

**From:** [Dmitry Kozhukh](#)  
**To:** [North York Community Council](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] My comments for 2026.NY33.21 on May 26, 2026 North York Community Council  
**Date:** May 21, 2026 9:34:00 AM

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To the Members of North York Community Council,

I am writing in support of my appeal regarding the removal permit application for the Silver Maple tree located at 5 Vonda Avenue.

Since the initial application and inspection, additional and significant concerns have emerged regarding the direct impact of this tree on the property's foundation drainage system and the long-term structural integrity of both the house and the tree itself.

The Silver Maple is located less than three metres from the foundation of the home. As confirmed through recent camera inspection of the underground clay drainage piping and weeping tile system, major root intrusion from the tree has entered and clogged the underground drainage infrastructure surrounding the foundation. These root intrusions have already contributed to water backup and flooding concerns around the property.

Silver Maples are well known for aggressive and invasive root systems, especially when planted in close proximity to older homes with clay piping and foundation drainage systems. The roots naturally seek moisture and have now infiltrated the underground infrastructure directly adjacent to the foundation.

In the coming weeks, extensive excavation work will be required around the foundation perimeter in order to expose and repair the damaged weeping tile system and remove the root intrusion from the underground drainage network. This work is necessary to protect the home from continued water infiltration, flooding, and future structural damage.

However, the excavation itself will unavoidably sever and disturb a substantial portion of the tree's root system because of the tree's extremely close proximity to the structure. Removing major structural roots during excavation will further destabilize and weaken the tree, significantly increasing the likelihood of future decline or failure.

This creates a situation where retaining the tree is no longer practical or responsible for several reasons:

- The tree roots have already caused direct interference with underground drainage infrastructure servicing the foundation.

Please see attached photo of camera inspection of underground clay pipe



- The tree is planted too close to the home for long-term compatibility given its mature size and aggressive root structure.
- Necessary excavation and foundation repairs will substantially damage the root system and negatively impact the tree's long-term health and stability.

- Existing structural concerns documented in the arborist report — including trunk decay, cavity formation, decay at branch unions, frost cracking, previous storm damage, repeated pruning interventions, and declining canopy vigor — further increase concern regarding the tree’s long-term viability.
- The cumulative impacts of decay, restricted growing space, infrastructure conflict, and imminent root disturbance make this tree unsuitable for retention moving forward.

While I understand and appreciate the City’s commitment to preserving Toronto’s urban canopy, this specific situation involves a mature Silver Maple that is now in direct conflict with critical residential infrastructure. The required foundation and drainage repairs cannot reasonably proceed without major impact to the tree’s root system.

Removal at this stage represents the most responsible and safest long-term solution for the property, surrounding structures, and future site conditions.

I fully understand the importance of maintaining and enhancing Toronto’s urban forest and am prepared to comply with all replacement tree requirements, including replacement planting and/or cash-in-lieu contributions as determined by the City.

I respectfully ask North York Community Council to approve the permit request for removal of the Silver Maple at 5 Vonda Avenue based on the infrastructure damage, ongoing flooding concerns, required excavation work, and the increasing risk posed by the tree’s condition and location.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dmitry Kozhukh (Homeowner)  
5 Vonda Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 26, 2026 North York Community Council meeting on item 2026.NY33.21, 5 Vonda Avenue - Application to Remove a Private Tree

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Sent from my iPhone