



April 14, 2015

**To the City of Toronto Parks and Environment Committee, Meeting #3, April 15, 2015  
RE: Red Oak tree at 76 Coral Gables Drive, North York (York West Ward 7)**

Dear Committee Members,

It has come to the attention of Cabbagetown ReLeaf, Forests Ontario and the Ontario Urban Forest Council that the significant Red Oak at 76 Coral Gables Drive, is at risk, as the past property owners interested in protecting this tree have sold the property. Currently, the property is on the market as an active listing.

This tree is designated as a Heritage Tree under Forests Ontario's Heritage Tree program. Heritage Trees are recognized for their historical, cultural, biological, ecological and aesthetic values. Often, these trees are hundreds of years old and are truly 'biological monuments' which have demonstrated their resiliency over decades. Because of this, Heritage Trees are often recognized as reliable seed sources, able to pass along their genes well into the future.

The Red Oak at 76 Coral Gables Drive is a tree of incredible significance; at close to 300 years old, it is the largest and oldest Red Oak in Toronto and quite possibly in Ontario. This particular tree stands as a tribute to Canada's history and having survived the harshest of conditions, has demonstrated genetic superiority, a quality worthy of recognition given our changing climate.

For these reasons, we fully support the city in protecting this tree from any potential damage with whatever means at its disposal including the purchase of said property. The above organizations support the City of Toronto's proposal to obtain the property in order to prevent any action by private owners to harm, or make application for injury or removal of this significant and historical tree. If property purchase by the City is unsuccessful, the above organizations support any regulatory or multi-tier government approach to protect this Heritage Tree.

It is our hope that the City of Toronto and the property owners will seek to resolve this issue to the benefit of the community so that future generations will receive the innumerable benefits of this tree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Grant".

David Grant  
Founder and Director  
Cabbagetown ReLeaf  
[cabbagetownreleaf.org](http://cabbagetownreleaf.org)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Keen".

Rob Keen, RPF  
CEO  
Forests Ontario  
[forestsontario.ca](http://forestsontario.ca)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Wynnyczuk".

Peter Wynnyczuk  
Executive Director  
Ontario Urban Forest Council  
[oufc.org](http://oufc.org)