

Dear Members of the Toronto and East York Community Council,

I am writing to formally request permission to remove a large red oak tree in the backyard of my property at 171 Neville Park Boulevard. I have attached a recent Level 5 Tree Risk Assessment prepared by a certified arborist. While required for the permit, the report is contradictory—the arborist even noted, “I know I am sorry but we have to write it like this”—highlighting the difficulty of accurately assessing mature trees through visual inspection alone. The report concludes with this statement:

“While the likelihood of failure is considered low, the potential consequences are extremely severe due to the tree’s size and proximity to high-occupancy areas. Mature trees can decline rapidly, and early proactive removal is often considered by property owners to reduce future risk and liability.”

It is clear that the report emphasizes the severity of potential consequences, which is exactly the concern driving my request.

This red oak is exceptionally large and has reached the end of its life expectancy. Multiple arborists have confirmed that this tree, along with many in the surrounding ravine, are aging beyond their natural life and are beginning to fail at an increasing rate. Replanting is urgently needed to ensure the forest can regenerate safely.

This particular oak leans significantly over our house from a very steep slope. Several mature trees in the ravine have fallen this summer, including a large oak that collapsed onto my south neighbor’s roof last year, narrowly avoiding serious injury. Even seemingly healthy trees have failed, underscoring the real and immediate risk.

Our bedrooms and family room lie directly in the tree’s fall path. Should it fail, it could cause catastrophic damage to our home and endanger lives. Children frequently play on nearby streets and in the ravine, increasing the potential risk to the public. The tree’s size, lean, age, and location on a steep slope significantly amplify this danger, particularly during storms or high winds.

I fully recognize the environmental value of mature trees and am committed to

replanting to restore and enhance the landscape after removal. My priority is the safety of my family, neighbors, and the public.

I respectfully request that the City approve this removal in the interest of public safety and responsible stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Miller