



MM10.1.35

invest
from the
ground up

October 9, 2015

Ms. Marilyn Toff, Manager
Council Secretarial Support
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

RE: Motion MM9.1 Request to Protect 250 year old Red Oak Tree at 76 Coral Gable Drive - Toronto City Council Meeting - November 3 and 4, 2015

Dear Mayor John Tory and Members of Council:

Through the wonders of social media, an international network of urban forestry professionals share stories, accomplishments, research, issues and opportunities. Because of this mechanism we learned about the Edith George Heritage Trees and the unique opportunity the City of Toronto is in now to elevate this iconic symbol of strength, longevity and contribution to a place of civic pride and educational relevance well into the future.

I don't normally write letters to cities not in my sphere of influence, but your story is a special one with an outcome that can elevate this 250 year old red oak tree to a status not unlike trees in other cities (the Ground Zero Survivor Tree in NYC) that the population rallies around, values, and sees the symbolism that allows for the unity of a community to grow. This is similar in fashion to heritage buildings, battlefields, holidays, and other historic community emblems. Toronto has the opportunity to lift this tree and its history to a place such as that; allowing for celebrations and a community belonging to something larger than itself.

As an outsider, I am enthusiastic that the leaders of your great City will continue to invest in the future while respecting the icons of the past and the vast contributions they bring to a healthy, thriving city. This oak deserves such an honor.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy J. Hughes".

Nancy J Hughes
Executive Director
California Urban Forests Council