



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

102 Wimbleton Road – Application to Remove Three Private Trees

Date:	March 19, 2015
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 4 – Etobicoke-Centre
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\EY05-041415-AFS#20837

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove three (3) privately owned trees located at 102 Wimbleton Road. The owner is requesting permission to remove the trees to address an increased risk of personal injury and property damage due to the poor structures and location of the trees.

The subject trees are one (1) catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) measuring 120 cm in diameter and two (2) eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) measuring 44 cm and 45 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the removal of these trees as they are in a healthy and maintainable condition and are growing in appropriate locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove three (3) privately owned trees located at 102 Wimbleton Road.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications from the adoption of this report

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application to remove three (3) privately owned trees located at the rear of 102 Wimbledon Road. The subject trees are one (1) catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) measuring 120 cm in diameter and two (2) eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) measuring 44 cm and 45 cm in diameter. The arborist report that accompanied the application indicated the trees had poor structures and due to their locations were posing an increased risk of property damage or personal injury. The owner proposed the planting of three (3) replacement trees.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the trees in question and found them to be in healthy and maintainable condition and growing in appropriate locations.

The catalpa tree in particular is an excellent specimen that is very large for the species and is in good overall condition. This tree is approximately 15 m away from the existing dwelling. This tree could be pruned to reduce the spread of the canopy and reduce the weight on horizontal limbs by reducing foliage mass especially toward the ends of the largest and longest branches. Pruning would also remove small branches which had minor defects.

The two (2) eastern red cedar trees have grown to a size that is uncommon in the city. The trees are growing in close proximity to the dwelling, however they are not touching the structure. Urban Forestry staff did not observe any signs or symptoms typically associated with declining or failure prone trees. With minimum maintenance, such as the pruning of dead wood, these trees can be expected to live for many years.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a Notice of application to destroy trees was posted on the subject property for the minimum required 14 day period, in order to provide an opportunity for comment by the community. One (1) comment to oppose the removal of the trees was received.

A permit to remove the trees was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing this decision.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. They are aesthetically pleasing and soften the hard lines of built form and surfaces in an urban setting. Trees contribute to the overall character and quality of neighbourhoods. Studies suggest that social benefits such as crime reduction and neighbourhood cohesion can be directly attributed to the presence of trees.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rainwater 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. Trees are a community resource, which can make the city more attractive to investors, tourists and prospective residents, thus contributing to growth and prosperity.

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 applicant is proposing to plant three (3) replacement trees. However, in this instance it would be appropriate for the owner to provide nine (9) replacement trees, which can be achieved in a combination of planting on site and cash-in-lieu of planting.

It is the goal of the City of Toronto to increase the city's tree canopy to 40 percent by 2050. Impacts on 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 catalpa and two (2) eastern red cedar trees are a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance these trees have 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 these trees.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE



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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1 and 2 - Photographs of the catalpa tree located at 102 Wimbledon Road
Attachment 3 – Photograph of the eastern red cedar trees tree located at 102 Wimbledon Road

Catalpa tree located at 102 Wimbleton Road



Catalpa tree located at 102 Wimbleton Road



Eastern red cedar trees at 102 Wimbleton Road



Eastern red cedar trees at 102 Wimbleton Road

