



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

74 Gordon Road – 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, 45-centimetre diameter Norway maple tree fronting 74 Gordon Road. The applicant would like to implement a new landscape on the property and has concerns with the structural condition of the tree.

The tree is a healthy and viable specimen and should 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 74 Gordon Road.

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 74 Gordon Road. This application has been

made as a result of a proposed landscape improvement and a concern with the structural condition of the subject tree.

COMMENTS

An application has been received from the property owner of 74 Gordon Road requesting permission to remove a healthy and maintainable 45-centimetre diameter City-owned Norway maple tree. The subject tree is located 8.5 metres from the curb and 8.5 metres east of the west property line.

An Arborist Report was submitted with the application and indicates that the tree has a girdling root and is poorly structured, susceptible to storm damage and is expected to decline in health. The report recommends that the tree be removed. The property owner also submitted a letter indicating that he wishes to remove the tree due to its poor structure, ecological threat to the local plant community, and visual appearance.

Urban Forestry finds the subject tree to have a good form and healthy vigorous growth. 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 the community for many years to come. 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 74 Gordon Road, 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-millimetre 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 – Photographs of Norway maple tree

Attachment #1



Attachment #2

