

20 Holswade Road – Private Tree Removal

Date:	February 2, 2010
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Richard Ubbens, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 35 – Scarborough Southwest
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The report requests that City Council deny the request to remove a privately-owned tree, located at the front of 20 Holswade Road. The owner proposes to demolish the existing single family dwelling, and build a new two-storey single family dwelling with a larger footprint.

Inspection of the tree by staff revealed that the tree is in good condition and there are no visible signs of disease. With proper care and maintenance, the tree should continue to provide benefits to the community for many years. 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 at 20 Holswade Road.

Financial Impact

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

DECISION HISTORY

The owner of the subject property had previously applied for a permit to remove the same spruce tree in 2008. The reason for the request was to accommodate renovations to the existing dwelling and to install a wider driveway. Scarborough Community Council, at its meeting of October 7, 2008, recommended that City Council deny the request for

permission to remove the spruce tree. City Council, at its meeting of October 29 and 30, 2008, denied the request for permission to remove the spruce tree. The following is a link to the report that was before Scarborough Community Council at its meeting of October 7, 2008: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/sc/bgrd/backgroundfile-15606.pdf> and the City Council decision document from its meeting of October 29 and 30, 2008: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/sc/reports/2008-10-07-sc19-cr.pdf>

COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 20 Holswade Road, requesting permission to remove one (1) 49 centimetre diameter privately-owned Colorado spruce tree. This is the second time the owner has applied to remove this tree.

The tree is healthy, with a full, well-developed crown, no indications of disease, and no visible signs of decay on the main stem. The spruce can continue to be maintained in good condition for many years to come. It is located 4.7 m south of the existing house and 4.2 m west of the existing driveway.

The applicant is proposing to build a new house that would require excavation for the foundation to come within 1.4 metres from the base of the tree. The application is also proposing a wider driveway which would further encroach upon the root system of the tree. Construction of a walkway and stairs are also proposed within the minimum 3.0 metre protection zone required by the City of Toronto's Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees. Extensive pruning, removing most of the branching on the north side of the tree, would be required to provide clearance for the proposed new home. The construction associated with the proposed new dwelling cannot be undertaken without destroying the tree.

Urban Forestry staff met with the applicant to discuss the application and explore options that would allow for construction to proceed while adequately protecting the tree. A satisfactory solution to the applicant and Urban Forestry was not achieved.

As required under *Section 813-17, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Private Tree Protection, Article III*, a 'Notice' of application 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 intentions to remove the tree and provide an opportunity for objection to the application. No letters of objection were received.

The applicant is proposing to plant three (3) replacement trees, including a sugar maple, a silver maple and a honey locust, if a permit is granted for the removal of the spruce tree.

This tree is significant and is a valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. With proper care and maintenance, the subject tree would continue to provide benefits to the owner and to the community for many more years. 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, R.P.F.
Director, Urban Forestry

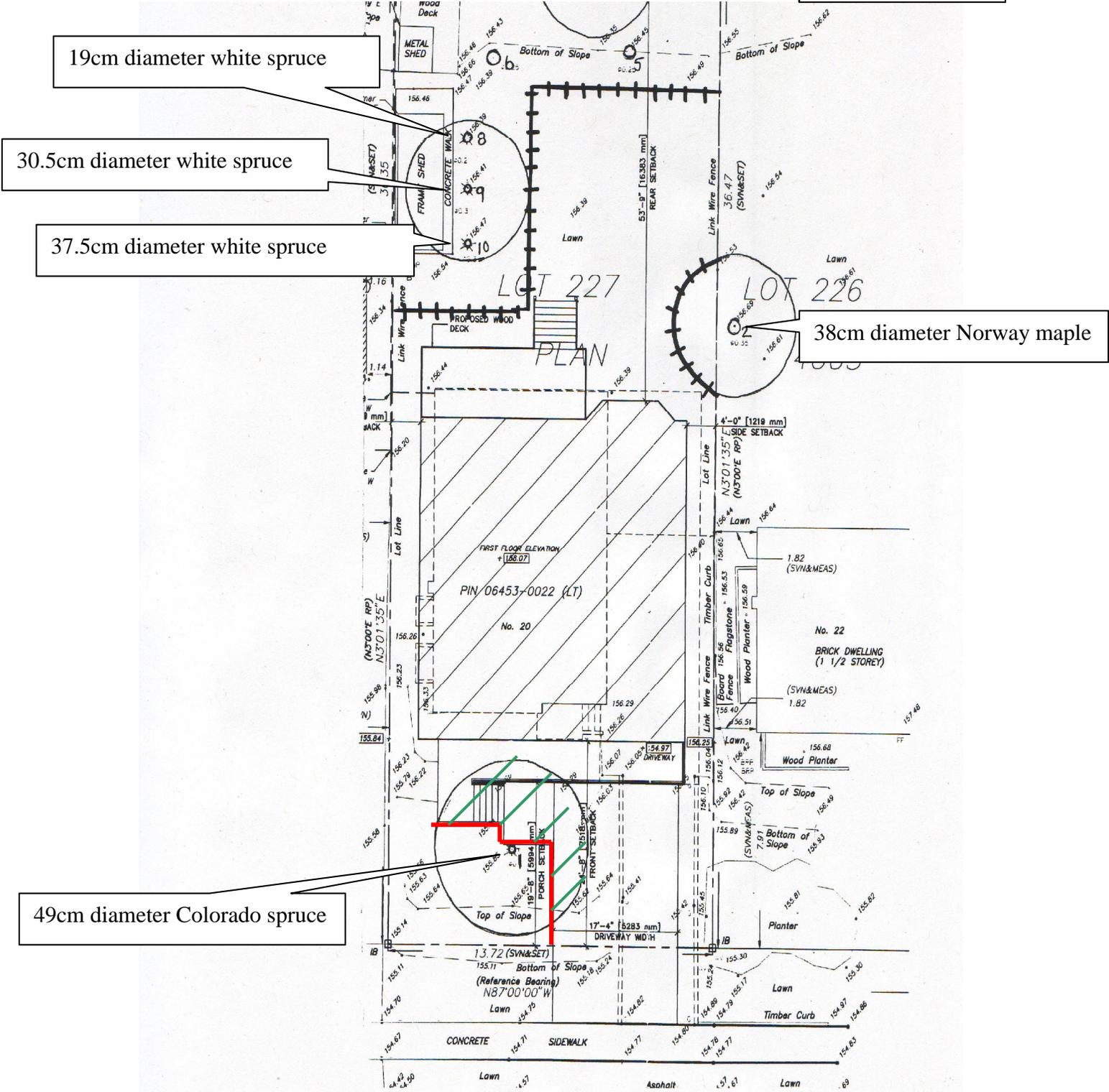
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Photographs of Colorado spruce tree
Attachment 2 – Location of tree in relation to proposed construction

20 Holswade Road

49cm diameter Colorado spruce





- roots that will be impacted within the minimum protection zone
- limit of proposed retaining wall at west side of driveway; walkway, stairs and porch north of the tree