



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 64 Berkindale Drive – Application to Remove a Private Tree

<b>Date:</b>	March 14, 2016
<b>To:</b>	North York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 25 – Don Valley West
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\Ny13-040516-AFS#22627

#### SUMMARY

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This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 64 Berkindale Drive. The owner is requesting removal to facilitate the installation of a proposed circular driveway.

The subject tree is a honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) measuring 66 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of the subject 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 64 Berkindale 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 at 64 Berkindale Drive. The subject tree is a honey locust measuring 66 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to facilitate the installation of a proposed circular driveway. The proposed driveway is part of a larger redevelopment of the property.

The arborist report that was submitted with the application states that "The crown is vigorous, well developed in good shape with little deadwood. This tree is in good condition."

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined it is healthy both botanically and structurally. The subject tree is growing within a sodded area fronting the property, set back from both existing and proposed structures. At the time of inspection Urban Forestry did not identify any defects that would indicate the tree is likely to fail.

An existing driveway measuring 5.4 m in width, located adjacent to the east property line, currently provides vehicular access to the property. Following construction of the new dwelling, this driveway could continue to provide access. Given the amount of space required to install a circular driveway, retaining the subject tree is not possible. The tree would not withstand the proposed injury and continue to survive well.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a Notice of application 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 applicant 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 three (3) replacement trees. 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 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 64 Berkindale 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**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Doyle  
Director, Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the honey locust tree in the front yard of 64 Berkindale Drive  
Attachment 2 - Site plan showing proposed driveway