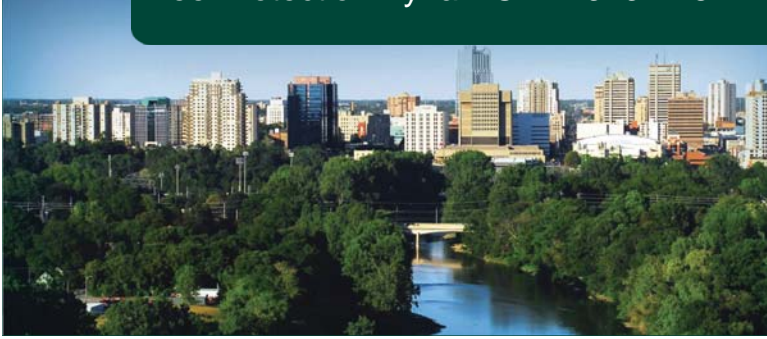




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## Tree Protection By-law C.P.-1515-228



Trees & Forests Advisory Committee  
June 27, 2018



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## Overview

### We Are “The Forest City”

#### Urban Forest Strategy (2014) – “Protect More”

- Distinctive Trees (UGB) 50cm+
- Tree Protection Areas - mapped, City-wide, all trees regardless of size

#### What We Have Learned

- Public outreach and engagement; consulted with those that went through the permitting process
- Challenges with administration of By-law and building things as we needed them



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## How Did We Listen?

### Tree Care Professionals & Industry Consultants

- February 2018
- “Global café” meeting at Civic Gardens
- 20+ attendees, 16 different companies
- Round table discussions
- Q & A

### Residents & Home-owners

- Online survey
- + comments to staff

### Other

- Developers one-on-one conversation
- London Development Institute (LDI) meeting
- London Planners Lunch



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## What We Heard

### Generally, the By-law is a good thing

- More trees being pruned instead of removed
- \$100 fee is okay (some exceptions) for Distinctive Tree
- Understood the value of trees; some recommended that trees of smaller size should be protected
- Satisfied people - tended to be quiet or did not feel the need to attend meetings

*“I appreciate the value of this program.  
The City is losing too much of its forest cover and we must act to protect the little that remains”.*

*“When I called the dept. someone came to inspect the tree and advised that the tree needed to come down for safety reasons.  
The permit was expedited. It’s a good by-law and we were happy to comply”.*

*“Process went smoothly. City staff were great to work with”.*



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## What We Heard

### But.....

- Public generally unaware it applied to their tree
- Fee for trees in woodlands (TPAs) \$1,000 is too steep
- Reported uptick in healthy tree removal <50cm DT size threshold
- “Fly by night” tree care company operators
- Process takes too long and is unclear
  - Cemeteries and golf courses need to be able to submit one-tree, or few-tree, applications
  - Need electronic submission - online payment system, fillable forms



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## Challenges with Administration

### Taking longer than expected

- Enforcement challenges, delays in Urban Forest Strategy implementation and project work
- Fee taking, keeping, returning
- No fillable forms – manual entry, multiple places
- Secure Urban Forestry data storage system
- Preparation & Attending appeals; court hearings
- Direction from Hearing Officer’s decisions
- Slipping from ~2 weeks to ~6 weeks (down 1 staff)



## What We Propose to Do

### Create Simplified Process & Clear Guidance

- “DDT” – Dead Distinctive Tree permit (no fee; no replanting)
- Application requirements vs additional information
- When a permit shall issue - swimming pool installation, building permits
- Replanting requirements
- No 5+ year plan for cemeteries & golf course
- \$100 flat permit fee (some exception); add \$100 fee to Appeal
- Only Landowner, or agent, may apply for a Permit
- Requesting fillable forms, online payment (2019)



## Next Steps

- Trees & Forests Advisory Committee
- Receive and consider public comments – until August 2018
- Present new Tree Protection By-law September 24, 2018 (public participation meeting)
- Existing By-law remains in force and effect for now
- Repeal and replace by year end 2018

Questions?

