

301 Rouge Hills Drive – Private Tree Removal

Date:	March 31, 2010
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Richard Ubbens, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 44 – Scarborough East
Reference Number:	P/2010/Cluster A/PFR/SC34-042710-AFS#11774

SUMMARY

The report requests that City Council deny the request to remove a privately-owned tree, located at the rear of 301 Rouge Hills Drive. The property owner is concerned that this tree is no longer viable to maintain, and poses a potential hazard to the surrounding properties.

Inspection of the tree by staff revealed that the tree is in good condition with no visible signs of defects or decay. 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 privately-owned tree at 301 Rouge Hills Drive.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

In accordance with *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Private Tree Protection, Article III*, an application was submitted for a permit to remove a 112 cm

diameter silver maple tree. The application includes an Arborist Report stating that the tree is in fair to poor condition due to bark loss at the base of the tree and bark inclusion at the major limb union.

Urban Forestry staff have inspected the subject tree, and disagree with the assessment contained in the Arborist Report. There are bark inclusions within some of the branch unions, however these defects are not significant or negatively impacting the integrity of the tree. There is an old wound at the base of the tree where dieback of the bark has occurred to approximately 25% of the circumference of the trunk. However, newly formed callous tissue indicates that the wound has compartmentalized, or formed "walls" around the wound, slowing or preventing the spread of disease or decay to the rest of the tree. The exposed wood is sound with no evidence of decay. The crown of the tree appears healthy and in good condition, suggesting that the flow of water and nutrients has not been impeded by the wound and bark loss at the base of the trunk.

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 one sugar maple tree if a permit is granted for the removal of the silver maple tree.

The tree has been well maintained in the past, and is considered a significant and valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. With proper care and maintenance, the subject tree will 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 No. 1 – photos of tree, callous tissue

Attachment No. 1



112 cm diameter silver maple tree



callous tissue