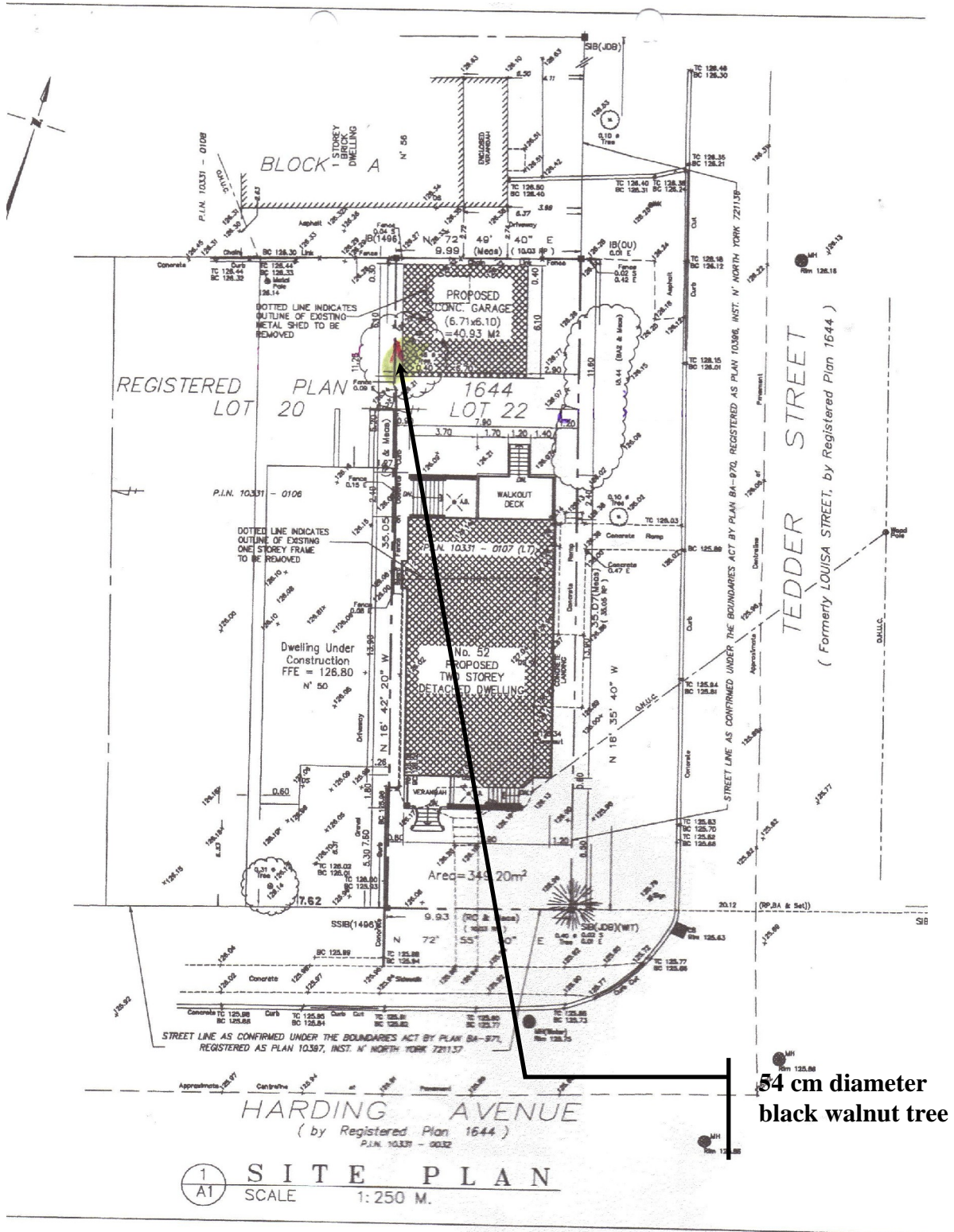
Brenda Librecz  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Photograph of black walnut tree

Attachment.2 – Proposed plans including location of black walnut tree





Staff report for action on private tree removal for 52 Harding Avenue