



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

607 Briar Hill Ave – Removal of One Private Tree

Date:	November 5, 2007
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 16 - Eglinton-Lawrence
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This is a supplemental report providing additional information to our August 15, 2007, report. This report is to inform Council that, based on new information about the structural integrity of this tree, a permit was issued for tree removal of one (1) privately owned 87.5 cm diameter black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) located at the rear of 607 Briar Hill Avenue.

Based on new information provided by the property owner's Arborist, Urban Forestry supports the request for removal of the subject tree. Our August 15, 2007, report recommended that the request for permission to remove the tree be denied based on information provided by an arborist for the applicant indicating that the tree was in good condition. A supplemental arborist report, received October 26, 2007, details the presence of a structural fault in the subject tree which was not mentioned in the original application.

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. The original arborist report submitted with the application indicated that the tree was in good condition resulting in our original recommendation to deny the request for permission to remove the tree. A supplemental arborist report was submitted on October 26, 2007, identifying a structural defect in the main stem of the tree. Had the supplemental arborist

report been included with the application, Urban Forestry would have issued a permit for removal without reporting to Community Council.

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 cm diameter black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) located at the rear of the property.

The permit to remove the subject tree was originally denied based on the original application and arborist report submitted April 4, 2007, which identified the tree to be in good condition. The applicant requested permission to remove the tree due to concerns that the falling walnuts are a hazard to their children.

At a subsequent site visit by Urban Forestry staff, a crack was noted on the trunk of the tree that was not identified in the original arborist report. Urban Forestry felt this flaw required further investigation and requested that the owner provide a more detailed arborist report on the condition of the tree. The item was deferred at the October 30, 2007, meeting of Community Council until Urban Forestry's concerns could be addressed.

A supplemental report received October 26, 2007 indicates the presence of a structural fault in the tree. A vertical crack in the trees main stem is present on the north side of the tree extending right through the stem to the south side, from 0.5m above grade and running upwards 2.5m. The crack is still active as the development of wound wood can be observed.

The structural integrity of the black walnut tree is compromised as a result of the crack in the main stem and issuing the applicant a permit to remove the tree was the only reasonable option. Urban Forestry issued a permit to allow the removal of the subject tree, conditional on the owner planting replacement trees acceptable to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Brenda Librecz
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Photographs of crack in trunk of black walnut tree

Attachment 1 - View of crack visible in North side of trunk



Attachment 1 - View of crack visible in South side of trunk

