



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

27 Tivoli Court – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	May 20, 2016
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Ward:	Ward 43 – Scarborough East
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\SC15-061416-AFS#22940

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 27 Tivoli Court. The application indicates the reasons for removal are the tree’s poor vigour, and excessive trunk secretions of sap which is dripping from the tree onto the house and driveway.

The subject tree is a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) measuring 51 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 27 Tivoli Court.

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 situated at the front of the property at 27 Tivoli Court. The subject tree is a Norway spruce tree measuring 51 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address concerns over the tree’s poor vigour, excessive trunk secretions of sap which is dripping

from the tree onto the house and driveway. The arborist report that accompanied the application assessed this tree to be in fair to poor condition.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and confirmed that the tree is healthy with good overall vigour. Sap was observed on the main stem of the tree permeating from pruning wounds which is typical for this species. As the tree completes its normal process of compartmentalizing these wounds, sealing off entry points for disease and other pathogens, the oozing of sap should cease. No evidence of dripping sap from overhead limbs was observed on the adjacent home or driveway.

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.

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 provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As part of the application, the property owner has proposed to plant one (1) large growing shade tree in the front yard. 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 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 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 Norway spruce tree at 27 Tivoli Court 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 Norway spruce tree, located at 27 Tivoli Court
Attachment 2 - Photograph of the Norway spruce tree, located at 27 Tivoli Court
Attachment 3 – Photograph of the driveway next to the Norway spruce tree
Attachment 4 - Photograph of sap on the main stem of the Norway spruce tree







