



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

12 Lockie Avenue – Application to Remove Private Trees

Date:	August 15, 2007
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 41 – Scarborough Centre
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The report requests Council’s authority to deny the request for removal of two privately-owned black walnut trees located in the rear yard of 12 Lockie Avenue. The owner has concerns about a codling moth infestation and with walnuts falling onto a neighbour’s property.

The policies of the City of Toronto do not support removal of walnut trees due to falling fruit, or insect infestations, policies which have consistently been upheld by City Council. The trees are considered significant to the neighbourhood and with proper care and maintenance, should continue to provide benefits to the community for years to come. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of these trees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that the request for a permit to remove two (2) privately-owned trees at 12 Lockie Avenue be denied.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In 2006, Urban Forestry denied the request for permission to remove two walnut trees located at 12 Lockie Avenue. The applicant contacted the former Ward Councillor for the area who subsequently brought the issue forward at the June 13, 2006, meeting of Scarborough Community Council. Scarborough Community Council referred the matter to the Director, Urban Forestry, to work with the property owner to find a solution to the problem and report back to Scarborough Community Council.

COMMENTS

In accordance with *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, an application has been made for a permit to remove two (2) privately-owned trees located in the rear yard of 12 Lockie Avenue. The trees measure 38 and 41 centimetres in diameter and are in good condition. This application has been made due to concerns about a codling moth infestation and falling walnuts.

As a result of the matter being referred back to Urban Forestry to find a solution to the problem, a site meeting was set up for August 17, 2006. The meeting was attended by staff, the owners of 10 and 12 Lockie, and former Ward Councillor. Staff provided information on the control of codling moth, including trunk banding, parasitic wasps and pheromone traps. The independent arborist hired by the property owner to provide an Arborist Report has also supplied information to the owner for possible treatments of codling moth. An inspection on September 8, 2006, found a large number of walnuts on the trees, with no significant infestation of codling moth.

The neighbour expressed a concern with falling walnuts causing injury to his children. The 41 centimetre diameter walnut tree is located near the property line of 10 and 12 Lockie Avenue and the crown of the tree extends over the backyard of 10 Lockie Avenue. Children's play equipment has been put under the crown of the tree. It was suggested that the play equipment could be moved so it is not in the path of falling walnuts.

A more recent inspection on July 31, 2007, found that there are fewer walnuts this year, and again no significant infestation of codling moth. Both trees remain in good condition.

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. No letters of objection were received in response to the posting; one letter of support was received.

These trees are very significant and 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 cm in

diameter and live to be 250 years old. With proper care and maintenance, the subject trees should continue to provide benefits to the owner and to the community for many years to come. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of these trees.

CONTACT

Richard Ubbens, 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 (3)

Attachment 1 - Photograph of 38 cm diameter walnut tree
Attachment 2 – Photograph of 41cm diameter walnut trees
Attachment 3 – ESM aerial image

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the 38cm diameter walnut tree



Attachment 2– Photograph of the 41cm diameter walnut tree



Attachment 3 – ESM aerial image

Trees in question

