



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

9th October 2015

**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**

Mayor John Tory and Members of Council:

In England, we are not yet fortunate enough to have proper protection for our trees of heritage and cultural value – Green Monuments. We have looked to the example set by other nations and our campaign has been gathering significant support. It is with great surprise, therefore, that we learn that Toronto, a city that we have regarded as ahead of us in this matter, has yet to take adequate steps to safeguard a tree which boasts age, girth, spread and significant historic connections: the Red Oak Tree on Coral Gable Drive. It is through trees such as this that the story of a nation can be traced, which makes it the more worrying that there has not been even one tree designated heritage since the amalgamation of the City of Toronto in 1999.

In 2002, The Tree Council designated 50 Great British Trees in recognition of the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; photographic and historic records were then published in a book of that name. The trees were selected from many nominations, received from all parts of the United Kingdom. Both Her Majesty and her heir, HRH The Prince Of Wales, were kind enough to recognise the importance of those trees in responding to our initiative but yet we have not been able to secure the future of these trees, some of which have since been lost to us for ever. We entreat you to value the powers that you already have and to exercise them in respect of this tree, a Green Monument that has stood the test of time and under whose branches, history has been made.

The Tree Council hopes to see Toronto remain in the vanguard of enlightenment and would like to join with other supplicants in strongly petitioning for the following actions to be approved:

1. Council secure the protection of this significant Red Oak Tree, including the direction of 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 as such with the City Clerk.

Pauline Buchanan Black
Director-General, The Tree Council (UK)