



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

3 Dumbarton Road- Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	August 13, 2015
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 5 - Etobicoke Lakeshore
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\EY08-090815-AFS#21633

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at 3 Dumbarton Road. The application indicates the reason for removal is to address concerns that the tree is poorly located and has outgrown its environment.

The subject tree is a Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) measuring 45 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as it is healthy, maintainable and growing in an appropriate location.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at 3 Dumbarton Road.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from an agent of the property owner of 3 Dumbarton Road for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned Colorado spruce tree, measuring 45 cm in diameter, situated in the front yard of the property. The arborist report that accompanied the application indicates the reason for the requested tree removal is fear that the tree may fail. The report identifies that the tree is leaning over an adjacent house and driveway and that the roots of the tree are being impeded by an existing retaining wall making it prone to failure. The property owner has also expressed concerns that the tree is poorly located and has outgrown its environment.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and found it to be healthy and in good condition both structurally and botanically. The crown is full and well-balanced and no significant lean was observed at the time of inspection. The tree is situated on the front lawn with sufficient space available for the root growth. At the time of inspection Urban Forestry did not identify any defects that would indicate that the tree is likely to fail.

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.

The request for a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The property owner is appealing this 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 provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is proposing to plant three (3) replacement trees. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate to require the owner to provide five (5) replacement trees, which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting 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 mitigate 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, and the emerald ash borer, make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The Colorado spruce tree at 3 Dumbarton Road is a valuable part of the urban 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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – photograph of the 45 cm diameter Colorado spruce tree looking north
Attachment 2 – photograph of the 45 cm diameter Colorado spruce tree looking east

Attachment 1



Attachment 2

