



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

19 Feltham Avenue – 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 11 – York South-Weston
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\EY11-011916-AFS#22312

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located in the side yard of 19 Feltham Avenue. The application indicates the reasons for removal are to address concerns that the tree is causing property damage from dripping sap and eaves troughs are being clogged by dropping needles and cones. Concern over the presence of carpenter ants has also been raised.

The subject tree is a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) measuring 65 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 19 Feltham Avenue.

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 easterly side yard at 19 Feltham Avenue. The subject tree is a Norway spruce measuring 65 cm in diameter. The request to remove the tree has been made to address concerns over damage caused by dripping sap and clogged eaves troughs from dropping

needles and cones. Concern over the presence of carpenter ants has also been raised. The arborist report that accompanies the application stated the tree is at an advanced age, showing signs of stress, has outgrown its habitat, and is infested with carpenter ants.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is healthy and maintainable. The crown has been raised slightly and improper pruning cuts and *cytospora* canker were observed; however, these are not considered to be detrimentally affecting the health of the tree at this time. No signs of significant decay or structural defects were observed that would indicate an increased risk of failure.

All trees drop leaves, needles, nuts, fruit or other debris. Concerns expressed by the applicant regarding falling needles and sap can be addressed through routine property maintenance to remove sap or clear needles and cones from nearby eaves troughs.

At the time of inspecting the tree, Urban Forestry staff did not observe any carpenter ants or signs of carpenter ant activity (e.g. frass) around the subject tree. Carpenter ants do not cause decay in trees, rather existing decayed or rotting wood is utilized for nesting. Carpenter ants observed near trees may be scavenging for food (e.g. insects or honeydew) rather than using the tree for nesting so their presence is not necessarily indicative of decay within a tree.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a notice of application sign 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 the 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 provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant 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 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 tree canopy to 40 percent. Impacts on 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 healthy trees more necessary now, than ever.

The Norway spruce tree at 19 Feltham Avenue 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

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SIGNATURE

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the 65cm diameter Norway spruce tree in the side yard of 19 Feltham Avenue
Attachment 2 – Arborist Report, prepared by Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada Ltd., dated August 31, 2015





DAVEY TREE EXPERT CO. OF CANADA LIMITED
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Prepared By:

John Cazzin

Arborist

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Arborist Report & Tree Planting Plan for 19 Feltham Ave.

Purpose of Report: To Supply the City of Toronto with information for a removal application for a Norway Spruce tree, 65.5cm DBH to grade level

Date Prepared: August 31st, 2015

Prepared By: John Cazzin, Arborist, Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada Ltd., 10 Jethro Road, Downsview, ON M3L 1G9, 416-241-7191, John.Cazzin@Davey.com

Tree Location: On side of house adjacent to neighbor's property line on the south side

Tree Species: Norway Spruce

Tree Diameter: 65.5cm diameter at breast height

Tree Condition and Comments: The tree is at an advanced age and has outgrown its habitat. It is showing signs of stress as it is secreting significant amounts of sap throughout its main leader as well as its cones and is infested with carpenter ants.

Replacement Tree Planting: The homeowner would like to plant two 50mm Autumn Blaze Maples at the front Northeast and Northwest corners of the house

Regards,

John Cazzin

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Trees Inventory & Re-Planting Plan for 19 Feltham Avenue

Tree #	Species	DBH	Condition	Remove (Y/N)
1	Norway Spruce	65.5 cm	Fair	Y
2	Autumn Blaze Maple	50 mm		N
3	Autumn Blaze Maple	50 mm		N

