



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Application to Remove a Private Tree - 46 Daniels Street

Date:	August 15, 2016
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 5 – Etobicoke-Lakeshore
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\EY16-090716-AFS#23401

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 46 Daniels Street. The application indicates the reason for removal is to address concerns over the condition of the tree and the potential for damage to people and property.

The subject tree is a sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), measuring 74 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 46 Daniels Street.

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 rear yard at 46 Daniels Street. The subject tree is a sugar maple, measuring 74 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address concerns over the

condition of the tree and the potential risk to people and property. The property owner has verbally expressed concerns to Urban Forestry staff regarding cleaning up falling maple keys and leaves. The arborist report that accompanied the application assessed the condition of the tree as "*fair-poor*". It indicates that the tree has poor form, girdling roots, and sapsucker damage to its trunk. Further, it states that the tree has suffered significant storm damage to its crown including a large branch that snapped off, and that branches are falling more regularly, some of which overhang the sidewalk.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is healthy and maintainable. The tree is structurally sound and does not present an imminent risk of failure. Sapsucker damage was not observed. Girdling roots exist but are small, with no apparent effect on health of the tree at this time. No broken or hanging limbs were observed during the inspection. Several stubs resulting from poor pruning cuts performed in the past were noted throughout the crown.

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 has proposed to plant one (1) replacement tree with species and location provided. 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 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 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. The loss of trees in the City due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, compounded with recent additional tree loss due to 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 sugar maple tree at 46 Daniels Street 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 sugar maple tree at 46 Daniels Street, view from street
- Attachment 2 – Photograph of the sugar maple tree at 46 Daniels Street, view from back yard
- Attachment 3 – Arborist Report for 46 Daniels Street, prepared by The Tree Doctors Inc., dated April 2, 2016.







Arborist Report for 46 Daniels Street.

Prepared on behalf of the resident and Tree Doctors, Inc

On April 2nd, 2016.

By Serg V. Litvinov, B.Sc, ASCA Registration #3671 (Renewed for 2016)

Section 1: Introduction

This report will assess the condition of the Sugar Maple in the back yard of 46 Daniels Street in ward 5. My recommendation, taking into account tree condition, location, environmental factors, and the desires of the property owner, is removal of the tree.

Section 2: Methods

The most recent on-site inspection was made in the week of April 2nd, 2016. Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) was undertaken on the tree in the back. This method of tree evaluation is adapted from Matheny and Clark, 1994 and is recognized by The International Society of Arboriculture and the American Society of Consulting Arborists. The diameter at breast height (DBH) was measured by a tape at 1.4m above ground level. Several close-up and wide angle pictures were taken and are displayed in section 3. Higher resolution pictures can be obtained by emailing info@arboristreporter.ca

Limitations of methodology:

- The inspection was conducted at surface level. Certain tree health indicators which manifest in the upper crown and at the sub-surface level are not identifiable from this vantage point.

Section 3: Data

Tree Number (ID)	Species	Stems (Alive)	DBH (cm)	Condition	Ownership	Condition Rating
1	Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	Single	78	Girdling roots. Large diameter stem snapped last year in storm owner had it removed. Poor form. Branches falling more regularly. Branches overhanging sidewalk. Minor amount of small diameter deadwood. Sapsucker damage to trunk.	1	Fair-poor



Section 4: Conclusion

It is my recommendation that the Sugar Maple at back be removed in order to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents. The tree has poor form and has suffered significant crown damage from the storms. Between the general fair-poor condition of the tree and the location of the deadwood and remaining branches over the sidewalk the tree is recommended for removal. This recommendation is in accordance with the wishes of the property owner, who desires the tree's removal.

The tree in question does not qualify for an exemption from the standard tree removal permit requirements, necessitating an *Application to Injure or Destroy Trees*. A fee of \$104.96 per tree is to be paid to the city via a certified cheque or by credit card if applied in-person.

The owners will be obligated to plant at least one replacement tree (60mm+ caliper, nursery grown stock) per existing tree removed in accordance with City guidelines.

Serg V. Litvinov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serg V. Litvinov".

Addendum 1: Tentative Replanting Plan for 46 Daniels Street

Following the removal of the Sugar Maple (present location marked in green on the diagram below), replacement tree will be planted in the back yard of 46 Daniels Street (planned location marked in blue X on the diagram).



As per the City guidelines, the tree must be over 60 millimeters in diameter. A black maple would be well suited to the available terrain as a replacement. The species would allow the trees to contribute to the long term environmental well-being and aesthetics of the neighborhood. Planting will take place the following planting season (Spring/Fall) by a team of professionals.

Serg V. Litvinov

Pictures:

Picture 1: The Sugar Maple, standing in the back of the property.

