



Ontario Urban Forest Council
PO Box 32166
Harding Post Office

Tel: 416-399-4490

Email: info@oufc.org

MM26.9.30

Please publish this letter as an attachment to the AGENDA for City Council meeting #26 November 25 and 26, 2020, considering the **Motion MM26.9** and distribute to Council Members.

To: Council Members,

The Ontario Urban Forest Council which was formed in 1963, is supporting Option B of Motion MM26.9 250-Year-Old Red Oak located at 76 Coral Gable Drive. The Red Oak located at 76 Coral Gable Drive is truly a magnificent tree for Toronto to regard as part of its legacy likely dated back to a time when the explorers travelled along the Humber River finding their way North and West.

It is a tribute to the action of the former military pilot who in the early 1960's bought this lot and saved the tree knowing that in his actions, he was creating a link to the past for the benefit of future generations.

Through the efforts of Edith George, for well over decade along with occasional participation with the Ontario Urban Forest Council presentations have been made across many parts of Ontario to present the magnificent history tied to this stately Red Oak tree. It has had positive influence on many of the property owners who in turn had a positive influence on the people in our communities. Edith George has been the voice for this tree in her neighbourhood and across Ontario, engaging communities in the wonderful history and people associated with this tree that has been recognized as part of our heritage.

To recognize the impact this tree, over its centuries of survival, it is very important to recognize this tree in our fast-moving society today. The opportunity to retain this tree in public domain allows for current and future generations of students, residents and visitors to the City of Toronto to learn and enjoy the forward-thinking Council who agreed that our history is built around trees and people.

Our Organization is supportive of City Councillors agreeing to "Option B" to allow, during this COVID 19 pandemic, more time for the financial resources to be accumulated in the quest for the purchase of the property to allow for the preservation of the Red Oak in a park like setting. Our Board appreciates that Council can be giving more time for the community to come together for this good news legacy opportunity of a remarkable tree.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ontario Urban Forest Council

Peter Wynnyczuk, Executive Director

Janani Sivarajah, President

Barbara Yaroski, Vice-President



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Tel: 416-399-4490

Email: info@oufc.org

John Barker, Director

Sadia Butt, Director

Jade Schofield, Director

Justin Gaudon, Director

Rike Burkhardt, Director

www.oufc.org