

Good morning Councillor Sandelowsky and Councillor Elgar,

Thank you for the opportunity of speaking about urban forestry issues and the Mississauga Private Tree Permit By-law yesterday afternoon. I have included below a summary and some photos in regard to the two oak trees at the Meadowvale GO Station at 6785 Millcreek Drive. I have also included an article from the spring edition of the Canadian Groundskeeper Magazine on plant health care.

Best Regards,  
Tony

In May of 2001, Scott MacLeod, the City of Mississauga Private Tree By-law Inspector, was approached by the agent for the contractor inquiring whether a tree removal permit was necessary for the removal of two privately owned oak trees adjacent to the Meadowvale GO station. Removal of the trees would be necessary to facilitate the expansion of the existing parking lot. Although a tree removal permit was not required for the removal of the trees under the terms and conditions of the existing Private Tree Permit By-law, Scott inspected the site and found two very significant Bur Oak trees each measuring 104cm in diameter.

The trees were brought to the attention of the Councillor's Office and the Planning and Building Department and protection and preservation of the two trees was recommended by the Forestry Section. Through negotiations with the parties involved and requirements implemented through the Committee of Adjustment process, procedures were undertaken to save the two trees. These preservation measures included that no construction related activities involving excavation, grade changes, paving or storage of equipment and material would be permitted within a minimum 20 metre radius from the base of the trees. Although saving these trees resulted in the sacrifice of a significant number of potential parking spaces, the trees were successfully preserved and are coping very well.

A second development application was received in the spring of 2004 for the adjacent property and as the trees were located close to the property line, this development proposal also had the potential of causing significant damage to the existing root zones of the trees. Early discussions and negotiations in the initial stages of the development process with the property owners, their agents, the Planning and Building Department and Urban Forestry resulted in the same tree protection and preservation criteria being incorporated into this construction project.

Clear communication and cooperation between Councillor Saito, Sally Lepage of the Planning and Building Department, Mike Maloney and Scott Macleod of the Forestry Section and the respective property owners has resulted in the preservation of these two magnificent oak trees while allowing the development projects to continue on schedule.

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