



8 March, 2021

Urban Forestry
Scarborough Civic Centre
150 Borough Ave,
Toronto, ON
M1P 4N7

tppreast@toronto.ca

Attention: Janie Romoff, General Manager

**Request to Deny:
Injury or Destruction of Trees on Private Property
142 Harewood Avenue**

On behalf of the Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association (CSVSWRA), I urge Urban Forestry to decline the application to destroy healthy trees located on 142 Harewood Avenue.

In October of last year, Mayor John Tory accepted the Champion of Trees Award on behalf of the City of Toronto. The award, presented by the Arbor Day Foundation, recognized the City for exemplary leadership in developing and implementing new policies and practices for tree planting and care, natural area stewardship and arboriculture. This prestigious award should come with a responsibility to the City's existing tree canopy.

As noted in the 2018 City of Toronto Tree Canopy Study, impervious land cover has increased across the city by 1.4% since 2008. Most of the land, 349 hectares, that has been converted from pervious to impervious is on single family residential land, such as 142 Harewood Avenue. This worrying trend is obvious in Ward 20.

According to the City of Toronto 2018 Tree Canopy Study, the trees in Toronto provide an estimated \$55 million in annual ecosystem services:

- \$8.3 million per year in home energy savings
- \$4.0 million per year in carbon sequestration
- \$37.9 million per year in pollution removal, such as ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate matter

In addition, a 2014 study by Royal Bank indicated that Toronto's tree cover catches about 25 million cubic metres of precipitation, which saves the city approximately \$53 million and protects the foundations of houses from flooding.

Toronto's Official Plan states that protection "of the natural environment and urban forest should not be compromised by growth, insensitivity to the needs of the environment or neglect." (O.P.3.4). In addition, the Official Plan is clear:

d) New development will be located and organized to fit with its existing and/or planned context. It will frame and support adjacent streets, parks and open spaces to improve the safety, pedestrian interest and casual views to these spaces from the development by:

ii) Preserving existing mature trees wherever possible and incorporating them into landscaping designs (3.1.2 Policy 1)

Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan 2012-2022, includes expanding the forest canopy from 28%-30% to 40%. This plan indicates:

"One of the fundamental aspects of increasing tree canopy coverage across the city is protection of the existing resource. Tree protection is currently accomplished through implementation of various tree and natural feature protection by-laws which provide opportunities to educate the public on the benefits of trees. Efforts to protect trees need to be improved." (Executive Summary p. xi)

The Urban Forestry notice posted at 142 Harewood Avenue states that an application has been received to remove healthy trees on the property. According to Section 813-17, Permit refusal, of the City of Toronto tree bylaw, the General Manager shall not issue a permit for the injury or destruction of trees where: (c) Trees are healthy.

In conclusion, CSVSWRA urges the General Manager to refuse the application to destroy any healthy boundary trees in the backyard of 142 Harewood as well as any healthy trees close to the boundary that contribute to our important Urban Forest.

CSVSWRA would be happy to work with Urban Forestry to help educate property owners about the value of the urban forest in residential areas.

Yours Sincerely

Marina Tadenc

Marina Tadenc
Vice President
Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association