

34-36 Sawley Drive – Private Tree Removal

Date:	May 28, 2010
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Richard Ubbens, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 24 – Willowdale
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster A\PFR\NY35-062210-AFS#12291

SUMMARY

The report requests that City Council deny the request to remove a privately-owned tree, located at the rear of 34 and 36 Sawley Drive. The owner of 36 Sawley would like to remove the tree to allow for construction of a fence between 34 and 36 Sawley Drive. The owner of 36 Sawley has also stated that the tree is too close to the house at 36 Sawley Drive.

The tree in question is a 48 cm diameter Silver maple in good condition. With proper care and maintenance, the tree should continue to provide benefits to the community for many years, and should be incorporated into any plans for the construction of a property line fence. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of this tree due to its viable condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at the rear of 34 and 36 Sawley Drive.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 34 Sawley Drive, requesting permission to remove a 48 cm diameter privately-owned Silver maple tree.

The tree is in good condition, with good form and healthy vigorous growth. Urban Forestry is of the opinion that a property line fence could be constructed without having to remove the silver maple tree. There are many fences in the city that have incorporated trees into their construction, or have been built around existing trees. As the tree grows, the fence can be modified to accommodate its growth. The tree is also well clear of the house at 36 Sawley Drive in the opinion of staff, and the branches can be kept clear of the roof if the tree is pruned on a regular basis. The tree is comprised of two main leaders and the union of these two stems appears structurally sound from ground level. The arborist report submitted with the application has not provided any evidence to suggest that this union is a concern.

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

As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant has submitted a Planting Plan proposing two (2) large growing native shade trees. Urban Forestry is of the opinion that there is not enough space available to plant additional trees on either property as both properties are currently occupied with existing young and mature trees. If approval is granted for the removal of the silver maple tree it should be conditional on the owner of 36 Sawley Drive paying \$583 to cover the cost of tree planting elsewhere in the ward.

With professional maintenance, the silver maple tree in question should continue to provide benefits to the owner and the community for many years and should be incorporated into any plans for 34 and 36 Sawley Drive. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of this tree due to its viable condition and contribution to the urban forest.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1 - Photograph of the 48 cm diameter Silver maple tree.

