



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

29 Vernham Court – Application to Remove a City-owned Tree

Date:	October 24, 2008
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Richard Ubbens, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 25 – Don Valley West
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The report requests Council’s authority to deny the request for permission to remove a healthy City-owned, 48-centimetre diameter Norway maple tree fronting 29 Vernham Court. The applicant would like to relocate their driveway to a location that would be in conflict with the tree.

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. Urban Forestry cannot support the loss of existing trees or potential planting sites as their loss is contrary to the City’s stated goal of doubling the tree canopy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that Council deny the request for permission to remove one (1) City-owned tree fronting 29 Vernham Court.

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 II*, an application has been made requesting permission to remove a healthy City-owned tree

fronting the property municipally known as 29 Vernham Court. This application has been made as a result of a new driveway proposal.

COMMENTS

An application has been received from the property owner of 29 Vernham Court requesting permission to remove a healthy and maintainable City-owned 48-centimetre diameter Norway maple tree. The tree is located 1.6 metres north of the curb and 3.9 metres east of the west property line.

An Arborist Report was submitted with the application and indicates that the tree is in fair condition. The report also states that the homeowners would like to straighten the driveway from road to garage and remove the existing driveway.

Norway maple trees constitute a significant part of the City's canopy cover although they are not considered indigenous species to Canada. Norway maple trees are found throughout the City as well as the Greater Toronto area as a result of vigorous plantings in urbanized areas within the past 50 years. The Norway maple trees are characterized as hardy trees for the harsh urban environment as they have high tolerance to growing conditions with high soil disturbance, drought, salt, and other pollutants.

The subject tree is a significant and valuable part of the forest community and should continue to provide benefits to the property and to the community for many years to come. The existing driveway had been designed and approved as per the request of the current property owner in order to preserve the tree. The change of design of the driveway at this time does not justify the removal of the subject tree. The City of Toronto's policy regarding the removal of City-owned trees is that they are not removed unless diagnosed as being dead, hazardous, or no longer viable to maintain. The subject tree is healthy and viable and Urban Forestry cannot support the removal request.

Should approval be granted for the request to remove one City-owned tree located at 29 Vernham Court, approval must be conditional on:

- (i) the applicant paying all applicable costs and complying with all other requirements, as set out in *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article II*; and
- (ii) the applicant planting one 70-mm replacement tree to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation; and
- (iii) the applicant furnishing a two-year renewable guarantee for the proposed tree planting, in the form of a letter of credit/certified cheque for \$583.00 to cover the costs of removal, maintenance, and replacement of the 70-millimetre tree planted on City property.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Richard Ubbens
Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photographs of Norway maple tree
Attachment 2 – Landscape Concept Plan showing the tree and the existing driveway

Attachment 1 – Photographs of Norway maple tree





