

## **Update on the Status of the Private Tree By-law Review**

<b>Date:</b>	May 30, 2011
<b>To:</b>	Parks and Environment Committee
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Patterson, General Manger, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2011\Cluster A\PFR\PE05-062411-AFS#14020

### **SUMMARY**

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To report, as requested, on the status of the review of the Private Tree By-law (*City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*). Urban Forestry is currently engaged in consultations with stakeholders and other City divisions including, but not limited to, Legal Services and Municipal Licensing and Standards. A report outlining the results of the review and recommendations for streamlining the administration of the by-law will be submitted to the Parks and Environment Committee by the end of the year.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. this report be received for information.

#### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

#### **DECISION HISTORY**

A presentation entitled "Toronto's Tree Protection By-laws – Understanding the Intent and Process" was made to the Parks and Environment Committee at its meeting held on April 29, 2011. The Committee, among other things, requested that the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation provide an update on the status of the Private Tree By-law review at the June 24, 2011, meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

At the time of amalgamation, there were by-laws regulating the injury and destruction of trees on private property in the former municipalities of Toronto and Scarborough. There was public support to expand the regulations to include the other former municipalities in order to provide consistent and equitable protection of private trees. In 2004, a harmonized Private Tree By-law was adopted to protect significant trees on private property City-wide, to assist in sustaining the urban forest in the City, and to educate individuals with respect to tree protection measures and alternatives to tree injury and destruction.

Revisions to the Private Tree By-law were last made in 2008, and included, among other things, changes to strengthen the by-law and procedures to improve processing of applications, as well as an increase in permit application fees.

## **COMMENTS**

In response to issues and concerns that have been identified by staff in Urban Forestry and other stakeholders, a review of the Private Tree By-law and its implementation was initiated by Urban Forestry. Urban Forestry staff are currently in consultation with staff in the Legal Services, Municipal Licensing and Standards, and other City divisions with a view towards streamlining the by-law application and review process; and providing for additional public education and awareness about the benefits of trees and tree protection. As requested by the Parks and Environment Committee, the review of the by-law will also include opportunities and options to protect more private trees within the City of Toronto. The results of the review and recommendations aimed at achieving tree protection objectives while streamlining the process will be the subject of a report to the Parks and Environment Committee by year end.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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