



Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests

November 23, 2020

To: Toronto City Council (and for posting on City website)

Re: Council Meeting #26, November 25 & 26th, 2020
Member Motion MM26.9
250 Year Old Oak Tree - 76 Coral Gable Drive

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of Option B within Motion MM26.9 - "250 Year Old Red Oak Located at 76 Coral Gable Drive". Recognized under Forests Ontario's Heritage Tree Program, this magnificent tree is one of the oldest and largest in our city. It also has an incredibly deep and rich history.

This tree established itself before 1793 and is part of an ancient oak savannah. It grew in the immediate vicinity of the historic Toronto Carrying Place Trail, which served as a trade link for Indigenous peoples, a route for European explorers, and a military trail for both the French and English. This glorious tree has been witness to approximately 250 years of history. It offers a unique link to our past and gives us hope for the future. This incredible tree serves as a testament to the strength and resilience of nature. We have an obligation to protect it so that future generations can continue to learn and benefit from its story, its beauty and the countless ecological benefits it provides the community. By purchasing this property and creating a park surrounding the tree, the City of Toronto will be taking a bold step forward in demonstrating its true commitment to our urban forest. Ensuring that this glorious tree be protected and grow for possibly another 250 years, will most certainly be a legacy for which this Council could be extremely proud.

I urge you to continue to support the amazing efforts of community members who have been working to preserve this tree and the precious space around it. These include Edith George, who has tirelessly led the effort for years, Mark Cullen and others, who have stepped up with financial support, and a nine year old girl named [Sophia](#), who has made it her mission to do everything she can to help. The commitment of these individuals and so many others, are testament to the spiritual power of this tree.

The City of Toronto has a unique opportunity to preserve a rare and beautiful part of our natural world. I commend you for how far you've come and urge you to keep going. Please support Option B of this motion and ensure that this glorious tree lives on for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely

Janet McKay
Executive Director