



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

607 Briar Hill Ave – Removal of One Private Tree

Date:	August 15, 2007
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 16 - Eglinton-Lawrence
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The report requests Council's authority to deny the request for removal of one (1) privately owned 87.5 centimetre diameter black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) located at the rear of 607 Briar Hill Avenue. The application has been made due to concerns expressed by the property owner that the falling walnuts are a hazard to the children.

The tree is a healthy and viable specimen. With proper care and maintenance, the tree should continue to provide benefits to the community for years to come. All trees have some level of maintenance associated with their placement in the landscape. The increased maintenance associated with the fruit from black walnut trees does not justify their removal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree at 607 Briar Hill 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 for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at the rear of the property municipally known as 607 Briar Hill Avenue. This application

has been made due to concerns expressed by the property owners that the fruit from the tree is a hazard.

COMMENTS

An application for permit has been received from Shady Lane Expert Tree Care on behalf of the property owners of 607 Briar Hill Avenue for the removal of one (1) privately owned 87.5-centimetre diameter black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) located at the rear of the property.

This application has been made due to concerns expressed by the property owner that the falling fruit from the tree is a hazard.

The Arborist Report that was submitted with the application for a permit to remove the subject tree indicates that the tree is in good condition. After visiting the site and reviewing the information provided by the applicant, Urban Forestry staff feel that the tree is healthy and can be maintained in good condition. The tree has a well-developed crown with few defects.

Walnut trees are considered a nuisance by some people due to the nuts. Urban Forestry Services staff are of the opinion that all trees have an element of maintenance associated with their placement in a landscape setting and removal of the tree due to an increased maintenance requirement is not justifiable.

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 serves to notify the community of the application and provide an opportunity for objection. One letter of objection, signed by residents of three neighbouring properties, was received in response to the posting.

This tree is very significant and is a valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. Black walnuts are large-growing, long-lived, strong-wooded trees. 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. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

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

SIGNATURE

Brenda Librecz
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Photographs of black walnut tree
Attachment 2 - Letter of Objection

Attachment 1 – Photographs of black walnut tree



Attachment 1 – Photographs of black walnut tree



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Urban Forestry
18 Dyas Rd, 1st floor
Toronto M3B 1V5
ATTN: WENDY STRICKLAND

RE: OBJECTION to Removal of tree
at 607 Briar Hill Rd.

We strongly object to the request to cut down the tree in the rear of the property at 607 Briar Hill Rd. Our property at backs directly onto 607 and partially onto 605 Briar Hill Rd. We see no valid reason for the removal of a beautiful, healthy tree. The removal of this tree would significantly reduce the enjoyment of our home and backyard as we directly face this magnificent tree from the rear family room of our home and our yard. We admire the beauty of this magnificent tree as well as the sense of privacy and natural cooling it provides. The beauty and character of the neighborhoods in the city are enhanced by the preservation of all the healthy old trees. We have lived here since 1989 and have seen all the families who have enjoyed those backyards over the years.

The present owners of 607 Briar Hill have lived there for some 10 years and have raised their children there. There was a playhouse and swings there for many years where the children constantly played. The children always played in the yard, many family BBQ's were enjoyed there and now their dog is always outside.

The previous owners of 605 Briar Hill (the property that borders the tree) also spent a lot of time enjoying their yard with children, friends and a dog.

The tree in question is one of the most beautiful trees in the city and would be a grave injustice if it was allowed to be cut down.

Thank you for your consideration.