



July 17, 2013

Dear Mayor Goldring & Members of Council cc: media

Thank you again for listening to my delegation last night on behalf of BurlingtonGreen. We would particularly like to thank you Councillor Marianne Meed- Ward for your thoughtful consideration of the important private tree bylaw issue and your offer to provide assistance to the community to help to keep the issue moving forward. Mayor Goldring, we also appreciate your offer to meet with us and the community as well.

We respectfully offer the following comments for your review and consideration and we would please request a reply from each of you.

We have read and listened to comments made by some members of Council that public opinion is divided on this issue. We respectfully disagree. We argue that those surveyed, and if additional surveys were to be conducted, the voice of the majority would state that they support preventing developers from unnecessarily cutting down trees and are comfortable with a private tree bylaw that is practical, allowing for reasonable options for the homeowner to remove trees on their own property. It is unfortunate that this key question was not included in the survey conducted by city staff but again, we have confidence of what the projected results would reveal. Thus, the tool of an effective "made for Burlington" private tree bylaw is required to respect the rights of the environment and interests of residents now, and in the future.

We are disappointed and discouraged that the issue has been redirected to the community and BurlingtonGreen to "pick up" to do the suggested work. Of particular concern is the fact that the Urban Forest Management Plan approved by Council, already identifies associated tasks for staff in regards to the Official Plan and tree management and protection.

We hope you can appreciate the value of our volunteer resources and the importance of ensuring our time and efforts are respected as we strive to ensure issues we address include a reasonable expectation of solution focused results. It is our belief that we have already done "our part" through the hard work we do via our stewardship efforts that contribute to Burlington's tree canopy and healthier environment in combination with our work to present you with helpful issue research and a valuable example from our neighbours in Oakville, and more..We believe it is the City's role to research and present options for a bylaw and present them to you, not the taxpaying community or our not-for-profit agency. Additionally, we remain unclear of what additional, specific information each of you are in need of in order to revisit this issue and potentially change your current position(s). We are concerned our scarce time and resources could in essence result in us "spinning our wheels".

However, in the interests of positive collaboration with all of you and accountability to our membership, we would like to learn more about your individual rationale to support your current position. **Our request at this time is for each of you to let us know what outstanding questions you have, specific information you need in regards to this issue that has not already been provided in the UFMP, staff report or the delegation or email materials provided to you. Alternatively, if there is nothing more we can add and your position is firm, please let us know that too. We would appreciate hearing from each of you at your earliest convenience.**

We will then be pleased to review your needs and assess as a team if we are able to provide further support to this issue and if so, if we are capable of providing you with further input or not. If we do, it is unlikely it will be by September given the challenge of engaging the public during the summer period.

Respectfully,

Colin Brock

Board of Directors

BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association ~ citizens for a greener community