



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

88 Mervyn Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	May 20, 2016
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 5 – Etobicoke Lakeshore
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\EY15-061416-AFS#22936

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 88 Mervyn Avenue. The application indicates the reason for removal is that the tree "is not pleasing to look at".

The subject tree is a Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens* var. *glauca*) measuring 36 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

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 88 Mervyn Avenue.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located in the rear yard at 88 Mervyn Avenue. The subject tree is a Colorado blue spruce measuring 36 cm in diameter. The owner is requesting removal of the tree because they feel "it is not pleasing to look at." The arborist report that accompanied the application does not assess the condition of the tree and states only that the tree is in conflict with a proposed pool, which was then retracted as a reason for the request for removal.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined it is healthy both botanically and structurally.

During inspection of the site, it was noted that construction debris was piled around the tree. An Infraction Notice was issued on February 19, 2016 by email to the owner.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a notice of application to destroy the tree 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 in response to the posting.

A permit to remove this tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing this decision.

Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, in accordance with *Section 813-20 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. The owner has proposed to plant three (3) trees with no species or location provided. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the owner to provide five (5) replacement trees which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash in lieu of planting.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. They help to soften the hard lines of built form and surfaces in an urban setting. Trees contribute to the overall character and quality of neighbourhoods. Studies suggest that social benefits such as crime reduction and neighbourhood cohesion can be attributed to the presence of trees.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rainwater runoff thereby reducing soil erosion and lowering storm water management costs. They also contribute to moderation of temperature extremes and reduction of the urban heat island effect by providing shade during the summer.

Trees provide many economic benefits including the enhancement of property values. Homes with mature trees have higher value when compared to similar types of homes in similar locations without trees. Mature trees are associated with reduced home energy consumption. Air conditioning costs are lower in a home shaded by trees and heating costs are reduced when trees mitigate the cooling effects of wind in winter. Trees are a

community resource which can make the city more attractive to investors, tourists and prospective residents thus contributing to growth and prosperity.

It is the goal of the City of Toronto to increase the city's tree canopy to 40 percent. The loss of trees in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, compounded with additional tree loss due to the presence of the Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

This Colorado blue spruce tree at 88 Mervyn Avenue is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance this tree has the potential to provide the property owner and the surrounding community with benefits for many more years. Urban Forestry, therefore, does not support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

Max Dida, Supervisor, Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry
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SIGNATURE

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the Colorado blue spruce measuring 36 cm in diameter, located at the rear of 88 Mervyn Avenue

Attachment 2 – Photograph of the Colorado blue spruce located at the rear of 88 Mervyn Avenue

Attachment 3 – *Arborist Report & Tree Planting Plan for 88 Mervyn Avenue*, prepared by Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada Limited, undated







DAVEY TREE EXPERT CO. OF CANADA LIMITED
10 Jethro Road, Downsview, Ontario, M3L 1G9 - Office: 416 241-7191 Fax: 416 241-2987

Arborist Report & Tree Planting Plan for 88 Mervyn Avenue

Purpose of Report: To supply the City of Toronto with information for a removal application of a Norway spruce.

Prepared For: [REDACTED] 88 Mervyn Avenue – Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 1N7

Prepared By: Mike Arico, ISA Certified Arborist, Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada Ltd., 10 Jethro Road, Downsview, Ontario M3L 1G9, 416-241-7191, mike.arico@davey.com

Tree Location: 88 Mervyn Avenue rear yard.

Tree Species: Blue Spruce.

Tree Diameter: 33cm dbh.

Tree Description: [REDACTED] would like to request the removal of one 33cm dbh Norway spruce located at the rear of the property. [REDACTED] would like to install a pool in the rear yard and the existing Spruce tree will conflict within the plans. Attached you will find a drawing of the property and proposed pool to be installed.

Replacement Tree Planting: Due to the health of this tree we would like to plant at a 3:1 ratio.

Regards,

Mike Arico
Certified Arborist
Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada Limited
Toronto West Office
Mike.Arico@Davey.com

Gizzi, Giselle

From: Arico, Mike
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:45 PM
To: Gizzi, Giselle











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