



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**48 Fulton Avenue – Application to Remove a City Tree**

<b>Date:</b>	October 24, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 29 – Toronto-Danforth
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\TE20-111516-AFS#23727

**SUMMARY**

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) City-owned tree located on the road allowance adjacent to 48 Fulton Avenue. The application indicates that the reasons for removal are due to the poor condition of the tree and the tripping hazard caused by falling fruit.

The subject tree is a European alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) measuring 24 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the 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) City-owned tree located on the road allowance adjacent to 48 Fulton Avenue.

**Financial Impact**

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

**COMMENTS**

An application was received from the property owner of 48 Fulton Avenue for a permit to remove one (1) City-owned European alder tree measuring 24 cm in diameter, located on the road allowance adjacent to the front of the property. The application states the reason for the requested removal is that the tree is in poor condition.

The arborist report submitted with the application states that the tree is in poor condition. The report describes the tree as terminally diseased, with tip dieback and a diminished canopy. The arborist report also states that the tree drops hard round fruit and that the owner as well as the neighbours complain of the hazard this causes. The arborist is requesting that the City's "Crab Apple Removal Policy" be used in this instance, to allow removal of the tree.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is healthy and maintainable both botanically and structurally. The tree has no major structural defects, good trunk integrity, and an upright crown growth typical of young alder trees. The trunk and root flare are structurally sound. A few small dead branches were observed.

The material that the arborist notes as falling from the tree and creating a trip hazard are seed catkins. All trees drop leaves, needles, nuts, fruit or other debris. *City of Toronto, Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Article II, Trees on City Streets* (the Street Tree By-law) does not support tree removal to address perceived nuisance resulting from a tree's natural functions.

Creation of the City's Crab Apple Removal Policy was approved by City Council at its meeting of December 4, 5 and 6, 2001. The policy was the result of a request by staff to enable the removal of fleshy fruit-bearing trees, such as ornamental crabapple (*Malus* sp.) or apple trees. This applies specifically to apple trees situated on the City road allowance, where fruits falls onto adjacent sidewalks, private walkways and driveways creating a potential hazard such as slipping and tripping. The policy does not include alder trees. During the above-noted meeting, City Council reaffirmed its policy to protect all healthy, City-owned trees. The Staff Report heard by council identified that staff will continue to assess the merits of similar requests for other tree species on an individual basis.

This application has been reviewed by Urban Forestry staff and a decision made to deny the request for a permit to remove the tree. The owner is appealing this decision.

Should City Council approve this request for removal of a City-owned tree, in accordance with *Section 813-10.B of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article II*, permit issuance must be conditional upon the owners providing payment of the appraised value of the tree to be removed (\$1,650.00), agreeing to have the tree removed at their expense, as well as providing satisfactory replacement planting. 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. The owner will also be required to provide a tree planting security deposit to cover the cost of removal, replacement and the cost of maintenance for a period of two years for all trees to be planted on City property.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. Trees 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. Trees 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 that 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 per cent. 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.

The European alder tree located on the City road allowance adjacent to 48 Fulton 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**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Doyle  
Director, Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the City-owned European alder tree measuring 24 cm in diameter

