



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 9 Sunnydale Drive - Application to Remove a Private Tree

<b>Date:</b>	March 10, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 5 - Etobicoke Centre
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\EY13-040516-AFS#22623

#### SUMMARY

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This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 9 Sunnydale Drive. The application indicates the reason for removal is to address the concern that the tree is too large for the property and that it is losing branches at an alarming rate.

The subject tree is a honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) measuring 44 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as the tree is currently in good condition both structurally and botanically.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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**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 9 Sunnydale Drive.

#### Financial Impact

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

## COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application for a permit to remove one privately-owned tree located in the rear yard of the property at 9 Sunnydale Drive. The subject tree is a honey locust measuring 44 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address concerns that the tree is too large for the property, that the tree's canopy is covering the entire yard and that the tree is losing branches at an alarming rate.

The arborist report submitted with the application states "This tree appears to be in good health with no major structural defects to report. There are some dead branches present throughout the underside of its canopy; however, this is not concerning as it is typical for branches no longer exposed to sunlight to die off. The medium sized cavity on its main stem appears to be in the early stages of closing over, long term this area may hollow out but as of now it is structurally sound."

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is in good condition both structurally and botanically. The tree is located in the middle of the rear yard and it has a healthy, full and well-balanced crown that is proportional to the size of the tree's diameter. There is no evidence that the tree is losing branches at an accelerated rate. The tree's crown can be pruned in order to allow more space in the rear yard.

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 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 property 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*, approval must be conditional upon the owner providing satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the owner is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the applicant to provide five (5) replacement trees, which can be achieved in a combination of planting on site 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 rain water 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 %. The loss of the tree canopy in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, as well as the presence of the Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The honey locust tree at 9 Sunnydale Drive is a significant and valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. 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: 416 394-8935, Email: [mdida@toronto.ca](mailto:mdida@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Doyle  
Director, Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Crown of the honey locust tree situated at the rear of 9 Sunnydale Drive  
Attachment 2 – Stem of the honey locust tree situated at the rear of 9 Sunnydale Drive  
Attachment 3 – Arborist report included with application for permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree





July 8 2015

**City of Toronto**  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
Urban Forestry Services Section  
Etobicoke Civic Centre  
399 The West Mall, Main Floor - North Block  
Toronto, Ontario M9C 2Y2



**Attention: Supervisor- Tree Protection and Plan Review**

**Subject: 9 Sunnydale Drive, Toronto ON, M8Y2J2 - Arborist Letter Report**

Further to instructions from my client, [REDACTED] and as per requirements of the City of Toronto's Private Tree By-law, I have completed an inspection of the existing tree at the above-noted municipal address, relative to the removal of one Honey locust.

The Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) which is located in the rear yard measures 44 cm DBH. This tree appears to be in good health with no major structural defects to report. There are some dead branches present throughout the underside of its canopy, however this is not concerning as it is typical for branches not longer exposed to sunlight to die off. The medium sized cavity on its main stem appears to be in the early stages of closing over, long term this area may hollow out but as of now it is structurally sound.

The client has been informed that Urban Forestry Services will review the application on its merits and may or may not approve the application and that as a condition of a permit being issued to destroy a protected private tree, the city will require a replacement tree or tree's to be planted. The city determines the replacement tree planting obligation on a case by case basis.

If after reviewing this letter and the attached application, you have any questions or require further information, please contact me personally at 416-252-8769.

Sincerely,

**BRUCE TREE EXPERT COMPANY LTD.**  
Chris Timperon, ISA Certified Arborist ON1344A



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