



October 26, 2015

Sent by email:

Ms. Marilyn Toft, Manager Council Secretariat Support
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Mayor John Tory and Members of Council;

Subject: Red oak tree at 76 Coral Gables Drive, Toronto. Motion MM9.1.

I first inspected the tree on October 8, 2008 in the presence of Edith George and the owner of the property, Arlene Doane. I was impressed by its large size and near perfect form, an ideal tree by most standards. Arlene described how her father cared for the tree over the years, the reason it survived living with people so close by.

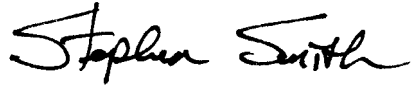
The tree easily meets the criteria of a Heritage Tree, and has been well described by others. Its age and size are a testament to its fitness to survive over the long term, an excellent specimen to propagate for future reforestation projects in the City. In the years since first visiting the tree I have attempted to get seeds to use to propagate new oaks to continue the legacy of the tree.

It is my top priority red oak for seed collection for our planting programs with kids from Toronto schools.

I am requesting that Toronto City Council:

1. Secure the protection of this significant Red Oak Tree, including directing staff to initiate the acquisition of the property, and,
2. 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 by the City Clerk.

It is very important that we maintain heritage trees like this one. They have survived the changes in land use and climate for their lifetimes, and represent a link back to the original forests that covered this part of Ontario before the land was cleared and settled. Once lost, these genetic resources cannot be re-created.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Smith
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