



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

147 Duncanwoods Drive – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	December 4, 2015
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 7 – York West
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\EY11-011916-AFS#22308

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 147 Duncanwoods Drive. The owner is requesting removal to address concerns that dripping sap is causing property damage and that fallen needles are clogging eaves troughs. Tree health and maintenance costs have also been identified as concerns.

The subject tree is an Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*) measuring 51 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 147 Duncanwoods Drive.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located in the front yard of 147 Duncanwoods Drive. The subject tree is an Austrian pine measuring 51 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address concerns that dripping sap is causing property damage and that fallen needles are clogging eaves troughs. Tree health and cost of maintenance have also been identified as concerns.

The arborist report that accompanied the application noted the tree is exhibiting signs of reduced vigour due to the presence of branch stubs, included bark and needle loss. The report went on to identify that the tree is in conflict with hydro lines and a drainage swale.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is healthy, maintainable and growing in an appropriate location. No evidence was provided or observed on site that would suggest the root system is restricted in any way or that the tree is impeding proper drainage on the property.

All trees naturally drop leaves, needles, sap, seeds or nuts. The Private Tree By-law does not support tree removal to address the nuisance resulting from a tree's natural functions. Concerns expressed by the applicant regarding dripping sap and falling needles can be addressed through routine property maintenance to remove sap or clear needles.

Any conflicts with hydro lines can be addressed through pruning. Although the tree has been improperly pruned in the past, this is not detrimental to the health of the tree and can be remedied through corrective pruning in accordance with good arboricultural standards.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a Notice of application to destroy the tree was posted on the subject property for the minimum required 14 day period, in order to provide an opportunity for comment by the community. No comments were received in response to the posting.

A permit to remove this tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing this decision.

Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, in accordance with *Section 813-20, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, permit approval must be conditional upon the owner providing satisfactory replacement planting. The owner is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree. However, in this instance it would be appropriate for the owner to provide five (5) replacement trees, which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. They are aesthetically pleasing and soften the hard lines of built form and surfaces in an urban setting. Trees contribute to the overall character and quality of neighbourhoods. Studies suggest that social benefits such as crime reduction and neighbourhood cohesion can be directly attributed to the presence of trees.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rainwater runoff thereby reducing soil erosion and lowering storm water management costs. They also contribute to moderation of temperature extremes and reduction of the urban heat island effect by providing shade during the summer.

Trees provide many economic benefits, including the enhancement of property values. Homes with mature trees have higher value when compared to similar types of homes in similar locations without trees. Mature trees are associated with reduced home energy consumption. Air conditioning costs are lower in a home shaded by trees and heating costs are reduced when trees mitigate the winter cooling effects of wind in winter. Trees are a community resource, which can make the city more attractive to investors, tourists and prospective residents, thus contributing to growth and prosperity.

It is the goal of the City of Toronto to increase the city's existing tree canopy to 40 percent. The loss of the tree canopy in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, the Asian longhorned beetle, and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all possible healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

This Austrian pine tree at 147 Duncanwoods Drive is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance this tree has the potential to provide the property owner and the surrounding community with benefits for many more years. Urban Forestry, therefore, does not support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

Max Dida, Supervisor, Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry
Tel: 416-394-8551, Fax: 416-338-6596, Email:mdida@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the 51 cm diameter Austrian pine tree
Attachment 2 – Arborist Report, prepared by Al Miley & Associates, dated June 22, 2015



Al Miley & Associates

EXPERT TREE CARE SOLUTIONS

203 Toryork Dr. • Toronto, Ontario M9L 1Y2 • almileytrees@bellnet.ca
Tel: (416) 749-3723 • Fax: (416) 749-7158 • Toll Free: 1-888-949-3723

ARBORIST REPORT

June 22, 2015

Municipal Address: 147 Duncanwoods Drive M9L 2E2 (Ward 7, York- West)

Re: *Permit to injure or destroy trees under Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Article III, Private Tree By-law*

SPECIES: Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*) 51cm dbh.

LOCATION: Austrian Pine is located in the front yard straddling the P/L of 145/147, approximately 1m W. of Porch.

NATURE OF WORK: Request permission to remove the 51cm dbh Austrian Pine.


CONDITION The Austrian Pine appears to be affected from some underground root restrictions. There is presence of stubs/deadwood and interfering growth. On trunk, bark seams and included bark forming above root restriction. Some needle loss in canopy.

REASONS FOR REMOVAL: This Austrian Pine is exhibiting signs of reduced vigour, and the trunk/roots are located in the drainage swale/downspout area of the roof, impeding flow to the street, conflict with both spun hydro services to both houses. The branches are low enough that with snow/ice load could impede pedestrian traffic on sidewalk. The tree is no longer viable to maintain, in the location.

ARBORIST RECOMMENDATION: The tree is recommended for removal based on the above rational.

TREE REPLACEMENT: As required under the provisions of the Private Tree By-Law, the Owner will be planting one (1) 50mm caliper Ginkgo Biloba in the front yard area, approximate location shown on the attached Tree Sketch 1, in the Spring/Summer of 2016.

Prepared By;



Peter Wynnyczuk

Hazard Risk Assessor CTRA # 727, ISA, Utility Arborist #400113535 under MTCU

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Picture 1. From south, canopy overview and setting, note wires and tree proximity to sidewalk + house.



Picture 2. From north west, overview of lower canopy, note wire on left and hydro mast to #145 on right. Downspout at base of tree trunk in what is supposed to be a swale.

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Picture 3. From south, lower canopy, proximity to the sidewalk and communication wires.



Picture 4. From south west, stubs and deadwood.

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Picture 5. From north at #147, root restrictions and trunk/roots impeding swale between properties.

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Picture 6.

From north west, stem girdling roots and surface roots, bark seam.



Tree Sketch 1. Showing Austrian Pine approximate location and replacement tree proposed location.

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