

9TH REPORT OF THE
TREES AND FORESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on November 26, 2008, commencing at 12:15 p.m.

PRESENT: G. Sinclair (Acting Chair), Councillor J. L. Baechler, P. Berton, B. Gilmore J. Kennedy, J. Ryan and D. Sheppard and B. Mercier (Secretary).

ALSO PRESENT: J. Bontje, R. Crossman, V. Kinsley, I. Listar and M. Minielly.

REGRETS: C. Benson and K. Elliott.

I YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

Tree Watering Notification Magnets 1. (2) That the Corporate Communications Department **BE REQUESTED** to work in conjunction with the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) to develop a communication strategy that will detail the steps and activities necessary to launch the tree watering alerts to the public;

it being noted that the TFAC reviewed and received a Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on October 20, 2008 with respect to tree watering notification magnets for use on City-owned vehicles.

Tree Planting Guidelines 2. (3, 4) That the Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to review the attached communication dated November 26, 2008 from J. Ryan, with respect to suggested changes to the Tree Planting Guidelines, with a report back to the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) on the feasibility of implementing the proposed changes.

II YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

"Great Tree Hunt" 3. That the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) heard a verbal report from J. Ryan, with respect to a "Great Tree Hunt" event; it being noted that an independent committee is being established to meet in January 2009 to determine such items, including but not limited to, tree categories and a nomination process for the above-mentioned event.

S. Galloway, Urban Designer – Delegation at a Future EEPAC Meeting 4. That the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) heard a verbal update from D. Sheppard, with respect to the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC); it being noted that the TFAC was advised of S. Galloway, Urban Designer, to be a delegation at a future meeting of the EEPAC to speak on Urban Design and how it effects the natural environment; it being further noted that Mr. Sheppard invited the TFAC to the EEPAC meeting at such time of Mr. Galloway's presentation.

UCC Invitation 5. That the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) asked its Committee Secretary to invite the Co-Chairs of the Utility Coordinating Committee (UCC) to its next meeting to discuss alternatives in accommodating boulevard trees.

UFORE Update 6. That the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) heard a verbal update from I. Listar, with respect to the Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE); it being noted that the TFAC will meet as a Working Group on December 11, 2008 to further review the preliminary results and report back at a future meeting of the TFAC.

7. That the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) noted and filed the following:

8th Report of the TFAC (a) (1) the 8th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) from its meeting held on October 22, 2008;

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Letter of
Resignation

(b) (5) a communication dated October 28, 2008 from H. McPhail, with respect to her resignation from the TFAC; and,

"Tree Hero"
Recognition
Program
Criteria

(c) (6) a Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on November 17, 2008 with respect to the "Tree Hero" Recognition Program criteria.

Next Meeting

8. That the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) will hold its next meeting on January 28, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

(2)

**TFAC Recommendations for discussion, November 26, 2008
Changes to Tree Planting Guidelines**

Background:

The City of London has a commitment to planting trees along city-owned boulevards to improve the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the Forest City. Briefly, trees bring the following benefits in an urban setting:

- conserving energy, by providing shade and evaporative cooling through transpiration;
- improving local and global air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and ozone, absorbing particulate matter, and producing oxygen;
- reducing wind speed and directing air flow;
- reducing noise pollution;
- providing habitat for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife;
- reducing storm runoff and the potential for soil erosion;
- increasing real property values;
- enhancing visual and aesthetic qualities that attract visitors and businesses and serve as a source of community image and pride.

The vast majority of land in the City of London is under private ownership, and so the City of London must strive to maximize planting opportunities on public property in order to improve the tree cover of the city and serve as an example to London residents.

The deficit of tree cover in the City of London is well-documented and of great concern to many Londoners. When people buy homes in new sub-divisions, there is an understandable expectation that new trees will be planted on public spaces in a reasonably dense and timely manner.

Yet, practices and policies are preventing trees from being planted in new subdivisions. This will have a long-term effect on the environment and the livability of our city. When planning new sub-divisions, the opportunity is available to maximize tree planting opportunities. Instead, trees are being shoved to the side, put where ever they fit behind utilities, driveways, light fixtures, and the City of London's own policies. The Crosscreek Court and Crescent case study provides an excellent example of these practices (see attached).

General recommendations:

- Creating capacity for trees must be integral in new sub-division planning. Trees must be viewed as essential infrastructure with same priority as other infrastructure
- Established goals for residential tree cover should be the guiding factor when planning for trees in new sub-divisions, as well as for in-fill and understory planting in established neighbourhoods. American Forests recommends 40-50% tree canopy in residential land use areas. Using this as a goal can direct the spacing and placement considerations for new trees.
- Current design standards for new sub-divisions often limit the number of trees that can be planted and these need to be reviewed and changed by urban planning processes.

Changes to the Tree Planting Guidelines recommended:

	Current policy or standard	Problem	Recommended Change
1	In road allowance planning, utilities are always given top priority for placement; trees are fit in where there is room.	Trees do not get planted because there is no room for them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the planning process, trees are given higher priority. • Placement of trees does not rest with the Utilities Coordinating Committee. • Utilities are stacked or otherwise moved so that there is sufficient space for trees

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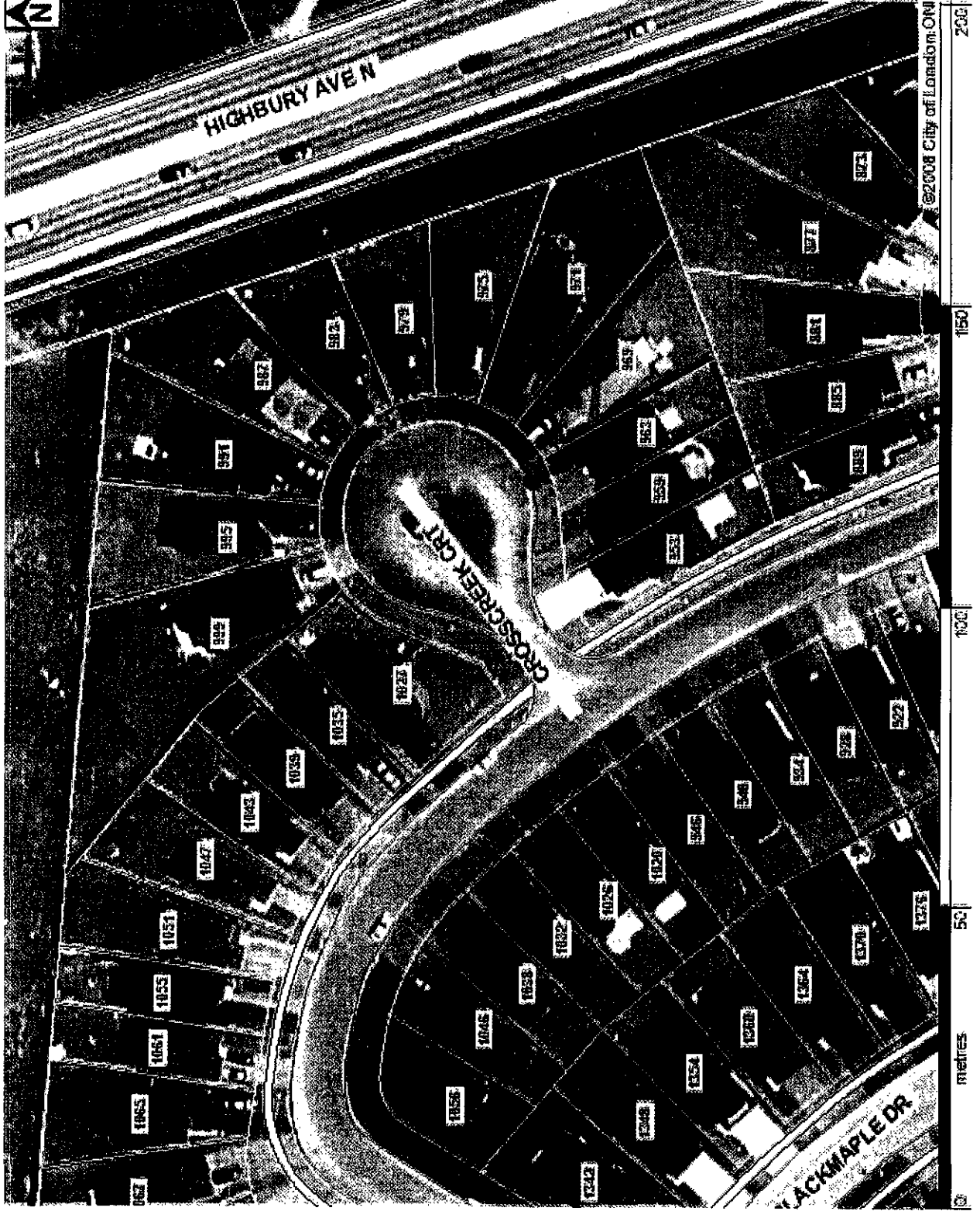
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			along the boulevard between the street and sidewalk, where appropriate.
2	Trees are planted one per lot, regardless of lot size.	On large frontages, only one tree is planted when there is space for more	Trees are planted using a standard spacing for large, medium and small trees, regardless of lot frontage. Recommended maximum distances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large tree – every 10 metres • Medium tree – every 6 metres • Ornamental (small) tree – every 3 metres These distances can be flexible, based on an overall density for a given stretch of city boulevard.
3	When there is no sidewalk, and the lot size is less than 9 m., an ornamental or medium shade tree is planted.	Large trees are not be planted in entire neighbourhoods where there are small lot sizes	Large trees may be planted on smaller lots.
4	Trees must be at least 2 metres from a driveway or lead sidewalk.	When lot sizes are small, and double driveways exist, there is no space for trees. This is especially true in cul-de-sacs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double driveways are not permitted on city property on all new construction. (On private property, they can be double-wide, but they must be single as they reach city property.) • Trees may be planted as close as 1 metre from a driveway. • When there is no space for a tree on city property, the city provides a voucher to the homeowner to have a tree installed in their front yard. The tree becomes the property and responsibility of the homeowner.
5	No tree is permitted to be closer than 6 metres to a street light or fire hydrant.	This creates a 12 metre space where trees cannot be planted. This space is unnecessarily large.	Reduce the standard to 3 metres on each side.
6	Planting is done after assumption of the sub-division	When the developer waits years to seek assumption, trees are not planted. This is a huge missed opportunity to get trees growing in new neighbourhoods and create a sense of community in new sub-divisions	Trees can be planted before assumption is sought.
7	Non-native, invasive trees remain on the approved street tree list	Invasive trees overrun natural areas, limiting growth of native species and reducing biodiversity. Native trees, on the other hand, improve biodiversity and are well suited to London's climate.	Remove invasive, non-native trees from list, and follow other recommendations by ReForest London submitted February 24, 2008.

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Crosscreek Court and Crescent, Blackmaple Drive near Kilally and Highbury

4+ year old subdivision with no trees and little prospect of getting any trees



- City cannot plant trees until Drewlo requests assumption, which they have not done on this 4+ year old sub-division
- Even when the City does plant trees, current tree planting guidelines prevent trees from being planted at any address in the Court except 953, 959, and 963. This is because of regulations about distances from driveways and the double-wide driveways in this crescent.
- Ironically, neighbouring "Blackmaple Drive" has no trees either.