

**- ADDENDUM -**  
**- GUELPH CITY COUNCIL MEETING -**  
**- November 23, 2009 -**

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<b>DELEGATIONS</b>
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- a) Proposed Demolition of 26 Hosking Place and Merger of 26 & 28 Hosking Place (Consent Report A-1)
  - Mari and Fred Lauzon
  
- b) Royal City Park Plant Material Management Plan (Clause 3 of the Report of the Community Development & Environmental Services Committee):
  - Norah Chaloner
  - Judy Martin
  - Laura Murr

Correspondence received from:

  - Cynthia Folzer
  - John D. Ambrose
  - Judy Martin
  - Heritage Guelph
  - Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Murr

<b>REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL AND OTHER COMMITTEES</b>
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Council as Committee of the Whole			
Item	City Presentation	Delegations	To be Extracted
COW-1 Minutes of Settlement			

Adoption of balance of the Council as Committee of the Whole Seventh  
Consent Report –

***"THAT By-law Numbers (2009)-18892 to (2009)-18911,  
inclusive, are hereby passed."***

<b>BY-LAWS</b>
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<p>By-law Number (2009)-18909</p> <p>A by-law to remove Lot 83, Plan 61M152, designated as Parts 11 and 12, Reference Plan 61R11040; Lot 141, Plan 61M152, designated as Parts 19 and 20, Reference Plan 61R11040; and Lots 147, Plan 61M152, designated as Parts 31 and 32, Reference Plan 61R11040 in the City of Guelph from Part Lot Control. (17 &amp; 19 Vipond Street; 3 &amp; 5 Dougall Street; and 29 &amp; 31 Dougall Street)</p>	<p>To remove land from part lot control to create separate parcels for semi detached dwellings to be known municipally as 17 &amp; 19 Vipond Street; 3 &amp; 5 Dougall Street; and 29 &amp; 31 Dougall Street.</p>
<p>By-law Number (2009)-18910</p> <p>A by-law to remove Lot 29, Plan 61M129 designated as Parts 1 and 2, Reference Plan 61R10512 in the City of Guelph from Part Lot Control. (1 &amp; 2 Davison Drive.)</p>	<p>To remove land from part lot control to create 2 semi-detached lots to be known municipally as 1 &amp; 2 Davison Drive.</p>
<p>By-law Number (2009)-18911</p> <p>A by-law to confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Guelph City Council held November 23, 2009.</p>	<p>To confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Guelph City Council held November 23, 2009.</p>

RECEIVED  
NOV 20 2009  
11 Cambridge St.  
Guelph, On N1H 2T8  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
19 November, 2009

To: Mayor Farbridge and members of Guelph City Council  
Re: Royal City Park Trees

I wish to express my concern about the potential removal of 52 trees from Royal City Park. I believe Council should obtain a second opinion. If the second opinion confirms the consultant's report, then I urge you not to authorize the removal of "medium priority" trees, as suggested by Judy Martin of the Sierra Club of Canada. You might also consider cabling some of the trees.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Folyn

**Subject:** Re: Royal City Park Plant Material Management Plan

Thanks Helen--

Sorry I haven't been more active in commenting but busy on the farm much of the summer-fall.

A few points:

I'd still like to see a stronger direction for the design features of the park: the allees of high canopy trees, with emphasis on species that will maintain it: Silver Maple.

I think naturalizing can be done in way that is both aesthetically pleasing and helpful to the health of the trees [mainly by keeping the mowers and line trimmers away from the trees!--Silver Maple can achieve 1-2m dbh in flood plains so the moisture is not the problem].

Other species: Norway Maple should be phased out due to its inappropriate tree form as well as its invasive nature.

I would emphasize the flood plain species that typically occur with Silver Maple in this area: Red Maple, Black Walnut, Bur Oak [ashes, except likely to be impacted by Emerald Ash Borer].

Some of the others are not very appropriate or would do poorly here even though native to Ontario [e.g., Pin Oak].

Native flood plain shrubs could be planted to define the naturalized areas.

Vandalism: the most damage I've seen to the new trees here appears to be from line trimmers so there needs to be a major rethinking of how the ground level vegetation is maintained, with some areas perhaps only mowed once or twice a season, allowing tall grass in back areas where no active use is seen.

Species inventory: very unlikely that there is a Red Mulberry on site [red fruited White Mulberry, yes]. English Walnut dubious.

If you are planning on continuing input as the plan develops I'd be happy to help.

John

John D. Ambrose  
Guelph, ON

Good morning Helen,

I would like to receive a response to some of the questions and issues I raised at the committee meeting Monday, and I was hoping you could help me out.

1. Could you provide me the source/sources for the definition of "healthy tree?" Does this definition mean that trees that don't measure up to this ideal will be subject to removal?
2. Will the naturalized area adjacent to the 40 Wellington site be reduced or eliminated?
3. Will correspondence from stakeholder groups be included in council packets?
4. In response to a question, the consultant stated that mass removal of the trees was preferable to a staged removal so that replanting could begin at once. Is there something that would preclude replanting prior to tree removals?
5. With respect to the many public comments supporting the inclusion of "maximizing tree lifespan" into the vision statement, I noticed that the staff response was that the recommended arboricultural practices and modifications to turf maintenance are intended to "enhance the lifespan" of existing trees and new tree plantings.

Therefore, might I suggest that the vision statement be amended using wording from staff's response: "To manage vegetation in Royal City Park and to enhance the lifespan of trees in the park by applying best practices to proactively maintain a healthy and diverse native tree population", etc. Would this amendment be acceptable?

6. With respect to the comment that dead trees could not be left standing because they would be a hazard, are there instances of snags or downed logs left as wildlife habitat causing injuries to park users?

Thank you for any responses you can provide to these questions.

Judy Martin

(The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of the 9 November 2009 Heritage Guelph meeting regarding the recommended Royal City Park Plant Material Management Plan.)

### **Landscape Sub-Committee**

Betty-Lou Clark reported on the Heritage Guelph Landscape Sub-Committee meeting. Betty-Lou indicated that the discussion focussed on the recommended Royal City Park Plant Material Management Plan to be presented at the Community Design and Environmental Services Committee on 16 November 2009 and then to be considered by Council on 23 November 2009. The Landscape Sub-Committee felt that they can recommend that Heritage Guelph support the recommended Royal City Park Plant Material Management Plan in principal. The Sub-Committee noted that this park is an important part of an area that has been studied in preparation for the Brooklyn and College Hill Heritage Conservation District and, therefore, landscape plantings should replicate the original 1910 or the subsequent 1930 period of the park's design evolution. A suggestion was made that Council should be asked to allow for a maintenance budget for Royal City Park, including the upkeep of plants and trees. The Sub-Committee would like confirmation that the GRCA was involved in the consultation process for this project. The Sub-Committee recommended that Heritage Guelph request that it be formally consulted by the Parks Department on any future significant alterations to City parks which are of heritage value, and to this end, Heritage Guelph should provide Parks with a list of parks which it considers to be of cultural heritage significance. Members of Heritage Guelph were asked to submit their suggestions to the Landscape Subcommittee as to what should be considered a recognized or potential cultural heritage landscape or park area of cultural heritage interest.

Moved by Lorraine Pagnan and seconded by Lesley Hayward,

**“THAT the report from the Heritage Guelph Landscape Sub-Committee, dated November 9, 2009, be accepted, and  
That the Heritage Guelph Minutes be passed on to Parks Planning for their consideration, and  
That Heritage Guelph would like a further continuing opportunity to provide advice of a heritage nature as plans for Royal City Park proceed.”**

**CARRIED**

**Stephen Robinson** | Senior Heritage Planner  
Policy Planning and Urban Design | **Community Design and Development  
Services**  
**City of Guelph**

Madame Mayor and Council members:

It is our understanding that many of silver maples in Royal City Park are potentially close to 100 years old. In Europe, England the US and Canada these trees would be known as "Veteran Trees". The life span of a mature silver maple is 130 years and upwards years. Therefore we should protect as many as possible for the benefits they provide our city. See attached article on value of veteran trees.

*Three guiding principles can define the term Veteran tree:*

- *Trees of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age*
- *Trees in the ancient stage of their life*
- *Trees that are old relative to others of the same species*

*Their care and preservation is becoming a science in itself and unless we can appreciate their unique role in the history and biodiversity of this country many priceless specimens that have stood firm in the soil in which they grow for many hundreds of years will be lost forever.*

*Why care for Veteran Trees?*

- *Protect old trees for wildlife, conservation and historical interest*
- *Reduce the risk of injury or damage caused by the inherent weakness present in old trees*
- *Provide opportunities to enhance the Veteran/Ancient tree population*

*Caring for Veteran Trees*

- *Detailed inspection and assessment of threats and weaknesses to old tree population*
- *Target management by the relocation of footpaths, play areas and roads etc, to allow old trees to remain*
- *Identification of potential future Veteran/Ancient trees*
- *Protection of wildlife habitat living on, in or nearby old trees*
- *Collect data pertaining to historical trees "*

After researching Veteran Trees we have a better understanding the life cycle of mature trees. We have attached this for your information.

While we recognize that hazard trees should be cut down, we question whether the most scientifically accurate method of assessing these trees' stability and hazard risk has been utilized? It would appear that such methods as "Internal decay detection using 'Resistograph' or 'Picus Tormograph" have not been used. Nor has a stability assessment been conducted. These are accepted methods to assess veteran trees - see this link:

[http://www.treeworks.co.uk/tree\\_stability\\_assessment.php](http://www.treeworks.co.uk/tree_stability_assessment.php)

This article describes the value of veteran trees. Veteran Trees Initiative.

[http://www.treeworks.co.uk/downloads/SSM\\_HandBook.pdf](http://www.treeworks.co.uk/downloads/SSM_HandBook.pdf)

We believe that part of tax dollars should be utilized to carry out a more scientific assessment of the trees proposed to be logged in Royal City Park before you consider cutting them down and losing one of the most iconic views in Guelph, not to mention the environmental benefit of these mature trees as green infrastructure.

We understand that we are operating in a time of budgetary restraints; however, it seems we have millions of dollars to spend on infrastructure related to growth and development. Examples of this include part of the cost for the Woodlawn Road upgrades for Wal-Mart and the Home Depot, 50% of the cost of upgrades and widening of Victoria road, new growth related water and wastewater upgrades etc. As taxpayers we believe that our dollars should also be used to protect our green infrastructure which mitigates the environmental impacts of growth and intensification.

Therefore we urge you to approve a full scientific evaluation of these trees before they are cut in an effort to protect as many as possible for the citizens of Guelph to treasure and enjoy as part of our cultural, aesthetic and historical legacy.

Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Murr  
Guelph ON





November 23, 2009

Dear Mayor Farbridge and City Councillors,

Sierra Club Canada respectfully submits the following comments on the Royal City Park Plant Management Plan:

1. Vision statement. Virtually all of the 13 public comments on the vision statement referred to the image of large trees and canopy. In our opinion, these are the elements that should be included in a vision statement: The vision of Royal City Park with large, mature native trees and a mostly closed canopy.

The current vision statement is, we believe, too technical and too detailed, containing a definition of healthy tree, reference to management practices, a specific percentage of canopy, etc. While we can appreciate that this level of detail is helpful from a management perspective, we believe a vision statement should be more general in nature and that management details should be left to the plan itself.

2. The definition of "healthy tree" in the report is questionable. The consultant stated at the CDES committee meeting that the definition came from a number of sources, and that it was not the "standard" definition of a healthy tree used by the industry.

As you know, policy implementation can be significantly influenced by the definitions in policy documents. We are concerned that in this case the definition of "healthy tree" is so uncompromising that it could facilitate the removal of trees that are healthy but do not meet the stringent definition. For example, the definition states that healthy trees exhibit "symmetrical crowns showing even development on all sides." So an asymmetric tree is unhealthy by definition.

We have asked for clarification on this point: Does this definition mean that trees that don't meet this ideal will be subject to removal?

3. Naturalized areas. According to the report, 86% of the surveys completed supported naturalization of the Park. Yet, we are told by staff that one of the two naturally regenerating areas will not be designated as a naturalized area. In addition, naturalization is not scheduled to occur until 2012, and then only "small pilot naturalized areas" with shrubs will be established.

We believe the two existing naturally-regenerating areas in the park should remain and that a more aggressive plan for naturalization should be implemented in order to offset the environmental damage caused by the mass removal of mature trees from the Park.

4. Canopy loss. If all 52 trees are removed as planned, over 25% of the canopy in the park will be lost. Of those 52 trees, a dozen or so were rated as Medium priority for removal. Therefore, it should be possible to retain the Medium priority trees for the short term to mitigate the loss of canopy. This would also allow for replanting to occur before all trees are removed.

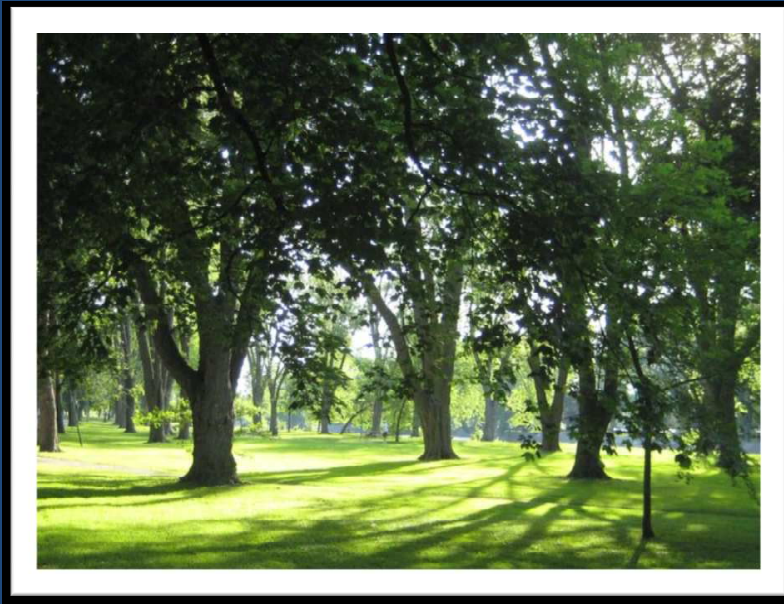
We notice that the report to council states that this plan "directly supports the City's tree canopy coverage objective" in the Strategic Plan, which reads as follows: A biodiverse city with the highest tree canopy percentage among comparable municipalities.

We find it an odd concept that a loss of 7,729 square metres of canopy (a number provided by the consultant) would "directly support" this goal of tree canopy. We suggest that to get a more realistic idea of how the tree canopy goal is being supported that an annual report be generated which documents the amount of canopy lost versus the amount of canopy *actually* replaced by tree plantings, rather than estimates of future canopy replacement.

5. Funding for replanting. The importance of trees and canopy to the health of the City and its citizens is clear. This is evidenced by the fact that tree canopy is a Strategic Plan priority. Funding for green infrastructure should not have to go begging. It should be a high priority in the City budget, even if it requires cuts to other programs. We hope council will have the foresight to fully fund the replanting and naturalization plan for Royal City Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report.

Judy Martin, Regional Representative



**Royal City Park**

# Our Heritage Viewscape



## What We See Now





## 60 mm Tree Replacement



## Approx. 60 mm Tree



# Stewardship ?





# How long will they live?



# Tree Evaluation



**CONSENT REPORT OF THE  
COUNCIL AS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

November 23, 2009

Her Worship the Mayor and  
Councillors of the City of Guelph.

Your Council as Committee of the Whole beg leave to present their SEVENTH  
CONSENT REPORT as recommended at its meeting of November 16, 2009.

*If Council wishes to address a specific report in isolation please identify  
the item. The item will be extracted and dealt with immediately. The  
balance of the Consent Report of the Council as Committee of the  
Whole will be approved in one resolution.*

**1) MINUTES OF SETTLEMENT**

That Council authorise the execution of the Minutes of Settlement with respect to  
Subbor and Eastern Power Limited regarding legal costs arising from the Subbor  
litigation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.