

Supplementary Report: Application to Remove a Private Tree – 12 Drury Lane

Date: July 6, 2026

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

From: Director, Urban Forestry, Environment, Climate and Forestry

Wards: Etobicoke Centre - 2

SUMMARY

This supplementary report requests that Etobicoke York Community Council approve the request for a permit to remove one privately-owned tree located at 12 Drury Lane. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is a concern that due to the tree's maturity and location it has the potential to damage the house should failure occur; and concerns that the tree roots are damaging the driveway and underground pipes.

The multi-stem Colorado blue spruce tree (*Picea pungens*) measures 45 and 47 cm in diameter, respectively. The initial inspection by City staff determined the tree was healthy and maintainable. The City's Tree By-laws do not support the removal of trees that are healthy and maintainable.

On June 24, 2026, staff reassessed the condition of the tree as poor following newly observed structural defects including evidence of a vertical crack. Following a request from the local Ward Councillor, this supplementary report provides updated information and a new recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director of Urban Forestry, Environment, Climate and Forestry recommend that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council approve the request for a permit to remove one privately-owned tree located at 12 Drury Lane, and require the applicant to provide 1 replacement tree which can be achieved by on-site planting or cash-in-lieu of planting to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, Environment, Climate and Forestry.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

There is no decision history related to this tree removal permit application.

COMMENTS

The City of Toronto received an application for a permit to remove one privately-owned tree located in the front yard at 12 Drury Lane. The multi-stem Colorado blue spruce tree (*Picea pungens*) measures 45 and 47 cm in diameter, respectively. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal is that due to the tree's maturity and location, the tree could potentially damage the house should failure occur; and a concern that the tree roots are damaging the driveway and underground pipes.

The arborist report that accompanied the application described the tree to be in 'near late maturity' with reduced structural integrity due to the presence of two co-dominant stems emerging from a narrow V-shaped union; a condition identified by the arborist as biomechanically weak due to included bark and poor weight load distribution. The report also described one stem exhibiting a significant lean towards the dwelling.

City staff inspected the tree and, at the time of initial inspection, determined that it was healthy and maintainable. Staff identified that the tree has two co-dominant stems of about equal diameter and canopy volume. Decay was not observed at the union and the included bark union does not present a significant risk. Staff received updated photos from the applicant on June 23, 2026, indicating a change in the tree's condition, prompting staff to revisit the site and reassess the tree. During this site visit, it was observed that an outer layer of bark was absent, revealing a vertical crack on one of the main stems. The presence of the vertical crack has changed staff's assessment of the tree's condition from healthy to poor.

Under Section 813-18, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III, the Executive Director, Environment Climate and Forestry is authorized to issue permits to remove trees where trees are in poor condition and cannot be maintained in a healthy and safe condition subject to the planting of replacement trees or the payment of cash-in-lieu of planting.

The Ward Councillor was updated on staff's updated assessment and rather than remove the item from the agenda, requested that a supplementary report with a new recommendation be presented. As such the Executive Director, Environment, Climate and Forestry recommend that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council approve the request for a permit to remove one privately-owned tree located at 12 Drury Lane, and require the applicant to provide one replacement tree which can be achieved by on-site planting or cash-in-lieu of planting to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, Environment, Climate and Forestry.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Kim Statham
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the multi-stem Colorado blue spruce tree at 12 Drury Lane; December 4th, 2025

Attachment 2 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the vertical crack on multi-stem Colorado blue spruce tree at 12 Drury Lane; June 24, 2026

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Attachment 2 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the vertical crack on multi-stem Colorado blue spruce tree at 12 Drury Lane; June 24, 2026

