

9TH REPORT OF THE
TREES AND FORESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on September 28, 2016, commencing at 12:15 PM, in Committee Room #4, Second Floor, London City Hall.

PRESENT: A. Cantell (Acting Chair), C. Haindle, T. Khan, J. Kogelheide, C. Linton, G. Mitchell, D. Pavletic and N. St. Amour; and J. Martin (Secretary).

ABSENT: P. Ciufo and R. Mannella.

ALSO PRESENT: A. Beaton, and I. Listar.

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

2. Proposal to Break Isolation of the Dingman Creek American Chestnut

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) supports the Canadian Chestnut Council's proposal to break isolation of the Dingman Creek American Chestnut Tree within the boundaries of the Dingeman Creek Conservation area, provided the lands are owned by the City of London; it being noted that the TFAC received the attached presentation from Ron Casier, Chair, Canadian Chestnut Council with respect to this matter.

3. Tree Protection By-law

That it BE NOTED that the attached presentation from I. Listar, Manager, Urban Forestry, with respect to the Tree Protection By-law, was received.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

4. 8th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 8th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on August 9, 2016, was received.

5. Municipal Council Resolution - Provision of Child Minding Services for the Public at Public Participation Meetings

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held March 22, 2016 with respect to the provision of child minding services for the public at public participation meetings, was received.

6. Municipal Council Resolution - 8th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held September 13, 2016 with respect to the 8th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, was received.

7. Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills Community Meeting

That it BE NOTED that a communication with respect to the Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills Community Meeting to be held on Thursday, September 29, 2016, was received.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

8. Allergens, Climate Change and Invasive Working Group

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee received a verbal update from A. Cantell on behalf of the Allergens, Climate Change & Invasives Working Group.

9. 1995 Dingman Creek Objectives

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee received a verbal update from C. Linton with respect to the 1995 Dingman Creek Objectives.

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10. Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy - Forestry Operation Wildlife Protocol Presentation

That it BE NOTED that the staff report dated July 19, 2016, from J. Braam, Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer, a verbal presentation from A. Beaton, Supervisor, Forestry Operations and a communication from F. Morrison, M. Blosh and the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Wildlife Sub-Committee with respect to the Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy - Forestry Operation Wildlife Protocol, were received.

11. Workplan Review

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee reviewed and updated the attached 2016 Work Plan.

VI. DEFERRED MATTERS/ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 26, 2016

Proposal to Break Isolation of the Dingman Creek American Chestnut

The project is intended to contribute to the retention of the American chestnut population and its genome within its Ontario distribution by breaking the isolation of wild native American chestnut. "Breaking the isolation" means the following: American chestnut is not self-compatible. Many American chestnut continue to flower, but they no longer produce viable nuts because they do not have a source of compatible pollen. These trees may be considered "sexually isolated". Therefore, "breaking the isolation" refers to planting sexually mature grafted pure American chestnut trees (6-10) within pollen dispersal distances (15 m) of these existing isolated trees. This is to be achieved by planting selected cloned saplings (etiolated grafts) of native American chestnut at locations adjacent to occurrences to allow trees to resume non-clonal reproduction. All trees used for this project will be DNA tested to ascertain its purity (100% American) and will be blight free. Grafted trees will be planted during late summer/early fall, the trees will be planted against prevailing winds 7.5 to 13.5 m from candidate tree and in total up to 10 trees per candidate tree (depending of available material and canopy openings). With careful management, this is a viable option to continue the species in the wild and act to buy time until blight resistant American chestnut can be introduced. To this date the Canadian Chestnut Council has planted grafted trees for the purpose of breaking isolation at 26 locations. Just to mention a few: the Nature Conservancy of Canada (4 trees), the Royal Botanical Garden, Hamilton, (2 trees), Dundas Valley Conservation Area (4 trees), City of Hamilton (2 trees), Norfolk County (2 trees), Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (2 trees), Thames Talbot Land Trust (Hawk Cliff Woods 1 tree) etc. and on numerous private properties. The breaking isolation project of the Canadian Chestnut Council is approved and funded under the Endangered Species Act (2007) by the OMNR Species at Risk Stewardship Fund.

In the most recent official survey of American Chestnut in Ontario (2014), it was determined that there had been a 21% mortality among the wild native population from numerous causes with only 0.3% recruitment in the previous decade. The sexual isolation of the remaining wild native trees prevents nut production and dooms the species to expatriation in Ontario within 100 years without human intervention.

The Dingman Tree is a blight free mature canopy specimen which is flowering without a partner for proper pollination and nut production for the propagation of the species. As a survivor of the blight that decimated the species in the 1920s and that continues to decimate the remaining population, the genome of this tree is important to preserve and reintroduce to the breeding population. The breaking isolation of the Dingman Creek tree will allow it to not only produce viable nuts after nearly 100 years of isolation and pass

its unique genetics on to a new generation but will allow it partner trees to exchange genetic material as well. Such a natural recombination of genetics may allow for natural selection to occur resulting in a more blight resistant prodigy. This is what the Canadian Chestnut Council is doing in its three research and breeding plots but are restricted physically by the number of trees that we have material to work with. The breaking isolation project brings the isolated trees into contact with as many of our best wild American Chestnuts in the province. This allows nature to do her own job of recombining genes through nut production and seek its own possible solution to the blight. The recruitment of new trees plus the renewed source of mast for wildlife will increase the biodiversity of the ecosystem of the Dingman Creek watershed.

The breaking isolation of the Dingman Creek Tree will be at no cost to the City of London and the Canadian Chestnut Council will be responsible for all materials, installation and maintenance of the site in regards to the American Chestnut.

Additional background materials, presentations, references are available upon request. Thanking you in advance and for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely Yours in the Restoration of the American Chestnut.

Ron Casier

Chair

Canadian Chestnut Council

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TREE PROTECTION BY-LAW

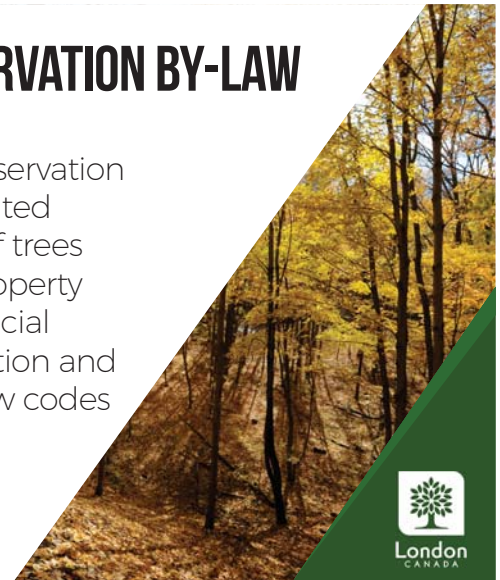


Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
September 28, 2016



TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW

The Tree Conservation By-law regulated the cutting of trees on private property based on Official Plan designation and Zoning By-law codes



TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW

- Tree Conservation By-law in place since 1996
- Tree Conservation By-law was revised in 2007
- 4,500 ha protected within Urban Growth Boundary
- Over 50% on privately owned lands



COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN – 2015-2019

Strong and Healthy Environment

- (3C) – Plant more trees and better protect them ...
- Work together to protect all aspects of our natural environment, including woodlands, wetlands, river and watercourse and air quality as our city grows

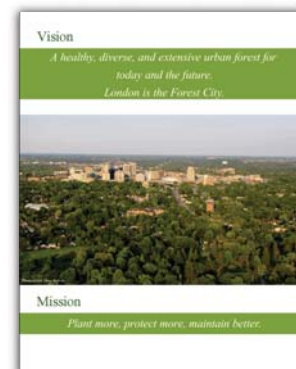
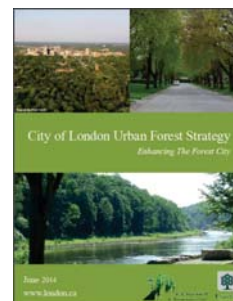


THE LONDON PLAN

- “...establish policies, by-laws, practice standards, and guidelines that clearly define what trees will be preserved and what trees may be removed, to ensure the structure and functions of the Urban Forest are not harmed.
- “A tree conservation by-law for private property will be established to prohibit the destruction of trees, unless and until such time as a tree cutting permit is obtained, where required.”



URBAN FOREST STRATEGY – ADOPTED BY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2014



URBAN FOREST STRATEGY — MAIN PILLARS

Plant more

Protect more

Maintain better



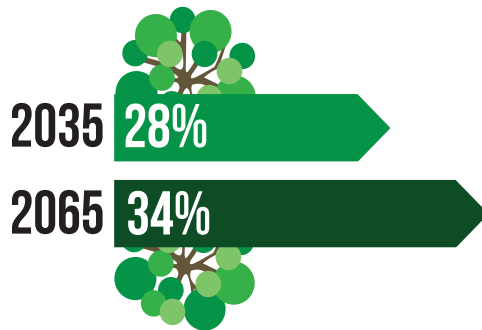
URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

Under Protect More:

- Enforce the penalties for cutting trees in woodlands without a permit
- Increase staff and resources for enforcement of tree protection
- Develop and enforce a Heritage Tree By-law that protects trees due to their size, age....
- Consider new policies and review/enhance existing policies..



TREE CANOPY COVER TARGETS



BEST PRACTICES IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

- Tree by-laws are common
- Apply to trees on privately owned lands
- Tree by-laws often apply to large individual trees
- Tree by-laws often apply to groupings of trees as well – woodlands, open spaces, or environmental areas
- Fees
- Fines



CONCERNS WITH TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW

- Several Council resolutions asking to address concerns
- Current By-law points to Official Plan and Zoning By-law
 - Open Space
 - Environmental Review
 - OS5 (not OS1-OS4)
- Creates a loophole
 - Trees can be removed BEFORE a planning application



CONCERNS WITH TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW

- Can be difficult to know whether your tree is covered by the By-law or not
- Does not cover London's largest trees outside of these areas
- Is very inflexible to address different contexts (eg. requirements)



TREE PROTECTION BY-LAW

ENACTED AUGUST 30TH, 2016

- Next generation of Tree By-law
- Addresses loopholes in Tree Conservation By-law
- Protect trees until planning application has been approved to address trees
- Trees addressed through subdivision, site plan, consent exempt from By-law
- Better clarity to identify which trees are protected and where
- More flexibility to recognize context for the proposed removals
- Protect largest trees
- Forestry Health Section



PROPOSED BY-LAW

TWO types of trees Protected:

1. Trees on lands identified within the Tree Protection Area
2. Trees outside of the Tree Protection Area that are 50cm and greater in diameter



1. TREE PROTECTION AREA

Trees within the Tree Protection Area are protected as shown on Schedule D – mapping:

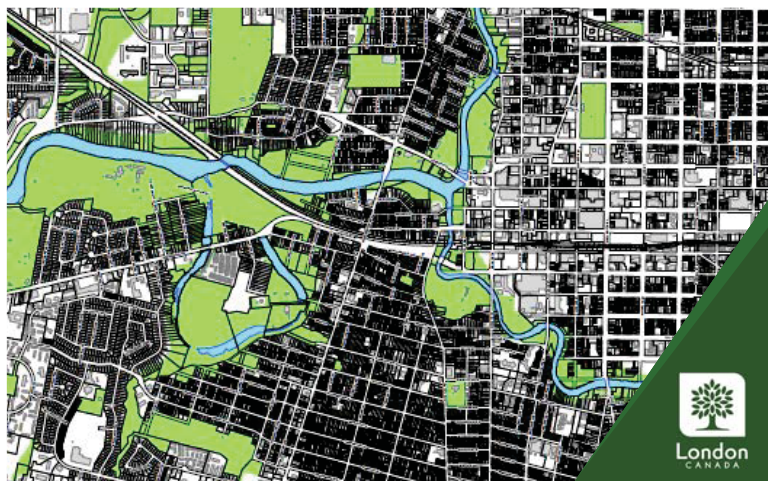
These are generally within the City's natural heritage system including:

- Woodlands
- Valleylands
- ESAs
- Smaller treed areas adjacent to NHS

Clear map shows what is in, and what is outside of, the Tree Protection Area



WHAT'S PROTECTED



2. DISTINCTIVE TREES

Distinctive Trees – these are trees that are 50cm or more in diameter



2. DISTINCTIVE TREES

- Outside the Tree Protection Area, distinctive trees are protected and cannot be injured or destroyed without a permit
- Some of our most important trees for:
 - Neighbourhood character
 - Climate change
 - Energy conservation
 - Habitat



WHAT'S EXEMPT

- Trees injured or destroyed under a condition to the approval of a site plan, a plan of subdivision, a consent or a community planning permit under the Planning Act
- Where a tree is a noxious weed as defined in the weed control act
- Pruning in accordance with good arboriculture practices
- Injury or destruction of trees within a building, a solarium, a rooftop garden or an interior courtyard



WHAT'S EXEMPT

- Actively managed, cultivated orchards, tree farms, or plant nurseries
- A tree that is an immediate threat to public health and safety
- Normal farm practices as defined in the Farming and Food Production Protection Act



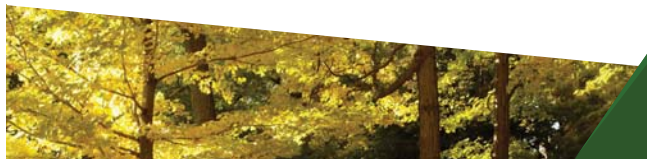
PERMITS CAN BE ISSUED

- Just because a tree is protected, does not mean it cannot be removed
- Protected trees can be removed IF a permit is granted
- Permit process to be easier for simple tree removals that are appropriate
- Application fees are being held low to encourage compliance



PERMITS CAN BE ISSUED

- NO FEE for removing a dead or dying tree
- Permits can come with conditions – eg. tree planting or funds for off-site tree planting
- Denial of a Permit or Permit conditions can be appealed to a Hearings Officer



ENFORCEMENT

Two Main Methods of enforcement are:

- Fines
- Orders



MONITORING

- Review implementation of the By-law
- Identify any issues, concerns, improvements required
- Report back with changes within one year
- Raising a flag...



NEXT STEPS - COMMUNICATIONS

It is critical to inform all Londoners about the Tree Protection By-law, their responsibilities, and how to get help from City Staff



NEXT STEPS — COMMUNICATIONS

- Web site – FAQ
- Directly notifying property owners within tree protection area
- Working with neighbourhood representatives
- Communicating with, and educating, tree service contractors in the City
- Explore media opportunities



QUESTIONS



Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Work Plan – 2016

Meeting schedule: In order to keep momentum, TFAC will meet early in December to avoid conflict with the holidays.

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Urban Forest Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Urban Forest Strategy is a multi-million dollar 20 year strategy to help ensure the growth and health of one of the Forest City’s most important features. Providing advice on the formation and implementation of London’s Urban Forest Strategy is at the core of TFAC’s mandate. Monitor progress on the Urban Forest Strategy and make recommendations concerning its ongoing implementation Ensure PEC is being kept informed of progress on the UFS Provide feedback on “No Net Loss” policy Provide feedback on “Right Tree Right Place” Provide feedback on tree retention policy 	Amber & Roberto	Ongoing	\$0	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A: Address and manage the infrastructure gap to maintain what we have now and reduce the tax burden on future generations.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C: Plant more trees and better protect them from deforestation, invasive species, and other threats.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E: Work together to protect all aspects of our natural environment including woodlands, wetlands, river and watercourses, and air quality as our city grows.</p>
Tree Planting Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist City staff in the development of a Planting Strategy for London (as a part of the UFS) Investigate ways the City could support tree planting on private land 	TBD	April – December	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Planting & Monitoring Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal is to develop recommendations for what data should be recorded during planting, establishment, and cutting, so as to know (e.g.) how long a tree typically lives in London (& if that’s improving or worsening), how many trees are being removed a year, what the survival rate is of different species, etc. 	Amber (to produce draft for TFAC)	February – March	\$0	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C</p>

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Green Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province has recently voted to try and take Wellington County's "Green Legacy" model (through which school children volunteer at county-owned greenhouses to grow, distribute, and plant free trees throughout the County) province wide. Our goal is to share information with PEC about the model, and make recommendations concerning how London could become involved and potentially collaborate with Middlesex County or other organizations on it. <p>UPDATE September 2016 – Received the presentation and support of Council – will look at moving forward.</p>	Amber	March – June	\$250 (honorarium for guest speaker)	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Infrastructure Replacement Projects in Roadways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent road work and tree cutting in Rowntree neighbourhood has provided an opportunity to review the processes affecting street trees in London Our goal is to make recommendations to improve citizen understanding of decisions to make removals, and to reduce the impact of construction on trees 	Working group	January – June	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A
Tree establishment recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to reduce mortality of newly planted street and park trees, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future tree watering report for 2017 White pot technology – could be part of the green legacy Potted stock in lieu of caliper trees Growing contracts 	Amber	Dec (2015) – Jan (2016); possibly reconsider again in autumn	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change is expected to have enormous impacts on Canadian forests, with a minimum of 4°C of warming predicted for our country (vs. the global average of 2°C) by the end of the century, and worst case projections from the IPCC suggesting that increases as high as 10°C may be possible (for Canada) Goal is to develop recommendations around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition and establishment of more southerly stock Piloting more southern species as street trees Collaborating with more southern municipalities on climate change issues 	Working group	January - April	\$0	Building a Sustainable City 1E: Fund innovative ways to adapt to Climate Change.

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Tree Planting Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This document determines what species can be planted and where on City land, and is updated on an annual basis TFAC will review and make suggestions for improvement this year, particularly with regard to invasive species, climate change, and allergens, and seek to more strongly connect it to the Urban Forest Strategy <p>Update – Recommendations Changes submitted for review</p>	Working group	May - September	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Committee Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential educational/outreach opportunities for members to possibly attend to help keep abreast of current developments in urban forestry (e.g., forestry conferences) and plan to have at least 3 TFAC members attend such opportunities this year 	TFAC	Ongoing	\$500	Innovative and Supportive Organizational Practices 2B: Use innovative and best practices in all organizational and management activities
Companion Plantings for Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees often benefit from being planted in association with other native shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. Having additional naturalized land also reduces environmental impacts of land management (e.g., fossil fuel consumption for lawn mowing; stormwater runoff, etc.) and provides habitat for wildlife (e.g., bees and other pollinators). TFAC will research opportunities for this to occur on City-owned land. 	Patti	July - December	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Identification of Publicly Owned Plantable Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the largest single landowner in London, the City owns an enormous amount of plantable land, not all of which is in parks. TFAC will work to make recommendations to help ensure that there is a regular process for identifying all plantable spaces on City-owned land and that there are systems in place to help get them planted and contributing to London's canopy cover targets. Invite James MacKay, Ecologist to a future meeting (2017) to speak to this. 	Amber	2017	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Fruit & Nut Tree Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There is a growing interest in food security issues in London. With climate change, food prices are expected to increase by 11-131% (depending on species) for staples such as corn, rice and wheat by 2050: an increase in food prices of as much as 4% is expected for 2016 alone.TFAC will collaborate with the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) to explore ways to increase food security through the planting of fruit and nut trees.	Amber (in partnership with Skylar from AAC)	February	\$0	Caring and Compassionate Services 3A: Eliminate barriers for individuals facing poverty, mental health and addictions and help them find pathways to be successful.
COMPLETED					
City Tree Protection Bylaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Explore the potential to reduce the number of calls from residents asking to plant trees themselves in roadways by planting more quickly in new developmentsMake recommendations on how to make planting easier for residents (as per council direction to staff in 2015)	Craig	January - June	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C