



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Application to Remove a Private Tree - 1 Tottenham Road

Date:	August 11, 2016
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 25 – Don Valley West
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\NY16-090716-AFS#23394

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 1 Tottenham Road. The application indicates the reason for removal is to accommodate construction of a rear yard patio.

The subject tree is a Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), measuring 60 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the 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 1 Tottenham Road.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application requesting removal of one (1) privately-owned tree situated in the rear yard of 1 Tottenham Road. The subject tree is a Scots pine measuring 60 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to

accommodate construction of a rear yard patio. The arborist report which accompanied the application describes the tree to be in good condition.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is healthy and maintainable.

In 2013, in association with construction of a new dwelling, Urban Forestry issued permits authorizing the removal of two (2) Scots pine trees and one (1) Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) tree located at 1 Tottenham Road. As a condition of permit issuance, nine (9) trees are required to be replanted on the site. The proposed planting of these trees impedes any additional tree planting on site. The subject tree has been fully protected during the course of construction.

Urban Forestry requested revisions to the proposed patio layout in order to preserve the subject tree. Currently wooden steps connect the home to rear yard. Reducing the size of the patio, or constructing a patio that incorporates the tree, combined with use of permeable materials, would allow a patio to be constructed and the tree to be retained. The owner declined to make changes to the proposed plans.

A permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing this decision.

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.

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 pay cash-in-lieu of planting for three (3) replacement trees. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the applicant to provide five (5) replacement trees to be paid as 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 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 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 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 Scots pine tree at 1 Tottenham Road 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 privately owned Scots pine, measuring 60 cm in diameter looking north