

## **Application to Remove a City-owned Tree - 494 Deloraine Avenue**

**Date:** November 26, 2018

**To:** North York Community Council

**From:** Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** Ward 8 – Eglinton-Lawrence

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) City-owned tree located on the road allowance fronting the property located at 494 Deloraine Avenue. The adjacent property owner is requesting tree removal to address concerns regarding the tree's botanical condition and its physical appearance.

The subject tree is a bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) measuring 80 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support 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) City-owned tree located on the road allowance fronting 494 Deloraine Avenue.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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There is no previous decision history regarding the subject tree.

## COMMENTS

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Urban Forestry received an application to remove one (1) City-owned bur oak tree measuring 80 cm in diameter, situated on the right of way fronting 494 Deloraine Avenue. The application for tree removal has been made to address the adjacent property owner's concerns regarding botanical health and appearance of the tree.

The arborist report which accompanied the application indicates the tree has a good structural condition, and declining botanical condition due to oak anthracnose (*Apiognomonia quercina*). Oak anthracnose fungus results in leaves with leaf-edge lesions and irregular shaped leaves. It can also impact branch length and result in greater epicormic shoots from the trunk.

Urban Forestry inspected the tree and at the time of inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable. The botanical and structural condition of the tree does not qualify it for removal. The presence of epicormic shoots in the lower canopy show that the tree has had oak anthracnose fungus for several years. Oak anthracnose fungus is a non-terminal fungal infection. The presence of the fungus weakens a tree's ability to deal with other threats to the tree, yet will not itself cause the tree mortality.

The adjacent property owners were instructed to apply to the City to have the tree removed through the tree removal permitting process, allowing them to present their arguments to Community Council. A permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry and the adjacent property owner is appealing this decision. Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, in accordance with *Section 813-10 of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article II*, permit approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting and payment of appraised tree value. The application did not provide a landscaping plan to demonstrate how the City tree would be replaced. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the owner to provide the appraised value and at least 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. 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 mature bur oak tree fronting 494 Deloraine Avenue is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance this tree has the potential to provide the surrounding community with benefits for many more years. In accordance with the City Council-approved Strategic Forest Management Plan, Toronto's Official Plan and the Street Tree By-law, this tree should not be removed.

## **CONTACT**

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Tara Bobie, Supervisor, Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Tel: 416-395-6134, Email: [Tara.Bobie@toronto.ca](mailto:Tara.Bobie@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Doyle  
Director, Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1– the subject tree on the right of way adjacent to 484 Deloraine Ave  
Attachment 2 the subject tree – detail of the leaves  
Attachment 3 the subject tree – epicormics growth in the crown  
Attachment 4 the subject tree – epicormics growth on the trunk

Attachment 1– the subject tree on the right of way adjacent to 484 Deloraine Ave



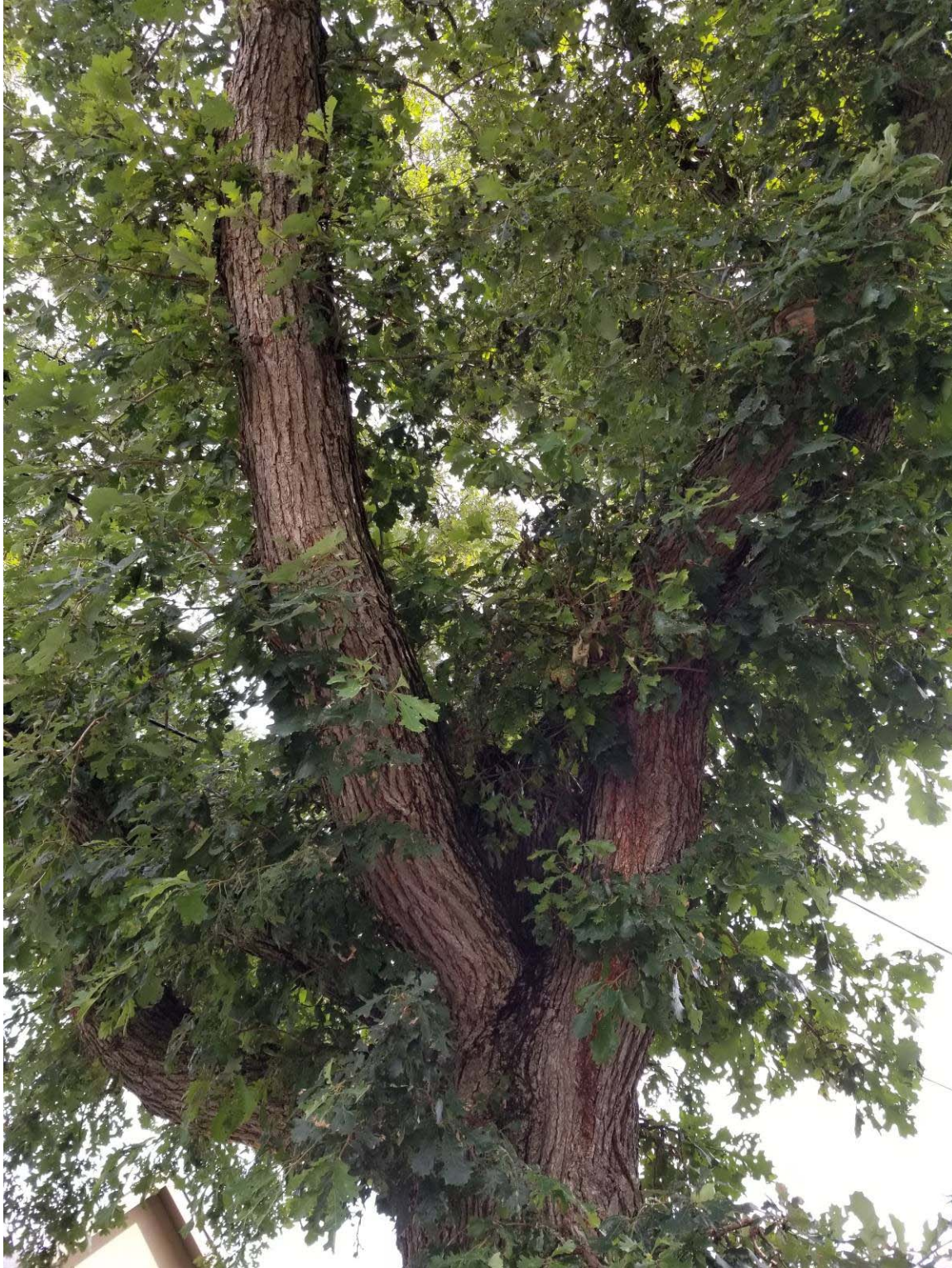


Attachment 2 the subject tree – detail of the leaves





Attachment 3 the subject tree – epicormics growth in the crown





Attachment 4 the subject tree – epicormics growth on the trunk

