



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 60 Robertsfield Crescent – Application to Remove a Private Tree

<b>Date:</b>	March 15, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Scarborough Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Ward:</b>	Ward 37 – Scarborough Centre
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\SC13-040516-AFS#22628

### 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 60 Robertsfield Crescent. The application indicates the reason for removal is that the owner finds the tree to be a nuisance due to the dropping of sap and needles onto their vehicle.

The subject tree is a Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens* var. *glauca*), measuring 46 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the 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 60 Robertsfield Crescent.

### Financial Impact

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

### COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application from an agent of the property owner for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at the front of the property at 60

Robertsfield Crescent. The subject tree is a Colorado blue spruce measuring 46 cm in diameter. The arborist report that accompanied the application states that the tree is in good condition, but the homeowner finds the tree to be a nuisance due to the dropping of sap and needles onto their vehicle and would, therefore, like to remove it. Additionally, the arborist commented that the tree is reaching its maximum size for the location and that there is another healthy Colorado blue spruce tree on the property.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is healthy and structurally sound. The tree was found to be a medium-sized specimen in good health, with a slightly unbalanced crown and full canopy. Evidence of excessive sap or needle loss was not observed during the inspection.

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 required 14-day period in order to provide the 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 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 has proposed to plant one (1) large-growing shade tree. 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 attributable 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 existing tree canopy to 40 percent. 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 long-horned beetle and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all possible healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The Colorado blue spruce tree at 60 Robertsfield Crescent 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 Colorado blue spruce tree measuring 46 cm in diameter

