



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Drain Grant Appeal - 6 Ferncrest Gate

<b>Date:</b>	January 24, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
<b>From:</b>	Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager, Toronto Water
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 40 (Scarborough- Agincourt)
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2007\Cluster B\TW\pw07001

#### **SUMMARY**

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The property owner of 6 Ferncrest Gate has requested a reimbursement of \$2,000 for costs incurred to repair the sanitary sewer connection due to tree root infiltration under the Tree Root Removal and Grants Policy Program. To qualify for financial assistance Toronto Water staff must verify that damages are the results of roots from a City-owned tree. In this case, the tree in question is a private tree owned by the neighbour at 4 Ferncrest Gate and therefore the property owner of 6 Ferncrest Gate does not qualify for financial assistance.

In accordance with the provisions of the Toronto Tree Root Removal and Grants Policy, the application requesting reimbursement as submitted by the property owner should be denied on the basis that there is no evidence of sewer connection damage resulting from a City-owned tree.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**Toronto Water recommends that Council deny the Drain Grant Appeal for 6 Ferncrest Gate.**

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial implications arising from the staff report. There are sufficient funds within the proposed Toronto Water 2007 Operating Budget should Council approve the drain grant appeal.

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## **DECISION HISTORY**

City Council at its meeting of May 11 and 12, 1999 adopted, as amended, Clause 3 of Works and Utility Committee Report No. 7 entitled “Sewer Connection Blockage Inspection and Repair Program, and Tree Root Removal and Grants Policy”.

Under the Policy the City provided assistance to property owners for repairs to private drains where the blockage is the result of roots from a City owned tree. For exterior work (between the City property line and the building foundation wall) assistance was provided in the amount of 100 percent of the invoiced cost up to a maximum of \$1500.00 for full replacement or \$500.00 for partial repair of the private drains (once every 3-year period).

City Council at its meeting of December 4, 5 and 6, 2001 adopted as amended Clause 19 in Report No. 16 of the Policy and Finance Committee entitled “Drain Grant Policy and Appeal Process” amending the Policy to provide for an additional grant of \$500.00 for work required on the interior of the system due to a City-owned tree provided that the City was included in the inspection before the work was done.

City Council at its meeting held on July 30, 31 and August 1, 2002 adopted Clause 20 in Report No. 9 of the Works Committee entitled “Drain Grant Appeals” in which it is clarified that the Drain Grant Policy is applicable only to owners of single, duplex and triplex properties.

City Council at its meeting held on July 25, 26 and 27, 2006 adopted Clause 8 of Report No. 5 of the Works Committee entitled “Amendments to the Sewer Service Line Blockage Inspection Repair Program and Drain Grant Policy” thereby amending the Policy to provide grants up to a total grant amount of \$2000.00 per property towards sewer service line repair work, including exterior work (foundation wall to property line) whether partial or full replacement, and internal work (within the building).

The Policy does not provide for reimbursement for costs incurred by the owner to conduct investigations (i.e. snaking, plunging, closed circuit television inspection) or cleaning due to flooding. To qualify for assistance, Toronto Water staff must verify the damages are roots from a City tree.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

On April 4th, 2006, the property owner contacted Toronto Water to request a sanitary sewer connection inspection. The private portion of the sanitary sewer connection had already been replaced by his contractor on April 3rd, 2006. Toronto Water staff investigated and determined the roots contributing to the blockage at 6 Ferncrest Gate were probably from a privately owned maple tree located at 4 Ferncrest Gate. The tree at 4 Ferncrest Gate is a Schwedler Maple, located approximately 2.0 meters back from the City property line on private property. Urban Forestry staff concurs with the Toronto Water staff assessment that City trees are not involved with the blockage at this location.

The property owner of 6 Ferncrest Gate submitted an application dated April 24th 2006, requesting a reimbursement of \$2000.00 for the costs incurred to excavate and repair his sanitary sewer connection due to tree root damage.

There is no history of previous sewer connection blockages at this location.

Based on this information, the claim was denied by Toronto Water staff on June 14th, 2006 as per the City of Toronto Tree Root Removal and Grants Policy program.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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