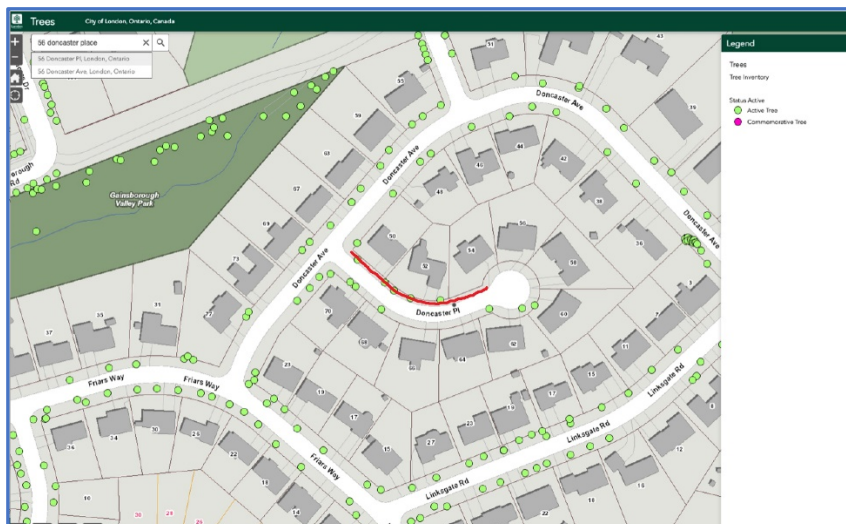


Doncaster Place Road Reconstruction *The case for sidewalk exemption and protection of legacy trees*

Lila Kari

(A) Reasons why a sidewalk on Doncaster Place is neither justified, nor useful:

- 1) Doncaster Place is a 11-house cul-de-sac, with absolutely no traffic except its residents and their visitors. The amount of traffic is almost certainly only a small fraction of that of Runnymede Crescent, a street in the same neighbourhood for which we understand a sidewalk exemption has been warranted. We estimate the vehicular traffic to be less than 10 minutes per day in total.
- 2) The proposed sidewalk would “*serve*” **only 3 houses** of the 11 houses on the street, and the residents in all three of those houses oppose the sidewalk project. This proposed project could actually be argued as *decreasing* the quality of access to those houses, by virtue of no longer having the solar protection provided by the mature trees' shade. For most houses a new sidewalk would now require two street crossings.
- 3) The February 9, 2021, Report to Civic Works Committee states that “Doncaster Place, Culver Place, and East Afton Place are short neighbourhood streets that will be fully reconstructed in 2021. They have no existing sidewalks and are dead-end court-style streets, they have no connection to other destinations. **These types of locations are normally not considered for a new sidewalk.**”



Doncaster Place sidewalk would destroy half of the city trees while providing no benefit.

Pedestrian and wheel chair traffic would require as much time on the road as not having a sidewalk due to street crossings required for use.

- 4) The removal of the trees would negatively impact the residents of all 11 of the houses. From the notice we received on February 11, 2021, it appears that the only reason for tree removal is for sidewalks. Tree removal is not necessary for the other aspects of the proposed project.
- 5) The expenditures incurred by sidewalk construction are wasteful, and do not meet any present need, outside that of the construction contractors and tree-removal contractors involved.
- 6) The Doncaster residents consensus view is that a sidewalk is not needed, and that the highest priority should be given to mature tree preservation and protection during road reconstruction.
- 7) All residents, as well as some former residents (1 no-show), signed the neighbourhood “Save Sherwood Forest Trees” petition, with over 300 signatures to date.

(B) Reasons why preservation of mature trees is crucial and should be prioritized

(on Doncaster Place and on the adjacent Friar’s Way, see map)

- Mature trees are irreplaceable in the short and medium term. A 50-year tree cannot be replaced with a sapling, and *transplanting a mature tree can cost upwards of \$500,000 per 50-inch caliper tree.*
(<https://www.parksandrecbusiness.com/articles/2015/01/30/moving-large-trees>)
- A 100 year old mature tree cannot be replaced with a single young tree, but rather would require planting of "2,000 saplings, each with a tree top volume of 1 cubic metre in order to compensate fully for **the loss of the tree. The cost of this would amount to roughly \$150,000.**" (<https://citygreen.com/blog/how-much-is-one-mature-tree-worth/>)
- Replacing the 50 mature trees that would be cut down in Sherwood Forest for beside-the-road sidewalks would require planting 50,000 saplings
- Other municipalities, such as the City of Waterloo, have attempted to “green” their city, by planting of young trees,. The results have been mixed at best, with many saplings simply not surviving, and the remaining ones not thriving.
- The effect of mature trees on air quality is well documented, and their removal would negatively impact air quality measures, including the particulate matter level, *disproportionately affecting those with respiratory disabilities and the elderly.*
- Youth in our neighbourhood started a companion petition “Save Sherwood Forest Trees” with over 175 signatures to date

<https://www.change.org/SaveSherwoodForest>

Youth quote: “There must be a better way without the need to remove beautiful mature trees... find one!”

- Other municipalities value their mature trees. In 2017, the City of Houston, Texas, moved (rather than demolish) 60 large trees from Emancipation Park at a cost of \$1.25 million
<https://www.kci.com/resources-insights/innovator/emancipation-park-celebration-freedom/>
- Tree transplanting & moving services exist in Ontario (Davey Tree, Douglas Wood)
Moving one 50-cm width tree, if successful, would cost \$40,000
<https://www.parksandrecbusiness.com/articles/2015/01/30/moving-large-trees>
- Moving 50 large Sherwood Forest trees would cost ~2 million dollars
- **Incompatibility with London as a “Forest City”**
Removal of mature trees, in spite of significant public opposition, is directly at odds with the goals of London’s “Million Tree Challenge” initiative
(<https://www.reforestlondon.ca/million-tree-challenge>), and it would have a negative impact to the reputation and public image of London as the "Forest City”
- **The Rethink London Discussion Papers** clearly state Londoners’ desire to preserve the reason for their city being called “The Forest City”
<https://www.middlesex.ca/council/2013/june/11/B%203%20-%20CW%20Action%20-%20June%2011%20-%20REthink%20London%20documents.pdf>

Based on the above arguments, we hereby respectfully request an exemption from sidewalks for Doncaster Place and we request that no trees be removed or endangered during any road reconstruction project.

We are hopeful that we may have a dialog, albeit belated, that will result in a satisfactory outcome.

Respectfully Submitted,



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