

TO: councilmeeting@toronto.ca,
Parthi Kandavel Councillor_Kandavel@toronto.ca,

RE: Letter of support for IE 27.8 Tree By-law Review Report

March 24, 2026

To whom this may concern ,

I am writing this as a teacher, mentor, parent , grandparent but more so, as resident of the Cliffcrest area for the past 70 years.

In that time, I have watched as our area has developed from a rural to a densely urban community. We were surrounded by fields, rivers and old growth trees. If there was new development, our community honored the environment in area that we living to include as much green space.

We celebrated in the old growth trees, creeks, and meadows as a natural part of our heritage.

Rather than plowing down our surroundings for new builds, Scarborough designs always included replanted trees.

Fast track to the last 20 years. I have seen such a enormous amount change to include more asphalt, more buildings for rent, high rises and condominiums regardless of whether they are purchased.

Meadows have been plowed flat and changed to include groomed parks. We replanted again in areas but the damage was done. Species of wildlife started fled to our backyards and homes. Every spec of land, which at one point was part of our heritage has been erased.

Builders have recklessly, torn down, eradicated trees, regardless of the law with the loss of life to build larger homes without consideration to the environment.

Trees are quickly cut down and cover it over in the hopes that their elimination is not noticed. Foundations for some larger homes are dug twice as far down often hitting underground rivers, and creeks, changing and eroding. What was once a thriving environment.

I am not suggesting that we stop growth to accommodate homes but to take into consideration that the trees that are being eliminated, often illegally, the ground that is being dug up to hit underground rivers will collapse at some point.

We are building what once held a single-family home now going into triplexes and garden suites on 150 foot lot to allow for more housing but no consideration for the canopy of trees to keep us sheltered from wind, snow and sun.

Trees have be eliminated in order to build the maximum housing on the smallest space.

We are not honoring our environment but placing more stress on the remaining trees and soil to reduce carbon emissions.

It is impossible to sit back and watch as builders continue to take trees down, and in the same breath, ensure that we have taken into account that we have just eliminated a canopy that has taken years to grow. It is literally impossible to regrow trees as quickly between now and 2030.

My hope is to ask council to reconsider, rethink and revise the plans, to build around trees not fill every space with concrete.

This is not a selfish request but I am speaking for those who come after me. I urge you to recognize slow and steady will reap more rewards than a quick buck to the finish line.

Yours in looking to sustainability... speaking for the trees

Anne Marie McCowan
teacher with TCDSB

Student letters

Dear Counsellor

Why you should not cut trees. Please stop cutting down trees it is bad for the environment, we need it to help us breathing, it gives us shade to keep us cool in the summer, it breaks wind for us and if you do it we will have less asphalt. We are concerned about our environment when you cut tree down what happens is less fresh oxygen and less shade to keep us cool, if you cut more trees the ice will melt and the polar bears will not have any where to live and it will get too hot and ocean will rise it will be dangerous for us if you keep cutting down trees and making more buildings and roads there will be more asphalt and it will get hotter and it isn't good for our environment and us. Love J

Dear Councillors,

I love Dorothy McCarthy Trail. I live in an apartment so I don't have trees around my house. When you live in an apartment there's lots of noise, busy and it gets really hot.

Our teacher talked to us about how trees help to keep the Earth cool.

I wish I could live in a house surrounded by trees. I could climb it and see animals that live in it. We don't need more Condominiums or apartments. We need more trees. Come down and walk around our trail, you know what I mean.

DA

Did you know that when you cut down trees you stop the Earth from being cooled down, you change the community, animals no longer have a place to live, the shade is all gone, it is no longer fresh.

Just think about it when you cut down trees and clear, you need to use machines which means they burn gas that means more pollution and eventually it'll kill us.

Is that what we wanted? stop cutting the trees.

LV

Dear Counsellor,

Many trees have been cut down and this is affecting many things such as heat, oxygen, animal habitat and migration. Heat that can affect our oxygen levels and make very hard to breath especially during the summer and it also effects some animal habitats, like polar bears etc.

Dear Councillors,

My class and teacher have taken many trips along the bluffs and my family have taken our dog for walks in on the path. The area is changing with really big houses and many places are torn down now to build condominiums.

When we go for walks especially the Dorothy McLean Trail is like going into heaven. A secret place covered in huge trees. Please think really, really a lot about this.

SM

Dear Counsellors,

This letter is about the decision to cut trees down regardless of our community to build Condominiums. I don't want trees to be cut down.

Have you ever thought of the amount of cement and asphalt that's on the ground.

Asphalt is made out of stone and tar that get very hot when the sun is on it.

The earth is already getting hotter and with cement and more asphalt, we are only adding to the amount of heat to make money.

Dear Councillors,

I wanted to tell you something about the way the construction people do things. Next door to my house. A man came and asked us if we wanted to sell him our home along with the next house. My dad said NO way! We took pictures of the mess.

The people who were digging cut big trees that my mom said were bigger than legal really, really fast and the guy covered the space up in a day. You would never know there were big trees there.

This is not the first time we have seen this in our area. Really big trees too.

I thought that was illegal?? I am 12 years old and want to feel safe but people don't care anymore just to make money. I am sad. Please tell the mayor NO MORE taking trees or big buildings !!

Dear Counsellor,

I am writing this note to stop cutting down trees. When you cut down trees it affects our community. Every time you cut down a tree it reduces shade which makes it warmer outside and then the ice melts and the water levels rise. We also get provided less oxygen. The saddest thing is when you cut a tree is that animal's home and could possibly have eggs in them. That means you are killing new lives. I am concerned of why do you have to be so careless. You are endangering so many animals.

My name is M and I am a student of St Richard Catholic school.

Dear Counsellor,

I think cutting down trees is wrong. Trees are very useful, I'm not saying useful like for paper or wood. I think they are useful in both winter and summer, in winter they act like a wind barrier and in summer you use trees for shade. Also if you keep on cutting down trees and making parking lots there will be asphalt. If there is asphalt our air will be polluted. Also talking about air if we cut down trees, we'll still breathe carbon dioxide and there will be no trees to turn into oxygen, then we won't have any air to breathe in and it could cause a lot of lung diseases. One more point is cutting down trees can destroy a lot of animals' homes. All of these reasons are why I think we shouldn't cut down trees.

GA

Counsellor,

We need to not cut down trees, reforest not deforest.

Trees are necessary for our survival. Trees filter air out of Carbon Dioxide and provide us oxygen. Trees are living things just like coral but coral is an animal. We need to let trees live when we cut down trees at least reforest 100% of them (200% would be better). Trees also cool down the world and help protect against floods. Trees are naturally beautiful. "The natives raged but your wrath came rewarding our servants the prophets, both small and great and for destroying the destroyer of the earth" Revelation 11:18

Dear Counsellor,

Why should we not cut trees?

Trees produce oxygen for us humans so our lungs can take a deep breath

- Trees give us oxygen
- Less heat
- Migration
- Habitats

Trees can also give animals advantage like migration and habitats. Animals can not live if the trees are gone. To not waste trees, you can reuse paper.

Concern for our environment less asphalt stop cutting down trees can

- Make sea levels rising
- Heat
- Plants can die
- Plants like herbs, grass, flowers and leaves can die from heat by not having trees

Asphalt is like concrete but the sun can shine and the asphalt makes more heat.

I just say we don't need more asphalt.

Sincerely, M