

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: BOULEVARD TREES – 635 CLARE AVENUE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Paolo Sacilotto, Gabriella Sacilotto and Dario Sacilotto, 635 Clare Avenue, Burnaby.

**REPORT**

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2010 January 12, received and adopted the *attached* report responding to the concerns raised by the Sacilotto family regarding Red Maple trees on the boulevard adjacent to their property.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang  
Member

Copied to: City Manager Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services Director Engineering
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2010 January 05

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION &  
CULTURAL SERVICES

**SUBJECT: BOULEVARD TREES - 635 CLARE AVENUE**

**PURPOSE:** To respond to the concerns raised by the Sacilotto family regarding Red Maple trees on the boulevard adjacent to their property.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Paolo Sacilotto, Gabriella Sacilotto and Dario Sacilotto, 635 Clare Avenue, Burnaby.

**REPORT**INTRODUCTION

The Sacilotto family appeared as a delegation at the 2009 December 09 meeting expressing concerns about four maple trees located on the City boulevard along the north side of their house. Items noted in the presentation included a change in soil conditions, root growth in storm drains and potential property damage from the trees resulting from a wind storm.

BACKGROUND

The Red Maple trees on the boulevard are approximately 30 years old. Staff have attended and done work on these trees for the last number of years at the request of the Sacilotto's. A brief history is listed below:

- 2005 February 15 - Call requesting trees to be topped.  
- Forestry staff removed lower branches and pruned areas.
- 2005 June 10 - Call requesting trees to be pruned.  
- Forestry staff advised work was done earlier in the year.

- 2006 June 13
  - Call requesting work to be done on trees.
  - Forestry staff inspected and trimmed trees.
  
- 2007 June 13
  - Visit to City Hall about trees.
  - Forestry staff attended, trimmed trees, added soil over roots on boulevard and put grass seed down.
  
- 2007 July 18
  - Call to Forestry Supervisor.
  - Complaint that Forestry crew did not cut off full branches.
  
- 2008 November 26
  - Call to Forestry requesting trees to be trimmed in order for garbage trucks to get by.
  - Forestry staff inspected the site and found the trees meet or exceed requirements.
  
- 2009 August 18
  - Call to Forestry requesting tree pruning.
  - Forestry staff pruned trees and removed shoots at lower levels.

Red Maples are also planted along Venables Street from Boundary Road to Willingdon and in the 4400 and 4500 block of Frances. These trees are an appropriate species for boulevard locations and staff have received routine pruning requests with minimal calls about root problems. Most roots from these trees have their root system within the first 12 inches of soil unless there is an easily accessible underground water source such as an underground spring.

### TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

In keeping with the City's Boulevard Tree Management Policy, staff representatives met with the Sacilotto family at their residence to go over their concerns. In addition, Forestry staff requested an independent report from Bartlett Tree Experts Canada Ltd. on the Boulevard trees at this location. A summary of their report is provided below with their full report included as Attachment #1.

The trees are healthy with a low risk of failure due to wind conditions. There is no evidence of root damage to either the sidewalk, retaining wall or the driveway. The Red Maples provide a visual value to the landscape and are far enough away from the house to not cause damage to the foundations. This tree species does not have a root system that grows roots thicker than one inch diameter beyond the tree canopy. Red Maples do not inhibit the growth of other plants on turf grass.

### SUMMARY

The Sacilotto family has expressed concern over the condition of their garden, their lawn areas and the potential for damage from the trees due to failure in windy conditions.

To: *Environment Committee*  
From: *Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services*  
Re: *BOULEVARD TREES - 635 CLARE AVENUE*  
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Over the past few years, staff have responded to the Sacilotto's requests for tree work, reviewed the overall situation and engaged the services of an independent arborist to resolve the situation.

Based on the independent assessment and the work done by Forestry staff over the last few years, there is no further work required at this time. Staff will monitor the situation over the next few years and if the conditions deteriorate, could consider a root barrier or further tree work.



Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

DH:tc

Attachment

P:\ADMIN\TC\DATA\WP\DH\BOULEVARD TREES - 635 CLARE AVE

Copied to: City Manager  
Director Engineering



BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS CANADA, LTD.  
CYPRESS TREE SERVICE DIVISION

Dec. 21, 2009

**Arborist Report**

**Scope of work:**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December I was contacted by Graeme Waine @ the City of Burnaby to provide a Tree Risk Assessment for four Red Maples located on the North side of 635 Clare Ave. Burnaby. The purpose of this report is to outline the trees' current health and condition and provide recommendations. My field notes copied on a Tree Assessment Table will be attached to this report dated Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Findings:**

Tree #1 Red Maple furthest East

- the DBH of this tree is 49 cm
- the approx. height of this tree is 12 m
- the approx. spread of this tree is 16 m
- this tree has been pruned to clear the primary Hydro lines by 3m
- this tree was pollarded 10-15yrs ago
  - pollarding cuts were made at approx. 4m
  - no limbs growing out of the pollarded knuckles are greater than 15cm diameter
  - the knuckles have been structurally pruned to create a uniform canopy within the last 3-5 years
  - there are now two remaining central leaders
  - all the original pollarding cuts appear to be callusing over
  - the recent pruning also Crown Cleaned the canopy
- the tree has good vigour
- there is no visible evidence of sidewalk heaving
- there is no visible evidence of the roots lifting the retaining wall
- there is no visible evidence of the roots lifting the driveway
- less than 5% of the roots have been damaged by the lawn mower



# BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS CANADA, LTD.

## CYPRESS TREE SERVICE DIVISION

### Tree #2 Red Maple

- the DBH of this tree is 49 cm
- the approx. height of this tree is 12 m
- the approx. spread of this tree is 16 m
- this tree was pollarded 10-15yrs ago
  - pollarding cuts were made at approx. 4m
  - no limbs growing out of the pollarded knuckles are greater than 15cm diameter
  - the knuckles have been structurally pruned to create a uniform canopy within the last 3-5 years
  - there are now five remaining central leaders
  - all the original pollarding cuts appear to be callusing over
  - the recent pruning also Crown Cleaned the canopy
- the tree has good vigour
- there is no visible evidence of sidewalk heaving
- there is no visible evidence of the roots lifting the retaining wall
- there is no visible evidence of the roots lifting the driveway
- less than 5% of the roots have been damaged by the lawn mower

### Tree #3 Red Maple

- the DBH of this tree is 44 cm
- the approx. height of this tree is 12 m
- the approx. spread of this tree is 16 m
- this tree was pollarded 10-15yrs ago
  - pollarding cuts were made at approx. 4m
  - no limbs growing out of the pollarded knuckles are greater than 15cm diameter
  - the knuckles have been structurally pruned to create a uniform canopy within the last 3-5 years
  - there are now three remaining central leaders
  - all the original pollarding cuts appear to be callusing over
  - the recent pruning also Crown Cleaned the canopy
- the tree has good vigour
- there is no visible evidence of sidewalk heaving
- there is no visible evidence of the roots lifting the retaining wall
- there is no visible evidence of the roots lifting the driveway
- less than 5% of the roots have been damaged by the lawn mower

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# BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS CANADA, LTD.

## CYPRRESS TREE SERVICE DIVISION

### Tree #4 Red Maple

- the DBH of this tree is 49 cm
- the approx. height of this tree is 12 m
- the approx. spread of this tree is 16 m
- this tree was pollarded 10-15yrs ago
  - pollarding cuts were made at approx. 4m
  - no limbs growing out of the pollarded knuckles are greater than 15cm diameter
  - the knuckles have been structurally pruned to create a uniform canopy within the last 3-5 years
  - there are now five remaining central leaders
  - all the original pollarding cuts appear to be callusing over
  - the recent pruning also Crown Cleaned the canopy
- there is a small basal cavity located on the South side of the trunk
  - the cavity is approx. 12cm x 7cm
  - the cavity in on its way to being completely callused over
- the tree has good vigour
- there is no visible evidence of sidewalk heaving
- there is no visible evidence of the roots lifting the retaining wall
- there is no visible evidence of the roots lifting the driveway
- less than 5% of the roots have been damaged by the lawn mower

### Recommendations:

It is my opinion that these trees provide great value to the landscape and should be retained. There are no visible reasons to inspect these trees internally or aerially as evident by the low hazard rating (4).

It is not justifiable to excavate the soil away from the root crown to determine whether or not the roots are damaging the drain tiles because there is no evidence of damage to the surrounding sidewalk, retaining wall or driveway. Secondly, these trees are growing far enough away from the house to warrant a concern of its foundation. The Red Maple will not have any roots greater than 1" diameter beyond the drip line.

Red Maple has no known allelopathic inhibitors preventing the establishment of other plants or turf grass. If one is worried about growing grass around the base of the tree, it is my suggestion that a 3' tree well (using a variety of mulches) be installed so that the roots are not causing problems when mowing.

These trees should be re-inspected in 3 years to monitor their progress.



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CYPRESS TREE SERVICE DIVISION

**Testing and Analysis:**

The testing completed on these trees consisted of a visual inspection from the ground based upon the principals of Visual Tree Assessments.

**Assumptions and Limiting Conditions**

1. The information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflect the condition of these items at the time of inspection. The inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible components without dissection, excavation or probing. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the trees or property in question may not arise in the future.
2. The opinions in this Report are given based upon observations made using generally accepted professional judgment, however, because trees and plants are living organisms and subject to change, damage and disease, the results, observations, recommendations, and analysis as set out in this Report are valid only as at the date any such testing, observations and analysis took place. No guarantee, warranty, representation or opinion is offered or made by Bartlett Tree Experts as to the length of the validity of the results, observations, recommendations and analysis contained within this Report.
3. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the appraiser/company can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.
4. Alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, please feel free to contact me at 604-322-1375.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Silcox, Board Certified Master Arborist/Tree Worker Specialist  
ISA Certification PN# 1272BT  
ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor # 308

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