

Tree Removal and Protection Bylaw in Newmarket



Chris Howie started this petition to Town of Newmarket Council and Staff

Heritage Trees are being clear cut by greedy developers that do not care about our neighbourhood or the immense value of mature trees for all of us.



Petition Closed

This petition had 302 supporters



Town of Newmarket and Town of Aurora: Tree Removal and...

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Alex Sodo · 2 years ago

How is it possible that there are no laws protecting mature trees in Newmarket's residential areas? The environmental benefits to having mature trees and canopy in growing cities and towns are well documented but on top of that the beauty and environment they provide are what make these areas special to the residents and everyone who passes by them. Developers will fight tooth and nail for their own best interests. As residents, we have to rely on town council to do this on our behalf. The question is, why aren't they? If you allow one developer to do this, what message does that send to other developers? How long will it be until the landscape is completely changed?

Catherine Wellesley · 2 years ago

I am both saddened and disgusted at this most recent assault on mature trees in our neighbourhoods. I've lived on Park Avenue now for a few years and I feel sick to my stomach every time I hear a chainsaw -- sometimes it's simply tree maintenance, but many other times is tree removal by one of my neighbours. In the case of this particular property, it's the sheer volume of destruction that is so shocking and truly evil. I know a woman who walked these woods as a child and I often tell her that I am protecting her trees (at least on my property). If these home owners don't love mature trees, then why move here(?) Absolutely no trees should be removed without being reviewed and approved by the Town. And if a tree has to be removed (i.e. disease), then the owner should be required to replace it.



Jennifer Douglas

2 years ago

I grew up in the historical district, and these trees are integral to the landscape of the core of the town. There is enough suburban sprawl on the edges of the town, why aren't the town councillors protecting the heart of our beautiful community?



[Report](#)



Lois Fowler

2 years ago

I have lived here 30 years and I'm mad as can be. I wrote the Mayor and asked for this area to be declared an "area of distinction" to ensure our homes, lots, trees and uniqueness of the area be preserved to a certain level. I got no where. Let's band together and save our unique neighbourhood.

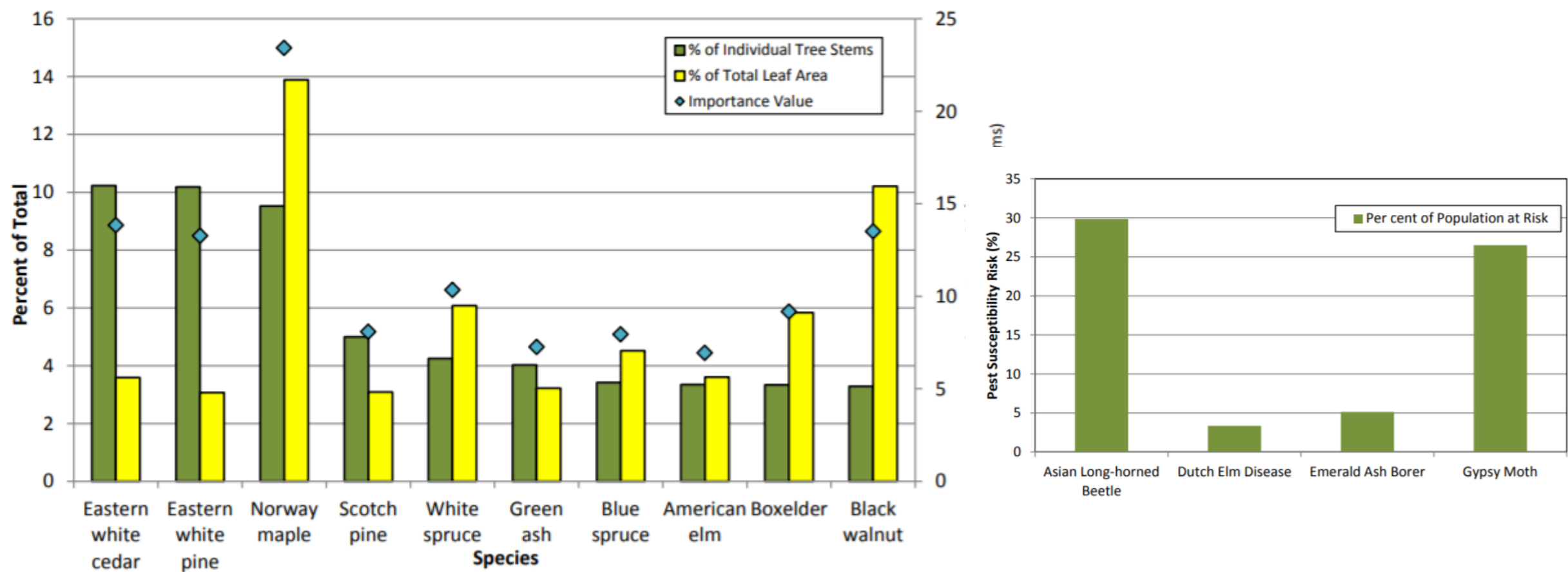


[Report](#)

Over 50 Trees have been removed by Builders on Park Avenue, Beechwood, Woodmount, Avenue Road, Sherwood Court...without requiring an approval!

- Builders know the loophole that I requested to be changed over 3 years ago: prior to an application; demolition or building, builders can clear cut trees WITHOUT approval or payment then when the application is submitted they are ask for a Tree Preservation Plan
- 181 Beechwood: I warned Council and Planning in November 2016 of the career Builder that bought the Boyd property then 12 trees including the Largest Sugar Maple in the neighbourhood were removed.
- Planning then accepted cash for the removal of 8 more trees including the oldest Tamarac/Larch, oldest Cheery and 2 more 100+ year old Sugar Maples which enable the Builder to max out the lot coverage of the house being built. How much was paid? Trees should be planted NOT cash!
- How many more trees are going to be removed for the 5400 sq ft proposed house on the West Lot?
- How many trees are coming down at 258 Park Avenue? How much cash is Planning ask for?
- Planning Dept was asked to review each application for this area as a whole not as a Lot however they continue to accept cash at the expense of the Heritage Trees that make up this Historic neighbourhood!

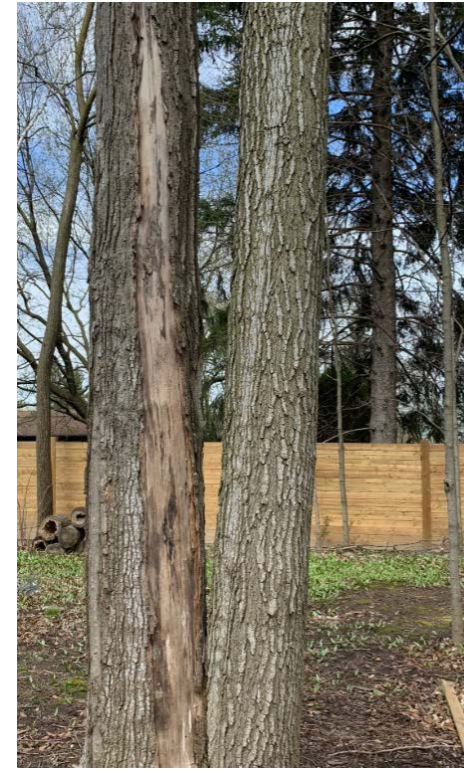
Quality of trees – where are the Oaks, Sugar Maples, Beech? Poor quality outside of Heritage area and Town planted trees; Cherry/Ash...are not what is needed



Tree canopy coverage does not take into consideration that many trees have structural issues and/or are diseased without younger trees to replace them



Cytospora fungus canker is damaging Sugar Maples



Many older trees have Structural issues and may be lost due to wind/ice



Beech scale and bark disease are wiping out Beeches



Call before you cut!

Tree Preservation By-law in effect.

Markham enacted its Tree Preservation By-law - regulating the destruction or injury of trees - for all properties on June 24, 2008. The by-law is effective immediately.

The Tree Preservation By-law was adopted by Council to support a greener community and a healthier environment. It exists to preserve significant trees on all properties within the City and to sustain Markham's urban forest.

Call before you cut! - Permit required

Property owners must apply for a permit before injuring or destroying **any tree** in Markham with a trunk diameter of 20 centimetres (about 8 inches) or more, measured at 1.37 metres (about 54 inches) above the ground at the base of the tree.

Call before you cut! You need a permit before cutting a tree with a diameter of 20 cm (8 inches) or more measured at 1.37 metres (54 inches) above the ground. Anyone contravening the Tree Preservation By-law and found guilty of an offence will be subject to penalties.

Permit Process

Note: This process applies to both permit applications and bylaw exemption requests.

Submit a Tree Permit Application using one of the following methods:

[Online Tree Permit Application](#) or fill out the [Tree Permit Application Form](#) [PDF] and submit completed application in person to the Contact Centre, Unionville Entrance at the Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Boulevard.

If your tree is exempt, no permit fee is required. A written confirmation – a permit – will be issued by Markham where a permit is applicable, fees may apply. Applications can take up to 30 days to process.

Following the review of a permit application, the City may determine the removal of the tree does not require a permit and will refund any fees paid or confirm that a site inspection is required.

- [Construction Related Tree Permit Application Process](#)
- [Standard Tree Permit Application Process](#)



Private Tree Protection Bylaw Approval

On May 24, 2016 the Town of Aurora Council approved a revised by-law regarding the destruction of trees on private property and enacted Bylaw Number **5850-16**. The new bylaw is called the "Private Tree Protection Bylaw.

The purpose of this bylaw is to regulate the cutting and injuring of trees within the Town of Aurora. It also helps to preserve the very valuable urban tree canopy now estimated to cover 28 per cent of the Town's overall land which is considerably more coverage than many other Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Municipalities.

- Newmarket has the lowest Tree coverage, lowest population of Large Trees and the only Town in the GTA without a Tree Removal Bylaw
- Severe lack of quality trees 40-75 years old to replace the Heritage trees that are being destroyed and are dying off

Table 9: Tree density, carbon storage and annual carbon sequestration by urban forests in Canadian cities that have completed an i-Tree Eco analysis.

| City | Tree Density (trees/ha) | Carbon Storage (tonnes/ha) | Carbon Sequestration (tonnes/ha/yr) |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Newmarket, ON | 76.5 | 9.1 | 0.4 |
| Aurora, ON | 395.5 | 20.8 | 0.8 |
| Richmond Hill, ON | 250.9 | 16.2 | 0.7 |
| Vaughan, ON | 182.6 | 13.1 | 0.5 |
| Markham, ON | 148.3 | 10.8 | 0.4 |
| Pickering, ON | 354.4 | 22.1 | 0.9 |
| Oakville, ON | 192.9 | 13.4 | 0.6 |
| London, ON | 185.5 | 15.3 | 0.5 |
| Toronto, ON | 160.4 | 17.4 | 0.7 |
| Brampton, ON | 134.3 | 6.5 | 0.3 |

TOWN OF NEWMARKET

URBAN FOREST STUDY

Technical Report
March, 2016

Recommendation 8: Evaluate and develop strategic steps to protect and increase the proportion of large, mature trees in the urban forest. This can be achieved using a range of tools including Official Plan policy, by-law enforcement and public education. Where tree preservation cannot be achieved, Official Plan policy can be considered that will require compensation for the loss of mature trees and associated ecosystem services.

Recommendation 9: Develop municipal guidelines and regulations for sustainable streetscape and subdivision design that ensure adequate soil quality and quantity for tree establishment and eliminate conflict between natural and grey infrastructure.

Recommendations

1. Finally get a Tree Removal bylaw in place with hefty fines for any removal without a Permit.
2. Reduce Minimum caliper size to protect as many young trees as possible
3. Planning to consider Heritage area as exactly that vs a Lot: 185 Beechwood – 8 Heritage Trees could have been saved by moving the house forward and telling the career Builder that he would have to build a house less than the 35% Lot coverage.
4. Stop the practice of Planning accepting cash and use the cash to plant trees!
5. Establish a Permit Fee that fund trees being planted (possibly on Private land).
6. Start planting Larger trees that add more value: hardwood Maples, Oaks...
7. Start planting better quality trees on Town property.
8. Tax Rebate for residents that plant trees on their own property.
9. Inventory of Heritage Trees should have been done already. Trees are a critical asset however there is no care: pruning, fertilizing, aerating
10. Town Arborist should be able to enforce the Tree Preservation Plan and assess corrective treatments: aerating, fertilizing...