

We've moved!

October 16, 2015

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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:

This letter is written to support the Motion MM9.1 request put forth to protect the 250-year old red oak tree within your municipality.

Tree Pittsburgh is dedicated to protecting and restoring Pittsburgh's urban forest through community tree planting and care, education, and advocacy. As the lead non-profit organization conducting urban forestry and planning work throughout the City of Pittsburgh, Tree Pittsburgh works to educate and advocate for protecting the current urban forest. We recognize the value that large, mature trees provide and we also understand how difficult it is to find heritage trees like this in an urban setting today. Studies show that large mature trees—when compared to recently planted trees—provide up to 70 times the ecological benefits. These benefits include air quality improvements, stormwater management, energy reductions, and more. This tree is an important asset for the City of Toronto, playing a key role in your urban forest's benefits, both aesthetically and ecologically.

Every day we witness poor tree maintenance and stressors of city life that threaten our trees, but many people ignore these factors and assume any tree is replaceable. However, when you consider aspects such as soil compaction and utility obstacles, replacing urban trees is far more difficult than it appears. If a tree this size is removed in an urban setting, it is unlikely that a replacement would grow to a similar size or age. With these things in mind, we strongly recommend the council take action to protect this icon of Toronto's natural heritage. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Danielle Crumrine
Executive Director