

## **Notice of Motion for a Private Tree By-Law**

Moved by: Councillor Sandelowsky

Seconded by: Councillor Elgar

WHEREAS trees are proven producers of oxygen, a necessary element for the survival of mankind; and

WHEREAS trees appreciably reduce the ever-increasing and environmentally dangerous carbon dioxide content of the air and play a vital role in purifying the air; and

WHEREAS trees play an important role in the hydrologic cycle, transpiring considerable amounts of water each day, thereby precipitating dust and other particulate airborne pollutants for the air; and

WHEREAS trees play an important role in neutralizing waste water which passes through the ground from the surface to ground water tables and lower aquifers; and

WHEREAS trees, through the root systems, stabilize the soil and play an important and effective part in soil conservation, erosion control and flood control; and

WHEREAS trees are an invaluable physical, economic, and psychological benefit to the Town of Oakville, making life more comfortable by providing shade and cooling both air and land, reducing noise levels and glare, and breaking the visual monotony of development on the land; and

WHEREAS trees provide wildlife habitat and play other important ecological roles; and

WHEREAS the protection of trees within the Town of Oakville is not only desirable, but essential to the present and future health, safety, and welfare of all the citizens of the Town of Oakville; and

WHEREAS other jurisdictions in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), such as Mississauga and Toronto, have taken steps and implemented policies which result in the preservation of privately owned trees; and

WHEREAS the Region's April 2002 report, entitled, "Rationale and Methodology for Determining Significant Woodlands in the Regional Municipality of Halton," states that the retention of forest cover plays a significant role in mitigating poor air quality episodes, particularly along shorelines (e.g., Oakville, Burlington) receiving pollution across the Great Lakes because the ozone is not depleted over water and therefore the ozone concentrations are even higher along the shoreline that would be expected if the pollution had passed over land; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oakville has limited policies for the protection of privately-owned trees and it would be prudent to have such policies in effect now, recognizing the

increasing amount of infill development, as well as the impending development of north Oakville,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That staff be directed to bring forward a report, prior to the consideration of the 2006 Budget, addressing the pros and cons of introducing a private tree by-law in the Town of Oakville.
2. That the staff report include the consideration of:
  - a. setbacks, regulated by development engineering guidelines;
  - b. financing implications associated with the introduction of such a by-law; and
  - c. a process for public involvement during the consideration of such a by-law.
3. That should staff be unable to provide such a report within the specified time frame, staff be authorized to obtain quotes and report back on the cost implications of using external consulting resources to address this matter.