



GM29.15.5

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Government Management Committee
Secretariat, Carol Kaustinen

Email: gmc@toronto.ca

RE: GM29.15 - Preserving Initiatives for the 250 Year Old Red Oak Tree

On behalf of Emery Village BIA, I would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the City's efforts to acquire the property at 76 Coral Gable Drive, which is home to our community's historic 250 Year Old Red Oak Tree. Part of our mandate and mission is to help preserve and amplify the area's rich heritage and history. Predating the settlement of Emery, the once forested lands that surrounded the banks of the Humber River were home and highways for our First Nations people. No doubt, this remarkable tree bears witness to the many changes that shaped the land and understory. This tree survived the destruction of the tapestry of the forest canopy around it to become possibly Toronto's oldest living testament.

Hence, we are in agreement with the immediate need for preservation initiatives including watering, pruning and fertilizing the tree during the City's and the homeowner negotiation period regarding the sale of the property.

Emery Village BIA has been informed that an arboriculture assessment of the Red Oak Tree was determined viable on June 25, 2018 by the Urban Forest Innovations Inc., (independent arborist analysis report) stated that; *"despite its age, the tree is in fair to good condition, based upon its structure and health. Aerial and tomographic inspection of the tree has determined that it has no significant structural defects and poses a low risk of failure."*

Emery Village BIA would like to acknowledge and support the public fundraising initiative. It is our understanding that a private donor, Mary Cullen has kindly pledged \$100,000.00 once the sale of the property has been determined for a transparent and effective fundraising campaign.

Yours truly,

Sandra Farina
Executive Director