

ITEM 4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 38
COUNCIL MEETING 92/05/25

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1992 MAY 20
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 10.346.5
SUBJECT: CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVES FOR HERITAGE TREES
CORRESPONDENCE FROM D. HILLSTROM
TREES AT CANADA WAY AND EDMONDS STREET

PURPOSE: To outline alternative methods of tree preservation in situations where trees with historical significance have been identified for conservation effort.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Dorothy Hillstrom, 7027 Ramsay Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., V5E 3L3, and to R.J. Drew, 7037 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 3R7.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

Appearing on the 1992 May 19 agenda was a letter from Dorothy Hillstrom, requesting permission to appear as a delegation and submit a petition requesting that the trees near the Canada Way/Edmonds Street intersection be designated by bylaw as heritage trees. The purpose of this report is to outline the issue of heritage tree preservation. The explanation of the necessity for the widening of the intersection and the Ministry of Transportation and Highways design has been outlined in a separate report received by Council on 1992 May 19.

2.0 TREE PRESERVATION PRACTICES

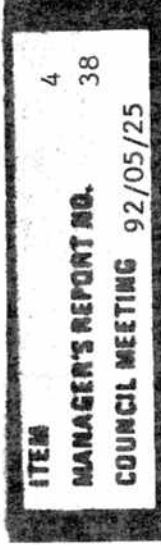
2.1 Criteria for Assessment of Heritage Trees

The heritage of a community may be expressed in the form of buildings and other structures, public works such as bridges, railways or roads, monuments, natural features, gardens, trees and other landmarks that provide examples of heritage or provide images from the past that are relevant to the life and development of that community.

Criteria for the evaluation of heritage trees include factors such as size, age, setting, species, landmark status, aesthetics, condition and relationships to heritage sites or buildings, events in history, and the significance of the trees in the eyes of the community.

2.2 Methods of Tree Conservation

- A. Zoning designations have been used for major conservation areas where larger forest areas exist such as Burrard Inlet slopes, Burnaby Mountain, ravine areas, and other large undeveloped areas. This method preserves treed areas by removing the development potential provided by zoning. This method is some times used in tandem with public land ownership.



B. Covenants have been utilized under Section 215 of the Land Title Act to preserve buffer zones and often individual trees on private land. This method is frequently used in conjunction with subdivision and rezoning procedures. For example, a covenant has been utilized to preserve the three sequoia (redwood) trees on the site of the Andy Johnson heritage house on Kingsway.

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C. Landscape plans developed through Comprehensive Development zoning are frequently utilized at the time of rezoning to preserve significant trees that are identified on tree surveys on sites for new buildings. During construction, the work is monitored by a municipal landscape inspector. This method is usually successful in terms of the initial development, but in some cases trees have been removed years later by owners or strata corporations. For this reason, this method is best utilized in conjunction with covenants.

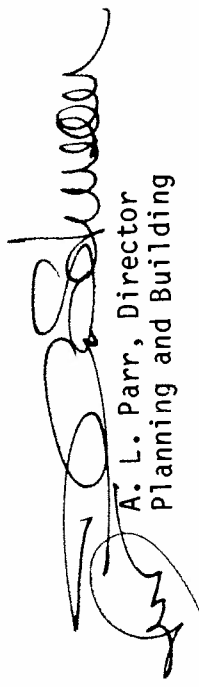
D. Heritage designation of trees can be done by by-law in certain cases under Part three, Section 11(1) of the Heritage Conservation Act. Burnaby has utilized the heritage designation to date only for building designations. The 1991 B.C. Registry of Designated Heritage Sites published by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, lists redwood trees in Langley Township, a site in Surrey and a garden in Richmond. Richmond has recently used designation twice on landmark tree sites. In addition, many designated heritage building sites or vacant sites include land that has trees, walls and other landscape features noted in the by-law. The Act states that a designated site may not be altered without Council's permission.

3.0 RELATIONSHIP TO HERITAGE POLICY

Burnaby, through the efforts of Council and the Heritage Advisory Committee, has been developing an awareness of the significance of heritage buildings and sites in our community. As part of this work, an inventory of trees has been discussed in order to establish criteria, conduct a survey or, alternately, develop a list or registry of heritage trees. This registry of trees would not necessarily result in the trees being legally designated but rather managed with a variety of the tools noted above. Land use planning decisions would take into account the existence of trees listed in the registry and where appropriate one or more of the methods of tree conservation would be utilized.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

A variety of methods are available to pursue the conservation of trees, or other landmark features that are of historical significance to the community. While no inventory or listing of heritage trees presently exists in Burnaby, long-lived landmark trees would be one type of tree that would be evaluated for inclusion in a listing or registry of heritage trees, which would then be managed as community heritage resources.



A. L. Parr, Director
Planning and Building