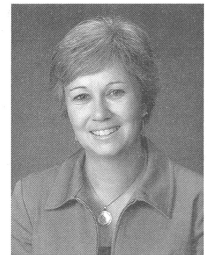


Ward 13

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May 9, 2013

To: Chair and Members of the Scarborough Community Council

**Re: Application to Remove a Private Tree
American Elm Tree at 34 Willowhurst Crescent**

As Tree Advocate for the City of Toronto, I am writing concerning the application to remove a private tree at 34 Willowhurst Crescent. I support the recommendation to deny the application for a permit to remove the American Elm set out in the report prepared by Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, dated January 29, 2013.

The tree in question, an American Elm, measuring 85 cm in diameter, should be preserved and designated a heritage tree. This species of trees was almost completely destroyed in the 1960s and 1970s by dutch elm disease and to permit the removal of one of the last remaining American Elm Trees would be disastrous. This tree is a rare survivor of the devastation of Dutch Elm Disease and could represent a potential source of genetically-resistant offspring and be a means to reintroduce this species back into the urban forest.

Another reason I urge you to refuse this application, is that the reason for removal of this tree is to accommodate a new garage. I understand that there are alternative ways to accommodate the owner's need for a new garage and urge him to explore these other options.

It is for all these reasons that I ask you to refuse this application for removal of a healthy tree.

Best regards,



Sarah Doucette
Councillor, Ward 13
Toronto Tree Advocate