33 Blyth Hill Road – Application to Remove Three City-Owned Trees

Date: February 25, 2011
To: North York Community Council
From: Jason Doyle, Acting Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards: 25 – Don Valley West
Reference Number: P:\2011\Cluster A\PFR\NY05-032211-AFS#13520

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council approve the request for a permit to remove three (3) City-owned trees located on the road allowance in front of 33 Blyth Hill Road.

The subject trees include a 10 cm diameter Nootka false cypress (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) and two (2) Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) that are 35 cm and 14 cm in diameter. The trees were not planted on the road allowance by Urban Forestry and they were poorly located. The trees have not been well maintained. Climbing euonymus shrubs were planted beside the trees and have grown to the extent where they have significantly impacted the health, vigour and natural form of the trees. The trees do not currently meet the criteria for removal by Urban Forestry; however, the aesthetic value and appeal of the trees have been severely compromised.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve the request for a permit to remove three (3) City-owned trees located in the front of 33 Blyth Hill Road subject to the following conditions:
   a. The applicant paying all applicable costs and complying with all other requirements as set out in *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article II*;
b. The applicant planting two (2) minimum 70 mm calliper, large growing native trees to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation; and

c. The applicant furnishing a two-year renewable guarantee for the proposed tree plantings in the form of a letter of credit/certified cheque to cover the costs of removal, replacement and maintenance of the 70 mm trees planted on City property.

**Financial Impact**

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

**COMMENTS**

An application has been received from the owner of 33 Blyth Hill Road for a permit to remove three (3) City-owned trees located at the front of the subject property. The owner has indicated the trees are in poor condition and are unsightly.

The trees in question are a 10 cm diameter Nootka false cypress (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) and two (2) Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) that are 35 cm and 14 cm in diameter. An inspection of the trees revealed that they are growing in a poor location with limited space. The trees were not planted on the road allowance by Urban Forestry. It appears that the trees may have been planted by a previous property owner to obscure the view of a nearby hydro pole and also to provide privacy screening from the roadway. Climbing euonymus shrubs have been planted at the base of the Scots pine trees and they have now grown into the canopy of the trees to the extent where they are now out-competing the Scots pine trees for water, nutrients and light.

The 35 cm Scots pine tree is also now making contact with the canopy of an adjacent private honey locust tree. The Scots pine and honey locust trees cannot co-exist in such a limited space. The health, vigour and form of the Scots pine trees have been severely compromised and as a result of their growing condition, they have limited aesthetic value. The Nootka false cypress is in good condition; however, it is poorly located. The three trees do not currently meet the criteria for routine removal by Urban Forestry.

As a condition of approval for removal of the three (3) trees, the applicant is willing to plant two (2) large growing native shade trees on the City property in front of this address. Should the request for permit to remove the City-owned trees be approved, approval must be conditional upon the applicant paying all applicable costs and complying with all other requirements as set out in the *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article II*. 
In accordance with Section 813-5(I) of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article II, the Ward Councillor has been consulted regarding the application for permit to remove the City-owned trees and the proposed replacement planting.

The subject trees were not planted by Urban Forestry and are poorly located. As a result of their restricted growing environment and overwhelming presence of climbing euonymus shrubs, they have limited aesthetic value. The two (2) replacement trees that are proposed to be planted on the road allowance will provide greater benefit to the property and community for many years to come. Urban Forestry supports the request to remove the three (3) City-owned trees.

CONTACT

Harold Moffatt, Supervisor Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry Branch, Tel: 416 395-6134, Fax: 416 395-6714 Email: hmoffatt@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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Jason Doyle
Acting Director, Urban Forestry

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 – Photographs of the trees.
Photograph of Scots pines trees with euonymus at the base
Staff report for action on removal of trees at 33 Blyth Hill Rd.

honey locust tree

35 cm Scots pine