

Subject: Re: GC June 9 Deputation Sunday,
Date: May 30, 2021 6:24:12 PM

My concerns and recommendations are as follows.

GENERAL COMPLAINT

- City owned trees are causing a lot of damage to private properties and to City properties as well.
- The City does not compensate home owners for damage done by City owned trees. Home owners are paying large sums of money to replace their home sewer pipes and for damage caused by sewer back ups due to blockages caused by City tree roots. This is unfair to home owners and it is an abdication of responsibility by the City towards its Clients.
- The City is incurring enormous costs on continuously replacing sidewalks, driveways, lawns and boulevards which are lifted, cracked and damaged by the same City trees. Every spring, summer and fall, City hired contractors rip up and replace or repair sidewalks and other infrastructure damaged by City trees. These costs are passed on to tax payers every year through the property tax bills. This is one of the reasons our property tax bills keep going up every year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The City seldom trims or prunes its own trees and the trees continue to grow and spread their roots to support their uncontrolled growth.
- As City tree roots grow larger and larger, they start to lift the sidewalk, lawns, driveways and curbs to the point that they have to be repaired or replaced.
- Then the same roots spread into homeowners lawns and also enter the basement under the house foundation.

SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The City tree in front of my house was only trimmed after I complained, approximately 3 years after, and when it was too late, and after a lot of damage was done to the City property and to my house. My neighbours have had similar experiences and complaints about overgrown trees.
- The City should have an efficient tree pruning program based on a regular schedule and not hap hazard. Homeowners should not have to complain to have City trees pruned. Moreover, City crews should do the work systematically and not go from one street to another after pruning just one tree. I have seen City crews on my street pruning one tree and then return a few weeks later to prune another tree, and so on.
- The sidewalk in front of my house had sections replaced five (5) times and lifted many more times. The last repair work done last year made the sidewalk worse and it is presently marked to be completely replaced for the sixth time.
- Every time the sidewalk in front of my house has been replaced or lifted, the roots were cut and new and bigger roots seem to grow. The tree is also leaning heavily on one side due to cutting of the roots and this is a hazard to me and my house, especially with the increasing strength of winds and frequency.
- When a City tree damages the sidewalk, lawn, curbs and driveway on a continuous basis, say three (3) times or more, it means that the tree has no more room to grow and it should be cut down. A new smaller growing tree of different species, should be planted in its place and eventually we would have the same number of trees as before. This would save the City and the taxpayers a lot of money, that is currently spent on continuous infrastructure repairs.

-The City should insist that developers only plant small and slow growing trees on boulevards of new subdivisions.

-When a City tree roots system enter the basement of a house and damage the sewer pipes, the City should reimburse the homeowner for all its costs. Moreover, it should replace the City tree as explained above.

-An example of this is my Claim to the City, reference number 015269, July 2018, submitted to the Risk Management Department, attention Kayal Jayaraman. Councilour Mr. John Kovac witnessed the damage done to my house during his visits. The claim contains pictures of the roots in the sewer pipes, the main roots that entered the system, the cutting of the concrete basement floor, the carpet and furniture that had to be discarded and a detailed list of material and work involved.

-The City should compensate me for this claim. This is fair and reasonable..

-The sewer pipes in my house were inspected by an engineer who reviewed the clamps and the connections of the sewer system. He determined that the pipes were installed properly, however the roots busted the stainless steel clamps in order to gain access to the water in the pipes.

-The pipes are not the problems, neither are the sidewalks. The wrong type of City trees are the cause of the problem and this issue should not be ignored as it has been done in the past.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my case. I hope that the Mayor and Council will pay my claim and address this issue in order to save taxpayers money directly by not damaging home sewer systems and indirectly by not damaging City infrastructure.

Charles Vella,
Mississauga, ON.