



Newsletter

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Focus on Trees

City Council voted to direct staff to investigate the implementation of a pilot tree by-law for Roseland on Tuesday, March 22nd. As part of the investigation, staff was directed to consider length of the pilot project, and the extent of possible regulations protecting trees, along with measures to evaluate success, and to consult with the community in carrying out its investigation. Staff must report back on June 21, 2016 on the results of its investigation.”

The motion which was passed was as follows:

“Direct the Acting Director of Roads and Parks Maintenance to investigate the implementation of a pilot tree by-law for the Roseland neighbourhood, with a review of options including, but not limited to: length of time for pilot project, extent of regulations, budget and staffing requirements, and measures to evaluate success, and to include community consultation. Direct the Acting Director of Roads and Parks Maintenance to report back to committee on June 21, 2016.”

The Board of the Roseland Community Organization believes a pilot tree bylaw is absolutely necessary for Roseland. We have seen too much destruction of our tree canopy in the last few years. We are aware that a number of large mature healthy trees have come down and more are in jeopardy. We believe a majority of Roseland residents would welcome a pilot private tree bylaw for Roseland. It would be a pilot project for a set number of years, to be evaluated at the end of its mandate. We hope that City Councillors will be encouraged to vote favourably for one in June. That is why this newsletter is about trees! **Cathryn Ainslie**

A Message From Our Chair

“I have been a resident of Roseland for thirty years. My Husband and I explored and evaluated many neighbourhoods when his company moved from Montreal. The mature trees, spacious lots and varying architectural styles provided the appeal and motivation to move here over many other areas in the Greater Toronto

Area. As you are well aware, Roseland is promoted in the marketplaces as a desirable neighbourhood; maintenance of the tree canopy and streetscape is key to that desirability. It behooves all residents of Roseland to be conscientious curators of our environment. Maintenance of the tree canopy requires a two-prong approach, sustaining the trees that currently exist and replacing those that succumb to disease or age. Money Sense Magazine in 2015 ranked Burlington third overall and first among mid-size cities with populations between 100,000 to 400,000. While this is admirable, Burlington is not as progressive as others cities regarding the protection of trees. Cities such as Oakville, Toronto, Brampton, Mississauga and Barrie have private tree bylaws implemented without negative impact to property values or cost to their administrations. The reality is that this regulatory void in Burlington permits the removal of trees with historical and species distinction from properties without consequence. The City of Burlington had the resourcefulness to create a Burlington Honour Roll of Trees* and yet has not provided protection to ensure those trees are nurtured and respected.

While it is recognized that Council did not successfully adopt a private tree bylaw proposal in 2013, perpetuation of the past is not a justification for continued inaction. The bylaw does not have to be onerous in either its provisions or enforcement. I am confident in Staff’s ability to leverage the examples of bylaws that exist and craft a ‘made in Burlington, for Burlington’ provision for Roseland.” **Dianne Bonnell, Chair**

* <http://www.eureka4vou.com/burlington/honourroll.htm>

“In terms of pollution control, carbon sequestration, flood control, energy savings and property value, it takes many trees (as many as 25) to equal one large tree lost. What can be taken down in a day can take over 100 years to replace.”

Dr. Bill Love

While the market price of our homes in Roseland is driven by a multitude of variables, the value of our homes is derived from the character of the area. As staff and consulting studies have illustrated, the intrinsic characteristics of our community are its tree canopy, sense of open space, and well-designed and well-maintained homes.

In order to maintain this character, two key steps need to be undertaken: the first step is underway with the Council review of planning regulations making development more proportionate and sensitive to the area; the second step has two sides - planting new trees to replace diseased trees, and regulating unnecessary tree-cutting on private property. The intent is not to be overly restrictive, but the value-add of large trees to our community extends beyond one property. Recent Ontario case law has recognized the communal value of trees beyond property lines.

A review of the tree by-laws being implemented in other jurisdictions suggests that reasonable application of such by-laws need not be overly burdensome. Some municipalities are considered to have gone over the top with the overly-bureaucratic application of their tree by-laws, but reasonable enforcement of by-laws has been a Burlington hallmark.

Clearly there are differences of opinion on this matter; although in our neighbourhood, as large mature tree lots are being cleared to expedite new development proposals, neighbours are becoming increasingly incensed. The challenge going forward is to find a balance. A monitored case-study of tree by-law implementation in Roseland will tell us much about the value and cost of such a by-law in sustaining this important and key characteristic of our community.”

Gloria & Don Baxter

Read Ontario Case Law:

<http://findlaw.ca/learn-about-the-law/dispute-resolution/article/can-i-cut-down-my-neighbours-tree/>

“You only have to drive around Roseland to see that there has been a large net loss of trees and it is ridiculous to suggest that planting a tree to replace one removed balances the equation.

Most of our neighboring towns have tree bylaws - Oakville, Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto, Ancaster etc. None of them seem to have had problems as a result.”

Bill Love

City of London Study:

<http://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Trees-Forests/Documents/UFORE%20Final%20Report%20May%202018%202012.pdf>

Roseland Trees: <https://youtu.be/CIZ8Wg1vilg>

“Roseland is home to over 100 large mature trees, many of which are over 36" in diameter, many of which over well over 100 years old and so predate the settlement of the neighbourhood.

- There are over 40 species of large mature trees in Roseland
- Some have numerous representatives (beeches & red oaks), some have only one (English Elm)
- Despite numerous losses, the canopy is still extensive; entire blocks of Princess and Balmoral have a high arching canopy that shades the entire block.
- In addition to the natural challenges of age and disease, our canopy regularly faces the clear cutting of large, mature, healthy trees from properties before demolition or expansion of the dwelling is applied for. These trees are essential to the succession of the tree canopy.

David McKay, Chair, Roseland Tree Canopy Working Group



<https://twitter.com/RoselandCommOrg>



www.facebook.com/RoselandCommunityOrganization



Questions or opinions?

“There are several reasons I support a pilot project for a private tree by-law in Roseland. I believe our tree canopy is essential to the environmental and physical health of our city and its residents. As well, as one of the community’s oldest neighbourhoods, Roseland has a large number of mature trees that contribute to its character. Through the Character Study, many residents expressed a desire to maintain the tree canopy and the presence of the large, mature trees.” **Mayor Goldring**