



Sept 24th, 2015

Ms. Marilyn Toft, Manager
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Re: Motion MM 9.1 Request to Protect 250 year old Red Oak Tree at 76 Coral Gable Drive

Dear Mayor John Tory & Members of Council:

ACER supports motion MM9.1. We are concerned with the need to protect a 250 year old Red Oak tree, potentially the oldest and largest Red Oak in the City. The stewardship and protection of our natural environment consisting of Toronto's ravines, open spaces, parks, and trees in a built up urban environment are not localized issues, but are city wide.

This particular tree has already been recognized and celebrated as a Heritage Tree under Forests Ontario's Heritage Tree program as a living monument worthy of preservation for current and future generations. As a 27-year old charity, ACER has trained an army of volunteer citizen scientists who measure trees and share collected data with a wide variety of partners. Thousands of trees in forests, in schoolyards and in riparian zone plantings have been inventoried using Environment Canada and Smithsonian Institution protocols.

Our website, www.acer-acre.ca, includes trails with selected QR coded trees so the public using the trails may learn about each species of tree, including the diameter, GPS location and carbon sequestered. We have included the carbon stored in this tree according to our calculations and posted the entire article about the Red Oak Heritage Tree at 76 Coral Gable Drive, Toronto – a part of Toronto's living history. ACER's notes on this heritage tree read:

"This Red Oak stands at about 75 feet and its circumference is 16.4 feet (diameter 159 cm). In 2006, the biomass of this tree was about 23 metric tons. Since carbon makes up 50% of the Red Oak tree dry biomass, **this heritage tree held 11.5 tons of carbon stored above ground.** If burned, 42 tons of carbon dioxide (factor of 3.7 times carbon stored) would have been released to the atmosphere in 2006."

Recommendations for the City Council of Toronto are that:

1. City Council direct staff to initiate acquisition of the property.
 Council initiate the process to protect this site as a cultural and natural heritage site as recognized in the Heritage Act under Cultural Heritage Landscapes and be designated as such with the City Clerk.
2. City Council direct staff on providing increased levels of protection for significant trees.

ACER further recommends that:

- a) Since this tree is a propagator, its seedlings should be used to provide native Red Oaks for Toronto.
- b) An inventory of trees in public lands and 10% of new plantings with status and growth should be taken with the help of trained citizen scientists to determine the health of our canopy, which trees should be replaced and, which species should be planted with respect to our changing climate.

Thank you for considering these recommendations and ACER's request.
 Alice Casselman, Founding President