



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 28 Chryessa Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

<b>Date:</b>	October 25, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 11 – York South-Weston
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\EY18-111516-AFS#23733

#### 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 28 Chryessa Avenue. The application indicates the reason for removal is to address concerns that the tree is hazardous, too large for the space, and has a lean.

The subject tree is a multi-stem silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) measuring 225 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

#### 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 28 Chryessa 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 backyard at 28 Chryessa Avenue. The subject tree is a multi-stem silver maple measuring 225 cm in diameter. The tree divides into three main stems at a point just

above grade. The request to remove this tree has been made to address concerns that the tree is hazardous, too big for the space and has a lean.

The arborist report that accompanied the application assesses the condition of the tree as having a healthy canopy, with roots and leaves in normal condition. It states that the tree has begun to outgrow its location due to the extreme size of the trunks and limbs. The arborist report also notes that both the decay at the main union and the lean have contributed to the tree becoming a hazard. The report also mentions that the canopy is extremely overgrown and that it extends over several residential properties.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is healthy and maintainable. Urban Forestry staff did not observe signs of decay in the union of the three main stems. Some decay is present in the tree but appears to be compartmentalized in an area where a limb was previously removed. No decay was observed in any of the live limbs. Evidence of past pruning was observed including excessive removal of interior branches in some areas. However, approximately 70 per cent of the live crown remains. Some deadwood was noted as being present. Removal of deadwood can be addressed through pruning in accordance with good arboricultural practices and the performance of routine tree maintenance. Doing so will also reduce the likelihood of future limb failure.

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. One comment in support of the tree removal was received from the resident of the adjacent property 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 property owner is proposing a cash-in-lieu payment of \$583.00. 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. Trees 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 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. Trees 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 per cent. The loss of trees in the City due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, compounded with 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 silver maple tree at 28 Chryessa 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**

Max Dida, Supervisor, Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry  
Tel: 416-394-8551, Fax: 416-394-5406, 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 – Photograph of the silver maple tree in the backyard of 28 Chryessa Avenue. (Photo dated July 11, 2016)
- Attachment 2 – Photograph of the silver maple tree at 28 Chryessa Avenue, showing main union. (Photo dated July 11, 2016)
- Attachment 3 – Arborist report









Karmatree Inc. 39 Arcadain Circle, Toronto, On, M8W 2Z3, [www.karmatree.ca](http://www.karmatree.ca) 647.346.6712

## **Arborist Report**

**Re: 32 Chryessa Avenue (Ward 11)**

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June 08,, 2016

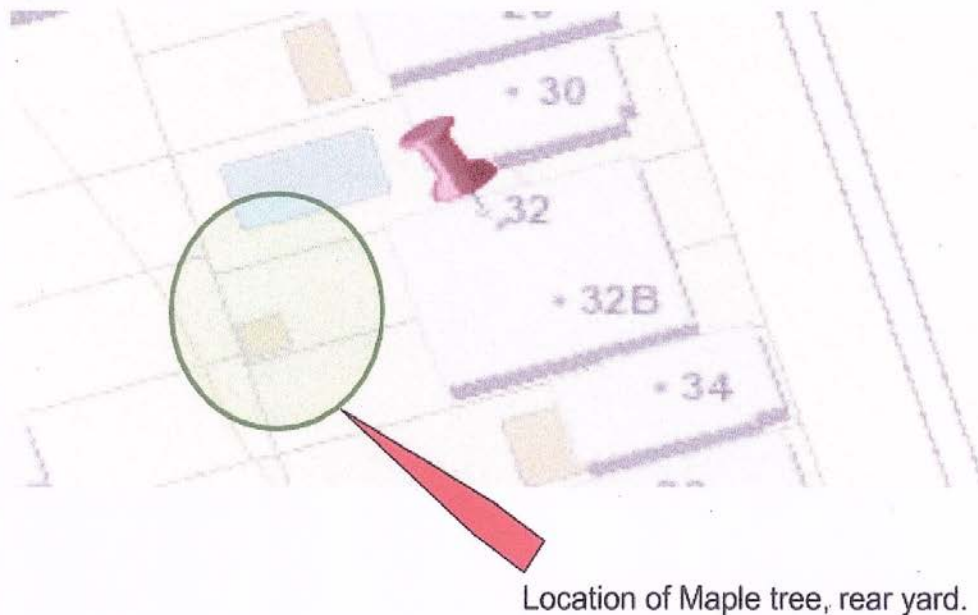
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### Description of Tree

Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*), 225 cm DBH. The roots appear to be in normal condition. There are three main trunks, the DBH measurement was taken at breast height, each stem diameter was not independently measured. There is a pocket of decay at the main union, easily visible during an on ground inspection. The trunks are extreme in size. The canopy appears to have received little trimming over the years and is extremely overgrown, the tree extends over several residential properties. The tree has outgrown its usefulness and each of the main trunks has significant lean. This tree is at an increased risk of failure and could cause extreme damage in the event of failure. The canopy does appear to be healthy, the leaves are in normal condition.

### Tree location



The tree is located in the middle of the back yard.

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**Reason for Removal**

The tree has begun to outgrow its location. Due to the extreme size of the the trunks and limbs, with the aggravating factor of the decay at the main crotch, and lean the tree has become a hazard.

**Arborist Recommendation/Tree Replacement**

The owners would prefer to pay cash in lieu of replanting in the amount of \$583.00. This can be made payable to the Treasurer of City of Toronto.



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**Site photos**



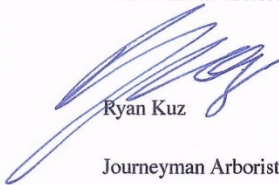








Should you have any questions regarding the information included in this report please contact me at 416.839.6712 or email [ryan@karmatree.ca](mailto:ryan@karmatree.ca).



Ryan Kuz

Journeyman Arborist Certified by Province of Ontario