



London
CANADA

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





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



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”.



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



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

