



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 24 Monkton Avenue - Application to Remove Private Trees

<b>Date:</b>	August 13, 2015
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 5 - Etobicoke Lakeshore
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\EY08-090815-AFS#21632

### SUMMARY

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This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove two (2) privately owned trees located in the rear yard of 24 Monkton Avenue. The owner is requesting tree removal to address concerns that the trees have outgrown their current environment and have the potential to fail and cause damage to people and property.

The subject trees are two (2) white spruce (*Picea glauca*) trees measuring 36 cm and 41 cm in diameter. The trees are healthy and in good condition both structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of these trees.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove the two (2) private trees located at the rear of 24 Monkton Avenue.

### 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 24 Monkton Avenue for a permit to remove two (2) privately owned white spruce trees measuring 36 cm and 41 cm in diameter, located in the rear yard of the property. The owner is requesting tree removal to address concerns over the location of the trees and the potential for tree failure resulting in damage to the adjacent house. The arborist report submitted with the application states "These trees are located adjacent to the backyard patio and in close proximity of the house. The owner would like to remove the trees as they have outgrown their current environment and to avoid potential for failure and damaging the house. If these trees should fail at the roots, the impact would be destructive."

Urban Forestry staff inspected the trees in question and found them to be healthy and structurally sound. The trees are exhibiting minor leans and have elevated crowns, however neither of these attributes impact the health or structural integrity of the trees. Both trees are located approximately 3.5 m from the dwelling. The location of the trees is considered appropriate. At the time of the inspection, Urban Forestry staff did not identify any signs or symptoms that would indicate these trees are prone to failure.

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.

A permit to remove the trees was denied by Urban Forestry. The 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 six (6) replacement trees. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate to require the owner to provide ten (10) replacement trees, in a combination of planting on site and cash-in-lieu of tree 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 Long-Horned Beetle, and the Emerald Ash Borer, make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The white spruce trees at 24 Monkton Avenue are a valuable part of the urban forest that exists within this area. 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**

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Jason Doyle  
Director of Urban Forestry

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the 36 cm and 41 cm diameter white spruce trees  
Attachment 2 – Photograph of the stems of the 36 cm and 41 cm diameter white spruce trees





## Attachment 2

