12 Chilton Road – Application to Remove a Private Tree

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>August 2, 2013</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Toronto and East York Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>From:</td>
<td>Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation</td>
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<td>Ward:</td>
<td>Ward 29 – Toronto-Danforth</td>
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<td>Reference Number:</td>
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**SUMMARY**

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree situated in the rear yard of 12 Chilton Road. The owners are requesting tree removal as they state that the tree is causing damage to asphalt.

The subject tree is a Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) measuring 52 cm in diameter, that is in fair to good condition structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove the privately owned Siberian elm tree at 12 Chilton Road.

**Financial Impact**

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

**COMMENTS**

An application was received for a permit to remove a 52 cm diameter privately owned Siberian elm tree located in the rear yard of 12 Chilton Road. The application submitted by the owners states that they are requesting tree removal as the Siberian elm is causing damage to asphalt at the rear of the house.
Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and found that it is healthy and in good to fair condition structurally and botanically. No significant defects were noted during the inspection. There is a moderate amount of small diameter deadwood in the canopy; however, this is typical of the species and can be corrected through proper pruning.

The removal request has been made to address the owner's concern over the roots causing damage to the asphalt area. However, this is a non-construction permit application, so it appears that the owners do not intend to make repairs to the asphalt. Removal of the tree will not alleviate the existing condition of the asphalt.

The tree is located close to the asphalt area. Urban Forestry believes that the asphalt can be repaired without removing the tree, and could advise the owners of techniques that could be implemented, should they wish to pursue repair of the asphalt area.

As required under Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III, a Notice of application sign was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14 day period in order to provide an opportunity for objection by the community. No letters of objection were received.

On June 10, 2013, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

The property owners are proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree. Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, in accordance with Section 813-20 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article III, approval must be conditional upon the owner providing satisfactory replacement planting. In this instance, it would be appropriate to require the applicant to provide four (4) replacement trees, in a combination of planting and cash in lieu.

The Siberian elm tree at 12 Chilton Road is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance it has the potential to provide the community with benefits for years to come. Urban Forestry, therefore, cannot support removal of this tree.

**CONTACT**
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SIGNATURE

________________________________________
Jason Doyle
Director of Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1 and 2 – Photos of the 52 cm diameter Siberian elm tree situated at the rear of 12 Chilton Road.
Attachment 1

Stem of 52 cm diameter Siberian elm at the rear of 12 Chilton Road
Attachment 2

Crown of 52 cm diameter Siberian elm