

## **20 Penetang Crescent – Application to Remove a Private Tree**

<b>Date:</b>	March 5, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Scarborough Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 37 – Scarborough Centre
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

---

To report on an application filed by the property owner for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned 70-centimetre diameter silver maple tree located at the front of 20 Penetang Crescent. The application has been made due to concerns expressed by the property owner that tree roots are causing damage to walkways, driveways and drains at 18 and 20 Penetang Crescent.

A planting plan has been submitted with the application that shows the planting of one (1) linden tree should approval be granted to remove the silver maple tree.

Inspection of the tree by staff revealed that the tree is in fair to good condition. The tree is well maintained, has a full, natural crown, and is considered significant to the neighbourhood. With proper care and maintenance, the tree should continue to provide benefits to the community for years to come. Urban Forestry cannot support the removal of this tree.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that the request for permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree at 20 Penetang Crescent be denied.

### **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 front of the property municipally known as 20 Penetang Crescent. This application has been made due to concerns about tree roots causing damage to driveways, walkways and drains at 18 and 20 Penetang Crescent.

## COMMENTS

An application for a permit has been received from the property owner of 20 Penetang Crescent for the removal of one (1) privately-owned 70-centimetre diameter silver maple tree.

The tree is healthy and can continue to be maintained in fair to good condition. The tree has a well-developed crown and the trunk of the tree appears to be sound. The branches are clear of hydro lines and service wires to the houses.

The tree is located five meters from the driveway and approximately four meters from the foundation of 20 Penetang Crescent. It is also located two meters from the walkway at the neighbouring property. Any cracks and heaving of the driveway has been caused by frost damage. The fact that there is a tree near the driveway is incidental to the condition of the driveway.

Tree roots do not cause drains or sewer pipes to break, but they will grow into and clog drains that have pre-existing cracks and resultant leakage. Drains are usually located 1.8 meters to 2.4 meters below ground level, while tree roots grow almost exclusively in the upper 0.6 meters of soil, because they need not only nutrients, but also oxygen to survive. When drains leak, they provide oxygen and nutrient rich water deep in the soil, which allow tree roots to grow deep into the soil and get into the already cracked drain pipe. It is the policy of City Council to not approve the removal of trees, due to drain and/or sewer blockages. Tree removal will not solve all the problems, as cracks will still permit leaking from pipes. Replacement of old drains with new PVC piping, continuous between the house and sewer, eliminates future blockages by tree roots.

On February 26, 2007, the homeowner contacted Urban Forestry to discuss the tree removal. The owner indicated that the biggest concern, at this point, in time is that the area around the tree is at a higher elevation than at the foundation. The downspout extends away from the house, however due to grading, water from precipitation pools towards the house. Roots of large mature trees such as this silver maple have the ability to absorb vast amounts of water. If the tree is removed, it will not solve the pooling of water, and in fact, it is expected that the pooling water would become a greater problem.

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.

The property owners have identified that they would be willing to plant a 60-millimetre calliper linden tree at the front of the house should they be granted authorization to remove the silver maple tree in question. A replanting plan has been submitted with the application.

Should the request for permit to remove the privately-owned silver maple tree located at 20 Penetang Crescent be approved, approval must be conditional on the owner implementing the planting plan on file with Urban Forestry.

This tree is very significant and is a valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. 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, Director, Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
Tel: 416 392-1894 Fax: 416 392-1915  
Email [rubbens@toronto.ca](mailto:rubbens@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Brenda Librecz  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Photographs of silver maple tree

Attachment – Photographs of silver maple tree

