

April 5, 2011

Report of the Tree By-law Subcommittee:

A subcommittee of MIRANET was established to review the existing Tree Permit Bylaw for the City of Mississauga, document perceived shortcomings and make recommendations regarding changes and/or improvements.

The main shortcomings found include, but are not limited to the following:

- The current limit of 4 trees per calendar year without a permit is far too generous, especially if larger trees are involved
- There is no restriction on the removal and special consideration of large trees if exempt from a permit- there should be a permit required for any tree over 30cm (12 inches) in diameter
- There is no requirement for a public notification period or a mechanism for interested persons to comment
- The penalties do not serve as a deterrent in that commercial value of a removed tree may exceed the amount of the fine
- There is a loophole in the use of a 'calendar' year that could result in a property owner removing four trees late in one calendar year and four more early in the next calendar year
- The By-law name; "The Tree Permit By-law" misses that the intent of the by-law is to preserve trees within the City of Mississauga
- Fines for cutting without a permit should include fines to the company doing the cutting
- An application to remove trees should not guarantee a permit. If a permit is granted, it should be conditional on replanting new trees with revisions to the current replanting standards
- The City doesn't seem to have a process to follow if there are problems arising with tree cutting without a permit- especially during holidays and weekends
- The current bylaw is outdated given the importance of initiatives the City is proposing with its 'Living Green Master Plan' and the trend towards sustainable forests and tree replanting initiatives. Mississauga could be a leader in this area if the focus becomes 'preserving' our environment for future generations

Prepared and presented by:

The MIRANET Tree By-law Subcommittee

MIRANET meeting: April 6, 2011

