

## **Application to Remove a Private Tree – 34 Cartier Crescent**

**Date:** February 26, 2018

**To:** Scarborough Community Council

**From:** Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** Ward 37 – Scarborough Centre

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at 34 Cartier Crescent. The application indicates the reasons for removal are that the tree is too big for the space and interfering with house, driveway, sidewalk, hedges and utility wires.

The subject tree is a blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), measuring 41 cm in diameter. The Private Tree By-law does not support the removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at 34 Cartier Crescent.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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There is no decision history regarding this tree removal permit application.

## COMMENTS

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Urban Forestry received an application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located in the front yard of 34 Cartier Crescent. The subject tree is a blue spruce measuring 41 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address concerns that the tree is too large for the space and negatively impacting the house, driveway, sidewalk, hedges and overhead utility wires.

The arborist report that accompanied the application assessed this tree to be in good condition, with minor internal deadwood.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it was healthy and maintainable both botanically and structurally.

No evidence of the tree impacting the house, driveway, sidewalk or overhead utility conductors was observed at the time of inspection. The minor internal deadwood and potential future conflicts with nearby structures or overhead utility conductors can be addressed through pruning in accordance with good arboricultural practices. The tree is located such that routine maintenance of the tree can be performed. Routine tree maintenance is considered part of performing routine property maintenance and is a responsibility of all property owners within the City of Toronto.

When reviewing applications for tree removal, Urban Forestry staff are guided by City policies and by-laws including the *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, more commonly referred to as the Private Tree By-law. The Private Tree By-law does not have a mechanism that would allow the removal of the subject tree based on the concerns stated in the tree removal permit application.

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. Three comments were received in support of removal.

A permit to remove the 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*, permit issuance must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree. However, in this instance it would be appropriate for the applicant 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 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 blue spruce at 34 Cartier Crescent 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. In accordance with the City Council-approved Strategic Forest Management Plan, Toronto's Official Plan and the Private Tree By-law, this tree should not be removed.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Doyle  
Director, Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Photograph of the blue spruce measuring 41 cm in diameter.  
Attachment 2: Photograph showing the clearance between the house located at 34 Cartier Crescent and the 41 cm blue spruce.

Attachment 1: Photograph of the blue spruce measuring 41cm in diameter





Attachment 2: Photograph showing the clearance distance between the house located at 34 Cartier Crescent and the blue spruce measuring 41 cm in diameter

