



November 28, 2023

## PH8.6 Growing Space for Trees: Protecting and Enhancing the Tree Canopy While Supporting Infill Housing

To: The Chair and Members of the Planning and Development Committee

The Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association (CSVSWRA) is an incorporated, non-profit residents' association operating primarily in Southwest Scarborough (Ward 20). The ward includes the magnificent Scarborough Bluffs and ravines through which rivers and streams flow enroute to Lake Ontario. This part of Scarborough is also under enormous pressure from developers. Not only are condominium developers circling retail plazas to assemble properties, but smaller speculators are drawn to the large lots in order to demolish the somewhat affordable houses and replace them with extremely large luxury houses. Our communities are urban forests that act as the lungs of our city, mitigate flooding and give our fragile Bluffs some protection from erosion. Unfortunately, a segment of builders/developers operating in Ward 20 continue to destroy trees without permits with impunity. This behaviour generally occurs on week-ends by unlicensed arborists. Other builders apply to Urban Forestry for permits to cut down every mature tree on a property to increase excavation efficiency. (See Appendix One for before and after photos)

CSVSWRA is extremely disappointed that it will not be until **Q4, 2024**, that the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the Acting General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation will report back to the Planning and Development Committee on the recommendations contained in this report. Despite staff assurances about the value of trees, it appears that the Climate Crisis facing our planet is an event far off in the future and waiting a year to report back on tree protection is OK. UN Secretary-General António Guterres disagrees:

**“We are on a highway to *climate* hell with our foot on the accelerator.”**

CSVSWRA urges the P&D committee to insist that City Planning and Parks, Forestry and Recreation report back in **Q2, 2024**. Our trees need immediate protection. This should not be delayed for another year.

Yours sincerely,

Janet May  
Co-chair Planning and Development Committee

Appendix One  
Some examples of lack of tree protection



Front yard clearcut



Permitted clear cut to make way for luxury house



Someone drilled holes in the trunk of this healthy Maple tree. Forestry attempted to fill the holes to save the tree but to no avail. The owner cut down the tree without a permit. Then went to Committee of Adjustment for approval to demolish and build a luxury house.

