



## Jared Tomlinson, BFA (Hons)

- ISA Board Certified Master Arborist  
® ON-2473B
- ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
- Butternut Health Expert (as per O.  
Reg. 830/21)



## ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

- Located in 90/92 Spruce Street's back yard (Spruce Court Co-op).
- Trunk measured at 41.2 cm DBH (diameter, breast height—i.e., at 1.4 m above grade).
- In good health, but *poor* structural condition/form, due to management history.



## Poor Structural Condition/Form

- N.B.: scaffold branches are main branches that constitute architecture of crown.
- In service of size-management objective, central stem and *every single* scaffold branch subjected to heading cut.
- Multiple weakly-attached “water-sprouts” have formed at *every* heading cut.



## Correcting the record

- Ms. Shanelle Labrie, Assistant Planner at TPPR South, incorrectly stated that previous pruning was limited to “small branches near the top of the tree”.
- Once again, central stem and *every single* scaffold branch subjected to heading cut, critically compromising crown architecture.

### Section C: Structural Condition

**Tree Defect** (Check all that apply)

- |                      |                                   |                                       |                               |  |  |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| A) <u>Wood Decay</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-critical | E) <u>Weak Branch Union</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-critical |
| B) <u>Crack</u>      | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-critical | F) <u>Poor Architecture</u>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Critical | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-critical            |
| C) <u>Canker</u>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-critical | G) <u>Root Problem</u>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical            | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-critical            |
| D) <u>Dead wood</u>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-critical | H) <u>Other (add details)</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical            | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-critical            |

### **Structural Condition Rating**

Poor - The presence of one or more critical defects OR the presence of multiple non-critical defects which compounded do unreasonably compromise the structural integrity of the tree.

- Healthy – The absence of any critical defects OR the presence of one or more non-critical defects which compounded do not unreasonably compromise the structural integrity of the tree.

## Correcting the record (continued)

- Urban Forestry's own internal assessment tool lists "poor architecture" and "weak branch unions" as structural defects to be considered in application evaluation.
- Crown architecture has been *critically* compromised by heading cuts, and resulting "water-sprouts" are weakly attached.
- According to tool, one "critical" structural defect warrants "poor" rating for structural condition. Poor-condition trees qualify for removal under TMCC § 813-18.



# Nuisance

- *Ginkgo biloba* is dioecious—bears pollen (“male”) flowers and seed (“female”) flowers on separate plants.
- When female flowers are pollinated, they develop into fruit.
- Fruit is *foul-smelling* and is skin irritant/can cause allergic reaction—i.e., fruit-bearing ginkgos are extraordinary nuisance, interfering with reasonable use of property.



## Nuisance (continued)

- Male ginkgo is excellent urban tree. No one *intends* to plant female ginkgo, but...
- Tree's sex not obvious until semi-maturity to maturity.
- Ginkgo trees can change sex.



## Precedent for Removal of Nuisance Trees

- Precedent exists for removal of tree on account of extraordinary nuisance.
- Since 2009, Urban Forestry has removed city-owned apples/crabapples upon request for nominal fee (under its *Apple/Crabapple Policy*).
- TPR West recently granted owner of 14 Atherton Crescent, Toronto ON M8W 2Y1 permit to remove city-owned female ginkgo on account of extraordinary nuisance. (Permit No. 25-21507208-EY)