



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 66 Trehorne Drive – Private Tree Removal

<b>Date:</b>	February 27, 2009
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Richard Ubbens, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 4 - Etobicoke-Centre
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### **SUMMARY**

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The report requests that Council deny the request for removal of one (1) privately-owned tree, located in the front yard of 66 Trehorne Drive. The property owner is concerned that this tree may cause damage to the foundation of the house located on the property.

Inspection of the tree by staff revealed that it is in good condition. Foundation repairs have been carried out at the property. If the repairs included disconnection of the downspouts from the weeping tiles, eliminating water from collecting at the foundation, tree roots currently growing in this location will die and not pose a problem in the future. 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 an existing healthy tree when action can be taken to eliminate the problems that currently exist with the tree and the home on the property.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree at 66 Trehorne Drive.**

#### **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 requesting permission to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at the front of 66 Trehorne Drive.

The owners of 66 Trehorne Drive have recently excavated and repaired damage to their home foundation and drains. They believe that tree roots were to blame for the damage and would like to remove the tree in question to avoid incurring further foundation repair costs.

## COMMENTS

An application for a permit was received in December 2008 from the owner of 66 Trehorne Drive for the removal of one privately-owned, 81-centimetre diameter Norway maple tree. The tree is located on the west side of the property six (6) metres from the front of the house. An arborist report, prepared by the property owner's arborist and included with their application, states that the tree in question is healthy and has good structure. Urban Forestry staff have also inspected the tree and found it to be in good condition with plenty of room for future growth.

Tree roots do not cause damage to drains, building foundation walls, or floors, but rather gain entry through pre-existing cracks. If there is a source of water and oxygen, such as a leak from a broken drain or lack of drainage away from foundation walls, tree roots will take advantage of these conditions and grow in this environment. Disconnection of the downspouts from the weeping tile, drain replacement with PVC plastic piping, continuous between the building and the sanitary sewer and/or re-grading around foundation walls to allow drainage of moisture away from the foundation, will alleviate the problem. It has been the policy of City Council to not approve the removal of trees due to foundation, drain and/or sewer blockages.

The property owner is proposing to plant four (4) trees to replace the tree in question. These include a sugar maple tree and three (3) small growing trees, including a Japanese maple, a magnolia and a Lilac.

As required under *Section 813-17, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a 'Notice' of the application sign was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14 days. The posting serves to notify the community and provide an opportunity for objection to the application. No letters were received in response to the posting.

The subject tree is a significant and valuable part of the urban forest community that exists within this neighbourhood. With proper care and maintenance, the tree should

continue to provide benefits to the property and the community for many years to come. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of this tree due to its viable condition and contribution to the Urban Forest.

The intent of the private tree by-law is to preserve significant trees and to ensure a sustainable urban forest within the City. The request to remove this Norway maple tree is contrary to the intent of Council's (July 26, 27 and 28, 2006) policy statement on the Urban Forest.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment No. 1 – Photograph of Norway maple tree  
Attachment No. 2 – Aerial Photo of tree location on the Property

Attachment No. 1



81cm  
Norway  
maple tree

Attachment No. 2

