

**9 Ronway Crescent - Application to Remove a Private Tree**

<b>Date:</b>	October 29, 2013
<b>To:</b>	Scarborough Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 38 – Scarborough Centre
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\SC28-111913-AFS#18538

**SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree. The owner has requested tree removal due to concerns with its location, maintenance, and that roots may be growing into the sewer line.

The subject tree is a Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*), measuring 39 cm in diameter, located at the front of the property. This tree is healthy; therefore, Urban Forestry cannot support removal of this tree.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council deny the application to remove the privately owned Colorado spruce tree at 9 Ronway Crescent.

**Financial Impact**

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

**COMMENTS**

An application was received for the removal of a 39 cm diameter Colorado spruce tree located in the front yard of 9 Ronway Crescent. The property owner feels the tree is growing too close to her private walkway and front entrance and is concerned it will cause damage in the near future. She also advised that the tree blocks the front of her

house, as well as her view when backing out of the driveway. The property owner also noted that the tree roots have lead to several sewer backups.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and found it to be healthy. There is no evidence of damage to the private walkway or front porch. Using good arboricultural practices, the tree crown could be further pruned or raised to increase visibility without resorting to removal of the tree.

In response to the owner's concern about roots in drains, tree roots do not cause damage to drains but gain entry through pre-existing cracks. If there is a source of water and oxygen, such as a leak from a broken drain, tree roots will take advantage of these conditions and grow in this environment. Replacement of water or drain pipes with PVC plastic piping, continuous between the building and the sanitary sewer will alleviate the problem. It has been the policy of City Council to not approve the removal of trees due to drain and/or sewer blockages.

As required under *Section 813-19, 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 period in order to provide an opportunity for comment by the community. No comments were received.

Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree. A permit to remove the tree was denied. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

The Colorado spruce tree at 9 Ronway Crescent is a significant and valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance it should continue to provide benefits to the property owner and the surrounding community for many years to come. Urban Forestry therefore cannot support removal of this tree.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Doyle  
Director of Urban Forestry

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - Photo of 39 cm diameter Colorado Spruce tree at 9 Ronway Crescent.

