



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

207 Van Dusen Boulevard - Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	March 12, 2015
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 5 - Etobicoke Centre
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\EY05-041415-AFS#20851

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove a private tree located in the rear yard of 207 Van Dusen Boulevard. The owner is requesting tree removal as they feel that the tree is in poor health and that tree roots are preventing the growth of other vegetation.

The subject tree is a white pine (*Pinus strobus*) measuring 61 cm in diameter. The tree is currently in 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 a private tree located at the rear of 207 Van Dusen Boulevard

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 207 Van Dusen Boulevard for a permit to remove a private white pine tree measuring 61 cm in diameter, located in the rear yard of the property. The owner is requesting tree removal due the tree's health and they feel that

tree roots are preventing growth of other vegetation. The Arborist Report submitted with the application states "while the tree is in fair condition, its roots are causing the local vegetation to die. There is some minor deadwood, about 10% but its presence could be a sign of more serious issues."

The tree was inspected by Urban Forestry staff. The tree is in good condition, structurally and botanically. The crown is full and well-balanced, with little maintenance required. There are no surface roots and no significant deadwood. Other than turf, there is little vegetation in close proximity of the tree. There is an accumulation of pine needles under the tree. Similar to leaves from deciduous trees, if pine needles are allowed to accumulate on turf, the turf may brown and over time could die. If the needles are raked and disposed of periodically, there should be few turf problems resulting from the tree.

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 comment by the community. No comments were received in response to the posting.

A permit to remove the tree was denied. The property owner is appealing the decision

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. The owner has proposed the planting of one (1) white oak (*Quercus alba*) tree as a replacement. However, in this instance, it is appropriate for the applicant to provide five (5) replacement trees, which can be achieved in a combination of planting on site and cash-in-lieu of planting.

Toronto's Official Plan policy 3.4.1 supports the preservation of trees, citing their many benefits:

- (1) To support strong communities, a competitive economy and a high quality of life, public and private city-building activities and changes to the built environment, including public works, will be environmentally friendly, based on:
 - (d) preserving and enhancing the urban forest by:
 - (i) providing suitable growing environments for trees;
 - (ii) increasing tree canopy coverage and diversity, especially of long-lived native and large shade trees; and
 - (iii) regulating the injury and destruction of trees.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rain water runoff thereby

reducing soil erosion and lowering storm water management costs. They also contribute to moderation of temperature extremes and reduction of the urban heat island effect by providing shade during the summer.

Trees provide many economic benefits, including the enhancement of property values. Homes with mature trees have higher value when compared to similar types of homes in similar locations without trees. Mature trees are associated with reduced home energy consumption. Air conditioning costs are lower in a home shaded by trees and heating costs are reduced when trees break the winter cooling effects of wind.

It is the goal of the City of Toronto to increase the city's tree canopy to 40 percent by 2050. The loss of the tree canopy in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, the Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), and the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now, than ever.

The white pine tree at 207 Van Dusen Boulevard is a significant and valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. With proper care and maintenance this tree has the potential to provide the property owner and the surrounding community with benefits for many more years. Urban Forestry, therefore, does not support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE



Jason Doyle
Director of Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 61 cm diameter white pine tree at the rear of 207 Van Dusen Boulevard
Attachment 2 – Turf under the 61 cm diameter white pine tree

61 cm diameter white pine tree at the rear of 207 Van Dusen Boulevard



Turf under the 61 cm diameter white pine tree at the rear of 207 Van Dusen Boulevard

