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Arborist Report

Community Council Meeting
Tree Removal at 15 Marchwood Dr
March 31, 2026

A tree removal permit application for a tree at 15 Marchwood Dr was denied on August 22, 2025. The stated reasons for denial was as follows:

In its current condition, the structural/mechanical defects discussed in the arborist report (and noted during my site visit) do not unreasonably predispose the tree to failure and do not warrant a poor condition rating. The included bark within the union of the co dominant stems is minor as is the damage to the roots. We also do not factor in species when considering a removal request even when it is invasive. The removal of an invasive tree would not have a significant ecological benefit while leading to a significant loss of the ecosystem services it provides. I understand the concern regarding the tree's proximity to the cabana, however its proximity to structures would only warrant its removal if it was concerning the main dwelling, was causing damage to load-bearing or roof structures, or if the tree was unmaintainable as a result of its location. Furthermore, the roof of the cabana could also be notched to allow room for the tree to grow.

It is our contention that it is unreasonable to expect a homeowner to maintain this tree in its location, with its defects and its impact both on adjacent structures and the surrounding landscape.

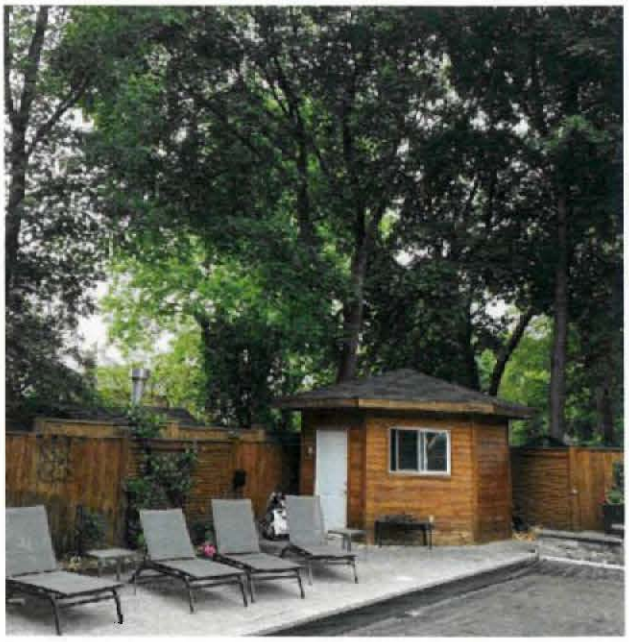

Figure 1. View of tree behind cabana

The tree in contention is 54 cm diameter Norway Maple. This species of tree is highly invasive. It has overtaken many city-owned ravine areas and populates almost any area where regular maintenance does not remove them otherwise. In this case, it seeded into a property line some 50 years ago and was mistakenly allowed to develop. Fences were constructed to accommodate it and when the cabana was installed it also was built away from it. However, it is now developed to a proportion that it impacts all the structures around it. The cabana adjacent to the tree is now within 4-6 inches of the tree. The cabana is a permanent, load bearing structure, and the forestry departments suggestion that the

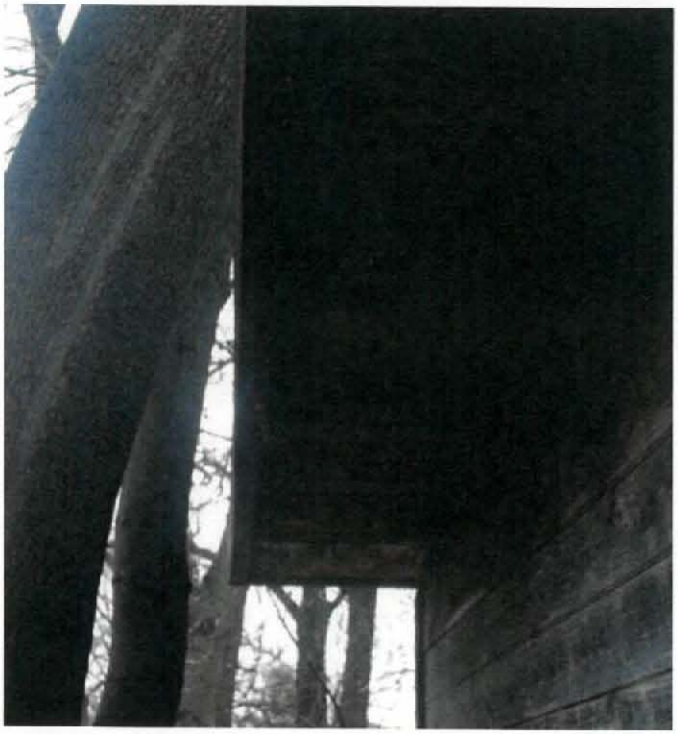

Figure 2. Closeness of trunks to structure

cabana be cut to accommodate growth of the tree is unreasonable. What starts with damaging the roof of the structure will eventually be the walls, compromising the entire structure. It is difficult to construe how the forestry department thinks the tree should be maintained to restrict its diameter growth from impacting the structures around it. Its maintenance otherwise or future removal in this confined space is increasingly complex and costly. It is unreasonable for the city put this expense on a homeowner for poorly defined reasons of "ecosystem services".

This tree is also developing the most common failure structure for this species, what is called "included bark" between two stems. The city is well aware that this is a common breakage point in this species. Norway Maples represent the highest cost for storm damage cleanup of city trees both due to this defect and the brittle character of the wood. The forestry department's contention that this defect has not yet fully developed into a serious problem also acknowledges future issues that will need to be addressed at a much greater cost to the homeowner.

Figure 3. Development of included bark between main trunks

The contention that the removal of this tree would not have significant ecological benefit wilfully neglects its impact on surrounding landscapes. Norway Maples develop highly competitive networks of shallow roots that suppress the development of other species. They are known to shift the otherwise diverse microbiological environment in the soil to favour its species and deter other species. The resident to the north of this property has planted a diverse mix of 30 trees which already suffer from the affects of this tree. Many of our ravine areas have become a monoculture of this species. The limited benefit of a modest, flawed and

invasive tree to help with urban cooling against its suppression of a more diverse ecosystem would not stand up to scientific scrutiny. If one were to consider what happened with the once dense Ash population in the city that was ravaged by an insect infestation that led to the death of millions of trees, one understands that diversity is what protects ecosystems. Its important to note the city does not allow this species to be planted on streetscapes or as replacement planting for permit removals. The incongruence of not allowing the species to be planted yet protecting flawed specimens from removal is difficult to reconcile.

Figure 4. Position of tree within a grouping of other trees

This tree should also be placed in the context of the trees around it. The forestry department tends to view trees only in their singularity. This tree is part of complex of other mature Norway Maples, similarly invasive Siberian Elms and Silver Maples across several properties. I believe the forestry department representative misspoke in saying the removal of the tree would lead to a "significant loss of ecological services." This species does significant harm to ecosystems, however, it does provide some limited environmental services such as cooling and air purification. The space occupied by this misplaced tree would be rapidly filled by the expanded growth canopies of the adjacent trees with which it competes. There would be barely a blip in the environmental services of this tree in this context. Reduced competition with the more diverse plantings around it would afford the grouping better future proofing. As a forester, I see it as a flaw in the city's tree bylaw that every section area of the city is subject to the same regulatory regime.

True forest management in our region examines groupings of related trees and making what are termed silvicultural decisions to maintain the group over time. Amongst other activities, this means harvesting some trees to allow the group to maintain both a diversity of species and age structure. What the city is proposing here is to allow this stand of trees to develop into a near monoculture of same aged species. This may have some limited environmental benefits in the short term but leaves the neighbourhood over exposed to catastrophes that affect monocultures in the future. Because Norway Maples suppress any competition, it also allows them all to age out at the same time, leaving the local environment barren of mature trees at some future point. This is gaining a marginal short term benefit that damages the landscape long term.

This tree should be allowed to be removed for both its defects and its position in the landscape. The city is only transferring much higher costs back on to a homeowner to maintain an imperfect specimen of an undesirable species in a poor position for no discernible benefits to the local environment or ecosystem

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March 29, 2026

RE: Address confirmation and support for Tree Removal

To Whom it May Concern.

I am writing to confirm my address at 111 Sandringham Drive, Toronto ON, M3H 1E2.

My property is directly behind 15 Marchwood Drive, and I would like to express my support for the proposed removal of the tree located at this property. Based on the current circumstances, I agree that the removal is the appropriate course of action.

Please let me know if any additional information or documentation is required from my end.

Sincerely,

Sean Fleming

CEO
Brunswick Bierworks Inc.
C: 647-404-3700